

DRAFT: UTILITY BOUNDARY PLANNING IN THE 2022 STATE WATER PLAN

In an effort to better align regional and state water planning with water project sponsors and actual project implementation, as well as with water use data reporting, TWDB will be developing the next population and municipal water demand projections based upon water provider service areas rather than political boundaries. These projections will be the basis for the development of the 2021 regional water plans and 2022 state water plan.

Previous regional and state water plans have been aligned with political boundaries rather than water provider service areas, although many of these may coincide. The emphasis on political boundaries such as city limits rather than utility boundaries created plan configurations that often do not reflect the reality of water supply management and project implementation (Figure 1 and 2).

Figure 1. City Utility Customers

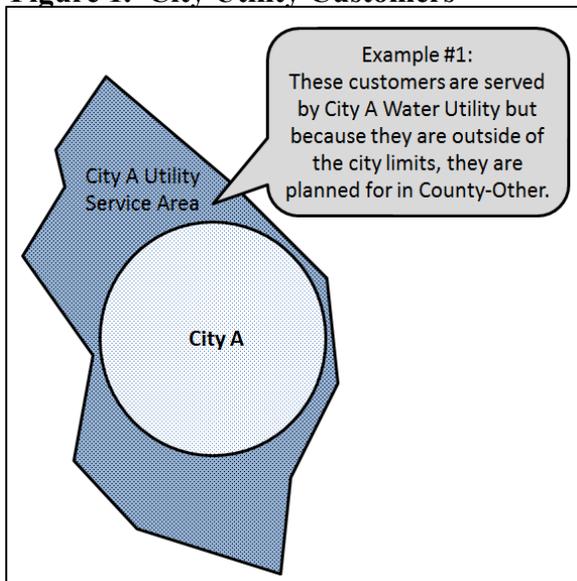
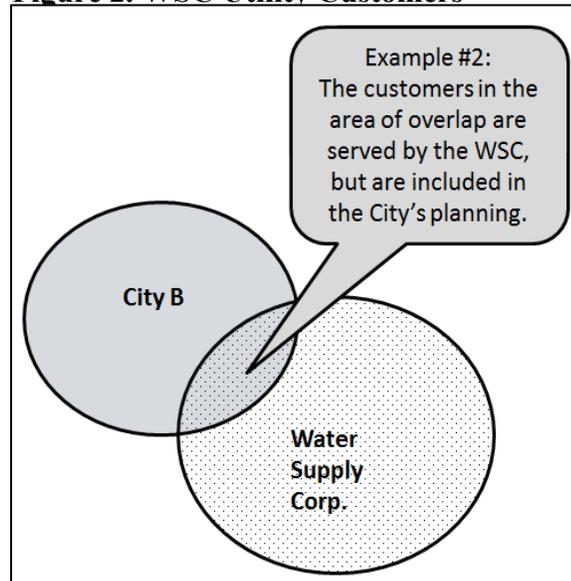


Figure 2. WSC Utility Customers



In the first figure, rather than the utility's customers being split between the city and county-other, under this new approach all of the City A Utility customers will be planned for together. In the second figure, instead of the population served by the Water Supply Corporation (WSC) being counted as part of the city, these customers will now be counted with the WSC and planned for accordingly.

Developing water plans based on water provider boundaries will allow for a more realistic portrayal of water needs and project sponsors in the water plans. Annual water use data (including water sources) is already reported to TWDB by each water utility as a whole and is used to calculate the gallons-per-capita-per-day (gpcd) estimates for regional water planning. Developing the utility-based population projections that, combined with the gpcd, will provide water demand projections for each water utility is made feasible through more recently available mapping techniques as well as more accurate local data.

Benefits:

- Better integration and continuity of information flowing from local water providers through to implementation of regional and state water plan projects serving the customers of those same providers.
- More direct relationship between annually submitted water use data and planning data used to develop water demand projections.

Utility information reported annually to TWDB		Related regional water planning information
annual water use volumes	-	water demand projections
current water sources	-	existing water supplies
water loss audit & conservation plan	-	water management strategies

- More straightforward organization of regional water plan information with better one-to-one relationships between historically reported data, projected water demands, existing supplies, identified water needs, and recommended strategies. This should result in less confusion and less effort and expense required to organize, evaluate and clearly present the planning information.
- More direct relationship between financial-assistance applications and state water planning strategy projects, sponsors, and beneficiaries.
- More opportunity to include individual rural water systems into the regional and state water planning process.

Changes:

- The names of the municipal water user groups will vary slightly from previous plans, for example, by specifying the city's water utility rather than a city itself.
- Approximately 40 municipal water user groups that do not have a city-owned water utility will be represented in the plan by the water utility serving that city.
- Additional work by TWDB staff will be necessary to develop population estimates for water utilities and to update a statewide map of utility/public water system service areas.

Some things that won't change:

- Non-municipal water user groups won't change or otherwise be impacted.
- The types of fundamental data and the basic process and steps required to develop the regional water plans will remain similar to previous cycles.
- The use of combined utilities for planning (as collective reporting units) by some regions will continue.

The TWDB staff will be providing additional information in the coming months. For more information, please contact Kevin Kluge (kevin.kluge@twdb.texas.gov or 512-936-0829).