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**Cc:** [WSI-WSP-RWP](#); [Katie Dahlberg](#); [Temple McKinnon](#); [Matt Nelson](#); [Jessica Pena](#)  
**Subject:** Regional Water Planning Newsletter - January 2022  
**Date:** Friday, January 21, 2022 8:00:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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## Regional Water Planning Newsletter – January 2022

Good morning RWPG Stakeholders,

We hope everyone's 2022 is off to a good start. The development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans will pick up this year with the first release of projections data for review by RWPGs. The January newsletter below provides an update on current and upcoming Regional Water Planning activities.

### Projections Release and Development Timeline

This week, the TWDB released the 2026 Regional Water Plan draft water demand projections for the following water use categories:

- Livestock
- Manufacturing
- Steam-electric power

The data was provided in excel format and is also available on the TWDB website to view in an interactive dashboard format at:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/2027/projections.asp>. The remaining draft projections for population and the associated municipal water demands and the irrigation and mining water demands will be released at a later date.

The deadline for submitting requested revisions for the draft 2026 Regional Water Plan non-municipal projections is **July 2023**. The deadline for requested revisions to draft 2026 Regional Water Plan population and associated municipal water demand projections will be **August 2023**. Planning groups must follow the projection revision criteria as outlined in the Regional Water Planning Contracts Exhibit C: *General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans*.

The anticipated timeline for the remaining projections process is as follows:

- **March 2022** – TWDB to distribute water user group list (WUG), historical population, and GPCD for municipal WUG to RWPGs.
- **July 2022** – Deadline for RWPGs to request changes to WUG list and historical data for municipal WUGs.
- **August 2022** – TWDB To distribute draft irrigation and mining water demand projections to RWPGs for their review.
- **February 2023** – TWDB to distribute draft population projections, plumbing code savings projections, and municipal water demand projections to RWPGs for their review.
- **July 2023** – Deadline for RWPGs to request changes to draft non-municipal demand projections.

- **August 2023** –Deadline for RWPGs to request changes to draft population and associated municipal water demand projections.
- **October 2023** – Anticipated date for TWDB Board approval of all projections.

Please refer to your region-specific projections data email for more information.

## Rulemaking

The TWDB Board approved publishing proposed revisions to Regional and State Water Planning rules on December 16, 2021. The proposed rules are currently published in the Texas Register and public comment will be accepted on the proposed rules through **January 31, 2022**.

The proposed amendments to 31 TAC §357 contain revisions to implement House Bill 1905 (87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session), reduce certain non-statutory reporting requirements, address stakeholder concerns raised during the previous planning cycle and preliminary input period, and clarify rule language by removing outdated references to past planning cycles and revising references to updated public notice rules in Section §357.21.

The proposed amendments to 31 TAC §358 contain revisions to address concerns raised by regional water planning group stakeholders, through preliminary input on guidance principles review as required by Texas Water Code §16.051(d), and the Interregional Planning Council to clarify that regional water planning groups may plan for drought conditions worse than the drought of record. The revisions also clarify language throughout the section including adding the term water management strategy project.

The Texas Register postings for these rule proposals may be accessed on the TWDB website at: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/about/rules/index.asp>. Comments may be provided via email to [rulescomments@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:rulescomments@twdb.texas.gov).

## Upcoming Contract Amendment Timeline

The TWDB has begun preparing contract amendment materials for the 2026 Regional Water Plans that will incorporate a full, anticipated contract funding amount for each region, a full scope of work, and updated contract guidance documents. We anticipate seeking TWDB Board approval to authorize and execute the contract amendments this summer. RWPG sponsors will not have to submit a second funding application this cycle to incorporate this amendment. A more detailed timeline will be provided regarding these contract amendments this Spring.

## Interregional Planning Council

The TWDB has extended the deadline to submit nominations for the second Interregional Planning Council to **April 22, 2022**. Each RWPG is requested to take action and submit at least one nomination (and alternate for each nomination) to the TWDB by this date. Due to the extension, we now anticipate TWDB Board appointment of the Council to occur in June 2022.

For each nominee, please submit the following information directly to [Sarah Backhouse](#) by April 22, 2022:

- Interest category the individual represents

- RWPG committee membership (if applicable),
- Brief background statement including time served on the planning group, contact information (email, phone number, and mailing address), and
- Any other supporting information deemed relevant by the planning group.

For reference, the nomination request letter from TWDB's Executive Administrator to RWPG Chairs is available online at:

[https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/TWDBComms/IPCNominationLetter\\_9.14.21.pdf](https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/TWDBComms/IPCNominationLetter_9.14.21.pdf)

## Reminders and Previous Updates

- The 2026 Regional Water Plan Working Schedule will be updated throughout the cycle and is available online at:  
[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working\\_Schedule\\_2026RWPs.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working_Schedule_2026RWPs.pdf)
  - The regional and state water planning rules pamphlet – that conveniently condenses all the key water planning statute and rules for use by RWPGs, Sponsors, and their Consultants - was updated as of May 2021:  
[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP\\_RulePamphlet.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP_RulePamphlet.pdf)
  - Visit the TWDB's *Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Documents* webpage to view communications from TWDB during this planning cycle, project documents including a working schedule, contract documents, and administrative documents. These documents may be found at: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/documents.asp>
  - The TWDB receives and maintains all the RWPG member email addresses from the region's sponsor. Sponsors should provide any updated email addresses to your TWDB Regional Water Planner to ensure our membership database is up to date and that all RWPG members receive these newsletters etc. For regions that have members without email addresses, please forward these communications to those members by mail or another effective means.
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## Contact TWDB

Please contact your region's TWDB Regional Water Planner for any additional information. TWDB's Regional Water Planner assignments are as follows:

- Regions A, J, M: William Alfaro, [William.Alfaro@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:William.Alfaro@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions B, C, N: Kevin Smith, [Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov)
- Region D, G, P: Ron Ellis, [Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions E, F, L: Elizabeth McCoy, [Elizabeth.McCoy@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McCoy@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions H, I, K: Lann Bookout, [Lann.Bookout@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Lann.Bookout@twdb.texas.gov)
- Region O: Sarah Backhouse, [Sarah.Backhouse@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Sarah.Backhouse@twdb.texas.gov)

For more information regarding the TWDB Regional Water Planning Program, please visit [our website](#).

*Note: This email was sent to all RWPG members, sponsors, and technical consultants. A copy of this newsletter will be posted on the regional water planning newsletter [webpage](#).*

Best,

Sarah Backhouse  
Manager, Regional Water Planning  
Water Use, Projections, and Planning

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