

# Texas Water Development Board

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**TO:** Regional Water Planning Groups

**FROM:** Dan Hardin, Director, Water Resources Planning Division *DH*

**DATE:** March 5, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Draft Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections for the 2016 Regional Water Plans and 2017 State Water Plan

Accompanying this memorandum are the TWDB's draft recommended population projections and associated municipal water demand projections for review by regional water planning groups. The Excel worksheet includes for each municipal water user group in the region:

- 2020 – 2070 population projections,
- base dry-year (2011) Gallons Per Capita Daily (GPCD),
- 2020 – 2070 municipal water demand projections, including anticipated water efficiency savings due to fixture and appliance standards, and
- a blank projection change-request worksheet

The water user group projections are split by water planning region and county, where appropriate, based upon 2010 city and utility boundaries. The split of projections by major river basins will take place after Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) approval and TWDB adoption.

Also attached to this memorandum are:

- the methodology regarding how these draft projections were developed; and
- the criteria that must be reviewed and verified by the RWPG and the Executive Administrator for consideration of adjusting the water user group population and/or municipal-demand projections.

Following are some issues which, while covered in the methodology and criteria, we believe are important to highlight:

The 2010 Census count for Texas was slightly less than the total projected population for 2010 that was used in the 2012 State Water Plan. Thus, we believe there is no justification for projected future state

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population totals to exceed those used in the 2012 State Water Plan. Total population for each decade in the new draft projections is commensurate with the lower Census count. Any requested increases in projected population for one water user group must be accompanied by a matching decrease for another; no increases in regional population totals will be considered.

Municipal water demand is based on population times GPCD as measured by responses to the Water Use Survey in 2011, a year which has been widely identified as the worst single-year drought in the state's history, and thus should be considered the most appropriate to represent the drought conditions that regional and state water planning is intended to reflect. Any requests to use data from a year other than 2011 as the base for municipal demand will not be approved.

In previous cycles of regional planning, planning groups were given the option to not include anticipated water efficiency savings due to fixture and appliance standards. As it has become increasingly important to maintain consistency in methodology and assumptions between planning regions, all demand projections will include such water efficiency savings, subject to a floor of 60 GPCD for any water user group.

TWDB requests that the regional water planning groups review the attached draft projections and resolve any questions and/or requested adjustments with the TWDB, including the necessary data to justify such requests, no later than August 16, 2013. The RWPG must approve any request for adjustment to projections. TWDB staff intend to present final projections to our Board for adoption in September 2013.

If the RWPG wishes to propose changes to these draft projections, the RWPGs will be required, as per previous guidance and included in this memorandum, to provide documentation supporting the requested projection adjustments. Any requested changes are to be populated into the blank change-request worksheet in the attached file. All requested population and municipal demand changes must be entered as whole numbers into the worksheet to avoid confusion with regard to summing the projections. (This may require rounding all values prior to entering them.)

Also in the change-request worksheet will be a corresponding comment field for each water user group (by region and county) in which the planning groups are to provide a reference for the basis of requested changes (e.g., report reference or other data sources provided to TWDB). For example, if changes for a particular water user group were based on a local study, the planning group would cite the study in that field. The planning group would also be responsible for providing a copy of the source study to TWDB staff for review.

TWDB will then review the planning group's requested changes and may respond with an adjusted set of draft data that the RWPG will then review, accept, or further negotiate the requested change.

Please note that the attached criteria and data requirements for adjusting population and water demand projections supersede those previously described in the General Guidelines for Regional Water Plan Development (2011-2016).

**Attachments:**

Draft Population and Water Demand Projections

Projection Methodology – Draft Population and Municipal Water Demands

Projection Adjustment Criteria and Requirements