

## AGENDA ITEM MEMO

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** April 8, 2021

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator  
Ashley Harden, General Counsel  
Jessica Zuba, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Supply & Infrastructure

**FROM:** Temple McKinnon, Director, Water Supply Planning

**SUBJECT:** Publication of the Draft 2022 State Water Plan for public comment

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider authorizing publication of the Draft 2022 State Water Plan for public comment and posting notice of public hearing, public comment period, and intent to adopt the 2022 State Water Plan.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is required by Texas Water Code (TWC) §16.051(a) to adopt a comprehensive state water plan that incorporates the approved regional water plans every five years. The state water plan is to

- Provide for the orderly development, management, and conservation of water resources,
- Prepare for and respond to drought conditions, and
- Make sufficient water available at a reasonable cost to ensure public health, safety, and welfare and further economic development while protecting the agricultural and natural resources of the entire state.

The 2022 State Water Plan is due January 5, 2022 and will be the fifth state water plan developed through the regional water planning process as mandated by Senate Bill 1 in 1997 and Texas' 11<sup>th</sup> state water plan developed since 1957. The Executive Administrator compiles information from the Board-approved regional water plans and other sources to develop the Draft State Water Plan, which is published for public comment.

#### [Our Mission](#)

Leading the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas and its citizens

#### [Board Members](#)

Peter M. Lake, Chairman | Kathleen Jackson, Board Member | Brooke T. Paup, Board Member  
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

**KEY ISSUES**

The Draft 2022 State Water Plan document incorporates the 2021 Regional Water Plans that were recently approved by the Board and, by reference, will also include a 2022 Interactive State Water Plan (iSWP) website data and maps prior to January 5, 2022. Supplemental information to be posted on the webpage alongside the Draft 2022 State Water Plan upon its publication for public comment will include lists of the approximately 5,800 recommended water management *strategies* and 2,400 recommended *projects*.

During development of this draft plan it was determined, and in consultation with the associated regional water planning groups, that the capital costs of six projects entered by the regions into the TWDB's state water planning database, and consequently included in tables in the adopted regional water plans, were incorrect. The Executive Administrator has since corrected those capital costs in the state water planning database and, therefore, the correct, full costs of those projects are reflected in the Draft State Water Plan. As a result, the capital costs included in the Draft 2022 State Water Plan are \$3.38 billion less than those that are summarized in the approved 2021 Regional Water Plans.

Upon Board approval to publish the Draft 2022 State Water Plan, and in accordance with 31 TAC §358.4, the Executive Administrator will publish notice of the Board's intent to adopt the 2022 State Water Plan in the *Texas Register* and mail notice to each regional water planning group. The notice will be published at least 30 days prior to the Board adoption of the 2022 State Water Plan. The Executive Administrator anticipates holding one public hearing the week of May 24, 2021, to include a physical location, with the specific hearing attendance information to be posted prominently on the agency website and published in the *Texas Register*. The public comment period will end shortly after the public hearing date. The Draft 2022 State Water Plan document will be made available electronically online by the date of publication of notice in the *Texas Register*.

After the public hearing, public comment period, consideration of the comments, and any modifications to the plan, as appropriate, the Executive Administrator will present the 2022 State Water Plan, as revised based on public comment and to make any other necessary corrections, for consideration of adoption at a subsequent Board meeting. Board adoption of the 2022 State Water Plan will incorporate the online, 2022 iSWP website as an integral component of the plan. After Board adoption, the 2022 State Water Plan document will be graphically enhanced, printed, and delivered to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate legislative committees prior to the statutory deadline of January 5, 2022.

In accordance with TWC §16.051(d), it is anticipated that the Executive Administrator will commence the review of the state water planning guidance principles later this spring. This review process will involve coordination with resource agencies as directed by statute and with a preliminary input period for our water planning stakeholders.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive Administrator recommends authorizing publication of the Draft 2022 State Water Plan for public comment, publicizing notice in the *Texas Register* of the Board's intent to adopt the 2022 State Water Plan, including an associated public comment period and public hearing date, and providing notice to regional water planning groups. The Executive Administrator also recommends authorizing making additional technical corrections and non-substantive language edits, as necessary, prior to publication of the Draft 2022 State Water Plan.