



Water Planning Meeting AGENDA

**October 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
San Antonio River Authority – Salado Room
100 E. Guenther Street
San Antonio, Texas 78204**

1. Introductions and Certification of a Quorum by the Secretary
2. Approval of the Minutes from the November 18, 2014, the February 12, 2015, and the April 7, 2015, meetings
3. Regional Water Alliance Budget Update
4. Region L Administrative Update and Recap of September 3, 2015 Meeting
5. Other Business/ New Business
6. Adjourn

Agenda Item 1

Introductions and Certification of Quorum by the Secretary

Agenda Item 2

Approval of the Minutes from the November 18, 2014, the
February 12, 2015, and the April 7, 2015, meetings



**Council of Representatives
MEETING MINUTES**

**10:00 a.m. – November 18, 2014
San Antonio River Authority,
Boardroom 100 E. Guenther Street
San Antonio, TX 78204**

Council of Representatives

Present:

Pat Allen, *Chair*
Alan Cockerell
Humberto Ramos
Brandon Bradley
Mike Taylor
Darren Thompson
Lisa Guardiolc
Randy Schwenn
Avery Lunsford
Sam Willoughby
John Chisholm
James Neeley
Albert Strzelczyk

Green Valley SUD
Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation
Canyon Regional Water Authority
Cibolo Creek Municipal Authority
Crystal Clear SUD
San Antonio Water System
San Antonio Water System
City of Marion
City of Universal City
City of Schertz
San Antonio River Authority
City of Live Oak
East Central SUD

**Members, Guests &
Administrative:**

Cole Ruiz
Brian Perkins

San Antonio River Authority
HDR Engineering

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Introductions and Certification of a Quorum by the Secretary

A quorum was established for this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of the Minutes from August 2014

Minutes were approved.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Region L Administrative Update and Recap of the November 6, 2014 Meeting

Cole Ruiz, with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), reported to the Regional Water Alliance that the most recent Region L meeting was held on Thursday, November 6, 2014, and gave a recap presentation of what transpired at the meeting.

Mr. Ruiz announced that the J-17 index well in San Antonio recorded a level below mean sea level (635 Feet), thus triggering the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option, otherwise known as VISPO. As a result 40,000 acre-feet of irrigation rights will not be eligible for pumping in 2015 as an additional benefit to the Edwards Aquifer and its spring flows.

The next meeting of the Region L Planning Group will be Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Customer Service Building, Room C145.

Mr. Ruiz reported that the next meeting of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) will be held on December 9, 2014 at the offices of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

Mr. Ruiz updated the RWA on a number of other Region L items including the 2015 Region L meeting schedule, items relating to Region L Planning Group policy recommendations, and general ongoing planning practices.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4: Presentation of Region L Technical Data from HDR Engineering

Brian Perkins, with HDR Engineering, reported on the schedule looking forward for the Region L Planning Group.

Mr. Perkins briefed the RWA on several potentially feasible water management strategies, which were presented at the November 6, 2014, Region L Planning Group meeting, including the Drought Management, San Antonio Water System (SAWS) Vista Ridge Project, Seawater Desalination for SAWS, and the Hays County Public Utility + Texas Water Alliance + Mid Basin Water Supply Project Joint Project.

Brian Perkins also presented county by county summaries to the RWA showing the water supply needs of water user groups throughout Region L.

Mr. Perkins then briefly discussed several wholesale water provider tables, depicting water demands, supplies, needs, and potentially feasible water management strategies.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5: New Business

The next meeting was set for February 12, 2015.

Humberto Ramos, with Canyon Regional Water Authority, requested an update on the Regional Water Conservation Program.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY.

Avery Lunsford, Secretary



**Council of Representatives
MEETING MINUTES**

**10:00 a.m. – February 12, 2015
San Antonio River Authority,
Boardroom 100 E. Guenther Street
San Antonio, TX 78204**

**Council of Representatives
Present:**

Jeanne Schnurriger
Alan Cockerell
Humberto Ramos
Brandon Bradley
Barry Dobbs
Steven Siebert
Mark Wagster
Avery Lunsford
Sam Willoughby
Pat Sullivan
Albert Strzelczyk

Springs Hill Water Supply Corporation
Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation
Canyon Regional Water Authority
Cibolo Creek Municipal Authority
Crystal Clear SUD
San Antonio Water System
Live Oak
City of Universal City
City of Schertz
City of Alamo Heights
East Central SUD

**Members, Guests &
Administrative:**

Cole Ruiz
Steve Raabe
Brian Perkins
Rick Ilgner

San Antonio River Authority
San Antonio River Authority
HDR Engineering
Edwards Aquifer Authority

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Introductions and Certification of a Quorum by the Secretary

A quorum was not established for this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of the Minutes from August 2014

No action to approve the minutes from November 2015 was taken due to lack of quorum.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Region L Administrative Update and Recap of the February 5, 2015 Meeting

Cole Ruiz, with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), reported to the Regional Water Alliance that the most recent Region L meeting was held on Thursday, November 6, 2014, and gave a recap presentation of what transpired at the meeting.

Mr. Ruiz announced that the Region L Planning Group elected to keep the same officers on the Region L Executive Committee for the remainder of the current planning cycle, and will revisit choosing new officers in February next year.

Mr. Ruiz also announced that the Region L Planning Group is currently soliciting nominations to fill two vacancies: one representing the agriculture interest area, and one representing the industries area. Mr. Ruiz stated that nominations would be accepted through March 14, 2015. Mr. Ruiz also explained the nomination process.

Mr. Ruiz reported that the next meeting of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) will be held on May 22, 2015 at the Victoria Community Center.

Mr. Ruiz updated the group on the Region L Planning Group development of the Chapter 8 Policy Recommendations and Unique Stream Segments.

Mr. Ruiz reported that the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) was appointed as the administrator for the Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Planning, and would be filing an application for funds to initiate the next planning cycle.

The next meeting of the Region L Planning Group will be Thursday, April 2, 2015 at the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Customer Service Building, Room C145.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4: Presentation of Region L Technical Data from HDR Engineering

Brian Perkins, with HDR Engineering, reported on the schedule looking forward for the Region L Planning Group, and gave an update on the status of the development of each chapter of the 2016 Regional Water Plan for Region L.

Mr. Perkins briefed the Regional Water Alliance (RWA) on several potentially feasible water management strategies, which were presented at the November 6, 2014, Region L Planning Group meeting including Brush Management – Gonzales County, Storage Above Canyon Reservoir (ASR), Balancing Storage, and Surface Water Rights water management strategies.

Mr. Perkins also presented a list of all recommended strategies, alternative strategies, and strategies needing further evaluation, which was approved by the Planning Group at the February 5, 2015, Region L meeting. The projects were organized by Wholesale Water Providers and Water User Groups.

Mr. Perkins then described the purpose of the Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) requirement for a cumulative effects analysis.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5: Presentation on Regional Water Conservation Program from Rick Illgner, EAA

Rick Illgner delivered a presentation on the Edward Aquifer Authority's (EAA) Regional Water Conservation Plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6: Other Business/ New Business

Cole Ruiz gave a brief update on the Eighty Fourth Texas Legislature, and provided a list of bills that may pertain to the members of the Regional Water Alliance.

Meetings were set for the remainder of the 2015 calendar year beginning with April 7, August 13, and November 12.

Steven Siebert requested an update on the status of the RWA budget.

MINUTES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY.

Avery Lunsford, Secretary



**Council of Representatives
MEETING MINUTES**

**10:00 a.m. – April 7, 2015
San Antonio River Authority,
Boardroom 100 E. Guenther Street
San Antonio, TX 78204**

Council of Representatives Present:

Alan Cockerell
Lisa Guardiola
Avery Lunsford
Sam Willoughby
Albert Strzelczyk

Schertz-Seguin LGC
San Antonio Water System
City of Universal City
City of Schertz
East Central SUD

**Members, Guests &
Administrative:**

Cole Ruiz
Steve Raabe
Brian Perkins
Gene Camargo

San Antonio River Authority
San Antonio River Authority
HDR Engineering
McCoy Water Supply Corporation

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Introductions and Certification of a Quorum by the Secretary

A quorum was not established for this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of the Minutes from November 18, 2014, and the February 12, 2015, meetings

No action was taken to approve the minutes due to lack of quorum.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Region L Administrative Update and Recap of the April 2, 2015 Meeting

Cole Ruiz, with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), reported to the Regional Water Alliance (RWA) that the most recent Region L meeting was held on Thursday, April 2, 2015, and gave a recap presentation of what transpired at the meeting.

Mr. Ruiz announced that the Region L Planning Group approved two new voting members to fill previously vacated seats on the planning group. The vacancy for the Agriculture interest area was filled by Adam Yablonski. The vacancy for the Industries interest area was filled by Glenn Lord.

Regarding Agenda Item No. 4, of the April 2, 2015, Region L meeting, Mr. Ruiz reported that Nathan Pence, Executive Director of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP), briefed the Region L Planning Group on the EAHCP's efforts to contract with the National Academy of Sciences for review of select reports within the EAHCP.

Regarding Agenda Item No. 5, Mr. Ruiz reported that the next meeting of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) will be held on May 22, 2015 at the Victoria Community Center. Mr. Ruiz reported that the BBASC will hear updates from the science teams on the studies they were contracted to conduct. Additionally, Mr. Ruiz noted that the BBASC was currently seeking nomination to fill a vacancy to represent the Chemical Manufacturing position on the BBASC. That decision was to be made at the May 22, 2015 BBASC meeting.

Mr. Ruiz continued with Agenda Item No. 6, the Chair's Report, noting that Chairman Con Mims provided an update on House Bill 1016, concerning the ecologically unique stream segments. The legislation would identify five stream segments, which are currently recognized by Texas Parks and Wildlife as "ecologically significant," as segments of ecological value. The legislation would prevent the building of infrastructure within the identified stream segments; and it would add community pride and value to enhance the general care and health of the stream segments. The House Bill passed out of committee, while its companion Senate Bill was waiting to be heard by committee.

Mr. Ruiz reported that David Meeseey, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), reminded the Planning Group of the importance of approving an Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) prior to the May 1, 2015 deadline during Agenda Item No. 7 (on TWDB Communications).

Noting that Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, would brief the group on Agenda Item 8, Mr. Ruiz moved on to Agenda Item No. 9, where the Region L Planning Group took action to authorize the San Antonio River Authority to submit a request to TWDB to conduct a socioeconomic impact analysis of not meeting certain needs in the 2016 Region L Regional Water Plan.

Regarding Agenda Item No. 10, Mr. Ruiz briefed the RWA members on TWDB's requirement to complete a chapter of the Regional Water Plan on policy recommendations. Mr. Ruiz informed the RWA members of the process by which the planning group developed the language of the Chapter 8 Policy Recommendations, noting that a work group was created to develop the policy recommendations language. The work group's recommended language was approved at the April 2, 2015, Region L meeting.

Agenda Item No. 11 and 12 will be discussed by Brian Perkins during the next agenda item.

Mr. Ruiz reported that, regarding items 13 and 14 on the April 2, 2015 Region L meeting agenda, the planning group approved the Region L IPP, and authorized the technical consultant, HDR Engineering to submit it to TWDB on or before the deadline of May 1, 2015.

Mr. Ruiz added, concerning Agenda Item 15, that TWDB requires a public participation element to the Regional Water Plan adoption process. Accordingly, Mr. Ruiz noted that the planning group was planning on holding three public hearings to hear verbal comments on the IPP, and would be accepting public comments through August 14, 2015 per TWDB rules.

Mr. Ruiz briefed the planning group on an action by the Region L Planning Group to adopt an amendment to the 2011 Region L Regional Water Plan during agenda item 16 of the April Region L meeting. The adopted amendment included a the substitution of 500 acre site GBRA Lower Basin Project, for the smaller 100 acre site GBRA Lower Basin Project. Once the amendment has been submitted, TWDB will amend the 2012 State Water Plan to reflect those changes.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4: Region L Technical Presentation from HDR Engineering

Brian Perkins, with HDR Engineering, reported on the schedule looking forward for the Region L Planning Group, and gave an update on the status of the development of each chapter of the 2016 Regional Water Plan for Region L. Mr. Perkins added that, upon the submission of the IPP, copies will be available at public libraries and county courthouses throughout the region. Additionally they will be available online. Mr. Perkins reviewed the public comment period and process, and noted that HDR will be conducting the Infrastructure Financing Reports.

Mr. Perkins gave a quick update on the status of the IPP and the individual chapters. He presented a table that outlined the status of each chapter, general description, and section of the rule guiding those chapters. He noted that the IPP is draft plan.

Humberto Ramos asked whether an IPP has ever been materially changed before the adoption of the final Regional Water Plan. Mr. Perkins said minor adjustments have been made here in there. Alan Cockerell added that the planning group failed to adopt a final plan in 2006.

Mr. Perkins briefed the RWA on several potentially feasible water management strategies, which were presented at the April 2, 2015, Region L Planning Group meeting including the Victoria Groundwater-Surface Water Exchange, the Victoria Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR), and the Balancing Storage water management strategies.

Mr. Perkins also presented updates to the Direct Recycled Water Programs for the cities of San Marcos, New Braunfels, and Kyle. The updates were primarily based on the cities' goals to achieve zero discharge of waste water by the year 2070.

Mr. Perkins continued his presentation of Direct Recycled Water Programs, which included the additions of SARA, SAWS, and CCMA (Cibolo Creek Municipal Authority, noting that SAWS

was doubling their direct reuse by 2070 and information about a pipeline from Dos Rios to the CPS lakes. CCMA is increasing their reuse to 90% by 2070

Brian Perkins briefed the RWA on Chapter 6, The Cumulative Effects of the 2016 Regional Water Plan. The presentation included an evaluation of stream flows and estuary inflows under two scenarios: a baseline evaluation of surface water supply throughout the regional water planning area; and an evaluation under full implementation of the 2016 Regional Water Plan for Region L. He also presented information focused on assessing environmental impacts of the 2016 IPP relative to past state water plans.

Brian Perkins presented the 2016 Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies master list table, which included a list of water management strategies in categories of “recommended,” “alternative,” and “other.” The proposed list included minor changes from the list presented at the February 2015 Region L meeting, which was adopted by consensus. Mr. Perkins recapped the adoption of the list in February, and briefed the RWA on a few minor changes to the list that had come about since, noting that the planning group ultimately approved the list.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5: Legislative Update

Cole Ruiz gave a brief update on the Eighty Fourth Texas Legislature, and provided a list of bills that may pertain to the members of the RWA.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6: Regional Water Alliance Budget Update

Cole Ruiz briefed the RWA members on status of the RWA budget. There were some questions and discussion regarding the total funds available. Alan Cockerell requested that a budget update be a standing item on RWA meeting agendas in the future. Others agreed, recognizing the need to be fiscally responsible.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7: Other Business/ New Business

No other or new business was mentioned.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY.

Avery Lunsford, Secretary

Agenda Item 3

Regional Water Alliance Budget Update

San Antonio River Authority
Project Expenditure Status Report
as of 09/30/2015

Project ID: 00000020 Regional Water Alliance

General Fund

Key: 0102100710 Regional Water Alliance FY10

Object - Description	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Encumbrance</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
00000191 - Not Applicable - Labor	18,488.95	18,488.95	0.00	0.00
00000299 - Other	135.15	135.15	0.00	0.00
00000392 - Professional Services	12,740.11	12,740.11	0.00	0.00
.	31,364.21	31,364.21	0.00	0.00
Total JL Key	31,364.21	31,364.21	0.00	0.00

Key: 0102101710 Regional Water Alliance FY11

Object - Description	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Encumbrance</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
00000191 - Not Applicable - Labor	18,531.93	18,531.93	0.00	0.00
00000299 - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
00000392 - Professional Services	7,408.28	7,408.28	0.00	0.00
.	25,940.21	25,940.21	0.00	0.00
Total JL Key	25,940.21	25,940.21	0.00	0.00
Total Project:	\$57,304.42	\$57,304.42	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total General Fund:	57,304.42	57,304.42	0.00	0.00

San Antonio River Authority
Project Expenditure Status Report
as of 09/30/2015

Project ID: 00000020 Regional Water Alliance

Regional Water Alliance

Key: 0102103430 Regional Water Alliance FY13

Object - Description	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Encumbrance</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
00000191 - Not Applicable - Labor	7,686.20	7,686.20	0.00	0.00
00000299 - Other	313.64	313.64	0.00	0.00
00000392 - Professional Services	1,233.17	1,233.17	0.00	0.00
.	9,233.01	9,233.01	0.00	0.00
Total JL Key	9,233.01	9,233.01	0.00	0.00

Key: 0102104030 Regional Water Alliance FY14

Object - Description	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Encumbrance</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
00000191 - Not Applicable - Labor	4,797.92	4,797.92	0.00	0.00
00000299 - Other	192.81	192.81	0.00	0.00
00000392 - Professional Services	4,623.82	4,623.82	0.00	0.00
.	9,614.55	9,614.55	0.00	0.00
Total JL Key	9,614.55	9,614.55	0.00	0.00

Key: 0102105030 Regional Water Alliance FY15

Object - Description	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Encumbrance</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
00000191 - Not Applicable - Labor	4,007.73	4,007.73	0.00	0.00
00000299 - Other	134.96	134.96	0.00	0.00
00000392 - Professional Services	5,163.97	5,163.97	0.00	0.00
.	9,306.66	9,306.66	0.00	0.00
Total JL Key	9,306.66	9,306.66	0.00	0.00

Key: 0102106030 **Regional Water Alliance FY16**

Object - Description	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Encumbrance</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
00000191 - Not Applicable - Labor	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
00000299 - Other	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
00000392 - Professional Services	6,500.00	0.00	0.00	6,500.00
.	11,000.00	0.00	0.00	11,000.00
Total JL Key	11,000.00	0.00	0.00	11,000.00
Total Project:	\$39,154.22	\$28,154.22	\$0.00	\$11,000.00

Total Regional Water Alliance:	39,154.22	28,154.22	0.00	11,000.00
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San Antonio River Authority
Project Expenditure Status Report
as of 09/30/2015

Total Report:	<u>\$96,458.64</u>	<u>\$85,458.64</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$11,000.00</u>
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Regional Water Alliance Fund
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

Fund: 32

Available Funds	FY 2013/14 Actual	FY 2014/15 Estimate	FY 2015/16 Budget
Beginning Balance			
Operating Reserve	\$ 19,212	\$ 13,065	\$ 7,275
Total Beginning Balance	\$ 19,212	\$ 13,065	\$ 7,275
Revenue			
Investment Earnings	\$ (12)	\$ 10	\$ 10
Intergovernmental Revenue	4,200	4,200	4,200
Total Revenue	\$ 4,188	\$ 4,210	\$ 4,210
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$ 23,400	\$ 17,275	\$ 11,485

APPROPRIATIONS

Operating Expenditures	\$ 10,335	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000
TOTAL OPERATING APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 10,335	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000
Operating Reserve	\$ 13,065	\$ 7,275	\$ 485
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 23,400	\$ 17,275	\$ 11,485

Regional Water Alliance Fund

Fund 32

Description

The Regional Water Alliance Fund is used to promote and facilitate the sharing of ideas, knowledge, experience and resources of twenty-one water purveyors and regional water entities that have joined together to form the Regional Water Alliance. This group seeks out and implements collaborative solutions to effectively meet the region's diverse water needs. Revenue comes from membership dues. Expenditures mainly relate to San Antonio River Authority staff and some outside resources to support the group's activities.

Appropriations:

	<u>FY 2013/14</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 2014/15</u> <u>Estimate</u>	<u>FY 2015/16</u> <u>Budget</u>
Operating Expenditures	\$10,335	\$10,000	\$11,000
<i>Total Appropriations</i>	<i>\$10,335</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>	<i>\$11,000</i>

Program Justification and Fiscal Analysis

The FY 2015/16 Budget for the Regional Water Alliance Fund remains at about the same level as expenditures in the past two years. The funds are used to pay for San Antonio River Authority staff and some outside consulting services to support the alliance's efforts.

Agenda Item 4

Administrative Update and Recap of September 3, 2015,
Region L Meeting

**NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING OF THE
SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL
WATER PLANNING GROUP**

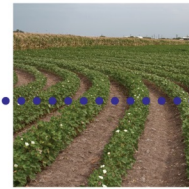
TAKE NOTICE that a meeting of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group as established by the Texas Water Development Board will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2015, at **9:00 a.m.** at San Antonio Water System (SAWS), Customer Service Building, Room CR 145, 2800 US Highway 281 North, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The following subjects will be considered for discussion and/or action at said meeting.

1. Public Comment
2. Approval of Minutes from the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group's Meeting on February 5, 2015.
3. Approval of Minutes from the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group's Meeting on April 2, 2015.
4. Status of Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) – Nathan Pence, Executive Director EAHCP
5. Status of Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) and Expert Science Team (BBEST)
6. Chair's Report
7. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Communications
8. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Consultants Work and Schedule
9. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding if and how the Two Technically Evaluated Versions of the Cibolo Valley LGC Carrizo Project ("MAG-limited" and "with Conversions") Will be Included in the 2016 Regional Water Plan
10. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Process of Prioritizing 2016 Regional Water Plan Projects
11. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Comments Submitted by Texas Water Development Board in Response to the 2016 Region L Initially Prepared Plan

12. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Comments Submitted by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in Response to the 2016 Region L Initially Prepared Plan
13. Report from the Public Comment and Plan Assessment Workgroup and Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Public Comments Submitted in Response to the 2016 Region L Initially Prepared Plan
14. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Alignment of Pipelines to Allow for the Export of Water to Region K, Consistent with the Position of the Hays County Commissioners Court
15. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Inclusion of the Hays County Forestar Project in the 2016 Regional Water Plan as Recommended Strategy
16. Possible Agenda Items for the Next South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group Meeting
17. Public Comment

The South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Area consists of Atascosa, Bexar, Caldwell, Calhoun, Comal, Dewitt, Dimmit, Frio, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, La Salle, Medina, Refugio, Uvalde, Victoria, Wilson, Zavala and part of Hays Counties.

Please visit www.RegionLTexas.org to review available chapters of the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan



Prioritization for State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)

The Texas Legislature directed the TWDB to develop rules that specify how projects will be prioritized for SWIFT funding according to criteria (in bold). The prioritization system in 31 Texas Administrative Code §363.1304 assigns points as follows:

<i>Highest consideration must be given to projects that will:</i>	Maximum Points	<i>Additional criteria that TWDB must consider:</i>	Maximum Points
Serve a large population , based on a range of populations to be served by the project, from at least 10,000 to at least 1,000,000	30	Local contribution , including federal funding ; up-front capital (such as funds already invested in the project or cash on hand); and/or in-kind services to be invested in the project	5
Provide assistance to a diverse urban and rural population , based on the number of rural populations served in addition to at least one urban population	30	Financial capability of the applicant to repay , based on the applicant's household cost factor (the average annual cost of service per household divided by the median household income)	2
Provide regionalization , based on the number of entities served in addition to the applicant	30	Emergency Need , based on the TCEQ's list of local public water systems with a water supply that will last less than 180 days without additional rainfall; a water supply need anticipated to occur in an earlier decade than identified in the most recent state water plan; and/or the applicant has used or applied for federal funding for the emergency	5
Meet a high percentage of water supply needs of users to be served by the project , based on water supply needs, as identified in the state water plan, that will be met during the first decade the project becomes operational	30	Readiness to proceed , based on applicant's completion of preliminary planning and/or design work; ability to begin implementing or constructing the project within 18 months of application deadline; and acquisition of water rights associated with the project	8
		Demonstration or projected effect of the project on water conservation, including preventing water loss , based on reductions in gallons per capita per day water use; meeting water loss thresholds established by the TWDB's rules; or projected water efficiency improvements for agricultural projects	15
		Priority assigned by the regional water planning group , based on the project's percentile within the regional project ranking	15
Maximum "Highest Consideration" Subtotal (Points awarded in this section may not exceed 50)	50	Maximum "Additional Criteria" Subtotal	50
<p style="text-align: center;">+ Maximum Total Points: 100 (Sum of "Highest Consideration" Subtotal and "Additional Criteria" Subtotal)</p>			

**TWDB Comments on the Initially Prepared 2016 South Central Texas
(Region L) Regional Water Plan**

Level 1: Comments and questions must be satisfactorily addressed in order to meet statutory, agency rule, and/or contract requirements.

1. Tables 2-10 through 2-17: It is not clear whether the information provided in the tables referenced presents the current contractual obligations of wholesale water providers (WWPs) in the region. Please confirm in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §357.31(c)]*
 - a. Text has been added to Page 2-16 to clarify.
2. The plan in some instances, does not appear to include a quantitative reporting of impacts to agricultural resources. For example, strategy evaluations 5.2.9, 5.2.11, 5.2.14, 5.2.21, 5.2.23-27, 5.2.34, 5.2.35, and 5.2.37 do not appear to include quantified impacts to agricultural resources. Please include quantitative reporting of impacts to agricultural resources, including when there is no impact, in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.34 (d)(3)(C)]*
 - a. Text has been added to Page 6-59 to address region-wide agricultural impacts. In addition, text has been added to water management strategy evaluations to address strategy-specific impacts, if any.
3. Pages 5.3-18, 5.3-23, and 5.3-90: The plan does not appear to include conservation practices for all water user groups to which Texas Water Code (TWC) §11.1271 and §13.146 apply. For example, the City of Kirby and East Central SUD and Green Valley SUD to which these Water Code requirements apply. Please address this requirement in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.34(f)(2)(A)]*
 - a. Projected per capita water goals with use of low flow plumbing fixtures for these three entities (and potentially others) are lower than the stated Region L advanced water conservation goals.
4. Volume II, Section 5.2.3: The Facilities Expansion Water Management Strategy appears, in some cases, to include infrastructure components that do not appear to increase the supply to end users. For example, the Port O'Connor treatment and distribution system improvements. Water management strategy components included in regional water plans must be limited to the infrastructure required to develop and convey increased water supplies from sources and to treat the water for end user requirements. Maintenance of existing equipment or wells or improvements to treatment processes shall not be included as a recommended strategy with capital costs. Please remove these strategies and costs from the final, adopted regional water plan. *[Contract Exhibit 'C', Sections 5.1.2.2 and 5.1.2.3]*
 - a. Section 5.2.3 has been revised to exclude Port O'Connor's treatment and distribution system improvements.

ATTACHMENT A

5. Volume II, Sections 5.2.35 and 5.2.40: Please clarify in the plan whether the evaluations of water management strategies for "GBRA Lower Basin Storage" and "Lavaca River - OCR" are based on an unmodified Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) WAM Run 3 in the final, adopted regional water plan. If not, please evaluate these strategies using an unmodified TCEQ WAM Run3 for the final, adopted regional water plan. *[Contract Exhibit 'C', Section 3.4.2]*
 - a. Sections 5.2.35 and 5.2.40 have been revised to clarify.
6. Chapter 7: The plan does not appear to summarize information on existing emergency interconnections. Please indicate whether any local drought contingency plans involve making emergency connections between water systems or WWP systems and, if so, please also provide a general description in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.42(e)]*
 - a. Sections 7.3 and 7.4 summarize this information. Separate documentation was provided to TWDB relating to specific information for existing interconnects. Table 7.4-1 has been revised to indicate emergency interconnections in local drought contingency plans.
7. Section 7.7: Please indicate how the planning group considered relevant recommendations from the Drought Preparedness Council (a letter was provided to planning groups with relevant recommendations in November 2014) in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.42(h)]*
 - a. Text has been added to Page 7-15 to address the Drought Preparedness Council's letter.
8. Chapter 10: The plan does not include documentation regarding the public process during the development of regional water plan. Please clarify whether the regional water plan was developed in accordance with the public participation requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.21, §357.50(d)]*
 - a. Chapter 10 will be included in the final 2016 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan, detailing the public process, the public hearings, and the responses to comments.
9. Please provide a statement regarding any water availability requirements promulgated by a county commissioners court pursuant to TWC §35.109, which in Region L applies to the northern Bexar County, Hays, Comal, and Kendall County Priority Groundwater Management Area. *[31 TAC §357.22(a)(6)]*
 - a. Text has been added to Page 3-2 to address Priority Groundwater Management Areas and any requests from county commissioners courts.
10. Please describe how the Texas Clean Rivers Program was considered in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.22(a)(7)]*
 - a. Text has been added to Page 1-31 to address the Texas Clean Rivers Program.

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ATTACHMENT A

11. Please clarify whether the plan development was guided by the principal that the designated water quality and related water uses as shown in the state water quality management plan shall be improved or maintained. [31 TAC §358.3(19)]

- a. Text has been added to Page 1-31 to address the state water quality management plan.

Level 2: Comments and suggestions for consideration that may improve the readability and overall understanding of the regional water plan.
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1. Please consider including a brief explanation of the differences between the 2011 and 2016 plans regarding surface water availability in the final, adopted regional water plan.

- a. Text has been added to Page 11-4 to describe the differences in the surface water availability in the 2011 and 2016 Region L Plans.

2. In the development of region-specific drought contingency plans, please consider including, at a minimum, triggers and responses for 'severe' and 'critical/emergency' drought conditions or indicate how these would be captured with the use of the recommended TCEQ templates in the final, adopted regional water plan.

- a. Section 7.5 includes information about Region Specific Drought Response. Text has been added to Tables 7.5-1 and 7.5-2 to indicate the 'severe' and 'critical/emergency' stages of the drought contingency plans.

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Chairman-Emeritus
Fort Worth

Carter P. Smith
Executive Director

August 07, 2015

Steven J. Raabe
Administrative Agent for Region L
San Antonio River Authority
P.O. Box 839980
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3692

Re: 2016 South Central Texas Region L Initially Prepared Plan

Dear Mr Raabe,

Thank you for seeking review and comment from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ("TPWD") on the 2016 Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan (IPP) for the South Central Texas Region L Water Planning Area (SCTRWPA). As you know, water impacts every aspect of TPWD's mission to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas. As the agency charged with primary responsibility for protecting the state's fish and wildlife resources, TPWD is positioned to provide technical assistance during the water planning process. Although TPWD has limited regulatory authority over the use of state waters, TPWD is committed to working with stakeholders and others to provide science-based information during the water planning process intended to avoid or minimize impacts to state fish and wildlife resources.

TPWD understands that regional water planning groups are guided by 31 TAC §357 when preparing regional water plans. These water planning rules spell out requirements related to natural resource and environmental protection. Accordingly, TPWD staff reviewed the IPP with a focus on the following questions:

- Does the IPP include a quantitative reporting of environmental factors including the effects on environmental water needs and habitat?
- Does the IPP include a description of natural resources and threats to natural resources due to water quantity or quality problems?
- Does the IPP discuss how these threats will be addressed?
- Does the IPP describe how it is consistent with long-term protection of natural resources?
- Does the IPP include water conservation as a water management strategy?
- Does the IPP include Drought Contingency Plans?
- Does the IPP recommend any stream segments be nominated as ecologically unique?
- If the IPP includes strategies identified in the 2010 regional water plan, does it address concerns raised by TPWD in connection with the 2010 Water Plan.

The population of the 20 county SCTRWPA is estimated to grow from about 3.0 million in 2020 to about 5.2 million by 2070. Water needs are expected to more than double during this time period but water conservation, including drought management, and water reuse are expected to meet 34 percent of future water needs. In addition, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) is identified as both an existing supply and a future water management strategy. Full implementation of the EAHCP provides future water supply while protecting springflows at Comal and San Marcos Springs, thereby protecting associated ecosystems and the federally threatened and endangered species that are found there. The IPP includes the development of two seawater desalination projects, comprising 23 percent of future supplies. Four new aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects are recommended in the IPP to provide approximately 9 percent of future supplies in the region. From the perspective of environmental impacts, ASR projects are generally preferred over surface reservoirs since habitat impacts can be minimized. Finally, new surface water development projects such as the GBRA Lower Basin Project are expected to meet 1 percent of future needs.

The IPP includes a detailed quantitative reporting of environmental factors. Volume II of the IPP discusses technical evaluations of strategies and presents water management strategy summary sheets that include acreages impacted by each strategy. An analysis of cumulative environmental impacts, as well as comparisons to cumulative impacts from past plans, is also included. Where applicable, newly adopted SB3 environmental flow standards are used to evaluate environmental flow requirements.

The IPP includes a description of natural resources including fish and wildlife resources. A detailed table listing threatened and endangered species by county with notations concerning their habitat preferences and protected status is presented in Appendix G of the IPP. Major springs are also described and potential threats to natural resources were evaluated. TPWD recommends including a discussion of aquatic exotic species including but not limited to tilapia and sailfin catfish.

Quantitative environmental assessments are presented for proposed water management strategies included in the 2016 IPP as well as for the 1984, 1990, 1997, 2002, 2007 and 2012 Water Plans. While necessarily broad in scope, this quantitative analysis comparing each water plan highlights some interesting trends. For example, while the overall environmental impact score for the 2016 IPP is in the midrange compared to previous water plans for the region, it has a higher potential to impact endangered, threatened, and species of concern due to the number of projects and pipelines traversing sensitive areas. The 2016 IPP is also projected to have less impact than previous plans on vegetation and wildlife habitat, largely due to the absence of large main-stem reservoirs included in earlier plans. Finally, the 2016 IPP appears to project moderate water quality and aquatic habitat impacts. Overall the 2016 IPP is projected to have slightly greater cumulative impacts than the 2012 plan for this region. While specific conclusions cannot be made at this point, TPWD staff tends to agree with the statement that the predicted impacts associated with the smaller (but more numerous) strategies in the 2016 IPP may be more easily avoided and/or mitigated than the large scale impacts associated with reservoirs in earlier water plans.

The SCTRWPG is to be commended for its strong emphasis on water conservation, reuse and drought contingency planning. The IPP includes municipal water conservation water management strategies. Water conservation in the industrial and steam-electric power generation use categories are encouraged as well. According to the IPP, per capita water use in Region L is projected to

decline over the planning period from 140 gallons per person per day in 2020 to 130 gallons per person per day in 2070, bringing it under the Texas Water Conservation Task Force goal of 140 gallons per person per day.

While TPWD is pleased to see that many of our earlier comments have been addressed, concerns remain regarding potential impacts associated with several strategies. Several water management strategies are recommended for stream segments identified by TPWD as ecologically significant. Increased groundwater development may impact small springs and adversely impact groundwater-surface water interactions. New appropriations from the Guadalupe River and/or increased use of previously unused water rights from the Guadalupe River will impact instream flows and freshwater inflows to San Antonio Bay that will likely reduce long-term inflows and increase bay salinities, potentially leading to complex estuarine community changes. Both seawater and brackish groundwater desalination can be ecologically advantageous strategies, as long as issues such as impingement and entrainment at intake locations and brine disposal options are carefully considered. Continued consultation with TPWD staff will help to ensure that fish and wildlife impacts can be avoided or minimized. Please be advised that HB 2031 passed by the 84th legislature requires consultation with TPWD and the General Land Office regarding siting of seawater desalination intakes and discharges.

The 2016 IPP is a well written and organized report. TPWD highly commends SCTRWPG's efforts that have resulted in the successful designation of five segments recommended in the IPP as ecologically unique. Recognition is deserved for drought management as a water management strategy, aquifer storage and recovery projects, seawater desalination, use of off-channel reservoirs, use of recycled water for non-potable uses for several water user groups, and an ecological analysis of the impact of the 2016 plan. No major on-channel reservoirs are proposed within the region at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. TPW looks forward to continuing to work with the planning group to develop water supply strategies that not only meet the future water supply needs of the region but also preserve the ecological health of the region's aquatic resources. Please contact Cindy Loeffler at (512) 389-8715 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Ross Melinchuk,
Deputy Executive Director, Natural Resources

RM: CL:ms

cc: Craig Bonds, Division Director, Inland Fisheries Division, TPWD
Clayton Wolf, Division Director, Wildlife Division, TPWD
Robin Riechers, Division Director, Coastal Fisheries Division, TPWD
Norman Boyd, Coastal Fisheries Division, TPWD

live²² and it supports a surprisingly diverse ecosystem. The aquifer has three parts: the drainage, or catchment area, the recharge zone, and the reservoir zone. Input to the aquifer comes from rainfall over the watershed as a whole, but recharge occurs primarily in the beds of streams atop or traversing the recharge zone. The recharge zone consists of a band of fractured and cavernous limestone (Karst geology) through which surface water enters the aquifer. In addition to the aquatic fauna of the aquifer, the karst limestones in the upland portions of the recharge and contributing zones also harbor a number of endemic, terrestrial cave species.

Where rivers flowing across the plateau have carved deep canyons and exposed the base of the Edwards Limestone, spring fed streams arise and flow south and eastward over the less permeable older formations to the recharge zone, at the base of which a set of large springs (e.g., Leona, San Antonio, Comal, and San Marcos Springs) emerge that support still more species of limited distribution. In addition to their importance as water supplies, the large springs and their associated rivers are also of regional economic importance as scenic and recreational destinations.

Species listed by the Federal or State governments as Endangered or Threatened, species that are candidates for listing as endangered and threatened, and other species of concern are listed and discussed in terms of the potential impacts of each water management strategy in Volume II, and are included by county in Appendix G. Endangered species are not distributed uniformly throughout Region L; they tend to be most densely abundant in the canyons, caves, and springs on the eastern and southern edges of the Edwards Plateau (Hays and Comal Counties, and northern Bexar County) and in the wetland and brackish environments of Calhoun and Refugio Counties.

Listed species tend to fall into one of two broad categories. One category includes widespread, but rare, species whose populations do not appear to be dependent on specific habitat resources that are (at this time) in limited supply (e.g., foraging and nesting areas). These include many of the birds, such as the eagles and hawks that suffered population declines as a result of persistent pesticide toxicity, and Whooping Cranes that were decimated by market hunting. Other listed species tend to be rare because their habitat requirements are met in only a few locations. This second category includes migratory songbirds with specific nesting requirements (i.e., Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-Capped Vireo), and reaches the extremes of endemism in the spring and cave species found along the edges of the Edwards Plateau in Bexar, Comal, and Hays Counties.

In addition to listed threatened and endangered species, Region L is concerned with aquatic exotic species, including tilapia and sailfin catfish. These species are non-native and invasive and can overtake habitat crucial for other species.

In support of the regional water planning process, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) screened Texas rivers and streams for reaches or segments that support significant biological resources or functions, or whose continued flows were deemed critical to the maintenance of a downstream resource or public property. Stream reaches identified by TPWD as Ecologically Significant River and Stream Segments in Region L are listed, along with the listing criteria employed in the identification process,

²² Edwards, Robert J., Glen Longley, Randy Moss, John Ward, Ray Mathews, and Bruce Stewart, "A Classification of Texas Aquatic Communities with Special Consideration toward the Conservation of Endangered and Threatened Taxa," Vol. 41, No. 3, The Texas Journal of Science, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, 1989.

Agenda Item 5

Other Business/ New Business