

Region M TWDB Update 1-06-21

1. 2021 SWIFT funding cycle

Abridged application period 12/3/20-2/1/21. Apps to be based upon 2021 RWPs/2022 SWP.

2. Request for Application (RFA) for the sixth cycle

- First request to be issued Spring 2021
- The RFA materials will include a checklist noting what information is required for the application, the region's initial budget, and the initial scope of work
- The initial scope of work will include Tasks 1, 2A, 2B, 8, and 10 (Planning Area Description, Non-Municipal Water Demands Projections, Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections, Policy Recommendations, Public Participation (partially funded))
- TWDB is preparing a rule making to begin in February that would include a proposal to remove the 30-day public notice associated with the request for applications (Currently, this notice is tied to the date the Board takes action on an application)

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Anticipated timeline:

- March 2021: TWDB posts Request for Applications
- April 2021: Deadline to submit an application (30 days after posting)
- June 2021: TWDB Board authorization to negotiate/execute contracts
- July-August 2021: Contracts sent for signatures (deadline to fully execute 8/31)

3. Regional Water Planning Area (RWPA) boundary review process

- Process is required to occur every five years
- RWPA boundary review process public comment period was open through 12/3, Board action anticipated in February

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4. Interregional Planning Council status

- Their report was submitted to TWDB in October 2020 and distributed to the planning groups. The report is also available on our website.
- The Council developed recommendations regarding interregional coordination, best practices for future planning, and planning water resources for the state as a whole. Recommendations targeted TWDB, the Legislature, the planning groups, and future Councils.
- TWDB staff presented a work plan to the Board at a November work session on how to address Council recommendations.
- Some of the Council recommendations regarding coordination with other regions are proposed to be addressed in our next round of contracting and guidance.

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Interregional Planning Council status (continue)

- One recommendation regarding revising the TX Open Mtgs Act to allow for continued virtual meeting options for planning groups and their committees was included in the Board's Legislative Priorities Report for the upcoming 87th Legislative Session.
- One recommendation regarding the administrative offices (designated political subdivisions) to receive funding for certain direct labor eligible activities will be addressed in upcoming rule revisions in 2021.
- TWDB will distribute more information to the planning groups on the Council's progress and recommendations in the coming year.
- The currently Council dissolves upon adoption of the 2022 State Water Plan (anticipated Summer 2021). Nominations for the next Council will be solicited following adoption of the SWP.

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5. Regional water planning rulemaking update

Rulemaking to begin early 2021 to update RWP notice requirements and contract eligibility for limited direct labor costs.

RFA: proposal to remove the 30-day public notice associated with the request for applications.

Political Subdivisions: funding for certain direct labor

6. Mining water use study

TWDB contracting with BEG to assess mining water use and update mining demand projections for 2026 RWPs. Kickoff meeting was held 12/18. Website launched.

7. Flood update

First flood planning meetings occurred. See flood planning website for program information and to sign up for news.

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/index.asp>