

Agenda Item 5.A.2:

Briefing on Methodology to Identify Infeasible Water Management Strategies and/or Projects in the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan and Analysis of Results

TWDB Guidelines

In accordance with the Texas Water Code §16.053(h)(10), a strategy or project is considered infeasible if:

“...the proposed sponsor of the water management strategy or project has not taken **an affirmative vote or other action** to make expenditures necessary to construct or file applications for permits required in connection with the implementation of the water management strategy or project under federal or state law **on a schedule that is consistent with the completion of the implementation** of the water management strategy or project by the time the water management strategy or project is projected by the regional water plan or the state water plan to be needed.”

Affirmative vote or other actions may include but are not limited to

- 1) Spending money on the strategy or project,
- 2) Voting to spend money on the strategy or project, or
- 3) Applying for a federal or state permit for the strategy or project.

Methodology

RWPG Responsibilities:

Review the status of strategies and projects with an online decade of 2020 in the 2021 RWPs

Optional: Review additional, near-term strategies and projects that have lengthy permitting or construction processes

Our Identification Process:

- Reviewed list from TWDB
- Prepared and sent survey asking about implementation status of each project
- Sent email reminder about survey
- Put questions from survey into email and sent (instead of survey link)
- Sent list of those we had not heard from to RWPG members for assistance
- If we have made a good faith effort to reach out to a project sponsor and we have not heard back, we can assume the project is feasible

2020 Projects Surveyed

Agua SUD	Agua SUD - West WWTP Potable Reuse Phase 1
Alamo	Alamo - Fresh Groundwater Well
Brownsville	Brownsville - Resaca Restoration
Donna	Donna - WTP Expansion, New Raw Water Reservoir, and Raw Water Pump Station
Edcouch	Edcouch - New Groundwater Supply
Edinburg	Edinburg - Non-Potable Reuse
El Jardin WSC	El Jardin WSC - Distribution Pipeline Replacement
Laguna Madre Water District	Laguna Madre Water District - WTP 1 Expansion and Process Improvements
Los Fresnos	Los Fresnos - WTP Expansion
McAllen	McAllen - Raw Water Line Project
McAllen	McAllen - AMI Project
Mission	Mission - WWTP Potable Reuse Phase 1
Olmito WSC	Olmito WSC - New Biolac WWTP
Olmito WSC	Olmito WSC - WTP Expansion
Pharr	Pharr - Raw Water Reservoir Augmentation
Rio Grande City	Rio Grande City - Water Meter Replacement
Rio Hondo	Rio Hondo - New Groundwater Supply
Rio Hondo	Rio Hondo - Non-Potable Reuse
Union WSC	Union WSC Meter and Line Replacement
Weslaco	Weslaco - Groundwater Development and Blending
Weslaco	Weslaco - North WWTP Potable Reuse Phase 1
Zapata County	Zapata County - New Groundwater Supply

Analysis Results

Received responses from:

- Edinburg, Laguna Madre Water District, McAllen, Olmito WSC, Rio Grande City, Union WSC, Zapata County

No responses from:

- Agua SUD, Alamo, Brownsville, Donna, Edcouch, El Jardin WSC, Los Fresnos, Mission, Pharr, Rio Hondo, Weslaco

All received responses except one said their project was either completed or they had moved forward with implementation.

- Edinburg said their 2020 Non-Potable Reuse project has been put on hold.
- Expect Region M will need to do an amendment to the 2021 Plan to remove this project from the 2020 decade. RWPG-adopted amendments due **June 4, 2024**.