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Subject: Regional Water Planning Newsletter - October 2023
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Regional Water Planning Newsletter – October 2023

Good afternoon RWPG Stakeholders,

Please see below the October newsletter with updates from the TWDB Regional Water Planning program.

Projections adoption

TWDB staff will be presenting population and water demand projections to the TWDB Board for adoption on November 9th. RWPGs will be notified prior to this Board meeting regarding what projections will be recommended for their region. Once adopted by the TWDB Board, these population and water demand projections will be uploaded into the state water planning database (DB27) for use in development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans.

When available, the Board meeting agenda and access information to view the meeting will be posted on the [Board meeting website](#).

Interregional Planning Council

- The fifth meeting of the Interregional Planning Council (Council) will be held on November 30th.
- The Council's report to the TWDB is due March 4, 2024, and it is anticipated that a draft report will be considered at the November 30th Council meeting.
- Information on upcoming meetings and resources can be found on the [Council website](#).

Contract amendments to increase RWPG grant funds

The contract amendments to increase committed funds and the total project cost for each region were approved by the TWDB Board on August 10th and are currently circulating for execution. These contract amendments also made modifications to the standard contract scope of work (Exhibit A) and the General Guidelines for 2026 Regional Water Plan Development (Exhibit C) to incorporate relevant changes due to Legislation from the 88th Regular Session and provide clarifications.

The amended contract exhibits are available online at:

- [Second Amended Scope of Work](#) (Exhibit A)
- [Second Amended General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 RWPs](#) (Exhibit C)

Upcoming TWDB and other resources

TWDB staff are developing a variety of resources to assist planning groups with plan development.

Resources are expected to be available early next year and include 1) a conservation resources document with information on how to access available conservation resources and how they can be used to support regional water plan development and 2) county summary documents for each county in Texas that will include water supply planning information and resources and are intended to support planning group rural outreach efforts.

TWDB is under contract with HDR, Inc to update the uniform costing model for use this planning cycle. This spreadsheet-based tool is required to be used by planning group to estimate the cost water management strategy projects. The updated tool is expected to be finalized in March 2024. TWDB staff will be updating the separate drought management costing tool for use this cycle and the anticipated release date for the updated drought management costing tool is also March 2024.

TWDB staff are also coordinating with the Drought Preparedness Council (DPC) to ensure that the DPC provides timely recommendations to regional water planning groups to consider in the 2026 Regional Water Plans. It is anticipated that the DPC will provide their recommendations to planning groups by the Spring of 2024.

Proposition 6 and the Texas Water Fund

The 88th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 28 and Senate Joint Resolution 75 to create the Texas Water Fund. This fund is subject to voter approval of a constitutional amendment (Proposition 6) on November 7, 2023.

An FAQ document developed by the TWDB on Proposition 6 and the Texas Water Fund is available on the [TWDB website](#). Readers can sign up to stay up to date regarding public input on implementing the Texas Water Fund by subscribing to the “General Information” and “Financial Assistance” TWDB [email lists](#).

Marvin Nichols feasibility review

Pursuant to House Bill 1, 88th Regular Session, the TWDB is conducting a project feasibility review of the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir project to be located on the Sulphur River and upstream of the confluence of the White Oak Creek in Franklin, Titus, and Red River counties. This feasibility review will analyze the implementation timeline, associated costs, land acquisition considerations, and economic impact of the proposed project. A report regarding the findings of this review will be prepared and submitted by the TWDB to the Legislative Budget Board and governor no later than January 5, 2025.

The TWDB is holding a public input period as part of this feasibility review. The public input period will end on **December 1, 2023**. You may email your input and any supporting documentation to feasibility@twdb.texas.gov.

Additional information is available on the [TWDB website](#).

Reminders and previous updates

- The Technical Memorandum, a mid-point contract deliverable, is due to the TWDB **March 4, 2024**. Deliverable content requirements are outlined in [Exhibit C, Section 2.12.1](#).

- The 2026 Regional Water Plan Working Schedule was updated in March 2023 and is available online at: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working_Schedule_2026RWPs.pdf
- The regional and state water planning rules pamphlet – that conveniently condenses all the key water planning statute and rules for use by RWPGs, Sponsors, and their Consultants - was updated as of May 2022: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP_RulePamphlet.pdf
- Visit the TWDB's *Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Documents* webpage to view communications from TWDB during this planning cycle, project documents including a working schedule, contract documents, and administrative documents. These documents may be found at: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/documents.asp>
- Visit the TWDB's *Regional Water Planning Educational Information* webpage to view educational documents related to regional and state planning: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/education/index.asp>
- The TWDB receives and maintains a database of all the RWPG member email addresses from the region's sponsor. Sponsors should provide any updated email addresses to your TWDB Regional Water Planner to ensure our membership database is up to date and that all RWPG members receive these newsletters etc. For regions that have members without email addresses, please forward these communications to those members by mail or another effective means.

Contact TWDB RWP staff:

Please contact the TWDB's Regional Water Planning staff for additional information:

- Sarah Lee (Manager): Sarah.Lee@twdb.texas.gov
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For more information regarding the TWDB Regional Water Planning Program, please visit [our website](#).

Note: This email was sent to all RWPG members, sponsors, and technical consultants. A copy of this newsletter will be posted on the regional water planning newsletter [webpage](#).

Best,

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