

## **DRAFT**

### **Interregional Conflict Working Group of the Interregional Planning Council Facilitator's Report**

*The Council tasked Kevin Ward (Region C) and Jim Thompson (Region D) with discussing issues related to interregional conflict and with bringing issues back to the Council for further discussion. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Ward held a teleconference on July 20, in which Council Chair Suzanne Scott, TWDB staff Temple McKinnon and Matt Nelson, and facilitator Suzanne Schwartz participated. The following represents their input to the Council, with the thought that these recommendations might be considered first by the Enhancing Interregional Coordination Committee.*

While the planning process has not experienced widespread problems related to interregional conflicts, extenuating situations have occurred -- and may continue to occur -- in which conflicts over shared resources or impacts that occur in the region of origin warrant consideration of an earlier and possibly more enhanced process.

- A mechanism is needed earlier in the planning cycle to identify when a proposed strategy involves use of a water resource in another region or otherwise impacts another region, and when coordination and the opportunity for joint planning should occur early between the regions to determine if the regions are in agreement over the strategy.

If a conflict exists, or is likely to develop, concerning the proposed strategy, and it appears unlikely that the conflict would be resolved through the current planning process, an alternate process could be initiated that assures those impacted by the proposed strategy are able to work together to craft a solution. Alternative processes might include elements such as:

- Including stakeholders representing all major interests from both regions;
- Developing joint studies and fact finding that all stakeholders would trust;
- Placing all parties on an equal footing related to access to information and discussion;
- Allotting sufficient time and funding to provide for its success. The Council might consider recommendations for sources of potential funding.

Any process that is recommended should be evaluated to confirm it does not undermine what is currently a generally effective process.