

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Matt Nelson, Deputy Executive Administrator, Office of Planning

FROM: Kevin Smith, Planner, Regional Water Planning
Sarah Lee, Manager, Regional Water Planning

DATE: November 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Major amendment to the 2021 Region M Regional Water Plan

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider approving the adopted major amendment to the 2021 Region M Regional Water Plan and authorizing the Executive Administrator to hold the associated public hearing.

BACKGROUND

At its September 29, 2022 meeting, the Region M Regional Water Planning Group approved the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1’s (District) request for a major amendment to their 2021 Regional Water Plan to include the Delta Region Water Management Supply water management strategy and associated projects.

A version of this water management strategy had been included in the 2016 Region M Regional Water Plan as a recommended strategy but was not included in their 2021 plan. For the District to be eligible to apply for State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) funding from Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) before the next state water plan is adopted, an amendment to the 2021 Region M Regional Water Plan is necessary.

The Delta Region water management strategy includes construction of three reservoirs in northeastern Hidalgo County to capture tailwaters and precipitation runoff for beneficial use. The existing and proposed Engleman Reservoir (77 acres), the proposed Santa Cruz Reservoir (418 acres) and the proposed Delta “Panchita” Reservoir (25 acres) are all in the Delta Watershed, which is distinct from other portions of the Nueces Rio Grande Watershed and does not impact downstream water rights.

Our Mission

Leading the state’s efforts in
ensuring a secure water future
for Texas and its citizens

Board Members

Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman | George B. Peyton V, Board Member
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

On July 6, 2022 the Region M planning group took action to pursue a major amendment, after briefings from the District. The draft amendment packet was submitted to the TWDB on August 16, 2022 for review and the TWDB provided written comments on the draft amendment. This water management strategy constitutes a major amendment in accordance with §357.51(c)(2) because it relates to a new reservoir.

On August 23, 2022, the Region M planning group held a public hearing with a thirty-day public comment period on the proposed amendment following the public hearing. The planning group adopted the major amendment on September 29, 2022. Eight written public comments were received. These comments, as well as comments from the TWDB, are compiled in the attachment.

The three Delta Region Water Management Supply projects have a total capital cost of approximately \$168 million. Project components include reservoir construction, pump stations, transmission pipelines, treatment facilities, and a surface water intake modification. The combined water management strategies will produce approximately 37,840 acre-feet per year.

KEY ISSUES

1. On September 30, 2022, the Region M planning group submitted the required written documentation of their adopted major amendment, including an addendum to the 2021 Region M Regional Water Plan to the TWDB.
2. The Executive Administrator has reviewed the adopted amendment and determined that the statutory and rule requirements have been met.
3. If approved, an associated amendment to the 2022 State Water Plan will be presented for the Board's consideration following a 30-day notice period and public hearing in accordance with 31 TAC §358.4(a).

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends approval of the major amendment to the 2021 Region M Regional Water Plan and authorization to hold the associated public hearing for the 2022 State Water Plan. The recommended strategy and projects meet the major amendment criteria in the agency's administrative rules and statute and the planning group has submitted the required documentation.

Attachment Adopted major amendment documentation, including the addendum to the 2021 Region M Regional Water Plan

Attachment

Adopted major amendment documentation, including the addendum to the
2021 Region M Regional Water Plan



*Jim Darling, *Chairman*
Rio Grande Regional Water Authority

*Sonny Hinojosa, *Vice-Chairman*
HCID #2, San Juan,

*Donald K. McGhee, *Secretary*
Hydro Systems, Inc., Harlingen

*Frank Schuster
Val Verde Vegetable Co., McAllen

*Nick Benavides
Nick Benavides, Company, Laredo

Glenn Jarvis
Attorney, McAllen

John Bruciak
Brownsville PUB

Tomas Rodriguez
Public, Laredo

Carlos Garza, P.E.
AEC Engineering, LLC., Edinburg

Joe Rathmell
Zapata County Judge

Jaime Flores
Arroyo Colorado Partnership, Weslaco

Armando Vela
Red Sands GCD, Linn

Dale Murden
Texas Citrus Mutual, Mission

Riazul Mia
City of Laredo, Engineer

Neal Wilkins, Ph.D.
East Foundation

Jorge Flores
Eagle Pass Water Works

David L. Fuentes
Hidalgo County Commissioner

Tom McLemore
Harlingen Irrigation District

Debbie Farmer
Wintergarden GCD, GMA 13

Robert Latham
Magic Valley Generating Station

Steven Sanchez
North Alamo Water Supply Corp

***Executive Committee**

September 29, 2022

Mr. Jeff Walker
Executive Administrator
Texas Water Development Board
1700 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78702

**Re: Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)
Submittal of Amendment No. 1 to the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan**

Dear Mr. Walker:

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 29, 2022, the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) (Region M) adopted an Amendment to the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan to add the Delta Region Water Management Supply Strategy as a recommended strategy in the 2021 Plan. The planning group met all requirements under the Texas Public Information Act (PIA) and the Texas Open Meeting Act (OMA) 31 TAC §357.21(a) at this and all other scheduled meetings associated with this Amendment.

On behalf of Region M, please accept the enclosed electronic copy of the Amendment package. This letter also serves as a certification that the enclosed Amendment is adopted by Region M and completed in accordance with Texas Water Development Board statutes, rules, and contract requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Jaime Burke at BurkeJ@bv.com and (512) 271-4472.

Sincerely,

James Darling
Chairman, RGRWPG

copy: William Alfaro, Texas Water Development Board
Kevin Smith, Texas Water Development Board
Rick Carrera, Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Kristina Leal, Half Associates
Jaime Burke, Black & Veatch

Stewards of water resources from Amistad to the Gulf

Administrative Agent: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, Manuel Cruz, Executive Director
301 W Railroad – Weslaco, Texas 78596
Telephone: 956-682-3481 Fax: 956-631-4670 Website: riograndewaterplan.org

ADOPTED

MAJOR AMENDMENT 2021 RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLAN (REGION M)

Delta Region Water Management Supply,
Hidalgo County Drainage District 1

B&V PROJECT NO. 413244

PREPARED FOR

Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group

29 SEPTEMBER 2022



List of Abbreviations

acft	Acre-Feet
acft/yr	Acre-Feet per Year
HCDD1	Hidalgo County Drainage District 1
ID	Irrigation District
mgd	Million Gallons per Day
NRG	Nueces-Rio Grande
RGRWPG	Rio Grande Regional Water Plan
RWP	Regional Water Plan
RWPA	Regional Water Planning Area
RWPG	Regional Water Planning Group
SWIFT	State Water Implementation Fund for Texas
SWP	State Water Plan
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
UCM	Uniform Costing Model
WAM	Water Availability Model
WMS	Water Management Strategy
WMSP	Water Management Strategy Project
WWP	Wholesale Water Provider
WUG	Water User Group

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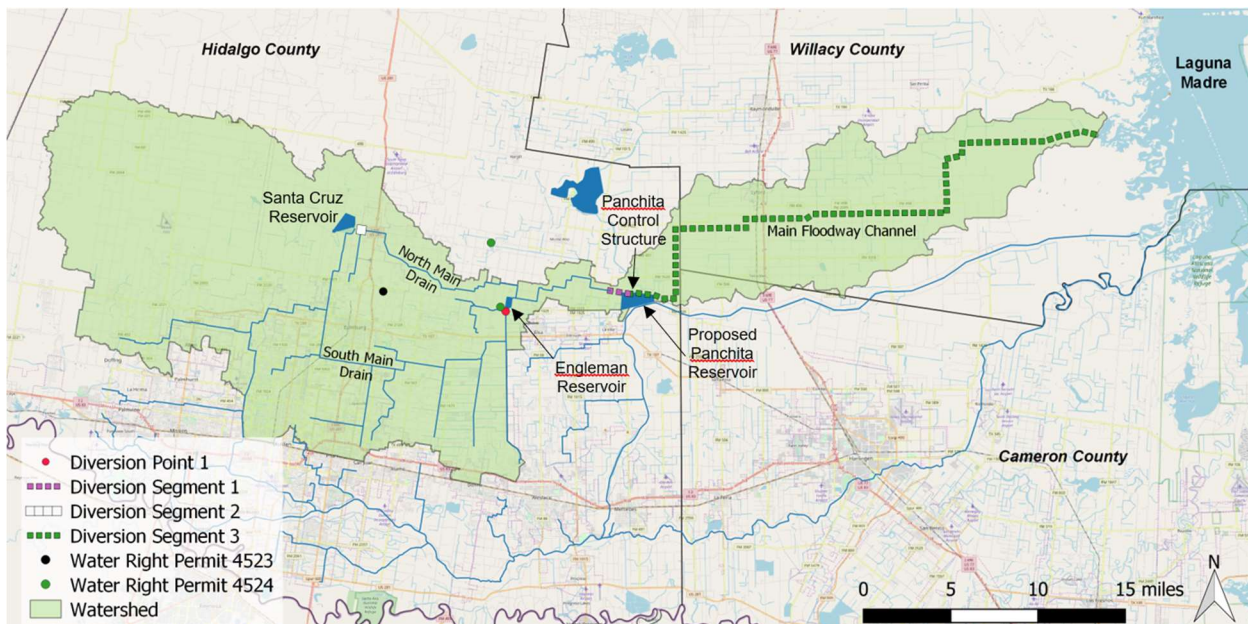
ATTACHMENTS

- A. Water Management Strategy Environmental Impact Legend and Description
- B. ASI Delta Project Firm Yield Analysis
- C. Additional IFR Survey Responses
- D. Public Hearing Notice
- E. Agency and Public Comments with Responses

INTRODUCTION

At the April 6, 2022 and July 6, 2022 Region M meetings, the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) heard the request from Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 (HCDD1) to consider pursuing an amendment to the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan (RGRWP) and agreed to begin the process of amending the 2021 RGRWP to include the Delta Region Water Management Supply as a Water Management Strategy. A version of this strategy had been included in the 2016 RGRWP as a recommended strategy but had not been included in the 2021 RGRWP. As the HCDD1 would like to apply for State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) funding from TWDB in order to begin design and construction efforts before the next State Water Plan is adopted, an amendment to the 2021 RGRWP is necessary. This is because a project must be included in the State Water Plan and Regional Water Plan as a recommended strategy in order to qualify for the funding.

HCDD1 has proposed construction of three reservoirs in northeastern Hidalgo County to capture tailwaters and precipitation runoff for beneficial use. The existing and proposed Engleman Reservoirs (77 acres), the proposed Santa Cruz Reservoir (418 acres) and the proposed Delta “Panchita” Reservoir (25 acres) are all in the Delta Watershed, which is distinct from other portions of the Nueces Rio Grande Watershed, and impact no downstream water rights. These reservoirs will allow for better control and management of flows in the drainage network and will allow for the drainage district to treat and distribute a portion of the flows for sale to potential customers. The proposed Engleman Reservoir would be constructed using a ring dike around a 12-foot depth reservoir, next to the existing Engleman Reservoir. The Santa Cruz Reservoir requires construction of a ring dike around a 14-foot depth reservoir adjacent to Lake Edinburg. The existing Panchita control structure and associated weir would be raised for the Delta “Panchita” Reservoir, which is proposed to be 12-feet deep.



Desalination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Brackish Groundwater Development and Treatment • Seawater Desalination 	5.2.3
Fresh Groundwater	5.2.4
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On-Farm Irrigation Conservation	5.2.9
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A.5.2 ADDITION OF NEW SECTION 5.2.1.2A, PAGE 5.2-10

5.2.1.2a Other Wholesale Water Provider Improvements

Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 (HCDD1) is considered an “Other Wholesale Water Provider” because it is neither a municipal WUG nor an irrigation district, while also meeting the definition of a Wholesale Water Provider (WWP) in 31 §TAC 357.10. As an amendment to the 2021 RGRWP, HCDD1 requested to add the Delta Region Water Management Supply Strategy, which includes three off-channel reservoirs and three water treatment plants. HCDD1 plans to capture and treat storm water runoff and return flows for sale to water users in the area.

Storage/Surface Water Treatment/Transmission

Recommended WMS

1. Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 (HCDD1) – Delta Region Water Management Supply.

A.5.3 ADDITION OF NEW PARAGRAPH AND TABLE AT END OF SECTION 5.2.1.3, PAGE 5.2-15

A summary of the identified and quantified environmental impacts for recommended other wholesale water provider improvements is presented in Table 5.2-5a.

Table 5.3-140 Map Legend: Hidalgo County Recommended Water Management Strategies

MAP NUMBER	ENTITY	WMS NAME	WMS CATEGORY
1	Agua SUD	West WWTP Potable Reuse	Reuse
2	Agua SUD	East WWTP Potable Reuse	Reuse
3	Alamo	Fresh Groundwater Well	Fresh Groundwater
4	Alamo	New Brackish Groundwater Treatment	Brackish Groundwater
5	Donna	WTP Expansion	Surface Water Treatment
6	Edcouch	New Groundwater Supply	Fresh Groundwater
7	Edinburg	Non-Potable Reuse Water for Cooling and Landscaping	Reuse
8	Hidalgo	Expand Existing Groundwater Wells	Fresh Groundwater
8a	Hidalgo County Drainage District 1	Delta Region Water Management Supply	Storage
9	McAllen	AMI Project	Conservation
10	McAllen	Raw Water Line Project	Infrastructure Improvements
11	McAllen	North WWTP Potable Reuse	Reuse
12	McAllen	Brackish Groundwater Desalination Plant	Brackish Groundwater
13	Mission	Brackish Groundwater Desalination Plant	Brackish Groundwater
14	Mission	Direct Potable Reuse	Reuse
15	Pharr	Potable Reuse and Raw Water Reservoir	Reuse
16	San Juan	Brackish Groundwater Well	Brackish Groundwater
17	San Juan	WTP No. 1 Upgrade, Expansion, and BGD	Surface Water Treatment
18	San Juan	Potable Reuse	Reuse
19	Sharyland WSC	WTP No. 2 Brackish Groundwater Desalination	Brackish Groundwater
20	Sharyland WSC	WTP No. 3 Brackish Groundwater Desalination	Brackish Groundwater
21	Weslaco	North WWTP Potable Reuse	Reuse
22	Weslaco	Groundwater Development and Blending	Brackish Groundwater

A.5.5 ADDITION OF NEW PARAGRAPHS IN MIDDLE OF SECTION 5.3.2.2, PAGE 5.3-114, PRIOR TO HIDALGO COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1

Hidalgo County Drainage District 1

As a drainage district, Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 manages the Hidalgo County Master Drainage System to allow for the efficient exportation of drainage water; within Region M, it is classified as a WWP. As it does not incur a demand or provide water supply at this time, there are zero projected needs in every decade (Table 5.3-163a). The recommended WMS, the Delta Region Water Management Supply, is shown in Table 5.3-163b.

Table 5.3-163a Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 Existing Supply Balance (acft/yr)

HIDALGO	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Demand	0	0	0	0	0	0
Need(-)/Surplus(+)	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5.3-163b Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 WMS Supplies (acft/yr)

HIDALGO	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Delta Region Water Management Supply	0	5,600	11,200	12,140	12,140	12,140
New Supplies from WMS	0	5,600	11,200	12,140	12,140	12,140
WWP Balance After WMS	0	5,600	11,200	12,140	12,140	12,140

Project Source

This strategy was requested by the Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 to the RWPG at the April 6, 2022 and July 6, 2022 Region M meetings. The Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) agreed to amend the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan (RGRWP) to include the Delta Region Water Management Supply as a Water Management Strategy. A version of this strategy had been included in the 2016 RGRWP as a recommended strategy but was not included in the 2021 RGRWP.

Description

This strategy is to construct three reservoirs in northeastern Hidalgo County to capture tailwaters and precipitation runoff for beneficial use. Each proposed reservoir in this strategy is separated into a different Water Management Strategy Project (WMSP): the Delta “Panchita” Reservoir (235 acft capacity, online 2030), the Santa Cruz Reservoir (4,621 acft capacity, online 2040), and the Engleman Reservoir (280 acft capacity, online 2050). These reservoirs will allow for better control and management of flows in the drainage network and will allow for the drainage district to treat and distribute a portion of the flows for sale to potential customers.

Available Supply

The reservoirs are all in the Delta Watershed, which is distinct from other portions of the Nueces--Rio Grande Basin and will not impact downstream water rights. Recently--established environmental flow requirements for the Nueces--Rio Grande Basin do not place any limitations on the drainageways that will be impacted by this strategy.

Aqua Strategies, Inc., performed the Water Availability Modeling (WAM) analysis to determine the firm yield of each reservoir. The most updated version of the TCEQ Nueces-Rio Grande (NRG) Full Authorization WAM was provided by TCEQ staff Kathy Alexander on July 13, 2022, and was last updated on November 21, 2019. To assess the reservoirs' firm yields using the most updated version of the TCEQ NRG Full Authorization WAM, edits were required to include project off-channel reservoirs and return flows available for diversion by HCDD1 permit 13195.

Because the reservoirs will be operated as a single system, operating procedures can impact the firm yields for each reservoir. For purposes of this amendment to the 2021 Regional Water Plan, an operating scenario entitled, "Fully Utilized Panchita Reservoir" (with return flows) was utilized to determine firm yields. The Fully Utilized Panchita Reservoir operating procedure assumes the Panchita Reservoir has senior priority, diverting up to its full permitted amount. Any remaining water not diverted, or not reserved for use at Panchita Reservoir, could be diverted by the Santa Cruz and Engleman Reservoirs, which have junior priority. While the water use permit used for this strategy only has one priority date, the NRG Full Authorization WAM was modified by changing each reservoir's priority date (by one day) and revising the order of the proposed reservoir diversions. Changes to the priority dates in the WAM were done to simulate either a junior or senior date when compared to the other project reservoirs. Changes to the permit priority dates will not impact priority order with any other water permits in the project watershed. The TWDB acknowledges these operational changes do not impact other water rights in the basin. Further, the TWDB approved this approach to modify priority dates as part of the amendment review process to include this WMS.

The firm yields were analyzed both with and without return flows included. With return flows, the individual reservoir firm yield is 28,800 acft/yr for the Delta "Panchita" Reservoir, 8,100 acft/yr for the Santa Cruz Reservoir, and 940 acft/yr for the Engleman Reservoir. However, project yield is limited by water treatment plant capacity for two of the three reservoirs. The Delta "Panchita" Reservoir will provide 5,600 acft/yr when it comes online in 2030. The Santa Cruz Reservoir will provide 5,600 acft/yr when it comes online in 2040. The Engleman Reservoir will provide 940 acft/yr when it comes online in 2050.

Engineering and Costing

Costs for each project within this strategy were developed using the TWDB Uniform Costing Model (UCM) and include land acquisition, the reservoir, a pump station, transmission pipeline (distance estimated for costing purposes as an end user has not been identified at this time), and advanced water treatment facility with micro-filtration and reverse osmosis. It is assumed that the construction period for this strategy is 2 years for each reservoir. Table 5.3-163c outlines the project requirements and cost estimate developed in UCM for the Delta "Panchita" Reservoir, Table 5.3-163d outlines the project requirements

and cost estimate developed in UCM for the Santa Cruz Reservoir, and Table 5.3-163e outlines the project requirements and cost estimate developed in UCM for the Engleman Reservoir. The costs shown are in September 2018 dollars, as required by the TWDB for the 2021 RWP.

Implementation Issues

The main implementation issue for the three reservoirs and future water treatment plants would be funding for the projects. State and federal permits must be obtained before construction can begin, potentially including a Section 404, Clean Water Act Permit. Additionally, the project may need to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act if federal funding is involved and with the Endangered Species Act if any threatened and endangered species are impacted. However, the project has received a non-jurisdictional determination from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The project would divert and use water from drainageways, channels, and canals within the Delta Watershed. This project captures and beneficially uses tailwaters and precipitation runoff, which would otherwise discharge into the Laguna Madre. Diversion of water for this project is unlikely to cause significant, detrimental impacts to key parameters of water quality for the drainageways and downstream water bodies to the Laguna Madre. In fact, the "Environmental Flows Recommendations Report", prepared by Rio Grande, Rio Grande Estuary, and Lower Laguna Madre Basin and Bay Expert Science Team, indicates that a reduction in freshwater entering the Laguna Madre would benefit the natural aquatic plant life by maintaining the salinity. The project will use advanced water treatment, including micro-filtration and reverse osmosis. If disposed in the drainage canals, the brine concentrate could increase levels of total dissolved solids in the receiving stream.

The Delta Region Water Management Supply Strategy currently has Memoranda of Understanding with two Irrigation Districts, Engleman and Delta Lake. The largest potential impact on cultural resources associated with this strategy comes from pipeline construction and operation. Therefore, pipelines should follow existing and shared rights-of-way whenever possible to minimize the area of disturbance.

Table 5.3-163c Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 – Delta “Panchita” Reservoir Project Requirements and Costs

COST ESTIMATE SUMMARY	
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT 1 – DELTA “PANCHITA” RESERVOIR	
Item	Estimated Costs for Facilities
<u>CAPITAL COST</u>	
Reservoir (Conservation Pool 235 acft, 25 acres)	\$3,676,000
Primary Pump Station (5.3 MGD)	\$1,274,000
Transmission Pipeline (18-in dia., 3.8 miles)	\$3,052,000
Advanced Water Treatment Facility (5 MGD)	\$35,385,000
<u>TOTAL COST OF FACILITIES</u>	<u>\$43,387,000</u>
-	
Engineering and Feasibility Studies, Legal Assistance, Financing, Bond Counsel, and Contingencies (30% for pipes & 35% for all other facilities)	\$15,033,000
Environmental & Archaeology Studies and Mitigation	\$95,000
Land Acquisition and Surveying (78 acres - land already acquired for WTP and Res)	\$167,000
Interest During Construction (3% for 2 years with a 0.5% ROI)	\$3,229,000
<u>TOTAL COST OF PROJECT</u>	<u>\$61,911,000</u>
-	
<u>ANNUAL COST</u>	
Debt Service (3.5 percent, 20 years)	\$3,987,000
Reservoir Debt Service (3.5 percent, 40 years)	\$245,000
<u>O&M</u>	
Pipeline, Wells, and Storage Tanks (1% of Cost of Facilities)	\$31,000
Intakes and Pump Stations (2.5% of Cost of Facilities)	\$32,000
Dam and Reservoir (1.5% of Cost of Facilities)	\$55,000
Advanced Water Treatment Facility	\$4,610,000
Pumping Energy Costs (1,060,332 kW-hr @ 0.08 \$/kW-hr)	\$85,000
<u>TOTAL O&M</u>	<u>\$4,813,000</u>
<u>TOTAL ANNUAL COST</u>	<u>\$9,045,000</u>
-	
<u>Available Project Yield (acft/yr)</u>	<u>5,600</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water (\$ per acft)</u>	<u>\$1,615.18</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water After Debt Service (\$ per acft)</u>	<u>\$859.46</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water (\$ per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$4.96</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water After Debt Service (\$ per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$2.64</u>

Table 5.3-163d Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 – Santa Cruz Reservoir Project Requirements and Costs

COST ESTIMATE SUMMARY	
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT 1 – SANTA CRUZ RESERVOIR	
Item	Estimated Costs for Facilities
<u>CAPITAL COST</u>	
<u>Off-Channel Storage/Ring Dike (Conservation Pool 4,621 acft, 418 acres)</u>	<u>\$13,838,000</u>
<u>Primary Pump Station (5.3 MGD)</u>	<u>\$1,661,000</u>
<u>Transmission Pipeline (18-in dia., 6.0 miles)</u>	<u>\$5,038,000</u>
<u>Advanced Water Treatment Facility (5 MGD)</u>	<u>\$35,385,000</u>
<u>TOTAL COST OF FACILITIES</u>	<u>\$55,922,000</u>
-	
<u>Engineering and Feasibility Studies, Legal Assistance, Financing, Bond Counsel, and Contingencies (30% for pipes & 35% for all other facilities)</u>	<u>\$19,321,000</u>
<u>Environmental & Archaeology Studies and Mitigation</u>	<u>\$1,546,000</u>
<u>Land Acquisition and Surveying (498 acres)</u>	<u>\$1,682,000</u>
<u>Interest During Construction (3% for 2 years with a 0.5% ROI)</u>	<u>\$4,317,000</u>
<u>TOTAL COST OF PROJECT</u>	<u>\$82,788,000</u>
-	
<u>ANNUAL COST</u>	
<u>Debt Service (3.5 percent, 20 years)</u>	<u>\$4,233,000</u>
<u>Reservoir Debt Service (3.5 percent, 40 years)</u>	<u>\$1,059,000</u>
<u>O&M</u>	
<u>Pipeline, Wells, and Storage Tanks (1% of Cost of Facilities)</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
<u>Intakes and Pump Stations (2.5% of Cost of Facilities)</u>	<u>\$42,000</u>
<u>Dam and Reservoir (1.5% of Cost of Facilities)</u>	<u>\$208,000</u>
<u>Advanced Water Treatment Facility</u>	<u>\$4,610,000</u>
<u>Pumping Energy Costs (1,468,787 kW-hr @ 0.08 \$/kW-hr)</u>	<u>\$118,000</u>
<u>TOTAL O&M</u>	<u>\$5,028,000</u>
<u>TOTAL ANNUAL COST</u>	<u>\$10,320,000</u>
-	
<u>Available Project Yield (acft/yr)</u>	<u>5,600</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water (\$ per acft)</u>	<u>\$1,842.86</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water After Debt Service (\$ per acft)</u>	<u>\$897.86</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water (\$ per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$5.65</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water After Debt Service (\$ per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$2.76</u>

Table 5.3-163e Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 – Engleman Reservoir Project Requirements and Costs

<u>COST ESTIMATE SUMMARY</u>	
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT 1 – ENGLEMAN RESERVOIR	
Item	Estimated Costs for Facilities
<u>CAPITAL COST</u>	
Off-Channel Storage/Ring Dike (Conservation Pool 280 acft, 25 acres)	\$3,844,000
Primary Pump Station (0.9 MGD)	\$889,000
Transmission Pipeline (10-in dia., 4.0 miles)	\$1,650,000
Advanced Water Treatment Facility (1 MGD)	\$9,918,000
<u>TOTAL COST OF FACILITIES</u>	<u>\$16,301,000</u>
-	
Engineering and Feasibility Studies, Legal Assistance, Financing, Bond Counsel, and Contingencies (30% for pipes & 35% for all other facilities)	\$5,623,000
Environmental & Archaeology Studies and Mitigation	\$200,000
Land Acquisition and Surveying (79 acres)	\$277,000
Interest During Construction (3% for 2 years with a 0.5% ROI)	\$1,233,000
<u>TOTAL COST OF PROJECT</u>	<u>\$23,634,000</u>
-	
<u>ANNUAL COST</u>	
Debt Service (3.5 percent, 20 years)	\$1,265,000
Reservoir Debt Service (3.5 percent, 40 years)	\$265,000
<u>O&M</u>	
Pipeline, Wells, and Storage Tanks (1% of Cost of Facilities)	\$17,000
Intakes and Pump Stations (2.5% of Cost of Facilities)	\$22,000
Dam and Reservoir (1.5% of Cost of Facilities)	\$58,000
Advanced Water Treatment Facility	\$1,186,000
Pumping Energy Costs (117,998 kW-hr @ 0.08 \$/kW-hr)	\$9,000
<u>TOTAL O&M</u>	<u>\$1,292,000</u>
<u>TOTAL ANNUAL COST</u>	<u>\$2,822,000</u>
-	
<u>Available Project Yield (acft/yr)</u>	<u>940</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water (\$ per acft)</u>	<u>\$3,002.13</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water After Debt Service (\$ per acft)</u>	<u>\$1,374.47</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water (\$ per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$9.21</u>
<u>Annual Cost of Water After Debt Service (\$ per 1,000 gallons)</u>	<u>\$4.22</u>

CHAPTER 8

A.8.1 MODIFICATION TO SECTION 8.2.4, PAGE 8-6

8.2.4 Hidalgo County Drainage District Delta Watershed Project ~~Region Water Management Supply~~

The drainage district has proposed construction of ~~two~~three reservoirs in northeastern Hidalgo County to capture tailwaters and precipitation runoff for beneficial use, discussed in detail in Chapter 5. The ~~existing and proposed Engleman Reservoirs (77 acres), the proposed Santa Cruz/Lake Edinburg reservoir (425-418 acres) and the proposed Delta Region-“Panchita” Reservoir (350-25 acres) are both all~~ in the Delta Watershed, which is distinct from other portions of the Nueces Rio Grande Watershed, and impact no downstream water rights. Recently established environmental flow requirements for the Nueces-Rio Grande ~~basin~~ do not place any limitations on the drainageways that will be impacted by this strategy. These reservoirs will allow for better control and management of flows in the drainage network, and will allow for the drainage district to treat and distribute a portion of the flows for ~~sale to potential customers irrigation and as a raw water source for municipal treatment and distribution~~. ~~The proposed Engleman Reservoir would be constructed using a ring dike around a 12-foot depth reservoir, next to the existing Engleman Reservoir.~~ The ~~Edinburg-Santa Cruz~~ reservoir requires construction of a ring dike around a ~~10~~14-foot depth reservoir ~~adjacent to Lake Edinburg~~. The existing Panchita control structure and associated weir would be raised for the Delta ~~“Panchita”~~ Reservoir, which is ~~also~~ proposed to be ~~10~~12-feet deep.

A.8.2 MODIFICATION TO SECTION 8.2.6, PAGE 8-7

8.2.6 Recommendations

The Brownsville-Matamoros Weir and Reservoir has been considered a recommended alternative on the basis of cost, yield, and permitting concerns. The Laredo Low Water Weir may have considerable value as a flood control mechanism but does not meet the requirements to be recommended in the plan because it does not provide an increase in supply. The Banco Morales Reservoir and the United Off-Channel Reservoir have all been recommended by the RWPG. The Delta ~~Watershed Project~~Region Water Management Supply reservoirs ~~have been recommended by the RWPG under the September 2022 Amendment to the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan~~are being reevaluated for next cycle.

None of these sites are recommended as unique reservoir sites.

CHAPTER 10

A.10.1 ADDITION OF SECTION 10.1.3, PAGE 10-5

10.1.3 Amendment to the 2021 Region M Plan

An Amendment to the 2021 RGRWP was requested by the Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 in order to add the Delta Region Water Management Supply Strategy to the 2021 RGRWP. A public hearing was held on August 23, 2022, with the public notice of the hearing being emailed to the RWPG members and posted on the Secretary of State and Region M websites on July 22, 2022. Following the public hearing, 30 days were allowed to receive public comments. After the 30-day public comment period, comments were incorporated into the amendment materials. A public meeting was held on September 29, 2022, where the Rio Grande RWPG adopted the Amendment to the 2021 RGRWP. The amendment was then submitted to the TWDB on September 30, 2022, for adoption into the 2022 State Water Plan.

CHAPTER 11

A.11.1 MODIFICATION TO TABLE 11-1, PAGE 11-10

Table 11-1 2021 Potentially Feasible WMSs

POTENTIALLY FEASIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	FOR DETAILED EVALUATION, SEE SECTION:
Water Infrastructure and Distribution Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation District Improvements / Conservation • Municipal Infrastructure Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribution and Transmission ▪ Storage ▪ Surface Water Treatment • Other Wholesale Water Provider Improvements 	5.2.1 5.2.1.1 5.2.1.2 5.2.1.2a
Wastewater Reuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Potable Reuse • Potable Reuse 	5.2.2
Desalination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Brackish Groundwater Development and Treatment • Seawater Desalination 	5.2.3
Fresh Groundwater	5.2.4
Advanced Municipal Water Conservation	5.2.5
Municipal Drought Management	5.2.6
Implementation of Best Management Practices for Industrial Users	5.2.7
Conversion/Purchase of Surface Water Rights	5.2.8

On-Farm Irrigation Conservation	5.2.9
Biological Control of <i>Arundo donax</i>	5.2.10
Aquifer Storage and Recovery	5.2.11

A.11.2 MODIFICATION TO SECTION 11.4, LAST PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 11-10

Table 11-2 compares the number of each type of WMS [Project](#) that was recommended in the 2016 RWP and the 2021 RWP. The 2016 LRGVRWP included 195 recommended WMSPs and 54 alternative WMSPs; whereas the 2021 LRGVRWP recommends [132-135](#) WMSPs and 21 alternative WMSPs. The total volume of recommended strategies in the 2021 Plan for the year 2070 is [508,462,520,602](#) acft/yr, with alternative strategies were projected to be 231,241 acft/yr. The 2016 LRGVRWP new supplies were projected to be 668,705 acft/yr and alternative strategies were projected to be 383,144 acft/yr.

A.11.3 MODIFICATION TO TABLE 11-2, PAGE 11-11

Table 11-2 Comparison of Recommended WMS Projects from 2021 and 2016 RWPs

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF RECOMMENDED WMS PROJECTS		NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE WMS PROJECTS	
	2021 RWP	2016 RWP	2021 RWP	2016 RWP
Acquisition of Water Rights	46	29	-	-
Aquifer Storage and Recovery	-	-	1	-
Brackish Groundwater	2	10	-	17
Fresh Groundwater	18	18	5	4
ID Improvements	24	28	-	-
Municipal Conservation	1	61	-	-
Municipal Infrastructure Improvements	13	15	7	11
Reuse	-	1	-	-
Seawater Desalination	20	24	5	16
Storage*	6-9	2	2	5
Surface Water Treatment	1	4	1	1

[*Three WMS projects were added to the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan \(RGRWP\) as part of an Amendment to the 2021 RGRWP in September 2022.](#)

A.11.4 ADDITION OF NEW PARAGRAPH AT END OF SECTION 11.4.1, PAGE 11-12

An implementation survey was conducted for the 2021 Region M RWP, which describes the progress toward implementing projects listed in the 2016 RWP. Appendix H includes survey results and project information that were received by sponsors.

[As part of an amendment to the 2021 RGRWP in September 2022, the Delta Region Water Management Supply Strategy was added that included three water management strategy projects consisting of new off-channel reservoirs and water treatment plants. The project sponsor is Hidalgo County Drainage District 1. A feasibility study has been performed for all three reservoirs, along with some conceptual design.](#)

A.11.5 ADDITION OF NEW PARAGRAPH IN MIDDLE OF SECTION 11.6, PAGE 11-13

11.6 ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARD REGIONALIZATION

In accordance with 31 TAC §357.45(b), planning groups must “assess the progress of the RWPA in encouraging cooperation between WUGs for the purpose of achieving economies of scale and otherwise incentivizing WMSs that benefit the entire RWPA.” This rule is new for this cycle of planning, and because it became effective shortly before Plan adoption (on June 28, 2020), the TWDB provided guidance that RWPGs may provide a general assessment of the progress toward regionalization, as opposed to the more prescriptive requirements identified in the adopted rule.

Several WMSs since the 2016 RWP have focused on cooperative agreements among WUGs and WWPs. For example, the North Cameron Regional WTP Wellfield Expansion (both in the 2016 and the 2021 RWPs) has been a focus to increase supplies to both the NAWSC and ERHWSC systems. Another major example is the ID Conservation WMS, which focuses on improving ID distribution systems to reduce losses and remove infrastructure bottlenecks. Continued improvement to any ID increases efficiency and enables more water to convey through the complex systems in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Outside of WMSs, SRWA has also conducted successful regional groundwater connection studies.

[The Delta Region Water Management Supply Strategy, added to the 2021 RGRWP through the Amendment process in September 2022, includes multiple off-channel reservoirs and water treatment plants across Hidalgo County that will capture and treat storm runoff and return flows to create a new water supply for water users in the Hidalgo County area.](#)

For many years, the Rio Grande RWPA has encouraged cooperation and collaboration among WUGs for the purposes of achieving economies of scales. For example, the Southmost Regional Water Authority utilizes economy of scale to service various independent systems. These WUGs include Brownsville PUB, Valley MUD, Brownsville Navigation District (i.e. Manufacturing, Cameron in the RWP), Los Fresnos, and Indian Lake (i.e. County-Other, Cameron in the RWP).

This assessment demonstrates that many entities within the Rio Grande RWPA coordinate and collaborate in order to achieve regionalization. Based on the array of collaborative projects and

partnerships, the RGRWPA has been successful in encouraging cooperation among WUGs for the purpose of achieving economies of scale or otherwise incentivizing WMSs that benefit the entire RWPA. The Rio Grande RWPG is committed to encouraging continued cooperation among WUGs and is always looking for ways to achieve economies of scale for the benefit of the region and the state.

ATTACHMENT A

Water Management Strategy Environmental Impact
Legend and Description

The following section 5.2.1.3 from the 2021 RGRWP details the legend and description for Table 5.2-5a for Water Management Strategy Environmental Impact analysis.

5.2.1.3 Environmental Impacts

Potential environment impacts for water infrastructure and distribution systems strategies have been identified and categorized as described below. The letters identifying each section correspond to the headings in Table 5.2-4.

A. Acres Impacted Permanently

Acres impacted permanently refers to the total amount of area that will be permanently impacted because of the implementation of a strategy. The following conservative assumptions were made (unless more detailed information for a specific was available):

- The acreage impacted for pipelines is equivalent to the right-of-way (ROW) easements required; it is assumed 50 feet for ROW unless otherwise known.
- WTP impacts are estimated using UCM, which is based on the plant type and capacity.
- It is assumed that ID conservation projects have no permanently impacted acreage.

B. Construction Impacted Acreage

Temporary environmental impacts may be seen during construction activities, such as increased air and noise pollution, and land disturbance activities. However, these effects are typical of any construction project. The construction impacted acreage was estimated as 110 percent (rounded up to a whole number) of the permanently impacted acreage.

For ID conservation, impacted acreage was calculated with the following assumptions:

- The acreage impacted for pipelines and canal linings is equivalent to the ROW easements required; it is assumed 50-feet for ROW unless otherwise known.
- Unless otherwise known, the length of pipeline and canal lining projects is assumed using the calculated average value of 411 AF-conserved/mile of improvement.
- General improvements (canal gate replacements, SCADA, and other improvements) have an assumed 50-foot ROW and 50-foot project construction length.

C. Inundation Acreage

The inundation acreage applies to reservoirs only and is equal to the amount of land that will be inundated by the construction of the reservoir.

D. Agricultural Resources Impacted Acreage

Agricultural resources impact acreage is a consolidation of vegetation and land use types specific to Region – row crops, grass farms, and orchards - identified in the TPWD EMST. This GIS mapping data was

overlay WMS locations to estimate the agricultural impact acreage from the implementation of the associated strategy.

E. Wetland Impact

The wetland impact refers to the probability that implementation of a WMS will affect a wetland. The location of wetlands in the region was determined using the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) located at <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>.

A strategy received a "1" if all or part of the strategy is located in a wetland or if it is close enough to where construction activities are likely to impact the wetland. All other strategies received zeros. If the exact location of project is unknown, it was given a zero because it was assumed that it would be located on a site that would not affect any wetland.

F. Habitat Impacted Acreage

Habitat impacted acreage refers to how the strategy will impact the habitat of the local area. The more area that is impacted because of the implementation of the strategy, the more the habitat of the area will be disrupted. Therefore, it was assumed that the permanent acreage impacted for a WMS is what would impact habitats.

G. Threatened and Endangered Species Count

Threatened and endangered species count refers to how the strategy will impact those species in the area once implemented. This impact was quantified based on the number of federally-listed threatened and endangered species located within the county of the strategy. The number of threatened and endangered species came from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species of Texas database (<http://tpwd.texas.gov/gis/rtest/>).

H. Cultural Resources Impact

Cultural resources impact refers to how the strategy will impact cultural resources located within the area. Cultural resources are defined as the collective evidence of the past activities and accomplishments of people, including locations; buildings; and features with scientific, cultural, or historic value. It is assumed that no WMSs negatively affect cultural resources. Mitigation costs are included for strategies that require infrastructure, so it is assumed that none would be built in a location or way that disrupts culturally sensitive locations.

I. Reliability

Reliability is an assessment of the availability of the specified water quantity to the user over time. If the quantity of water is available to the user all the time, then the strategy has a high reliability. If the quantity of water is contingent on other factors, reliability will be lower. This strategy was developed in accordance with WAM and/or MAG values for the appropriate area. As such, WMSs associated with new/improved infrastructure or distribution system or facilities expansions are considered to be reliable supply (reliability score = 5) that will not compromise the DFCs as established by the MAG or the

environmental flow standards as established by 30 TAC §298. The reliability of on/off-channel reservoirs is also projected to be high (reliability score = 5).

J. Bays, Estuaries, and Arms of the Gulf of Mexico

The environmental effects due to implementation of upstream WMS projects on bays, estuaries, and arms of the Gulf of Mexico are quantitatively assessed and reported. Water bodies designated as classified segments by the TCEQ that are within or downstream of Region M include the Brownsville Ship Channel, South Bay, Laguna Madre, and the Gulf of Mexico. Effects to these water bodies were quantified by estimating whether the project is anticipated to decrease freshwater inflow in these classified water bodies.

A WMS project received a "1" if it is expected to decrease freshwater inflow into a classified water body. If a strategy were to increase freshwater inflow or otherwise have little to no impact on inflows, then the project would receive a zero.

ATTACHMENT B

ASI Delta Project Firm Yield Analysis

Memorandum

TO: Kristina Leal, PE, CFM
Halff Associates

CC: Jaime Burke, PE
Black & Veatch

FROM: Frank Schalla, PE
Tim Osting, PE, D.WRE, CFM

DATE: August 15, 2022

RE: HCDD1 Delta Regional Water Management Project TCEQ WAM Analysis for Amendment for Regional Water Plan Group M

1 Introduction

The Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 (HCDD1) seeks to amend the 2021 Rio Grande Region M Regional Water Plan to include the HCDD1 Delta Regional Water Management Project (herein Delta Project) as a recommended water management strategy. For this project to be accepted as a recommended water management strategy by the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M) and to be eligible for SWIFT funding, the Delta Project's firm yield must be documented according to regional water planning requirements.

1.1 Overview of Water Use Permit

Source water for the Delta Project is permitted by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Water Use Permit No. 13195. The HCDD1 was granted Water Use Permit No. 13195 from TCEQ on November 8, 2016. This water use permit grants HCDD1 the authorization to construct and maintain the Panchita off-channel reservoir, divert and use up to 62,712 acre-feet of water per year (AFY) across four locations in the Nueces Rio Grande Basin, and has a priority date of November 20, 2015. The permit also authorizes storing these diverted waters in Santa Cruz Irrigation Reservoir and Engelman Irrigation Reservoir, which are dependent upon agreements with the corresponding Irrigation Districts. A breakdown of the water use permit's authorized diversion amounts, diversion locations, and maximum diversion rates are summarized in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1.

The maximum combined annual diversion amount is limited to 62,712 AFY and a maximum combined diversion rate of 659.9 cfs. These permitted diversions can be used for domestic, municipal, mining, agricultural, industrial, hydroelectric power generation, recreation, flood control, and water quality purposes in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties within the Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal Basin.

The permit also authorizes using the bed and banks of the Main Floodwater Channel, North Main Drain, and the South Main Drain to convey and subsequently divert any discharged return flows. The right to divert these return flows is conditioned on the availability of the discharges.

Table 1. Summary information for water use permit number 13195.

Diversion Location	Waterbody	Corresponding Off-Channel Reservoir ¹	Authorized Diversion Amount, AFY	Maximum Diversion Rate, cfs
Diversion Point 1	South Main Drain	Engleman Irrigation Reservoir	12,288	54.7
Diversion Segment 1	Main Floodwater Channel	Panchita Reservoir (proposed)	44,940	198.8
Diversion Segment 2	North Main Drain	Santa Cruz Irrigation Reservoir	29,148	129 / 396 ²
Diversion Segment 3	Main Floodwater Channel	-	62,712	277.3
¹ Diversion point 1 and the diversion segments divert from the corresponding waterbody and, if applicable, into a corresponding off-channel reservoir.				
² 129 cfs for water supply purposes, 396 cfs for water quality purposes				

1.2 Other Water Use Permits in the Project Watershed

Within the Delta Project watershed there are two active surface water use permits, which are summarized in Table 2 and whose locations are shown in Figure 1. Both permits allow for storage in an off-channel reservoir and are senior to HCDD1 water user permit 13195.

Table 2. Summary of other existing surface water permits in the project watershed.

Certificate of Adjudication No.	Priority Date	Entity Name	Diversion Amount, AFY	Maximum Diversion Rate, cfs	Off-channel Impoundment Capacity, AF
22-4523	12/10/1973	Hidalgo County Irrigation District 1	0	-	500
22-4524	7/10/1928	Engleman Irrigation District	254.5 ¹	12 ¹	250 ¹ , 300
¹ Authorized off-channel reservoir, diversion amount and maximum diversion rate are associated with locations outside of the project watershed					

1.3 Existing Recommended Strategies in the 2021 Region M Regional Water Plan

Review of the 2021 Region M Regional Water plan finds no recommended water management strategies that would be impacted by the Delta Project. Section 1.2 discusses the existing surface water permits in the project watershed, which are senior to the HCDD1 water use permit 13195 and upstream of HCDD1 diversion locations. No 2021 Region M water management strategies are recommended that would coincide with the Delta Project or Delta Project watershed; therefore, the Delta Project permitted diversions or off-channel storage would have no impact on any other recommended strategies.

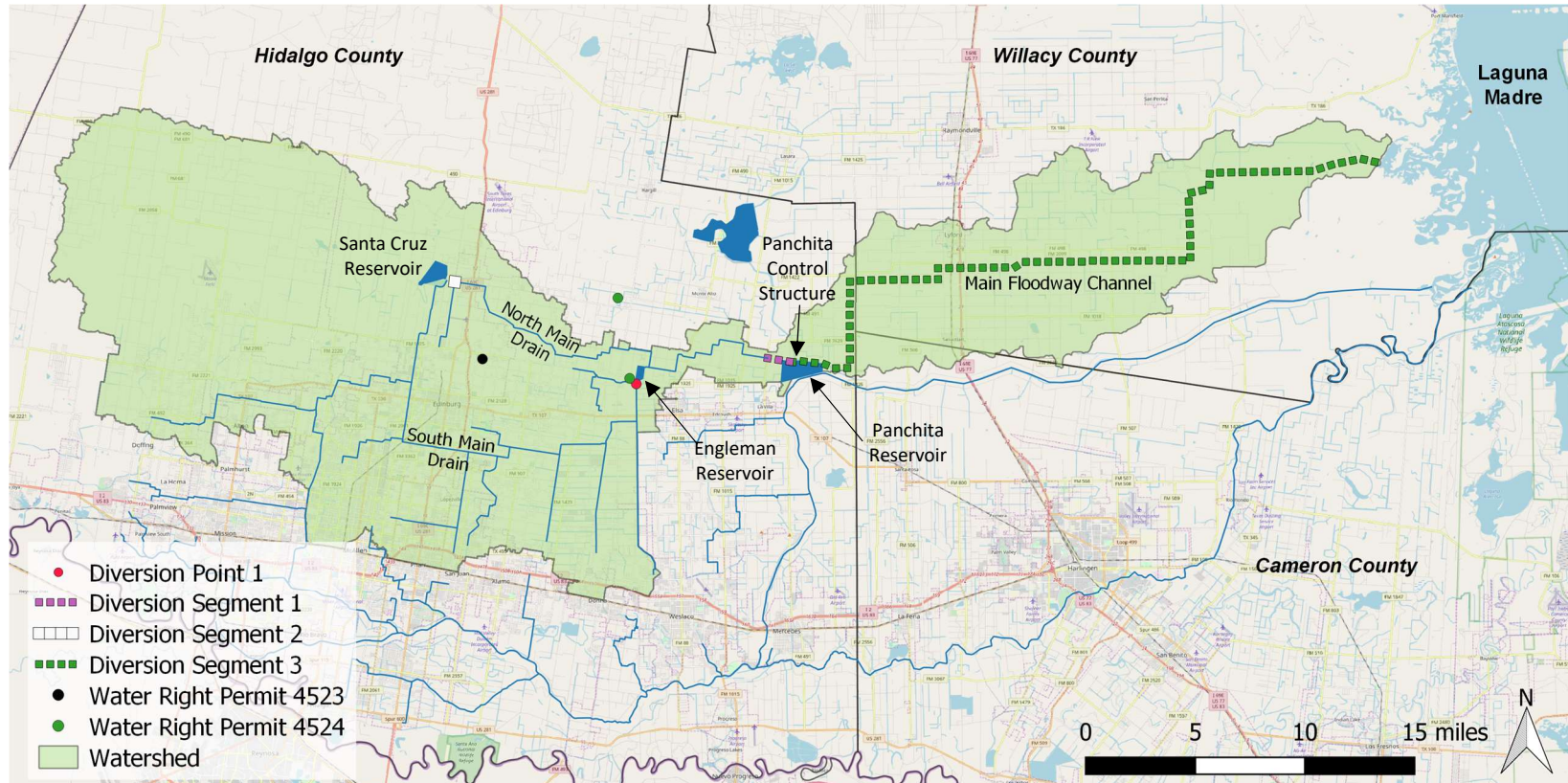


Figure 1. Overview of the Delta Project watershed, water use permit 13195 components, reservoirs, and other water use permits within the Delta Project watershed.



2 TCEQ Water Availability Model

As required by Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Regional Water Planning guidelines, the Delta Project's firm yield must be evaluated using the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Nueces Rio Grande Coastal Basin full authorization (Run 3) water availability model (WAM). The TCEQ full authorization WAM scenario simulates the entire Nueces Rio Grande Coastal Basin (NRG) on a monthly timestep and examines water availability as if all existing water permit holders are requesting their full authorized permitted amounts, without return flow discharges. Reservoirs are included in the WAM and simulate authorized diversions, impoundment capacities, maximum pumping rates, and net evaporation, which is evaporation minus direct reservoir precipitation. During periods when there is not enough water to satisfy all permitted demands, the model allocates water to senior water permits first, in order of their priority dates. The TCEQ NRG WAM's analysis period is from 1948 through 1998.

The most updated version of the TCEQ NRG Full Authorization WAM was provided by TCEQ staff Kathy Alexander on July 13, 2022, and was last updated on November 21, 2019. This version includes HCDD1 water use permit 13195, including its four respective diversion locations. This WAM version does not include any of HCDD1 permit's authorized off-channel reservoirs.

3 TCEQ WAM Edits

To assess the Delta Project firm yield using the most updated version of the TCEQ NRG Full Authorization WAM, edits were required to include project off-channel reservoirs and return flows available for diversion by HCDD1 permit 13195. Edits are described below, included in Appendix A, and the corresponding TCEQ WAM digital files are included in the amendment package.

While there are four HCDD1 water use permit diversion locations (see Table 1), diversion segment three, located along the main floodway channel downstream of the Panchita diversion structure, was not utilized within the WAM. The Delta Project will utilize diversion point 1, and diversion segments 1 and 2 for diversions, which correspond to each project off-channel reservoir.

3.1 Addition of project reservoirs

The proposed Delta Project's water management strategy includes utilizing water use permit 13195 to divert water into the three corresponding off-channel reservoirs for subsequent beneficial use. The three off-channel reservoirs, Panchita, Santa Cruz and Engleman, will be operated as a single system to maximize the overall Delta Project's firm yield. Since diversions into these reservoirs are authorized under the HCDD1 water use permit, the reservoirs were added into the most updated version of the TCEQ NRG full authorization WAM.

Existing net evaporation data are already included in the WAM for the corresponding diversion points and reservoir locations. The elevation-area-volume relationships for these three reservoirs were referenced from a previous 2019 Delta Region Water Management Project Feasibility Study prepared for HCDD1. The 2019 study used available 2-meter LiDAR-derived elevation data or site plan data to estimate the elevation-area-volume relationship. The normal operating level, at which the reservoir capacity was calculated, is based on a two-foot freeboard assumption below the top of berm elevation. A summary table of area and volume capacity at the normal operating level is listed in Table 3. Table 4

through Table 6 list the elevation-volume-area relationships used in the WAM for each reservoir. All reservoir modeled capacities are less than the estimated capacities reported in the TCEQ water rights application for permit 13195.

The volume-area relationships were input into the WAM as SV and SA records for each respective reservoir. WS records were also input into the WAM to represent each reservoir individually, its corresponding capacity at its normal operating elevation, and were linked to each corresponding WR record. To ensure each off-channel reservoir did not deplete from its respective waterbody more than its authorized maximum diversion rate or annual authorized diversion amount, the corresponding SO record was edited to set monthly and annual depletion limits. The depletion limits apply to the water right diversions made directly from the water source (WR Record), and any amount of water used to refill reservoir storage capacity due to reservoir diversions or evaporation.

Table 3. Capacity, surface area and normal operating elevation for the Delta Project off-channel reservoirs.

Off-Channel Reservoir	Normal Operating Elevation, ft	Capacity at the Normal Operating Elevation, acre-feet	Surface Area at the Normal Operating Elevation, acre
Panchita	52.0	187.9	23.1
Santa Cruz	88.6	3,790	417.7
Engleman	76.0	713.5	74.4

Table 4. Elevation-volume-area relationship used in the WAM for Panchita Reservoir.

Water Surface Elevation, ft	Volume, acre-feet	Surface Area, acres
52.0	187.9	23.1
51.0	165.0	22.7
50.0	142.5	22.3
49.0	120.5	21.8
48.0	98.9	21.4
47.0	77.8	20.9
46.0	57.1	20.5
45.0	36.9	20.0
44.0	17.1	19.5
43.0	3.1	7.9
42.5	0.5	2.8
42.0	0.0	0.0

Table 5. Elevation-volume-area relationship used in the WAM for Santa Cruz Reservoir.

Water Surface Elevation, ft	Volume, acre-feet	Surface Area, acres
88.6	3,790.0	413.4
88.0	3,542.0	412.3
86.0	2,721.0	409.0
84.0	1,908.0	401.1
83.0	1,513.0	386.5
82.0	1,137.0	365.5

81.0	784.0	339.4
80.0	466.0	295.1
79.0	226.0	196.2
78.0	59.0	131.0
77.0	1.0	5.6
76.3	0.0	0.0

Table 6. Elevation-volume-area relationship used in the WAM for Engleman Reservoir.

Water Surface Elevation, ft	Volume, acre-feet	Surface Area, acres
76.0	713.5	74.4
75.0	639.4	73.8
74.0	565.9	73.3
73.0	492.9	72.8
72.0	420.3	72.3
71.0	348.2	71.8
70.0	276.6	71.3
69.0	205.6	70.7
68.0	135.3	69.9
67.0	66.0	67.7
66.1	6.4	64.6
66.0	0.0	0.0

3.2 Addition of municipal and industrial based return flows

The 2021 TWDB approved hydrologic variance memorandum approves alternative water supply assumptions for determining existing and future surface water availability. Water discharged from a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) can be utilized in evaluating indirect reuse water management strategies through modifications to the TCEQ NRG Full Authorization WAM. The TWDB memorandum approves using site-specific information in determining the amount of discharge water available as return flows. Since the HCDD1 water use permit 13195 approves the diversion of any discharged return flows, they were included in assessing the Delta Project firm yield. In addition to municipal WWTP discharge permits, two power generating station discharge permits' discharges were also considered available for diversion by the Delta Project water use permit.

Ten years of monthly discharge data for each municipal and power utility discharge permit in the project watershed were accessed through the US Environmental Protection Agency Enforcement and Compliance History Online (EPA Echo) website (<https://echo.epa.gov/>). Discharge permits located downstream of the Delta Project diversion locations were excluded. TPDES discharge permit TX0132055 (La Joya WWTP) discharges above the Delta Project diversion locations but was excluded due to the small annual discharge volumes. Table 7 lists the discharge permits upstream of the Delta Project diversion locations and the average annual discharge volumes from 2012 through 2021.

To estimate a conservative annual discharge amount for use as return flows in the TCEQ WAM, the minimum annual discharge amount from 2012 through 2021 was calculated and then further reduced to estimate 2040 return flow conditions. A further reduction was applied because of the McAllen North WWTP Potable Reuse Pipeline, which is a recommended water management strategy in the 2021 Region

M Plan that approximates 3,880 AFY of potable reuse will be produced starting in 2030. This amount of reuse was reduced from the McAllen minimum annual discharge amount from 2012 through 2021. For the other municipal dischargers the minimum annual discharge amount from 2012 through 2021 was reduced by 5% to estimate 2040 return flow amounts. Final municipal and industrial discharge volumes input into the TCEQ WAM are listed on the “Reduced 10-Year Annual Minimum Discharge” row in Table 7. A combined 16.48 cfs (11,931 AFY) of return flows from municipal and industrial discharge permits are included as Delta Project accessible return flows within the TCEQ WAM.

Table 7. Municipal and industrial discharge permits annual average discharge amounts that are upstream of the Delta Project water use permit diversion locations. Discharge permit numbers and assigned TCEQ WAM control point locations are also listed.

Entity Name / Year	Average Annual Discharge, cfs								Combined Total
	North Alamo WSC ¹	North Alamo WSC ¹	North Alamo WSC	North Alamo WSC ²	Calpine Hidalgo Energy Center	Magic Valley Generating Station	City of McAllen	City of Edinburg	
TPDES Permit Number	TX0128350	TX0128643	TX0132497	TX0134902	TX0119423	TX0116751	TX0093106	TX0024112	-
TCEQ WAM Control Point Location	B52010	B52010	B52010	B52010	B50010	B50010	B50010	B52010	-
2012	0.90	0.46	0.87	-	1.01	1.23	8.25	10.84	23.56
2013	1.02	0.45	0.87	-	1.25	1.20	8.46	10.52	23.76
2014	0.81	0.42	0.79	-	1.09	1.27	9.19	11.71	25.30
2015	0.73	0.42	0.89	-	1.26	1.31	10.63	13.46	28.70
2016	0.96	0.42	0.82	-	1.26	1.09	10.32	11.91	26.77
2017	0.96	0.47	0.74	-	1.22	1.20	10.10	11.48	26.17
2018	1.16	0.48	0.93	0.23	1.22	1.05	10.38	12.86	28.29
2019	1.06	0.43	1.10	0.19	1.28	1.05	10.39	12.34	27.82
2020	1.17	0.42	1.20	0.28	1.22	0.95	10.91	14.23	30.40
2021	1.20	0.39	1.16	0.29	1.25	0.74	11.38	15.86	32.26
10-Year Minimum Annual Discharge	0.73	0.39	0.74	0.19	1.01	0.74	8.25	10.52	22.57
Reduced 10-Year Minimum Annual Discharge	0.69	0.37	0.70	0.18	0.96	0.70	2.89	9.99	16.48

¹ North Alamo WCS permit discharges are from reverse osmosis plants
² Discharge data are not available prior to 2018 for permit no. TX0134902

The reduced 10-year annual minimum municipal and industrial return flow amounts from Table 7 were input in the TCEQ WAM as individual CI Records, and assigned to the nearest upstream control point, if available. Discharge permits that were associated with a single entity (i.e. North Alamo Water Supply Corp) or were near each other (i.e. Calpine Hidalgo Energy Center and Magic Valley Generating Station) were combined as single CI Records in the WAM. No discernable monthly demand distribution was identified from the monthly discharge data, so a constant daily discharge volume was assumed across each month and year.

3.3 Addition of irrigation based return flows

Similar to the estimate of municipal and industrial discharge data in Section 3.2, irrigation based return flows were also estimated for diversion by HCDD1 permit 13195 and inclusion in the TCEQ WAM. There are twelve irrigation districts within the Delta Project watershed, which are shown and listed in Figure 2. Each irrigation district's monthly water diversions for irrigation purposes from 2010 through October of 2019 were provided by TCEQ. Since most irrigation district boundaries are inside and outside of the Delta Project watershed, the irrigation diversion data for each respective district were reduced by the percent of area within the Delta Project watershed.

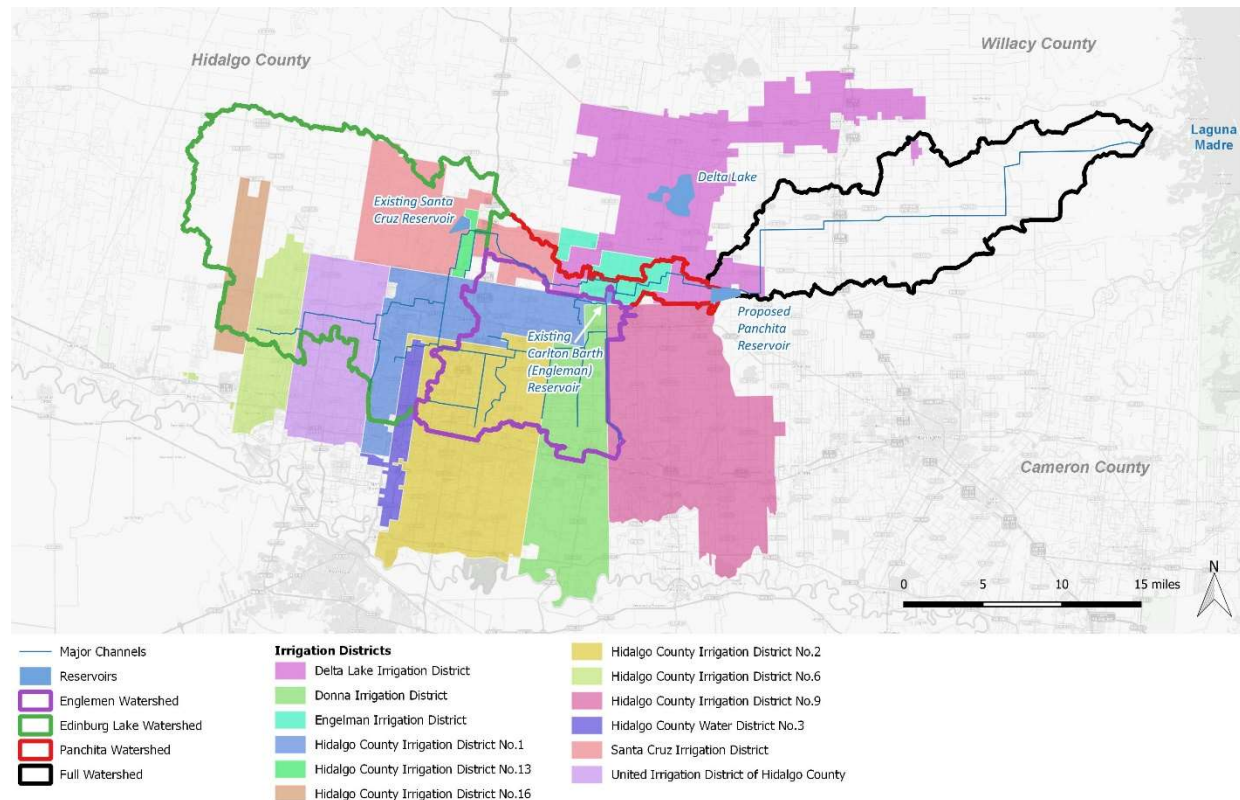


Figure 2. Irrigation districts in the Delta Project watershed.

Diversion data were then reduced to account for losses from the point of diversion to where return flows enter the drainage network. First, to account for irrigation network channel losses a 25% reduction was applied. Secondly, to account for absorption and evaporation due to field irrigation a 90% reduction was applied. And finally, to estimate the reduction in irrigation based return flows from now to the year 2040, an additional 30% reduction was applied. In total, irrigation diversions were reduced by 94.75% from the point of diversion to return flows entering drainage channels in the project watershed. This reduction percent is higher than the reduction amount used in the HCDD1 water permit 13195 application. TCEQ approved naturalized flows for the Delta Project watershed, which were developed as part of the HCDD1 water permit 13195 application, used a percent reduction amount of 92.5% from point of diversion to return flows entering drainage channel.

Since irrigation based return flows entering the drainage channels are diffused and not point source return flows like a discharge point, irrigation district return flows are grouped and listed by HCDD1 water permit diversion location, i.e., those return flows entering upstream of Santa Cruz reservoir, Engleman reservoir and Panchita reservoir. Table 8 lists these average annual irrigation based return flow amounts. A combined 9.40 cfs (6,805 AFY) of irrigation based return flows are included as Delta Project accessible return flows within the TCEQ WAM.

Table 8. Average annual irrigation based return flows, grouped by HCDD1 water permit 13195 diversion locations, i.e. Santa Cruz Reservoir, Engleman Reservoir, Panchita Reservoir.

HCDD1 Water Permit Diversion Location / Year	Average Annual Irrigation Return Flows, cfs			
	Santa Cruz Reservoir	Engleman Reservoir	Panchita Reservoir	Combined Total
2010	6.11	3.75	0.60	10.46
2011	13.23	7.61	2.02	22.86
2012	11.65	8.27	1.67	21.59
2013	9.73	6.47	1.27	17.47
2014	8.02	5.60	1.06	14.68
2015	5.32	3.55	0.53	9.40
2016	8.64	6.61	1.27	16.52
2017	9.84	7.20	1.50	18.54
2018	9.00	7.13	1.51	17.64
2019	9.57	7.09	1.28	17.94
10-Year Minimum Annual Return Flow ¹	5.32	3.55	0.53	9.40
¹ TCEQ diversion data were provided through October of 2019 when initially requested in 2019. Diversion data through 2021 were recently received but not processed.				

The 10-year annual minimum irrigation based return flow amounts from Table 8 were input in the TCEQ WAM as individual CI Records, and assigned to the respective HCDD1 water permit diversion locations. A monthly irrigation demand distribution was estimated for irrigation based return flows by taking monthly averages of irrigation based diversion data. The monthly irrigation demand distribution is shown in Figure 3.

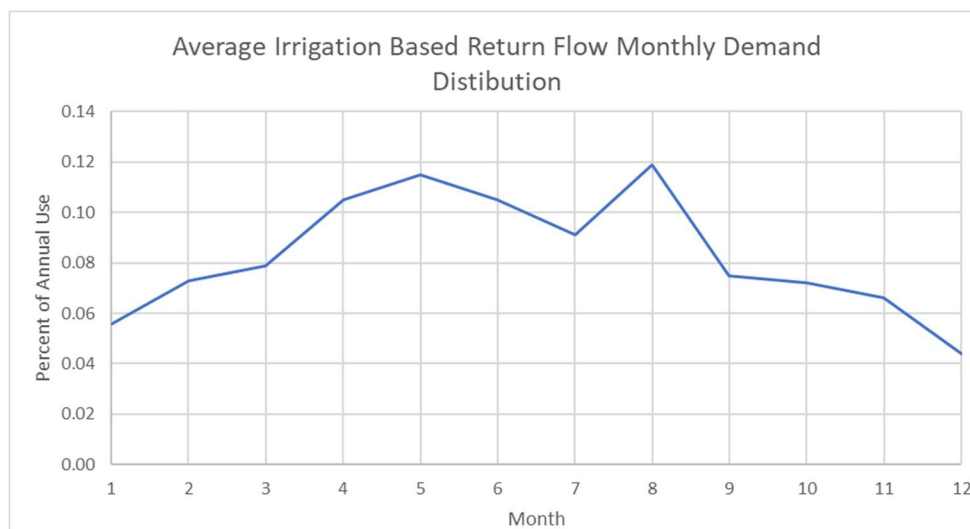


Figure 3. Monthly demand distribution for irrigation based return flows.

4 System Firm Yield Model Scenarios and Modeling Procedure

Since the project reservoirs will be operated as a single system, a number of reservoir operating procedure scenarios were developed to maximum the Delta Project's firm yield. The firm yield is the amount of water that can be diverted from a reservoir under a repeat of the worst drought of record. The firm yield is the amount of water that is considered fully reliable in all years, including the single lowest year in the historical record.

These procedures describe which project reservoir or reservoirs will have priority to divert water over another project reservoir. Diversion of water refers to water being diverted under the HCDD1 water use permit. The four operating procedure scenarios are described as follows:

1. **Fully utilized Santa Cruz and Engleman Reservoirs.** This operating procedure will assume Santa Cruz and Engleman Reservoirs will have senior priority and divert up to their full permitted amounts, while any potential remaining water not diverted would pass downstream and could be diverted by the Panchita Reservoir.
2. **Fully utilized Panchita Reservoir.** This operating procedure will assume the Panchita Reservoir will have senior priority and divert up to its full permitted amount, while any potential remaining water not diverted, or not reserved for use at Panchita Reservoir, could be diverted by the Santa Cruz and Engleman Reservoirs, which will have junior priority.
3. **Fully utilized Santa Cruz Reservoir.** This operating procedure will assume the Santa Cruz Reservoir will have senior priority and divert up to its full permitted amount, while any potential remaining water not diverted would pass downstream and could be diverted by Panchita Reservoir, which will have junior priority. The Engleman Reservoir will have junior priority to Panchita Reservoir.
4. **Fully utilized Engleman Reservoir.** This operating procedure will assume Engleman Reservoir will have senior priority and divert up to its full permitted amount, while any potential remaining water not diverted would pass downstream and could be diverted by Panchita Reservoir, which will have junior priority. The Santa Cruz Reservoir will have junior priority to Panchita Reservoir.

To implement these scenarios in the TCEQ NRG WAM, each project reservoir's priority date (associated with its WR Record) will be edited to reflect either a junior or senior date when compared to the other project reservoirs. Changes to the permit priority dates will not impact priority order with any other water permits in the project watershed.

The TCEQ WAM is capable of calculating an individual reservoir's firm yield through the FY Record. Due to the three reservoirs in the Delta Project, each reservoir's firm yield was individually calculated in sequence according to its assigned priority order. The multi-step modeling procedure used to calculate a combined Delta Project firm yield is described as follows:

1. The firm yield model runs were ordered according to the operating procedure's priority order. For example, the order for operating procedure scenario 3 is Santa Cruz Reservoir, Panchita Reservoir and Engleman Reservoir.
2. The WAM model is then used to calculate the firm yield for the most senior reservoir first. Since this reservoir is senior to the other project reservoirs its firm yield is not affected by their respective diversions.
3. The senior most reservoir's firm yield is input as the annual diversion amount for its corresponding WR Record. This ensures the reservoir's diversion amount is fully reliable and also allows any surplus water to be diverted by the remaining junior reservoirs.
4. The WAM model is used to calculate the firm yield for the second most senior reservoir.
5. The second most senior reservoir's firm yield is input as the annual diversion amount for its corresponding WR Record. Once again, this ensures the reservoir's diversion amount is fully reliable and also allows any surplus water to be diverted by the remaining junior reservoir.
6. The WAM model is used to calculate the firm yield for the most junior reservoir.
7. The Delta Project's firm yield is calculated as the sum of each individual reservoir's firm yields, as calculated in the above steps.

The final WAM run incorporates the yield for all three reservoirs and may be used to assess future strategies.

5 Delta Project Firm Yield Model Results

Table 9 lists the Delta Project's firm yield according to reservoir operating procedure. Each scenario's firm yield is reported with and without the ability to divert watershed return flows.

The highest Delta Project firm yield without being able to divert return flows, is 18,150 acre-feet per year. This corresponds to scenario 1, fully utilized Santa Cruz and Engleman reservoirs. The highest Delta Project firm yield with being able to divert return flows, is 38,025 acre-feet per year. This corresponds to scenario 3, fully utilized Santa Cruz reservoir.

All TCEQ NRG Full Authorization WAM input and output files, including firm yield results, are included as electronic files in the amendment package.

Table 9. Delta Project firm yield modeling results.

Operating Procedure Scenario Number	Operating Procedure Scenario Name	Off-Channel Reservoir	Individual Reservoir Firm Yield, acre-feet per year		Delta Project Combined Firm Yield, acre-feet per year	
			Without Return Flows	With Return Flows	Without Return Flows	With Return Flows
1	Fully Utilized Santa Cruz and Engleman	Santa Cruz Reservoir	12,260	20,310	18,150	36,430
		Engleman Reservoir	3,460	12,010		
		Panchita Reservoir	2,430	4,110		
2	Fully Utilized proposed Panchita	Santa Cruz Reservoir	7,830	8,100	18,025	37,840
		Engleman Reservoir	955	940		
		Panchita Reservoir	9,240	28,800		
3	Fully Utilized Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz Reservoir	12,265	20,315	18,085	38,025
		Engleman Reservoir	1,470	1,450		
		Panchita Reservoir	4,350	16,260		
4	Fully Utilized Engleman	Santa Cruz Reservoir	7,165	8,095	18,070	36,630
		Engleman Reservoir	3,460	12,010		
		Panchita Reservoir	7,445	16,525		



6 Appendix A - TCEQ WAM File Edits

The TCEQ WAM .dat file with edits made to include the off-channel Delta Project reservoirs within the HCDD1 water use permit's diversion components (WR Records). Additions are the WS Records (i.e. SANTAC, ENGLEM, PANCHA), adjustments to the SO Records, and adding SV and SA Records for reservoir volume-area relationships. Full TCEQ WAM files are included as an electronic attachment.

```
286 ** WATER RIGHTS ON MAIN FLOODWATER CHANNEL
287 ** HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1 (P13195)
288 ** DIVERSION REACH NO. 2 (SANTA CRUZ IRRIGATION RESERVOIR)
289 WRB20010 29148 20151120 12213195102 12213195 HCDD1
290 WSSANTAC 3790
291 SO 7680 29148
292 ** DIVERSION POINT NO. 1 (ENGLEMAN IRRIGATION RESERVOIR)
293 WRB22010 12288 20151120 12213195001 12213195 HCDD1
294 WSENGLEM 713.5
295 SO 3253 12288
296 ** DIVERSION REACH NO. 1 (PANCHITA RESERVOIR)
297 WRB20000 44940 20151120 12213195101 12213195 HCDD1
298 WSPANCHA 187.9
299 SO 11830 44940
300 ** DIVERSION REACH NO. 3
301 **WRB10010 62712 20151120 12213195103 12213195 HCDD1
302 **SO 16503
```

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707 ** ASI/FES Delta project reservoir volume area relationships (SV/SA)
708 SVSANTAC 0. 0. 59. 226. 466. 784. 1137. 1513. 1908. 2721. 3542. 3790.
709 SA 0. 5.6 131. 196.2 295.1 339.4 365.5 386.5 401.1 409. 412.3 413.4
710 SVENGLEM 0. 6.4 66. 135.3 205.6 276.6 348.2 420.3 492.9 565.9 639.4 713.5
711 SA 0. 64.6 67.7 69.9 70.7 71.3 71.8 72.3 72.8 73.3 73.8 74.4
712 SVPANCHA 0. 0.5 3.1 17.1 36.9 57.1 77.8 98.9 120.5 142.5 165. 187.9
713 SA 0. 2.8 7.9 19.5 20. 20.5 20.9 21.4 21.8 22.3 22.7 23.1
```

Below are edits to the .dat file to include return flows upstream of the Delta Project water use permit diversion components. The return flows were added on individual CI Records as monthly amounts.

```
251 ** ASI added return flows for municipal, power companies, and irrigation
252 ** North Alamo WSC, NPDES Facility IDs: TX0128350, TX0128643, TX0132497, TX0134902
253 CIB52010 119.3 107.7 119.3 115.4 119.3 115.4
254 CI 119.3 119.3 115.4 119.3 115.4 119.3
255 ** City of Edinburg, NPDES Facility ID: TX0024112
256 CIB52010 614.3 554.8 614.3 594.4 614.3 594.4
257 CI 614.3 614.3 594.4 614.3 594.4 614.3
258 ** Calpine Hidalgo Energy and Magic Valley Generating, NPDES Facility ID: TX0119423, TX0116751
259 CIB50010 102.1 92.2 102.1 98.8 102.1 98.8
260 CI 102.1 102.1 98.8 102.1 98.8 102.1
261 ** City of McAllen, NPDES Facility ID: TX0093106
262 CIB50010 177.7 160.5 177.7 172.0 177.7 172.0
263 CI 177.7 177.7 172.0 177.7 172.0 177.7
264 ** Irrigation Return flows contributing to CPB20010
265 CIB20010 215.7 281.2 304.3 404.4 442.9 404.4
266 CI 350.5 458.3 288.9 277.3 254.2 169.5
267 ** Irrigation Return flows contributing to CPB22010
268 CIB22010 143.9 187.6 203.0 269.9 295.6 269.9
269 CI 233.9 305.8 192.8 185.0 169.6 113.1
270 ** Irrigation Return flows contributing to CPB20000
271 CIB20000 21.5 28.0 30.3 40.3 44.1 40.3
272 CI 34.9 45.7 28.8 27.6 25.3 16.9
```

ATTACHMENT C

Additional IFR Survey Responses

ADDITIONAL IFR SURVEY RESPONSE

Sponsor Entity Name	Sponsor Entity Primary Region	Project Name	WMS Project Sponsor Region	IFR Element Name	IFR Element Value	Year Of Need	IFR Project Data Id	Entity Rwp Id	WMS Project Id	IFR Project Elements Id
HARLINGEN	M	URBANIZATION - HARLINGEN	M	PERCENT STATE PARTICIPATION IN OWNING EXCESS CAPACITY	0%			66	4150	3
HARLINGEN IRRIGATION DISTRICT-CAMERON COUNTY #1	M	HARLINGEN ID CONSERVATION	M	PLANNING, DESIGN, PERMITTING & ACQUISITION FUNDING				65	2294	1
HARLINGEN IRRIGATION DISTRICT-CAMERON COUNTY #1	M	HARLINGEN ID CONSERVATION	M	CONSTRUCTION FUNDING				65	2294	2
HARLINGEN IRRIGATION DISTRICT-CAMERON COUNTY #1	M	HARLINGEN ID CONSERVATION	M	PERCENT STATE PARTICIPATION IN OWNING EXCESS CAPACITY				65	2294	3
HIDALGO	M	HIDALGO - EXPAND EXISTING GROUNDWATER WELLS	M	PLANNING, DESIGN, PERMITTING & ACQUISITION FUNDING				843	1715	1
HIDALGO	M	HIDALGO - EXPAND EXISTING GROUNDWATER WELLS	M	CONSTRUCTION FUNDING				843	1715	2
HIDALGO	M	HIDALGO - EXPAND EXISTING GROUNDWATER WELLS	M	PERCENT STATE PARTICIPATION IN OWNING EXCESS CAPACITY				843	1715	3
HIDALGO	M	URBANIZATION - HIDALGO	M	PLANNING, DESIGN, PERMITTING & ACQUISITION FUNDING				843	2742	1
HIDALGO	M	URBANIZATION - HIDALGO	M	CONSTRUCTION FUNDING				843	2742	2
HIDALGO	M	URBANIZATION - HIDALGO	M	PERCENT STATE PARTICIPATION IN OWNING EXCESS CAPACITY				843	2742	3
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1	M	DELTA "PANCHITA" RESERVOIR	M	PLANNING, DESIGN, PERMITTING & ACQUISITION FUNDING	\$15,295,000.00	2024		12881	TBD	1
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1	M	DELTA "PANCHITA" RESERVOIR	M	CONSTRUCTION FUNDING	\$46,616,000.00	2027		12881	TBD	2
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1	M	DELTA "PANCHITA" RESERVOIR	M	PERCENT STATE PARTICIPATION IN OWNING EXCESS CAPACITY	75%	2028		12881	TBD	3
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1	M	SANTA CRUZ RESERVOIR	M	PLANNING, DESIGN, PERMITTING & ACQUISITION FUNDING	\$22,549,000.00	2037		12881	TBD	1
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1	M	SANTA CRUZ RESERVOIR	M	CONSTRUCTION FUNDING	\$60,239,000.00	2040		12881	TBD	2
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1	M	SANTA CRUZ RESERVOIR	M	PERCENT STATE PARTICIPATION IN OWNING EXCESS CAPACITY	75%	2041		12881	TBD	3
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1	M	ENGLEMAN RESERVOIR	M	PLANNING, DESIGN, PERMITTING & ACQUISITION FUNDING	\$6,100,000.00	2047		12881	TBD	1
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1	M	ENGLEMAN RESERVOIR	M	CONSTRUCTION FUNDING	\$17,534,000.00	2050		12881	TBD	2
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1	M	ENGLEMAN RESERVOIR	M	PERCENT STATE PARTICIPATION IN OWNING EXCESS CAPACITY	75%	2051		12881	TBD	3
HIDALGO COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT #1	M	HIDALGO COUNTY ID NO. 1 CONSERVATION	M	PLANNING, DESIGN, PERMITTING & ACQUISITION FUNDING				68	2325	1
HIDALGO COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT #1	M	HIDALGO COUNTY ID NO. 1 CONSERVATION	M	CONSTRUCTION FUNDING				68	2325	2
HIDALGO COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT #1	M	HIDALGO COUNTY ID NO. 1 CONSERVATION	M	PERCENT STATE PARTICIPATION IN OWNING EXCESS CAPACITY				68	2325	3
HIDALGO COUNTY IRRIGATION DISTRICT #13	M	HIDALGO COUNTY ID NO. 13 CONSERVATION	M	PLANNING, DESIGN, PERMITTING & ACQUISITION FUNDING				6874	2353	1

ATTACHMENT D

Public Hearing Notice



*Jim Darling, *Chairman*
Rio Grande Regional Water Authority

*Sonny Hinojosa, *Vice-Chairman*
HCID #2, San Juan,

*Donald K. McGhee, *Secretary*
Hydro Systems, Inc., Harlingen

*Frank Schuster
Val Verde Vegetable Co., McAllen

*Nick Benavides
Nick Benavides, Company, Laredo

Glenn Jarvis
Attorney, McAllen

John Bruciak
Brownsville PUB

Tomas Rodriguez
Public, Laredo

Carlos Garza, P.E.
AEC Engineering, LLC., Edinburg

Joe Rathmell
Zapata County Judge

Jaime Flores
Arroyo Colorado Partnership, Weslaco

Armando Vela
Red Sands GCD, Linn

Dale Murden
Texas Citrus Mutual, Mission

Riazul Mia
City of Laredo, Engineer

Neal Wilkins, Ph.D.
East Foundation

Jorge Flores
Eagle Pass Water Works

David L. Fuentes
Hidalgo County Commissioner

Tom McLemore
Harlingen Irrigation District

Debbie Farmer
Wintergarden GCD, GMA 13

Robert Latham
Magic Valley Generating Station

Steven Sanchez
North Alamo Water Supply Corp

*Executive Committee

Public Hearing Notice

Date: July 22, 2022

Subject: Notice of Public Hearing for a Major Amendment to the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan to add the Delta Project as a Water Management Strategy

A public hearing will be held to receive public comments on a Major Amendment to the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan that will add the Delta Project as a Water Management Strategy.

All meetings of the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) are open to the public and include opportunities for public comment.

Public Hearing

August 23, 2022
2:00 PM
301 W. Railroad, Building B
Weslaco, Texas 78596

You may attend in person or virtually via GoToMeeting by using this link: <https://meet.goto.com/352656037> or you can also call in to hear the Public Hearing by dialing 408-650-3123, access code: 352-656-037.

Submit public comments via email at dmorales@lrgvdc.org.

The deadline to comment on the amendment is September 23, 2022.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing or email comments, but would like to comment on the amendment, please send written comments to:

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

To review the amendment in advance of the public hearing, please go to the RGRWPG's website after August 15, 2022: <http://www.riograndewaterplan.org/>.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Debby Morales, LRGVDC Executive Assistant at 956-682-3481 ext.102 or dmorales@lrgvdc.org

Stewards of water resources from Amistad to the Gulf

Administrative Agent: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, Manuel Cruz, Executive Director
301 W Railroad – Weslaco, Texas 78596
Telephone: 956-682-3481 Fax: 956-631-4670 Website: riograndewaterplan.org

ATTACHMENT E

Agency and Public Comments with
Responses

ATTACHMENT E-1:

Texas Water Development Board Staff
Comments on Draft Amendment Submittal

September 9, 2022

Mr. Jim Darling, Chair
Region M Regional Water Planning Group
c/o Rio Grande Regional Water Authority
301 W. Railroad
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dear Mr. Darling:

TWDB has reviewed the Region M Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) draft major amendment to the 2021 Region M Regional Water Plan (RWP) to include the Delta Region Water Management Supply strategy. Attached to this letter are TWDB staff comments based on review of the draft amendment submittal.

Please provide the TWDB with information on how you intend to address all comments in advance of planning group action adopting the major amendment to ensure that the response is adequate for the Executive Administrator to recommend the amendment to the TWDB Board for consideration in a timely and efficient manner. Your TWDB regional water planner will review and provide feedback to ensure all comments and associated plan revisions have been addressed adequately. Failure to adequately address any comment may result in the delay of the TWDB Board approval of your regional water plan amendment.

If the Region M RWPG adopts the major amendment, they will need to

1. provide the TWDB with documentation of the planning group action adopting this major amendment in the form of a cover letter,
2. issue and distribute a final version of the amendment to the 2021 Region M RWP, and
3. provide the TWDB with updated DB22 data to reflect all the associated changes to the 2021 Region M RWP and, eventually, the 2022 State Water Plan.

The final amendment document must also

1. include a copy of the TWDB's written comments and the region's response documenting the comments have been addressed, and
2. include a summary of any written public comments received and the region's response to the public comments.

After receipt of all required information, the Board will consider approving the amendment at a regularly scheduled meeting, and then may amend the 2022 State Water Plan, as appropriate.

If Region M makes any substantive changes to the project components or configuration during the major amendment process, the TWDB will need to review the modified proposed amendment to ensure that any other changes still meet all of the criteria under 31 TAC §357.51(b).

Our Mission
Leading the state's efforts in
ensuring a secure water future
for Texas and its citizens

Board Members

Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman | George B. Peyton V, Board Member
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

Mr. Jim Darling
September 9, 2022
Page 2

If you have any questions concerning this approval or its associated requirements, please contact Kevin Smith, Region M Planner, at 512-475-1561.

Sincerely,

Matt Nelson
Deputy Executive Administrator
Office of Planning

Attachment: TWDB comments on draft major amendment to the 2021 Region M Regional Water Plan to include the Delta Region Water Management Supply strategy

cc: Debby Morales, Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
David Fuentes, Hidalgo County Drainage District 1
Saul Garcia, Hidalgo County Drainage District 1
Kristina Leal, Halff Associates
Jamie Burke, Black & Veatch
Lauren Gonzalez, Black & Veatch
Kevin Smith, TWDB
William Alfaro, TWDB

TWDB comments on draft major amendment to the 2021 Region M Regional Water Plan to include the Delta Region Water Management Supply strategy

Comments, questions, and data revisions that must be satisfactorily addressed in order to meet statutory, agency rule, and/or contract requirements.

1. Executive Summary and Chapter 5. The major amendment states that the Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 (District) is considered an “other water provider” because it is neither a municipal water user group (WUG) or Irrigation District, and that the District is not a wholesale water provider (WWP). However, in accordance with planning definitions, the District meets the criteria of a WWP, which includes “Any person or entity, including river authorities and irrigation districts, that delivers or sells water wholesale (treated or raw) to WUGs or other WWPs **or that the RWPG expects or recommends to deliver or sell water wholesale to WUGs or other WWPs** during the period covered by the plan....” Please revise the classification of “other water provider” and identify the District as a WWP. *[31 TAC § 357.10(44)]*
2. Chapter 5 and Chapter 6. It is not clear whether the region considered the major impacts of the recommended water management strategy on key parameters of water quality. Please clarify where this description is included in the plan for this strategy type or include revisions to Chapter 6 as appropriate. *[§ 357.34(e)(8); § 357.40(b)(5)]*
3. Attachment B. The firm yield results reported in Table 9 are derived by modeling each reservoir separately, by changing each reservoir’s priority date (by one day) and revising the order of the proposed reservoir diversions. TWDB acknowledges that these operational changes do not impact other water rights in the basin. However, during plan development, such revisions to the TCEQ WAM Run 3 require approval through the regional water planning hydrologic variance process. Please either 1) revise the firm yield to reflect modeling consistent with an unmodified WAM, including use of the original priority dates, or 2) revise the amendment document (Section A.5.5, Available Supply sub-section) to acknowledge that TWDB has approved the modification of the priority dates through this amendment review process. The amendment document must also identify which modeling scenario is being utilized for the firm yield. If the region intends to model this strategy based on revised priority dates and diversions in the 2026 regional water plan, a formal hydrologic variance request must be submitted by Region M to TWDB and obtain approval during plan development. *[31 § TAC 357.32(c)]*
4. Attachment B. Please clarify how sedimentation was considered in supply estimates for the reservoirs. If sedimentation was not considered, please include revised supply estimates that account for sedimentation. *[2021 RWP Contract Exhibit C, Section 3.2]*

5. Attachment B. Please confirm that the return flow portion of the firm yield for this WMS will be available throughout the full period of drought of record conditions. If the supply from the return flow portion cannot be confirmed to be available throughout drought of record conditions, this yield may not be included in the plan. *[31 § TAC 357.34(b); 2021 RWP Contract Exhibit C, Section 5.5]*

ATTACHMENT E-2:

Texas Water Development Board Comments
with Responses

Attachment E-2: Texas Water Development Board Comments with Responses

This Attachment E-2 compiles formal comments received from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) regarding the Major Amendment of the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan (Region M) to add the Delta Region Water Management Supply as a Water Management Strategy (WMS). The following list includes each comment received from the TWDB, followed by a response from the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG). If applicable, the RGRWPG's response describes revisions made to the final amendment to address the comment.

Attachment E-1 includes written comments from the TWDB in their entirety. Attachment E-3 includes all other comments regarding the draft amendment, along with responses from the RGRWPG.

No.	Draft Amendment Reference	TWDB Comment	RGRWPG Response
1	Executive Summary and Chapter 5	The major amendment states that the Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 (District) is considered an "other water provider" because it is neither a municipal water user group (WUG) or Irrigation District, and that the District is not a wholesale water provider (WWP). However, in accordance with planning definitions, the District meets the criteria of a WWP, which includes "Any person or entity, including river authorities and irrigation districts, that delivers or sells water wholesale (treated or raw) to WUGs or other WWPs or that the RWPG expects or recommends to deliver or sell water wholesale to WUGs or other WWPs during the period covered by the plan...." Please revise the classification of "other water provider" and identify the District as a WWP. [31 TAC § 357.10(44)]	The major amendment's Executive Summary and Chapter 5 were revised to clarify that Hidalgo County Drainage District 1 (HCDD1) is considered an "Other Wholesale Water Provider" because it is neither a municipal WUG nor an irrigation district, while also meeting the definition of a Wholesale Water Provider (WWP) in 31 §TAC 357.10. Revisions were made to the Executive Summary (Section A.ES.1 and Section A.ES.2) and Chapter 5 (Section A.5.1, Section A.5.2, and Section A.5.3) to address this comment.
2	Chapter 5 and Chapter 6	It is not clear whether the region considered the major impacts of the recommended water management strategy on key parameters of water quality. Please clarify where this description is included in the plan for this strategy type or include revisions to Chapter 6 as appropriate. [§ 357.34(e)(8); § 357.40(b)(5)]	<p>The amendment document was revised to incorporate major impacts of the recommended WMS on key parameters of water quality. The following language in Section A.5.5, Implementation Issues Sub-section was revised to include water quality impacts in Chapter 5:</p> <p>"The project would divert and use water from drainageways, channels, and canals within the Delta Watershed. This project captures and beneficially uses tailwaters and precipitation runoff, which would otherwise discharge into the Laguna Madre. Diversion of water for this project is unlikely to cause significant, detrimental impacts to key parameters of water quality for the drainageways and downstream water bodies to the Laguna Madre. In fact, the "Environmental Flows Recommendations Report", prepared by Rio Grande, Rio Grande Estuary, and Lower Laguna Madre Basin and Bay Expert Science Team, indicates that a reduction in freshwater entering the Laguna Madre would benefit the natural aquatic plant life by maintaining the salinity. The project will use advanced water treatment, including micro-filtration and reverse osmosis. If disposed in the drainage canals, the brine concentrate could increase levels of total dissolved solids in the receiving stream."</p>

No.	Draft Amendment Reference	TWDB Comment	RGRWPG Response
3	Attachment B	<p>The firm yield results reported in Table 9 are derived by modeling each reservoir separately, by changing each reservoir's priority date (by one day) and revising the order of the proposed reservoir diversions. TWDB acknowledges that these operational changes do not impact other water rights in the basin. However, during plan development, such revisions to the TCEQ WAM Run 3 require approval through the regional water planning hydrologic variance process. Please either 1) revise the firm yield to reflect modeling consistent with an unmodified WAM, including use of the original priority dates, or 2) revise the amendment document (Section A.5.5, Available Supply sub-section) to acknowledge that TWDB has approved the modification of the priority dates through this amendment review process. The amendment document must also identify which modeling scenario is being utilized for the firm yield. If the region intends to model this strategy based on revised priority dates and diversions in the 2026 regional water plan, a formal hydrologic variance request must be submitted by Region M to TWDB and obtain approval during plan development. [31 § TAC 357.32(c)]</p>	<p>The amendment document was revised to incorporate information needed for Option 2. The following language was inserted into Section A.5.5, Available Supply Sub-section:</p> <p>"Because the reservoirs will be operated as a single system, operating procedures can impact the firm yields for each reservoir. For purposes of this amendment to the 2021 Regional Water Plan, an operating scenario entitled, "Fully Utilized Panchita Reservoir" was utilized to determine firm yields. The Fully Utilized Panchita Reservoir operating procedure assumes the Panchita Reservoir has senior priority, diverting up to its full permitted amount. Any remaining water not diverted, or not reserved for use at Panchita Reservoir, could be diverted by the Santa Cruz and Engleman Reservoirs, which have junior priority. While the water use permit used for this strategy only has one priority date, the NRG Full Authorization WAM was modified by changing each reservoir's priority date (by one day) and revising the order of the proposed reservoir diversions. Changes to the priority dates in the WAM were done to simulate either a junior or senior date when compared to the other project reservoirs. Changes to the permit priority dates will not impact priority order with any other water permits in the project watershed. The TWDB acknowledges these operational changes do not impact other water rights in the basin. Further, the TWDB approved this approach to modify priority dates as part of the amendment review process to include this WMS."</p>
4	Attachment B	<p>Please clarify how sedimentation was considered in supply estimates for the reservoirs. If sedimentation was not considered, please include revised supply estimates that account for sedimentation. [2021 RWP Contract Exhibit C, Section 3.2]</p>	<p>According to Exhibit C, Section 3.2, sedimentation must be considered for major reservoirs, which are defined as having a storage capacity of 5,000 acft or more. Given that the proposed reservoirs are considered to be minor reservoirs having storage capacities less than 5,000 acft, sedimentation would not need to be considered in supply estimates. After discussions with TWDB on September 13, 2022, TWDB staff confirmed that "inclusion of sedimentation is not required for minor reservoirs." Therefore, no changes are proposed to address this comment.</p>
5	Attachment B	<p>Please confirm that the return flow portion of the firm yield for this WMS will be available throughout the full period of drought of record conditions. If the supply from the return flow portion cannot be confirmed to be available throughout drought of record conditions, this yield may not be included in the plan. [31 § TAC 357.34(b); 2021 RWP Contract Exhibit C, Section 5.5]</p>	<p>Region M confirms that the return flow portions of the firm yield for this WMS were conservatively estimated such that they would be available throughout the full period of drought of record conditions. Pages 6, 7, and 8 of Attachment B describe the methods used to estimate return flows for this strategy. In summary, return flows were estimated by selecting the minimum observed return flow from 10 recent years, then further reducing return flows to account for anticipated reductions in the future. The reduced future return flows were used to estimate the "Individual Reservoir Firm Yield With Return Flows", as shown in Table 9 of Attachment B. The reduced supply from return flows are considered to reflect drought of record conditions, and are the best available estimate to use for this proposed WMS. The reduction method was suggested and noted as an option that would likely be approved by TWDB staff for this WMS in email communications dated August 3 and August 4, 2022.</p>

ATTACHMENT E-3:

Public Comments with Responses

Attachment E-3: Public Comments with Responses

This Attachment E-3 compiles formal comments received from the public and federal/state agencies regarding the Major Amendment of the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan (Region M) to add the Delta Region Water Management Supply as a Water Management Strategy (WMS). The following list includes each comment received from the public or federal/state agency (if applicable), followed by a response from the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG). If applicable, the RGRWPG's response describes revisions made to the final amendment to address the comment. Comments are numbered sequentially and cross-referenced with Table 1: Commenter Information.

Attachment E-1 includes written comments from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in their entirety. Attachment E-2 includes responses from the RGRWPG to the TWDB's comments.

Comments and Responses

COMMENT NO. 1:

Hello, You are on the right track. The valley is very close to an unlimited amount of water, even during the most severe droughts. Plans to install a couple of desalination plants would keep those newly planned reservoirs filled to capacity. The overflow can be plumbed to fill up local water suppliers. This has been accomplished in Saudi Arabia and in use currently. Some research would be required.

The idea has been proposed to east rio Hondo water supply but I am not sure what progress has been made. Thank You.

RGRWPG RESPONSE TO COMMENT NO. 1:

The RGRWPG appreciates your input and engagement with the regional water planning process. No changes were made to the amendment as a result of this comment.

COMMENT NO. 2:

To Whom It May Concern: In regards to the water shortages that are announced on the news: It is understandable that an idea to pull water from the drainage spillways is a good idea. But, the idea of building more reservoirs is also a good idea, but does not solve the immediate issue at hand.

How about this: The huge drainage spillways built in the 1980's) that cut across the Valley and dump into the Gulf of Mexico could have gated locks at spaced out intervals. This, of course, would require input from the Army Corps of Engineers. But, those same drainage spillways we're cut so deep that it affected the natural water tables that exist. These natural tables used to hold water in place. But, once the drainages we're dug, it effected the water tables in that now they naturally drain into those drainages.

Putting gateway locks could help retain the waters, and allow for the waters to be pulled, processed, and cleaned sufficiently for human use.

While it's understandable that funding would be needed for the extra pumps and pipelines, it is becoming enough of an issue that something must be done. Secondly, all of that volume of water that, for nearly 40 years, has just been wasted, flowing needlessly into the Gulf of Mexico.

If the system is redesigned to utilize available waters more effectively, it could bring better relief measures in the future, helping to stave off dire drought conditions for a longer period of time. If need be, and where land is available, build a single massive reservoir that connects directly to the 1980's drainage spillways. It could be designed similar to the way the Suez canal was built. It was built narrow, with a huge pool-like ship holding station roughly midway through the canal.

Thank you for allowing my opinion.

Good luck, and I hope this can spark immediate conversation with possibly better ideas and fast implementation of the idea(s).

Very respectfully, Diego Lopez

RGRWPG RESPONSE TO COMMENT NO. 2:

The RGRWPG has reviewed and considered your comment, and appreciates your input and engagement with the regional water planning process. The RGRWPG may choose to revisit this suggestion during the 6th cycle of planning for the 2026 Regional Water Plan. No changes were made to the amendment as a result of this comment.

COMMENT NO. 3:

No no no

RGRWPG RESPONSE TO COMMENT NO. 3:

The RGRWPG appreciates your input and engagement with the regional water planning process. No changes were made to the amendment as a result of this comment.

COMMENT NO. 4:

Greetings, It is apparent that we must make alternative plans to conserve water that ultimately empties out to the Gulf of Mexico.

This approach appears to be what is needed in order to sustain addition potable water for the future. Of course additional engineering and safety procedures will be required.

Please keep the public advised of progress as I am sure this endeavour will be expensive. Thank you, Ricardo Treviño

RGRWPG RESPONSE TO COMMENT NO. 4:

The RGRWPG appreciates your input and engagement with the regional water planning process. No changes were made to the amendment as a result of this comment.

COMMENT NO. 5:

1. Suggests to purchase existing excavated « pits » which were used for roadway overpasses in various locations..store water in various areas and purify as required.
2. Mini reservoirs are ok, however, the reservoirs should be very large.. not mini reservoirs
3. hidalgo drainage district number 1 have many miles of open drainage ditches.. perhaps these existing ditches could be utilized for storage of water.. and serve as drainage as required especially during the extreme conditions. Control of the water flow by dams or control gates.
4. underground aquifers near San Manuel.. Lynn area could be another source of water.
5. conversion of salt, brackish, water into fresh drinking water.

Please pass these comments / suggestions to the interested entities. Thank you

RGRWPG RESPONSE TO COMMENT NO. 5:

The RGRWPG has reviewed and considered your comment, and appreciates your input and engagement with the regional water planning process. The RGRWPG may choose to revisit this suggestion during the 6th cycle of planning for the 2026 Regional Water Plan. No changes were made to the amendment as a result of this comment.

COMMENT NO. 6:

I don't live in this area but live in Cameron county.

I used to live in San Antonio for 25 years and saw that town's population explode. Every time the planners tried to get some new lakes approved many prominent politicians and people with influence urged the public to vote these down, especially Applewhite Resovior. Turns out these people with influence had land where the resovior and did not want to give up their land. Now San Antonio is so big they are almost in various stages if water rationing and now the people are complaining....

So the RGV is really growing (been here 17 years). The time to act is now before it's too late. Just look at the expressways

RGRWPG RESPONSE TO COMMENT NO. 6:

The RGRWPG appreciates your input and engagement with the regional water planning process. No changes were made to the amendment as a result of this comment.

COMMENT NO. 7:

I'm all for doing this helpful project.

RGRWPG RESPONSE TO COMMENT NO. 7:

The RGRWPG appreciates your input and engagement with the regional water planning process. No changes were made to the amendment as a result of this comment.

COMMENT NO. 8:

Hi! Love the planning creating reservoir. Since Hurricane Beulah there has been opportunities to improve our dams and reservoirs. Also accessing waters channeled from New Mexico would be a necessary means for our reservoirs. Engineers dating back centuries have created canal systems for access to water. Rain water isn't the problem. The problem we do not have enough storage sheds or ways to channel these waters. I hope people can retrace ancient history as blueprints for plans to create endless possibilities. Aquifers have been the first clue. Asian people use coy fish to keep water clean. There are so many ways to find ways solutions. I pray we do so... this is a rough draft of my opinions and thoughts. Hope all is well.

RGRWPG RESPONSE TO COMMENT NO. 8:

The RGRWPG appreciates your input and engagement with the regional water planning process. No changes were made to the amendment as a result of this comment.

Attachment E-3: Public Comments with Responses

Table 1: Commenter Information

Comment No.	Date Received	Medium (verbal, mail, email)	Entity Representation	Name
1	8/23/2022	Written, email	N/A - None Indicated	Eric Guerrero
2	8/23/2022	Written, email	N/A - None Indicated	Diego Lopez
3	8/24/2022	Written, email	N/A - None Indicated	Abeidia Balli
4	8/24/2022	Written, email	N/A - None Indicated	Ricardo Treviño
5	8/24/2022	Written, email	N/A - None Indicated	Joe Ballenger, Sr.
6	8/24/2022	Written, email	N/A - None Indicated	Richard Cavin
7	8/25/2022	Written, email	N/A - None Indicated	Gloria Cavazos-Davila
8	8/27/2022	Written, email	N/A - None Indicated	Cris Garcia