

April 17, 2018

Mr. Wayne Wilson
Region G Chair
c/o Wilson Cattle Company
7026 East OSR
Bryan, TX 77808

RE: Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) request for approval to modify surface water availability hydrologic assumptions for development of the 2021 Brazos G Regional Water Plan (RWP)

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has reviewed the request submitted by Mr. David Dunn on behalf of the Brazos G RWPG dated February 23, 2018 for approval of alternative water supply assumptions to be used in determining surface water availability. This letter confirms that the TWDB approves the following requests:

1. Utilize naturalized flow and evaporation data developed by the Brazos River Authority (BRA), which extends the hydrologic record through 2015.
2. Separate BRA individual contractual diversions from cumulative contractual diversions.
3. Include a conservative estimate of current and future return flows.
4. Incorporate updated reservoir system operating rules to more accurately reflect recent conditions.
5. Include existing subordination agreements in the Brazos G Water Availability Model (WAM).
6. Utilize 0.5, 1, or 2-year safe yields for reservoirs upstream of Possum Kingdom Reservoir and for Lake Palo Pinto (to be clearly specified, by reservoir, in the 2021 Brazos G RWP).
7. Utilize the Brazos Mini-WAM to determine supplies in the Clear Fork sub-basin of the Brazos basin.

Region G also requested to use the same water supply assumptions for strategy evaluations as used for existing supply. While the use of these modified conditions may be reasonable for planning purposes, WAM RUN 3 would be utilized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for analyzing permit applications. It is acceptable to use modified conditions for water management strategy supply evaluations only if the yield produced is

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more conservative for surface water appropriations than WAM RUN 3. However, TWDB is of the understanding that the modified conditions will result in greater yields than WAM RUN 3. Therefore, strategy evaluations involving new surface water appropriations must be based on WAM RUN 3. Accounting for subordination agreements and use of future return flows are acceptable modifications for strategy evaluations as outlined in Exhibit C, Section 5.2.1.

Although the TWDB approves the use of safe yields for developing estimates of current water supplies, firm yield for each reservoir must still be reported to TWDB in the online planning database and plan documents.

While the TWDB authorizes these modifications to evaluate existing water supplies for development of the 2021 Brazos G RWP, it is the responsibility of the RWPG to ensure that the resulting estimates of water availability are reasonable for drought planning purposes and will reflect conditions expected in the event of actual drought conditions; and in all other regards will be evaluated in accordance with the contract Exhibit C, *Second Amended General Guidelines for Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Plan Development*.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tom Barnett, project manager for Region G, at 512-463-4209 or via email at thomas.barnett@twdb.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeff Walker
Executive Administrator

c w/o enc: Mr. Stephen Hamlin, Brazos River Authority
Mr. David Dunn, HDR, Inc.
Ms. Paula Jo Lemonds, HDR, Inc.
Ms. Simone Kiel, Freese & Nichols, Inc
Mr. Tom Barnett, TWDB