
# Region F Water Planning Group

September 17, 2020

# Agenda Item 4

## TWDB Report

# Region F TWDB Update 9-17-20

**1. Regional Water Planning Rulemaking**

- Chapter 357 planning rules were revised to incorporate HB 807 requirements
- Revisions have been adopted and became effective on June 28

**2. Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) Comments Issued**

- TWDB comments on the IPPs issued in June
- TWDB comments and RWPG responses must be included in the final plan

**3. Regional Water Plan Deadline Extended**

- Final 2021 Regional Water Plans due on November 5, 2020
- Data entry deadline extended to October 6, 2020

**4. RFA for Sixth Cycle Planning Grant Funds**

- RFA to be issued next spring
- RWPGs will need to take action to select a political subdivision and authorize them to submit an application prior to the RFA deadline

# Region F TWDB Update 9-17-20

**5. Interregional Planning Council**

- Council has held eight virtual meetings
- Council report due to the TWDB October 16

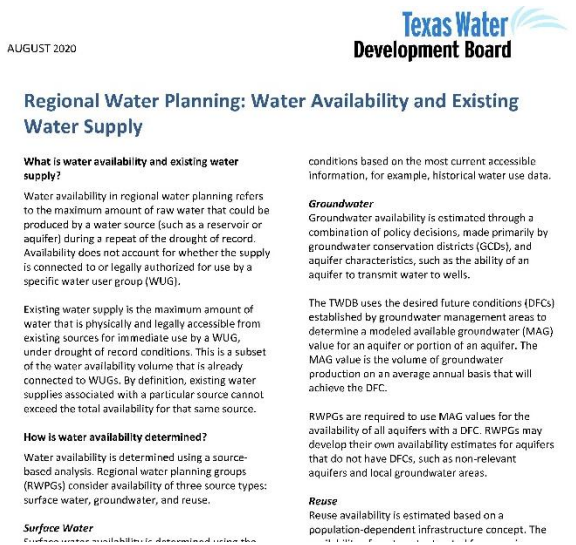
**6. Regional Water Planning Area (RWPA) Boundary Review**

- Review of RWPA boundaries is required by statute and rule every 5 years
- Review process will begin this fall. Stakeholder input on RWPA boundaries will be solicited in October.

**7. New Educational Document on Water Availability and Existing Supply**

- Available on the TWDB website:

http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/education



AUGUST 2020

Texas Water Development Board

**Regional Water Planning: Water Availability and Existing Water Supply**

**What is water availability and existing water supply?**

Water availability in regional water planning refers to the maximum amount of raw water that could be produced by a water source (such as a reservoir or aquifer) during a repeat of the drought of record. Availability does not account for whether the supply is connected to or legally authorized for use by a specific water user group (WUG).

Existing water supply is the maximum amount of water that is physically and legally accessible from existing sources for immediate use by a WUG, under drought of record conditions. This is a subset of the water availability volume that is already connected to WUGs. By definition, existing water supplies associated with a particular source cannot exceed the total availability for that same source.

**How is water availability determined?**

Water availability is determined using a source-based analysis. Regional water planning groups (RWPGs) consider availability of three source types: surface water, groundwater, and reuse.

***Surface Water***

conditions based on the most current accessible information, for example, historical water use data.

***Groundwater***

Groundwater availability is estimated through a combination of policy decisions, made primarily by groundwater conservation districts (GCDs), and aquifer characteristics, such as the ability of an aquifer to transmit water to wells.

The TWDB uses the desired future conditions (DFCs) established by groundwater management areas to determine a modeled available groundwater (MAG) value for an aquifer or portion of an aquifer. The MAG value is the volume of groundwater production on an average annual basis that will achieve the DFC.

RWPGs are required to use MAG values for the availability of all aquifers with a DFC. RWPGs may develop their own availability estimates for aquifers that do not have DFCs, such as non-relevant aquifers and local groundwater areas.

***Reuse***

Reuse availability is estimated based on a population-dependent infrastructure concept. The

# Agenda Item 5a

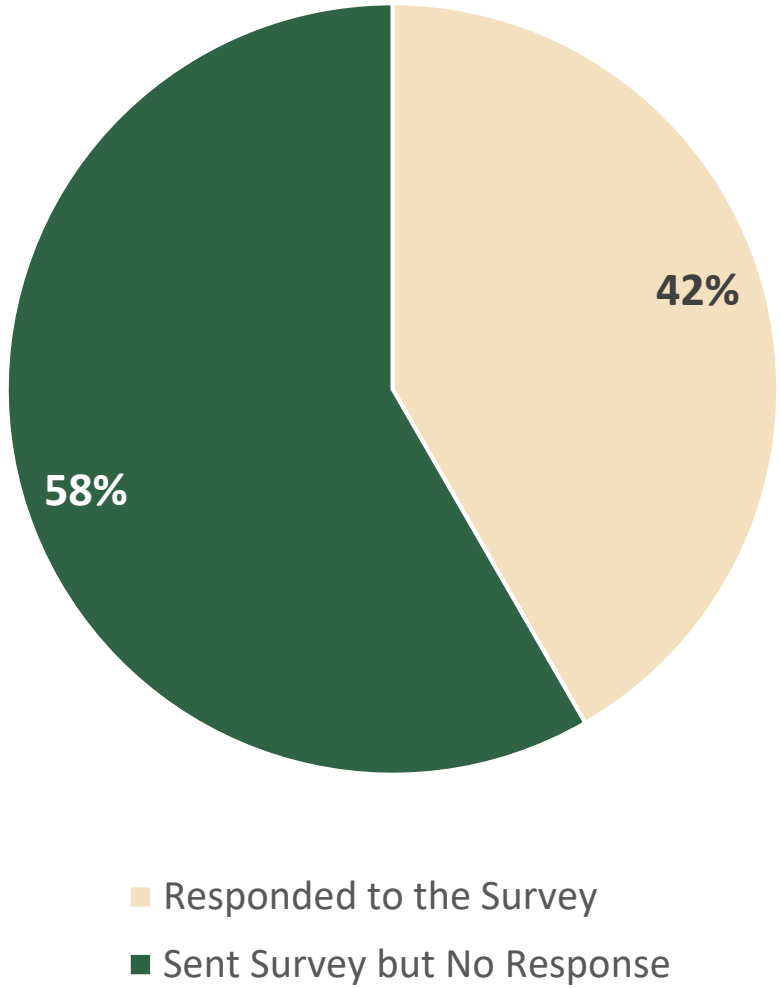
## SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES BETWEEN 2021 IPP AND FINAL PLAN

# Major Changes Since IPP

- Completion of Infrastructure Financing Survey (IFR)
  - Complete Chapter 9
  - New Appendix K
- Changes to Water Management Strategies
  - Removed 2 strategies
  - Added 1 strategy
  - Refined West Texas Water Partnership Strategy
  - Made corrections (online dates and/or costs) for 7 strategies
- Completed Prioritization of Projects

# Infrastructure Financing Survey

- Region F Water Plan recommends **111 projects** to meet the regions' future water needs with a total capital cost of over **$1.6 billion**
- Survey conducted to see how much funding will be needed from TWDB and when
- Funding requested from surveys totals **$1.13 billion** (70% of the cost in Region F plan)
- **13%** requested for planning and acquisition
- **87%** requested for construction



# Changes to Water Management Strategies and Projects

- Bangs
  - Removal of the direct non-potable reuse project
  - Previously implemented
- Menard:
  - Removal of direct non-potable reuse for irrigation of City Farms
  - New WMS: Develop Alluvial Well Supplies & WTP expansion
- Junction:
  - Revised the cost of the Dredging River Intake project
  - Revised the cost of Develop Edwards-Trinity-Plateau Aquifer Supplies project

# Changes to Water Management Strategies and Projects

Changed the online date of the following recommended WMS and projects from 2020 to 2030 since they are unlikely to be implemented prior to January 1, 2023:

- Advanced Groundwater Treatment – Pecos City
- New Water Treatment Plant – Big Spring
- RO Treatment of Existing Supplies – Odessa
- Rehabilitation of Oak Creek Pipeline – Bronte
- Water Treatment Plant Expansion – Bronte

# Changes to Water Management Strategies and Projects

## West Texas Water Partnership

- Was a placeholder in the IPP
- Project Sponsors
  - Midland (15,000 acre-feet)
  - San Angelo (5,000 acre-feet)
  - Abilene (8,400 acre-feet)
- Develop 28,400 acre-feet per year of Edwards-Trinity Plateau Aquifer in Pecos County with advanced treatment
- Recommended version includes a pipeline to Midland and San Angelo
- Alternative version only includes a pipeline to Midland
- Both versions include some exchange of groundwater for Lake Ivie supplies
- Will require a future cooperative use agreement with CRMWD
- Negotiations between parties are beyond the scope of regional water planning and the implementation of the strategy is contingent upon all parties reaching a mutually agreeable solution

# Project Prioritization

- Why do we prioritize projects?
  - Legislative requirement
  - Funding
    - To be eligible for SWIFT funding, the project must be in the plan
    - Regional ranking accounts for **15%** of the overall prioritization for SWIFT funding
    - Remaining **85%** of the prioritization is based on other factors (population served, regionalization, percent of water needs met with the project, ability to repay, etc.)
    - Only scored against other applicants

**1. Regional Prioritization**
- All recommended Water Management Strategy Projects
- Uniform Standards

***Accompanies regional water plans every 5 years***

**2. State Prioritization**
- Large population
- Diverse population
- Regionalization
- Meet high percent need
- Local contribution
- Financial capacity
- Emergency need
- Readiness to proceed
- Effect on Water Conservation
- Regional Prioritization

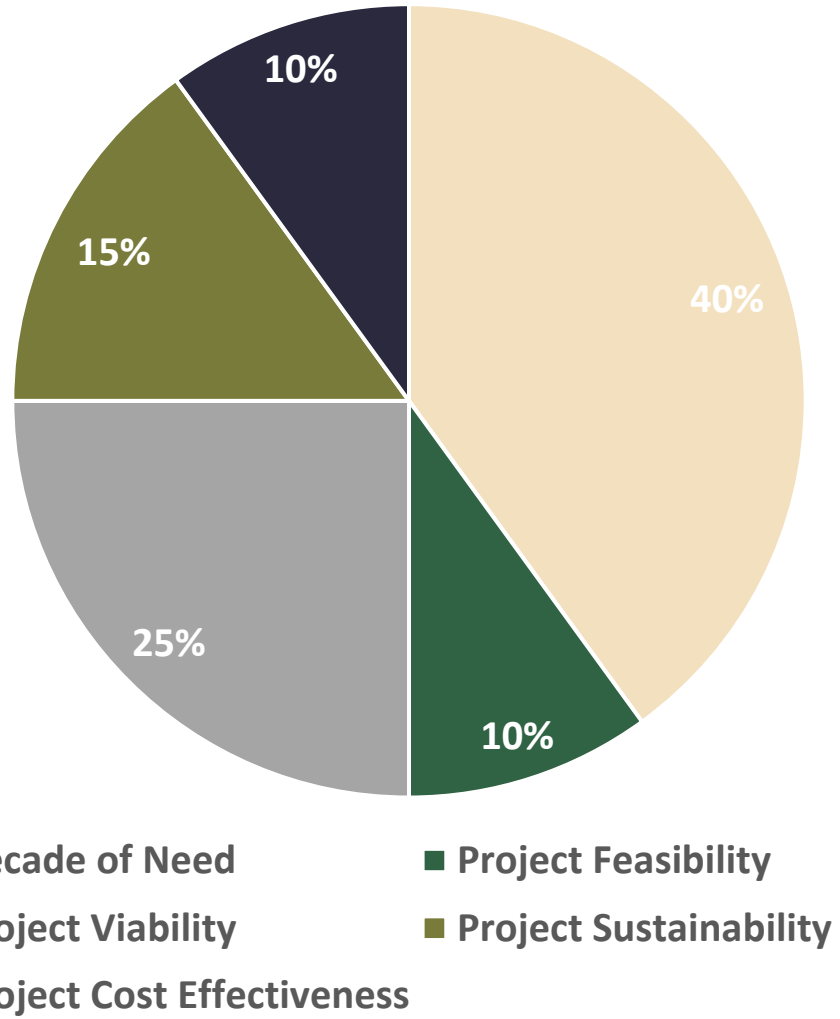
**Only projects with abridged applications**

**SWIFT Prioritization Cycle**

*Texas Water Development Board, State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) Project Prioritization, April 2019.*

# Prioritization of Region F Projects

- Prioritization is not included in the Final Plan
- Submitted in the electronic deliverables to TWDB
- Ranked all 111 recommended Region F projects
- Ranking criteria follow uniform standards approved by Uniform Standards Stakeholder Committee (SHC) in 11/2018



# Regional Project Prioritization Criteria

- **Decade of Need (40%)**
  - What decade does the project come online?
  - In what decade is funding needed?
- **Project Feasibility (10%)**
  - What supporting data is available to show water availability?
  - Does the sponsor hold legal water rights?
  - What level of engineering/planning has been accomplished?
  - Has the sponsor requested inclusion in the RWP?

# Regional Project Prioritization Criteria

- **Project Viability (25%)**
  - In initial decade, what % of WUGs needs are met?
  - In final decade, what % of WUGs needs are met?
  - Is this project the only economically feasible WMS?
  - Does the project serve multiple WUGs?
- **Project Sustainability (15%)**
  - Over what period is the project projected to supply water?
  - Does the volume of water supply change over the planning period?
- **Project Cost Effectiveness (10%)**
  - What is the expected unit cost of water compared to median cost of other recommended projects?

# Agenda Item 5b

## REVIEW RESPONSE TO AGENCY AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

# Agency and Public Comments & Responses

- All Comments and Responses are documented in Appendix L
- No Formal Public Comments Received
- Agency Comments Received:
  - Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
    - 26 Level 1 Comments – Comments and questions that must be addressed to submit the Final Plan to TWDB
    - All Level 1 Comments were addressed. Most were related to TWDB rules and clarifications. Substantive changes include:
      - Online decades for some projects (discussed previously)
      - West Texas Water Partnership information (discussed previously)
    - 13 Level 2 Comments – Comments and suggestions that may improve the readability and overall understanding of the regional plan
    - All Level 2 Comments were addressed

# Agency and Public Comments & Responses

- Agency Comments Received (Cont'd):
  - Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
    - Updated language in the plan to reflect that the Water Supply Enhancement (WSEP) is not funded at this time. However, Brush control is still identified as a potentially feasible water management strategy and project in the 2021 Region F RWP.
  - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
    - Threatened and Endangered species list was updated after the publication of the IPP
    - Final Plan was updated to reflect the most recent list

# Agenda Item 6a

Consider adoption of the 2021 Region F Regional Water Plan with authorization of the Region F Executive Committee to make non-substantial edits and CRMWD to submit the final plan to the TWDB.

# Agenda Item 6b

Consider approval of the final project prioritization list and authorize CRMWD to submit the prioritization list to the TWDB.

# Agenda Item 7a

Consider designating a Political Subdivision to administer the Region F RWPG for the 6th cycle of Regional Water Planning.

# Agenda Item 7b

Authorize the Region F Political Subdivision to provide public notice, submit a grant application to the TWDB, and execute a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the Region F RWPG for initial funding of the 6th cycle of Regional Water Planning.

# Agenda Item 7c

Authorize the Region F Political Subdivision to provide public notice and hold a pre-planning public meeting to obtain public input on development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan and 2027 State Water Plan.

# Agenda Item 7d

Authorize the Region F Political Subdivision to solicit a Request for Proposal for technical consultants for the 2026 Regional Water Plan.