

February 16, 2024

Mark Kirkpatrick  
Vice Chairman  
Llano Estacado (Region O) Regional Water Planning Group  
c/o South Plains Association of Governments  
1323 58th Street  
Lubbock, TX 79412

Dear Vice Chairman Kirkpatrick:

I have reviewed your request dated January 10, 2024, 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 that require a variance:

1. Conduct analysis using the TCEQ Brazos River Basin WAM as modified by the Brazos G RWPG (Brazos G WAM) for both existing water supply and strategy supply evaluation, as approved by the TWDB for Region G.
2. Use limited return flows, as included in the Brazos G WAM, for the evaluation of existing and strategy supplies.
3. Use yield values developed by the Panhandle RWPG using the TCEQ Canadian River Basin WAM for determining firm yield of water supplies in the Canadian Basin that support Region O Water User Groups (WUGs), specifically Lake Meredith.
4. Use a two-year safe yield for Lake Alan Henry in the evaluation of existing and strategy supply.

Although the TWDB approves the use of a two-year safe yield for developing estimates of Lake Alan Henry, the firm yield must still be reported to TWDB in the online planning database and plan documents.

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 modifications to evaluate existing and future water supplies for development of the 2026 Region O RWP, it is the responsibility of the RWPG to

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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*.

Please do not hesitate to contact John Maurer of our Regional Water Planning staff at (512) 475-1613 or [john.maurer@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:john.maurer@twdb.texas.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Nelson  
Deputy Executive Administrator

c: Kelly Davila, South Plains Association of Governments  
Paula Jo Lemonds, HDR  
Dr. Ken Rainwater, Region O Secretary-Treasurer  
John Maurer, Water Supply Planning  
Sarah Lee, Water Supply Planning  
Nelun Fernando, Ph.D., Surface Water  
Simone Kiel, Freese & Nichols, Inc. (Region A Consultant)  
Tony Smith, Carollo Engineers, (Region G Consultant)