

November 28, 2023

Mr. Cole Walker  
General Manager  
Colorado River Municipal Water District  
400 E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Big Spring, TX 79720

Dear Mr. Walker:

I have reviewed your request dated July 20, 2023, and received on September 24, 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 the following assumptions:

1. Use of one-year safe yield for all reservoirs in the Brazos, Colorado, and Rio Grande Basins within the region.
2. Use of the Brazos Water Availability Model (WAM) as modified by the Brazos G Planning Group (*i.e.*, the Brazos G WAM) for existing and strategy supplies from the Brazos River Basin as approved by the TWDB for Region G.
3. Use of Region K's cutoff WAM model (as approved for use by the TWDB for Region K), to model the Lower Colorado subordination strategy, including considering the City of Junction's run-of-river right and Brady Creek Reservoir's water right as senior to those downstream in Region K, and using safe yield for all reservoirs under the subordination strategy. This includes coordinating with reservoir owners in the Pecan Bayou watershed to establish mutually agreeable terms for priority calls.
4. Undertake several modifications to the Rio Grande WAM to reflect actual operations for modeling existing supply. These modifications include:
  - a. Model the Toyah Creek watershed to reflect actual operations where irrigation water rights within the Red Bluff Irrigation District are met with releases from Red Bluff Reservoir and are not reliant on spring flow from San Solomon Springs or Giffin Springs.
  - b. Direct flows not diverted from the creek to Lake Balmorhea for storage, and model storage at Lake Balmorhea as backup for run-of-river diversions.

Although the TWDB approves the use of a one-year safe yield for developing estimates of current water supplies, firm yield for each reservoir must still be reported to the TWDB in the online planning database and plan documents.

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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 approved modified conditions for WMS supply evaluations only if the yield produced is more conservative (less) for surface water appropriations than WAM RUN3. For the purpose of evaluating potentially feasible surface water management strategies not addressed in this request, the appropriate TCEQ WAM Run 3 is to be used unless a separate hydrologic variance request is submitted and approved by the TWDB.

While the TWDB authorizes these modifications to evaluate existing and future water supplies for development of the 2026 Region F 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 contract Exhibit C, *General Guidelines for Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Plan Development*.

Please do not hesitate to contact Heather Rose of our Regional Water Planning staff at 512-475-1558 or [heather.rose@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:heather.rose@twdb.texas.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Walker  
Executive Administrator

c: Audra Hoback, Colorado River Municipal Water District  
Lissa Gregg, Freese & Nichols, Inc.  
Tony Smith, Carollo Engineers, Inc. (Region G)  
Neil Deeds, INTERA (Region K)  
Heather Rose, Water Supply Planning  
Nelun Fernando, Ph.D., Surface Water