

November 9, 2023

Mr. James Darling  
Chair  
Region M Regional Water Planning Group  
c/o Rio Grande Regional Water Authority  
322 S. Missouri Ave  
Weslaco, TX 78596

Dear Chairman Darling:

I have reviewed your request dated August 31, 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. Incorporate updated water rights as of July 2023 in the Rio Grande WAM in the assessment of existing and future supply.
2. Use modified irrigation patterns above Fort Quitman in the Rio Grande WAM so that diversions only occur from March through October in the assessment of existing and future supply.
3. Model the San Solomon Springs as cut off from the rest of the basin in the Rio Grande WAM in the assessment of existing and future supply.
4. Estimate source water available for a reuse water management strategy based on the estimated amount of water returned to a utility's wastewater treatment plant for each decade, less the amount of reuse water already being utilized as existing supply. The amount of water returned to a utility's wastewater treatment plant will be estimated at 50% of the utility's projected water demands, adjusted for water conservation and drought management strategies, unless site-specific information is available. This method will be applied in the Rio Grande WAM and the Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal Basin WAM in the assessment of future reuse supply.
5. Incorporate updated water rights as of July 2023 in the Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal Basin WAM in the assessment of existing and future supply.

6. Modify the priority dates for the three reservoirs included in the Delta Region Water Management Strategy when assessing strategy supply using the Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal Basin WAM.

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 WMS 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 M 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 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*.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Smith of our Regional Water Planning staff at 512-771-8797 or [kevin.smith@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:kevin.smith@twdb.texas.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Walker  
Executive Administrator

c: Manuel Cruz, Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Jaime Burke, P.E., Black & Veatch, Corp.  
Jennifer Jackson, WSP (Region E)  
Kevin Smith, Water Supply Planning  
Nelun Fernando, Ph.D., Surface Water