

AGENDA ITEM # 14

April 20, 1999

Consider approving population and employment demographics from Prime Strategies.

Prime Strategies Pix Howell reported the demographics presentation was conducted two (2) weeks ago and last week he met with CAMPO which was looking at projections. He felt 110,000 to 130,000 jobs were recaptured for Williamson County for year 2025.

After much discussion, Commissioner Limmer thanked Mr. Howell for his very good report.

Moved: Commissioner Heiligenstein

Seconded: Commissioner Limmer

Motion: To adopt population and employment demographics from Prime Strategies.

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0

AGENDA ITEM # 15

April 20, 1999

Consider approving participation in the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group.

Judge Doerfler advised this is Region K in which the very southern tip of Williamson County is involved and our prorata share is \$50.00.

Moved: Commissioner Limmer

Seconded: Commissioner Hays

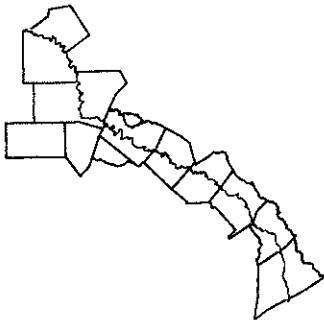
Motion: To approve participation in the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group.

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0

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LOWER COLORADO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP

VOL 0103 PAGE 665



John E. Burke, P.E.
Chairman

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April 5, 1999

The Honorable John C. Doerfler
Williamson County
710 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Georgetown, TX 78627

Executive Committee

John Burke, Chairman
Water Utilities

Haskell Simon, Vice Chairman
Agriculture

Randy Goss, Secretary
Municipalities

Jim Barho
Environmental

Quentin Martin
River Authorities

Members

Dede Armentrout
Environmental

Steve Balas
Agriculture

Bill Couch
Water Districts

Robert Dickerson
Small Business

Bennie Fuelberg
Other

Rick Gangluff
Electric Generating Utilities

Ronald Gertson
Small Business

Dale Henry
Counties

Julia Marsden
Public

Charles Martinez
Municipalities

Richard Macaulay
Small Business

W. Owen Parks
Water Utilities

Cole Rowland
Recreation

Mark Smith
Industries

Bill Stewart
Other

Paul Tybor
Water Districts

RE: SUPPORT FOR BROAD-BASED WATER PLANNING

Dear Judge Doerfler:

With the passage of Senate Bill 1 (SB1), Texas has embarked on a new way of planning for state water needs. Instead of water plans being prepared at the state level, a diverse group of citizens representing a wide array of interests have been appointed to 16 regional water planning groups. State water planning will now be done from local and regional levels up. This grassroots process will result in 16 regional plans that will be consolidated into a state plan by the Texas Water Development Board by September 2001.

State funds will pay for the technical part of the planning process. Administrative costs must be paid by the planning groups themselves. The Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG) needs \$160,000 for the two-year planning cycle ending in September 2000.

These funds will be spent for public participation, meeting arrangements, mailings, meeting notices in newspapers and county court houses, minutes, and unreimbursed travel expenses, among other means of getting the word out. People who live in the region must be informed about and involved in the planning process if it is to be truly a grassroots effort. We plan to hold meetings in all areas of the basin and discuss such varied topics as population growth, water demands, alternative supplies and environmental protection. All of these efforts take money!

LCRWPG is asking you and about 170 other stakeholders in the region—including cities, counties, major water users and water purveyors—to contribute to defraying our administrative costs. We divided the budget in half. Half of the funds will be solicited from cities and counties on the basis of their current population, with larger cities and counties bearing more of the burden. We are asking water purveyors and water users with over 100 acre-ft/year of reported use to pay the other half, with each contributing according to the volume of water each uses.

The allocated share for Williamson County is \$50.00. As a county official, you represent the small-scale water suppliers and water users within your county. Your participation is voluntary, but on behalf of all water users in our region, we strongly urge you to contribute at least this amount. Our hope is that the effort will be funded by stakeholders throughout the region and that all will make their voices heard in shaping the plan.

If you would like a member of the LCRWPG to meet with you to explain what we are doing and why we need your help, please call Melanie Gajdosik in Bastrop at 512-303-3943. We look forward to hearing from you, to receiving your contribution, and to working with you in developing the first SB1 regional water plan.

Sincerely,

John E. Burke, P.E., Chairman
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group

Enclosure

approved 4-20-99
John C. Doerfler

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REGION K

AGRICULTURAL

COUNTIES

ELECTRIC GENERATING
UTILITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL

INDUSTRIES

MUNICIPALITIES

OTHER

PUBLIC

RECREATION

RIVER AUTHORITIES

SMALL BUSINESSES

WATER DISTRICTS

WATER UTILITIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL:LOWER COLORADO RIVER
AUTHORITY -
512/473-3200

LOWER COLORADO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP

WHY IS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING NEEDED?

In June 1997, Governor George W. Bush signed into law Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), comprehensive water legislation enacted by the 75th Texas Legislature. This comprehensive water legislation was an outgrowth of increased awareness of the vulnerability of Texas to drought and to the limits of existing water supplies to meet increasing demands as population grows. The state's population is expected to increase from its current level of about 19 million to more than 36 million people by the year 2050.

With passage of SB 1, the Legislature put in place a "bottom up" water planning process designed to ensure that the water needs of all Texans are met as Texas enters the 21st century. SB1 allows individuals representing 11 interest groups to serve as members of Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG) to prepare regional water plans for their respective areas. These plans will map out how to conserve water supplies, meet future water supply needs and respond to future droughts in the planning areas.

In accordance with SB 1, regional water plans must be completed and adopted by September 1, 2000, and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) must approve and incorporate the regional water plans into a comprehensive state water plan by September 1, 2001. The water plans will be updated every five years.

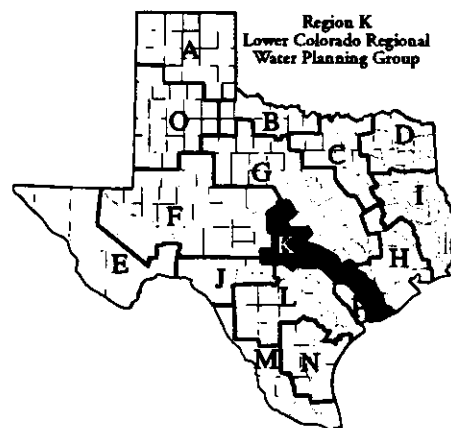
After September 2001, TWDB financial assistance may be provided only to water supply projects that meet needs in a manner that is consistent with the approved regional water plans. In addition, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission may not issue a water right for municipal purposes unless it is consistent with an approved regional water plan after 2001.

WHO IS PREPARING REGIONAL WATER PLANS?

SB 1 designated the TWDB as the lead state agency for coordinating the regional water planning process and developing a comprehensive state water plan. To accomplish these tasks, the TWDB developed planning guidance documents to govern how regional water plans will be developed, delineated planning areas and designated planning group representatives.

In February 1998 after extensive review and public comment, the TWDB adopted state and regional water planning rules, delineated 16 regional planning areas and selected 270 individuals from 11 SB 1-required interest groups to serve as initial members of the RWPG. The counties included in this region are highlighted on the map to the right, and the interest groups and their current representatives for this region are listed in the left side bar.

Each RWPG is responsible for preparing and adopting a regional water plan for their area. Most RWPG have hired consultants to assist with developing the engineering, socioeconomic, hydrological, environmental, legal and institutional components of the regional water plans. RWPG must provide for public input in the planning process, hold public meetings and furnish a draft report of the plan for public review and comment. SB 1 requires that each regional water plan address the needs of all water users and suppliers, except certain political subdivisions that decide not to participate. ➤



WATER

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO PREPARE A REGIONAL WATER PLAN?

SB 1 provides state financial assistance administered by the TWDB to assist in paying for the preparation of regional water plans. TWDB rules provide that state funds will be used to pay 100 percent of the direct planning costs, while RWPG will be required to cover 100 percent of their administrative costs.

All 16 RWPG complied with the August 1, 1998 deadline to submit to the TWDB completed grant applications for state financial assistance and scopes of work for preparing regional water plans. The costs for the 16 water plan preparation scopes of work total approximately \$20.5 million. By December 1998, the TWDB awarded \$7.56 million in planning grants appropriated by the Legislature for the Fiscal Year 1998-1999 biennium as partial payment toward the costs of developing regional water plans. Additional state financial assistance will be considered by the Legislature during its session convening in January 1999.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN PREPARING A REGIONAL WATER PLAN?

The planning process begins with the collection and analyses of many types of information related to water demands and supplies. RWPG members are responsible for deciding how future water needs in their respective region may be met. Each regional water plan will include information about water supplies and demand, water quality problems affecting water supply, and social and economic characteristics of the region. The plan also will identify water supply threats to agriculture and natural resources. Information concerning current preparations for drought and the status of other water plans in the region will be reviewed.

The following tasks are common to each regional water plan:

- ♦ Determine water demands
- ♦ Determine water supplies available for use during drought of record
- ♦ Determine where and when there is a surplus of supply or a need for additional supplies
- ♦ Determine social and economic impact of not meeting needs
- ♦ Develop plans that contain:
 - Specific strategies to meet future near-term needs (less than 30 years)
 - Options to meet long-term future needs (30-50 years)
 - Identified needs with no feasible solutions
- ♦ Identify ecologically unique streams and rivers
- ♦ Identify unique sites for reservoir construction
- ♦ Coordinate with neighboring regions concerning mutual interests and shared resources
- ♦ Propose regulatory, administrative or legislative recommendations to improve water resource management in the state

WHAT IF AN ENTITY DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PLAN?

Participation in the regional planning process is not required. If a political subdivision or a RWPG decides not to participate, the TWDB will use existing local and regional water planning strategies identified in the TWDB-prepared 1997 state water plan and other study results to update the next state water plan. TWDB recommended water management strategies and/or recommendations for a specific entity and/or region are typically based on the least expensive solution.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN DEVELOPING REGIONAL WATER PLANS?

- ♦ The opportunity to identify regional solutions to water supply problems with resulting lower water supply costs.
- ♦ The opportunity to obtain detailed current population data for small communities and rural areas in the region. For communities of less than 1,000 population, this information is not available in the 1997 state water plan, nor is it readily available from official sources.
- ♦ The opportunity to analyze water supplies, water demand and water resource management strategies for local communities at the level of detail agreed upon by the RWPG and identified in SB 1.
- ♦ The opportunity to determine regional water infrastructure needs and how best to meet those needs.
- ♦ The opportunity to identify and address local issues and concerns within the framework of SB 1 and regional water plans.
- ♦ The ability to receive low-interest TWDB loans for financing water supply projects.

WHAT DON'T REGIONAL WATER PLANS DO?

- ♦ Regional water plans do not change existing water law. Legislative action is needed for such changes.
- ♦ Regional water plans do not affect existing water rights or contracts.
- ♦ Regional water plans do not force water management strategies on an entity. If a proposed water management strategy is objectionable to the political subdivision supplying or receiving water supplies, then the strategy will not be included in the plan as a strategy for meeting the need of the objecting political subdivision. The entity must specify its reasons for objecting to a proposed water management strategy, and the strategy may still be applied to meet other needs.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL WATER PLANNING EFFORTS?

To participate in regional water planning efforts, you may attend any of the RWPG meetings or contact regional group members or the TWDB to voice your concerns or to obtain additional information. At the TWDB, you may contact Mr. David Meesey by calling (512) 936-0852 or by E-mail to dmeesey@twdb.state.tx.us. Also, you may visit the TWDB web site at www.twdb.state.tx.us.

AGENDA ITEM # 16

April 20, 1999

Consider granting approval for change order on Georgetown Inner Loop Road.

County Engineer Joe England informed the court this change order involves the 2" overlay from Business 35 to the Unified Road System facility. The original construction plans for the section located between 1460 and Business 35 called for hot mix but we only put down 2 core surface treatment. Now we have the ability to finish the entire project with buttons and thermoplastic striping instead of Latex.

Commissioner Hays advised this \$150,000.00 includes the installation of a french drain. The funds can be disbursed from the Inner Loop Certificate of Obligation which has a balance of \$2. million. This loop enables continuous travel from Highway 29 to IH 35.

Moved: Commissioner Hays

Seconded: Commissioner Boatright

Motion: To approve \$150,000.00 Change Order on Georgetown Inner Loop Road to Garey Construction.

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0

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