

Texas Water Development Board



P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
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Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

May 18, 2018

Mr. Aubrey Spear
Region O Chair
c/o City of Lubbock
P.O. Box 2000
Lubbock, TX 79457

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

Dear Mr. Spear:



The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has reviewed the request submitted by the Region O RWPG dated March 28, 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 the hydrologic variances approved for use by the Brazos G RWPG to conduct analyses for the Brazos River Basin.
2. Utilize yield values approved for use by the Region A RWPG for the Canadian River Basin.
3. Utilize yield values approved for use by the Region F RWPG for the Colorado River Basin.
4. Utilize yield values approved for use by the Region A RWPG for the Red River Basin.
5. Utilize a stand-alone Water Availability Model (WAM) for Lake Alan Henry that was developed for the City of Lubbock.

Region O 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 more conservative for surface water appropriations than WAM RUN 3. However, the TWDB is of the understanding that the modified conditions could result in greater or lesser yields than WAM RUN 3 on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, strategy evaluations involving new surface water appropriations must be based on WAM RUN 3 when modified conditions would be less conservative. Accounting for subordination agreements and use of future

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return flows are acceptable modifications for strategy evaluations as outlined in Exhibit C, Section 5.2.1.

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 O, at 512-463-4209 or via email at thomas.barnett@twdb.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeff Walker
Executive Administrator

c w/o enc: Ms. Kelly Davila, South Plains Association of Governments
Ms. Paula Jo Lemonds, HDR, Inc.
Mr. David Dunn, HDR, Inc.
Ms. Simone Kiel, Freese & Nichols, Inc
Mr. Tom Barnett, TWDB