

October 26, 2023

Mr. Kevin Ward
Chair
Region C Regional Water Planning Group
c/o Trinity River Authority
P.O. Box 60
Arlington, Texas 76044

Dear Chairman Ward:

I have reviewed your request dated August 22, 2023, for approval of alternative water supply assumptions to be used in determining existing surface water availability. This letter confirms that the TWDB approves the following assumptions:

1. Use of safe yield for the allocation and distribution of surface water supplies from reservoirs owned and operated by Dallas Water Utilities (nine-month safe yield) and Tarrant Regional Water District (one-year safe yield).
2. Use of the results of North Texas Municipal Water District's Long-Range Water Supply plan, which accounted for the potential impacts of a drought worse than the drought of record, for the allocation and distribution of surface water supplies from reservoirs owned and operated by North Texas Municipal Water District.
3. Multiple changes to the Trinity WAM to account for current operating conditions, including subordination agreements, systems operations, and other corrections noted during review of the models, as detailed in Attachment A of the hydrologic variance request.
4. Changes to Lake Texoma and associated water rights in the Red River WAM to avoid potential double counting of supply and to improve the accuracy of firm yield estimates from Region C reservoirs, as detailed in Attachment A of the hydrologic variance request.
5. Model Lake Chapman, in the Sulphur WAM, as a single pool to assess its firm yield and then assign supplies proportionally based on each provider's water right, with inclusion of any new water rights granted that are not currently in the approved TCEQ WAM.

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6. Use of surface water availabilities, based upon the hydrologic variance approved for use by the Region I RWPG and the TWDB for the Neches and Sabine River Basins.
7. Use of surface water availabilities, based upon the hydrologic variance approved for use by the Brazos G RWPG and the TWDB for the Brazos River Basin.

Because we have not had the opportunity to review the related information, the TWDB is not pre-approving the use of potential impacts of climatic uncertainties from the Dallas Water Utilities Long-Range Water Supply plan at this time. Once the updated long-range plan information is made available including the information on the methodology that will be the basis for assessing climatic uncertainties as will be incorporated into the regional water plan, the TWDB requests that a separate hydrologic variance request be submitted to approve this one item so that staff can review the updated information.

Although the TWDB approves the use of a nine-month (Dallas Water Utilities) and one-year (Tarrant Regional Water District) safe yield for developing estimates of current water supplies, firm yield for each reservoir must still be reported to TWDB in the online planning database and plan documents. For the purpose of evaluating potentially feasible water management strategies, the TCEQ WAM Run 3 is to be used, unless a separate hydrologic variance for water management strategy availability is submitted and approved by the TWDB.

While the TWDB authorizes these modifications to evaluate existing water supplies for development of the 2026 Region C 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*.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Smith of our Regional Water Planning staff at 512-475-1561 or kevin.smith@twdb.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeff Walker
Executive Administrator

c: Howard Slobodin, Trinity River Authority
Abigail Gardner, P.E., Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Tony Smith, P.E., Carollo Engineers (Region G)
Brigit Buff, P.E., Plummer Associates, Inc. (Region I)
Kevin Smith, Water Supply Planning

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Nelun Fernando, Ph.D., Surface Water