

Agenda Item 5.A.5:

Briefing on Process for
Identifying Potentially Feasible
Water Management Strategies for the
2026 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan

TWDB Guidelines

- Regional Water Plan shall serve as long-term water supply plan under drought-of-record conditions.
- RWPG must identify all potentially feasible WMS, select WMS, and present to public for comment.
- RWPG must identify and evaluate WMS for all WUGs and WPPs with shortages (needs).
- RWPG must evaluate WMS with sufficient specificity to allow agencies to make financial and regulatory decisions.
- Local WUGs and WPPs are encouraged to:
 - review water demand projections and availability determinations for their local community.
 - provide input to the RWPG on recommended WMS, local supply plans, and proposed water facilities for their WUG.
 - develop detailed water conservation and drought management plans.
 - consider regional solutions and to cooperate with other WUGs when appropriate.
 - develop contingency plans and facilities for use during emergency shortages of water.

What information do we need from project sponsors?

If they know/have it:

- Project location
- Online decade
- Water supply yield (or demand reduction) during Drought of Record
- Infrastructure, including pipeline routes
- Planned wholesale customers
- Costing data
- Environmental reports
- Any additional information relevant to the project

If project information is not available, Region M will develop planning-level evaluations meeting the TWDB's minimum requirements, pursuant to available time and budget.

Proposed Process for Identifying Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies

1. Current water planning information, including specific WMS of interest, will be solicited from Water User Groups (WUGs) and Wholesale Water Providers (WWPs) in Fall 2023.
 - a. Solicitation of planning information will include the recommended WMS in the 2021 Regional Water Plan.
 - b. WUGs/WWPs will be encouraged to classify each water management strategy on their 2021 Plan list as included or rejected for the 2026 Planning Cycle and provide comments, and also to list additional WMS that will be new for the 2026 Planning Cycle.
2. A list of potential WMSs will be prepared based on an initial technical evaluation and needs analysis and the comments received, which will be available for consideration by the RWPG by early 2024.
3. Additional WMS may be brought forth to the RWPG for consideration until May 2024.
4. The list of potential WMSs will be further considered to identify “potentially feasible” or “not potentially feasible” WMSs for WUGs and WWPs with identified water needs.