

High-level summary of changes from the *First Amended General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans (Exhibit C)* as compared to the *Second Amended General Guidelines for Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Plan Development (2021 Regional Water Plans)*

General document

- Document structure reorganized into three (3) main sections: 1) Introduction, 2) Scope of work task specific guidelines, and 3) Appendix
- Removed guidance for the infrastructure financing survey and project prioritization (these tasks are no longer in the scope of work for regional water planning)
- Provided template tables in an accompanying Excel file rather than included in the pdf document.

Section 2.3: Water availability and existing supplies

- Moved water management strategy (WMS) availability guidance to Section 2.5.
- Clarified that the methodology used for calculating anticipated sedimentation rate and revising the area-capacity rating curves must be described in the Technical Memorandum, Initially Prepared Plan (IPP), and final regional water plan (RWP).
- Clarified that reuse availability should be presented as a separate subsection within Chapter 3 of the IPP and final RWP and that the subsection must describe the data sources and methodology used to calculate reuse availability.
- Clarified that planning groups are strongly encouraged to consider the physical compatibility with adjacent or nearby desired future conditions (DFC)s of the regional aquifers in the development of RWPG-estimated groundwater availability. TWDB's DFC compatible water volumes for non-relevant groundwater sources developed from modeled available groundwater runs will be prepopulated into the state water planning database (DB27) by the TWDB.
- Clarification on the required materials to be submitted for a modeled available groundwater peak factor request, including the requirement to provide adjusted model well files.
- Added expectations and submittal requirements for groundwater availability determined for an regional water planning group (RWPG) with no groundwater conservation districts within its planning area.
- Clarified plan documentation and reporting requirements for water availability if hydrologic variances are approved.
- Provided updated examples of surface water hydrologic variances associated with extended hydrology and future projected reservoir inflow and reservoir evaporation.
- New requirement to complete a hydrologic variance checklist for surface water hydrologic variance requests.
- Clarified additional reporting requirements for existing supplies.

Section 2.5: Water management strategies and water management strategy projects

- New sub-sections that provide guidance for specific WMS types.
- Guidance included to address requirements from House Bill (HB) 807 (Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) assessments for significant needs and GPCD goals).
- Clarified that the TCEQ has not added the Chapter 298 environmental flow standards to all water availability models (WAM) for basins with adopted standards. In some basins, the RWPG may have to add the relevant Chapter 298 environmental flow standards to the WAM to evaluate a WMS. The RWPG must document what steps were taken to account for environmental flows.
- Clarified information that must be provided to review for a source request associated with a brackish groundwater production zone.
- Clarified that ASR WMSs must report expected percent of recovery.
- Clarified that water conservation *measures* must be included for any WUG with an identified need to which TWC §11.1271 and TWC §13.146 apply.
- New requirement that conservation WMSs must be separated into either a *Conservation – water loss mitigation* or *Conservation – water use reduction* WMS type.
- Clarified that drought management *measures* must be included for each WUG with an identified need to which TWC §11.1272 applies.
- New requirement to include a sub-section documenting the status of certain recommended WMS types.
- Clarification on costing allowances for direct reuse WMSs.
- Previously supplemental guidance on developing the scope of work for region-specific WMSs incorporated into document.

Section 2.7: Drought response information, activities, and recommendations

- New guidance provided for planning groups to optionally address droughts worse than the drought of record.
- New requirement to include sub-section addressing 1) how the RWPG has incorporated planning for uncertainty in its RWP (if applicable), 2) how the RWPG is currently planning for droughts worse than the drought of record (if applicable) and 2) what measures are not included in the plan but may be available for water providers to address a drought worse than the drought of record.
- Guidance included to address requirements from HB 807 (unnecessary or counterproductive drought response).
- Clarification that planning groups must identify rather than recommend drought response triggers and actions for existing sources in the region.
- Clarification on existing and potential emergency interconnect minimum requirements.

Section 2.9: Implementation and comparison to the previous regional water plan

- Clarification on reduced content for the implementation survey.

- Guidance included to address requirements from HB 807 (RWPA’s progress in achieving economies of scale).

Section 2.10: Adoption of plan and public participation

- Guidance included to document and present interregional coordination efforts during the planning cycle.

Section 2.11: Infeasible water management strategies

- New guidance included to address requirements from Senate Bill (SB) 1511 regarding the identification of infeasible water management strategies in the previous plan and amendments to remove infeasible water management strategies from the previous RWP.

Section 2.13: Deliverable requirements

- Clarification on deliverable requirements for the Technical Memorandum, IPP, and final RWP.

Section 2.14: Data provisions and data reporting

- New guidance that the IPPs and final RWPs must include the required DB27 data reports by reference in the Executive Summary to TWDB’s Database Reports application, including instructions on how the public may access such reports.