Public Notice

Additional Coordination and Planning Requirements for Water Conveyance Projects

In response to the passing of Senate Bill 7 during the 89th legislative session, which adds Subchapter H to Chapter 6 of the Texas Water Code, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is providing important guidance regarding additional coordination and planning requirements for raw or potable water projects funded by the TWDB—specifically those involving the transportation of water across geographic areas and potential land acquisition.

For projects that include the development of infrastructure to transport available water, planning efforts must incorporate strategies to minimize the need for exercising the power of eminent domain. This includes prioritizing the use of existing transportation and utility easements when securing interest in real property.

These projects should also anticipate that a joint planning and coordination meeting may be required —facilitated by the TWDB—between project sponsors, governmental entities, utilities, common carriers, and other relevant stakeholders. The purpose of such meetings is to promote collaboration and reduce the necessity of exercising the power of eminent domain to obtain interest in real property by identifying opportunities to utilize existing transportation and utility easements.

Looking ahead**,** over the next year the TWDB will develop best management practices and standards to support water conveyance across Texas. These efforts will focus on enhancing interconnectivity, interoperability, and integration of water infrastructure statewide. The TWDB also encourages water supply stakeholders to share technical standards and strategies that promote the development of excess water capacity to meet future needs.

To stay informed and get involved, we invite you to join our General Information mailing list and keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates and opportunities to engage with the TWDB throughout this process.