

TO: **SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP**

FROM: Con Mims, Chair

RE: Comments on the September 3, 2015 Region L Meeting

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have two meetings left in which to complete and adopt our final 2016 Regional Water Plan, which has to be delivered to TWDB on or before December 1. A large part of the September 3 meeting is devoted to responding to concerns with our Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) expressed by the public and planning group members. Agenda Items 9 and 13, in particular, are included in an effort to respond to those concerns.

Agenda Item 9 will address the question of whether or not any version of the Cibolo Valley LGC Carrizo Project will remain as a recommended strategy in the 2016 Plan. There are two versions recommended in the IPP. The “envisioned” project has a yield of 10,000 acre-feet. It depends on using existing converted irrigation, mining and other groundwater permits. Another, MAG limited, version depends on securing new groundwater permits in the event Modeled Available Groundwater limits for the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District are increased or District rules are changed. For planning purposes, to meet TWDB requirements, the firm yield of that project is shown as zero.

The question will be put to a series of votes. Before the votes, a representative of those wanting the projects removed from the Plan (i.e. designated alternative, needing further study, or simply undesigned) and a representative of those wanting to keep the projects as recommended in the Plan will present their positions. Each will be allowed seven (7) minutes. Our technical consultant, HDR, then, will explain what will need to be done to address the unmet need in the Plan in the event the projects are not to be recommended in the Plan. Following this, there will be a series of votes.

For each of the two project versions there will be a vote to include the project as a Recommended WMS. If that fails, there will be a vote to include it as an Alternate WMS. If that fails, then there will be a vote to include it as a project needing further study.

Under Agenda Item 13, a process will be considered wherein, over a number of meetings, beginning in 2016, the planning group will address a list of topics, developed from comments received on our 2016 IPP, which may lead to an improved 2021 Plan. I refer to it as the 2021 Plan Enhancement Process.

Not only are these actions being taken to address concerns expressed over our 2016 Plan, the hope is that the concerns will be addressed well enough to support a favorable vote on adoption of the Plan in November. **Timely adoption of our 2016 Plan is critical. The consequences of failure are serious.** I will expound on that at the meeting.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Con Mims
Chair / River Authorities
Tim Andruss
Vice-Chair / Water Districts
Gary Middleton
Secretary / Municipalities
Donna Balin
At-Large / Environmental
Kevin Janak
At-Large/ Electric Generating/Utilities

DATE: August 28, 2015
TO: Members of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
FROM: Steven J. Raabe, P.E.

MEMBERS

Gene Camargo
Water Utilities
Rey Chavez
Industries
Alan Cockerell
Agriculture
Will Conley
Counties
Don Dietzmann
GMA 9
Art Dohmann
GMA 15
Blair Fitzsimons
Agriculture
Vic Hilderbran
GMA 7
John Kight
Counties
Russell Labus
Water Districts
Glenn Lord
Industries
Doug McGookey
Small Business
Dan Meyer
GMA 10
Iliana Peña
Environmental
Robert Puente
Municipalities
Steve Ramsey
Water Utilities
David Roberts
Small Business
Roland Ruiz
Water Districts
Diane Savage
GMA 13
Suzanne Scott
River Authorities
Greg Sengelmann
Water Districts
Thomas Taggart
Municipalities
Dianne Wassenich
Public
Bill West
River Authorities
Adam Yablonski
Agriculture

The schedule and location of the meeting of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group is as follows:

TIME AND LOCATION

Thursday, September 3, 2015
9:00 a.m.
San Antonio Water System
Customer Service Building
Room CR C145
2800 US Highway 281 North
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas 78212

Enclosed is a copy of the posted public meeting notice.

Steven J. Raabe, P.E.
SJR/ccr

Enclosure

**NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING OF THE
SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL
WATER PLANNING GROUP**

TAKE NOTICE that a meeting of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group as established by the Texas Water Development Board will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2015, at **9:00 a.m.** at San Antonio Water System (SAWS), Customer Service Building, Room CR 145, 2800 US Highway 281 North, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The following subjects will be considered for discussion and/or action at said meeting.

1. Public Comment
2. Approval of Minutes from the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group's Meeting on February 5, 2015.
3. Approval of Minutes from the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group's Meeting on April 2, 2015.
4. Status of Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) – Nathan Pence, Executive Director EAHCP
5. Status of Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) and Expert Science Team (BBEST)
6. Chair's Report
7. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Communications
8. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Consultants Work and Schedule
9. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding if and how the Two Technically Evaluated Versions of the Cibolo Valley LGC Carrizo Project ("MAG-limited" and "with Conversions") Will be Included in the 2016 Regional Water Plan
10. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Process of Prioritizing 2016 Regional Water Plan Projects
11. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Comments Submitted by Texas Water Development Board in Response to the 2016 Region L Initially Prepared Plan

12. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Comments Submitted by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in Response to the 2016 Region L Initially Prepared Plan
13. Report from the Public Comment and Plan Assessment Workgroup and Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Public Comments Submitted in Response to the 2016 Region L Initially Prepared Plan
14. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Alignment of Pipelines to Allow for the Export of Water to Region K, Consistent with the Position of the Hays County Commissioners Court
15. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Inclusion of the Hays County Forestar Project in the 2016 Regional Water Plan as Recommended Strategy
16. Possible Agenda Items for the Next South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group Meeting
17. Public Comment

The South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Area consists of Atascosa, Bexar, Caldwell, Calhoun, Comal, Dewitt, Dimmit, Frio, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, La Salle, Medina, Refugio, Uvalde, Victoria, Wilson, Zavala and part of Hays Counties.

Please visit www.RegionLTexas.org to review available chapters of the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan

Agenda Item 1:
Public Comment

Agenda Item 2:
Approval of Minutes from the South Central Texas
Regional Water Planning Group's Meeting on February 5,
2015.

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
April 2, 2015**

Chairman Con Mims called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Customer Service Building, Room CR 145, 2800 US Highway 281 North, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

26 of the 28 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Tim Andruss	Dan Meyer
Donna Balin	Gary Middleton
Rey Chavez	Con Mims
Alan Cockrell	Robert Puente
Will Conley	Steve Ramsey
Ron Fieseler for Don Dietzmann	David Roberts
Art Dohmann	Roland Ruiz
Blair Fitzsimmons	Dianne Savage
Vic Hilderbran	Steve Raabe for Suzanne Scott
John Kight	Greg Sengelmann
Kevin Janak	Thomas Taggart
Russell Labus	Dianne Wassenich
Doug McGooky	Bill West

Voting Members Absent

Gene Camargo
Iliana Pena

Non-Voting Members Present:

Norman Boyd, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife
David Meeseey, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Ken Weidenfeller, Texas Department of Agriculture

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Steve Ramos, TCEQ – South Texas Watermaster Specialists
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Mims asked for any public comment. Seeing that there were several, he asked that comments from the public be kept to three minutes due to the foreseeable lengthy meeting before the planning group.

Cedric Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem of Schertz, Texas, made some comments in support of the Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation (CVLGC) Carrizo Aquifer Project. Mr. Edwards stated, "We want to let you know that we are looking at regional collaboration between our sister city, Cibolo, and also our other cities surrounding. We just want to let you know that we want this project to go through. We are about 28 days from submission, and we think it's a great opportunity

for us.”

Justin Murray, representative from Schertz and President of Cibolo Valley LGC, read the following into the record as public comment. “The Cibolo Valley LGC water management strategy was included in the 2011 Region L Plan as a project requiring further study. The scope and budget for studying this project was approved at the May 2014 Region L meeting. On February 2015, all of the water management strategies, including others that are MAG limited, were presented and approved by the Region L Planning Group. The water management strategy for CVLGC was approved by this board nearly a year ago and has remained in the plan without alteration. The needs of the City of Schertz, and Cibolo, and the water management strategies presented by CVLGC, have been considered over the past two years by this board. There is no information today that could cause the board to question the viability of this water management strategy to meet the needs identified in the Region L Plan. There are no technical concerns for the project that are individually unique, which should weigh on the approval of the Region L Plan. The concerns, which have been raised publically, are similar to those of many other ground water projects already in the Region L Plan. The request of CVLGC is that this board remain in its course to approve the 2016 plan. Given the importance of the approval of this plan on the approval of the state plan, a delay would only serve to harm all persons in the state plan. Concerns over the permitted use and influence of the project on groundwater sources is the purview of other governmental bodies. GBLGC looks forward to working as a partner with the communities we engage and the Evergreen Groundwater Conservation District in addressing those concerns. CVLGC, as a member of Region L, looks forward to helping solve the tough water issues facing our city and our state.”

Jay Hogue, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Cibolo, made comments supporting the Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation (CVLGC) Carrizo Aquifer Project. Mr. Hogue read the following into the record. “Together, with the City of Schertz, we represent two governmental agencies funding the CVLGC and developing the CVLGC Carrizo Project. This project is designed to develop up to 10,000 acre feet of potable water for a rapidly growing sector of Texas, which includes Cibolo and Schertz. This project has been part of the Region L water management strategy plan development process for more than 2 years. In a letter, dated April 1, 2015, sent to the members of this body, you stated the following known true facts. CVLGC (Carrizo Aquifer Project) was first presented to our planning group in early 2013. The scope of work for its technical evaluation was discussed in August 2013. Its technical evaluation was presented nearly a year ago in May of 2014. It was included on a list of recommended water management strategies that was approved in February (2015). To my knowledge, there has been no objection to this project directed to Region L until today. This project has been evaluated using the same Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) technical evaluation criteria as has been used for all other water management strategies in Region L’s plan. Our evaluation is basically intended to describe a project and determine its firm yield during the drought of record and estimate the costs to build it. Because of TWDB standard evaluation criteria, all of our water management strategies in the Regional Water Plan can be compared on equal footing. We do not evaluate projects on a permitting level. Mr. Chairman, to be very clear, we the cities of Cibolo and Schertz, firmly believe this project represents our cities’ best investment in developing a new, sustainable, economically viable, potable water source for our long term growth reaching out more than 30 years. We do understand the permitting issues, how the MAG for this water district needs to be considered, and we know that there will be opposition to any project in this area. We continue to believe that this commission has done its due diligence with this and all projects, and that plan development should move forward. We strongly encourage the members of Region L to resist any and all last minute efforts to remove a technically vetted and viable project from your approved Initially Prepared Plan, just 28 days away from final submission to TWDB. Doing this would substantially disrupt a

process we have all participated in, and followed for an extended period of time.”

Keith Koutac, representing Save Water Co. made some comments supporting water conservation at the end user. He stated, “We are a water conservation company. We are based out of Houston, but we operation throughout the whole state. Basically, I’m just here to voice my concerns with, here on this very beautiful long list – for conservation – for both acre-foot supply and unit costs, it varies and varies. My role in that is – we focus on older real estate, and we’ve done sixteen properties so far. From those results, we are going to save twelve hundred acre-feet this year, not to mention the other properties we have coming along. So we have a lot of projections about water demand and water supply, and we feel like we are one of the leaders as far as attaching some capital costs to the amount of acre-feet we can get. There’s a lot of talk about building reservoirs, building canals, pumping groundwater, and everything like that. But I feel that an underutilized, or under-realized aspect of water is how much gets wasted at the end user. We are talking about treated water, that’s your cheapest water that you can save. We are a leading edge company in that regard, in what we do.”

Kay Love, a Wilson County resident, read the following comments for the record. “It is vitally important that those who are representing agriculture on the Region L board actually have a vested interest in agriculture. At this time the Region L board does not adequately represent agriculture or counties within Region L that have significant agriculture interests. You are about to elect a new board member representing agriculture to its board. Please choose one with a background in agriculture and a current involvement in agriculture. There is a serious conflict of interest in allowing local government corporations and wholesale water providers to propose projects and, concurrently, play roles influencing the planning process of this body. Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation and Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation have been instrumental in adding a water project to the Region L Initially Prepared Plan that would export 8-10,000 acre feet from the Carrizo Aquifer in Wilson County. As a stakeholder in Wilson County I wish to challenge all data submitted, reviewed or commented upon by these entities, their employees and contractors as data selected to fulfill a desired result for those two entities. Further, I request that Alan Cockerell recuse himself from all votes regarding this plan and future iterations of the Region L 2016 Water Plan so long as he holds a voting membership that purports to represent agriculture while retaining his post as Executive Director of Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation and/ or General Manger of Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Mims asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February 5, 2015, meeting minutes. Dianne Wassenich asked that Agenda Item 10, where it says, “requires a review and submission process that is secretive and closed to the public,” the words “secretive and,” be struck from the record.

Chairman Mims asked for a motion to strike the words, “secretive and” from the February 5, 2015 meeting minutes.

Mrs. Wassenich said she had another correction, saying that she was concerned about Agenda Item 16. Mrs. Wassenich explained that the minutes list all of the projects that were presented, that no discussion was mentioned, and then that it was approved. Mrs. Wassenich recollected that that there were several people who expressed concerns during the discussion, and that discussion ended with her concern about the projects that had new water rights. She continued, saying that

Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, replied that they had to have such water projects to meet the needs, and that Mr. Taggart said something to the subject that there were other projects lined up to meet those needs. Mrs. Wassenich expressed that there was a lot of discussion around the very long list of projects, and then it was quickly cut off because the group had to move on due to a busy schedule. Still recollecting, she noted that nobody said anything further regarding the projects.

Mrs. Wassenich suggested tabling the minutes to find out what the points were of the discussion about the projects. She noted that for the group to say in its minutes that projects were presented, and then all were approved without addressing some of the discussion, leaves the group with a permanent record of the meeting that is not accurate. She further suggested that if people did not want to table the minutes, and did not want to have that level of detail in the minutes, then at the very least the minutes should acknowledge that many concerns were discussed, so that people will know to refer to the recording.

Chairman Mims asked Cole Ruiz, San Antonio River Authority, if the minutes were taken verbatim from the recording. Mr. Ruiz responded, saying that the minutes were not verbatim. Rather, that they are summary record of the meeting. Mr. Ruiz said that a detailed transcript of discussion is typically omitted from the minutes, but that he could insert such detail.

Chairman Mims asked Mrs. Wassenich whether she wanted the detail inserted into the minutes, or if she wanted the minutes to say that many concerns were discussed.

Mrs. Wassenich said that she would prefer a list of the discussion because the minutes list every project that was presented, and then there is just a motion to approve it. She pointed out that the agenda item says "Discussion and Appropriate Action," but that there was no discussion listed in the minutes.

Chairman Mims asked if there was any objection to tabling the minutes for the next meeting.

Blair Fitzsimons asked that in the future, detailing the discussion in the minutes be a standard operating procedure.

John Kight responded by stating that, without detailing a thirty minute discussion in there, that minutes should reference the tape so that the public could listen to the discussion. Otherwise the minutes will be as long as the meetings.

Dianne Wassenich stated that she did not know how long the tapes were held. She said that it takes us five or six years to get our plan and then it goes into a state plan. At least during this public comment period coming up, there may be attention to detail.

Tim Andruss asked whether there would be an impact on the planning process by not having an approved record of the vote.

Chairman Mims said that it was his opinion that the group still took action, and there was a motion and a second to approve the projects detailed by Agenda Item Sixteen of the February 5, 2015, minutes.

Roland Ruiz suggested, maybe what Mr. Andruss was getting at, was the Planning Group would not have an official record of the vote, and therefore no record that those projects were approved.

From TWDB's standpoint, is the approval of the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) contingent on the approval of the minutes recording the action taken? In other words does TWDB require an official record of the approval of the Initially Prepared Plan? Mr. Ruiz stated that, considering that risk, he would prefer to approve the minutes with a general statement that concerns were discussed and debated. At a later meeting, he suggested, the Planning Group could discuss a standard operating procedure moving forward, rather than make a change on the fly.

Chairman Mims asked Mrs. Wassenich if she was okay with approving the minutes with a general statement, rather than detailing the discussion and tabling the minutes, and coming back later as a group to establish a standard operating procedure. Mrs. Wassenich said she was not okay with that, but if the group decided to make that action, she would be satisfied with referring to the tape in the minutes.

Donna Balin said she favored inserting a detailed discussion into the minutes because that is a permanent record. She expressed doubt that TWDB would require approved minutes before accepting the IPP.

Dianne Wassenich agreed, saying that her understanding is that TWDB wants an action taken by the planning group approving the IPP for submittal prior to the May 1 deadline. She doubted that TWDB would go back into the minutes to see when every action was taken to approve every individual project to move forward.

John Kight suggested that the Planning Group voted today on approving the minutes on the premise that the Planning Group come back in August to approve the section with a more detailed discussion of the minutes.

Chairman Mims asked for a motion to approve the February 5, 2015, minutes with the addition of a statement that notes, "many concerns were discussed and conferred; a full discussion of this agenda item may be reviewed on the tape." He clarified that this action is contingent on the premise that, at its next meeting the Planning Group would come back and consider inserting a more detailed version of the discussion from the February 5, 2015, meeting.

John Kight, along with several unidentified concurring voices made the motion, and several more seconding the motion. Chairman Mims asked for objections. There were none. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING NOMINATIONS TO FILL VACANT AGRICULTURE VOTING MEMBER (TERM EXPIRES 2016) AND INDUSTRIES VOTING MEMBER (TERM EXPIRES 2018)

Chairman Mims informed the planning group that the Executive Committee met on March 27, 2015, and that all the members were present, including Tim Andruss, Gary Middleton, Donna Balin, Kevin Janak, and himself.

Chairman Mims, on behalf of the Executive Committee, recommended Glenn Lord, with Dow Chemical, to fill the Industries interest vacancy. David Roberts made a motion for the planning group to select Glenn Lord to fill the Industries interest vacancy. Bill West seconded Mr. Roberts's motion. There were no objections. The motion passed by consensus. Mr. Lord assumed the seat in the capacity as an Industries representative for the remainder of the meeting.

Chairman Mims, on behalf of the Executive Committee, recommended Adam Yablonski to fill the Agriculture interest vacancy. Robert Puente made a motion to select Adam Yablonski to fill the Agriculture interest vacancy. Thomas Taggart seconded the motion.

Will Conley made a motion to select Don Meador to fill the Agriculture interest vacancy. Mr. Conley made some supporting comments for Mr. Meador. Bill West seconded Mr. Conley's motion.

Dianne Wassenich suggested that the planning group vote, rather than hear nominations for each of the five Agriculture candidates.

Art Dohmann nominated Stephen Diebel to fill the Agriculture vacancy.

Chairman Mims asked if there were any objection to voting on the entire slate of candidates to fill the Agriculture position. Prior to the vote, Chairman Mims asked if the candidates who were present would make some remarks about their background to the planning group. Each of the candidates or those representing their interests, made some remarks about their background and qualifications.

Donna Balin stated that the Executive Committee was given a choice between five excellent qualified candidates to fill the Agriculture vacancy. Mrs. Balin informed the planning group of why they chose Adam, stating that Mr. Yablonski represents a geographical area that may be underrepresented on the planning group, that he is currently a farmer representing irrigation interests, and that he has degree in biology. Mr. Yablonski has been involved in many water development processes representing his Agriculture interests.

Chairman Mims told the planning group that they needed to achieve a simple majority vote for one candidate to successfully elect a new Agriculture interest area representative, but that if a majority was not achieved the planning group would vote again considering only the top two candidates from the first vote.

After completing the first vote, Cole Ruiz announced that the top two votes were for Adam Yablonski and Don Meador, with none receiving a majority of the votes. Upon the completion of the second vote, Adam Yablonski was elected as the representative for the Agriculture interest area. There was no further discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: STATUS OF EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (EAHCP) – NATHAN PENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EAHCP

Nathan Pence, Executive Director of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP), gave a brief update to the planning group regarding the EAHCP. He noted that EAHCP decided to contract with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for review of select reports within the EAHCP. The EAHCP will receive three reports from NAS over the next two to three years, of which, the EAHCP has received the first one. The Implementing Committee and Steering Committee of the Recovery Implementation Program (RIP), and now the EAHCP decided to contract with NAS for two reasons. The first reason is gather input on whether there are things that the EAHCP could do better. The second reason is that there are a large number of resources – both fiscally and in terms of staff time. The group was looking for validation of the plan that was put together, and the work that everyone is doing. Mr. Pence, quoted from the Executive Summary of the first report, "NAS finds that overall the permittees are doing an excellent job of implementing many aspects of a complex Habitat Conservation Plan." Mr. Pence added that this is the validation

that the EAHCP was looking for.

The Implementing Committee has decided to go through the report and decide which implementation recommendations to move forward with. Mr. Pence informed the group that they will be holding a public workshop on April 22 and 23 to gather public input and committee input from anyone that has read the report and would like to give input. The report is online at www.eahcp.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: STATUS OF GUADALUPE, SAN ANTONIO, MISSION, AND ARANSAS RIVERS AND MISSION, COPANO, ARANSAS, AND SAN ANTONIO BAYS BASIN AND BAY STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE (BBASC) AND EXPERT SCIENCE TEAM (BBEST)

Suzanne Scott informed the group that the next meeting of the BBASC would be on May 22, 2015. The science teams will be presenting to the committee. The funding for those studies must be expended by August, so the science teams are finishing up the work, and will be completing their reports to meet the August timeframe. The meeting will be held at the Victoria Community Center, at 10:30 am on May 22, 2013.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Mims updated the group on the status of House Bill 1016, relating to the designation of certain stream segments as ecologically unique. The bill, by Tracy King, passed out of the Natural Resource Committee, and was on the Local Consent calendar. The companion bill, SB 1293, was co-sponsored by Senator Uresti and Senator Zaffirini. Chairman Mims said he was waiting for a phone call to testify on the Senate side.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

David Meeseey, with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) reminded the group to frame the motion, when the planning group adopts the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP), as “certifying” that the IPP is complete and that it has been “adopted” by the planning group. Mr. Meeseey added that the transmittal letter should include such language, and confirm that the plan is in compliance with the statute, contract, and TWDB guidelines.

Doug McGooky asked Mr. Meeseey what the consequences were if the IPP was not approved. Mr. Meeseey responded, saying TWDB needs an approved IPP by the deadline of May 1, 2015. If the planning group fails to adopt a plan, then loans from TWDB and permits from TCEQ would be in jeopardy because both are tied statutorily or by rule to an approved plan. To be eligible for SWIFT funding, the project seeking funds must be in an approved plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CONSULTANTS WORK AND SCHEDULE

Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, reported on the schedule for plan development highlighting upcoming planning group deadlines and target dates for completing tasks. May 1, 2015, is the deadline for the submission of the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). The 2016 Regional Water Planning deadline is December 1, 2015.

Looking forward, Mr. Perkins discussed public comment period that begins after May 1, 2015, and continues through August 2015. The planning group will discuss public comments, and potentially TWDB comments at the meeting in August.

Mr. Perkins also provided an update on the potential issues to the planning process that HDR and the Administrator are tracking. He noted that nothing really has changed in terms of items being tracked since the last meeting in February 2015. Bill West mentioned that the whooping crane decision has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Perkins gave an update on interregional conflicts with other regional water planning areas. Region P serves part of Calhoun County, as well as a portion of Region L's industrial need. The Lavaca Off-Channel Reservoir is project that is in the Region L plan and the Region P plan. Portions of supply will be divided between the two regions to meet their respective needs. If there is any interregional conflict, it exists between Region N and Region P in determining where there portion of supply from the Lavaca Off-Channel Reservoir project goes (either remaining in Region P or going to Region N).

Regarding Region K, which Region L shares Hays County and multiple water user groups with, HDR has been working with their consultants to ensure that the needs of those water user groups are met.

Additionally, Region L has two water management strategies that reach into Region G for supply. Those include the SAWS Vista Ridge Project (Burleson) and the Hays Forestar Project (Lee County). At this time there are no conflicts with Region G.

Mr. Perkins added that there are no conflicts with Region N at this time.

Mr. Perkins gave a quick update on the status of the IPP in terms of the individual chapters. He presented a table that outlined the status of each chapter, general description, and section of the rule guiding those chapters.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) TO COMPLETE THE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS OF NOT MEETING CERTAIN WATER NEEDS

Chairman Mims asked for a motion to request the Texas Water Development board to complete the socioeconomic impact analysis of not meeting certain water needs. Dianne Wassenich made that motion. Will Conley seconded the motion. There were no objections.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED CHAPTER 8 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND UNIQUE SITES LANGUAGE FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 INITIALLY PREPARED REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Dianne Wassenich briefed the planning group on the proposed policy recommendations and unique sites language to be included in Chapter 8 of the IPP. She mentioned that the work group went through the previous edition line by line and found that information throughout portions of the chapter did not accurately reflect the current situations. Due to those differences, there were so many changes made to the document that it was not feasible to provide a "red-lined" copy of

the changes. Mrs. Wassenich elaborated on the contributions from those who participated in the work group.

By and large, the work group came to an agreement on all except one change. Mrs. Wassenich explained that the majority of the work group felt that they could not keep certain language concerning the Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) in the plan because it was incorrect. A statement that “downstream water rights” were protected by the EAHCP, or alluding to a certainty that the intention of the EAHCP was to protect “downstream water rights,” was, in the view of the majority of the work group, an inaccurate statement. Mrs. Wassenich stated that Kevin Janak and Jim Murphy were both members of the work group who were strong advocates for keeping the language in that protected the downstream water rights affected by the EAHCP. Over two separate meetings, the work group asked Roland Ruiz, General Manager of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, to come up with the original language of the EAHCP. Mrs. Wassenich said that the work group concluded that the differing opinions in the room were not going to agree. Instead, the work group asked Sam Vaughn, HDR Engineering, to write a statement about protection of water rights in the section about how the planning group supports the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s (TCEQ) administration of the water rights program. Mrs. Wassenich added that the work group asked those who opposed the exclusion of the “downstream water rights” from the EAHCP section to speak to the full planning group at this meeting so that they could hear both sides before making a final decision.

Bill West affirmed that GBRA is very interested in the policy statements included in Chapter 8 to reflect the protection of downstream water rights as part of the EAHCP’s purpose. Mr. West stated that he felt very strongly that the very pivot of Region L planning was the Edwards Aquifer and its associated pumping, spring flow, and water rights that emerge (both groundwater and surface water). Mr. West recommended an amendment to Chapter 8 Section 8.7 of the IPP (Policy Recommendations and Unique Stream Segments statement on the EAHCP), which was passed out to the members of the planning group.

The amendment proposed the following:

Protection of the Edwards Aquifer Springflow and Downstream Water Rights. The SCTRWPG recognizes that the EAHCP came about as a result of an effort to protect both spring flow and downstream water rights, and while the EAHCP does not directly address downstream water rights, the SCTRWPG reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding the integrity of downstream water rights by the maintenance of historic stream flow levels.

Chairman Mims asked if the original intent of the EAHCP was for the protection of downstream water rights. Nathan Pence, Executive Director of the EAHCP, was offered to answer the question posed by Chairman Mims. Mr. Pence said that the legal premise for the EAHCP was to gain an incidental take permit (ITP) that protects the endangered species affected by the spring flow.

Mrs. Wassenich added, that what Mr. Pence stated, is reflected in the current text of Section 8.7 of the policy recommendations focused on the EAHCP. She referenced following text from Section 8.7:

The SCTRWPG recognizes that the EAHCP was developed to “protect the federally-listed species potentially affected by the management and use of the Aquifer and certain other activities in the Comal and San Marcos ecosystems (EAHCP Sec. 1.2.1).”...

Mrs. Wassenich explained that language (in quotes above) came directly from the EAHCP, where the focus is on the endangered species, not downstream water rights.

Bill West added that, in order to further the EAHCP, downstream water rights holders have paid for the development of the EAHCP.

Kevin Janak stated that he was concerned about the City of Victoria because in the old plan (2011 Regional Water Plan), the policy recommendations section on the EAHCP actually referenced “downstream water rights.” He pointed out, that if the planning group were to remove that language from the policy recommendation statements, it could adversely affect the City of Victoria and other communities who rely on those rights.

Dianne Wassenich stated in the work group took that into consideration and recognized “downstream water rights” in the Chapter 8, but under a different section. She pointed the group to Section 8.4 regarding Surface Water. The language under that section reads as follows.

Surface Water Rights Monitoring and Administration: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) should be adequately staffed and funded to ensure the legal and appropriate use of permitted surface water rights through comprehensive monitoring and administrative programs, such as the Watermaster program. Such monitoring and administrative programs should address surface water / groundwater interactions in cooperation with appropriate groundwater conservation districts.

Kevin Janak reaffirmed his concern that the words “downstream water rights,” had been omitted from the language of both the 8.4 and 8.7 sections of Chapter 8. Bill West added that a key element of the downstream water rights are that they are derived from groundwater.

Thomas Taggart noted that the document contains a link relating to the effect of the EAHCP in regards to spring flows and downstream flows. He pointed to the Section 8.7 (Environmental), which indicates the following:

The EAHCP Workgroup recommends that the SCTRWPG include the EAHCP as a recommended water management strategy in the 2016 SCTRWP and use the spring flows associated with EAHCP implementation as an hydrologic modeling assumption for computation of existing surface water supplies and technical evaluation of water management strategies.

Mr. Taggart continued, saying that the passage (above) protects the link between what the EAHCP accomplishes and the downstream spring flows. Mr. Taggart added that the legal ramifications of water rights are a significantly different concept than modeling the EAHCP effect on flows. The core of what the EAHCP is intended to accomplish is taken care of in Section 8.7.

Charles Ahrens, San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS), suggested that throughout the RIP (Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program) process, the focus was on the environmental impacts created by resulting protection program of the EAHCP. The “Habitat” Conservation Program is purposed to protect the environmental habitat associated with the species identified by the EAHCP. There were discussions throughout the RIP process and the development of the EAHCP about the geographic scope, whether certain species should be included (whooping cranes); and there were decisions made, primarily to ensure the success and implementation ability of the conservation measure, that we would be better served to limit that scope to focus on the species, which was really the direction of the Legislature. The result is an increase in spring flow, which in turn will result in stream flow. The stream flows are an incidental byproduct of the implementation of the EAHCP. The EAHCP was adopted under that premise by all of the boards and councils of the permit holders. Mr. Ahrens added that when SAWS took the EAHCP to their board, it was adopted as a habitat focused conservation measure, not as a protection of downstream water rights.

Bill West responded that the scope (referring to Mr. Ahren’s comments above) was restricted as a practical matter, but that the said restriction (not to include the whooping crane) did not imply that the EAHCP did not include the river system below.

Mr. Ahrens replied, saying that the conservation measures to implement the EAHCP were purposed to ensure sufficient flows from Comal and San Marcos Springs, which are the habitats of focus within the EAHCP. Those spring flows are what the EAHCP has control over. However, once that water enters the stream, the EAHCP does not have any influence. The EAHCP cannot dictate what water is put in and taken out of the streams from the point where water exits the springs and enters the streams onward. The EAHCP does not have control over anything beyond the specific habitats it addresses. Beyond the wild rice just east of IH-35, the EAHCP has no programs to ensure that water rights are secure because of all the other influences on water in that system.

Gary Middleton commented that throughout the development of the EAHCP, it was always a known fact that if the spring flows were successfully protected, that the river would benefit.

Suzanne Scott suggested that, under Section 8.4 (Surface Water), the planning group consider adding to end of the last sentence in first paragraph (same paragraph as noted above concerning “surface water / groundwater interaction) that said, “Such monitoring and administrative programs should address surface water / groundwater interactions in cooperation with appropriate groundwater conservation districts *and the downstream water rights permitting process.*”

Charles Ahrens noted, in regard to the EAHCP, that its goal is to protect the species, which also includes Refugia. The success of the EAHCP may be defined as grabbing the species, putting them in Refugia and holding them there for the purpose of reintroduction into the Comal and San Marcos system should the species become endangered in their natural habitat. That process does not consider the integrity of downstream water rights. The focus of the EAHCP is the species and the habitat they rely on. If the goal of the EAHCP was to ensure downstream water rights, Refugia would not be part of the EAHCP, because we are always going to have flow.

Chairman Mims suggested considering Suzanne's attempt of a compromise with the language she suggested adding.

Mrs. Scott repeated her suggestion. Dianne Wassenich suggested that the language should be clarified by inserting "the administration" of downstream water rights, as the groundwater districts are akin to TCEQ administrators managing the resource. Mrs. Wassenich agreed that the proper place to recognize "downstream water rights" is under Section 8.4 (Surface Water), not 8.7 concerning the EAHCP.

Bill West asked Todd Votteler, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), to speak on his involvement with the EAHCP and the RIP process. Mr. Votteler made comments on three points', the first of which was that there are surface water rights west of IH-35 along the Comal River, though they are small. His second point was that during the RIP process, the committee spent a great deal of time deciding who would pay for the plan over the fifteen year period. The key discussion in deciding that involved a graphic developed by HDR that showed which surface water rights downstream benefited most through the ultimate impacts of the plan. CPS Energy benefited the most, followed by GBRA, and Dow Chemical. GBRA was asked to contribute financially on that basis. GBRA provided \$400,000, and Dow Chemical provided \$250,000. The discussion focused on the fact that GBRA and others benefit, and should therefore contribute payment for the plan.

Mrs. Scott clarified that she thought it was the intention of the RIP Steering Committee to recognize that the water rights benefitting from the implantation of the EAHCP would be used and evaluated as part of water management strategies moving forward. Mr. Votteler clarified that he just wanted the planning group to know basis by which GBRA was asked to make financial contributions to the plan, and has been making that contribution on the same basis. Mrs. Scott said that she understood, but was curious if his comments were made in order to support the notion that the planning group would expressly recognize that the purpose the EAHCP was to support downstream water rights. She referenced the portion of text under Section 8.7, where the planning group adopted language in a previous planning cycle that expresses its position on the impacts of the EAHCP on spring flows and resulting stream flows. (*The EAHCP Workgroup recommends that the SCTRWP include the EAHCP as a recommended water management strategy in the 2016 SCTRWP and use the spring flows associated with EAHCP implementation as an hydrologic modeling assumption for computation of existing surface water supplies and technical evaluation of water management strategies.*).

Roland Ruiz, who served on the work group to develop language of Chapter 8, clarified that throughout the decade long discussion on how to manage the Edwards Aquifer, downstream water rights was a consideration in moving forward. He further clarified that his intent in recognizing the need for correction under Section 8.7, was his concern that the planning group would be creating an unintended expectation of what the EAHCP would be accountable for. There is no binding, legally or otherwise, law, rule or expectation within the EAHCP that EAHCP is going to guarantee downstream water at any specific level. Mr. Ruiz suggested that his concern was not whether the importance of downstream water rights were acknowledged somewhere within the policy recommendations approved by the group, but that by presenting it in a way that creates an expectation from the EAHCP. There may be a compromise the planning group can come to, but the EAHCP does not play a role guaranteeing any water rights

downstream. Though it may benefit downstream rights, it does not guarantee them.

Mr. West responded that, as a policy statement, the planning group will either be on the record as protecting downstream water rights, or it will not.

Mrs. Wassenich stated that the planning group is on record protecting downstream water rights in other parts of the document, but such statements belong in sections other than the EAHCP section. She suggested considering Mrs. Scott's previous recommendations to add language to the statements under Section 8.4 on Surface Water.

After some deliberation, Mrs. Wassenich clarified that the additional language would be as follows:

Such monitoring and administrative programs should address surface water / groundwater interactions in cooperation with appropriate groundwater conservation districts and the administration of downstream water rights. The SCTRWPG reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding the integrity of downstream water rights.

Bill West and Kevin Janak both said that this compromise was acceptable.

Blair Fitzsimmons referred the group to Section 8.3 under Groundwater Management, and suggested a statement recognizing that the SCTRWPG acknowledges that the groundwater is a private property right. The statement introduced was as follows:

The SCTRWPG respects the decision of the Texas Supreme Court that the groundwater is a private property right (Chapter 36 TWC).

Will Conley recommended adding language to Section 8.3 under Groundwater Sustainability. The following language was suggested:

Where no district exists, the developer should be required to send certified letters clearly describing the project to the commissioners court in the county where the well fields are located.

After some discussion on how to word the official language for the document, the planning group settled on the following shaping and wording of the Groundwater Sustainability portion of Section 8.3.

Where no district exists, the developer should monitor impacts and, when appropriate, take corrective action consistent with the goal of groundwater sustainability. *The SCTRWPG recommends that the Texas Legislature and/or TCEQ develop a process requiring certified letters be sent to the Commissioners Court in the county/ counties where the well field is located clearly describing the project.*

Dianne Wassenich made a motion to approve the Chapter 8 Policy Recommendations & Unique Sites, as edited by the work group, and further edited by the SCTRWPG, in its entirety. Kevin Janak seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES (TASK 4D)

Mr. Perkins presented technical evaluations for several potentially feasible water management strategies to the Planning Group. First, Mr. Perkins briefed the planning group on Victoria's water management strategies, which includes the Victoria Groundwater-Surface Water Exchange, the Victoria Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR), and the Balancing Storage water management strategies.

Mr. Perkins also presented updates to the Direct Recycled Water Programs for the cities of San Marcos, New Braunfels, and Kyle. The updates were primarily based on the cities' goals to achieve zero discharge of waste water by the year 2070.

Dianne Wassenich pointed out her puzzlement with the Direct Recycled Water Programs and how the most recent changes developed (referring to the changes of the Direct Recycled Water Programs for San Marcos, New Braunfels, and Kyle). She asked whether the cities were making these decisions in pursuit of SWIFT funds, or if they had a different motive. Mr. Perkins replied that HDR reached out to these entities, knowing that they wanted reuse in the 2016 RWP at some level. The goal then, was to gauge the level of reuse they expect to achieve through 2070. The cities' feedback, that each of them wanted to be at zero discharge by 2070, is what triggered the changes from evaluations previously conducted. Previously, discharge projections were based on the assumption that the reuse facilities would not be expanded at an aggressive rate. Once HDR was informed that their goals were to achieve zero discharge by 2070, HDR adjusted the technical evaluations of the projects. Mrs. Wassenich asked what the motivation was behind prompting the change. Mr. Perkins suggested that decision might have been partially due to SWIFT funds, but likely based on the realization of a resource that can be drawn from.

Thomas Taggart, speaking for the City of San Marcos, said that considering that supplies are tight now, beyond the next fifty year planning cycle, with significant regional population growth, San Marcos is concerned about where supplies will be in the next 50 years. Mr. Taggart informed the group that the City of San Marcos is looking to commission a study in the next fiscal year to start looking at direct potable reuse as a portion of the supply beyond the current 50 year period. San Marcos is pre-planning those types of supply situations long term, while at the same time planning for the more intermediate future.

Bill West pointed out that reuse, if taken to the extreme, can have detrimental effects on the river systems. If nothing is discharged into the stream, it can become a detriment to downstream surface water users. There is a very serious policy issue within the state and within the region. Balancing of resources and protecting stream flow, a 100 percent reuse program would have major consequences on the integrity of the stream. This group needs to consider those consequences from a policy and planning standpoint. Chairman Mims agreed, and suggested that it sounds like an issue for the planning group to take up in the next planning cycle.

Mr. Perkins continued his presentation of Direct Recycled Water Programs, which included the additions of SARA, SAWS, and CCMA (Cibolo Creek Municipal Authority, noting that SAWS

was doubling their direct reuse by 2070 and information about a pipeline from Dos Rios to the CPS lakes. CCMA is increasing their reuse to 90% by 2070.

Suzanne Scott asked Mr. Perkins to confirm that the assumptions used in the development of the 2016 RWP were such, that effluent discharges were not calculated into the supply. Mr. Perkins agreed, stating that the development of the plan based on those assumptions implies 100 percent reuse (aka zero discharge). Mrs. Scott queried whether, based on that assumption, these water management strategies (referring to the Direct Recycled Water Programs) would affect other surface water management strategies' yields. Mr. Perkins' response was that the Direct Recycled Water Programs does not affect the other water management strategies' yields, but would affect the existing supply because the supply does have effluent in it. To the degree that these entities transition to increased levels of reuse, that could potentially impact the existing supply, which, when compared to the demand, feeds into the needs. The goal is to meet the needs.

Mr. Taggart added that if the reuse meets a need that would otherwise be met by potable water, it's a zero-sum game because the demand is still met. Mr. Perkins agreed, but said that on a specific basis (as opposed to a region wide), the specific needs may shift. The reuse, not being discharged into a stream, may be meeting local needs, whereas those dependent upon that effluent downstream may also have needs not being met by that source.

Additionally, Mr. Perkins provided updates to the Facilities Expansions water management strategies. Updates to the Facilities expansions included a direct reuse pipeline from Dos Rios to CPS, the Western Canyon WTP Expansion, and transmission facilities to move new supplies from southern Hays County to the Wimberley/ Woodcreek Area.

Dianne Wassenich asked, in regard to the facilities expansion for Hays County, whether there would be a diagram indicating the route of the pipeline. Mr. Perkins said there was one presented previously. She mentioned two different potential routes, one up Highway 12 and the other up Highway 150, that she had heard of; and was wondering which one is in the plan.

Will Conley stated that goal of the county (Hays) is to have as many options as possible available. As water infrastructure develops in the future, the county wants to have as many feasible transmission options ready to plug in to any potential source. He referenced a number of projects coming through or near Hays County that might be available supply sources. Mr. Conley stated that the pipeline up Highway 12 is designed to meet specifically a Wimberley Valley need.

Mrs. Wassenich asked whether the diagram for this project would show the Highway 12 option or the Highway 150 option. Mr. Conley suggested that such a diagram would display both.

Chairman Mims asked for a motion to approve these water management strategies as they have been amended as recommended water management strategies.

Ray Chavez made the motion. Thomas Taggart seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CHAPTER 6 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS RESULTS AND CHAPTER 11 COMPARISON TO THE PREVIOUS REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Brian Perkins briefed the planning group on Chapter 6, The Cumulative Effects of the 2016

Regional Water Plan. The presentation included an evaluation of stream flows and estuary inflows under two scenarios: a baseline evaluation of surface water supply throughout the regional water planning area; and an evaluation under full implementation of the 2016 Regional Water Plan for Region L. Sam Vaugh explained the portion of Chapter 6, which focused on the assessing environmental impacts of the 2016 IPP relative to past state water plans.

Dianne Savage asked Mr. Vaugh about when the last time a mainstem reservoir was proposed for a Region L regional water plan (referring to some language in the environmental impacts section of Chapter 6 of the IPP). Mr. Vaugh responded that such a strategy was considered in the 2001 plan. Mrs. Savage suggested adding a statement to strengthen the planning group's position on strategies in terms of the environmental protections. Dianne Wassenich suggested adding a statement recognizing the planning group's consideration and support of ASR as an environmentally beneficial water management strategy. Mrs. Savage agreed. Mr. Vaugh asked which environmental benefits of ASR would the planning group like HDR to articulate in Chapter 6. The following were generally supported by the planning group as environmental benefits from ASR: water stored underground will not evaporate, the efficient storage of water in wet times that could be used in dry times, and ASR does not affect the surface land use. Mrs. Wassenich suggested leaving language about the ASR's effect on bays and estuaries out of the Chapter 6 environmental impacts section.

Tom Taggart suggested adding reuse to the list of things that avoids or delays projects with greater impacts. Mr. Vaugh noted the suggested changes.

Mr. Perkins continued, briefing the planning group on Chapter 11, regarding the implementation and comparison to previous plans from a quantitative standpoint, which was a new requirement this planning cycle.

The results presented, and changes made are accessible in the Region L RWPG 2016 IPP.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF POTENTIALLY FEASIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSION INTO THE 2016 INITIALLY PREPARED REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Brian Perkins presented the 2016 Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies table, which included a list of water management strategies in categories of "recommended," "alternative," and "other." The proposed list included minor changes from the list presented at the February 2015 Region L meeting, which was adopted by consensus (see Region L Minutes from 2-5-2015 Agenda Item 16). Mr. Perkins recapped the adoption of the list in February, and briefed the planning group on a few minor changes to the list that had come about since.

Russell Labus asked, if Cibolo Valley LGC's project (Carrizo Aquifer [Wilson Co]) met an obstacle and did not come to fruition, whether the Cibolo Valley LGC had an alternative water management strategy to meet their needs. Mr. Labus referenced a letter from Chairman Mims that had been issued to planning group members prior to the meeting (in response to a letter from Darrell Brownlow concerning the project). Mr. Labus noted that the demands associated with the Cibolo Valley LGC Carrizo project are not immediate. Alan Cockerell said that there were none. He clarified that Cibolo Valley LGC evaluated several projects, but that the Carrizo project was chosen for the plan.

Mr. Labus asked how a project (referring to the Cibolo Valley LGC [Wilson Co.] – MAG-Limited project) with a zero firm yield could be included as a recommended strategy in the regional water plan. Mr. Perkins noted that Texas Water Development Board recognizes projects with a zero firm yield, which costs are shown for, as part of the plan. Mr. Perkins explained that the project is limited by the MAG of the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer. Where a project is limited by the MAG, the planning group has chosen to insert the MAG limited version of the project as the recommended water management strategy, while inserting the envisioned sized project as an alternative strategy that could be swapped in case the MAG changes.

Dianne Savage suggested putting in a place holder for the Cibolo Valley project (did not specify which one, “Mag limited” or “with Conversions”). Mrs. Savage mentioned that there may be evidence and information that should be put into the evaluation process. Her concerns were that there were aspects of the project that the planning group did not consider, and that there was much opposition to the project in Wilson County.

Chairman Mims asked whether Mrs. Savage was suggesting that the project should be removed as a recommended water management strategy in the IPP.

Mrs. Savage confirmed.

Chairman Mims stated that such action would essentially kill any opportunity to adopt the IPP by the May 1 deadline.

Mrs. Savage asked whether, in order to avoid failure to adopt the IPP, the planning group could insert a place holder in place of the project.

Chairman Mims rejected the notion, reaffirming that the planning group has to meet the needs of Schertz and Cibolo. The planning group must have a project in the plan that meets their needs. These projects meet their needs. If the planning group were to take the Cibolo Valley projects out, the planning group must have another project that has been technically evaluated and approved by this planning group to insert into the IPP before the May 1 deadline. This means another planning group meeting before May 1 would be necessary. Referring to his response to the Brownlow letter), Chairman Mims reaffirmed that those opposed to anything in the IPP can present their comments during the public comment period after the adoption and submittal of the IPP.

Mrs. Savage asked whether, if the projects move forward in the IPP, there was any chance that it could be removed

Chairman Mims said that he did not recall any project being taken out of the plan. He expressed that the planning group can handle all comments on the projects in the IPP at the August meeting. The planning group can decide what changes, if any, it wants to make to the final plan.

Mrs. Savage asked if there was an opportunity to change the plan.

Chairman Mims told her that there would be an opportunity, but there was no assurance that the plan would change.

Suzanne Scott noted that the planning group would still be faced with replacing the removed project with a viable technically evaluated water management strategy to meet the needs associated with the project.

Chairman Mims agreed, adding that the planning group would have a deadline of December 1 for the final plan.

Dianne Wassenich asked Con whether members had the ability to vote against the plan or abstain, with the plan still moving forward.

Chairman Mims replied that the voting members could vote however they would like, but warned that a failed vote would jeopardize every water management strategy in the plan that is seeking state financing. He gave the example of surface water permits, and said that failure to adopt an IPP or RWP is putting a huge problem in front of water suppliers and the people who need the water.

Gary Middleton stated that the planning group has nothing to do with the implementation of individual projects. The planning group is only there to provide information about possible water strategies that could be implemented by a governmental entity. The decision to kill a project doesn't lie with a group of representatives who don't live, work, and enjoy another's county. That decision belongs to the county residents, commissioners, those who sit on the board of the water district, and the city fathers. By approving the project as a recommended water management strategy, the planning group is only saying that the project could meet the need. If the desired future conditions (DFC) or the MAG numbers change, it could be a valid project for some amount of firm yield.

Mrs. Savage agreed with Mr. Middleton's statement, but reiterated her concern about having an option to remove the project from the plan subsequent to approving the plan.

Chairman Mims said that the planning group will have an opportunity to change the plan after the approval of the IPP, but the same set of problems regarding meeting the need, will remain. The real battle needs to be fought at Evergreen.

Mrs. Savage said she wanted take advantage of every opportunity to keep the project out of Wilson County.

Chairman Mims asked for any other discussion on the Cibolo Valley water management strategies. There were none.

Bill West, referring to a letter of intent to purchase water from Formosa Plastics (provided to the planning group prior to the meeting), pointed out that the Lower Basin Storage Project could meet needs in Region L (Formosa Plastics Corporation) or in Region N. Steve Raabe, San Antonio River Authority, asked whether the project costs were projected to deliver water to Formosa. Sam Vaughn said that cost for Region N projects include a delivery point. The only additional costs would be a pipeline segment to that delivery point. There was general concern from several planning group members (Wassenich, Scott, Taggart) about adding a project that has not been fully vetted to the Regional Water Plan. Mr. Perkins suggested that, under TWDB guidelines, industrial needs are "countywide," meaning TWDB does not require a specific delivery point for such projects. As long as the project resides in the county of delivery (Calhoun County) the evaluation should be sufficient. Though the delivery point is not exact, TWDB only requires delivery to the county where the need exists. Mr. Perkins added that Region N has completed some of the costs to deliver water to the need. Region L can rely on those projections to an extent. The decision to rely on Region N's cost figures for delivering water there is left to the planning group.

After some dialogue between Mr. Taggart and Mr. West, it was clarified that what Mr. West was suggesting was to either add a note to GBRA Lower Basin Storage Project (on the 2016 SCTRWP Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies table) that identified Formosa as a delivery point, or to remove “Purchase from LNRA” as recommended water management strategy from the list of potentially feasible water management strategies identified by the planning group. The planning group decided to move the Purchase from LNRA water management strategy to an alternative (as opposed to a recommended) water management strategy.

Returning to the issues pointed out about the Cibolo Valley LGC Carrizo Aquifer projects, Dianne Wassenich asked why there were two projects (1. MAG limited and 2. with Conversions) meeting the same need being identified as recommended water management strategies. Mr. Perkins said that his understanding was that the zero firm yield project (MAG limited recommended water management strategy) is intended to obtain new permits from the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District. Under the current MAG, the firm yield of the MAG limited version of the project is zero. The alternative strategy to that is under circumstances where the MAG changes or policies change that would allow the implementation of the envisioned project, which supplies 10,000 acre-feet/ year. Outside those strategies, Cibolo Valley LGC could negotiate with landowners to lease land (in order to build well-fields) and water rights that have already been appropriated by Evergreen. That process would entail converting the acquired (leased) permit for municipal use and obtaining an export permit for that. The differences in these strategies are reflected in the costs and approach to acquiring water. Mr. Perkins clarified that the reason the MAG Limited and Conversions versions of the project are both recommended strategies is because Cibolo Valley LGC could obtain permits from Evergreen, and then fill the rest of the need by leasing and converting permits. Additionally, the envisioned project is the alternative because, in the event that the MAG changes, a simple substitution will be much easier procedurally to achieve.

Mr. Perkins continued highlighting the several changes made to the 2016 SCTRWP Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies table, which included updates to supply of SAWS Direct Reuse (now 40,000 acre-feet/year), the addition of a Dos Rios Waste Water Treatment Plant – CPS Pipeline as part of the Facilities Expansion water management strategy, changes to the New Braunfels Utilities Reuse/ Recycle water management strategy supply (now 11,709 acre-feet/year), the addition of costs and supplies for the Victoria ASR and Victoria Groundwater-Surface Water Exchange water management strategies, and the addition several other Direct Reuse/ Recycle water management strategies (for CCMA, Kyle, San Marcos, and SARA).

Chairman Mims asked if there were any questions. Mr. West mentioned his concern about the impacts that 100 percent return flows could have on downstream water rights and the environment. He stated that he would like to take up that discussion early in the next planning cycle. Chairman Mims agreed. There was no further discussion on this item.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY (SARA) TO SUBMIT THE 2016 INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION L) BY MAY 1, 2015

Chairman Mims asked for a motion to approve the 2016 IPP, and authorize the SARA to submit the 2016 IPP on behalf of the Region L Planning Group. Will Conley made the motion. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. Chairman Mims asked for any objections.

Dianne Wassenich objected. She expressed her concern about having two to four times the amount of water being supplied than is needed. By approving the IPP, the planning group is completing a list and handing it over to TWDB. She continued, saying that it seems the planning group should have some responsibility to look at the proposed needs and how many times the plan is serving a need. There should then be some criteria to narrow down the best projects. Gary Middleton said that it was not the duty the planning group to make those decisions. Those decisions are left up to the local communities. The purpose of the plan is to provide a list of feasible strategies that the communities can choose from. TWDB never intended the regional water planning groups to implement the plan.

Chairman Mims suggested that the planning group has always tried to do things by consensus. That means that members may not like the decision, but that they can live with it. The appropriate question to ask one's self about the plan is, "Can I live with it?"

Mrs. Wassenich said that the only part of the process that gives her any comfort is that after the public participation process, the planning group will come back and meet again with a chance to make changes to the IPP. She noted however, that in its current state, she cannot support the IPP.

Chairman Mims noted that he had been informed that original motion needs to be restated in a precise way per TWDB rules. He asked for a motion to adopt the IPP, to certify that it is complete and that there are no interregional conflicts, and to authorize the administrator to submit the IPP by the deadline of May 1, 2015.

John Kight made the motion. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. Chairman Mims asked for objections. Dianne Wassenich restated her objection.

Chairman Mims asked for a vote by hands raised. There was no question that a simple majority was reached after counting the hands of those who were in support of the IPP, those who were against the IPP's adoption, and those who abstained.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

Cole Ruiz briefed the planning group on TWDB's requirement that planning groups hold at least one public hearing to present the IPP and hear public comments.

A. NUMBER OF PUBLIC HEARINGS TO BE HELD

After some discussion, the planning group agreed to hold three hearings.

B. DESIRED LOCATIONS OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

After some discussion, the planning group agreed to hold the three hearings at the following locations: San Marcos, San Antonio, and Victoria. Art Dohmann made the motion to hold the hearings aforementioned. Charles Ahrens, sitting for Robert Puente, seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY'S (GBRA) PROPOSED SUBSTITUTION

OF THE LOWER BASIN STORAGE 500 ACRE SITE PROJECT FOR THE LOWER BASIN STORAGE 100 ACRE SITE PROJECT IN THE 2011 REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND REQUEST THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) TO AMEND THE 2012 STATE WATER PLAN

Chairman Mims asked HDR if they had anything to present, noting that the planning group has heard this presentation several times at past meetings. Sam Vaugh stated that they have back up materials, and are available to facilitate any discussion.

Gary Middleton made a motion to adopt the GBRA Proposed substitution of the Lower Basin Storage 500 Acre Site project for the Lower Basin Storage 100 Acre Site project in the 2011 Regional Water Plan, and request TWDB to amend the 2012 State Water Plan accordingly. John Kight and Will Conley voiced seconding the motion.

Dianne Wassenich asked whether there were changes to the project yields. Brian Perkins said that the project is the same as it was presented in the past.

Chairman Mims pointed to the several (four) letters of support for the project. He then recognized the motion and second, and asked for objections.

Dianne Wassenich said that there were various assumptions about effluent discharge based on different years noted at the Staff Workgroup meeting. After some discussion, the planning group decided to hear the presentation from HDR.

Sam Vaugh presented the technical evaluation for the project substitution. He noted that when the initial project approved for the 2011 Region L Regional Water Plan, the effluent discharges were also included under TWDB guidance. The approved assumptions for the third planning cycle were based on 2006 effluent discharges less recycle contracts. The project, coming late in cycle, had previously been completed with 1997 discharges less recycle contracts. This fact was noted by the planning group, and the project was included in the 2011 Regional Water Plan on that basis. There were some concerns raised about the project not being reflective of the approved hydrologic assumptions based on the 2006 effluent discharges like the other surface water projects in the 2011 Regional Water Plan. Mr. Vaugh said that HDR re-evaluated the project based on the 2006 effluent discharges.

Mr. Vaugh presented a graphic. The graphic displayed the differences in yield and cost projections based on the use of 1997 effluent discharges and 2006 effluent discharges. After some discussion amongst planning group members and HDR, it was resolved that, because the 100 acre site project was a last minute addition to the 2011 plan, the 1997 effluent discharges were used in technically evaluating the project, and that this was done perhaps incorrectly because the planning group had stated that the 2006 effluent discharges should be used in the development of its hydrologic assumptions for the 2011 Regional Water Plan. Currently, the 2011 Regional Water Plan and the 2012 State Water Plan have the 100 acre site project listed, but only as evaluated under the 1997 effluent discharge.

The 500 acre site project, which would be substituted for the 100 acre site project in the 2011 Regional Water Plan, was evaluated under both conditions by HDR, one with 1997 effluent discharges, and one with 2006 effluent discharges. The differences in figures were noted on the graphic and by the planning group.

Additionally, the graphic depicted, as it was explained by HDR, the GBRA Lower Basin Rights to the extent they are firm under two scenarios: 1) without storage, and 2) with storage. It was noted that, in the current 2016 Regional Water Plan, the same 500 acre site project under the fifth planning cycle hydrologic assumptions for evaluation of water management strategies (which do not factor in effluent discharges) has a substantially lower yield (without effluent discharge).

In addressing the firm yield of the proposed project amendment, Bill West added that the total project will yield 100,000 acre feet/ year. Mr. West noted that firm water rights, which are senior water rights (referring to the proposed project amendment for the 2011 RWP), were 41,500 acre feet/ year. By adding the 500 acre-site off channel reservoir storage, the firm yield (with effluent) is roughly 100,000 acre feet/ year. The project is 100,000 acre feet/ year, plus or minus.

Suzanne Scott asked why (assuming GBRA's water rights were firm) under the 2016 RWP version, did GBRA's firm water rights fall to 15,000 acre feet/ year. Mr. West replied that the difference was the result of the impact effluent. Mrs. Scott agreed, making the point that without effluent, GBRA's water rights are not firm at 41,500.00. Brian Perkins explained that without storage, and with effluent (referring to the 2016 RWP version) roughly 42,000 acre feet/ year is firm. If we remove effluent, only 15,000 acre feet/ year is firm. In actuality, Mr. Perkins explained, out of the 672 months of simulation, there is one month in 1956 that 42,000 acre feet/ year is firm if there is effluent. Without the effluent, firm supply goes down to 15,000 acre feet/ year. When you add storage, the effluent may make a difference; but in terms of base flow, if there is effluent, it is basically the same as firm supply. Mrs. Scott and Thomas Taggart expressed concern that under the full implementation of reuse developments upstream, the impact of the implementation would be such that firm yield of the already approved GBRA Lower Basin Storage Project as shown – in the 2016 IPP – would be substantially lower (around 51,700 acre feet/ year as opposed to the envisioned 75,500 acre feet/ year), as opposed to the same project being proposed as an amendment to the 2011 Regional Water Plan (around 57,700 – 59,600 acre feet/ year).

Thomas Taggart likened the implementation of reuse projects, as they relate to surface water, akin to MAG limitations' relationship with groundwater. He said that the concept to avoid planning to exceed the limitations of the managed water supply remains the same for surface water as it does for groundwater.

Suzanne Scott asked which proposal was moving forward (either the proposed 500 acre site under the 1997 conditions, or under the 2006 conditions). Mr. West said that, if it would settle the disagreement, he would be willing to propose the amendment under the 2006 conditions.

Chairman Mims asked if the Mr. Middleton and Mr. Conley still stand by their motions. They confirmed. Chairman Mims asked for objections. There were several including Mrs. Wassenich and Mr. Taggart.

Chairman Mims asked for a hand vote. Affirmative votes were 18, along with 2 abstentions, and 5 in opposition. The motion passed by affirmative vote.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING

No agenda items were mentioned.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachel Cynirski, a citizen of San Antonio, made the following comment: “For eight people who were alive a century ago, there are now 31 people on this planet. In our region. The birth rate substantially outpaces the death rate per capita per annum. Were this rate of natural increase to continue, all areas of Region L will face unprecedented challenges to provide water for basic human needs. Using the City of San Antonio’s own demographic projections for the next 25 years and extrapolating them to the future, a conservative estimate of the population of the city of San Antonio in 2115 would be 17 Million people. This would be in the absence of any major or anticipated influxes of migration from unique circumstances. Other areas of Region L may anticipate similar increases of population. To ensure human health, preference must be given to “non-consumptive” uses of water which return water into the system over consumptive areas.”

The meeting was adjourned.

Recommended for approval.

GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on September 3, 2015.

CON MIMS, CHAIR

Agenda Item 3:
Approval of Minutes from the South Central Texas Regional
Water Planning Group's Meeting on April 2, 2015.

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
February 5, 2015**

Chairman Con Mims called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Customer Service Building, Room CR 145, 2800 US Highway 281 North, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

26 of the 28 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Tim Andruss	Gary Middleton
Donna Balin	Con Mims
Gene Camargo	Robert Puente
Alan Cockrell	Iliana Pena
Will Conley	Steve Ramsey
Don Dietzmann	David Roberts
Art Dohmann	Roland Ruiz
Jeremiah Leibowitz for Blair Fitzsimmons	Dianne Savage
Vic Hilderbran	Steve Raabe for Suzanne Scott
Kevin Janak	Greg Sengelmann
Russell Labus	Thomas Taggart
Doug McGooky	Dianne Wassenich
Dan Meyer	Tommy Hill for Bill West

Voting Members Absent

Rey Chavez
John Kight

Non-Voting Members Present:

Don McGhee, Region M Liason
David Meeseey, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Phyllis Varnon for Ken Weidenfeller, Texas Department of Agriculture

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Norman Boyd, Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife
Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Steve Ramos, TCEQ – South Texas Watermaster Specialists
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison

Chairman Mims pulled Agenda Item 18 from the agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: REMARKS FROM TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
DIRECTOR KATHLEEN JACKSON**

Director Jackson introduced her staff and made some remarks regarding the regional and state water planning process. She also described a few funding options available for project development.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Mims asked for any public comment. No comments were made.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Mims asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 6, 2015, meeting minutes. Dianne Wassenich noted one error and made a motion to approve the minutes. Robert Puente seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015

Chairman Mims asked for nominations to fill the terms of officers to serve on Executive Committee for the calendar year of 2015 in accordance with the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group's (Region L), bylaws. Dianne Wassenich made a motion to re-elect the current Executive Committee to their same positions. Dianne's motion was seconded. The motion to re-elect the Executive Committee to their current positions passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING NOMINATIONS TO FILL VACANT AGRICULTURE VOTING MEMBER (TERM EXPIRES 2016) AND INDUSTRIES VOTING MEMBER (TERM EXPIRES 2018)

Cole Ruiz, San Antonio River Authority, described vacancies (Agriculture and Industries interest areas) and the nomination process to fill those vacancies. Chairman Mims asked for a motion to authorize SARA, to solicit nominations to fill the vacant Region L voting member seats of Agriculture and Industries. Gary Middleton made the motion. Kevin Janak seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: STATUS OF EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) – NATHAN PENCE, EXECUTIE DIRECTOR EAHCP.

There was no update to provide.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: STATUS OF GUADALUPE, SAN ANTONIO, MISSION, AND ARANSAS RIVERS AND MISSION, COPANO, ARANSAS, AND SAN ANTONIO BAYS BASIN AND BAY STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE (BBASC) AND EXPERT SCIENCE TEAM (BBEST)

Dianne Wassenich gave a brief update to the planning group regarding recent BBASC activities. She mentioned that the BBASC received updates from the contractors' studies. Dianne mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2015.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: STATUS OF THE WORKGROUP'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHAPTER 8 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND UNIQUE SITES LANGUAGE FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 INITIALLY PREPARED REGIONAL WATER PLAN

A. Unique Stream Segment Workgroup

Will Conley reported on the language added to the Unique Sites section of Chapter 8 of the 2016 Regional Water Plan by the Unique Stream Segment Workgroup.

B. Policy Workgroup.

Dianne Wassenich updated the planning group on the Policy Workgroup's efforts to edit Chapter 8. Dianne mentioned that the Policy Workgroup is still working on establishing a clear consensus on language, but they will continue to meet until a draft is ready for the full planning group to consider.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Mims provided the planning group with an update of the legislation relating to certain Unique Stream Segments. House Bill 1016 was filed by Representative Tracy King, and a search of a sponsor to file the bill's companion in the Senate was underway. Chairman Mims also reported that TWDB had approved the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's (GBRA) Integrated Water Power Project as an amendment to the 2012 State Water Plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) COMMUNICATIONS

David Meeseey briefly discussed TWDB's infrastructure and emergency interconnection information report requirement for the 2016 Regional Water Plan. The report is confidential, and requires a review and submission process that is closed to the public.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION DESIGNATING A WORKGROUP TO HOLD A CLOSED MEETING TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION UTILIZED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016 REGIONAL WATER PLAN TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) AS REQUIRED BY 31 TAC §357.45(D)

Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, reported the status of their efforts to collect the infrastructure information utilized for the development of the 2016 Regional Water Plan. Mr. Perkins recapped what Mr. Meeseey went over previously; noting that the report is confidential due to information regarding emergency interconnections, and thus requires a workgroup to hold a meeting closed to the public. Gary Middleton made a motion to authorize HDR to pull together the required Infrastructure Report, and submit it to TWDB per their requirements. Thomas Taggart seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION DESIGNATING A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION AS ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE FIFTH CYCLE OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Chairman Mims explained that this agenda item was necessary in order to complete the following agenda item, "Discussion and Appropriate Action Authorizing Political Subdivision to Apply for Funding for the Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Planning and Post the Associated 30-Day Public Notice Prior to TWDB Board Action on the Application." Will Conley made a motion to designate the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) as the administrator for the Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Planning. Gene Camargo second the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION AUTHORIZING POLITICAL SUBDIVISION TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FOR THE FIFTH CYCLE OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING AND POST THE ASSOCIATED 30-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE PRIOR TO TWDB BOARD ACTION ON THE APPLICATION (TWDB ACTION ANTICIPATED TO TAKE PLACE APRIL 2015)

Will Conley made a motion to authorize SARA to apply for funding for the Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Planning and to post notice as required by TWDB. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CONSULTANT WORK AND SCHEDULE

Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, reported on the schedule for plan development highlighting upcoming Planning Group deadlines and target dates for completed tasks. May 1, 2015, is the deadline for the submission of the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). The 2016 Regional Water Planning deadline is

December 1, 2015.

Additionally, Mr. Perkins provided a status update on each chapter of the 2016 Regional Water Plan.

Mr. Perkins also provided an update on the potential issues to the planning process that HDR and the Administrator are tracking. Specifically, Mr. Perkins touched on interregional coordination as it pertains to the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Vista Ridge Project and the Hays County Forestar Project, provided an update on the whooping crane litigation, and mentioned that the current legislative session is underway with various bills being passed around and filed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES (TASK 4D)

Mr. Perkins presented technical evaluations for four potentially feasible water management strategies to the Planning Group, including Brush Management – Gonzales County, Storage Above Canyon Reservoir (ASR), Balancing Storage, and Surface Water Rights water management strategies.

Brian Perkins noted that the City of Victoria is looking at the possibility of an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project. The City of Victoria is currently gathering information for this effort. Steve Raabe noted that the Planning Group has some remaining funds to fully evaluate the City of Victoria ASR project once it is ready for evaluation. In order to utilize TWDB funds, the Planning Group needs to authorize SARA to amend its contract with TWDB, and subsequently SARA's contract with HDR, should the City of Victoria develop the necessary information for the project.

Tim Andruss made a motion to authorize SARA to amend its contract with TWDB, and subsequently HDR, should the City of Victoria ASR project become ready for a full technical evaluation. Thomas Taggart seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus. Brian Perkins clarified that the evaluation should not take much Region L funds from TWDB.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF POTENTIALLY FEASIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSION INTO THE 2016 INITIALLY PREPARED REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Perkins offered a presentation on the 2016 Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies table. Mr. Perkins provided an explanation of the recommended water management strategies, beginning with Conservation and Drought Management water management strategies for municipal water users.

Prior to Mr. Perkins delivering HDR Engineering's presentation on water management strategies, Chairman Mims asked that Mr. Perkins ask for any objections to particular strategies before moving on to the next set of water management strategies. Mr. Perkins agreed that Chairman Mims' suggestion was a good idea and proceeded in this way.

Next, Mr. Perkins provided a review of all recommended water management strategies for each individual wholesale water provider, following each individual strategy with an inquiry to the planning group for any objections. Mr. Perkins presented four projects for Canyon Regional Water Authority (CRWA) and a project for Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation (MAG limited and with conversions). Dianne Savage objected, stating that there were a number of objection to the Cibolo Valley LGC project in Wilson County. Dianne Wassenich ask whether the MAG (modeled available groundwater) limited project (alluding to Cibolo Valley LGC Carrizo Aquifer project out of Wilson County) would be a recommended strategy. Mr. Perkins said that it would be a recommended strategy even though it yields zero water under the current MAG restrictions. Under the current MAG restrictions, the Cibolo Valley LGC project would have to convert permits from irrigation to municipal use in order to garner a yield (8,800 acre-feet). This option (Cibolo Valley LGC project with conversions) is also currently being presented as a recommended strategy

in the event that the MAG does not change favorably to the project, or that Cibolo Valley LGC is unable to obtain the necessary permits from the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District (it was noted that Evergreen UWCD permits above the MAG). Mr. Perkins made the point that Cibolo Valley LGC project is the City of Cibolo's primary source of water to meet future water needs. If the project is not included as a recommended water management strategy, the City of Cibolo would have to find a new source prior to finalizing the Regional Water Plan. There was continued discussion of why the Region L Planning Group would recommend a project with zero yield. Steve Raabe, San Antonio River Authority, along with Chairman Mims, recollected that the reason the planning group chose to generally use the MAG limited projects throughout the 2016 Regional Water Plan as recommended strategies, while using the envisioned full-sized projects (which garner more yield) as alternative strategies, was for administrative simplicity for future amendments to the regional water plan. In the event that the MAG changed, or that the project's sponsor was able to obtain the necessary permits (through conversions, leasing, etc....), a simple substitution of the envisioned alternative strategy for the MAG limited recommended strategy could be easily made. The difference between most projects and this particular project, is that Cibolo Valley LGC project has a zero yield. Greg Sengelmann suggested recommending the Cibolo Valley LGC project with conversions (yield of 8,800 acre-feet/ year) as the recommended strategy for Cibolo Valley LGC, and use the MAG limited Cibolo Valley LGC project (yield of zero) as the alternative strategy. Several planning group members concurred. Mr. Perkins said that HDR would clean up the list in that respect. Alan Cockrell suggested that if the Planning Group takes this approach with one project, it ought to be consistent with all projects with a zero yield included in the 2016 Regional Water Plan.

Mr. Perkins reviewed six projects for Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), subsequently asking for any objections. Dianne Wassenich voiced several concerns regarding GBRA's projects. Regarding the Victoria County Steam-Electric Project, Mrs. Wassenich inquired whether the amount of water projected from this project was based on the assumption of new users in either a coal plant or nuclear plant. Mr. Perkins replied, stating that at the beginning at the current planning cycle, the planning group chose to keep or grow the amount of steam-electric demand in Victoria County in anticipation of a nuclear plant or steam-electric plant being built in Victoria County in replacement of the Exelon Project. The Victoria County Steam-Electric Project was evaluated in an attempt to meet those need, which is 50,000 acre-feet/ year. Within their existing water rights, GBRA can achieve nearly 30,000 acre-feet/ year of the 50,000 acre-feet/ year in demand. Mrs. Wassenich asked that if, when GBRA achieves the 30,000 acre-feet/ year with their existing water rights, would GBRA still be able to feed all of their other projects. Mr. Perkins explained that within their existing surface water rights, GBRA delivers the first portion of water, which is currently going to existing supplies. The next portion of the existing surface water rights will be used to firm up the 500 acre Site Lower Basin Storage Project. The final portion of their existing surface water rights will be used toward meeting the Victoria County Steam-Electric Project (nearly acre-feet/ year). On top of their existing surface water rights, GBRA has the new appropriations of the Mid-Basin Project (50,000 acre-feet/ year), the Lower Basin New Appropriations (42,000 acre-feet/ year), and the seawater desalination project (Integrated Water-Power Project [IWPP]– 100,000 acre-feet/ year). Mrs. Wassenich asked for clarity on whether the Mid-Basin Project relied on any existing surface water right. Mr. Perkins stated that GBRA's Mid-Basin Project relies on a whole new water right, as does the Lower Basin New Appropriation, both of which have pending permits with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Mrs. Wassenich stated that there was a lot of objection to those permits. Mr. Perkins followed, saying that the Mid-Basin permit has been released in draft form and experienced some opposition, but that the Lower Basin permit is still under review. Mrs. Wassenich reminded the group that the BBASC had made recommendations to TCEQ in protecting the stream flows and bays and estuaries. TCEQ did not follow those recommendations. Mrs. Wassenich voiced that she had a great deal of concern about new appropriations, saying that enough damage is being inflicted under the existing water rights. Those rights are very old and were granted when people did not understand the impact those permits would have on the rivers and bays. Adding up all of GBRA's projects far exceeds the projected needs.

Mrs. Wassenich asked the planning group how a regional water planning group is supposed to deal with this type of situation. Mr. Perkins expressed that based on the current information, there are needs of about 425,000 acre-feet/ year within the region. The water management strategies evaluated under the current plan

total 650,000 acre-feet/ year (excluding irrigation). While we do have management supply, the supply is at a lower percentage under the current planning effort than it was under the 2011 Region L Regional Water Plan.

Mrs. Wassenich asked David Meeseey if the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) had any objections to a plan that supported a laundry list of projects, without a real plan to pick certain recommended strategies over other recommended strategies. Mr. Meeseey responded, saying that though TWDB does not support a “laundry list” of projects, the planning group may over-plan. The planning group may recommend more strategies that produce a large volume of water than is required for an individual need for a 50 year period, recognizing that the excess water will eventually be needed. Mr. Meeseey also made the point that many of those projects will never materialize for whatever reason. Ultimately, TWDB will approve plans that produce more water than the projected need. Mrs. Wassenich asked if the only real restriction TWDB places on the plan, is that projects must not exceed the MAG. Mr. Meeseey clarified, saying TWDB requires plans to stay within the availability of all supplies. Mrs. Wassenich contended that by recommending all of the GBRA projects, which are currently set to be recommended water management strategies in the current planning effort, and considering the cumulative use of water through the implementation of these projects, the planning group is suggesting that the water necessary for these projects is available. Mrs. Wassenich further contended that the planning group does not know if that water is there. Mr. Perkins responded, saying that all projects in the plan are evaluated under all existing water rights and the environmental flows standards set by TCEQ. Within those limits, GBRA’s projects that rely on new appropriations are feasible. Mrs. Wassenich then asked for confirmation that by recommending all five GBRA projects, the planning group is saying that there is enough surface water to supply these projects. Mr. Perkins confirmed, adding that two of the projects are within existing water rights, and are essentially adding extra storage. Two of the projects are new appropriations, and the fifth project is pulling water from the Gulf of Mexico, which is not over-appropriated.

Chairman Mims asked if there were any GBRA projects that a planning group member would like to have removed from the list of recommended water management strategies. Mrs. Wassenich said that she would be in favor of removing the projects that relied on new appropriations until the group is more certain that the necessary water is actually there. Mr. Perkins pointed out that should the planning group decide to remove the Mid-Basin Project, which is a new appropriation, the planning group would not be able to meet the needs in the upper and mid-basin. Ultimately, the planning group would have to decide where GBRA would get water to meet those needs. Tom Taggart pointed out that the IWPP drops 50,000 acre-feet off in Gonzalez County, and asked Mr. Perkins if that could serve to meet the need in upper and mid-basin. Sam Vaughn, HDR, replied, saying that the area served by the Mid-Basin Project has long term projected needs on the order of 85,000 acre-feet a year. The IWPP, as currently evaluated, only drops water off as far as Gonzalez County. Some of the upper and mid-basin needs could be met with the IWPP, but would rely on the facilities to the Mid-Basin Project. As of now, the IWPP is only costed to delivery in Gonzalez County. Mr. Perkins clarified that costs would have to be added to the IWPP for distribution lines.

There was discussion about whether to skip GBRA’s projects and come back to them, but Chairman Mims in concurrence with Mr. Perkins suggested that the planning group decide this now.

Mrs. Wassenich made the point that if the planning group has duplicative projects, then perhaps the planning group should be more specific with which projects are the planning group’s top choices.

Chairman Mims stated that if a public agency goes before their governing body with a master plan to provide water to its customers, the planning group should not be the overreaching entity to blow up that master plan unless something in that master plan is absolutely absurd. Rather, this planning group should give that water provider the benefit of the doubt. By interrupting GBRA’s plan to provide water to its service area, this planning group would be edging toward a slippery slope. When other water providers come to this group to get a project in the plan, the fear of disrupting a decision their governing body has already reached will perpetually loom over that project. If TCEQ decides that there is not enough water to grant the appropriation of new water rights, then TCEQ will not grant those permits.

Chairman Mims asked again if there were any members who would like to see any of GBRA's projects removed from the list of recommended water management strategies, and if there was objection to a project, he wanted to know why. There were no further objections. Chairman Mims asked Mr. Perkins to move on with the rest of the projects.

Mr. Perkins reviewed a project for Hays – Caldwell Public Utility Agency and a project for Lavaca Navidad River Authority (Region P project that serves needs in Region L and Region N),

Mr. Perkins reviewed ten projects for San Antonio Water System (SAWS). When Mr. Perkins discussed the Expanded Brackish Project, which is MAG limited and has a zero yield, the question was raised on whether the project would be moved to the list of alternative water management strategies. Chuck Ahrens, sitting for Robert Puente, argued that this project should remain a recommended strategy. With respect to the planning process, water districts are permitting above the MAG; and there is a very real possibility that water districts may require a project to be a recommended strategy before it even applies for a permit. By moving a recommended water management strategy to the alternative water management strategy list, the planning group could inhibit a water provider from even applying for the permit it needs. Additionally, the MAG could be revised two to three time throughout the life the plan. Mr. Ahrens said for any project with a zero yield, which is a result of the MAG limitations, the planning group should leave those projects as recommended water management strategies in the event the MAG changes or additional permits are acquired either under the MAG or by negotiations relating to existing permitted water rights.

There was further discussion regarding the recommending of a water management strategy, which yields zero acre-feet of water under the MAG. Several members including Dianne Savage and Greg Sengelmann disagreed that a project with no yield should be a recommended strategy. Alan Cockrell reminded the group of a workgroup created in order to develop a solutions to the issues surrounding MAG limitations. The strategy was to include the envisioned unrestricted project, which exceeds the MAG, as an alternative strategy, while keeping the MAG limited strategy, regardless of yield, as the alternative strategy. Mr. Cockrell attempted to clear some of the confusion by referring back to the aforementioned MAG limited Cibolo Valley LGC project with and without conversions. He clarified that though they are listed as two different projects, the two projects are really one project because they used the same facilities and same water supply. The only difference is how Cibolo Valley LGC obtains the water: either through new permits because the MAGs change and/or leasing from existing permit holders, or converting irrigation permits for municipal use.

Brian Perkins clarified that the difference between the SAWS Expanded Brackish Project and the Cibolo Valley LGC Project is that Cibolo Valley LGC currently has no water supply, and has future needs to meet. The planning group had to devise a way to meet those needs. Converting permits for irrigation to permits for municipal use is one possible strategy, leaving Cibolo Valley LGC with the alternative option of leasing from existing permit holders. This way Cibolo Valley LGC maximizes their options for securing long-term water supply to their users. Mr. Perkins reminded the planning group that they adopted the workgroup's recommendation to use the MAG limited strategy, even with strategies projecting zero yield, as the recommended strategy, while keeping the envisioned strategy as the alternative in case the MAGs changed or permits were acquired by other means. There were no further comments. Mr Perkins reviewed two projects for Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation, and two projects for Texas Water Alliance.

Mr. Perkins continued providing a review of water management strategies including two projects for New Braunfels Utilities, two projects for Hays County, a project for Uvalde, three projects for Victoria, and a project for SS Water Supply Corporation. Mr. Perkins asked if there were any questions or objections. There were none.

Other recommended water management strategies included the Facilities Expansions project, Edwards Transfers, and local groundwater projects. Additionally, Mr. Perkins briefly discussed purchases from wholesale water providers. Mr. Perkins asked if there were any questions or objections. There were none.

Lastly, Mr. Perkins concluded the list of recommended water management strategies to be included in the

2016 Region L Regional Water Plan with the Direct Reuse/Recycle, Surface Water Rights, and Balancing Storage strategies. Mr. Perkins asked if there were any questions or objections. There were none.

Kevin Janak made a motion to approve the list of recommended water management strategies provided by HDR Engineering to be included in the 2016 Region L Regional Water Plan as recommended water management strategies. David Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

Gene Camargo made a motion to approve the list of alternative water management strategies provided by HDR Engineering, with the exception the of Storage Above Canyon (ASR) project, to be included in the 2016 Region L Regional Water Plan as alternative strategies. The Storage Above Canyon project will be included in the other category of projects, which includes projects that received technical evaluations, but were neither recommended, nor alternative. Mr. Camargo's motion was seconded, and passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CHAPTER 6 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS PROCEDURES

Brian Perkins explained the purpose and procedure involved in developing Chapter 6, the Cumulative Effects of the 2016 Regional Water Plan. Chapter 6 will include an evaluation of stream flows and estuary inflows under two scenarios: a baseline evaluation of surface water supply throughout the regional water planning area; and an evaluation under full implementation of the 2016 Regional Water Plan for Region L. The analysis will also assess environmental impacts and include a comparison to previous plans. The results of the Cumulative Effects analysis will be presented at the next meeting on April 2, 2015.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY'S PROPOSED SUBSTITUTION OF THE LOWER BASIN STORAGE 500 ACRE SITE PROJECT FOR THE LOWER BASIN STORAGE 100 ACRE SITE PROJECT IN THE 2011 REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND REQUEST THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) TO AMEND THE 2012 STATE WATER PLAN

Agenda Item No. 18 was removed prior to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING

Chairman Mims instructed the Planning Group to send any agenda items for the next meeting to Cole Ruiz.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 20: PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Mims asked for any public comments. There were none. Mr. Mims adjourned the meeting.

Recommended for approval.

GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on April 2, 2015.

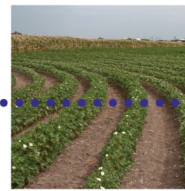
CON MIMS, CHAIR

Agenda Item 4:
Status of Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) –
Nathan Pence, Executive Director EAHCP

Agenda Item 5:
Status of Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers
and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin
and Bay Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) and Expert Science
Team (BBEST)

Agenda Item 6:
Chair's Report

Agenda Item 7:
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Communications



Prioritization for State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)

The Texas Legislature directed the TWDB to develop rules that specify how projects will be prioritized for SWIFT funding according to criteria (in bold). The prioritization system in 31 Texas Administrative Code §363.1304 assigns points as follows:

<i>Highest consideration must be given to projects that will:</i>	Maximum Points	<i>Additional criteria that TWDB must consider:</i>	Maximum Points
Serve a large population , based on a range of populations to be served by the project, from at least 10,000 to at least 1,000,000	30	Local contribution , including federal funding ; up-front capital (such as funds already invested in the project or cash on hand); and/or in-kind services to be invested in the project	5
Provide assistance to a diverse urban and rural population , based on the number of rural populations served in addition to at least one urban population	30	Financial capability of the applicant to repay , based on the applicant's household cost factor (the average annual cost of service per household divided by the median household income)	2
Provide regionalization , based on the number of entities served in addition to the applicant	30	Emergency Need , based on the TCEQ's list of local public water systems with a water supply that will last less than 180 days without additional rainfall; a water supply need anticipated to occur in an earlier decade than identified in the most recent state water plan; and/or the applicant has used or applied for federal funding for the emergency	5
Meet a high percentage of water supply needs of users to be served by the project , based on water supply needs, as identified in the state water plan, that will be met during the first decade the project becomes operational	30	Readiness to proceed , based on applicant's completion of preliminary planning and/or design work; ability to begin implementing or constructing the project within 18 months of application deadline; and acquisition of water rights associated with the project	8
		Demonstration or projected effect of the project on water conservation, including preventing water loss , based on reductions in gallons per capita per day water use; meeting water loss thresholds established by the TWDB's rules; or projected water efficiency improvements for agricultural projects	15
		Priority assigned by the regional water planning group , based on the project's percentile within the regional project ranking	15
Maximum "Highest Consideration" Subtotal (Points awarded in this section may not exceed 50)	50	Maximum "Additional Criteria" Subtotal	50
<p style="text-align: center;">+ Maximum Total Points: 100 (Sum of "Highest Consideration" Subtotal and "Additional Criteria" Subtotal)</p>			

Agenda 8:
Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Consultants
Work and Schedule

2016 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan
Proposed Workplan for Development

Tasks	Description	2014				2015											
		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Task 1	Planning Area Description																
Task 2a	Non-Pop. Based Demand Projections																
Task 2b	Population & Demand Projections																
Task 3	Water Supply Analyses																
EAHCP	Implementation																
TAP	Whooping Crane Lawsuit																
Task 4	Water Management Strategies																
Task 4a	Needs Assessment																
Task 4b	ID Potentially Feasible WMSs																
Task 4b.1	WMS Verification																
Task 4c	Technical Memorandum																
Task 4d	WMS Technical Evaluations																
Task 5	Conservation Recommendations																
Task 6	Long-term Resource Protection																
Task 6.1	Cumulative Effects of RWP																
Task 7	Drought Response Information																
Task 8	Policies & Recmdtns / Unique Sites																
Task 9	Infrastructure Funding																
Task 10	Plan Adoption																
Task 11	Implement. & Compare to Prv RWPs																
Task 12a	Prioritization of 2011 WMSs																
Task 12b	Prioritization of 2016 WMSs																



↑
IPP Deadline:
May 1, 2015

↑
RWP Deadline:
December 1, 2015

Legend:

- ★ SCTRWPG Action
- ★ TWDB Action
- ↑ Scheduled SCTRWPG Meeting
- ↑ Probable SCTRWPG Meeting

Agenda Item 9:

Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding if and how the Two Technically Evaluated Versions of the Cibolo Valley LGC Carrizo Project (“MAG-limited” and “with Conversions”) Will be Included in the 2016 Regional Water Plan

Agenda Item 10:
Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Process of
Prioritizing 2016 Regional Water Plan Projects

Agenda Item 11:
Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Comments
Submitted by Texas Water Development Board in Response to
the 2016 Region L Initially Prepared Plan

**TWDB Comments on the Initially Prepared 2016 South Central Texas
(Region L) Regional Water Plan**

Level 1: Comments and questions must be satisfactorily addressed in order to meet statutory, agency rule, and/or contract requirements.

1. Tables 2-10 through 2-17: It is not clear whether the information provided in the tables referenced presents the current contractual obligations of wholesale water providers (WWPs) in the region. Please confirm in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §357.31(c)]*
 - a. Text has been added to Page 2-16 to clarify.
2. The plan in some instances, does not appear to include a quantitative reporting of impacts to agricultural resources. For example, strategy evaluations 5.2.9, 5.2.11, 5.2.14, 5.2.21, 5.2.23-27, 5.2.34, 5.2.35, and 5.2.37 do not appear to include quantified impacts to agricultural resources. Please include quantitative reporting of impacts to agricultural resources, including when there is no impact, in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.34 (d)(3)(C)]*
 - a. Text has been added to Page 6-59 to address region-wide agricultural impacts. In addition, text has been added to water management strategy evaluations to address strategy-specific impacts, if any.
3. Pages 5.3-18, 5.3-23, and 5.3-90: The plan does not appear to include conservation practices for all water user groups to which Texas Water Code (TWC) §11.1271 and §13.146 apply. For example, the City of Kirby and East Central SUD and Green Valley SUD to which these Water Code requirements apply. Please address this requirement in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.34(f)(2)(A)]*
 - a. Projected per capita water goals with use of low flow plumbing fixtures for these three entities (and potentially others) are lower than the stated Region L advanced water conservation goals.
4. Volume II, Section 5.2.3: The Facilities Expansion Water Management Strategy appears, in some cases, to include infrastructure components that do not appear to increase the supply to end users. For example, the Port O'Connor treatment and distribution system improvements. Water management strategy components included in regional water plans must be limited to the infrastructure required to develop and convey increased water supplies from sources and to treat the water for end user requirements. Maintenance of existing equipment or wells or improvements to treatment processes shall not be included as a recommended strategy with capital costs. Please remove these strategies and costs from the final, adopted regional water plan. *[Contract Exhibit 'C', Sections 5.1.2.2 and 5.1.2.3]*
 - a. Section 5.2.3 has been revised to exclude Port O'Connor's treatment and distribution system improvements.

ATTACHMENT A

5. Volume II, Sections 5.2.35 and 5.2.40: Please clarify in the plan whether the evaluations of water management strategies for "GBRA Lower Basin Storage" and "Lavaca River - OCR" are based on an unmodified Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) WAM Run 3 in the final, adopted regional water plan. If not, please evaluate these strategies using an unmodified TCEQ WAM Run3 for the final, adopted regional water plan. *[Contract Exhibit 'C', Section 3.4.2]*
 - a. Sections 5.2.35 and 5.2.40 have been revised to clarify.
6. Chapter 7: The plan does not appear to summarize information on existing emergency interconnections. Please indicate whether any local drought contingency plans involve making emergency connections between water systems or WWP systems and, if so, please also provide a general description in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.42(e)]*
 - a. Sections 7.3 and 7.4 summarize this information. Separate documentation was provided to TWDB relating to specific information for existing interconnects. Table 7.4-1 has been revised to indicate emergency interconnections in local drought contingency plans.
7. Section 7.7: Please indicate how the planning group considered relevant recommendations from the Drought Preparedness Council (a letter was provided to planning groups with relevant recommendations in November 2014) in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.42(h)]*
 - a. Text has been added to Page 7-15 to address the Drought Preparedness Council's letter.
8. Chapter 10: The plan does not include documentation regarding the public process during the development of regional water plan. Please clarify whether the regional water plan was developed in accordance with the public participation requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.21, §357.50(d)]*
 - a. Chapter 10 will be included in the final 2016 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan, detailing the public process, the public hearings, and the responses to comments.
9. Please provide a statement regarding any water availability requirements promulgated by a county commissioners court pursuant to TWC §35.109, which in Region L applies to the northern Bexar County, Hays, Comal, and Kendall County Priority Groundwater Management Area. *[31 TAC §357.22(a)(6)]*
 - a. Text has been added to Page 3-2 to address Priority Groundwater Management Areas and any requests from county commissioners courts.
10. Please describe how the Texas Clean Rivers Program was considered in the final, adopted regional water plan. *[31 TAC §357.22(a)(7)]*
 - a. Text has been added to Page 1-31 to address the Texas Clean Rivers Program.

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ATTACHMENT A

11. Please clarify whether the plan development was guided by the principal that the designated water quality and related water uses as shown in the state water quality management plan shall be improved or maintained. [31 TAC §358.3(19)]

- a. Text has been added to Page 1-31 to address the state water quality management plan.

Level 2: Comments and suggestions for consideration that may improve the readability and overall understanding of the regional water plan.
--

1. Please consider including a brief explanation of the differences between the 2011 and 2016 plans regarding surface water availability in the final, adopted regional water plan.

- a. Text has been added to Page 11-4 to describe the differences in the surface water availability in the 2011 and 2016 Region L Plans.

2. In the development of region-specific drought contingency plans, please consider including, at a minimum, triggers and responses for 'severe' and 'critical/emergency' drought conditions or indicate how these would be captured with the use of the recommended TCEQ templates in the final, adopted regional water plan.

- a. Section 7.5 includes information about Region Specific Drought Response. Text has been added to Tables 7.5-1 and 7.5-2 to indicate the 'severe' and 'critical/emergency' stages of the drought contingency plans.

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Agenda Item 12:
Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Comments
Submitted by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in Response
to the 2016 Region L Initially Prepared Plan



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Commissioners

Dan Allen Hughes, Jr.
Chairman
Beeville

Ralph H. Duggins
Vice-Chairman
Fort Worth

T. Dan Friedkin
Chairman-Emeritus
Houston

Bill Jones
Austin

James H. Lee
Houston

Margaret Martin
Boerne

S. Reed Morian
Houston

Dick Scott
Wimberley

Lee M. Bass
Chairman-Emeritus
Fort Worth

Carter P. Smith
Executive Director

August 07, 2015

Steven J. Raabe
Administrative Agent for Region L
San Antonio River Authority
P.O. Box 839980
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3692

Re: 2016 South Central Texas Region L Initially Prepared Plan

Dear Mr Raabe,

Thank you for seeking review and comment from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ("TPWD") on the 2016 Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan (IPP) for the South Central Texas Region L Water Planning Area (SCTRWPA). As you know, water impacts every aspect of TPWD's mission to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas. As the agency charged with primary responsibility for protecting the state's fish and wildlife resources, TPWD is positioned to provide technical assistance during the water planning process. Although TPWD has limited regulatory authority over the use of state waters, TPWD is committed to working with stakeholders and others to provide science-based information during the water planning process intended to avoid or minimize impacts to state fish and wildlife resources.

TPWD understands that regional water planning groups are guided by 31 TAC §357 when preparing regional water plans. These water planning rules spell out requirements related to natural resource and environmental protection. Accordingly, TPWD staff reviewed the IPP with a focus on the following questions:

- Does the IPP include a quantitative reporting of environmental factors including the effects on environmental water needs and habitat?
- Does the IPP include a description of natural resources and threats to natural resources due to water quantity or quality problems?
- Does the IPP discuss how these threats will be addressed?
- Does the IPP describe how it is consistent with long-term protection of natural resources?
- Does the IPP include water conservation as a water management strategy?
- Does the IPP include Drought Contingency Plans?
- Does the IPP recommend any stream segments be nominated as ecologically unique?
- If the IPP includes strategies identified in the 2010 regional water plan, does it address concerns raised by TPWD in connection with the 2010 Water Plan.

The population of the 20 county SCTRWPA is estimated to grow from about 3.0 million in 2020 to about 5.2 million by 2070. Water needs are expected to more than double during this time period but water conservation, including drought management, and water reuse are expected to meet 34 percent of future water needs. In addition, the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) is identified as both an existing supply and a future water management strategy. Full implementation of the EAHCP provides future water supply while protecting springflows at Comal and San Marcos Springs, thereby protecting associated ecosystems and the federally threatened and endangered species that are found there. The IPP includes the development of two seawater desalination projects, comprising 23 percent of future supplies. Four new aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects are recommended in the IPP to provide approximately 9 percent of future supplies in the region. From the perspective of environmental impacts, ASR projects are generally preferred over surface reservoirs since habitat impacts can be minimized. Finally, new surface water development projects such as the GBRA Lower Basin Project are expected to meet 1 percent of future needs.

The IPP includes a detailed quantitative reporting of environmental factors. Volume II of the IPP discusses technical evaluations of strategies and presents water management strategy summary sheets that include acreages impacted by each strategy. An analysis of cumulative environmental impacts, as well as comparisons to cumulative impacts from past plans, is also included. Where applicable, newly adopted SB3 environmental flow standards are used to evaluate environmental flow requirements.

The IPP includes a description of natural resources including fish and wildlife resources. A detailed table listing threatened and endangered species by county with notations concerning their habitat preferences and protected status is presented in Appendix G of the IPP. Major springs are also described and potential threats to natural resources were evaluated. TPWD recommends including a discussion of aquatic exotic species including but not limited to tilapia and sailfin catfish.

Quantitative environmental assessments are presented for proposed water management strategies included in the 2016 IPP as well as for the 1984, 1990, 1997, 2002, 2007 and 2012 Water Plans. While necessarily broad in scope, this quantitative analysis comparing each water plan highlights some interesting trends. For example, while the overall environmental impact score for the 2016 IPP is in the midrange compared to previous water plans for the region, it has a higher potential to impact endangered, threatened, and species of concern due to the number of projects and pipelines traversing sensitive areas. The 2016 IPP is also projected to have less impact than previous plans on vegetation and wildlife habitat, largely due to the absence of large main-stem reservoirs included in earlier plans. Finally, the 2016 IPP appears to project moderate water quality and aquatic habitat impacts. Overall the 2016 IPP is projected to have slightly greater cumulative impacts than the 2012 plan for this region. While specific conclusions cannot be made at this point, TPWD staff tends to agree with the statement that the predicted impacts associated with the smaller (but more numerous) strategies in the 2016 IPP may be more easily avoided and/or mitigated than the large scale impacts associated with reservoirs in earlier water plans.

The SCTRWPG is to be commended for its strong emphasis on water conservation, reuse and drought contingency planning. The IPP includes municipal water conservation water management strategies. Water conservation in the industrial and steam-electric power generation use categories are encouraged as well. According to the IPP, per capita water use in Region L is projected to

decline over the planning period from 140 gallons per person per day in 2020 to 130 gallons per person per day in 2070, bringing it under the Texas Water Conservation Task Force goal of 140 gallons per person per day.

While TPWD is pleased to see that many of our earlier comments have been addressed, concerns remain regarding potential impacts associated with several strategies. Several water management strategies are recommended for stream segments identified by TPWD as ecologically significant. Increased groundwater development may impact small springs and adversely impact groundwater-surface water interactions. New appropriations from the Guadalupe River and/or increased use of previously unused water rights from the Guadalupe River will impact instream flows and freshwater inflows to San Antonio Bay that will likely reduce long-term inflows and increase bay salinities, potentially leading to complex estuarine community changes. Both seawater and brackish groundwater desalination can be ecologically advantageous strategies, as long as issues such as impingement and entrainment at intake locations and brine disposal options are carefully considered. Continued consultation with TPWD staff will help to ensure that fish and wildlife impacts can be avoided or minimized. Please be advised that HB 2031 passed by the 84th legislature requires consultation with TPWD and the General Land Office regarding siting of seawater desalination intakes and discharges.

The 2016 IPP is a well written and organized report. TPWD highly commends SCTRWPG's efforts that have resulted in the successful designation of five segments recommended in the IPP as ecologically unique. Recognition is deserved for drought management as a water management strategy, aquifer storage and recovery projects, seawater desalination, use of off-channel reservoirs, use of recycled water for non-potable uses for several water user groups, and an ecological analysis of the impact of the 2016 plan. No major on-channel reservoirs are proposed within the region at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. TPW looks forward to continuing to work with the planning group to develop water supply strategies that not only meet the future water supply needs of the region but also preserve the ecological health of the region's aquatic resources. Please contact Cindy Loeffler at (512) 389-8715 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Ross Melinchuk,
Deputy Executive Director, Natural Resources

RM: CL:ms

cc: Craig Bonds, Division Director, Inland Fisheries Division, TPWD
Clayton Wolf, Division Director, Wildlife Division, TPWD
Robin Riechers, Division Director, Coastal Fisheries Division, TPWD
Norman Boyd, Coastal Fisheries Division, TPWD

live²² and it supports a surprisingly diverse ecosystem. The aquifer has three parts: the drainage, or catchment area, the recharge zone, and the reservoir zone. Input to the aquifer comes from rainfall over the watershed as a whole, but recharge occurs primarily in the beds of streams atop or traversing the recharge zone. The recharge zone consists of a band of fractured and cavernous limestone (Karst geology) through which surface water enters the aquifer. In addition to the aquatic fauna of the aquifer, the karst limestones in the upland portions of the recharge and contributing zones also harbor a number of endemic, terrestrial cave species.

Where rivers flowing across the plateau have carved deep canyons and exposed the base of the Edwards Limestone, spring fed streams arise and flow south and eastward over the less permeable older formations to the recharge zone, at the base of which a set of large springs (e.g., Leona, San Antonio, Comal, and San Marcos Springs) emerge that support still more species of limited distribution. In addition to their importance as water supplies, the large springs and their associated rivers are also of regional economic importance as scenic and recreational destinations.

Species listed by the Federal or State governments as Endangered or Threatened, species that are candidates for listing as endangered and threatened, and other species of concern are listed and discussed in terms of the potential impacts of each water management strategy in Volume II, and are included by county in Appendix G. Endangered species are not distributed uniformly throughout Region L; they tend to be most densely abundant in the canyons, caves, and springs on the eastern and southern edges of the Edwards Plateau (Hays and Comal Counties, and northern Bexar County) and in the wetland and brackish environments of Calhoun and Refugio Counties.

Listed species tend to fall into one of two broad categories. One category includes widespread, but rare, species whose populations do not appear to be dependent on specific habitat resources that are (at this time) in limited supply (e.g., foraging and nesting areas). These include many of the birds, such as the eagles and hawks that suffered population declines as a result of persistent pesticide toxicity, and Whooping Cranes that were decimated by market hunting. Other listed species tend to be rare because their habitat requirements are met in only a few locations. This second category includes migratory songbirds with specific nesting requirements (i.e., Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-Capped Vireo), and reaches the extremes of endemism in the spring and cave species found along the edges of the Edwards Plateau in Bexar, Comal, and Hays Counties.

In addition to listed threatened and endangered species, Region L is concerned with aquatic exotic species, including tilapia and sailfin catfish. These species are non-native and invasive and can overtake habitat crucial for other species.

In support of the regional water planning process, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) screened Texas rivers and streams for reaches or segments that support significant biological resources or functions, or whose continued flows were deemed critical to the maintenance of a downstream resource or public property. Stream reaches identified by TPWD as Ecologically Significant River and Stream Segments in Region L are listed, along with the listing criteria employed in the identification process,

²² Edwards, Robert J., Glen Longley, Randy Moss, John Ward, Ray Mathews, and Bruce Stewart, "A Classification of Texas Aquatic Communities with Special Consideration toward the Conservation of Endangered and Threatened Taxa," Vol. 41, No. 3, The Texas Journal of Science, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, 1989.

GBRA requested that the following letter, reflecting GBRA's views on TPWD's comments on the Region L IPP, be included with this agenda packet.

August 21, 2015

Mr. Ross Melinchuk
Deputy Executive Director, Natural Resources
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744-3291

Re: 2016 South Central Texas Region L Initially Prepared Plan – Texas Water Development Board Comments

Dear Mr. Melinchuk,

By letter dated August 7, 2015, you submitted comments to the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L) regarding the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan (IPP).

The letter acknowledges TPWD's *"limited regulatory authority over the use of state waters."* Despite that limitation, your staff has contributed much during the Region L planning process in an effort *"to avoid or minimize impacts to state fish and wildlife resources"* and I want to express my appreciation for allowing them that opportunity. But, we must recognize that there are items related to surface water in your letter that merit clarification:

The letter notes that water needs *"are expected to more than double"* during the Region L Planning horizon and alludes indirectly to three projects that can supply one-third of those future needs. It appears from the context that the bulk of those projects are ours, and the letter adds a specific reference to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's (GBRA's) Lower Basin Project, noting such projects *"are expected to meet 1 percent of future needs."* This percentage is suspect, as GBRA's new surface water projects will add almost 200,000 acre-feet of water to the planning region. We estimate that GBRA's surface water projects by themselves could cover more than 20 percent of our region's future needs. The yield of these projects would increase beyond that amount when combined with conjunctive uses associated with groundwater, marine seawater, and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR).

You noted that TPWD is *"the agency charged with primary responsibility for protecting the state's fish and wildlife resources,"* so his emphasis on surface water, which provides habitat for *"endangered, threatened and species of concern"* is no surprise. Taken out of context however, this letter lends a false perspective to the potential of surface water projects to meet future regional water needs.



Main Office: 933 East Court Street ~ Seguin, Texas 78155
830-379-5822 ~ 800-413-4130 ~ 830-379-9718 fax ~ www.gbra.org

GBRA

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
flowing solutions

Surface water remains a safe, cost-effective and reliable source of regional water supply. The Legislature addressed the importance of surface water projects when it stated that *"due consideration shall be given to the construction and improvement of surface water resources"* in the evaluation of the state's water resources [cf. *Water Code Section 16.051(d)*], yet such consideration sometimes seems more honored in the omission than in the observance. It would be unfortunate if we were to leave the impression that this surface water is no longer available to meet regional needs.

It is important to note that we are not talking about large, on-channel impoundments; favored in the past because of low capital costs and relatively high yields. Environmental and regulatory challenges have largely eliminated these projects statewide. As you noted, there are no *"major on-channel reservoirs"* proposed within our region. Among the deleted projects were major impoundments on Sandies Creek, as well as locations on the Blanco and the Cibolo rivers. Foresight has spared our region the kind of turmoil our friends in California today endure because they built reservoirs without accounting for environmental impacts.

The surface water projects contained in the 2011 Regional Plan and retained in the 2016 IPP are all diversion projects combined with some form of off-channel storage. It should be a source of pride that environmental impacts associated with these projects are less than those associated with on-channel reservoirs. While every water supply project, whether based on surface, ground, or marine sources, has associated environmental impacts, it would be wrong to leave the impression that surface water diversions are in a separate, suspect category. Of particular concern is the following statement in the letter:

New appropriations from the Guadalupe River and/or increased use of previously unused water rights from the Guadalupe River will impact instream flows and freshwater inflows to San Antonio Bay that will likely reduce long-term inflows and increase bay salinities, potentially leading to complex estuarine community changes.

The statement is too broad, and in the current context prejudicial. It's possible to argue that removing a bucket of water from the Guadalupe River *"will impact instream flows"* however it doesn't follow that the impact *"will likely reduce long-term inflows and increase bay salinities."* GBRA recently spent more than \$7,000,000 in The Aransas Project litigation to defend the State's interests and confirm that there is no direct, causal link between instream flows and a particular endangered species. In any event, our current projects have been vetted by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality staff and are, for the most part, predicated upon Senate Bill 3 environmental flow criteria. Yet, GBRA's surface water projects in the 2016 IPP have received greater environmental scrutiny than projects relying on other sources of supply. And despite that, no environmental entity, including TPWD, has sought to secure additional water from any of these surface water projects for environmental purposes, particularly for endangered or threatened species, through purchase.

Phrases like *"will impact... will likely reduce... complex estuarine community changes"* are not based on science, and are so lacking in specificity that they could be directed at any regional project.

Surface water projects in our region rely on contributions from groundwater, primarily from the Edward's Aquifer. Any project that affects surface-groundwater interactions will impact instream flows and freshwater inflows to our bays. While it may not be your intent, I suspect the letter will be interpreted by those with vested interests in groundwater projects to suggest that their projects should be given preference to surface water projects.

Of greater concern is the failure to mention the inclusion of "Zero Discharge" projects, better known as Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) in the IPP. DPR projects were included at the deadline for submittal with little or no discussion, yet among all the projects in the 2016 IPP, DPR poses the greatest potential to negatively *"impact instream flows and freshwater inflows to San Antonio Bay"* and *"reduce long-term inflows and increase bay salinities."* The potential for harm should be obvious.

DPR projects included in the 2016 IPP are predicated on a theory that title to treated domestic wastewater is somehow outside the usual categories of surface and groundwater. While the law on reuse is to say the least unsettled, from an environmental standpoint, this theory means that all water discharged from municipal wastewater facilities are exempt from environmental flows as well as senior water rights. In times of extreme drought, and times when existing water rights would not be allowed to divert, instream flows could be completely reduced because they are outside the water rights system. It's disappointing and puzzling that DPR, despite the obvious negative impact such projects can have on instream flows and flows to bays and estuaries, didn't merit a mention in the letter.

The foregoing criticisms in no way detract from my high regard for your staff's work on the regional planning process and I look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss our concerns and ways of moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James 'Jim' Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the name.

James "Jim" Murphy, Esq.
Executive Manager, Water Resources & Utility Operations

Enclosures [Attach referenced TPWD letter to Region L]

CC: Steven J. Raabe, Administrative Agent for Region L
San Antonio River Authority
P.O. Box 839980
SATX 78283-3692

Agenda Item 13:
Report from the Public Comment and Plan Assessment
Workgroup and Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding
the Public Comments Submitted in Response to the 2016
Region L Initially Prepared Plan

Date: September 3, 2015

To: South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group

From Con Mims

Re: Report from the Public Comment and Plan Assessment Workgroup (Workgroup)

The Workgroup met at 1:00 p.m., on August 19, 2015 in the San Antonio River Authority Board Room. Members present were:

Dianne Savage
Russell Labus
Alan Cockerell
Chuck Ahrens
Greg Sengelmann
Tom Taggart
Dianne Wassenich
Jim Murphy
Tommy Hill
Donna Balin
Iliana Pena

The Workgroup's charge was read, as follows:

August 14 was the deadline for submitting public comments on our Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). At our September 3 meeting, the planning group will consider how to respond to those comments. To facilitate this, the Workgroup will prepare recommended responses for the planning group's consideration. Also, the Workgroup will attempt to resolve concerns with our 2016 IPP that have been expressed in recent planning group meetings and in the public comments. The Workgroup will prepare recommended resolutions, where possible, for the planning group's consideration. Both issues will be addressed, concurrently, by the Workgroup.

To begin the meeting, the Workgroup agreed that public comments received on the Region L 2016 Initially Prepared Plan, generally, fell into three categories, being (1) state agency, (2) opposition to the Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation Carrizo Water Management Strategy in Wilson County, and (3) other concerns.

1. Recommended Response to State Agency Comments

Our technical consultants presented their proposed responses to comments received from Texas Water Development Board and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. **The Workgroup agreed to recommend that the planning group accept the technical consultant's responses as the planning group's response to the state agency comments.** The technical consultants' responses will be presented at the September 3 planning group meeting.

2. Recommended Response to Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation Carrizo WMS Comments

It was noted that the agenda for the September 3 planning group meeting includes a vote to determine whether or not any version of the Cibolo Valley LGC Carrizo WMS will remain in the 2016 Plan. **The Workgroup agreed to recommend that the planning group approve reference to this action as its response to all comments related to this issue.**

3 Recommended Response to Other Comments

(a) The Workgroup discussed a process whereby the planning group, as a whole, over several meetings beginning with its first meeting in 2016, will discuss and take appropriate action on ways to improve its 2021 Plan based on comments received on its 2016 Plan. (I refer to this as the 2021 Plan Enhancement Process.)

Subjects to be addressed in these meetings will include, but not be limited to:

- How Water Management Strategies are categorized; e.g. Recommended, Alternate, Needing Further Study.
- The appropriateness and adequacy of how demand and need are determined.
- The adequacy of environmental assessments of individual WMS's.
- The adequacy of evaluating the Plan's effects on freshwater inflows to San Antonio Bay.
- The extent to which innovative strategies should be used.
- A set of guiding principles to serve as a blueprint for long-term water sustainability.
- Evaluating the effects of reuse on stream flows and downstream water rights.
- Maintaining management supplies while avoiding "over planning".
- Defining conflicts of interests of consultants and planning group members.
- The role of regional water planning groups in influencing population growth and land use.
- The role of regional water planning groups in influencing water development plans of water suppliers.
- The role of regional water planning groups in influencing permitting entities.
- Identifying special studies or evaluations deemed important to enhance the 2021 Plan and identification of outside funding sources.
- Any other subjects that the planning group agrees to address.

With the exception of comments discussed in 3(b), below, the Workgroup felt that these topics cover all of the "other comments" received. The concept behind this proposal is that fair consideration of these

topics may result in improved future water plans or, at least, ones that have higher comfort levels with planning group members, and that such consideration cannot be achieved in one or two planning group meetings.

The Workgroup agreed to recommend that the planning group approve the following response to “other comments” that are covered by the subjects listed: “This comment will be addressed with a thorough discussion, along with a selection of other public comments received, in future Region L meetings, beginning in Calendar Year 2016, as part of an effort to use comments received on its 2016 Plan to improve its 2021 and future regional water plans”.

(b) The following were identified as additional “other comments”. The Workgroup recommended the planning group approve the following responses.

Regarding pipeline alignments and/or combining pipelines

“Pipeline alignments presented in the Water Management Strategies of the 2016 Region L Plan are conceptual routes to estimate costs to move water from the strategy source to the receiving Water User Group(s). It is up to the sponsoring entity(s) to perform engineering studies and design to refine pipeline alignments and determine the project specifics.”

Regarding comments that are not pertinent to regional planning

“Any comments pertaining to water rates are outside the purview of the regional planning group. The specific rates charged by a water purveyor are set by the purveyor. The cost of a water management strategy is only one of many factors used in setting water rates.”

Regarding conservation, including leaky pipes

“TWDB direction and the regional water planning process recognize the importance of water conservation as a primary water management strategy. The 2016 Region L Plan has a goal that is below the 140 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) set by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force. Region L anticipates it will continue emphasis on conservation opportunities to reduce future gpcd goals.”

Regarding conflict of interest for planning group membership

“Mr. Cockerell has been made aware of the requests to recuse himself from any vote on CVLGC water management strategies. Mr. Cockerell is one of three agricultural members on the South Central Texas Regional Planning Group.”

This concluded the Workgroup’s discussion.

**Agenda Item 14: Discussion and Appropriate Action
Regarding the Alignment of Pipelines to Allow for the
Export of Water to Region K, Consistent with the Position
of the Hays County Commissioners Court**

Agenda Item 15:
Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Inclusion of
the Hays County Forestar Project in the 2016 Regional Water
Plan as Recommended Strategy

Agenda Item 16:
Possible Agenda Items for the Next South Central Texas
Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

Agenda Item 17:
Public Comment