

AGENDA

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG) (REGION M)

9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2026

LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS
INITIATED AND CHAIRED VIA GoToMeeting & IN PERSON AT
301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS

VIRTUAL ACCESS AVAILABLE AT:

<https://meet.goto.com/409786581>

YOU CAN ALSO DIAL IN USING YOUR PHONE:

Access Code: 409-786-581

United States: +1 (571) 317-3112

MEETING MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT LEAST THREE (3) DAYS
PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

PRESIDING: STEVEN SANCHEZ, VICE-CHAIR

-
-
1. Call to Order & Roll Call.....Chairman
 2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve July 1, 2026, Meeting Minutes Chairman
 3. Public Comment.....Chairman

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
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4. Pre-Planning Meeting Items.....Black & Veatch
 - A. Project Background and Schedule
 - B. Receive Public Input and Comments on Issues that Should be Addressed or Provisions that Should be Included in the 2031 Regional Water Plan and 2032 State Water Plan
 - C. Discuss Potential Process for Conducting Interregional Coordination Regarding Water Management Strategies During Development of the 2031 Regional Water Plan
 - D. Consider the Identification of Water Management Strategies Which May Create Opportunities for Collaboration and Cooperation with other Planning Regions
 - E. Consider a Course of Action for Interregional Coordination with other Regional Water Planning Groups

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

5. Discussion and Consider **ACTION** to Approve Memberships for the following Categories (Water Districts, and Agriculture) Chairman
6. Discuss and address the vacant *Regional Water Authority Representative* category as Region M Membership.....Chairman
7. Discussion and Possible **ACTION** for LRGVDC to Solicitate Vacant Category in the Newspaper in each Region M County.....Chairman
8. Discussion and Consider **ACTION** to nominate new Region M Chair.....Chairman
9. Status Reports

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Financial Report Melisa Gonzales
- B. Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA’s 13 & 16.....Dario Guerra, GMA 16
, GMA 13
- C. Discussion and Possible **ACTION** to Choose Representative for Region L
- D. Reports from Other Regional Water Planning Groups
1. Reports from Liaisons with: Region J, Tomas Rodriguez; Region L (no
representation), and Region N, Commissioner David Fuentes
- E. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans
Filed with Region.....Chairman
- F. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and Grants Chairman

- ## 10. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

A. TWDB Noah Powell

B. IBWC IBWC Staff

C. TCEQ Watermaster..... Georgina Bermea
Rio Grande Watermaster

1. Status of Reservoirs

11. Discussion, Consideration, and **ACTION** on Date for Next Business Meeting.....Chairman

12. Adjourn

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated and/or acted upon in a different order than numbered above. The Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) (Region M) reserves the right to adjourn into Executive (Closed) Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the items listed on this agenda as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act. No final action will be taken during the Executive Session.

PUBLIC INPUT POLICY

Public Input Policy: "At the beginning of each RGRWPG meeting, the RGRWPG will allow for an open public forum/comment period. This comment period shall not exceed one (1) hour in length, and each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. All individuals desiring to address the RGRWPG must be signed up to do so, prior to the open comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public an opportunity to address issues or topics that are under the jurisdiction of the RGRWPG as outlined within final implementation guidelines of Senate Bill 1, 75th Legislative Session (SB-1). For issues or topics which are not otherwise part of the posted agenda for the meeting, RGRWPG members may direct staff to investigate the issue or topic further. No action shall be taken on issues or topics which are not part of the posted agenda for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on posted agenda items deemed appropriate by the Chairman as these items are considered, and the same time limitation (3 minutes) applies."

ITEM 2.

MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP

(RGRWPG) (REGION M) 9:30 AM WEDNESDAY, July 1, 2026

LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS
VIA GOTOMEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE & IN PERSON INITIATED
AND CHAIRED AT 301 W. RAILROAD STREET WESLACO, TX

PRESIDING: JIM DARLING, CHAIRMAN

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and confirmed that a quorum of the voting membership was present.

The following voting members were in attendance:

Board Members:	Category:
Jim Darling	River Authorities
Frank Shuster	Other
Tomas Rodriguez	Public
Carlos Garza	Small Business
Jaime Flores	Environmental
Jorge Flores	Municipalities
Dale Murden	Agriculture
Steven Sanchez	Water District
Gabriel Perez	Municipalities
Anthony Stambaugh	Water District
Dario Guerra	Ground Water Management
Brian Macmanus	Other

The following voting members were not in attendance:

Dr. Neal Wilkins	Agriculture
Nick Benavides	Small Business
Judge Joe Rathmell	Counties
Marilyn Gilbert	Municipalities
Com. David Fuentes	Counties
Robert Latham	Electric Generating Utility

2. Consideration and Action to Approve April 1, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

Tomas Rrodriguez made a motion to approve April 1, 2026, meeting minutes, Dale Murden seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment – No public comments at this time.

4. Discussion and Consider ACTION for LRGVDC to Solicitate Vacant Categories in Newspaper in each Region M County.

Mr. Cruz began by stating that, for this item, the committee's approval is needed to proceed with soliciting applications for the current vacancies. The vacancies are for representatives from the water district and agriculture sectors. Mr. Cruz explained that once the committee provides approval, staff can proceed with advertising and soliciting applications through the newspaper. Jim Darling commented that advertising in the newspaper has not traditionally been very effective. He encouraged committee members to recommend individuals to know who may qualify for either of the two categories and encourage them to submit an application. Mr. Cruz added that, following the Region's approval, staff will send an email with additional details, including the application form, for anyone interested in submitting a recommendation or applying for the vacancies. ***Toma Rodriguez made a motion to approve the LRGVDC to Solicitate Vacant Categories in a Newspaper in each Region M Counties. Steven Sanchez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

5. Consider Potential Presentation(s) by Technical Consulting firms (s).

Jaime Burke started off with Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you all today. We appreciate the opportunity to submit our Statement of Qualifications for the 2031 Region M Water Plan and for your consideration of the opportunity to work with you again. For those who may not know me, I would like to briefly provide some background. I have been involved in regional water planning in Texas since 2004. Approximately five years ago, I joined Black & Veatch, and shortly thereafter, we were selected as the technical consultant for the 2026 Region M Water Plan. I served as the project manager for Region M during the last planning cycle, and we truly enjoyed the opportunity to work with you. We are very pleased to be considered again for this cycle. I would also like to briefly introduce the rest of our team. Our core Black & Veatch team will be very similar to the team we had during the last cycle. Lauren Gonzalez will serve as our Deputy Project Manager, and Katie Dry will serve as our Technical Lead. Katie was instrumental in leading many of the technical analyses and public outreach efforts during the last cycle, and she will continue to lead many of those efforts during this cycle.

We have also been fortunate to welcome Dr. Maria Elena Giner to the Black & Veatch team. I will let her speak in just a few minutes, but I believe she brings a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience regarding the region. She will be an important resource for the team and will help ensure that the Region M planning group is well supported throughout the process. In addition to our Black & Veatch team members, we have several teaming partners. We plan to work with Kirk Kennedy of Kennedy Resource Company again for the surface water modeling. We have also added Half Associates to our team for this cycle. They will assist with Chapter 1, the Planning Area Description, as well as Chapter 7, the Drought Response chapter. We have also been working with Half Associates on a North American Development Bank study involving a four-county area in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. That study is looking at potential water management strategies outside of the restrictions and requirements of the Texas Water Development Board's regional water planning process. One opportunity, if the planning group is interested, would be to incorporate some of the ideas and potential water management strategies developed through that study into the 2031 Region M Water Plan.

One of the reasons we particularly enjoy working with Region M is because it is such a complex region. It may not be the largest region in the state, but it is certainly one of the most complex. The region faces a number of challenges, including significant population growth, the need to share a major water supply source with Mexico, aging infrastructure, and ongoing drought conditions. Water deliveries from Mexico and drought conditions can contribute to low reservoir levels, which creates additional challenges for utilities throughout the region as they look for reliable backup water supplies. During the last planning cycle, we did a great deal of work to help identify and incorporate backup water supply projects into the plan, and I believe there will be even more work to do in this upcoming cycle. We are very much looking forward to the opportunity to work with you again. With that, I will turn it over to Dr. Giner to say a few words.

Dr. Maria Elena Giner: I previously served as the Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), so I am very familiar with the issues and challenges facing this region. However, my experience in the Lower Rio Grande Valley began well before my time as Commissioner.

For approximately 20 years, I worked in the region helping bring water and wastewater infrastructure to colonias through the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, which is now under the umbrella of the North American Development Bank. I served as General Manager for eight years and as Deputy General Manager for an additional three years. Through that work, I became very familiar with the communities, infrastructure needs, and water challenges throughout the region. I later returned to pursue my Ph.D., where I evaluated the impacts that the development of this infrastructure had on the region. As part of that research, I interviewed many individuals to better understand what was happening in the communities as infrastructure investments were being made. I would like to recognize Steve Sanchez, who was one of the individuals I interviewed as part of that effort.

Through that research, I learned a great deal about the region and the changes taking place within it. I saw how central urban areas were growing more rapidly than rural areas and gained a deeper understanding of the challenges associated with water supply and wastewater management. When I became the IBWC Commissioner, that experience and the importance of data became extremely valuable to me. One of the things I focused on was sharing data that was available but was not necessarily being analyzed or made available to the public. At times, it was difficult to present information that was not necessarily easy or comfortable for everyone to hear, but I believed it was important to communicate the facts and the urgency surrounding the region's water needs.

One thing that gave me the confidence to do was seeing similar efforts along the Colorado River, from Wyoming to California. I saw the urgency being communicated and the significant funding being directed toward addressing those water challenges. I am glad to see that the work to communicate the urgency of water needs and secure funding continues to move forward. Funding from the North American Development Bank, as well as funding from the Texas Water Development Board, is particularly important. It is critical that small communities have access to funding and resources, rather than having those resources concentrated primarily in the state's largest metropolitan areas. I also believe there are models that can be replicated throughout the region. For example, Brian McManus quietly worked to secure significant Inflation Reduction Act funding for his district. Efforts like that demonstrate what can be accomplished when communities and leaders identify opportunities and pursue the resources available to them. I am very excited to be part of the Black & Veatch team and to bring my experience and knowledge of the region to this effort. I recognize the importance of addressing drought, aging infrastructure, and the economic significance of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The region is important not only from a trade perspective but also because of its agricultural importance. I have had conversations with state officials, including leadership from the General Land Office, regarding the Lower Rio Grande Valley's role as an important source of food and fiber for the State of Texas. It is important that the region's agricultural contributions and water needs continue to be recognized as part of the larger statewide discussion. California provides an interesting example of how agriculture can remain an important part of a region's economy even in areas experiencing significant water stress. During periods of drought, desert communities continue to support agricultural production that is critical to the nation. I believe there are lessons from those efforts that can be considered as we look at the future of Region M.

All of these factors demonstrate why the Lower Rio Grande Valley is such an important region. I am hopeful that I can help bring additional knowledge and perspective to the planning process, help ensure that the needs of the region are addressed, and continue the conversations with state officials with whom I regularly interact. I look forward to advocating for the region and helping Region M address its water challenges and opportunities as we move forward.

6. Consideration and ACTION to approve and Select a Firm to perform Technical Consulting Services for the 2031 Regional Water Plan, including authorization to enter into a contract and execute all necessary documents.

Brian Macmanus made a motion to approve the Technical Consulting Firm(s). Tomas Rodriguez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.

7. Status Reports –

A. Consideration and ACTION to approve Financial Report.

Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Financial report as presented; Carlos Garza seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.

Jim Darling had a question regarding the TWDB budget for the 7th cycle water plan. He stated that a task budget was received, and asked when they adopted those figures, then asked if it will be approved by the Texas Water Development Board. Noah Powell responded that it is draft right now and they will be approved the due date would be July 9th. Staff will verify the accuracy of the information provided and anticipate approval shortly thereafter. Exhibit B, which includes the task and contractor expense budget, was also discussed. The proposed budget totals **\$313,934** and covers the entities involved in the development and adoption of the plan. It was noted that the item will likely be brought back at the next meeting for approval of the task budget and the associated financial review, with the selection of Black & Veatch being subject to approval of the task budget.

B. Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA's 13 & 16.

GMA 13- No report at this time. Valerie Ramos reported that Ms. Debbie Farmer retired.

GMA 16 – Dario Guerra - The committee discussed the current groundwater availability model (GAM) numbers and the proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs). The DFCs were mailed out on May 1, initiating a 90-day public comment period regarding groundwater pumping scenarios for various counties, including Starr County and the non-district areas of Cameron, Willacy, Hidalgo, and Webb Counties.

It was noted that proposed pumping numbers have been increased for some counties to account for the growing use of brackish groundwater. Historically, groundwater used for municipal purposes was generally limited to water with lower total dissolved solids (TDS). However, more entities are now utilizing higher-TDS groundwater, including water in the 5,000–8,000 TDS range, through reverse osmosis treatment for drinking water. As a result, these groundwater resources are increasingly being considered in groundwater availability and planning calculations. The discussion also addressed the expanding definition and understanding of groundwater resources, including deeper formations where usable or relatively fresh water has been identified. The Maverick Aquifer was cited as an example, with groundwater occurring at significant depths and having relatively low TDS levels, although potential oil and gas constituents remain a concern. The committee is also monitoring developments in Corpus Christi, which is part of the same Groundwater Management Area. The City of Corpus Christi is evaluating a potential pumping scenario of approximately 35,000 acre-feet per year. This situation was identified as a useful example of how future groundwater management decisions could affect regional water supplies, particularly when communities rely on a regional water provider. Members were informed that the proposed numbers could be distributed to the group for review and comment. It was also noted that several lower counties are not represented by groundwater conservation districts, with the exception of the Red Sands and North Hidalgo areas, making continued review and discussion of the proposed DFCs particularly important.

Jim Darling then states; The committee discussed the possibility of sponsoring an informational meeting for cities and water supply corporations regarding groundwater resources and regional water projects. It was noted that communities are receiving significant information and pressure to participate in regional projects; however, not every community may be able to accommodate or afford a regional facility. Individual or localized facilities may continue to be viable alternatives. Members agreed that an informational meeting could help communities better understand their options, costs, and potential benefits. The Regional Water Authority could potentially assist with organizing or facilitating the meeting. It was also noted that outreach would need to cover the three-county region and address the varying needs of local communities.

C. Discussion and possible ACTION to choose Representative for Region L.

Mr. Cruz stated that Mr. Don McGee's retirement has created a vacancy that needs to be filled. The committee will seek volunteers or nominations for the position, followed by a vote to appoint a replacement. No action taken at this time.

D. Reports from other Regional Water Planning Groups.

1. Region J, Tomas Rodriguez; No reports at this time.
2. Region L – No reports at this time. No representation.
3. Region N – No reports at this time.

E. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans.

Jim darling reports that they had none at this time to report.

F. Report on Notice of Applications for funding and Grants.

Jim Darling had a few words; The committee discussed a potential project identified through the IBWC work group involving the installation of a SCADA system near the Del Rio Drain. The proposed system would allow for remote monitoring of the drain's operations, including when the system is open or closed.

A key consideration is identifying an entity that would be responsible for monitoring and managing the SCADA information. Currently, the Regional Water Authority does not have an active board, with only one remaining member. Senator Hinojosa is expected to work toward re-establishing the board, which could provide a potential entity to oversee the system.

If the Regional Water Authority is not re-established, the Irrigation District Managers Association could potentially be considered as the monitoring entity. The IBWC has indicated that, if funding is secured for the project, there has been no objection from the Mexican delegation participating in the work group. This was viewed as a positive indication for moving the project forward.

8. Reports from Federal and State Agencies.

A. TWDB

2031 Regional Water Planning Timeline:

July 2026: Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) to negotiate and execute contracts for the 2031 Regional Water Plans.

September 2026: Draft contracts between the RWPG sponsors and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) are expected to be distributed.

October 15, 2026: Anticipated deadline for execution of contracts between TWDB and the RWPGs.

Fall/Early Winter 2026: Prior to beginning technical work, RWPGs are expected to hold pre-planning meetings for the 2031 Regional Water Plans.

2027 State Water Plan:

July 2026: TWDB Board to consider adoption of the Phase 1 (abbreviated) 2027 State Water Plan. **August 2026:** TWDB anticipated posting the Phase 2 State Water Plan, which will contain expanded content, for public comment.

September 2026: TWDB plans to hold a public hearing on the Phase 2 State Water Plan. **November 2026:** TWDB Board is tentatively scheduled to consider adoption of the Phase 2 State Water Plan.

Water Supply Infrastructure Grant (WSIG) Application deadline: July 30, 2026.

Required application materials include:

Application Form

Average Median Household Income (AMHI) Worksheet Environmental

Affidavit

Water Rights Affidavit

Other required attachments identified in the application form

Application forms are available through the TWDB website, with accessible forms also available by email. Contact: WSI_Grants@twdb.texas.gov.

B. IBWC

Adrian Cortez reported that No specific updates were available at this time. Staff continues to work with Mexico to ensure that the country meets its previously discussed commitment to deliver **350,000 acre-feet of water during the current cycle year**. Efforts are also ongoing to identify opportunities for additional water deliveries to the region. It was noted that additional information regarding water deliveries from Mexico may be available in the near future. At this time, no further details are available, but staff remain available to address any questions from the group. Anthony Stambaugh had a comment; A question was raised regarding the preliminary information released through the 27th of the month. It was noted that the information appears to indicate that Mexico made a transfer of approximately 10 million cubic meters (MCM) at Amistad. Confirmation of the reported transfer was requested. Adrian Cortez confirmed that the preliminary results were released earlier that day. He noted that the results show an increase in U.S. ownership, which was attributed to the inflows that occurred during the reporting period. He stated that additional details regarding the results would be provided in the near future. Mr. Cortez also confirmed that, based on the latest report, a transfer of water from Mexico to the United States did occur during the reporting period.

C. TCEQ Watermaster

Daniel Guerra gave update for Watermaster Program. I would like to provide a brief summary of our current water supply and demand conditions. The following information was prepared using data from the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), which is available through its public website.

As of June 20, U.S. combined ownership at Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs stood at approximately **27.47% of normal conservation capacity**, with **927,352 acre-feet** of water impounded. This represents an increase from approximately **22.78% and 768,966 acre-feet** during the same period last year.

U.S. combined usable storage at Amistad and Falcon stood at approximately **26.93% of normal conservation capacity**, with **908,958 acre-feet** impounded.

Overall, the reservoir system was at approximately **19.09% of normal conservation capacity**, with **1,125,013 acre-feet** impounded. Amistad Reservoir was at approximately **18.96% of conservation capacity**, with **611,858 acre-feet** impounded, while Falcon Reservoir was at approximately **19.25% of conservation capacity**, with **513,155 acre-feet** impounded.

Mexico's combined storage at Amistad and Falcon was approximately **7.85% of normal conservation capacity**, with **197,661 acre-feet** impounded.

Regarding Watermaster operations, current releases are approximately **15 cubic meters per second (CMS) from Amistad, 20 CMS from Falcon Dam, and 9.50 CMS at Anzalduas**.

We continue to adjust our reservoir releases based on daily water demand. Staff are continually evaluating current demand levels and adjusting operations accordingly to ensure that releases are aligned with the water needs being experienced throughout the region.

9. Discussion, Consideration, and ACTION on Date for next Business meeting.

Next business meeting will take place on October 7, 2026.

10. Adjourn

Chairman, Jim Darling

ITEM 4.

PRE-PLANNING MEETING



AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Pre-Planning Meeting

JAIME BURKE, BLACK & VEATCH

Items:

- A. Project Background and Schedule
- B. Receive Public Input and Comments on Issues that Should be Addressed or Provisions that Should be Included in the 2031 Regional Water Plan and 2032 State Water Plan
- C. Discuss Potential Process for Conducting Interregional Coordination Regarding Water Management Strategies During Development of the 2031 Regional Water Plan
- D. Consider the Identification of Water Management Strategies Which May Create Opportunities for Collaboration and Cooperation with other Planning Regions
- E. Consider a Course of Action for Interregional Coordination with other Regional Water Planning Groups

Agenda Item

4A

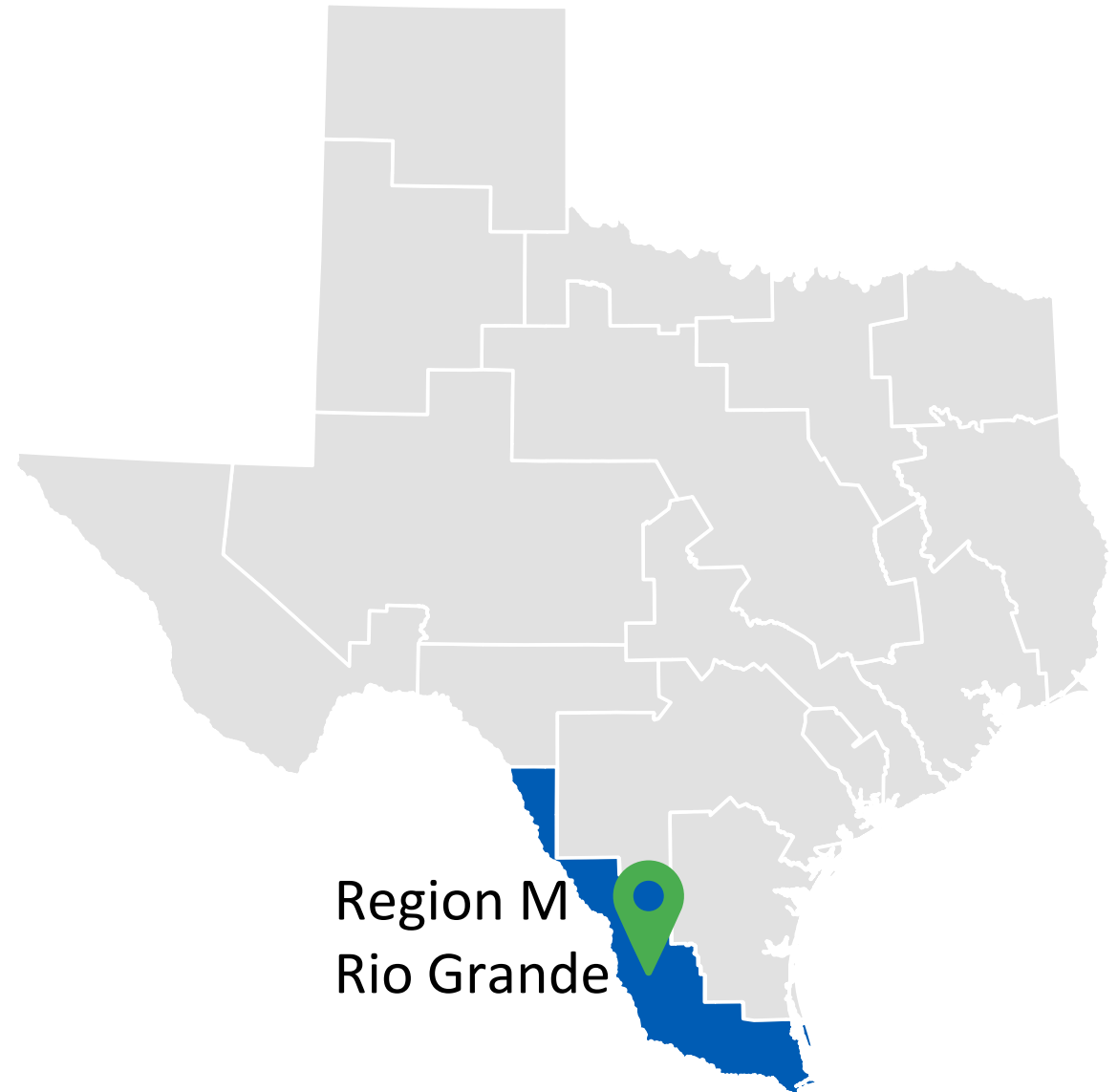
Project Background and Schedule

History of Regional Water Planning in Texas

- First initiated under Senate Bill 1 of 75th Legislature in 1997
- In response to:
 - Drought
 - Population growth
 - Limits of existing water supplies
- “Bottom Up” approach to water planning
- Administered by Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
- First Regional Water Plan submitted in 2001, with updates every five years following.

Regional Water Planning in Texas

- 16 Regions
- Designated with consideration for:
 - Watershed and aquifer delineations
 - Water utility development patterns
 - Socioeconomic characteristics
 - Existing regional water planning areas
 - Political subdivision boundaries
 - Public comment
- Routinely up for review



Regional Water Planning in Texas

Study and consider:

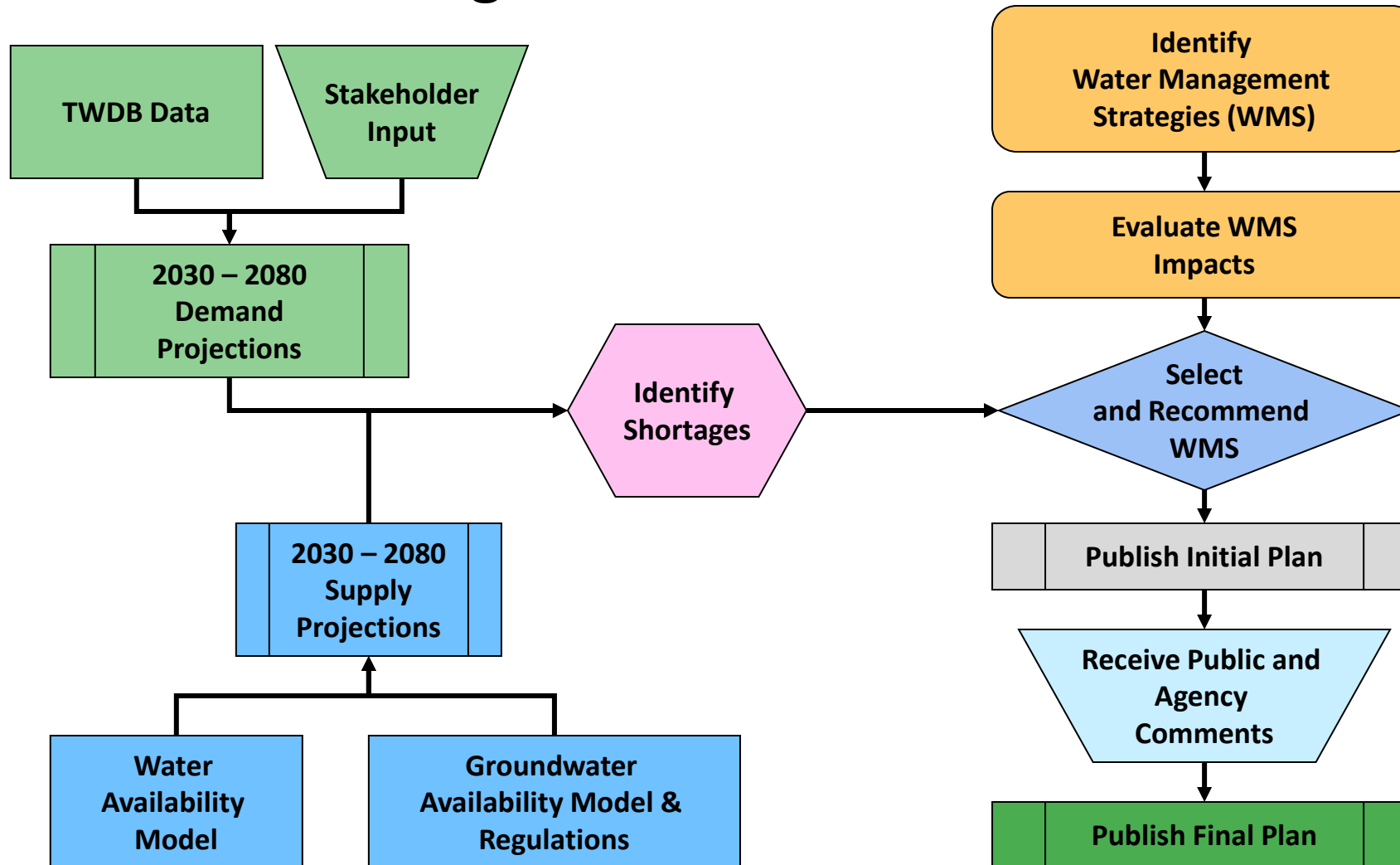
- Population and demand growth;
- Drought of Record water supply projections; and
 - A Drought of Record is “the period of time when historical records indicate that natural hydrological conditions would have provided the least amount of water supply.” -TAC Title 31, Part 10, Chapter 357, Subchapter A, Rule 357.10
- Impacts of water management strategies
 - Financial cost
 - Environmental, agricultural, and socioeconomic impacts

“The regional water plan shall provide for the orderly development, management, and conservation of water resources and preparation for and response to drought conditions...”

- Texas Administrative Code

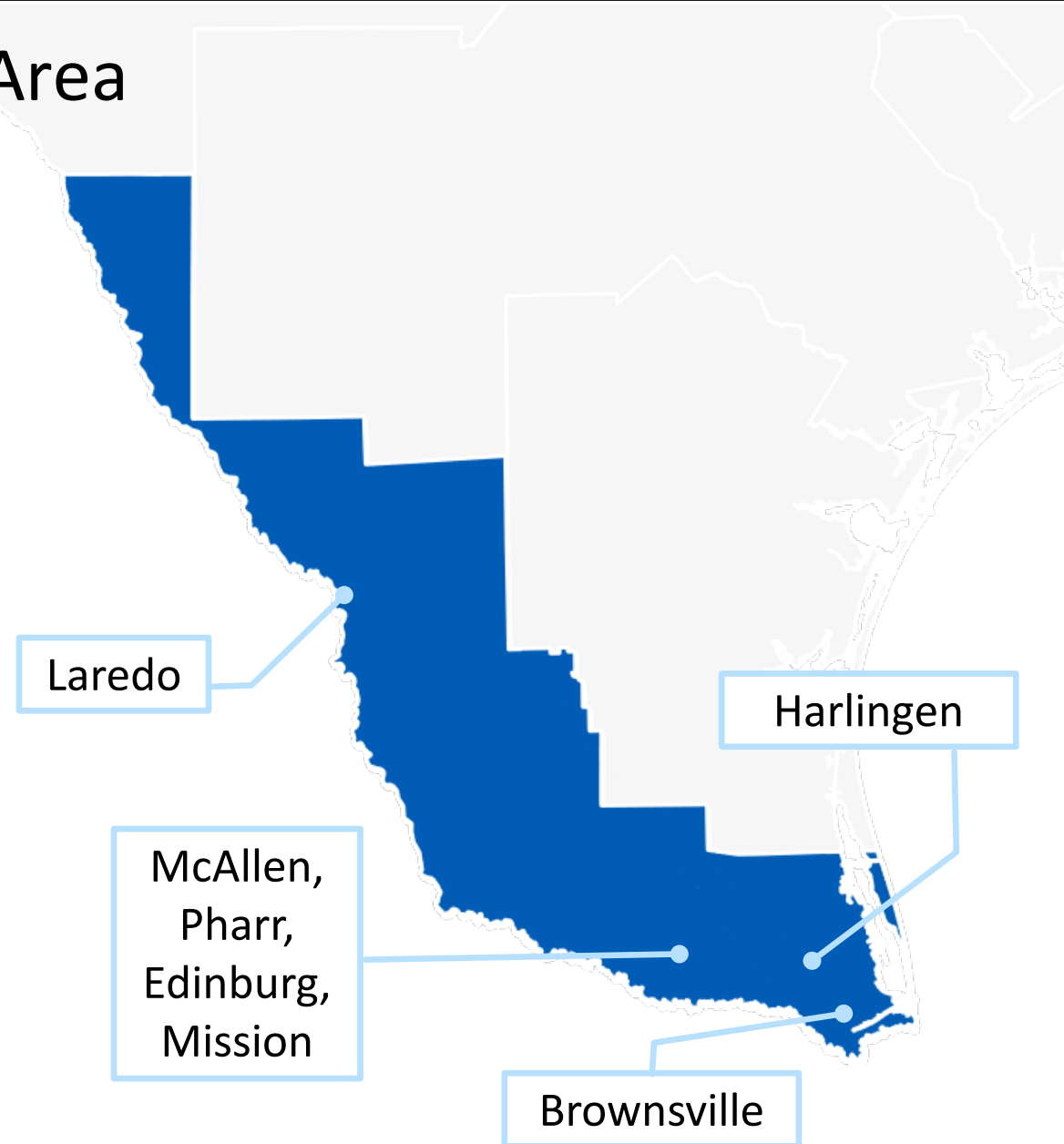


Regional Water Planning in Texas



Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Area

- Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Maverick, Starr, Willacy, Webb, and Zapata Counties
- Major and Minor Aquifers
 - Carrizo-Wilcox outcrop, Carrizo-Wilcox subcrop, Gulf Coast, and Yegua Jackson
- Three River Basins
 - Nueces, Rio Grande, and the Nueces-Rio Grande
- Amistad and Falcon International Reservoirs
- 64 municipal utilities plus County-Other (in the 2026 Plan)



Preliminary Schedule – Initial Scope of Work

Tasks 2A, 2B, and 10 (partially) are funded by the TWDB under the Initial Scope of Work. The remaining tasks would be included in Future Scopes of Work and are contingent upon funding from the Texas legislature.

Task and Description	Anticipated Schedule
Task 2A – Non-Municipal Water Demand Projections	Mar. 2027 to Dec. 2027
Task 2B – Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections	Jan. 2027 to Dec. 2027
Task 10 – Public Participation and Plan Adoption	Sep. 2026 to Nov. 2030

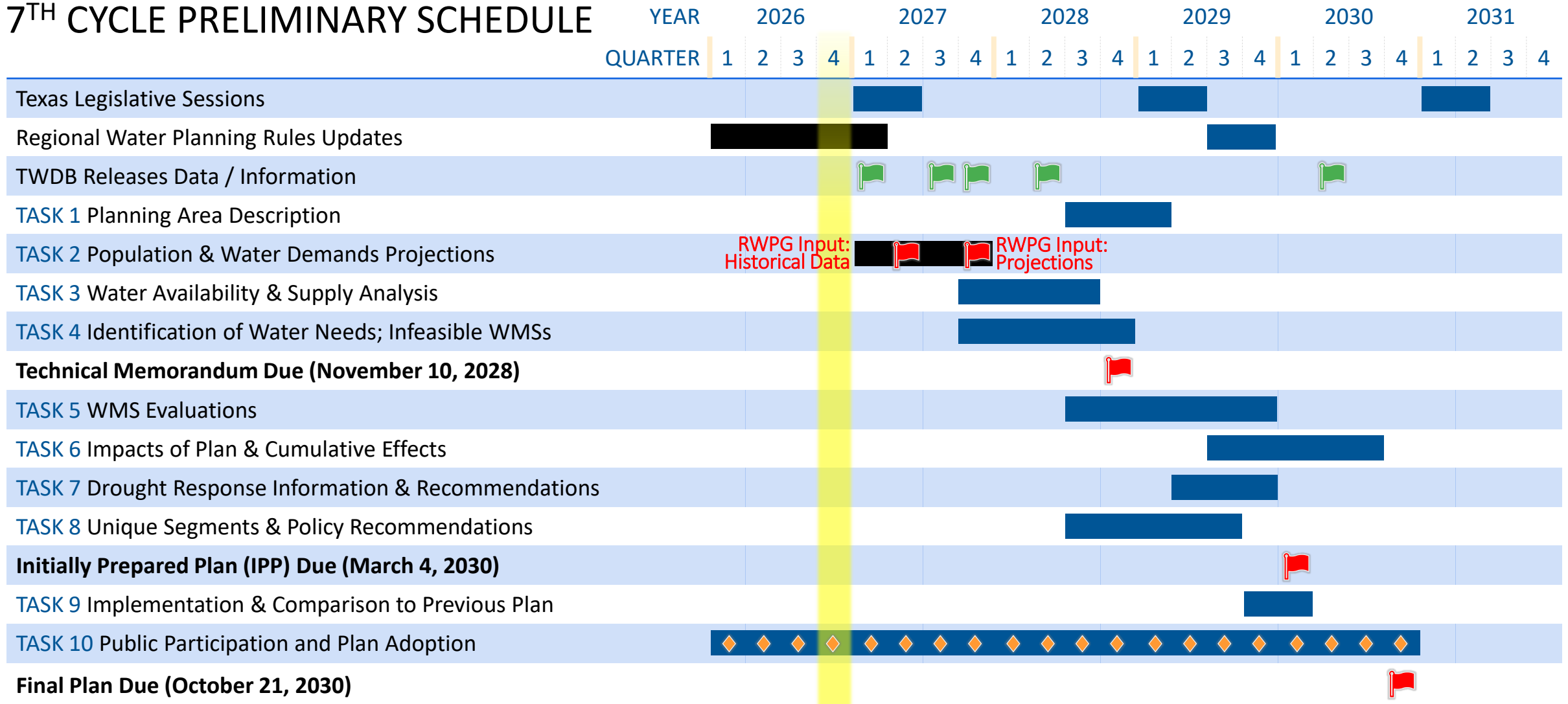
4A Project Background and Schedule

Preliminary Schedule – Initial Scope of Work

Anticipated Date	Responsibility	Activity
Jan. 2027	TWDB	Release Data: Municipal water user group (WUG) list, gallons per capita daily (GPCD), and historical population and water use data
Mar. 2027	TWDB	Release Data: Draft non-municipal demand projections
Apr. 2027	RWPG	Review and Provide Feedback: Municipal WUG list, GPCD, and historical population and water use data
Jul. 2027	TWDB	Release Data: Draft population and municipal demand projections
Nov. / Dec. 2027	RWPG	Review and Provide Feedback: Draft population projections, and municipal and non-municipal demand projections
Apr. 2028	TWDB	Board adopts projections

4A Project Background and Schedule

7TH CYCLE PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE



Agenda Item

4B

Receive Public Input and Comments on
Issues that Should be Addressed or
Provisions that Should be Included in
the 2031 Regional Water Plan and 2032
State Water Plan

Agenda Item

4C

Discuss Potential Process for Conducting
Interregional Coordination Regarding
Water Management Strategies During
Development of the 2031 Regional
Water Plan

RWPGs must include a deliberate discussion on how the planning group will conduct interregional coordination and collaboration regarding water management strategies during development of the 2031 Regional Water Plans.

- When to start coordination?
- Who might be responsible for initiating?
- How often should coordination take place?
- Coordination if there are no interregional water management strategies involved?

Agenda Item

4D

Consider the Identification of Water Management Strategies Which May Create Opportunities for Collaboration and Cooperation with other Planning Regions

- 2026 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan
 - 1. **Eagle Pass Brackish Groundwater Desalination**
 - Sponsor Region: **M**
 - Source Region: **J** (Kinney County - Edwards-Trinity-Plateau, Pecos Valley, and Trinity Aquifers aquifers)
 - 2. **EV Ranch Brackish Groundwater Desalination**
 - Sponsor Region: **N**
 - Source Region: **M** (Jim Hogg County - Gulf Coast Aquifer System Fresh/Brackish)
- For the 2031 Plan
 - May carry over strategies from 2026 Plan
 - Is there awareness of potential other strategies at this time?

Agenda Item

4E

Consider a Course of Action for
Interregional Coordination with other
Regional Water Planning Groups

- The RWPG may begin discussing a course of action for coordinating with the other RWPG(s). Actions may include but are not limited to:
 - forming a committee to meet with neighboring RWPG(s) or their representatives,
 - authorizing RWPG administrators or planning group consultants to meet with neighboring regions or their representatives,
 - utilizing RWPG liaisons and project sponsors to gather water management strategy information, meet with other liaisons from potentially affected regions, and report back to their planning group.

ITEM 5.

**DISCUSSION & CONSIDER
ACTION TO APPROVE
MEMBERSHIPS FOR THE
FOLLOWING CATEGORIES
(WATER DISTRICTS &
AGRICULTURE)**

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION M)

Nomination for Interest Group (check one):

- ☐ Agriculture, ☒ Counties, ☐ Electric Generating Utilities, ☐ Other
☐ Environmental, ☐ Industries, ☐ Municipalities, ☐ River Authority, ☒ Water Districts

NOMINATOR

Name: DAVID A. GARZA

Address: 130 N. Williams Rd, San Benito, TX 78586

Phone: 956-361-8209

FAX:

EMAIL: dagarza@co.cameron.tx.us

Occupation: Cameron County Commissioner, Pct. #3

NOMINEE

Name: Ben Escobar

Address: 26041 FM 510 San Benito, TX 78587

Phone: 956-742-1244

FAX:

EMAIL: bescobar@ccid2.org

Interest Area: Agricultural & Municipal Water Management & Conservation, Regional Water Planning, system modernization

County: Cameron, Hidalgo

Occupation: General Manager - Cameron County Irrigation District #2 & Cameron County Drainage District #3

Please give a brief description of the nominee's experience that would qualify him/her for the position:

Ben serves as General Manager of Cameron County Irrigation District No. 2 and Cameron County Drainage District No. 3 and as President of the Board of Engelman Irrigation District.

His experience includes regional water-supply planning, irrigation and municipal raw-water delivery, drought management, water conservation, drainage and flood-control infrastructure,

and the development of state and federal funding partnerships. Through these roles, he represents the interests of agricultural producers, municipal water users, and local communities

Please list any pertinent affiliations:

Member - Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers Association, Member - Region 15 Flood Planning Group, Member -

TCEQ Water Master Advisory Committee, Co-Chair for the LRGV Water Planning Advisory Committee, General Manager-CCID2,

General Manager-CCDD3, President - Board Of Directors - Engelman Irrigation District

Date submitted: 9/16/2026

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE ATTACHED IF DESIRED

Nominations must be addressed to:

Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group
c/o LRGVDC

Attn: Valerie Ramos, Program Manager

301 W. Railroad St.

Weslaco, TX 78596

or email to vramos@lrgvdc.org

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION M)

Nomination for Interest Group (check one):

- ☒ Agriculture, ☐ Counties, ☐ Electric Generating Utilities, ☐ Other
☐ Environmental, ☐ Industries, ☐ Municipalities, ☐ River Authority, ☐ Water Districts

NOMINATOR

Name: DALE MURDEN

Address: 21165 FM 507 HARLINGEN TX. 78550

Phone: 956-358-8001 FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

Occupation: GROWER; MARKETER; PRESIDENT OF TEXAS CITRUS MURAL & TEXAS VEGETABLE ASSOC

NOMINEE

Name: JED MURRAY

Address: 901 BUSINESS PARK DRIVE MISSISSAUGA TX. 78572

Phone: 956-581-8632 FAX: _____ EMAIL: JED.MURRAY@TEXIPA.ORG

Interest Area: AGRICULTURE

County: STARR; HIDALGO; CAMERON; CULLEARY

Occupation: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS FOR TEXAS INTERNATIONAL PRODUCE ASSOC

Please give a brief description of the nominee's experience that would qualify him/her for the position:

25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURE AND FRESH PRODUCE

Please list any pertinent affiliations:

TEXAS INTERNATIONAL PRODUCE ASSOC

TEXAS VEGETABLE ASSOC

USDA NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD

Date submitted: 9-16-2026

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE ATTACHED IF DESIRED

Nominations must be addressed to:

Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group

c/o LRGVDC

Attn: Valerie Ramos, Program Manager

301 W. Railroad St.

Weslaco, TX 78596

or email to vramos@lrgvdc.org

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION M)

Nomination for Interest Group (check one):

- ☐ Agriculture, ☐ Counties, ☐ Electric Generating Utilities, ☐ Other
☐ Environmental, ☐ Industries, ☐ Municipalities, ☐ River Authority, ☒ Water Districts

NOMINATOR

Name: David L. Fuentes
Address: 1902 Joe Stephens Ave., Ste. 101, Weslaco, TX 78
Phone: 956-968-8733 FAX: 956-973-7844 EMAIL: _____
Occupation: Hidalgo County Commissioner, Precinct 1

NOMINEE

Name: Michael Kent
Address: 101 N D Salinas Blvd, Donna, TX 78537
Phone: 956-464-3641 FAX: 956-464-9955 EMAIL: _____
Interest Area: Water Districts
County: Hidalgo County
Occupation: District Manager, Donna Irrigation District

Please give a brief description of the nominee's experience that would qualify him/her for the position:

Manager, Donna Irrigation District; experienced in irrigation operations, water conservation, and infrastructure needs affecting the region.
Provides direct knowledge of agricultural water delivery and long-term regional water planning.

Please list any pertinent affiliations:

Texas Water Conservation Association - Irrigation Panel Board
Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG - Water Districts Voting Member
Lower Rio Grande Water District Managers' Association; 2010-2012

Date submitted: September 23, 2026

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE ATTACHED IF DESIRED

Nominations must be addressed to:

Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group
c/o LRGVDC
Attn: Valerie Ramos, Program Manager
301 W. Railroad St.
Weslaco, TX 78596

or email to vramos@lrgvdc.org

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION M)

Nomination for Interest Group (check one):

- ☐ Agriculture, ☐ Counties, ☐ Electric Generating Utilities, ☐ Other
☐ Environmental, ☐ Industries, ☐ Municipalities, ☐ River Authority, ☒ Water Districts

NOMINATOR

Name: Anthony Stambaugh

Address: P.O. Box 6

Phone: (956) 787-1422

FAX: (956) 781-7622

EMAIL: astambaugh@hcid2.org

Occupation: General Manager

NOMINEE

Name: Troy Allen

Address: 10370 Charles Green Road

Phone: (956) 262-2101

FAX: (956) 262-5695

EMAIL: troy@deltalakeid.org

Interest Area: Water Districts

County: Hidalgo

Occupation: General Manager

Please give a brief description of the nominee's experience that would qualify him/her for the position:

Troy has been the General Manager for Delta Lake Irrigation District for 23 years.

Please list any pertinent affiliations:

Troy is the President of the Texas Irrigation Council, immediate past President of the Texas Water Association, a member of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers' Association, and the Chair of the Rio Grande Watermaster Advisory Committee.

Date submitted: September 22, 2026

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE ATTACHED IF DESIRED

Nominations must be addressed to:

Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group
c/o LRGVDC
Attn: Valerie Ramos, Program Manager
301 W. Railroad St.
Weslaco, TX 78596

or email to vramos@lrgvdc.org

ITEM 9.A.

**CONSIDERATION &
ACTION TO APPROVE
LRGVDC FINANCIAL REPORT**

