
Exhibit C

General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans

NOTE:

THIS DOCUMENT CURRENTLY INCLUDES ONLY THE GUIDANCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INITIAL SCOPE OF WORK TASKS. SECTIONS 3 - 9, 11, AND 12 WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO GUIDANCE UPON AMENDMENT OF THE FULL SCOPE OF WORK

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This document is subject to future revision based upon any future Legislative actions.

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SECTION 1 – Introduction

1.1 Background

The sixth cycle of regional and state water planning as defined by Senate Bill 1 of the 75th Texas Legislature commenced in 2021 and will extend through 2026. Regional water planning groups must prepare the 2026 Regional Water Plans that, once approved, will become the basis for the 2027 State Water Plan.

While the regional water plan development is directed by the regional water planning groups, in order to ensure that the regional water plans follow a consistent and credible approach, the TWDB's Executive Administrator prepared the following guidelines to assist with the planning process. These guidelines augment the Texas Water Code (TWC) and the administrative rules related to regional water planning and are part of the regional water planning grant contracts.

1.2 Purpose

These guidelines build upon and provide additional information and greater detail about how to implement the administrative rules, including regarding the required methods, content, and format of information to be contained and presented in each RWP to meet rule and contractual requirements including the scope of work. For convenience, the sections of this document include direct links to the relevant regional water planning rules and the Exhibit A: Scope of Work tasks, followed by 'Guidance' content provided by the Executive Administrator.

While each regional water plan is unique to its region, this guidance is intended to ensure that the 16 regional water plans are developed in a generally consistent and similar manner to produce information that may be combined and aggregated, at the state level, to support the development of a meaningful and credible state water plan. The intent is to ensure that the 16 regions generally produce and provide 'apples to apples' data across the entire state including key information that will support the Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) development of the state water plan.

Depending upon the nature of particular water planning rules or contract tasks, this guidance intentionally varies in its degree of specificity and flexibility. These guidelines include specific requirements that must be complied with by regional water planning groups as they prepare the regional water plan as well as guidance that the regional water planning groups may "consider", and that leaves certain considerations to the discretion of the planning groups.

The Initially Prepared Plans (IPP) and the final adopted regional water plans will be reviewed by TWDB based on statute, regional water planning rules, as well as requirements that are included in this and all other contract documents including the scope of work.

This document augments existing statute and rules that govern regional water planning. Provisions of [TWC §16.053](#) and 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapters [355](#), [357](#),

and [358](#) serve as the foundation for information in this document and are not superseded or abridged by anything contained within or excluded from this document.

1.3 General format and content of this document

This guidance consists of the following sections:

1. **Section 1 – Introduction** includes background material and a general document cross-reference that illustrates how the administrative rules, contract scope of work, and guidance documents all relate and align with one another.
2. **Section 2 – Scope of Work Task-Specific Guidelines** includes guidance organized by Scope of Work tasks and related rules sections. The section identifies various summary tables that are required to be included in the IPP and final RWP.
3. **Section 3 – Appendices** includes appendices that accompany sections 1 and 2.

1.4 General guidance

1. Development of the regional water plans will be guided by the [State Water Plan Guidance Principles](#).
2. The regional water plans must include an Executive Summary including key findings and recommendations, not to exceed 30 pages.
3. This guidance document includes the minimum reporting requirements where information and data are available. A regional water planning group may present more information and findings in their plan than is required by this guidance.
4. Regional water planning groups must submit all data identified in Exhibit D: Guidelines for 2026 Regional Water Planning Data Deliverables to the TWDB. The regional water plans are intended to include data reflective of a planning level analysis.

1.5 Documents and files that accompany and are integral to implementing this guidance

1. **Exhibit C Tables:** An excel template file called “2026 RWP Exhibit C Tables” will be developed to accompany this guidance document and will include the summary tables that are required to be included in the IPP and final regional water plan. The excel spreadsheet must be filled in and submitted with the in the IPP and final regional water plan with associated information.
2. **Exhibit D: Guidelines for 2026 Regional Water Plan Data Deliverables** – this is a separate document that will be developed to support this guidance. Exhibit D will be incorporated into contracts via a future contract amendment that incorporates the remaining Scope of Work tasks. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

1.6 General document cross-reference for regional water plans

For convenience the table below illustrates how contract tasks, guidance, administrative rules, and regional water plan chapters generally relate.¹ The chapter breakdown for each plan is specifically required under 31 TAC §357.22(b). Plans that are not organized in this manner will be considered administratively incomplete and will not be reviewed. **Please note that this table includes anticipated scope of work tasks for the 2026 Regional Water Plan development. This table (including any items marked TBD) is subject to revision upon incorporation of the full SOW. Items marked with an asterisk are anticipated to be removed following the TWDB’s implementation of [House Bill 1905](#), 87th Legislative Session.**

¹ Some rules (e.g., TAC §358; §357.22) apply more broadly to all regional water planning activities.

General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans

Regional Water Planning Contract Document References			2026 Regional Water Plan Chapter, Associated TAC Sections, and Content		
TWDB Contract Reimbursement Accounting Number ('CAS')	Exhibit A - Contract Scope of Work Task	Exhibit C - General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans	Regional Water Plan Chapter Number	Primary TAC Section	General Content
1	1	1	1	§357.30	Description of the Regional Water Planning Area
2	2A	2	2	§357.31	Projected Non-Municipal Water Demands
3	2B			§357.31	Projected Population and Municipal Water Demands
TBD	TBD	3	3	§357.32	Water Supply Analysis
TBD	TBD	4	4	§357.33	Identification of Water Needs
TBD	TBD	NA	TBD	§357.12	Identification of Infeasible Water Management Strategies
TBD	TBD	NA	NA	contract	Technical Memorandum Deliverable
TBD	TBD	5	5	§357.34	Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies
TBD	TBD			§357.34; §357.35	Evaluations of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies, Recommended Water Management Strategies and Projects, and Alternative Water Management Strategies and Projects
TBD	TBD			§357.34	Conservation Recommendations <i>[as an individual subchapter]</i>
TBD	TBD	6	6	§357.40	Impacts of Regional Water Plan
				§357.41	Consistency with Protection of Water Resources, Agricultural Resources, and Natural Resources
TBD	TBD	7	7	§357.42	Drought Response Information, Activities, and Recommendations
4	8	8	8	§357.43	Policy Recommendations & Unique Sites
TBD	TBD	9	9	§357.44	Infrastructure Financing Analysis*
5	10	10	10	§357.21; §357.50	Public Participation and Plan Adoption
TBD	TBD	11	11	§357.45	Implementation and Comparison to the Previous Regional Water Plan
TBD	TBD	12	N/A	§357.46	RWPG Prioritization of Recommended Water Management Strategy Projects *

1.7 Definitions of Terms

1.7.1 Regional Water Planning rule definitions

Many of the regional water planning specific terms and acronyms used in this guidance document are defined in 31 TAC §357.10. These may be viewed online at:

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=31&pt=10&ch=357&rl=10](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=31&pt=10&ch=357&rl=10)

1.7.2 Groundwater Management rule definitions

Many of the groundwater related terms and acronyms used in this guidance document are defined in 31 TAC §356.10. These may be viewed online at:

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=31&pt=10&ch=356&rl=10](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=31&pt=10&ch=356&rl=10)

1.7.3 Non-rule definitions pertinent to regional water planning

Aquifer – Geologic formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to yield significant quantities of water to wells and springs. The formation could be sand, gravel, limestone, sandstone, or fractured igneous rocks.

Aquifer recharge – Water that infiltrates to the water table of an aquifer.

Aquifer storage and recovery – The practice of injecting water, when available, into an aquifer where it is stored for later use.

Brackish water – Water containing total dissolved solids between 1,000 and 10,000 milligrams per liter.

Capital cost – Portion of the estimated cost of a water management strategy that includes both the direct costs of constructing facilities, such as materials, labor, and equipment, and the indirect costs associated with construction activities, such as engineering studies, legal counsel, land acquisition, contingencies, environmental mitigation, interest during construction, and permitting.

Desalination – Process of removing salt and other dissolved solids from seawater or brackish water.

Drought – Generally applied to periods of less than average precipitation over a certain period of time. Associated definitions include meteorological drought (abnormally dry weather), agricultural drought (adverse impact on crop or range production), and hydrologic drought (below-average water content in aquifers and/or reservoirs).

Environmental flows – An environmental flow is an amount of water that should remain in a stream or river for the benefit of the environment of the river, bay, and estuary, while balancing human needs.

Estuary – A bay or inlet, often at the mouth of a river and may be bounded by barrier islands, where freshwater and seawater mix together providing for economically and ecologically important habitats and species and which also yield essential ecosystem services.

Firm diversion (run of river availability) – Evaluated for municipal sole-source water use (i.e. not firmed up with other sources) is defined as the minimum monthly diversion amount that is available 100 percent of the time during a repeat of the drought of record. Evaluated for all other water users, the ‘firm diversion’ is defined as the minimum annual diversion, which is the lowest annual summation of the monthly diversions reported by the Water Availability Model over the simulation period (lowest annual summation being the calendar year within the simulation that represents the lowest diversion available).

Group quarter – A place where people live or stay in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. Group quarters include such places as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, and workers' dormitories.

Infrastructure – Physical means for meeting water and wastewater needs, such as dams, wells, conveyance systems, and water treatment plants.

Instream Flow – Water flow and water quality regime adequate to maintain an ecologically sound environment in streams and rivers.

Local groundwater supplies – Supplies found in local groundwater areas usually not associated with a major, minor, or other aquifer (e.g., a small local alluvial aquifer) that may still be used as a non-municipal water supply source (e.g., for livestock use), but that the groundwater management area determined to be small enough to not go through the desired future condition process.

Local surface water supplies – Limited, unnamed individual surface water supplies that, separately, are available only to particular non-municipal water user groups, such as livestock.

Non-relevant aquifer – An aquifer/region/county/basin geographic unit or a sub-portion of such a geographic aquifer unit where the groundwater management area did not assign a desired future condition. This results in this geographic unit (or sub-portion) not having an associated modeled available groundwater volume. In addition, this means that the associated aquifer/region/county/basin geographic unit may or may not have a non-modeled available groundwater volume (as determined by the planning group) associated with it.

Other aquifer – An aquifer that has not been designated as major or minor.

Rainwater harvesting – An ancient practice involving the capture, diversion, and storage of rainwater for landscape irrigation, drinking and domestic use, aquifer recharge, and in modern times, stormwater abatement.

Seawater – Water typically containing total dissolved solids of 35,000 milligrams per liter or greater. The volume of total dissolved solids may be lower than 35,000 milligrams per liter.

Sedimentation – Action or process of depositing sediment in a reservoir, usually silts, sands, or gravel.

Storage – Natural or artificial impoundment and accumulation of water in surface or underground reservoirs, usually for later withdrawal or release.

System gain – The amount of permitted water a system creates that would otherwise be unavailable if the reservoirs were operated independently and this volume must be reported separately. For multi-reservoir systems, the minimum system gain during drought of record conditions may be considered additional water available, if permitted.

Water availability model – Numerical computer program used to determine the availability of surface water within each river basin for permitting in the state.

2 SECTION 2 – Scope of work task specific guidelines

Included in this section is guidance specifically addressing the following scope of work tasks². Items marked with an asterisk are anticipated to be removed following TWDB’s implementation of House Bill 1905, 87th Legislative Session. Corresponding agency rules are also shown below for convenience and reference:

- Task 1 – Description of the Regional Water Planning Area (§357.30)
- Task 2A and 2B – Projected Population and Water Demands (§357.31)
- Water Supply Analysis (§357.32)
- Needs Analysis: Comparison of Water Supplies and Demands (§357.33)
- Identification of Infeasible Water Management Strategies (§357.12)
- Identification and Evaluation of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies and Water Management Strategy Projects (31 TAC §357.34); Recommended Water Management Strategies and Alternative Water Management Strategy Projects (§357.35)
- Impacts of Regional Water Plan (§357.40); Consistency with Long-term Protection of Water Resources, Agricultural Resources, and Natural Resources (§357.41)
- Drought Response Information, Activities, and Recommendations (§357.42)
- Task 8 – Regulatory, Administrative, or Legislative Recommendations (§357.43)
- Infrastructure Financing Analysis (§357.44)*
- Task 10 – Adoption, Submittal, and Approval of Regional Water Plans (§357.50 and §357.21)
- Implementation and Comparison to the Previous Regional Water Plan (§357.45)
- Prioritization of Projects by RWPGs (TAC §357.46)*

2.1 Planning area description (Task 1)

Rule and scope of work requirements:

- [§357.30: Description of the Regional Water Planning Area](#)
- [Scope of work Task 1: Planning Area Description](#)

Guidance:

Each regional water plan must include a description of the regional water planning area including the following items:

1. social and economic aspects of a region such as information on current population, economic activity and economic sectors heavily dependent on water resources;
2. current water use and major water demand centers;
3. current groundwater, surface water, and reuse supplies including major springs that are important for water supply or protection of natural resources;
4. major water providers;
5. agricultural and natural resources;
6. identified water quality problems;

² The initial regional water planning contracts include only SOW tasks 1, 2A-2B, 8, and 10. The remaining SOW task numbers and related sections of this guidance document will be incorporated via a future contract amendment.

7. identified threats to agricultural and natural resources due to water quantity problems or water quality problems related to water supply;
8. summary of existing local and regional water plans;
9. the identified historic drought(s) of record within the planning area;
10. current preparations for drought within the planning area;
11. information provided by the TWDB from water loss audits performed by Retail Public Utilities pursuant to 31 TAC §358.6 (relating to water loss audits); and,
12. an identification of each threat to agricultural and natural resources and a discussion of how that threat will be addressed or affected by the water management strategies evaluated in the plan.

Major water providers

Major water providers for the planning area are a subset of water user groups and/or wholesale water providers identified by the regional water planning groups to be of particular significance to the region's water supply. Each region must decide which entities are designated as major water providers. If the region decides not to designate any entities as major water providers, the plan needs to include discussion in chapter one of the plan as to why the planning group determined it does not have any water user groups or wholesale water providers of significance to the region's water supply.

Wholesale water providers

Entities designated as a wholesale water provider for planning purposes must sell or deliver (or plan to sell or deliver) wholesale water at some point in the 50-year planning horizon. Regional water planning groups will determine which wholesale water providers they want to utilize in their plan development. Data analysis and evaluations described throughout this document are relevant to the water user groups and wholesale water providers of the planning area. Data analyses of identified wholesale water providers will occur in the evaluation of contractual obligations to supply water, the demands associated with water user groups served by the wholesale water provider, the evaluation of the wholesale water provider's existing water supplies, and the evaluation of water management strategies and projects, for example.

Water user group and wholesale water provider data will support compiling results to describe the major water providers of the planning area. Even though the regional water planning group is not required to specifically report basic information on wholesale water provider demands and supplies in the regional water plan, it will need to do so in at least two specific instances:

1. if that same entity is also designated by the planning group as a major water provider, or
2. if that wholesale water provider is designated as the "sponsor" of any recommended water management strategy project in the plan, through TWDB-generated data reports. The wholesale water provider information will provide the basis for the wholesale water provider strategy or project.

These are minimum reporting requirements, however a regional water planning group may present more wholesale water provider information utilized in the development of

their plan. The extent to which planning groups report on additional wholesale water providers that have not been designated as major water providers is left largely to the discretion of the planning groups.

Drought(s) of record

When presenting information on historic drought(s) of record, the regional water planning group may identify other relevant (e.g., basin-level) droughts of record that impact water supplies in the planning area in addition to identifying the overall historic drought of record in the planning area.

Water loss audits

Information provided by the TWDB from water loss audits may be presented, for example, as a summary in tabular form along with a description of the information and how the regional water planning group considered the information in developing the regional water plan. Examples of water loss audit data presented include the number of entities submitting water loss audits, the total quantity of water produced, the total reported quantity of water lost, and the percent of water loss.

2.2 Population and water demand projections (Tasks 2A and 2B)

Rule and scope of work requirements:

- [§357.31: Projected Population and Water Demands](#)
- [Scope of work Task 2A: Non-Municipal Water Demand Projections](#)
- [Scope of work Task 2B: Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections](#)

Guidance:

The TWDB will provide an updated water user group list for use in the 2026 Regional Water Plans and 2027 State Water Plan. The definition of water user groups can be found in [31 TAC §357.10\(43\)](#).

The TWDB will prepare draft population and municipal water demand projections for 2030-2080 for all municipal water user groups using data based on the new decennial census, new county-level population projections from the Texas Demographic Center, and the most recent utility boundary information.

Non-municipal draft water demand projections consisting of manufacturing, irrigation, livestock, and steam-electric power generation will be developed based on more recent historical water use data (2015-2019) and the same methodologies that were updated for use in developing the 2021 Regional Water Plans and 2022 State Water Plan. For the mining water use category, new projections will be developed based on a contracted mining study by the Bureau of Economic Geology.

Criteria and required data for requested changes to draft projections and revisions of approved projections

The initial list of water user groups will be prepared and provided to each regional water planning group along with historical water use and population data for their review. The

regional water planning groups will review the water user group list and historical data from the TWDB and provide corrections and feedback to the TWDB.

Once the final list of water user groups is established, the TWDB will prepare draft population and water demand projections for each region. The regional water planning groups will then review the draft projections and may provide input to the TWDB or request specific changes to the draft projections from the TWDB. All requests to adjust draft projections must be submitted along with associated quantified data in an electronic format determined by the TWDB (e.g., Excel spreadsheets). If adequate justification is provided by the regional water planning groups to the TWDB, population and/or water demand projections may be adjusted by the TWDB in consultation with Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The TWDB will then incorporate approved adjustments to the projections prior to the Board's consideration of adoption of the population and water demand projections. Acceptable criteria and required data are specified for each water user group category in Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.

The regional water planning groups must use the Board-adopted projections when preparing their regional water plans. The TWDB will directly populate the state water planning database (DB27) with all Board-adopted water user group-level projections and the TWDB will make any related changes to DB27 if subsequent revisions are approved by the Board.

Regional water planning groups may request revisions to Board-adopted projections if the request demonstrates the projections no longer represent a reasonable estimate of anticipated conditions based on changed conditions or new information in accordance with 31 TAC §357.31(e)(2)³. However, planning groups will need to manage the timelines required for agency review and Board action with the subsequent revisions to their regional plans in order to meet all contractual deliverable deadlines.

2.2.1 Population projections

The draft population projections will include permanent residential population including 'group quarter' population residing in institutional facilities (military, prisons, schools, or nursing homes) who are served by municipal water user groups or rely on their own water sources. Seasonal population, including tourist or seasonal workers, are not included in the draft projections although the associated seasonal water use is necessarily reflected in the per capita water use rates.

Prior to the release of the draft projections, the TWDB will analyze the most recent population projections from the Texas Demographic Center in comparison to the 2022 State Water Plan projections to determine the maximum region-wide, net population changes that may be considered by the regional water planning groups.

³ Work performed associated with revisions to Board-adopted projections is not eligible for regional water planning grant funding in accordance with 31 TAC §355.92(a)(E).

2.2.1.1 Municipal water user group list

The initial list of water user groups, also referred to as *entities*, will be developed by the TWDB per [31 TAC §357.10\(43\)](#) and with the input of each regional water planning group. Municipal water user groups will be based on utility boundaries and annual water use volumes reported by associated public water systems via TWDB's annual Water Use Survey. Utilities' municipal net use will be evaluated based on whether they are public or private utilities. If the public water system or utility meets the annual municipal net use of 100 acre-feet threshold in any single year within the most recent five years (2015-2019), they will be established as stand-alone water user groups. Collective reporting units will be carried over from the 2022 State Water Plan, but also will be updated per newly established public water systems, changes in utility boundaries or input from the planning groups. Public water systems or utilities that do not meet the definition of a stand-alone water user group or collective reporting unit will be planned for as part of a county-other water user group per 31 TAC §357.10(43)(E). Additionally, group quarters can be water user groups if they meet the definition in 31 TAC §357.10(43)(B) or may be included as part of another water user group.

Criteria for adjustment:

A proposed water user group must meet the definition in [31 TAC §357.10\(43\)](#) and the following criteria to be included as a new, discrete entity in the 2026 Regional Water Plan. One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the regional water planning group and the Executive Administrator:

1. Evidence of errors identified in the historical water use for a public water system or utility, which would determine whether the system or utility meets the water user group definition.
2. Evidence of errors in the ownership type of a public water system or utility provided in the Texas Drinking Water Watch.
3. Evidence of recent changes of the ownership of a public water system or utility through merge or annexation.

Data requirements:

The regional water planning group must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria to be included in the 2026 Regional Water Plan:

1. Annual water intake, sales, or metered use volumes for recent years for the public water system.
2. Documentation supporting changes of the name or ownership of a public water system or utility.
3. Documentation supporting collective reporting units with the geographic designation along with a list of the utilities or public water systems that have a common association for the purposes of water planning.
4. Documentation supporting that a system or utility within a collective reporting unit boundary should be planned for as a stand-alone water user group.

2.2.1.2 Regional-level population projections

Adjustment to net regional-total population projections may be considered based on the criteria below. Associated adjustments to net county-total population projections within the regional total must also be justified (see Section 2.2.1.3). The net cumulative sub-regional requested changes may not exceed the maximum region-wide population that is provided by the TWDB.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the regional water planning group and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the regional-level population projections:

1. A possible Census undercount took place in a county located within the region and action is currently being pursued to request a U.S. Census Bureau correction.
2. The most recent population growth rate (2015-2020) for the whole region is significantly different than the draft regional projections.

Data requirements:

The regional water planning group must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the regional-level population projections:

1. Documentation of an action requesting the U.S. Census Bureau correct an undercount of population within a county located in the region.
2. Historical regional-total population estimates from the Texas Demographic Center or the U.S. Census Bureau.
3. Other data and evidence that the regional water planning group believes provides a reasonable basis for justifying changes to the net total regional-level population projection.

2.2.1.3 County-level population projections

Any net adjustments to a county-total population projection due to adjustments to sub-county water user group-level projections within that county must be justified in a similar manner and will require an accompanying, justifiable redistribution of the projected county population within the same region so that the net, summed regional total remains unchanged unless an accompanying net total adjustment to the regional total is also requested, justified and approved (see Section 2.2.1.2).

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the regional water planning group and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising a net total county-level population projection:

1. A possible Census undercount took place in the county and action is currently being pursued to request a U.S. Census Bureau correction.
2. If there is evidence that the most recent years (2015-2020) net migration rate was significantly different than the net migration rate used for the draft projections.

3. If there is evidence that the 2020-2030 net migration rate will be significantly different than the net migration rate used for the draft projections.
4. There are statistically significant birth and survival rate differences (by appropriate cohorts) between the county and the State.
5. The most recent county population growth rate (2015-2020) is significantly different than draft county's projections.

Data requirements:

The regional water planning group must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the county-level population projections:

1. Documentation of an action requesting the U.S. Census Bureau correct an undercount of population within a county.
2. Most recent in-migration and out-migration of a county, indicating that the net migration of a county over the most recent years (2015-2020) is significantly different than the net migration rates used for the draft projections.
3. Birth and/or survival rates for a county population between 2010-2020 by gender, race/ethnicity and single-year age cohorts.
4. County population estimates from the Texas Demographic Center or the U.S. Census Bureau.
5. Other data and evidence that the regional water planning group believes provides a reasonable basis for justifying changes to the net total county-level population projection.

2.2.1.4 Water user group (entity) population projections

The projected population growth throughout the planning period for the utilities and rural area (county-other) within a county is a function of a number of factors, including the water user group's estimated share of the county's population or growth between 2010 and 2020, as well as local information provided by regional water planning groups. The total county population will serve as a control total for the WUG populations within each county. Any adjustments to a sub-county water user group population projection must involve a justifiable redistribution of projected populations within the relevant county so that the county net total remains unchanged unless an adjustment to the county total is also requested, justified and approved (see Section 2.2.1.3).

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the regional water planning group and the Executive Administrator for consideration in adjusting individual water user group population projections:

1. An adjustment to the population estimates for utilities or rural areas due to official adjustment to the 2020 Census population.
2. The 2010 or 2020 permanent population-served estimate by a municipal water user group is significantly different than the 2010 or 2020 baseline population estimate used in the draft projections.

3. The population growth rate for a municipal water user group over the most recent years (2015–2020) is substantially different than the growth rate between 2010 and 2020 in the draft projections.
4. Identification of growth limitations or potential build-out conditions for a water user group that would result in an expected maximum population that is different than the draft projections.
5. Updated information regarding the utility or public water system service area or anticipated near-term changes in service area.
6. Plans for new residential development in the near future that has not been counted in the draft projections.
7. Evidence of errors identified in historical connections.
8. Plans for a new or expansion of an existing institutional facility that was not included in the draft projections.
9. Evidence of errors in group quarter population.

Data requirements:

The regional water planning group must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustment to the water user group-level population projections:

1. The verified number of residential connections or permanent population of utilities or public water systems that are associated with a water user group and result in correcting the TWDB's Water Use Survey or historical estimates.
2. Updates or corrections to a water user group's group quarter population or the location of institutional facilities.
3. Population estimates for cities developed and published by the Texas Demographic Center or by a regional Council of Governments will be considered for utilities serving these respective cities.
4. Documentation from an official of a city or utility that describes the conditions expected to limit population growth and estimates the maximum expected population for a utility and the potential timeframe for buildout.
5. Documentation or maps that verify and display changes in the utility service area.
6. Documentation demonstrating near-term growth, expansion, or new construction such as platting of new subdivisions, annexation agreements, building permits or impact fee reports.
7. Documentation of potential future growth, such as utility master plans, capital improvement plans, land use and zoning plans, maps of vacant lands with number of dwelling units per acre or number of households and average household size.
8. Other data and evidence that the regional water planning group believes provides a reasonable basis for justifying changes to an individual water user group-level population projection.

2.2.2 Water demand projections

2.2.2.1 *Municipal water demand projections*

Municipal water use includes both residential and non-residential water use. Residential use includes single and multi-family residential household water use. Non-residential use includes water used by commercial establishments, public offices, institutions, and light industrial facilities, but does not include significant industrial water users, such as large manufacturing, mining, or power generation facilities. Residential and non-residential water uses are categorized together because they are similar types of use, both use water primarily for drinking, cleaning, sanitation, cooling, and landscape watering.

Per capita water use is developed as gallons per capita daily (GPCD) using historical population estimates and net use for the utility. The reported data included in the municipal draft projections includes surface water, groundwater, and direct and indirect potable reuse, but does not include non-potable reuse sources.

The TWDB-generated draft municipal water demand projections shall incorporate limited, anticipated future water savings **due only to the transition to more water-efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances, as detailed in relevant legislation and provided to the regional water planning groups by the TWDB**. Any additional anticipated future water savings due to conservation programs undertaken by utilities or county-other water user groups shall be quantified and considered as a potential, recommended water management strategy by the regional water planning group.

Dry-year and baseline GPCD

Municipal water demand projections will be based upon dry-year demand conditions. The baseline GPCDs used in the 2026 Regional Water Plans will be carried over from the 2021 Regional Water Plans and used as default baseline GPCDs **with water efficiency savings due to more efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances through 2020 subtracted** to develop the draft water demand projections for municipal water user groups in the 2026 Regional Water Plans.

Regions may make a request to use a water user group's GPCD value from a different base dry-year within the most recent five years (2015-2019) as the basis for the demand projections of that water user group. The TWDB will consider an alternative base dry-year GPCD if the regional water planning group provides sufficient evidence that the alternative base dry-year GPCD is more representative of demands expected under dry-year conditions or that the draft default GPCD fails to adequately reflect water efficiency and conservation savings that have been already been implemented.

Note that any adjustment to the population projections for a WUG will require an associated adjustment to the municipal water demand projections.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the regional water planning group and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the municipal water demand projections:

1. Evidence that per capita water use from a more recent year (2015-2019) would be more appropriate as the baseline because that year was more representative of dry-year conditions.
2. Evidence of errors identified in the historical water use or GPCD for a utility or public water system, including evidence that volumes of reuse (potable reuse) water used for municipal purposes should be or should not be included in the draft projections.
3. Evidence that the base dry-year water use was abnormal due to temporary infrastructure constraints or water restriction triggered by utility's drought management plan.
4. Trends indicating that per capita water use for a utility or rural area of a county have increased substantially in recent years, and evidence that these trends will continue to rise in the short-term future due to commercial development.
5. Evidence that the most recent water efficiency and conservation savings that have already been implemented are not reflected in the default baseline GPCD.
6. Evidence that the number of installations of water-efficient fixtures and appliances between 2010 and 2020 is substantially different than the TWDB estimate or evidence that the projected replacement rate of water-efficient fixtures and appliances is substantially different than the TWDB projections.
7. Evidence that future water efficiency savings are projected much higher than the draft projections due to a utility's conservation plans that accelerate the replacement of the existing outdated plumbing fixtures and appliances.

Data requirements:

The regional water planning group must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the municipal water demand projections:

1. Annual municipal water intake (total surface water diversions and/or groundwater pumpage and water purchased from other entities) for a utility measured in acre-feet.
2. The volume of water sales by a utility to other water users (utilities, industries, public water systems, etc.) measured in acre-feet.
3. Net annual municipal water use, defined as total water production less sales to other water users (utilities, industries, public water systems, etc.) measured in acre-feet.
4. Documentation of temporary infrastructure, drought restrictions, or other water supply constraints that were in place.
5. Drought index or seasonal rainfall data to document a year different than the designated dry-year as a more appropriate base year for projections.
6. Conservation plans or other documentation that show the number or rate of water-efficient fixtures replaced or planned to be replaced for the future.
7. Estimated water efficiency or conservation savings implemented.
8. To verify increasing or decreasing per capita water use trends for a utility or rural area of a county and therefore revising projections of per capita water use to reflect the trend, the following data should be provided with the request from the RWPG:

- a. Historical per capita water use estimates based on net annual municipal water use for a utility or rural area of a county, beginning in 2015.
 - b. A trend analysis which takes into account the variation in annual rainfall.
 - c. Revised projections of per capita water use for a utility or rural area of a county, that demonstrate an increasing or decreasing trend of per capita water use.
 - d. Growth data in the residential, commercial and/or public sectors that would justify an increase or decrease in per capita water use.
 - e. Convincing documentation of planned future growth that would result in higher per capita water use.
9. Other data and evidence that the regional water planning group considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the municipal water demand projections.

2.2.2.2 Manufacturing water demand projections

Manufacturing water use is defined as water used to produce manufactured goods. Manufacturing facilities report their water use to the TWDB annually through the Water Use Survey. Different manufacturing sectors are denoted by North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes. The baseline for draft manufacturing water demand projections is based on the highest county-aggregated manufacturing water use in the most recent five years (2015-2019). The most recent 10-year projections for employment growth from the Texas Workforce Commission or other relevant economic measures available are used as proxy for growth between 2030 and 2040. After 2040, the draft manufacturing water demand are held constant through 2080 reflecting future efficiencies.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the regional water planning group and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the manufacturing water demand projections:

1. Evidence of a new or existing facility that has not been included in the TWDB's Water Use Survey.
2. Evidence of an industrial facility that has recently closed its operation in a county.
3. Plans for new construction, or expansion or closure of an existing industrial facility in a county at some future date.
4. Evidence of a long-term projected water demand of a facility or industry within a county that is substantially different than the draft projections.
5. Evidence of errors identified in historical water use, including volumes of reuse (treated effluent) or brackish groundwater that were not included in the draft projections.

Data requirements:

The regional water planning group must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the manufacturing water demand projections.

1. Historical water use data and the 6-digit NAICS code of a manufacturing facility.

2. Documentation and analysis that justify that a new manufacturing facility not included in the Water Use Survey database will increase future manufacturing water demand for the county above the draft projections.
3. The 6-digit NAICS code of the industrial facility that has recently located in a county and annual water use volume.
4. Documentation of plans for a manufacturing facility to locate in a county at some future date, including the following data:
 - a. The quantity of water required by the planned facility on an annual basis,
 - b. The proposed construction schedule for the facility including the date the facility will become operational, and
 - c. The 6-digit NAICS code for the planned facility.
5. Reports or research documents describing alternative trends or anticipated water use for manufacturing.
6. Specific information regarding incorrect location for a facility.
7. Other data and evidence that the RWPG considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the manufacturing water demand projections.

2.2.2.3 Steam-electric power generation water demand projections

Water use for steam-electric power generation is consumptive use reported to the TWDB through the annual Water Use Survey. Steam-electric power water demand projections do not include water used in cogeneration facilities (included in manufacturing projections) or facilities which do not require water for production (wind, solar, dry-cooled generation), or hydro-electric generation facilities.

The baseline for draft water demand projections are based on the highest county-aggregated historical steam-electric power water use in the most recent five years (2015-2019). Subsequent demand projections after 2030 are held constant throughout the planning period. The anticipated water use of future facilities listed in state and federal reports is added to the demand projections from the anticipated operation date through 2080. The reported water use of power generation facilities scheduled for retirement in the state and federal reports is subtracted from the baseline or the decade in which they are projected to retire.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the regional water planning group and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the power generation water demand projections:

1. Documentation that the draft projections have not included a facility that warrants inclusion.
2. Any local information related to new facilities or facility closures that may not have been included in U.S. Energy Information Administration report.
3. Evidence of a long-term projected water demand of a facility or a county that is substantially different than the draft projections.
4. Evidence of errors identified in historical water use, including volumes of reuse (treated effluent) water or brackish groundwater that were not included in the draft projections.

5. Evidence that a currently operating power generation facility has experienced a higher dry-year water use beyond the most recent five years, within the most recent 10 years.

Data requirements:

The regional water planning group must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the steam-electric water demand projections.

1. Historical water use data and description of a surveyed or future facility, including the fuel type, cooling process, capacity, average percent of time operating, and any other information necessary to estimate water use.
2. Reports or research documents describing alternative trends or anticipated water use for steam-electric power generation.
3. Documentation of an anticipated new facility not listed in state or federal reports necessary to estimate the volume of water reasonably expected to be consumed. Such information should include power generation method, cooling method, generation capacity and any additional information necessary to reasonably estimate the future water use.
4. Documentation regarding facility closures that may impact county projections.
5. Specific information regarding incorrect location for a facility.
6. Other data and evidence that the regional water planning group considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the steam-electric power water demand projections.

2.2.2.4 Mining water demand projections

Mining water demand includes water used for oil and gas development, as well as extraction of coal and lignite, sand aggregate, and other resources. Projections do not include water use required for the transportation or refining of materials. The TWDB's annual mining water use estimates are comprised of data from both surveyed and non-surveyed entities and are based on the mining study conducted in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the regional water planning group and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the mining water demand projections:

1. Evidence that mining water use in a county is substantially different than the draft projections. This could include trends in water use data from the FracFocus national online registry, the Texas Railroad Commission, or other sources.
2. Evidence of new facilities coming online or reported closures in surveyed facilities that may impact county projections.
3. Evidence of errors identified in historical water use, including volumes of reuse (treated effluent) water or brackish groundwater that were not included in the draft projections.

4. Evidence of a long-term projected water demand of a facility or industry within a county that is substantially different than the draft projections.

Data requirements:

The regional water planning group must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the mining water demand projections.

1. Historical water use data and description of a surveyed or future facility, and any other information necessary to estimate water use.
2. Reports describing alternative trends or anticipated water use for mining.
3. Documentation of an anticipated new mining facility or new mining activities.
4. Specific information regarding facility closures that may impact county projections.
5. Specific information regarding incorrect location for a facility.
6. Reports or research documents describing alternative trends or anticipated water use for mining.
7. Other data and evidence that the regional water planning group considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the mining water demand projections.

2.2.2.5 Irrigation water demand projections

Irrigation water demand projections include the water necessary for irrigation activities, primarily field crops, but also include orchards, pasture, turf grass, vineyards, and self-supplied golf courses. Note that for the purposes of regional water planning, irrigation demands account for the amount of water pumped for irrigation, not the water needed or used by the crop or associated with dry-land farming.

The baseline methodology for draft irrigation water demand projections is the average of the most recent five-years (2015-2019) of water use estimates held constant between 2030 and 2080. In counties where the total groundwater availability over the planning period is projected to be less than the groundwater-portion of the baseline water demand projections, the draft irrigation water demand projections will begin to decline starting in 2040, or a later decade, commensurate with the decline in the associated groundwater availability.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the regional water planning group and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the irrigation water demand projections:

1. Evidence that irrigation water use estimates for a county from another information source or more recent modeled available groundwater volumes are more accurate than those used in the draft projections.
2. Evidence that recent (10 years or less) irrigation trends are more indicative of future trends than the draft water demand projections.
3. Evidence that the baseline irrigation demand projection is more likely to reflect the future irrigation demand than the groundwater resource-constrained water

demand projection (especially where economically feasible water supply strategies have been identified).

4. Region or county-specific studies that have developed water demand projections or trends for the planning period, or part of the planning period, and are deemed to be more reasonable estimates than the TWDB-generated draft projections.
5. Evidence of errors identified in historical water use, including volumes of reuse (treated effluent) or brackish groundwater that were not included in the draft projections.

Data requirements:

The regional water planning group must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the irrigation water demand projections:

1. Historical water use, diversion, or pumpage volumes for irrigation by county.
2. Acreage and water use data for irrigated crops grown in a region as published by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the Farm Service Agency or other sources.
3. Available economic, technical, and/or water supply-related evidence that may provide a basis for adjustments in the default baseline projection and/or the future rate of change in irrigation water demand.
4. Alternative projected water availability volumes that may constrain water demand projections.
5. Updated modeled available groundwater volumes.
6. Other data and evidence that the regional water planning group considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the irrigation water demand projections.

2.2.2.6 Livestock water demand projections

Livestock water use is defined as water used in the production of livestock, both for consumption and for cleaning and cooling purposes and aquaculture operations. The TWDB produces annual water use estimates for livestock, based on daily water demand per head assumptions for cattle (beef and dairy), hogs, poultry, horses, sheep, and goats. Additional facilities, such as aquaculture operations, report water use estimates through the TWDB Water Use Survey.

Draft water demand projections for each county are based on the average of the most recent five-years (2015-2019) of water use estimates. The rate of change for 2020-2070 from the 2022 State Water Plan will be applied to the new baseline.

Criteria for adjustment:

One or more of the following criteria must be verified by the regional water planning group and the Executive Administrator for consideration of revising the livestock water demand projections:

1. Evidence that livestock water use estimates for a county from another source are more accurate than those used in the draft projections.

2. Plans for the construction, expansion, or closure of a confined livestock feeding operation in a county at some future date.
3. Other evidence of change in livestock inventory or water requirements that would justify an adjustment in the projected future rate of change in livestock water demand.
4. Evidence of errors identified in historical water use, including volumes of reuse (treated effluent) or brackish groundwater that were not included in the draft projections.

Data requirements:

The regional water planning group must provide the following data to the Executive Administrator associated with the identified criteria for justifying any adjustments to the livestock water demand projections:

1. Documentation of plans for the construction of a confined livestock feeding facility in a county at some future date and includes the following:
 - a. Confirmation of land purchase or lease arrangements for the facility.
 - b. The construction schedule including the date the livestock feeding facility will become operational.
 - c. The daily water requirements of the planned livestock feeding facility.
2. Other evidence that would document an expected increase or decrease in the livestock inventory in the county, such as facility closures.
3. Documentation of an existing confined livestock feeding operation not captured in the draft projections.
4. Other data and evidence that the regional water planning group considers reasonable and adequate to justify an adjustment to the livestock water demand projections.

2.2.3 Major water provider demands

Planning groups will review aggregated water demand projections for major water providers provided by the TWDB. Regional water planning groups must summarize and present the projected demands for major water providers by category of use and planning decade. The TWDB will provide retail water demand data if the major water provider is a water user group, and contract demand data based on data entered by the planning group into DB27 if the major water provider is a wholesale water provider.

2.2.4 Representation of county-other sub-water user groups in regional water plans

Subject to their own time and financial resource constraints and at the discretion of each regional water planning group, county-other water user groups may be sub-divided into sub-county-other water users and presented in the regional water plans as such. However, for the development of the 2026 regional water plans, **this discrete level of information will not be eligible to be entered into DB27 but may be presented in the plan in a manner of the RWPG choice.** Any such entity identified by the planning group will inherently be represented in DB27 under the associated umbrella, county-other water user group. Therefore, any presentation of these entities in the regional water plans will solely

be based on information analyzed and presented in narrative or tabular form by the regional water planning group. The TWDB will provide historical water use estimates and connection data for individual public water systems that may fall within the county-other water user group and that may be of interest to the planning groups to present as sub-county-other-water user groups in the narrative of their plan. However, planning groups would need to conduct their own analyses with this information to distribute such water demands across their sub-county-other water user groups of interest in a manner that maintains the integrity of the projected net total demand for that county-other water user group.

2.3 Water availability and existing water supplies

Guidelines for this section (Water Availability and Existing Water Supplies) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous (2021) regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.4 Identification of water needs

Guidelines for this section (Identification of Water Needs) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.5 Water management strategies and water management strategy projects

Guidelines for this section (Water Management Strategies and Water Management Strategy Projects) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.6 Impacts of the regional water plan

Guidelines for this section (Impacts of the Regional Water Plan) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.7 Drought response information, activities, and recommendations

Note: Guidelines for this section (Drought Response Information, Activities, and Recommendations) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.8 Unique stream segments and reservoir sites and other recommendations (Task 8)

Links to rule and scope of work requirements:

- [§357.43: Regulatory, Administrative, or Legislative Recommendations](#)
- [Scope of work Task 8: Recommendations Regarding Unique Stream Segments and/or Reservoir Sites and Legislative & Regional Policy Issues](#)

Guidance:

Regional water planning groups may make recommendations for designating river and stream segments of unique ecological value and unique sites for reservoir construction; however, the Texas Legislature is responsible for making the official designations of these sites.

2.8.1 Unique stream segments

Regional water planning groups may recommend all or parts of river and stream segments in their respective regions as having “unique ecological values.” To recommend this designation, planning groups must justify the recommendation based on the following criteria:

1. biological function measured as stream segments displaying significant habitat value including both quantity and quality considering degrees of biodiversity, age, and uniqueness including terrestrial, wetland, aquatic, or estuarine habitats;
2. hydrologic function measured as stream segments fringed by habitats that perform valuable hydrologic functions relating to water quality, flood attenuation, flow stabilization, or groundwater recharge and discharge;
3. riparian conservation areas measured as stream segments fringed by significant areas in public ownership including state and federal refuges, wildlife management areas, preserves, parks, mitigation areas, or other areas held by governmental organizations for conservation purposes, or stream segments fringed by other areas managed for conservation purposes under governmentally approved conservation plans;
4. high water quality, exceptional aquatic life, high aesthetic value and spring resources that are significant due to unique or critical habitats and exceptional aquatic life uses dependent on or associated with high water quality; or
5. threatened or endangered species and unique communities defined as sites along streams where water development projects would have significant detrimental effects on state or federally listed threatened and endangered species, and sites along streams significant due to the presence of unique, exemplary, or unusually extensive natural communities.

Regional water planning groups seeking a designation shall forward a recommendation package to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, who will in turn provide a written evaluation of the proposal within 30 days. If the planning group is recommending stream segments that were recommended in a previous plan but not designated by the legislature, the recommendation package must be resubmitted to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

for an updated written evaluation. Final adopted regional water plans must include the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's written evaluation.

Recommendation packages must include a physical description giving the location of the stream segment, along with maps, photographs, and documentation with supporting literature and data that characterizes a site's unique ecological value addressing criteria in 31 TAC §357.43(b) and §358.2(6).

If a river or stream segment has been recommended in a previous plan, the planning group may incorporate references of supporting materials developed for the previous plan into the current plan. References must be precise and include a summary of the information presented in the previous plan.

Recommendations regarding unique river or stream segments presented in the regional water plans must be specific as to a) which unique river or stream segments have been previously designated by the legislature and b) which are being recommended for designation by the planning group.

If the Texas Legislature designates a stream or river segment as unique; or if a planning group recommends that a stream or river segment be classified as unique, the regional water planning group must quantitatively assess how recommended water management strategies in the regional water plan would affect flows deemed important (by the planning group) to the stream or river segment in question. Furthermore, assessments shall describe how a regional water plan would affect the unique features and criteria cited by a planning group as the impetus for a legislative designation.

2.8.2 Unique reservoir sites

Regional water planning groups may recommend sites for reservoir construction that have "unique value" based on the following criteria:

1. site specific reservoir development is recommended as a specific water management strategy or as a unique reservoir site in a final adopted RWP; or
2. factors such as location, hydrologic, geologic, topographic, water availability, water quality, environmental, cultural, and current development characteristics make a site uniquely suited for either reservoir development to provide water supply for the current planning period, or where it might reasonably be needed to meet water needs beyond the 50-year planning period.

For recommendations regarding unique reservoir sites, the regional water plan must be specific as to a) which unique reservoir sites have been previously designated by the legislature; b) which are being recommended for designation by the RWPG; and c) whether the RWPG is recommending that the legislature re-designate a previously designated unique reservoir site. The adopted regional water plans must also include a description of the site, reasons for the unique designation, and expected beneficiaries of water supplies developed at a given site.

2.8.3 Other recommendations

Regional water plans may include any additional regulatory, administrative, or legislative recommendations developed by the planning group including but not limited to the following topics:

- facilitate the orderly development, management, and conservation of water resources in Texas and to prepare for and respond to drought conditions,
- achieve the goals of state and regional water planning including ways the planning group believes the state and regional planning process would be improved,
- facilitate more voluntary water transfers in the region,
- information regarding the potential impacts of recommendations enacted into law once proposed changes are in effect.

In the development of other recommendations, the regional water planning groups should consider TWDB feedback on the implementation of the planning group's legislative, administrative, and regulatory recommendations, as applicable to the TWDB, in the previous regional water plan.

The regional water planning groups should also consider recommendations from the Interregional Planning Council as directed to the planning groups.

2.9 Reporting of Financing Mechanisms for Water Management Strategies

Note: This section (Reporting of Financing Mechanisms for Water Management Strategies) is anticipated to be removed following TWDB's implementation of House Bill 1905, 87th Legislative Session. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.10 Adoption of Plan and Public Participation (Task 10)

Links to rule and scope of work requirements:

- [§357.50: Adoption, Submittal, and Approval of Regional Water Plans](#)
- [Scope of work Task 10: Public Participation and Plan Adoption](#)

Guidance:

As required by 31 TAC §357.21, regional water planning groups must conduct all business in meetings posted and held in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551, with a copy of all materials presented or discussed available for public inspection prior to and following public meetings. Additional notice requirements referenced in 31 TAC §357.21 shall also be followed when applicable.

The regional water planning groups must adopt regional water plans and accommodate public participation in the regional water development process in accordance with administrative rules, the contract, statute, and the planning group's bylaws. The TWDB has published several documents on its [website](#) that contain helpful public notice guidance.

This task includes all work required to prepare for and hold meetings and include public input and participation in development of the regional water plan, including but not limited to:

1. holding regional water planning group meetings;
2. holding committee meetings;
3. holding special meetings;
4. posting public notices;
5. holding public input meetings and hearing on the draft plan as required by statute and rules;
6. soliciting and considering public input;
7. technical work required to prepare for and participate in regional water planning group meetings, workshops, and any other committee or other meetings during the development of the regional water plan;
8. conducting surveys of water suppliers or water user groups;
9. coordinating with and collecting information from entities involved with water planning in the region;
10. assembling, producing, and submitting the Technical Memorandum, IPP, and final regional water plan and responding to comments and resubmitting as necessary to ensure the plan can be approved by the TWDB; and,
11. interregional cooperation and interregional conflict resolution efforts.

In addition to regular regional water planning group meetings and committee meetings, there are certain special meetings that each regional water planning group must hold each cycle. These include:

- Holding a preplanning public meeting to receive suggestions and recommendations from the public regarding issues that should be addressed in the next regional or SWP. This meeting must occur near the beginning of each cycle and prior to technical work commencing. During this meeting the regional water planning group will also be required to discuss how the planning group will conduct interregional coordination and collaboration regarding water management strategies. The TWDB will provide an initial list of regional water management strategies to all planning groups to assist in this effort.
- Present to the public the process for identifying potentially feasible WMS and the presentation of the analysis of infeasible water management strategies. The process will be documented and address any public input on the process.
- Holding a public hearing and receiving written comments on the IPP.

2.11 Implementation and comparison to the previous regional water plan

Note: Guidelines for this section (Implementation and Comparison to the Previous Regional Water Plan) will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment that incorporates the related scope of work task. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.12 Prioritization of recommended water management strategy projects by regional water planning groups

Note: This section (Prioritization of Recommended Water Management Strategy Projects by Regional Water Planning Groups) is anticipated to be removed following TWDB's implementation of House Bill 1905, 87th Legislative Session. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.13 Deliverables

Regional water planning groups must prepare and submit a Technical Memorandum, an IPP, and a final adopted regional water plan.

Guidelines for this section will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

2.14 Regional Water Planning Data Provisions and Data Reporting

Guidelines for this section will be incorporated into this document via a future contract amendment. Guidelines for the development of the previous regional water plans may be found [here](#).

3 Appendices

3.1 TWDB data sources for regional water plan development

1. **Planning Data Dashboards**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/dashboard/index.asp>
2. **Historical Water Use Estimates**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/waterusesurvey/estimates/index.asp>
 - a. Water use summaries (by region, county, basin, cities, utilities)
 - b. Annual reports by industry type (NAICS Code)
 - c. Water reuse reports by reuse type and planning region
 - d. Municipal and industrial water intake reports by planning region
3. **Historical Groundwater Pumpage Estimates**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/waterusesurvey/historical-pumpage.asp>
4. **Mining Water Use Study**
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/MiningStudy/index.asp>
5. **Water Data for Texas** – Historic and current reservoir data, drought status and resources, groundwater well level, and coastal hydrology data.
<http://www.waterdatafortexas.org/reservoirs/statewide>
6. **TWDB Groundwater Availability Models**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/gam/index.asp>
7. **TWDB Research Projects in Support of Groundwater Models**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/research/index.asp>
8. **Groundwater Joint Planning** – Desired future conditions and modeled available groundwater.
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/dfc/index.asp>
9. **TWDB Groundwater Database Reports** – The purpose of the TWDB's data collection efforts over the years has been to gain representative information about aquifers in the state in order to support water planning from the local to a more regional perspective.
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/data/gwdbbrpt.asp>
10. **TWDB Groundwater Data Viewer** – GIS datasets relating to groundwater resources, including brackish groundwater data.
<http://www2.twdb.texas.gov/apps/waterdatainteractive/groundwaterdataviewer>

11. **Statewide Survey of Aquifer Suitability for Aquifer Storage and Recovery Projects or Aquifer Recharge Projects**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/asr/projects/Statewide/index.asp>
12. **Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization (BRACS)**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/bracs/studies.asp>
 - a. Brackish Groundwater Production Zones
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/bracs/HB30.asp>
13. **Texas Instream Flows Program (SB2) and Related Documents**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/flows/instream/index.asp>
14. **Texas Environmental Flows (SB3) and Related Documents**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/flows/environmental/index.asp>
15. **Freshwater Inflow Needs and Related Documents**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/flows/freshwater/index.asp>
16. **Innovative Water Technologies**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/index.asp>
 - a. Aquifer Storage and Recovery
 - b. Desalination
 - c. Rainwater Harvesting
 - d. Water Reuse
17. **Water Conservation**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/index.asp>
 - e. Water Conservation Advisory Council and BMPs
 - f. Water loss audit information
 - g. Water conservation plans
18. **Other water planning data resources**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/resources/index.asp>
 - h. Population data links
 - i. Socio-economic data links
 - j. TCEQ water utility database link
19. **TWDB-funded research relevant to regional water planning**
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/research/index.asp>