

December 21, 2023

Mr. Scott Reinert  
Chair  
Far West Texas Water Planning Group  
c/o Rio Grande Council of Governments  
8037 Lockheed, Suite 100  
El Paso, TX 79925

Dear Chairman Reinert:

I have reviewed your request dated October 25, 2023, for approval of alternative water supply assumptions to be used in determining existing and future surface water availability. This letter confirms that the TWDB approves the following assumptions:

1. In the Rio Grande Basin, estimate existing and strategy supplies from the Bureau of Reclamation's Rio Grande Project, including releases from Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs, as well as run-of-river flows entering Texas from New Mexico, based on the lowest annual historical allotment delivered and available to El Paso Water Utilities and El Paso County Water Improvement District #1.
2. In the Rio Grande Basin, for the assessment for existing and strategy supplies, modify the demand pattern for irrigation rights above Fort Quitman so that diversions only occur from March to October.
3. Utilize the variances requested by the Region F RWPG and approved by the TWDB for existing supplies for the Balmorhea area in Reeves County in the Pecos Basin. These changes are related to San Solomon Springs and Griffin Springs flows, which in the current TCEQ WAM are being passed downstream instead of being used by water rights dependent on those springs.

While the use of these modified conditions may be reasonable for planning purposes, WAM RUN3 would be utilized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for analyzing permit applications. It is acceptable to use the modified conditions for strategy supply evaluations only if the yield produced is more conservative (less) for surface water appropriations than WAM RUN3.

While the TWDB authorizes these modification to evaluate existing and future water supplies for development of the 2026 Region E RWP, it is the responsibility of the RWPG to ensure that the resulting estimates of water availability are reasonable for drought planning purposes and will reflect conditions expected in the event of actual drought

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conditions; and in all other regards will be evaluated in accordance with the most recent version of regional water planning contract Exhibit C, *General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans*.

Please do not hesitate to contact Heather Rose of our Regional Water Planning staff at 512-475-1558 or [heather.rose@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:heather.rose@twdb.texas.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Nelson  
Deputy Executive Administrator

c: Annette Gutierrez, Rio Grande Council of Governments  
Jennifer Herrera, WSP  
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Jon Albright, Freese and Nichols, Inc  
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