

Agenda Item 6b. Review Infeasible Water Management Strategies from the 2021 Region F Plan

This agenda item is to review the methodology used to evaluate the infeasibility of water management strategies and projects from the 2021 Region F Plan and the results of the analysis. The Texas legislature passed a new requirement for the 2026 planning cycle that requires the regional water planning groups (RWPGs) to review strategies/projects that require construction or a permit for potential infeasibility. Infeasible Water Management Strategies (WMS)s are defined as *“WMSs where proposed sponsors have not taken an affirmative vote or other action to make expenditures necessary to construct or file applications for permits required in connection with implementation of the WMS on a schedule in order for the WMS to be completed by the time the WMS is needed to address drought in the plan.”*

The Texas Water Development Board identified 155 strategies for review by the Region F planning group. 135 of these strategies were conservation related and therefore do not require a permit or construction and were found to be feasible. An additional five strategies are for county-aggregated water user groups that represent a conglomeration of private entities such as manufacturing or mining. In these instances, the TWDB recognizes that without a distinct identifiable sponsor, information is not available to assess the feasibility of these projects and they can be considered feasible for this analysis. The Region F consultant reached out the remaining 15 project sponsors to determine the feasibility of the water management strategy/project. Of these, 11 were found to have taken affirmative action to implement the project in the plan and were found feasible. Four strategies with an online date of 2020 in the 2021 plan were found to be infeasible and will require an amendment to the 2021 Region F Plan. These include:

- 1. City of Junction: Develop Additional Edwards-Trinity Plateau Aquifer Supplies**
Based on discussions with the City of Junction, Junction has not yet taken affirmative action to implement this project but does plan to do so in the future. Region F consultant proposes to amend the 2021 Region F plan to move the online decade for this strategy from 2020 to 2030. This will create an unmet municipal need of about 200 acre-feet in 2020. The amendment will include justification in accordance with 31 TAC 357.50 (j).
- 2. City of Balmorhea: Develop Edwards-Trinity-Plateau Aquifer Supplies**
Based on discussions with City of Balmorhea, no affirmative action to implement this project has been taken yet. However, the City does understand the need to secure new water supplies in the future. Region F consultant proposes to amend the 2021 Region F plan to move the online decade for this strategy from 2020 to 2030. This will create an unmet municipal need of about 100 acre-feet in 2020. The amendment will include justification in accordance with 31 TAC 357.50 (j).
- 3. City of Bronte: Develop Other Aquifer Supplies in Southwest Coke County**
Based on discussions with City of Bronte, the City is moving forward with studies on groundwater supplies from Nolan County instead of Coke County. This was identified in the 2021 Plan as an alternative water management strategy. Region F consultant proposes to amend the 2021 plan to substitute the alternative water

management strategy as the recommended strategy for Bronte. This will create unmet needs in 2020 for Bronte and Robert Lee.

4. Mitchell County Steam Electric Power (SEP): Direct Non-Potable Sales from Colorado City

This project was for demands for a new FGE facility in Mitchell County. This strategy would provide non-potable reuse supplies from Colorado City to Mitchell County SEP (FGE). However, the FGE facility has never been built and the demands have not yet materialized. Because of this, no affirmative action has been taken to implement the project from the 2021 Region F Plan. The Region F consultant proposes to amend the 2021 plan to remove the strategy from the plan. This will increase an existing unmet need in Mitchell County for Steam Electric Power by 500 acre-feet. It should be noted that this need may or may not ever come to fruition. If the FGE facility was developed, this strategy could be reconsidered as a feasible alternative for a portion of the water supply needed.