

# AGENDA

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

### PUBLIC HEARING ON THE INITIALLY PREPARED 2026 REGION M WATER PLAN

2:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

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

Virtual access is available at:  
<https://meet.goto.com/581851189>

You can also dial in using your phone.  
Access Code: 581-851-189  
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122

MEETING MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT LEAST SEVEN (7)  
DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

PRESIDING: JIM DARLING, CHAIR

- 
- 
1. Open Public Hearing .....Chairman
  2. Introductions and Opening Remarks .....Chairman
  3. Presentation of the 2026 Region M Initially Prepared Plan .....Black & Veatch
  4. Receive Public Comments on the Initially Prepared Plan .....Chairman
  5. 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, 75<sup>th</sup> 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."

# Agenda

2:00 p.m.      Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Presentation on the 2026 Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan

Public Comment Period Begins

ADJOURN when last person completes their verbal comment.

If you would like to submit a formal verbal comment as public testimony during today's IPP Hearing –

- **In-Person:**  
Sign up to speak at front table.
- **Virtual:**  
If you are online, please let us know you want to make a comment by adding your name, affiliation, and email address to the chat and you will be called on.  
  
If you are calling in on a phone, wait until phone call comments are requested, and state your name, affiliation, and email address before making your comment.

Any time through July 22, 2025, you may submit written comments:

- By Mail:

Jim Darling, Chairman  
Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group  
301 W. Railroad St.  
Weslaco, TX 78596

- By Email:

Outreach\_RegionM@BlackandVeatch.onmicrosoft.com

<http://www.riograndewaterplan.org/> is where you can find the IPP

The Final 2026 Regional Water Plan will be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board by October 20, 2025, for approval and integration into the 2027 State Water Plan.





# Rio Grande (Region M) 2026 Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan

Jaime Burke, Black & Veatch

# Presentation Topics

- A. Regional Water Planning Overview
- B. Description of Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Area
- C. 2026 Regional Water Plan Process & Highlights



## Regional Water Planning Overview

# 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**

- Administered by Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
- “Bottom Up” approach to water planning
- First Regional Water Plan submitted in 2001, with updates every five years following

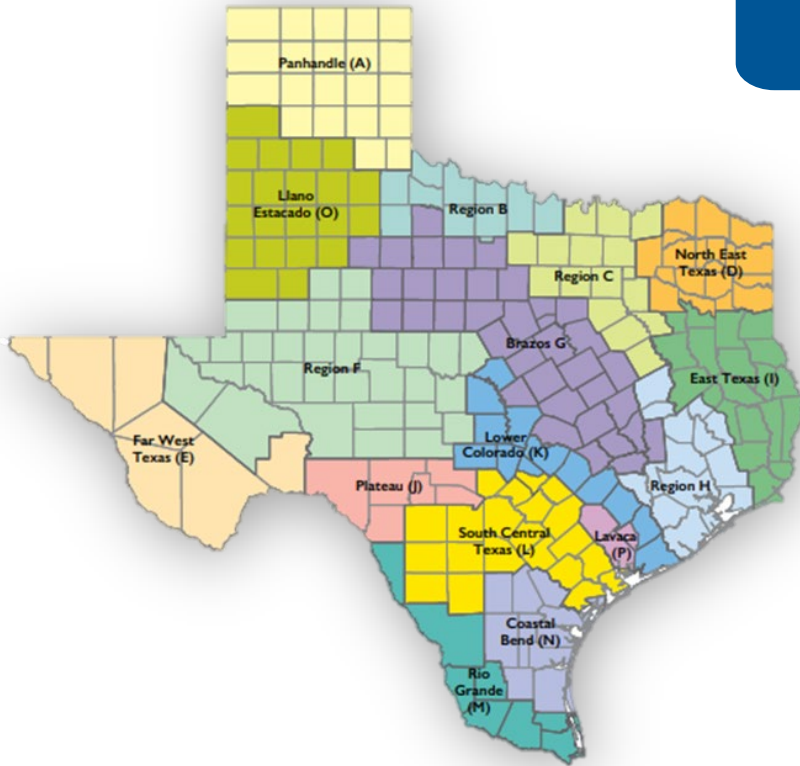


# Regional Water Planning in Texas

16 Regions

Develop  
Regional Water  
Plans (RWPs)

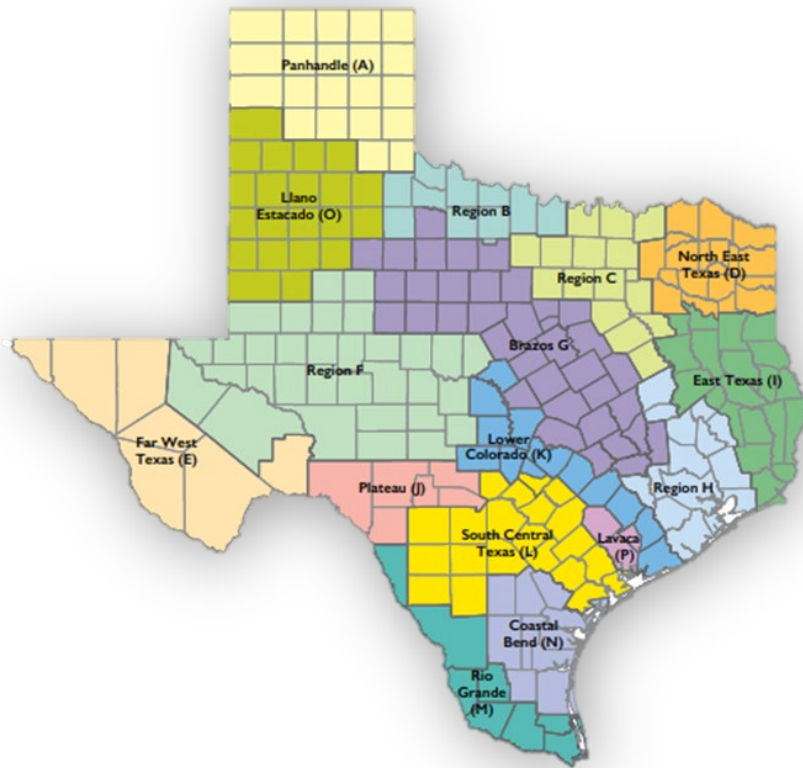
State Water Plan  
is created from the  
16 Regional Water  
Plans



- Planning areas follow political boundaries, river basins, or other geopolitical boundaries
- Funded and managed by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
- Plan is administered by a government entity

*16 Planning Areas in Texas*

# Regional Water Planning in Texas



- Volunteers with various levels of experience in the water industry
- Representatives from diverse interests:
  - Public
  - Counties
  - Municipalities
  - Industries
  - Agriculture
  - Environment
  - Small Business
  - Power Generation
  - River Authorities
  - Water Districts
  - Water Utilities
  - Groundwater Management Area
- Local political subdivision acts as an administrative agent for the planning group
- Assisted by teams of consultants

## About the Planning Groups

# Regional Water Planning in Texas

***“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**



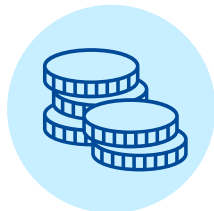
# Regional Water Planning in Texas

## ***Study and consider:***

Population and demand growth;  
Drought of Record water supply  
projections; and

Impacts of water management  
strategies

- Financial cost
- Environmental, agricultural, and socioeconomic impacts



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# Regional Water Planning in Texas

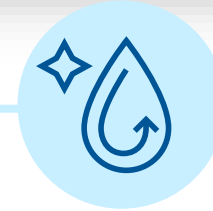
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Population and demand growth;

Drought of Record water supply projections; and

Impacts of water management strategies

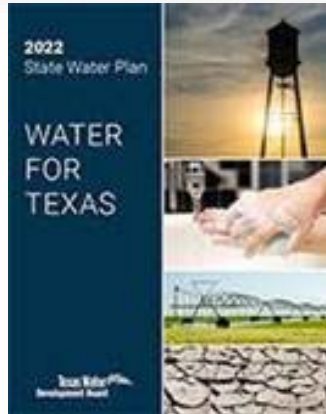
- Financial cost
- Environmental, agricultural, and socioeconomic impacts



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

# Planning Cycles



- Regional and State Water Plans are prepared in 5-year cycles, for 50-year planning horizon
  - First Plan completed in 2001
  - Updated in 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021
- 2026 Region M Water Plan
  - Work began in late 2021
  - Meetings are held each quarter
  - Draft plan was submitted to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on March 3, 2025
  - Final plan will be submitted to TWDB by October 20, 2025



#### INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN

Prepared by: Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group  
With administration by: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
MARCH 1, 2025



BLACK & VEATCH



# TWDB Interactive State Water Plan

https://www.twdb.texas.gov/mapping/index.asp


**Texas Water Development Board**

Search site Search

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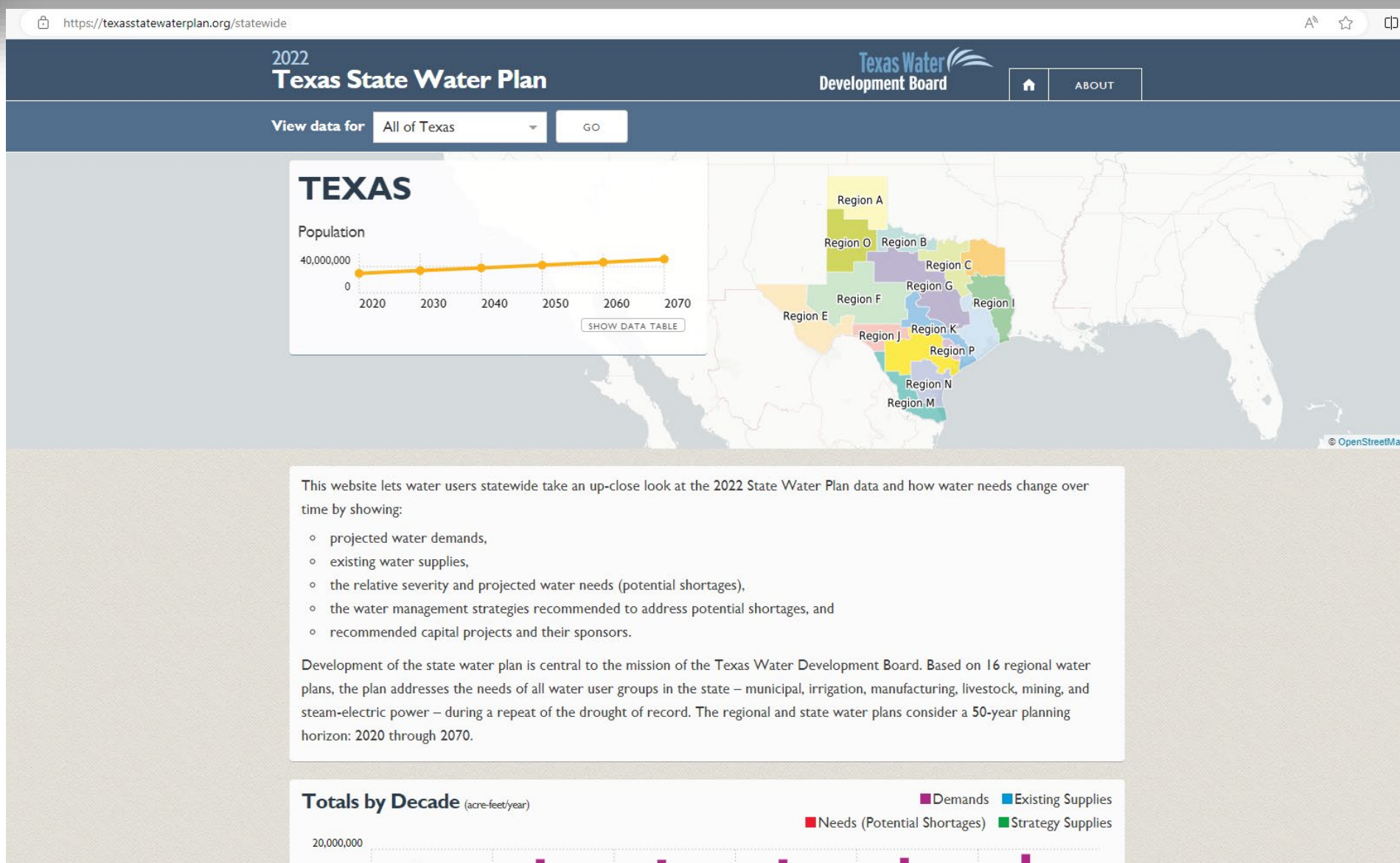
Home Board Financial Assistance **Water Planning** Groundwater Surface Water Flood Drought Conservation Innovative Water Data & Apps

STATE WATER PLAN	REGIONAL WATER PLANNING	PLANNING DATA	WATER USE SURVEY
<b><a href="#">Interactive State Water Plan</a></b>	<a href="#">Planning Group Meeting Schedule</a>	<a href="#">Regional Water Planning Database</a>	<a href="#">Online Water Use Survey</a>
<a href="#">2022 State Water Plan</a>	<a href="#">Planning Group Information</a>	<a href="#">Planning Data Dashboard</a>	<a href="#">Printable Water Use Survey</a>
<a href="#">2017 State Water Plan</a>	<a href="#">6th Planning Cycle Information (2026 RWPs)</a>	<a href="#">Population &amp; Water Demand Projections</a>	<a href="#">Historical Water Use Estimates</a>
<a href="#">2012 State Water Plan</a>	<a href="#">2021 Regional Water Plans &amp; Previous Plans</a>	<a href="#">Socio-Economic Impact Analysis</a>	<a href="#">Water Use Summary &amp; Dashboards</a>
<a href="#">2007 State Water Plan</a>	<a href="#">Educational Information</a>	<a href="#">Other Data Resources</a>	<a href="#">Historical Groundwater Pumpage</a>
<a href="#">2002 State Water Plan</a>	<a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions</a>		<a href="#">Service Boundary Editor</a>
<a href="#">1997 State Water Plan</a>	<a href="#">Interregional Planning Council</a>		<a href="#">FAQs and Guidance Videos</a>
<a href="#">1992 State Water Plan</a>	<a href="#">Regional Water Planning Related Research</a>		
<a href="#">1990 State Water Plan</a>	<a href="#">Water Planning Rules &amp; Statutes</a>		
<a href="#">1984 State Water Plan</a>			
<a href="#">1968 State Water Plan</a>			
<a href="#">1961 State Water Plan</a>			
<b>WATER BANK &amp; TRUST</b>	<b>TRAINING VIDEO RESOURCES</b>		
<a href="#">Water Bank</a>	<a href="#">Regional Water Planning Data Entry Application Training</a>		
<a href="#">Water Trust</a>	<a href="#">Water Use Survey (WUS) Training</a>		

 conditions and up-to-date information for flooding in your area.



# TWDB Interactive State Water Plan



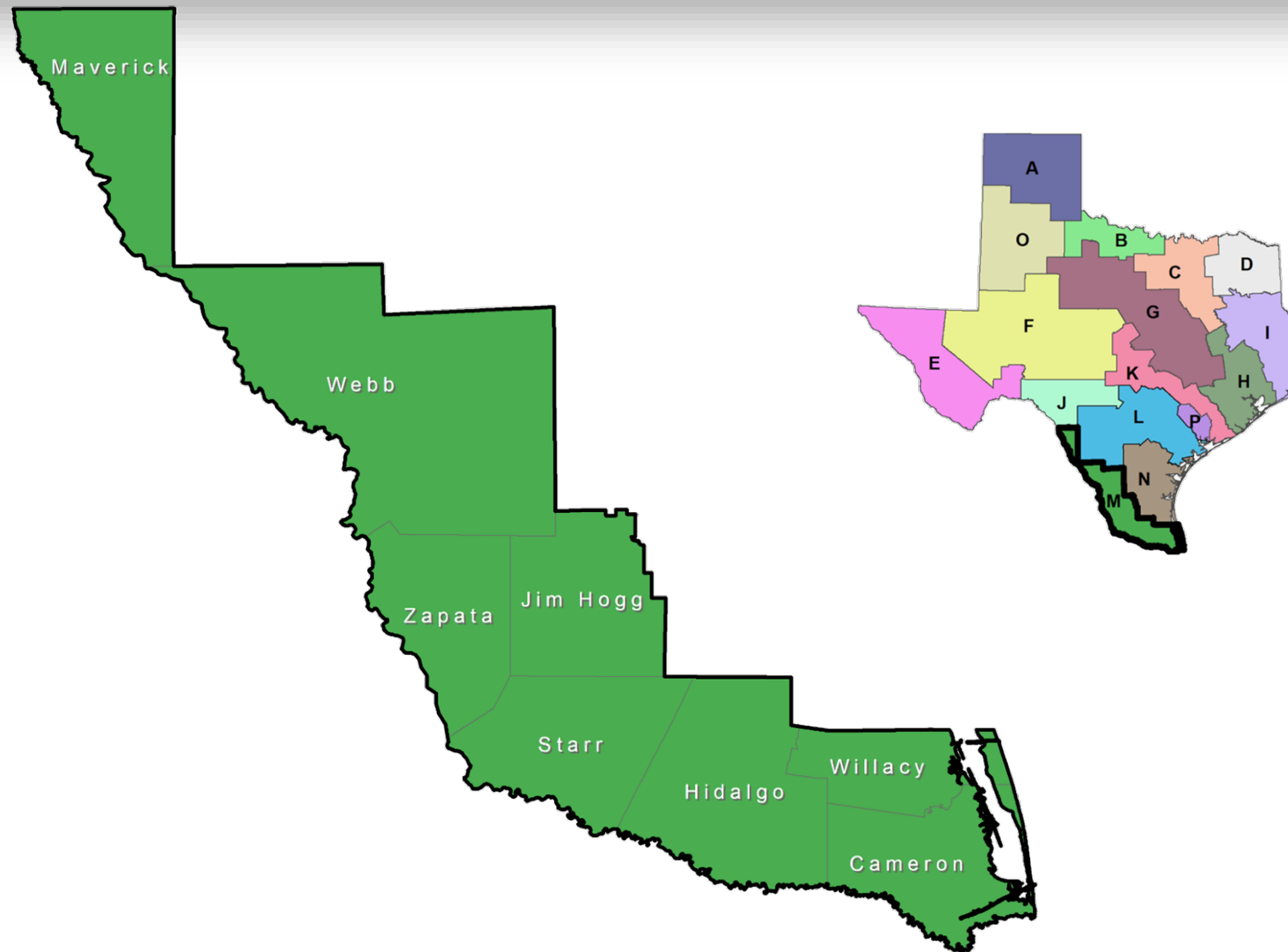


TOPIC

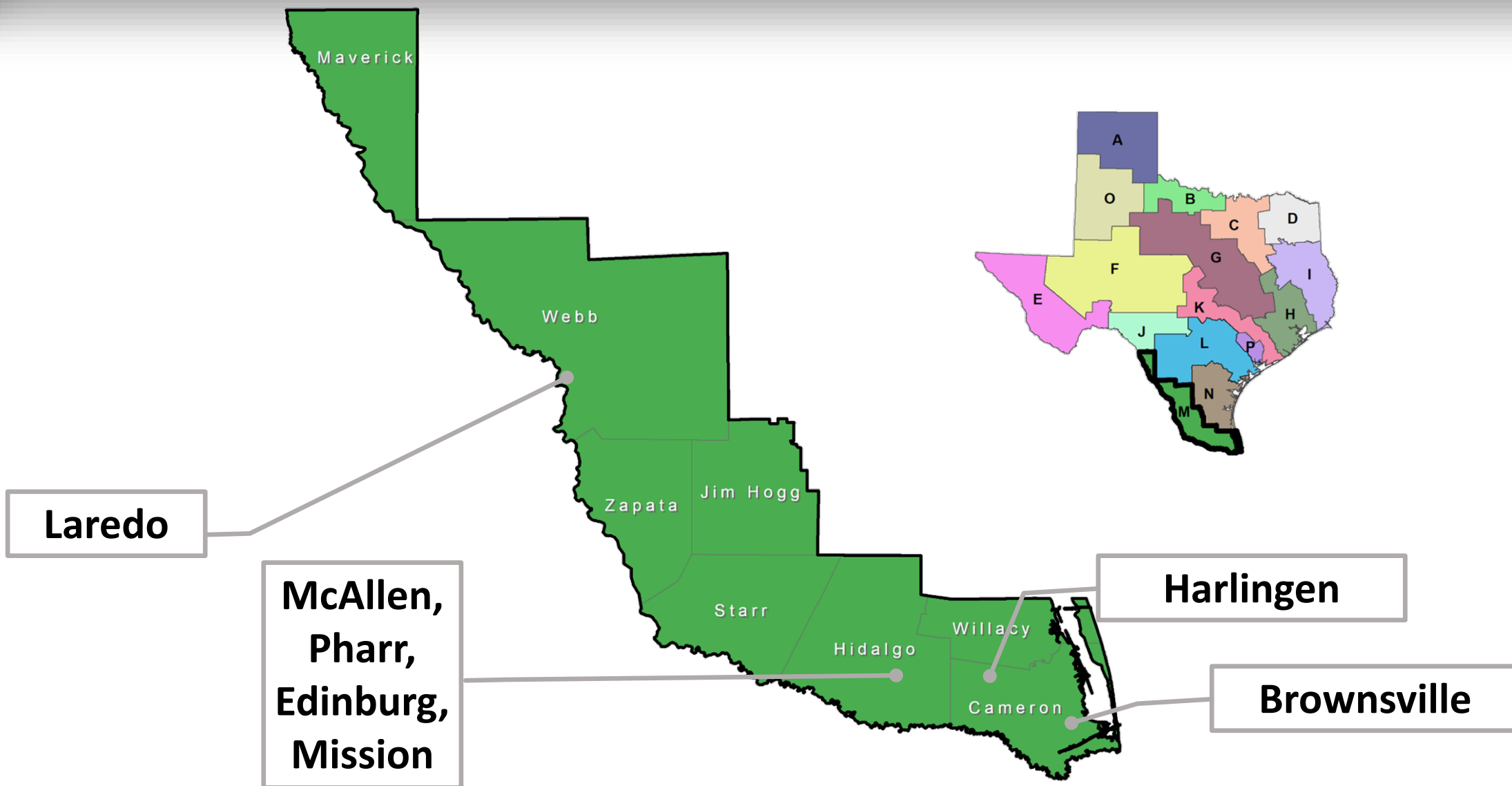
B

## Description of Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Area

# Rio Grande Planning Region (Region M)



# Rio Grande Planning Region (Region M)



# Interests Represented by the Rio Grande (Region M) Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG)

- Public
- Counties
- Municipalities
- Industries
- Agriculture
- Environment
- Small Business
- Electric Generating Utilities
- River Authorities
- Water Districts
- Water Utilities
- Groundwater Management Areas
- Other

**20 Voting Members; Non-voting members from certain State Agencies**

# Region M Planning Group Voting Membership

INTEREST	NAME	COUNTY
Public	Tomas Rodriguez	Webb
Counties	Joe Rathmell County Judge	Zapata
	David L. Fuentes Precinct 1 Commissioner	Hidalgo
Municipalities	Jorge Flores, Eagle Pass Water Works	Maverick
	Marilyn Gilbert Brownsville PUB	Cameron
Industries	Donald K. McGhee Hydro Systems, Inc	Cameron
Agriculture	Neal Wilkins, Ph.D., East Wildlife Foundation	Jim Hogg
	Dale Murden Texas Citrus Mutual	Hidalgo
Environmental	Jaime Flores	Hidalgo

INTEREST	NAME	COUNTY
Small Business	Carlos Garza, AEC Engineering, LLC	Hidalgo
	Nick Benavides, Nick Benavides Co.	Webb
Electric Utilities	Robert Latham Magic Valley Generation Station	Hidalgo
River Authorities	James Darling, Chairman Rio Grande Regional Water Authority	Hidalgo
Water Districts	Sonny Hinojosa, HCID No. 2	Hidalgo
	Tom McLemore Harlingen Irrigation District	Cameron
Water Utilities	Steven Sanchez North Alamo Water Supply Corporation	Hidalgo
GMA	Louie Pena Debbie Farmer	GMA 16 GMA 13
Other	Glenn Jarvis, Attorney	Hidalgo
	Frank Schuster Val Verde Vegetable Co.	Hidalgo

# Public Participation

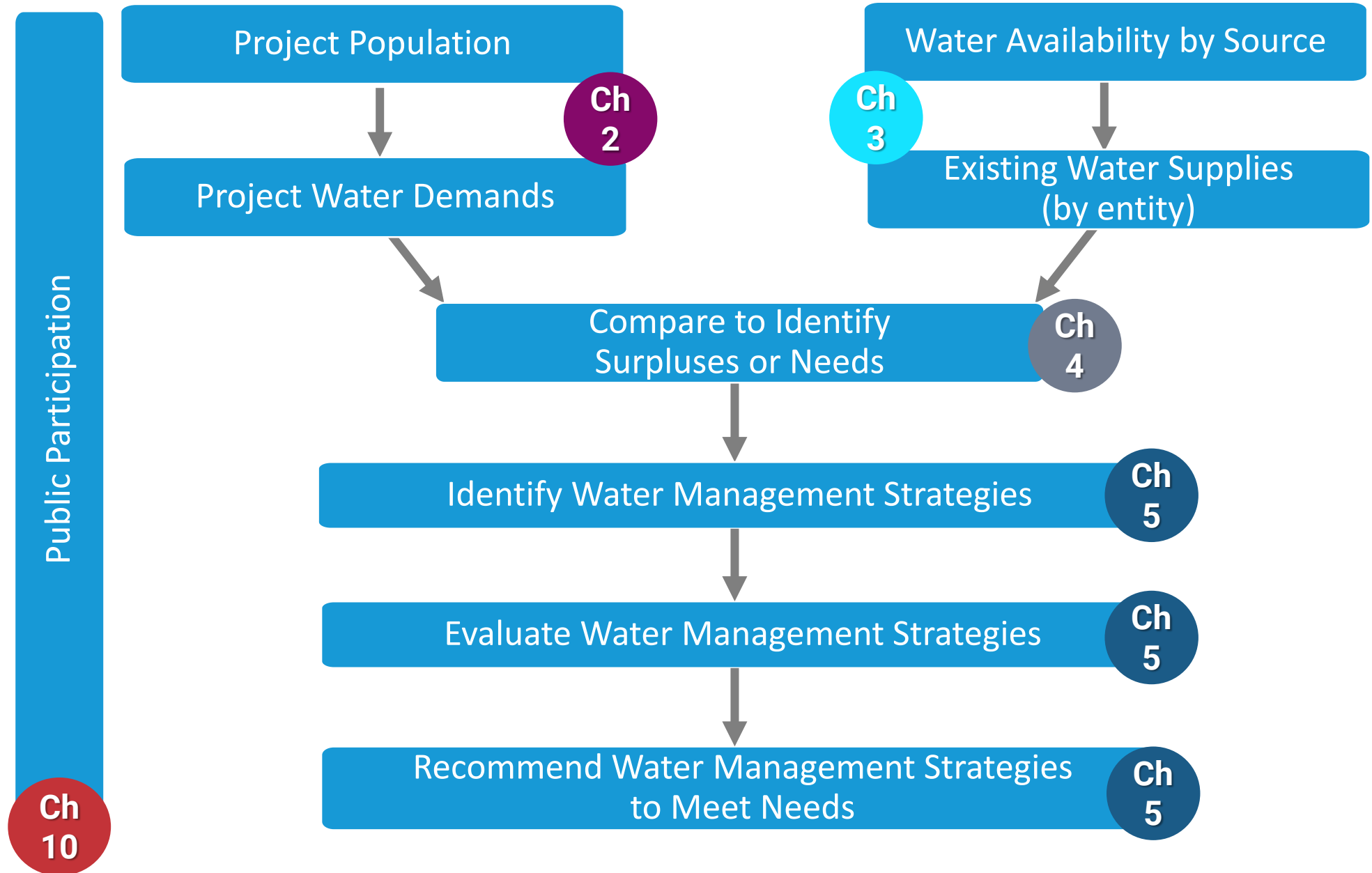
- Quarterly public meetings
  - All planning group materials are posted on Region M website (<http://www.riograndewaterplan.org/>)
  - Meetings open to the public
  - Public comments are accepted at beginning and closing of meetings
- Public hearings for the draft plan and other important milestones

**Public involvement is integral to regional water planning process**

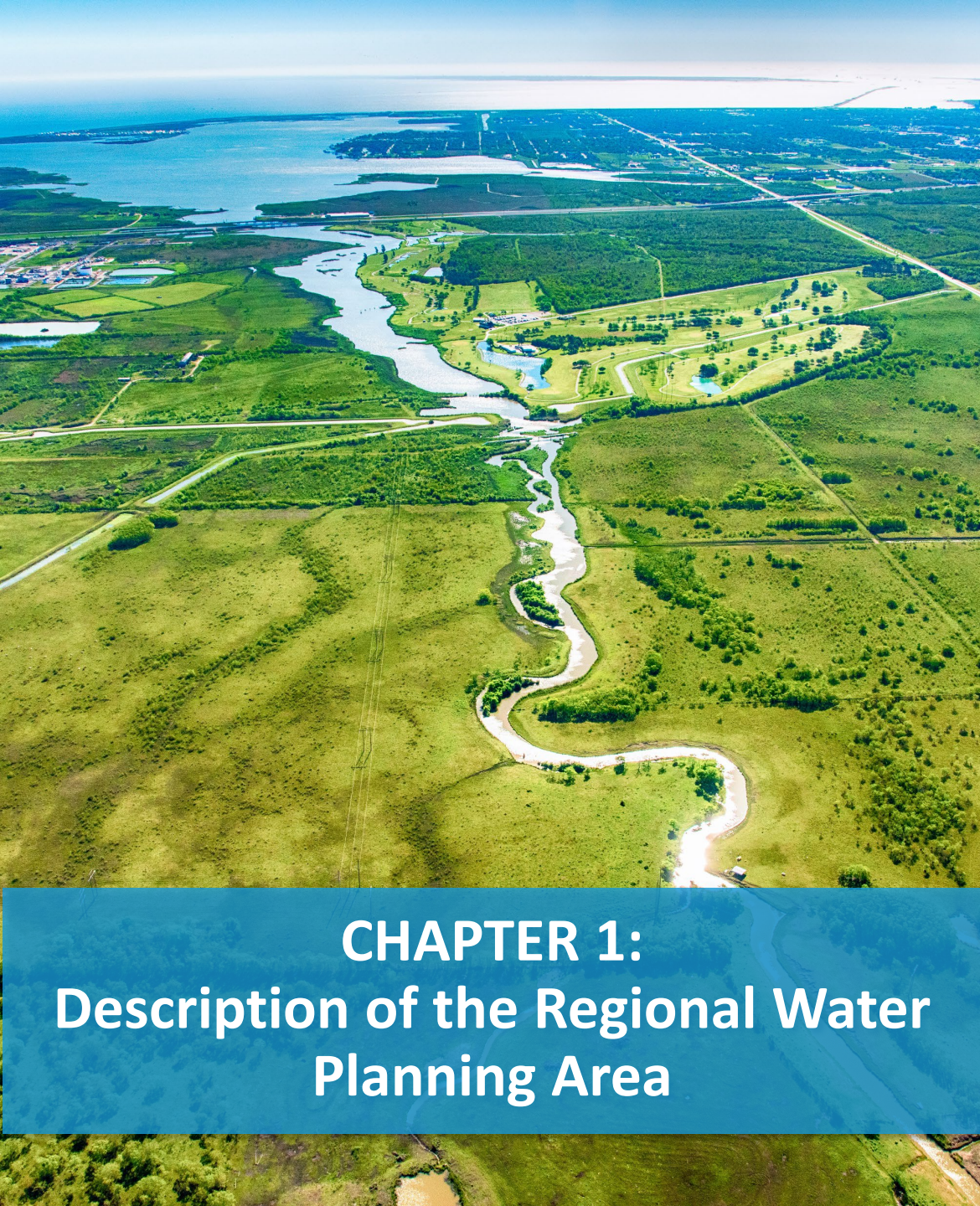


## 2026 Regional Water Plan Process & Highlights

# Planning Process







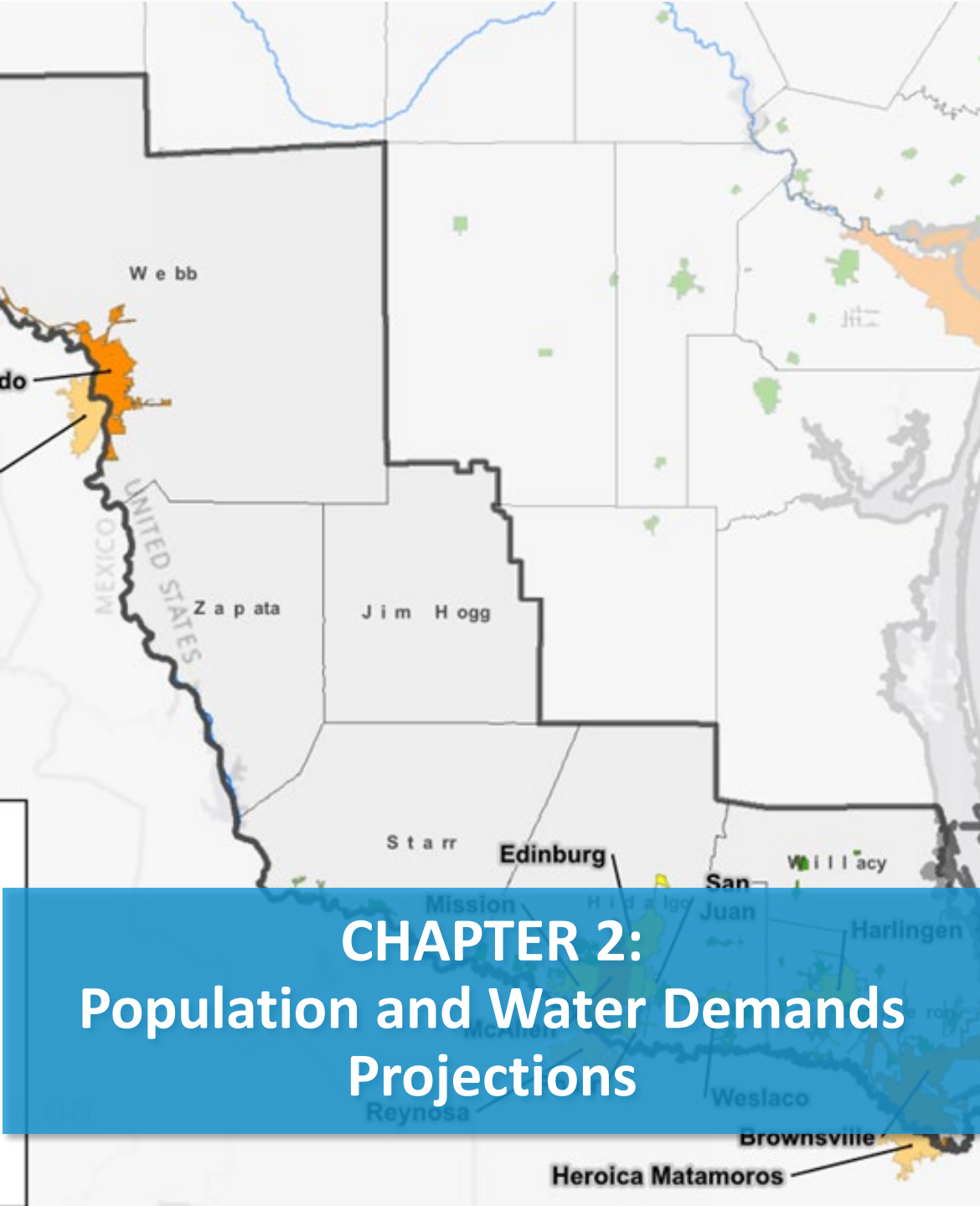
## CHAPTER 1: Description of the Regional Water Planning Area

# CHAPTER 1

Provides an overview of the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Area including:

- Climate
- Water Resources
- Natural Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Economy
- Current Water Use and Major Demand Centers
- Water Loss Audits





## CHAPTER 2

Includes Population and Water Demand Projections for the following Water Use Categories:

- Municipal
- Irrigation
- Livestock
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Steam-Electric

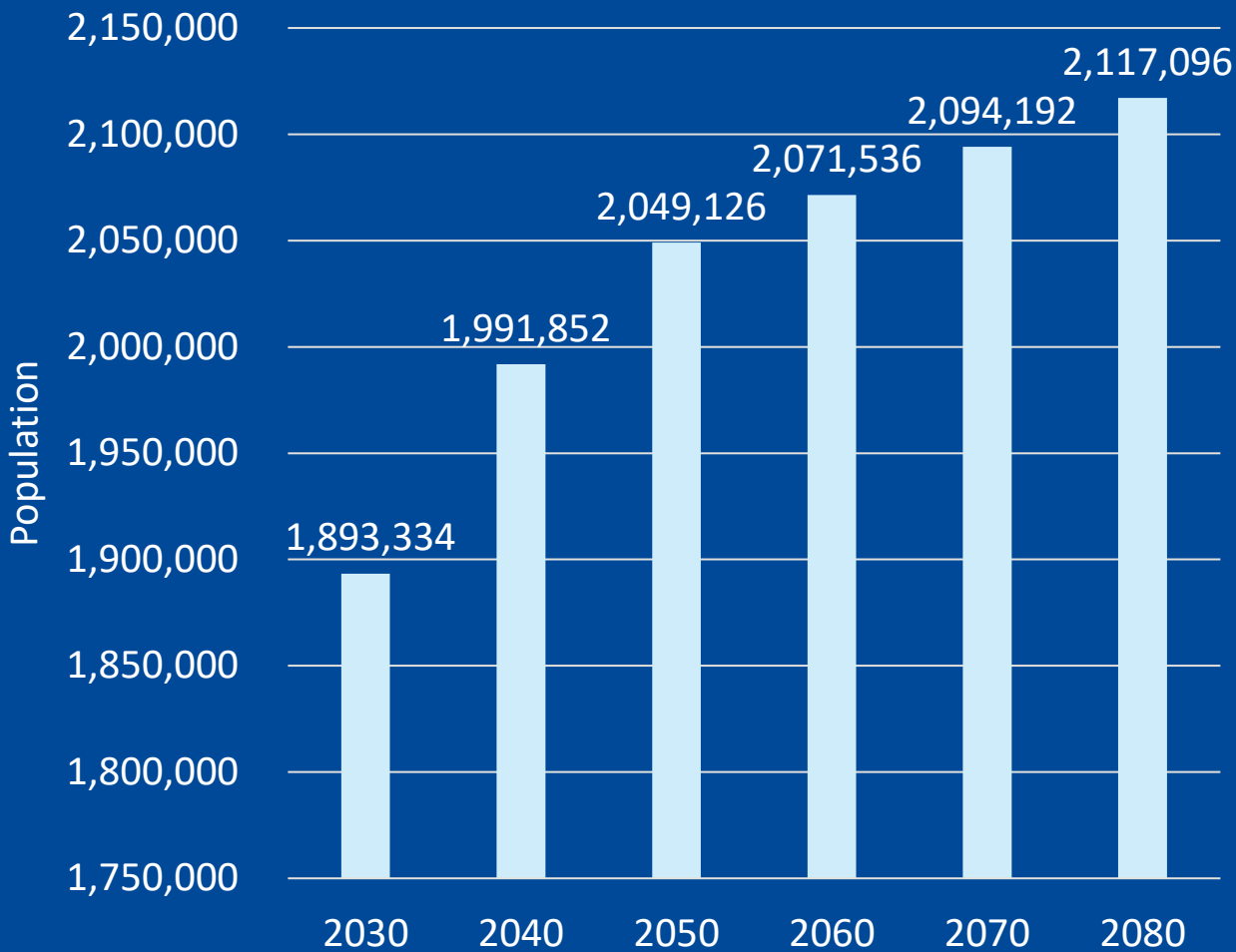
Identifies Major Water Providers

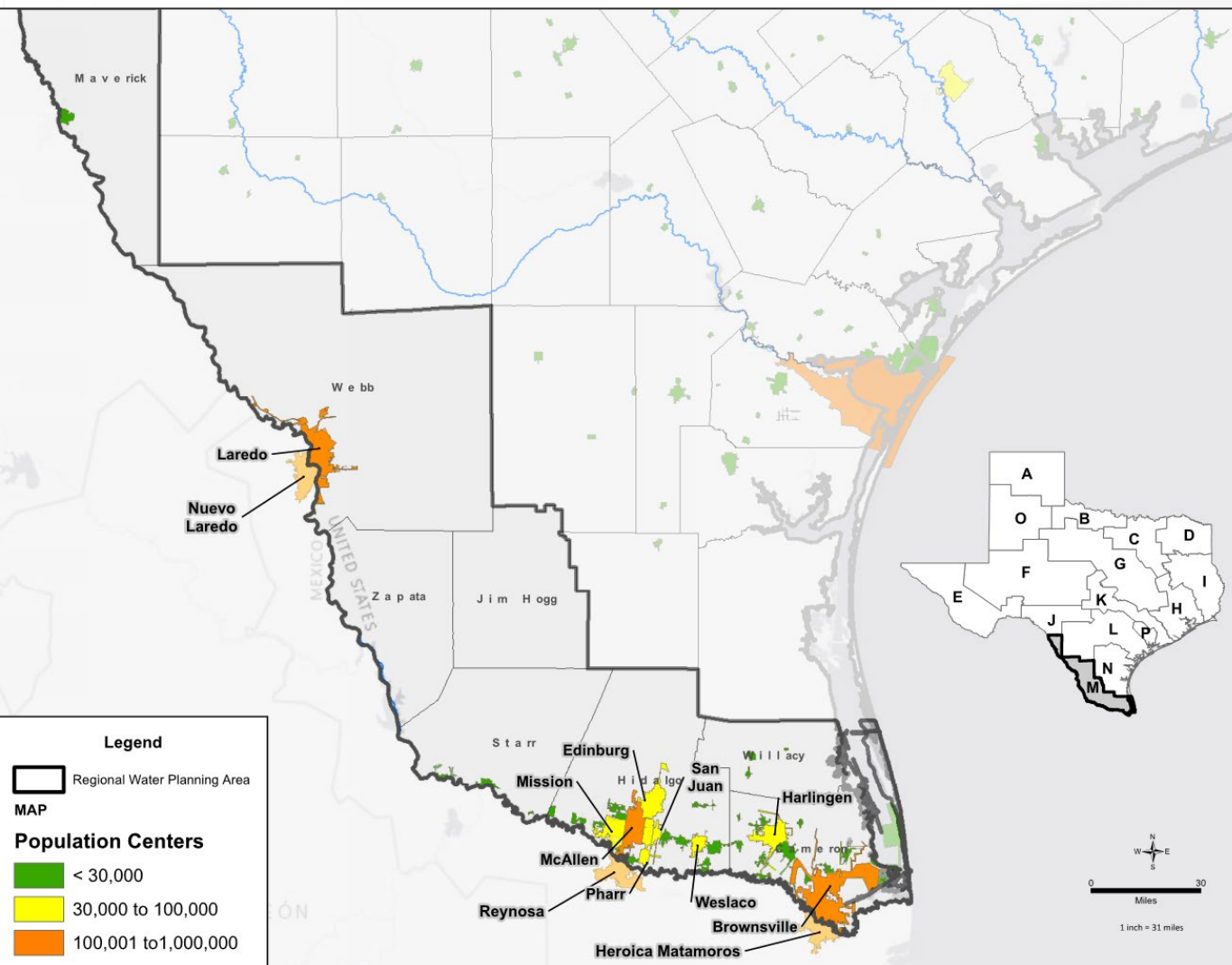
# Region M

## Population Projections

### (2030 – 2080)

- Population estimates are based on 2020 Census data
- Over the 50-year planning horizon, the region’s population is expected to grow by 12%, reaching 2.1 million people by 2080
- 5% growth estimated between 2030 and 2040 decades





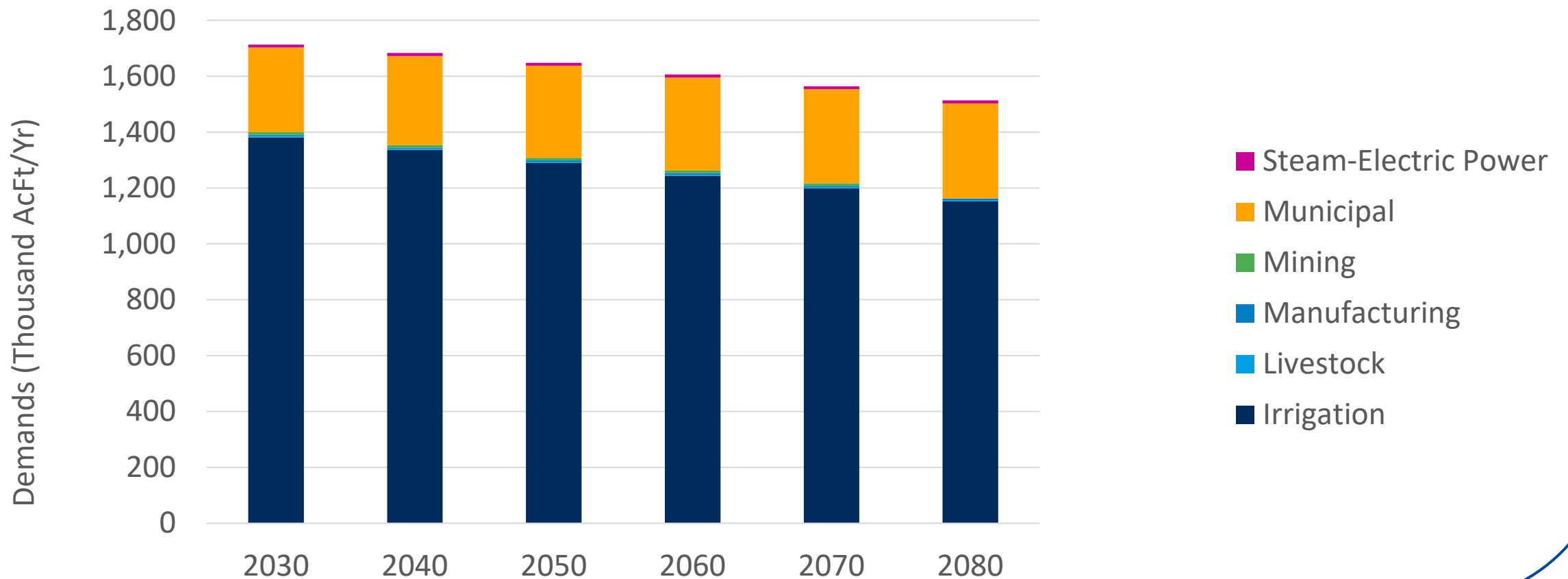
# Population Centers in Region M

## Top 5 Population Centers

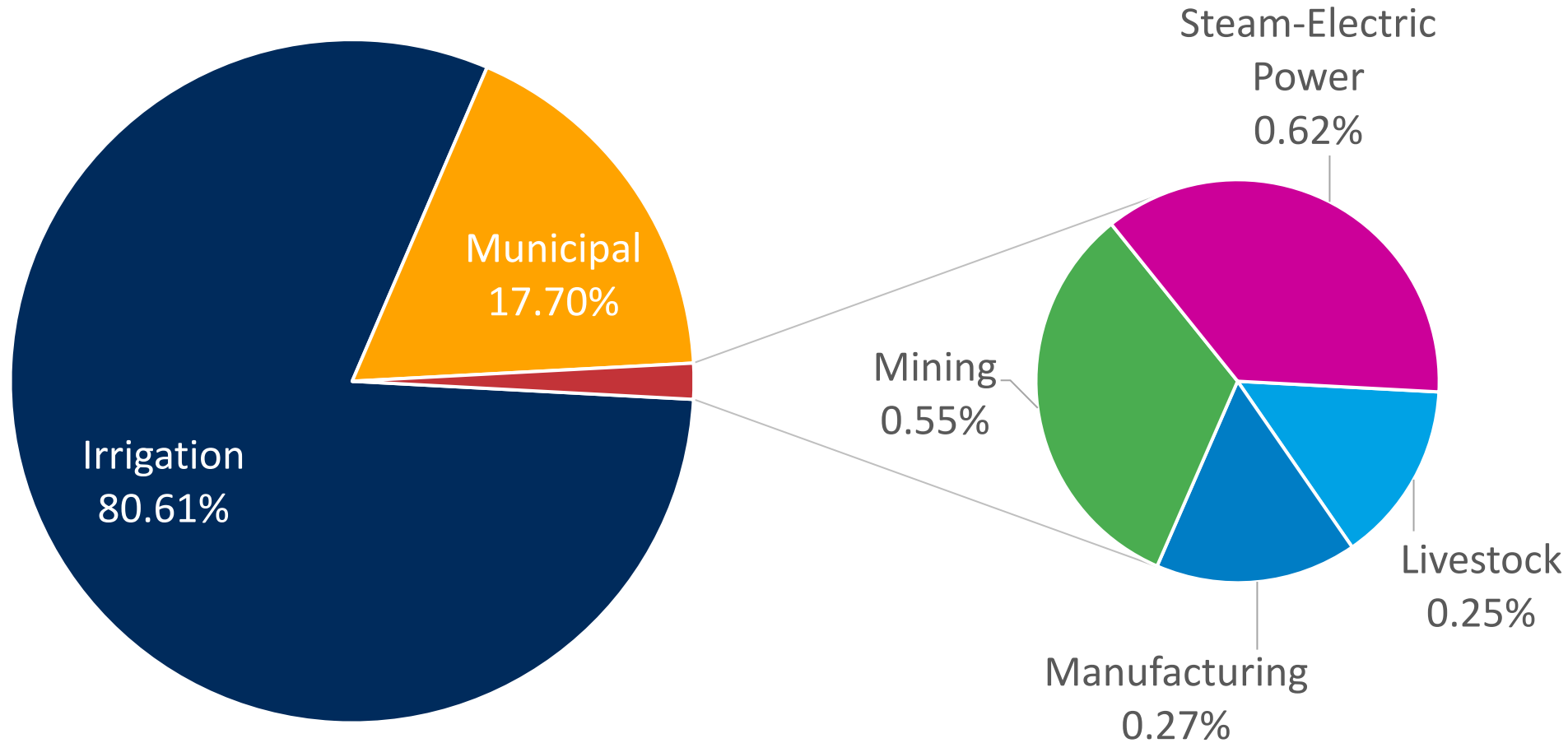
Entity	Population 2030	Population 2080
Laredo	267,373	272,541
North Alamo WSC	221,808	266,768
Brownsville	191,689	196,600
McAllen	165,587	217,849
Sharyland WSC	88,944	106,749

# Water Demand Projections

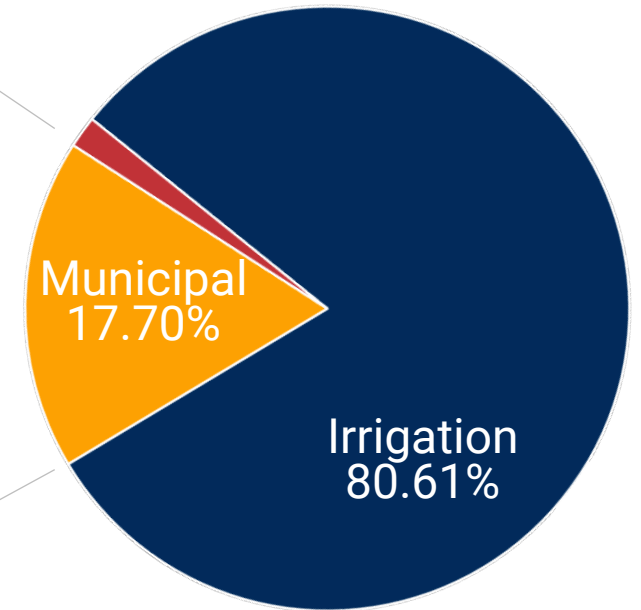
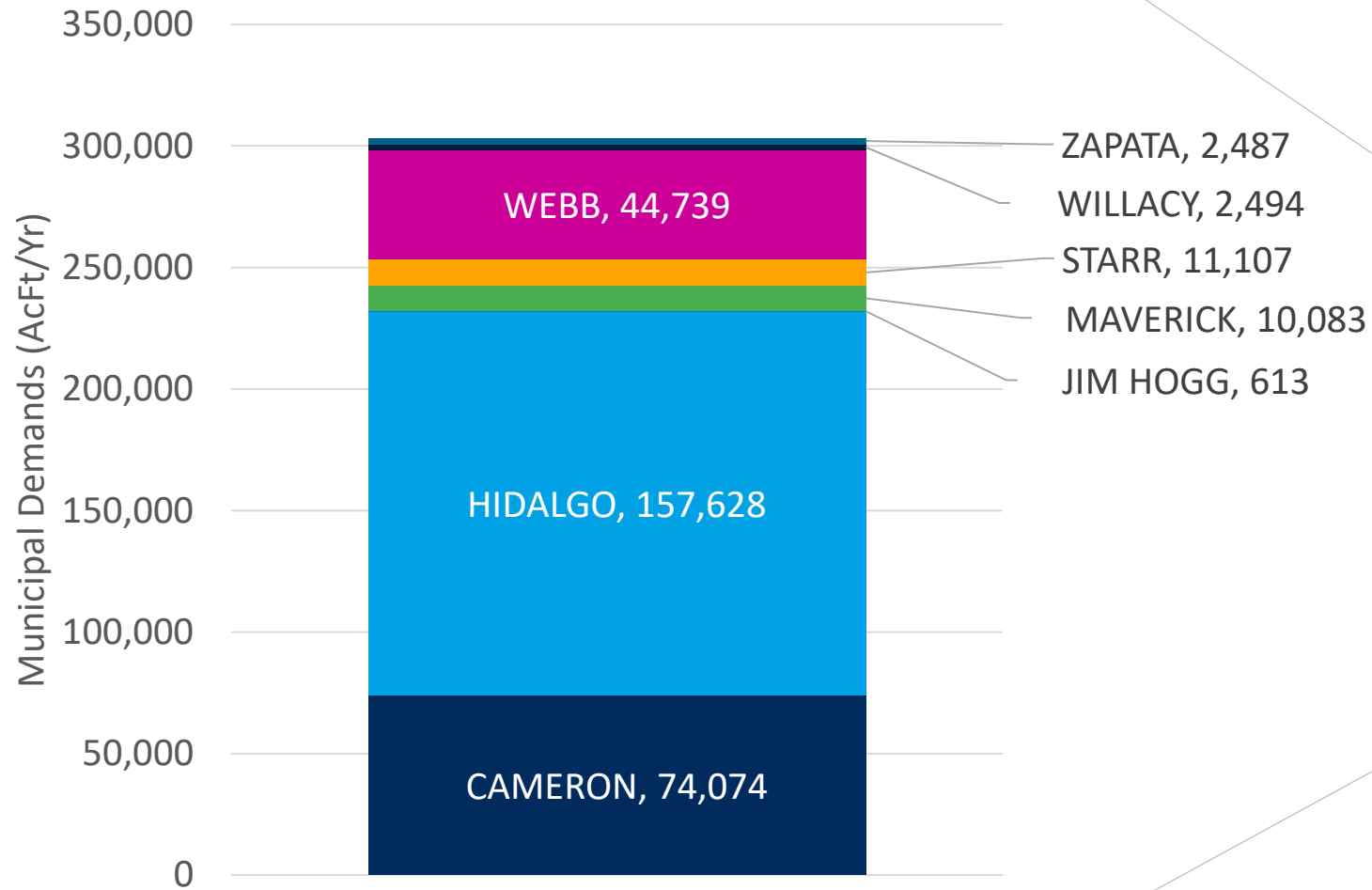
## Rio Grande Region Water Demand Projections by Use Category (2030 to 2080)

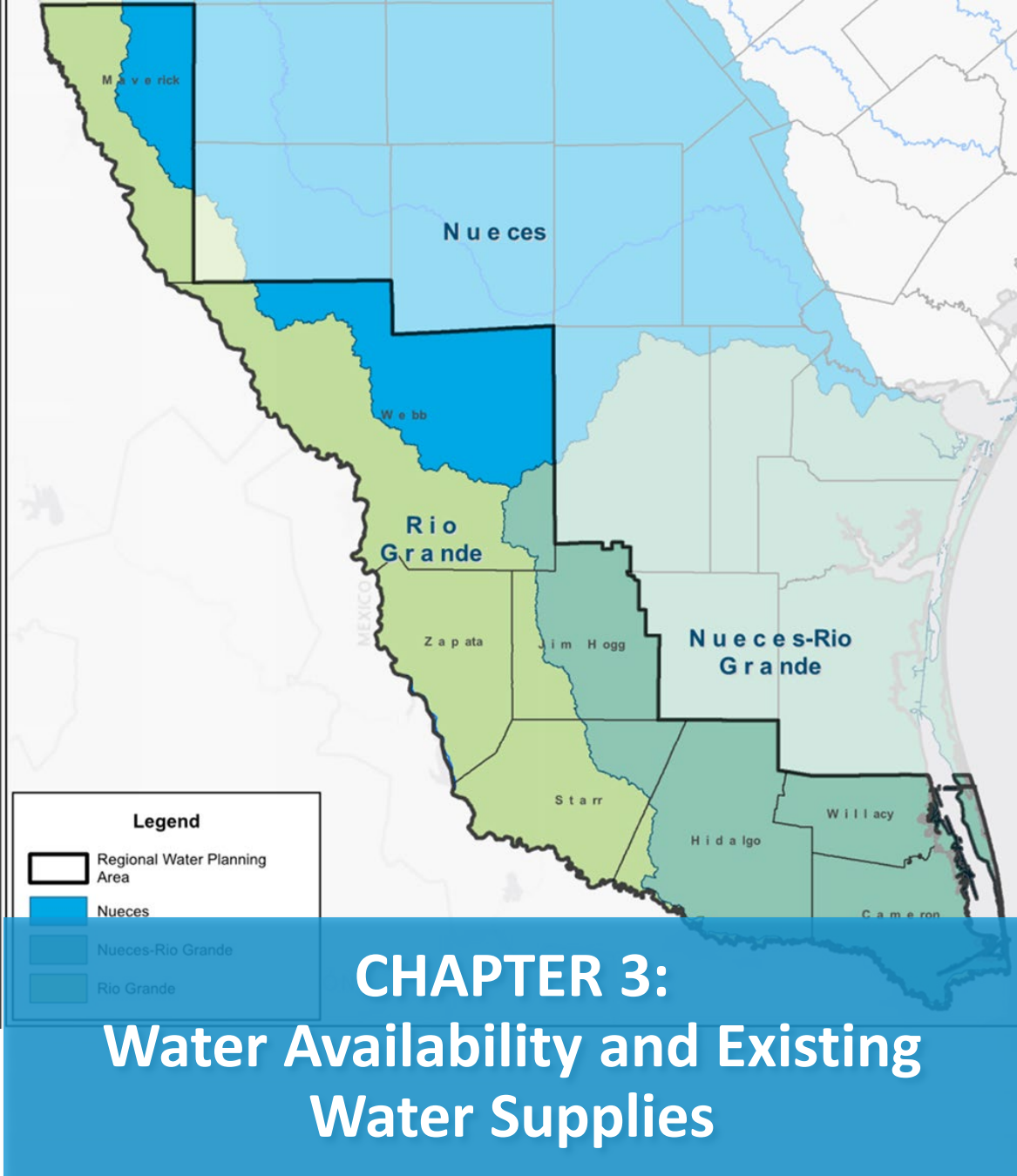


# 2030 Water Demands



# Municipal Water Demands by County in 2030 (ac-ft/yr)





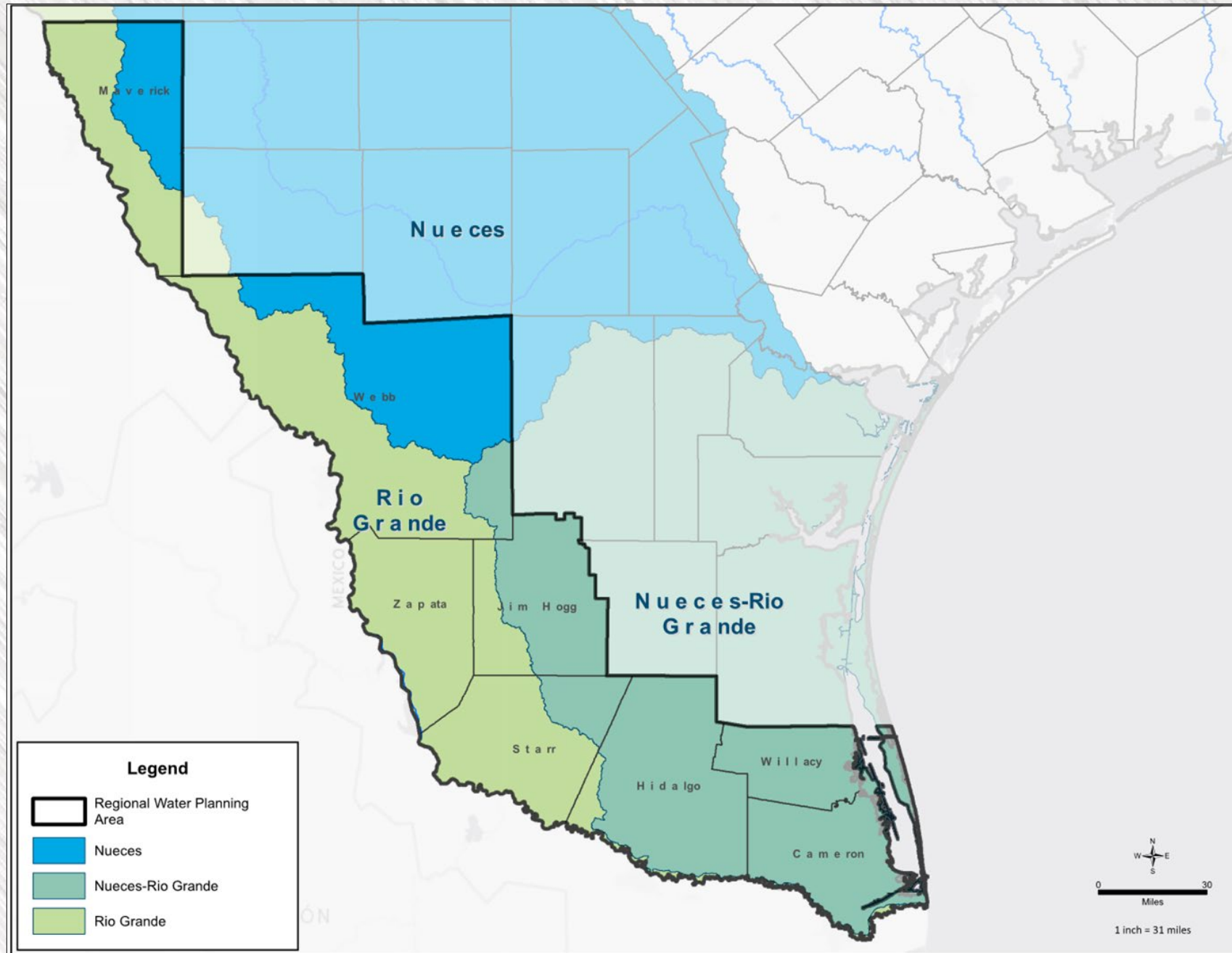
## CHAPTER 3

Describes water sources and provides estimates of drought-year water availabilities and existing water supplies for:

- Surface Water
  - Run-of-River
  - Reservoirs
  - Local Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Reuse



# River Basins



# Amistad-Falcon Reservoir System

- Total available water is 1.0 million acre-feet per year
- 1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons
- Surface water availability modeling used to determine decadal amounts
  - Incorporation of projected reservoir sedimentation
- In general, it is the amount of water that is available yearly during a repeat of the conditions of the worst drought on record



Amistad International Reservoir

Photo Courtesy of TWDB

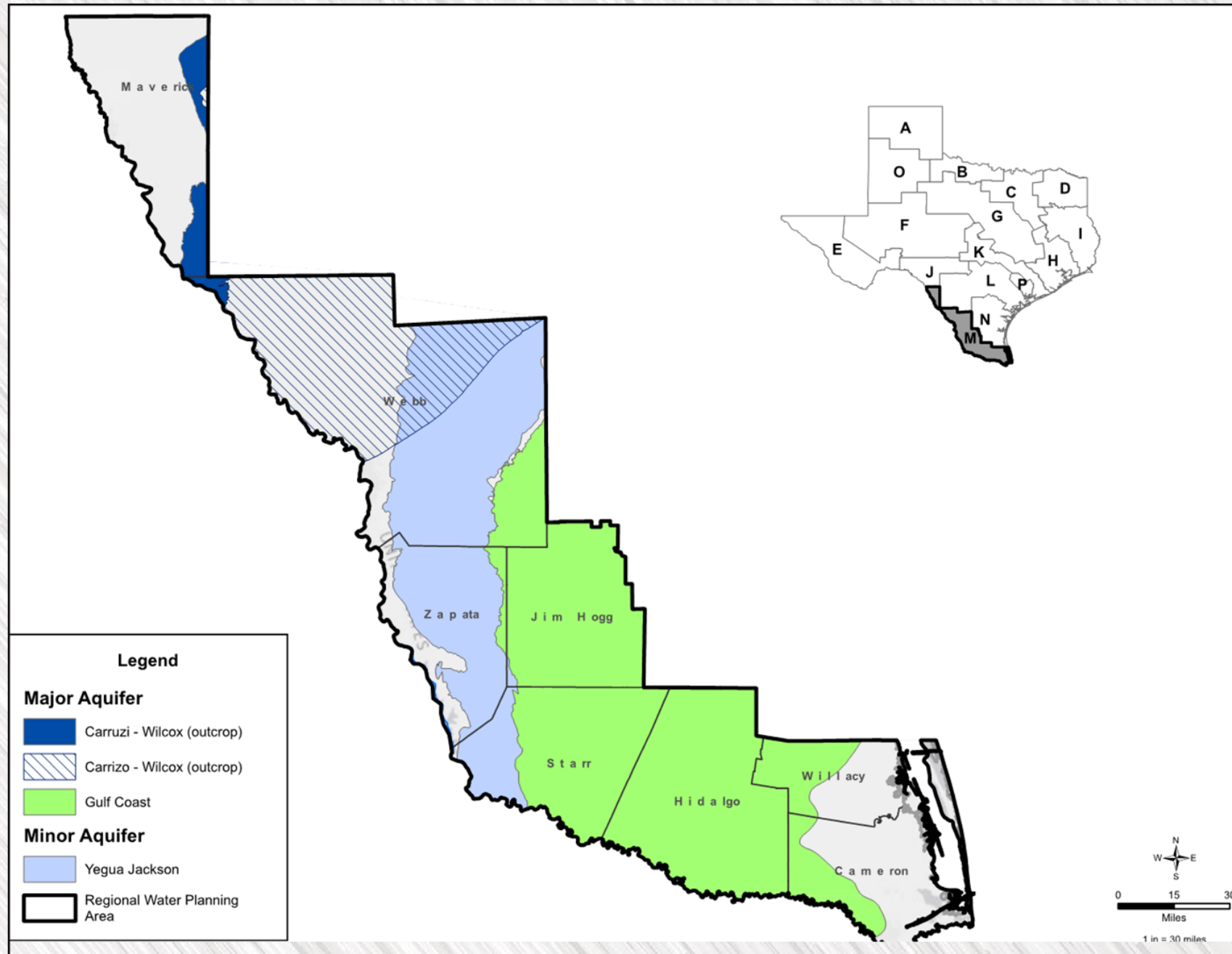


Falcon International Reservoir

Photo Courtesy of TWDB

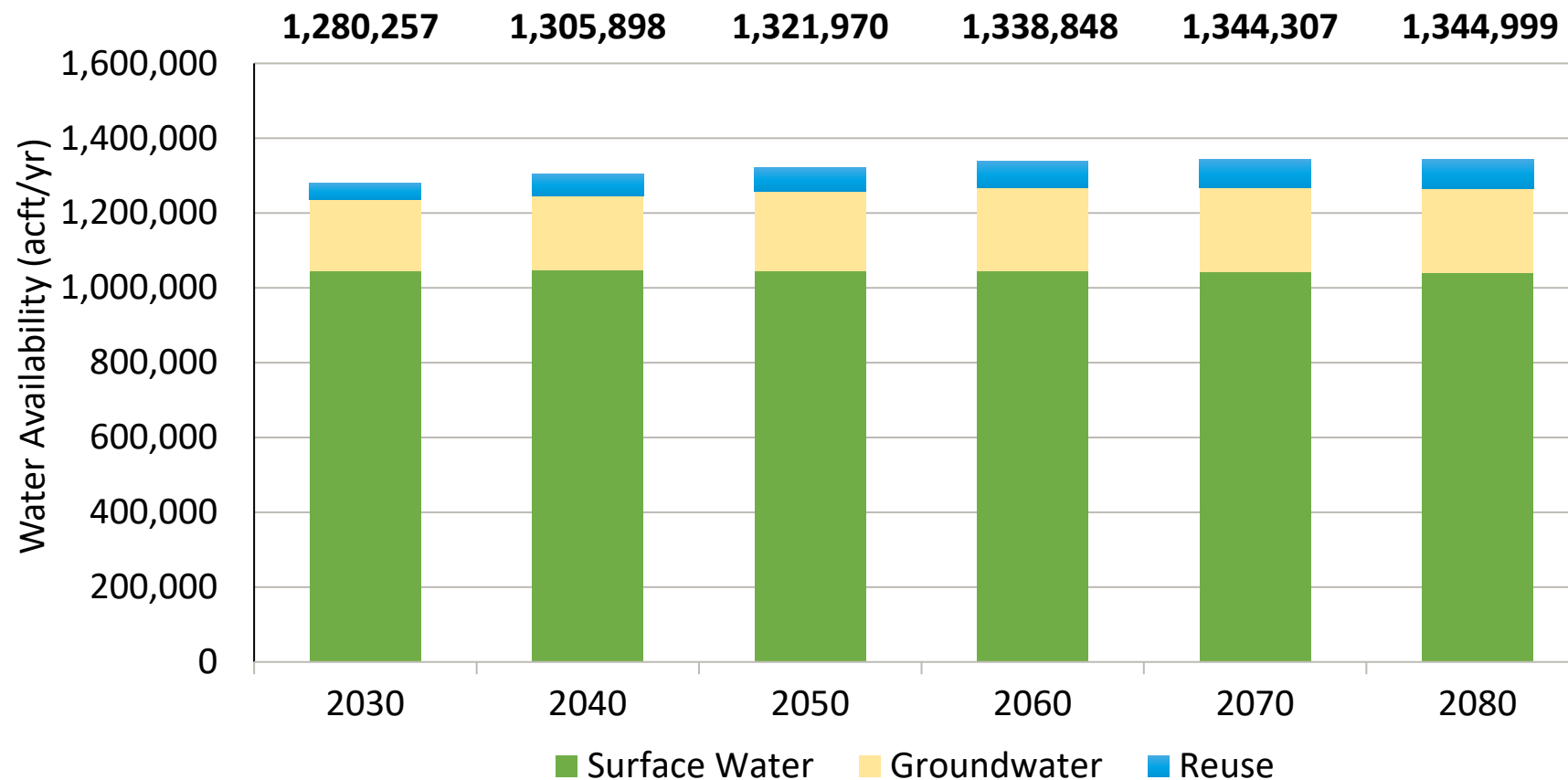


# Major & Minor Aquifers



# Existing Water Supply Availabilities

## Rio Grande Region Water Availability (2030 to 2080)



Supplies are capped by AVAILABILITY

- Surface Water availability is established by the Water Availability Model (WAM)
- Groundwater availability is generally established by Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG)
- Reuse availability is based on existing infrastructure, both potable and non-potable



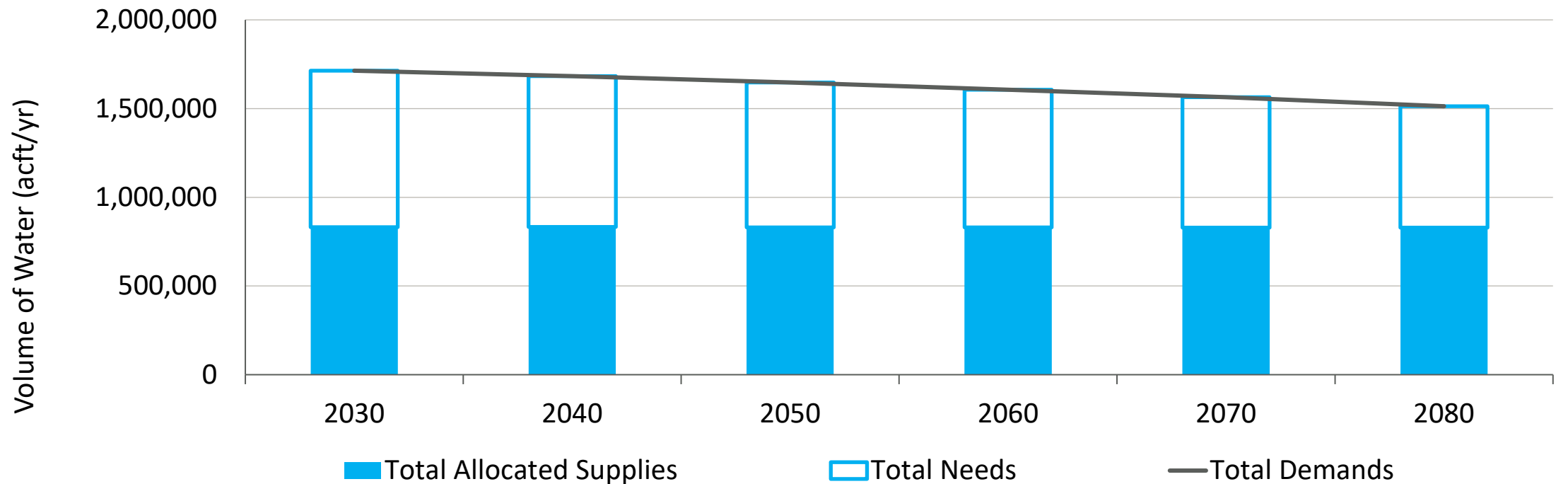
## CHAPTER 4: Identification of Water Needs

# CHAPTER 4

Summarizes the evaluation and results of the water needs (shortages) analysis and secondary needs analysis for WUGs and major water providers (MWP)



# Identification of Water Needs



Water Use Category with Needs	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
Irrigation (ac-ft/yr)	919,013	873,548	828,086	783,070	738,360	693,854
Municipal (ac-ft/yr)	24,355	32,442	42,823	46,375	50,400	54,449
Mining (ac-ft/yr)	3,604	3,605	3,606	3,608	3,675	0
Manufacturing (ac-ft/yr)	0	0	0	1	5	9





## CHAPTER 5: Water Management Strategies

# CHAPTER 5

Includes the following information:

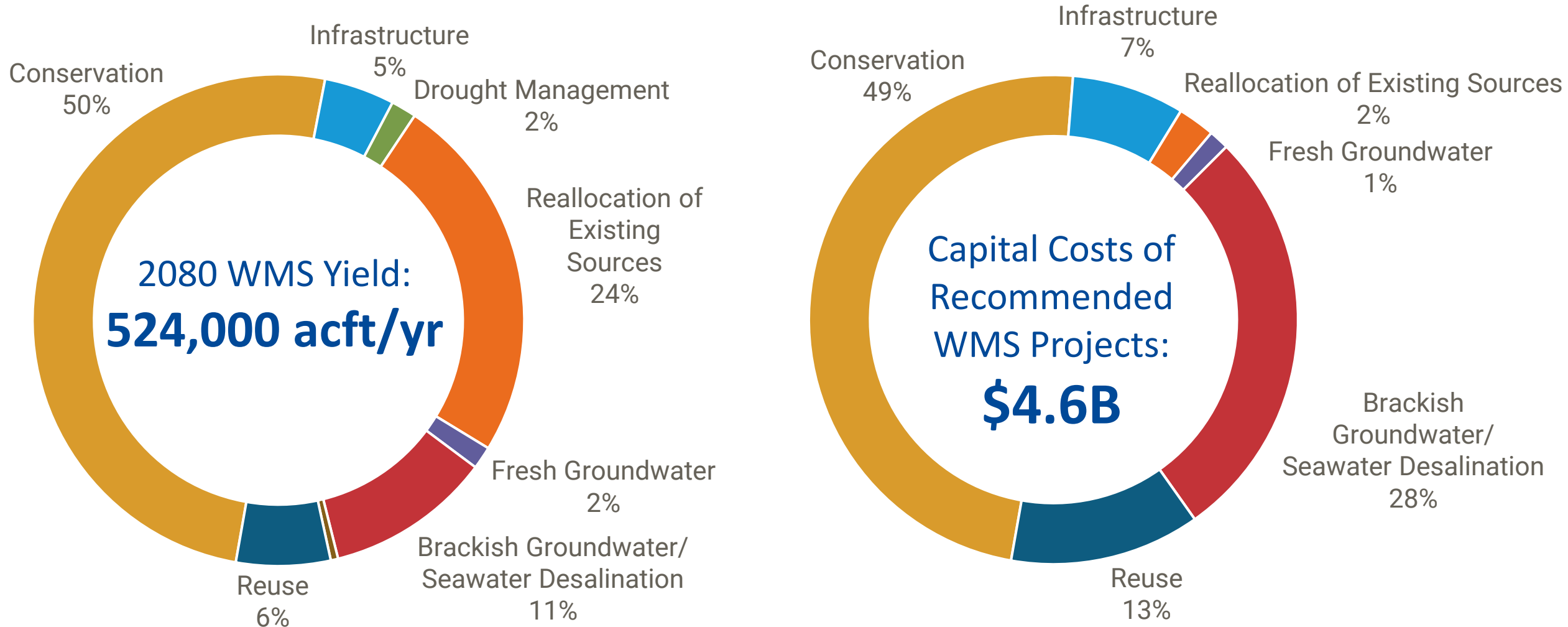
1. Identification of Potentially Feasible WMSs
2. Evaluation of WMSs
3. Recommended and Alternative WMSs
4. Water Conservation Recommendations (as a separate subchapter)

# Water Management Strategies (WMSs) Evaluated

1. Advanced Municipal Conservation
2. Irrigation District Conservation
3. Agricultural Conservation
4. Industrial Conservation
5. Conversion of Water Right Classification
6. New or Expanded Surface Water Treatment
7. New or Expanded Distribution and Transmission Facilities Resulting in Increased Supplies
8. Update to Off-Channel Storage
9. New or Expanded Fresh Groundwater Supply
10. New or Expanded Brackish Groundwater Desalination
11. Seawater Desalination
12. Reuse
13. Biological Control of Arundo Donax
14. Drought Management
15. Aquifer Storage and Recovery
16. Regional Water Supply Facilities



# Recommended Water Management Strategies (WMSs) Yield and Cost



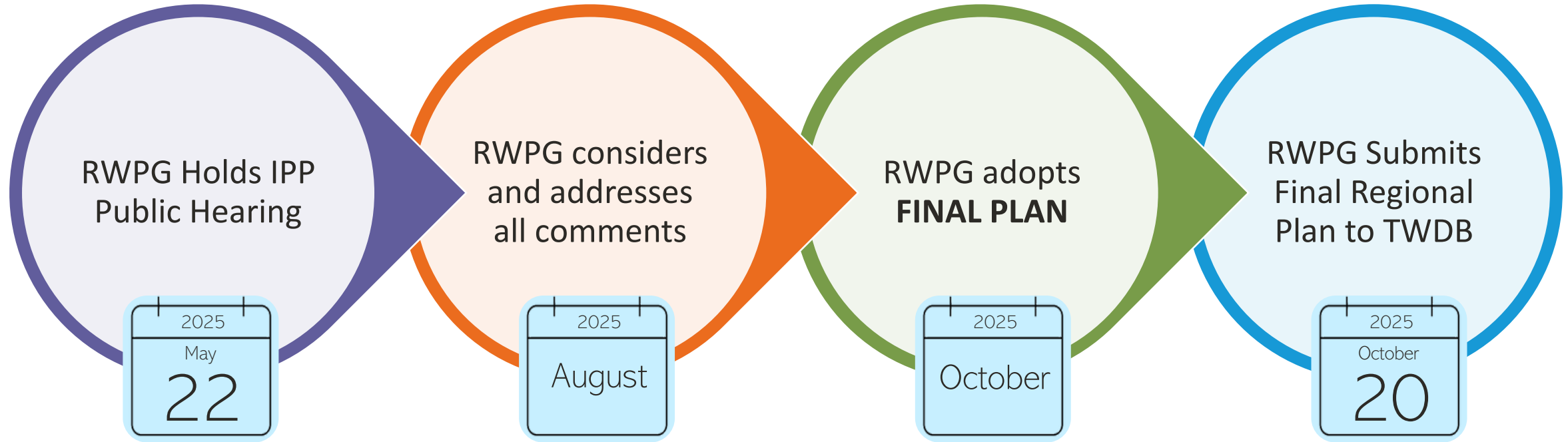


## CHAPTER 6-10

Includes the following information:

6. Impacts of the RWP and Consistency with Protection of Water Resources, Agricultural Resources, and Natural Resources
7. Drought Response Information, Activities, and Recommendations
8. Policy Recommendations and Unique Sites
9. Implementation and Comparison to the Previous Regional Water Plan
10. Adoption of Plan and Public Participation

# Next Steps



Written public comments accepted until July 22

Comment  
Period



# Public Testimony

- 3-minute public testimony per person
- Please state your name, affiliation, and email address before providing your comment
  - In-Person:  
Use the form to sign up to speak at front table.
  - Virtual:  
If you are online, please let us know you want to make a comment by adding your name, affiliation, and email address to the chat and you will be called on.  
  
If you are calling in on a phone, wait until phone call comments are requested, and state your name, affiliation, and email address before making your comment.





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- By Mail:

Jim Darling, Chairman  
Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group  
301 W. Railroad St.  
Weslaco, TX 78596

- By Email:

Outreach\_RegionM@BlackandVeatch.onmicrosoft.com

<http://www.riograndewaterplan.org/> is where you can find the IPP

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