

Region M TWDB Update 3-1-23

1. RWP Contract Amendments

- Amendment to include anticipated total project cost, full scope of work, and updated contract guidance documents
- Amendment executed 10/18/22

2. Interregional Planning Council

- Meeting held November 9 in Austin with a virtual component. Next meeting 3/9.
- TWDB working on outstanding TWDB recommendations (liaison materials, TCEQ members, policy recommendations, membership costs, and active RWPG committees)
- Surveys sent to RPWGs on recommendation implementation and IPC prioritization of recommendations; due 1/31/23
- More information available online at:
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc/2027IPC.asp>

3. SWIFT

- Abridged applications period open through 2/1/23

1

Region M TWDB Update 3-1-23

4. New One-Pagers

- [Water supply and flood mitigation strategies one-pager](#)
- [Drought of Record](#)
- [Consistency Waivers](#)

5. New Educational Materials

- [RWPG Member Guide](#)
- [Administrative Guidance for RWPG Sponsors](#)

2

Region M TWDB Update 3-1-23

6. Legislative Priorities Report

- Texas Water Code § 6.156 requires that the Board make a biennial report to the governor and members of the legislature that includes a statement of the Board’s activities and recommendations for necessary and desirable legislation.
- RWP related recommendation: Water Planning Notice Statutory Revision
- RWP related Exceptional Item Request: Water Planning Grant Funding (\$5,230,000)
- Full report online:
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/administrative/doc/88thLegislativePrioritiesReport.pdf>

3

Significant new requirements for the 2026 RWPs

- Task 3: Exhibit C, Section 2.3 (Water Availability and Existing Supplies)
 - Technical Memorandum and RWPs must include methodology for calculating anticipated sedimentation rate and revising the area-capacity rating curves
 - Reuse availability presented as a separate subsection in Chapter 3
 - Hydrologic variance requests for surface water must use template checklist

4

Significant new requirements for the 2026 RWP (cont.)

- Task 4B: Exhibit C, Section 2.11 (Identification of infeasible WMSs in the 2021 RWP)
 - Required by SB 1511, 86th Texas Legislature
 - Analysis must be completed prior to **March 4, 2024** (Technical Memorandum due date)
 - Planning groups to present results of analysis at same public meeting where RWPG also presents methodology for identifying potentially feasible WMSs in 2026 RWP
 - Deliverable to TWDB: List of identified infeasible WMSs included in Technical Memorandum
 - If infeasible WMSs identified, planning groups must amend 2021 plans to:
 - Remove infeasible WMS or WMSP,
 - Revise infeasible WMS or WMSP to make feasible, and/or
 - Incorporate new WMS or WMSP
 - RWPG-adopted amendments due **June 4, 2024**

5

Significant new requirements for the 2026 RWP (cont.)

- Task 4B: Exhibit C, Section 2.11 (cont.)
 - Review WMSs and WMSPs in the previous RWP; coordinate with project sponsors to determine implementation status and determine infeasibility
 - Planning groups should review strategies & projects that **require a permit and/or involve construction** and that:
 - are shown to be online in 2020 or 2030
 - are related to new major reservoirs, seawater desalination, DPR, brackish groundwater, ASR, and out of state transfers
 - generally require significant resources and time to implement
 - Analysis **not** required for strategies/projects that do not require a permit or involve construction

6

Significant new requirements for the 2026 RWPs (cont.)

- Task 4B: Exhibit C, Section 2.11 (cont.)
 - Affirmative steps by the sponsor may include but not limited to:
 - spending money on the strategy or project,
 - voting to spend money on the strategy or project, or
 - applying for a federal or state permit for the strategy or project
 - Supporting data provided to planning groups January 10th and clarification guidance provided January 31st

7

Significant new requirements for the 2026 RWPs (cont.)

- Task 4C: Exhibit C, Section 2.12.1 (Technical Memorandum)
 - Include summary of region's interregional coordination efforts to date
 - Include list of identified infeasible WMSs and WMSPs resulting from new Task 4B
- Task 5B: Exhibit C, Section 2.5 (Evaluation/Recommendation of Strategies & Projects)
 - Guidance added to address HB 807, 87th Texas Legislature (ASR assessments and GPCD goals)
 - Conservation WMSs required to be split out for water loss mitigation vs water use reduction
 - New subsection documenting implementation status of certain WMS types

8

Significant new requirements for the 2026 RWPs (cont.)

- Task 7: Exhibit C, Section 2.7 (Drought response information)
 - Guidance added to address HB 807, 87th Texas Legislature (unnecessary or counterproductive drought response)
 - RWPGs to identify rather than recommend drought response triggers & actions
 - New guidance to optionally address droughts worse than drought of record
 - New subsection required to address how the planning group is addressing uncertainty and droughts worse than drought of record (if applicable), and what additional measures not included in the plan could be available during a drought worse than drought of record

9

Significant new requirements for the 2026 RWPs (cont.)

- Task 9: Exhibit C, Section 2.9 (Implementation)
 - Reduced content of implementation survey
 - Guidance added to address HB 807, 87th Texas Legislature (progress in achieving economies of scale)
- Task 10: Exhibit C, Section 2.10, 2.13, 2.14 (Adoption and deliverables)
 - Initially Prepared Plan and final RWP must document summary of region's interregional coordination efforts
 - State Database Reports (DB27) to be included in Initially Prepared Plan and final RWP via hyperlinks to TWDB's Database Reports application, in lieu of hard copies

10

Important Reminders

- Infrastructure finance survey and related chapter removed
- RWPG task to prioritize recommended projects removed
- Due to removal of IFR chapter, 2026 RWPs will have 10 chapters
 - Implementation and comparison of previous plan now Chapter 9
- Documents available on the 2026 RWP Document Page:
 - General copy of first amended SOW
 - First amended Exhibit C
 - Summary of major revisions to Exhibit C
 - <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/document.s.asp>