



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

LYLE LARSON, CHAIR

April 27, 2020

Dear Mr. Walthour:

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the inaugural Interregional Planning Council (IPC) established by the passage of House Bill 807, 86th Texas Legislature. While some coordination may be occurring among regions in the state water planning process, the IPC presents a unique opportunity to enhance communication amongst Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs), and between RWPGs, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and the Legislature.

The initial meeting on April 29th will serve as an opportunity to establish the specific goals, deliverables, programming, and path forward for the council's work this cycle. The following is a list of topics that would be beneficial for the council to consider.

- Review and make recommendations regarding any identified interregional conflicts.
- Review the viability and justification of projects included in the State Water Plan; make recommendations on how to encourage the inclusion of alternative, including innovative strategies such as aquifer storage and recovery and desalination.
- Provide an outline of a plan to facilitate better interregional coordination in the future.
- Identify potential new multi-regional projects for consideration that serve the state as a whole.
- Identify additional ways that the TWDB might assist in interregional coordination and planning at the statewide level.

Recognizing that time between now and October 14th is limited, the highest priority items for council discussion are interregional conflicts, reviewing viability and justification of projects in the regional water plans, and creating an outline of how to improve interregional coordination going forward. The IPC's report should include a summary of the policy discussions held by the council, and specific recommendations for RWPGs, TWDB, and the Legislature are encouraged.

Again, thank you for stepping up to the task of serving on the Interregional Planning Council. Your participation will ensure this is a meaningful process that benefits each region and the entire state. Please don't hesitate to contact my office at (512) 463-0802 or email Shannon.houston_hc@house.texas.gov should you have any questions.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyle Larson".

Lyle Larson

cc: Peter Lake, Chairman, Texas Water Development Board
Kathleen Jackson, Board Member, Texas Water Development Board
Brooke Paup, Board Member, Texas Water Development Board
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board
WILL METCALF, VICE-CHAIR

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