

**From:** [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)  
**To:** [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)  
**Cc:** [WSI-WSP-RWP](#); [Temple McKinnon](#); [Matt Nelson](#); [Jessica Pena](#)  
**Subject:** Regional Water Planning Newsletter - July 2021  
**Date:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:31:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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## Regional Water Planning Newsletter – July 2021

Good morning RWPG Members and Political Subdivision staff,

Below is your July newsletter from TWDB's Regional Water Planning Program including an update on current and upcoming Regional Water Planning activities.

### 2022 State Water Plan

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the TWDB Board adopted the 2022 State Water Plan. Thank you to all the RWPG stakeholders for your involvement in the state water planning process. The 2022 State Water Plan is available online at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/swp/2022/index.asp>.

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On this webpage you can also find a link to the Interactive State Water Plan as well as Regional Summaries of the 2021 Regional Water Plans prepared by the TWDB for each of the 16 RWPGs.

### Legislative Update

#### *Bills that directly impact regional water planning*

House Bill (HB) 1905, 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, will result in changes to the regional water planning process. This bill relieves RWPGs from assessing financing needs to implement water management strategies and projects and removes the requirement to submit an Infrastructure Financing Report to the TWDB. The bill relieves SWIFT program applicants from submitting an Infrastructure Financing Survey with an application for financial assistance. HB 1905 also relieves the RWPGs from prioritizing projects within the regional water plans and eliminates the Uniform Standards Stakeholder Committee related to the prioritization process. This bill is effective September 1, 2021 and the TWDB will conduct a rulemaking later this year to implement this legislation.

#### *Video-conference guidance*

Please note that none of the bills proposing revisions to the Open Meetings Act regarding virtual meetings passed during the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, however there are existing allowances for such meetings under the act. These requirements were summarized in the following email: [http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/TWDBComms/20210322\\_ExistingOMAallowancesforvideoconferences.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/TWDBComms/20210322_ExistingOMAallowancesforvideoconferences.pdf)

RWPGs should also be aware that the current executive order suspending certain open-meeting requirement due to COVID-19 will terminate as of **9/1/21**.

## Rulemaking

### *Updates to rules pamphlet and public notice quick reference*

The TWDB has updated the regional and state water planning rules pamphlet and public notice quick reference and public notice tool to reflect the recently revised rules effective 5/27/21. Links for these documents are provided below:

- Regional and state water planning rules pamphlet:  
[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP\\_RulePamphlet.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP_RulePamphlet.pdf)
- Regional water planning public notice quick reference document:  
[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP\\_PublicNoticeQuickReference.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP_PublicNoticeQuickReference.pdf)
- Regional water planning public notice quick reference tool:  
[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP\\_PublicNoticeTool.xlsx](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP_PublicNoticeTool.xlsx)

### *Upcoming rulemaking – guidance principles review*

The TWDB received numerous preliminary input comments on the state water planning guidance principles and potential rulemaking topics. Staff is reviewing the feedback received and will take this into consideration during a formal rulemaking process to occur later this year.

## 2026 Regional Water Plan Initial Contracts

Contract packets for each region have been distributed to the RWPG Administrators for execution. Please review and execute these contracts as soon as possible, as they must be signed by both the external party and the TWDB by **8/31/21**.

## Pre-planning/Coordination Meetings

Guidance for pre-planning and coordination meetings has been sent to the RWPGs. At a minimum, the RWPG must receive public input on the development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan and must discuss the potential process for how they will conduct interregional coordination. The intent of the new interregional coordination requirement is for there to be deliberate discussion on these efforts. The Interregional Planning Council identified the need for coordination efforts throughout the planning cycle rather than only towards the end.

The TWDB provided process examples and strategy and project data from the 2021 Regional Water Plans that can be used to assist with interregional coordination. Pre-planning meetings should be held in 2021 before technical work begins. The TWDB intends to release the first set of projections data at the end of 2021.

- Past communications to RWPGs on this effort may be found on the TWDB communications page at:  
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/TWDBcomms.asp>
- The strategy and project data provided as a reference for this task may be found under Task 10 on the 2026 Regional Water Plan document page  
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/documents.asp>

## Projections Timeline

Population projections for the 2026 Regional Water Plans will be newly developed based on the

2020 Census and State Data Center projections. Delivery of the draft projections always occurs later in Census cycles and this cycle has been further delayed due to COVID impacts on the 2020 Census data release. This will result in a tight timeframe this cycle for the projections revision process. The TWDB will release draft non-municipal projections as they are developed and provide more time for the data review up front. The population and municipal projections will be released later in the cycle. Additionally, the TWDB will launch a website with all projections related information for the RWPGs, water user groups, and the public to facilitate engagement and participation.

The timing for anticipated release of projections are addressed in items 5, and 7-13 on the 2026 Regional Water Plan Working Schedule at:

[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working\\_Schedule\\_2026RWPs.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working_Schedule_2026RWPs.pdf)

## RWPG stakeholder survey

The TWDB anticipates opening a RWPG stakeholder feedback survey in late July or early August. This survey will request feedback on TWDB staff assistance, planning group administration, and educational and plan development resources available to RWPGs. We appreciate your time in advance for providing us your feedback.

## Reminders and previous updates:

- The TWDB receives RWPG member emails from the region's Administrator. Administrators should provide any updated email addresses to your TWDB Planner to ensure our membership database is up to date. For regions that have members without email addresses, please forward these communications to those members by mail or another effective means.
  - 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>
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## Contact TWDB

Please contact your region's TWDB Planner for any additional information. TWDB's Planner assignments are as follows:

- Regions A, J, M: William Alfaro, [William.Alfaro@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:William.Alfaro@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions B, C, N: Kevin Smith, [Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov)
- Region D: Ron Ellis, [Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions E, F, L: Elizabeth McCoy, [Elizabeth.McCoy@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McCoy@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions G, O, P: Jean Devlin, [Jean.Devlin@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Jean.Devlin@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions H, I, K: Lann Bookout, [Lann.Bookout@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Lann.Bookout@twdb.texas.gov)

For more information regarding the TWDB Regional Water Planning Program, please visit [our website](#).

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

Best,

Sarah Backhouse  
Manager, Regional Water Planning  
Water Use, Projections, and Planning  
Texas Water Development Board  
P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711  
512-936-2387 | [sarah.backhouse@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:sarah.backhouse@twdb.texas.gov)  
[www.twdb.texas.gov](http://www.twdb.texas.gov)

