

January 10, 2024

David Van Dresar
Region K Chair
Lower Colorado (Region K) Regional Water Planning Group
5251 Mueller Road
La Grange, Texas 78945

Dear Chairman Van Dresar:

I have reviewed your request dated October 11, 2023, for approval of alternative water supply assumptions to be used in determining existing and future surface water availability. This letter confirms that the TWDB approves use of the Region K Cutoff Model. The following assumptions for the Cutoff Model that require a variance are approved:

1. Use the Region K Cutoff Model, which is TCEQ's Colorado Basin WAM modified to simulate all rights at and above Lake Ivie and Lake Brownwood prior to downstream rights for existing and strategy supply analysis.
2. Correct the WAM input file for errors regarding the spatial location and assignment of net evaporation data for Twin Buttes Reservoir and Lake Nasworthy for existing and strategy supplies.
3. Remove LCRA 2020 Water Management Plan interruptible water supply and environmental flow criteria for existing supply firm yield analysis. For existing supply firm yield evaluation, the environmental flow commitment will be replaced with a 34,440 acre-feet per year firm commitment from the calculated combined firm yield of Lakes Buchanan and Travis.
4. Include provisions of LCRA-South Texas Nuclear Project 2006 Settlement Agreement for existing and strategy supply analysis.
5. Add any permits and amendments not yet included in the Colorado WAM as of 2023 for existing and strategy supply analysis.
6. Modify curtailment of Highland Lakes interruptible water as necessary to satisfy future LCRA firm municipal and industrial demands for strategy supply analysis.
7. Set all Region K municipal and industrial water right demands at projected future demand amounts by decade for strategy supply analysis.
8. Set LCRA lower basin irrigation demands equal to projected future demands by decade for strategy supply analysis.
9. Include LCRA irrigation return flows to the Colorado River, return flows from Austin wastewater treatment plants, and other municipal and industrial return flows when evaluating indirect reuse of those flows as a strategy.

10. Include reuse provisions and environmental flow requirements of LCRA-Austin 2007 Settlement Agreement when evaluating reuse strategy supplies.

While the use of these modified conditions may be reasonable for planning purposes, WAM RUN3 would be utilized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for analyzing permit applications. It is acceptable to use the modified conditions for WMS supply evaluations only if the yield produced is more conservative (less) for surface water appropriations than WAM RUN3.

While the TWDB authorizes these modification to evaluate existing and future water supplies for development of the 2026 Region K RWP, it is the responsibility of the RWPG to ensure that the resulting estimates of water availability are reasonable for drought planning purposes and will reflect conditions expected in the event of actual drought conditions; and in all other regards will be evaluated in accordance with the most recent version of regional water planning contract Exhibit C, *General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans*.

Please do not hesitate to contact Lann Bookout of our Regional Water Planning staff at 512-936-9439 or lann.bookout@twdb.texas.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Nelson
Deputy Executive Administrator

c: Monica Masters, Lower Colorado River Authority
Teresa Lutes, City of Austin (Region K Water Modeling Committee Chair)
Neil Deeds, INTERA
Lann Bookout, Water Supply Planning
Sarah Lee, Water Supply Planning
Nelun Fernando, Ph.D., Surface Water
Lissa Gregg, Freese and Nichols, Inc (Region F Consultant)