

March 9, 2015

C.E. Williams
Chair, Region A
c/o Panhandle GCD
P.O. Box 637
White Deer, Texas 79097

Re: Identification of Potential Interregional Conflicts in the 2016 Regional Water Plans

Dear Chairman Williams:

The 2017 regional water planning database application (DB17), currently under development by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), will contain the data from the 2016 regional water plans, and be a key tool for identifying potential conflicts, including those associated with over-allocations of sources. When data entry is complete, the TWDB staff will conduct final water source over-allocation analyses as part of the review of the regional water plans.

TWDB rules for regional water planning (31 TAC § 357.50(f)) require that the regional water planning groups (RWPGs) submit, in a timely manner to the Executive Administrator, information on any known interregional conflict between regional water plans. In advance of this TWDB data analysis, we are reminding RWPGs of the rule requirement above and ask that, as soon as possible, RWPGs submit in writing to the Executive Administrator notification of known or potential interregional conflicts identified during the development of their IPP.

In the meantime, I encourage all RWPGs to communicate, share information, and work together to identify and, when possible, resolve potential conflicts when they are identified. My staff and I are available upon request to provide information, technical support, facilitation and, if necessary, to assist in negotiations or to provide other support. Please notify your regional project manager if you need or think you may require such TWDB assistance.

Recently, the Board directed the Executive Administrator to conduct a review of current rules and guidance pertaining to the development of regional water plans as well as an evaluation of Board Staff's review process, and to identify any opportunities for completing a more substantive review of the plans ensuring that future regional and state water planning efforts include all statutorily-required analyses.

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To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas

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Initially, there are a few simple opportunities for improving regional water planning documents that would not require any new information, data, or analyses. I encourage regional water planning groups that haven't already done so, to consider tabulating quantified information associated with evaluations of feasible (including recommended) water management strategies which is required under current rules (e.g., related to 31 TAC §357.34(d)(3)), in one place within the regional water plan. Although aggregating all this information is not mandatory under the current rules and planning grant contracts, I would prefer that, to the extent practicable, regional water planning groups gather and summarize such data in a single location in the plan to aid regional water planning group members, the public, and TWDB staff in understanding and reviewing regional water plans.

I welcome your input as our staff continues to review rules and guidance in order to improve the processes and quality of Water for Texas.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your regional water planning project manager Sarah Backhouse at 512-936-2387.

Sincerely,



Kevin Patteson
Executive Administrator

cc: Mr. Kyle Ingham, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, 415 SW 8th Ave,
Amarillo, Texas 79101