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Subject: Region J Draft Irrigation and Mining Projections for RWPG Review
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 11:49:00 AM
Attachments: [RegionJ_IrrMin_Aug2022.xlsx](#)
[DraftProjections_August2022.zip](#)

Dear Region J RWPG Members,

Please see attached **draft irrigation and mining water demand projections** and supporting data. Livestock, manufacturing, and steam-electric power demand projections were shared in January 2022 and the remaining draft projections (population and municipal demands) will be released for your review in February 2023. Also attached are the basin split percentages for each non-municipal projection category.

The irrigation and mining data is attached for your planning group to begin review and also available on our website, along with interactive dashboards:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/2027/projections.asp>

Planning groups are asked to review these draft projections and, if applicable, request changes to the projections by returning the attached draft projections Excel workbook with the specific requested changes along with the necessary supporting documentation for each request. Section 2.2 of the General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans (Exhibit C) includes the projection revision criteria that planning groups must follow and is available on our [website](#).

The deadline for submitting all requested revisions to draft non-municipal water demand projections is **July 14, 2023**, although regions and their consultants are **strongly encouraged** to communicate with the TWDB staff and submit revision requests and supporting documentation as early as possible to allow adequate time for evaluation and follow up, as needed.

Attached are two files:

1. Region-specific draft projections in Excel workbook with historical data and region revision request format for the draft irrigation and mining water demand category projections
2. Zipped file, which contains:
 - i. Irrigation projections methodology summary
 - ii. Irrigation supporting data
 - iii. Irrigation draft projections for all counties, split by region, in Texas
 - iv. Mining supporting data
 - v. Mining draft projections for all counties, split by region, in Texas
 - vi. Report: "Water Use by the Mining Industry in Texas" (August 2022)

- vii. "Water Use by the Mining Industry in Texas" Appendices I
- viii. "Water Use by the Mining Industry in Texas" Appendices II
- ix. "Water Use by the Mining Industry in Texas" Appendices III
- x. "Water Use by the Mining Industry in Texas" Appendices IV
- xi. Basin split percentages for each non-municipal category

Please use the region revision request format in the Region_IrrMin_Aug2022 Excel workbook to submit the RWPG's formal revision requests to the draft projections.

Anticipated timeline for the remaining projections development:

- **Summer 2022** – Updated Exhibit C (with all planning tasks to complete the 2026 Regional Water Plans) will be distributed.
- **February 2023** – TWDB staff will distribute draft population projections, plumbing code savings projections, and municipal demand projections.
- **July 14, 2023** – Deadline for RWPGs to request changes to draft non-municipal demand projections.
- **August 11, 2023** – Deadline for RWPGs to request changes to draft population and municipal demand projections.
- **October 2023** – TWDB staff will present all projections to the Board for approval.

Some key points regarding these water demand projections include:

- **Irrigation:**
 - Same methodology as previous planning cycle.
 - Historical baseline water use (2015-2019) volume used in these draft 2026 RWP projections are generally lower than the previous RWP's baseline (2010-2014).
 - Modeled Available Groundwater volumes (MAGs) that have been reviewed and updated by July 2022 by the TWDB Groundwater staff were incorporated into the draft irrigation projections. All other MAGs may be folded into irrigation projections at a later date.

- **Mining:**
 - Projections were developed in the mining water use study that TWDB conducted in partnership with the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology and U.S. Geological Survey.
 - Projections are generally higher through 2060, before declining.
 - For more information regarding the mining study and the report:
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/MiningStudy/index.asp>

If you have any additional data requests or questions regarding draft projections or supporting data provided, please contact or submit your request to EDA@twdb.texas.gov or your TWDB Regional Water Planner.

Thank you,

Katie S. Dahlberg
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Texas Water Development Board

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