

From: [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)
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Cc: [Kevin Smith](#); [Sarah Lee](#); [Katie Dahlberg](#); [Temple McKinnon](#); [Matt Nelson](#)
Subject: Region M Draft Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections for RWPG Review
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 2:40:48 PM
Attachments: [RegionM_PopMun_Projections.xlsx](#)
[2026PopMunMethodology_FINAL.pdf](#)
[WUG_Boundaries.zip](#)

Dear Region M RWPG Members,

Please see attached **draft population and municipal water demand projections** and supporting data. Included for review and potential revision are:

- population projections based on the Texas Demographic Center (TDC) full migration scenario,
- baseline GPCD,
- plumbing code savings projections,
- municipal demand projections, and
- basin split percentages for each water user group (WUG).

To provide additional flexibility, we've included for the Regional Water Planning Group's (RWPG) consideration a second set of county-level projections (by Region-County) based on the TDC half (0.5) migration rate. The higher of the total regional populations is the allowable cap on total population for the region.

Municipal water demand projections are a function of population, baseline GPCD, and plumbing code savings projections, thus by revising any one of these variables, the associated municipal demand projections will need to be revised accordingly. Please use the municipal demand projections formula provided in the **Region_PopMun_Projections Excel workbook**.

Some key points regarding these projections include:

- Population projections are based on county-level projections from the TDC, which used migration rates between the 2010 and 2020 decennial Census to project future growth.
- The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) drafted WUG-level population and water demand projections using the TDC's full-migration scenario (1.0) projections and provided the half-migration scenario (0.5) projections by Region-County for the planning groups' consideration.
- The TWDB population projections for the regional and state water plans have always relied, initially, on county-level population projections from the TDC. In the past, the TWDB had altered the resulting regional plan population projections in certain counties – by holding them flat into future periods – which obscured projected population decline, a trend for some areas that has since been confirmed by the US Census Bureau. For the 2026 Regional Water Plans (RWPs), these draft county population projections being provided to the RWPGs followed the trends, without adjustment, as projected by the TDC, including population declines, to incorporate more credible and robust projections into the planning process.
- As expected, the population projections of certain counties and WUGs are significantly different from those in the 2021 Regional Water Plans. This is due to the fact that the 2021 RWP projections were based on the 2016 RWP projections, which relied on migration rates from 2000-2010 and the TDC's 2012 projections, whereas these projections are tied to the 2020 U.S. decennial Census. These projections include associated updates in the TDC cohort

model to reflect updated birth and mortality rates.

This population and water demand projection data is also available on our website, along with an interactive dashboard:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/2027/municipal.asp>

Planning groups are asked to review these draft projections and, if applicable, request revisions to the projections by returning the attached draft projections Excel workbook with the specific requested revisions along with the necessary supporting documentation for each request. Section 2.2 of the *First Amended General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans (Exhibit C)* includes the projection revision criteria that planning groups must follow and is available on our [website](#).

The deadline for submitting all requested revisions to draft population and municipal water demand projections is **August 11, 2023**, although regions and their consultants are **strongly encouraged to communicate with the TWDB staff and submit revision requests and supporting documentation as early as possible** to allow adequate time for evaluation and follow up, as needed.

Attached are three files:

1. Region-specific draft projections in Excel workbook with historical data and region revision request format
2. Population and Municipal Demand Projections Methodology
3. Zipped shapefile containing WUG boundaries

Please use the RWPA-Co-WUG Draft Projections tab in the Region_PopMun_Projections Excel workbook to submit the RWPG's formal revision requests to the draft projections.

Anticipated timeline for the remaining projections development:

- **July 14, 2023** – Deadline for RWPGs to request revisions to draft non-municipal demand projections.
- **August 11, 2023** – Deadline for RWPGs to request revisions to draft population and municipal demand projections.
- **Fall 2023** – TWDB staff will present all projections to the Board for adoption.

If you have any additional data requests or questions regarding draft projections or supporting data provided, please contact or submit your request to FDA@twdb.texas.gov or your TWDB Regional Water Planner.

This email has been sent to RWPG members, sponsor staff, and technical consultants.

Thank you,

Katie S. Dahlberg

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