

Regional Water Planning Group Policy Recommendations

Notes:

The following is a compilation of policy recommendations included in the 2021 Regional Water Plans for convenience. Notice that some regional policy recommendations regarding similar topics may reflect opinions that contradict.

In developing these thematic summaries, the full scope of the recommendation could not be captured. For detailed information on the content of each recommendation, please view the associated regional water plan

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/plans/2021/index.asp>.

AGRICULTURE

NINE REGIONS: A, B, C, H, J, K, L, M, AND P

WATER DATA - FOUR REGIONS: A, B, J, AND M

- Provide funding for agricultural water use data collection - A, B
- Develop more accurate means of estimating actual irrigation use - J
- Support evaluations of exotic animal water use to improve demand estimates - J
- Support Texas Water Resources Institute's Irrigation District Engineering and Assistance Program - M

CONSERVATION - SEVEN REGIONS: A, C, H, K, L, M, AND P

- Create a water conservation reserve program to convert irrigated acreage to dry land - A
- Encourage the federal government to continue to support Conservation Reserve Program participation - A
- Support funding of the Natural Resources Conservation Service - C, K, P
- Fund grants or subsidies to stimulate irrigation conservation practices - H
- Allow joint cooperation and use of funding between growers and landowners with long-term lease agreements - H
- Collaborate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service state conservationist in identifying projects to fund - K
- Support adequate funding of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and its water conservation efforts - K
- Encourage corporate sponsorship of agricultural conservation initiatives - K
- Develop agricultural water use metrics and efficiency standards - K
- Adequately fund Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) agricultural water conservation programs - L
- Develop loan programs for on-farm conservation specific to surface water irrigators that don't own water rights - M

- Fund and expand the Texas AWE demonstration project - M

CONJUNCTIVE USE

THREE REGIONS: G, L, AND N

- Include conjunctive use projects as management strategies - G
- Develop incentives for conjunctive use projects - L
- Develop policy to manage all water resources on conjunctive use basis - N

CONSERVATION

TWELVE REGIONS: A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, N, AND O

CONSERVATION FUNDING - ONE REGION: K

- Market State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) funding for utility water loss projects - K
- Continue and expand TWDB funding for retail utility water loss projects - K

WATER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL - FOUR REGIONS: A, C, K, AND L

- Maintain the functionality and viability of the Water Conservation Advisory Council - A
- Fund activities of the Water Conservation Advisory Council and a statewide awareness campaign - C, L
- Support the Water Conservation Advisory Council in improved commercial, industrial and institutional measurements - K

VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION - THREE REGIONS: B, F, AND O

- Allow regions to establish voluntary water conservation goals - B, F
- Encourage conservation through technical assistance rather than mandatory goals - F
- Support landowner's voluntary protection of springs and seeps - O

WATER PROVIDERS - THREE REGIONS: F, G, AND K

- Encourage retail water providers to use inclining block rate structure - F, G
- Encourage Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to amend 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 288 to require designated water conservation coordinators - K

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT - THREE REGIONS: J, K, AND N

- Develop conservation-oriented management plans for areas particularly susceptible to drought - J
- Encourage legislation to allow water providers to have dedicated funding for longer term water conservation - K
- Encourage legislation to support conservation strategies that manage water supplies more efficiently - N

OTHER - EIGHT REGIONS: B, C, D, G, H, J, K, AND L

- Base calculation of gallons per capita per day on residential water use only - B, G
- Support water use goals appropriate to each provider rather than a uniform, statewide goal - C
- Recommend the legislature standardize the measurement of gallons per capita per day - D
- Recommends legislature continue to address and improve water conservation in the state - H
- Require conservation on all state-owned lands - J
- Encourage conservation partnerships between water groups - K
- Recommend consideration of drought management as an interim strategy to meet near-term needs - L

DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH

THIRTEEN REGIONS: A, B, D, E, F, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, AND O

GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER AVAILABILITY MODELING - ELEVEN REGIONS: A, B, D, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, AND O

- Extend the hydrology of the Canadian Basin Water Availability Model (WAM) - A
- Fund updates of water availability models - B, M, N, O
- Extend the hydrology of the Sabine and Cypress WAMs - D
- Continue funding ground-water availability models - E, H, I, K, M, N, O
- Fund improvements to groundwater modeling and research in West Texas - E
- Routinely update WAMs with priority based on observed climate conditions and overall limit on water resources - H
- Fund feasibility study linking groundwater and surface water in next generation of groundwater and water availability models - K
- Update hydrologic data in Ground Availability Models (GAM) and WAMs at least every 10 years - L
- Document GAM and WAM updates, including version numbers and make available on website - L
- Update the Central Gulf Coast Aquifer groundwater availability model - N

GROUNDWATER STUDIES - SEVEN REGIONS: E, F, H, J, L, M, AND N

- Obtain more data on West Texas Aquifers - E
- Legislature should support the collection of groundwater data that would be used to carry out regional water planning - F
- Recommend comprehensive analysis of all groundwater resources within the state - H
- Continue funding monitoring studies - J
- Study and characterize the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer and associated aquifers - J
- Study sources of radionuclides in the Trinity Aquifer - J
- Further evaluate surface water/groundwater interaction - J, M

- Fund basic water data collection including groundwater monitoring levels and quality - L
- Encourage TWDB, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Railroad Commission of Texas to expand and intensify ground-water data gathering and disseminating - N

SURFACE WATER STUDIES - THREE REGIONS: F, K, AND L

- Fund studies to identify and quantify environmental values to be protected and stream flows necessary to maintain priority environmental values - F
- Further evaluate rainfall-runoff trends in the upper Colorado basin - K
- Complete the Texas Instream Flow Program - L
- Fund stream gages for water quantity and quality - L
- Fund hydrographic survey and sediment studies - L
- Study water surface evaporation rates - L
- Fund and improve freshwater inflow studies for bays and estuaries - L

AQUIFER RECHARGE - ONE REGION: A

- Study means to improve groundwater recharge - A
- Remove legislative barriers to using playas for aquifer recharge - A

AGRICULTURE/RURAL - THREE REGIONS: H, J, AND L

- Fund research and development studies on efficient usage of irrigation technologies and practices - H
- Study impact of transient populations on rural water demand - J
- Undertake economic studies of water management strategies that meet irrigation needs - L
- Support land management practices to augment surface water and groundwater - L

CLIMATE CHANGE/DROUGHT WORSE THAN DROUGHT OF RECORD - THREE REGIONS: K, L, AND M

- Fund study of potential impacts from drought worse than drought of record and recommendations for incorporating into state water planning - K

- Fund relevant studies and models to incorporate available climate models into planning - L
- Consider impacts of climate change in planning - M

CONSERVATION - FIVE REGIONS: A, F, H, K, AND N

- Fund data on agricultural water use to inform estimates and strategies - A
- Continue participation in research and demonstration projects for the development of new conservation ideas and technologies - F
- Fund research for advanced conservation technologies - H, N
- Fund research on developing and implementing conservation goals and successful water management strategies to update the Best Management Practices Guide - K

BRUSH CONTROL / INVASIVE SPECIES - ONE REGION: D

- Monitor water pollution from Giant Salvinia and research and develop best management practices for its control - D

GENERAL - SEVEN REGIONS: A, F, K, L, M, N, AND O

- Improve monitoring and quantifying of small communities, manufacturers, livestock operators, and county-other categories - A
- Fund study on oral ingestion of radium before enforcing maximum containment load - F
- Fund research between water planning and economic growth - K
- Study impacts on long-term food security from conversion and depletion of agricultural water supplies - K
- Fund water use data for all water user groups - L
- Fund roles of TWDB and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in providing data for regional planning - L
- Evaluate the effect of groundwater withdrawals on surface water availability - M
- Fund and establish regional research centers at local universities to focus on Coastal Bend water issues - N
- Provide funds to establish and maintain a regional water resources information management system - N
- Fund all levels of data collection and analysis - O

EDUCATION

TEN REGIONS: A, D, F, G, H, K, L, M, N, AND O

CONSERVATION EDUCATION - EIGHT REGIONS: A, F, G, H, K, L, M, AND N

- Fund and implement conservation education programs for the public - A, F, G, H, N
- Fund the Water IQ public education program - K, L
- Support education programs for farmers and irrigation districts - M

GENERAL EDUCATION - TWO REGIONS: L AND O

- Develop public and industry education programs for rainwater harvesting, reuse, and gray water systems - L
- Fund statewide education program and coordinate with Agricultural Extension Service - L
- Fund education on conservation and about water supplies programs for public sector - O

AQUATIC WEED CONTROL - ONE REGION: D

- Develop awareness campaign and provide extension and education services to urban and industry stakeholders on giant Salvinia threat and mitigation - D

REGIONAL GROUPS - ONE REGION: N

- Make funds available to planning groups and groundwater conservation districts to educate public on water issues - N

ENVIRONMENT

TEN REGIONS: A, B, C, F, G, H, I, K, L, AND P

UNIQUE STREAM SEGMENTS - SIX REGIONS: A, B, C, H, I, AND L

- Clarify intent and uncertainties of unique stream segment designation - A, C
- Increase funding for unique stream segment evaluations in plans - B, L
- Establish a working group on unique stream segments to review legislative intent, agency rules, and impacts of designations - C

- Texas Parks and Wildlife, with TWDB and planning groups, should develop update analysis of ecologically significant river and stream segments - H
- Clarify unique stream segment criteria in line with House Bill 1016 of the 84th Legislature - I
- Monitor water quality of designated stream segments - L

INSTREAM FLOWS AND FRESHWATER INFLOWS- FOUR REGIONS: F, H, K, AND L

- Protect existing water rights when considering instream flows - F
- Establish additional and dedicated funding for the state's bay and estuary programs - H
- Clarify status of environmental flows as a use category in the planning process - K
- Fund Bay/Basin Advisory Stakeholder Committee and Bay/Basin Expert Science Team for revision process for adopted environmental flows - K
- Fund research to support updating flow standards and potential strategies to meet standards - K
- Recommend state evaluate ways to voluntarily convert existing water rights to environmental uses - K
- Provide direction on review and potential changes to adapted flow standards - L

OTHER - THREE REGIONS: G, L, AND P

- Encourage responsible land management practices to protect water sources - G, L, P
- Evaluate land use and ecosystem health in light of sustaining future quality of life - L
- Support use of habitat conservation plans - L

GROUNDWATER

THIRTEEN REGIONS: A, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, O, AND P

GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS - ELEVEN REGIONS: A, C, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, O, AND P

- Manage groundwater resources through local groundwater conservation districts - A, F, G, H, J, P
- Create or expand groundwater conservation districts in areas not currently served - A, F, M

- Recommend TWDB or Texas Commission on Environmental Quality oversee groundwater districts to standardize regulations - C
- Encourage cooperation between groundwater conservation districts - F
- Rules and regulations must respect property rights and protect the right of the landowners to capture and market water within or outside of district boundaries - F
- Support creation of districts as necessary, by local sub-area water interests - H
- Allow Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District to acquire groundwater rights under state-owned property in Kerr County - J
- Establish a groundwater conservation district in Val Verde County - J
- Confirm state has joint liability with districts when statutory decisions are judged to be compensable takings - K
- Strengthen groundwater conservation districts' abilities to protect groundwater supplies - K
- Encourage TWDB to continue assisting groundwater districts - K
- Develop/expand research and database efforts to be primary resource for groundwater data in local jurisdictions - K
- Create and operate groundwater conservation districts under Texas Water Code, Chapter 36 - O

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREAS - FIVE REGIONS: D, F, J, K, AND N

- Recommend that the groundwater availability determination for the purposes of the 2021 Region D Water Plan be incorporated into the determination of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for GMA 8 and GMA 11. - D
- Reschedule due dates in the Joint Planning process so Managed Available Groundwater data can be better integrated into the water plans - F, K
- Examine interaction of regional water planning and groundwater management areas processes to improve the resulting economic impacts - J
- Fund the TWDB to allocate funding support to GMAs in a manner similar to regional water planning - K
- Fund GMA efforts to evaluate DFCs - N
- Fund consideration of groundwater/surface water interaction in consideration of DFCs - N

REGIONAL COLLABORATION - FIVE REGIONS: F, G, H, K, AND L

- Require state lands to abide by ground-water district regulations and submit water withdrawal plans to relevant planning group - F
- Notify planning groups when significant amounts of groundwater are planned for export - F
- Encourage groundwater conservation districts to collaborate in planning process - G, K
- GMAs and planning groups should align their planning through rules that recognize the process differences and account for timing of methodologies so changes in groundwater management can be in the regional water plans - H
- Encourage collaboration between regions sharing aquifers - L

RULE OF CAPTURE - FOUR REGIONS: F, H, O, AND P

- Maintain rule of capture in areas not subject to defined subsidence or groundwater conservation districts - H
- Support rule of capture as modified by rules and regulations of existing ground-water conservation districts - F, O, P

OIL AND GAS - FOUR REGIONS: D, F, M, AND N

- Recommend Railroad Commission of Texas review and enforce regulations protecting aquifers from oil well contamination - D, F
- Levy fines for oil and gas producers who violate rules governing aquifer contamination - F
- Support the industry-funded program to plug abandoned wells - F
- Appropriate sufficient funds to Railroad Commission of Texas for capping abandoned wells - M, N

SUSTAINABILITY - THREE REGIONS: K, L, AND P

- Study the long-term sustainability of water supplies - K
- Support management strategies that achieve groundwater sustainability - L
- Support sustainable yield of the Gulf Coast Aquifer as the limit for water development - P

STATE AGENCIES - FOUR REGIONS: C, G, K, AND N

- Fund the development of initial rules for Groundwater Conservation Districts- C
- Continue developing brackish groundwater zones - G
- Encourage funding of TWDB groundwater programs - K
- Expand efforts of TWDB, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Railroad Commission of Texas in managing groundwater - N
- Prohibit in-situ mining in aquifers that are drinking water sources - N

OTHER - FOUR REGIONS: F, L, O, AND P

- Legislation developed for managing the beneficial use and conservation of groundwater must be fair for all users - F
- Oppose historical use limits in granting water rights permits - F
- Oppose groundwater fees for wells used exclusively for dewatering - F
- Encourage state to review groundwater resources on state-owned land and determine appropriate management - F
- Groundwater development projects outside of a GCD should be publicly noticed - L
- Support use of best management practices in playa management - O
- Support establishment of fees for groundwater export - P

INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES

THIRTEEN REGIONS: A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, AND O

BRUSH CONTROL / INVASIVE SPECIES - NINE REGIONS: A, B, D, F, J, K, L, M, AND O

- Request TWDB guidance on including brush control projects as source of new surface water - A
- Provide funding to implement brush control and land stewardship - A, B, F
- Fund the Water Supply Enhancement Program - A, F, K
- Encourage funding for new technical resources to combat giant Salvinia, saltcedar, and aquatic weeds - D, M

- Support brush control as funding priority - F
- Fund brush control for region's reservoirs - F
- Give priority funding to land conservation and management practices, including brush and burn management and follow-up grazing - F
- Support programs to eradicate nuisance vegetation - J
- Fund programs to eradicate saltcedar - J, M, O
- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) should complete feasibility studies in Colorado watersheds - K
- Fund brush management technologies - L
- Fund TSSWCB to study rangeland management - L
- Fund eradication of Arundo Donax and aquatic weeds - M
- Support controlling invasive aquatic species and vegetation - O

DESALINATION - SIX REGIONS: A, C, F, H, M, AND N

- Continue funding salinity control projects in Canadian and Red River basins - A
- Provide funding to small communities for desalination projects - C
- For Texas Legislature to continue to provide funds to assist local governments in the implementation of development of desalination- F
- Support desalination as a funding priority - F
- Provide technical assistance grants for the advancement of desalination water supplies and implementation of new desalination technologies available to wholesale and retail water suppliers - H
- Continue funding brackish groundwater projects and seawater desalination demonstration projects - H, M
- Encourage Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, TWDB, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to investigate environmental impacts of seawater desalination discharge and allow it where minimal damage will occur - N
- Recommend changing regulations governing desalination brine to coincide with those governing petroleum brine - N

WEATHER MODIFICATION – TWO REGIONS: F AND L

- Support funding for researching, evaluating, creating, and operating weather modification programs - F
- Fund weather modification technologies - L

AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY / AQUIFER RECHARGE – SIX REGIONS: A, C, F, G, H, AND J

- Evaluate policy barriers to using playa lakes for aquifer recharge purposes - A
- Develop data regarding site-specific aquifer storage and recovery and conditions under which it is or isn't feasible - C
- Support legislation that will encourage and allow aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge projects to be developed and managed in an economical manner - F
- Fund demineralization, reclamation, and aquifer storage and recovery pilot projects - F
- Improve the legal and policy frameworks to address identified ownership issues with aquifer storage and recovery - G
- Recommend that ASR water management strategies include sufficient hydrologic study to protect receiving aquifers - G
- Encourages the use and development of aquifer recharge project to enhance and protect water resources available in the region - G
- Provide resources for identification and feasibility assessment of opportunities for aquifer storage and recovery projects - H
- Fund recharge structures and provide technical assistance - J

PLAYAS - ONE REGION: O

- Create and preserve native grass buffers to protect playa basins - O

OTHER - TWO REGIONS: J AND L

- Encourage and fund rainwater harvesting - J, L

FUNDING FOR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

NINE REGIONS: B, C, E, F, G, H, L, M, AND O

- Fund water management strategies identified in regional water plans - B, M, O
- Use state funds to acquire reservoir sites - C

- Change TWDB regulations to allow Water Infrastructure Funds to be used for acquisition of reservoir sites prior to permitting process - C
- Expand eligibility for SWIFT Funding to include consistency with adopted regional water plans - C, F
- Fund region-specific water supply strategies - E
- Increase grant funding to smaller communities with limited financial resources for implementation of strategies in the regional water plans - F
- Expediently implement the State Water Plan using the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) - G
- Streamline SWIFT program requirements - L
- Expand financing mechanisms to develop new water supply projects in adopted regional plans - H

PROVIDING AND FINANCING WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

TEN REGIONS: A, C, E, F, H, I, K, L, M, AND N

FEDERAL MONIES - THREE REGIONS: E, H, AND L

- Continue federal and state financial programs for substandard water and wastewater systems (colonia areas) - E
- Recommend continued support and increased funding of Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants from USDA Rural Utilities Service at the federal level - H
- Investigate opportunities for increased U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding - H
- Encourage more active state solicitation of federal monies - L

STATE FUNDING PROGRAMS - SEVEN REGIONS: C, E, H, I, K, L, AND N

- Continue and Expand State Funding for Texas Water Development Board Loans and the State Participation Program - C
- Establish more flexible deferred financing programs for large projects - C
- Continue financial programs to colonias or economically distressed areas - E

- Increase funds for Small Towns Environment Program - H
- Increase future funding of State Revolving Fund to cover system capacity increases - H
- Allow greater latitude for regional partnerships to finance in their governing regulations. Make funding opportunities available to public/private partnerships and private nonprofit water supply corporations - H
- Allow Water Infrastructure Funds and SWIFT to be used for replacement of water supply infrastructure - I
- Increase flexibility in determining categorical exclusions for Environmental Information Documents - I
- Revise Economically Disadvantaged Areas Program requirements to reduce difficult eligibility requirements, including model subdivision planning - I
- Fund rural community infrastructure and planning - K
- Fund demonstration projects for alternative technologies, including desalination and reuse - L
- Allow alternative delivery methods for public work projects, including desalination facilities - N
- Support implementation of a desalination facility in the Coastal Bend Region - N

OTHER - SIX REGIONS: A, E, F, H, I, AND M

- TWDB should establish and continue to promote clear guidelines for eligibility for funding and needs assessment for very small cities and unincorporated areas - A
- Funding mechanisms should account for regionalized relationships other than consolidation when considering funding for projects - E
- Provide grants to small and rural drinking water treatment systems to meet federal drinking water standards - F
- Increase funds for the Galveston Bay and Estuary program - H
- Develop or improve grant and loan programs to replace and repair aging infrastructure - I
- Encourage regionalization of water and wastewater utility service - M

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

ALL SIXTEEN REGIONS

FUNDING / SUPPORT - ELEVEN REGIONS: A, B, D E, F, G, H, I, M, N, AND P

- Provide additional state funding for regional planning administrative costs - A, B, E, F
- Continue adequate funding of regional water planning process -B, E, F, H, I, M, N
- Additional funds for evaluation of rural water supply entities at the sub-WUG level - D
- Fund technical studies necessary to support the work of the planning groups - E, F, G, H
- Fund sub-regional planning for small systems - G
- Provide additional and adequate funding throughout the entirety of the planning cycle to accomplish ongoing efforts - H
- Fund data improvements to support planning - I
- Advocate that regions fund administrative costs of planning process - I
- Establish funding for planning groups research through TWDB - P

STATE AGENCIES - FIVE REGIONS: C, F, H, J, AND K

- Recommend that TWDB and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality collaborate on determining which water availability models and data to use in regional planning and permitting - C, F
- TWDB, with TCEQ and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), determine which specific environmental studies and analysis are required for each category of strategy - H
- Recommend non-voting state agencies attend regional planning meetings or relinquish authority to alter adopted plan - J
- Encourage Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to provide technical reviews and model runs of draft permits to planning groups to ensure consistency with regional plans - K

ALTERNATIVE PLANNING - FIVE REGIONS: D, H, I, J, AND O

- Allow alternative scenarios in population growth and economic development in determining future water demands - D
- Identify limitations of current planning approaches regarding One Water management - H
- Allow planning for peak demand rather than drought of record conditions - J
- Allow groundwater availability to exceed MAG if approved by a district - I, J
- Allow for additional region-specific planning options and forecast scenarios - O

CONSISTENCY - FIVE REGIONS: A,B, C, F, AND I

- Allow entities smaller than planning criteria that do not have specific needs identified in water plans to be eligible for state funds - A, I
- Recommend waivers for surface water projects that will not significantly impact regional supplies and do not involve new water sources - B
- Allow waivers for consistency issues for plan amendments that involve projects resulting in small amounts of additional supply - C, F
- Allow maximum flexibility in determining consistency with regional plans - F, I
- Recommend Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and TWDB collaborate on consistency determinations and waivers to allow for maximum flexibility - I
- Remove willing buyer/seller transactions from consistency requirements - I

WATER DEMAND FIGURES - EIGHT REGIONS: B, D, E, H, J, L, N, AND O

- Reevaluate future crop mix and base year in irrigation demands - B
- Revise procedure for water demand reductions to recognize areas with low per capita consumption - D
- Allow more time for final demand figures - E, J
- Better account for livestock drought conditions in demands - E
- Recommend State Demographer explore potential changes in population distribution due to information technology advancements - H

- Develop better methodologies for estimating population and water demand for rural, transient areas and distributed populations - J
- Modify regional planning process to allow for more flexibility in developing growth and water demand methodologies - D, L
- Consider local mining projects in mining projections - N
- Include planning group interest group members when developing sector water demand projections - O

PLANNING GROUP AUTHORITY - ONE REGION: E

- Implementation of the plan's recommendations must be the responsibility of the local governments, entities, and individuals within the region - E

TRAINING - ONE REGION: J

- Provide training for new planning group members - J

OTHER - TEN REGIONS: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, L, O, AND P

- Clarify relationship between drought contingency planning and regional water supply planning- A
- Update the economic impact model for irrigation impacts - B
- Support Region C's designation of the Sulphur River Basin Authority as a wholesale water provider in the Regional Water Planning Process - C
- Maintain clear separation between Regional Water Supply Plans and Regional Flood Plans - C
- Support the designation of wholesale water providers as described in the TAC §357.10(43). D
- Avoid constraining planning process with technical requirements - E
- Integrate stormwater planning from flood planning process for water supply projects - E
- Consider all water resources available to a region including those outside of the state - E
- Revise Water Code so simplified planning can accommodate special studies with regional plans due every 10 years - F
- Allow flexibility in applying water availability models for planning - F

- Eliminate Supplemental Requirements added to the Regional Water Plans after contracts have been executed, when additional funding is not provided - C, G, L
- Allow more flexibility in the use of water availability models in the planning process - F
- Clarify whether raw water delivered or treated water provided should be used in calculating water use - G
- Review guidance requirements that exceed rule requirements - G
- Fund and support the Interregional Planning Council recommendations - L
- Adapt planning process so agricultural interests more realistically address water supply problems - O
- Support inter-regional coordination in planning - P

REUSE

EIGHT REGIONS: A, C, F, G, I, K, L, AND N

- Encourage Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to evaluate rules governing reuse of wastewater and quantify incentives for its use - A
- Funding assistance for the research, development, and implementation of reuse projects - C
- Fund the reuse research priorities identified by TWDB - C
- Support legislation that will encourage and allow the reuse of water in a safe and economical manner - F
- Work with federal agencies/representatives to develop safe procedures for disposing of reject water - F
- Advocate statewide reuse - G
- Review current regulations on water reuse and amend, as necessary, to encourage development of reuse resources - I
- Encourage Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to continue thorough review of indirect reuse applications, including environmental and water rights concerns - K
- Encourage Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to develop standards and best management practices for direct potable reuse - K

- Fund technology and risk mitigation research to expand reuse - L
- Review existing state laws regarding on-site reuse and blackwater reuse and incentivize One Water projects - L
- Amend the Water Code to include reuse in the state's administration of water rights - L
- Promote water reuse and return flows wherever practical, after evaluating environmental needs - N

RURAL WATER

ONE REGION: D

- Recommend conversion of public water supplies to surface water from groundwater - D

SURFACE WATER

FOURTEEN REGIONS: B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, AND P

INTERBASIN TRANSFERS - SIX REGIONS: C, D, F, G, H, AND K

- Recommend that unnecessary, counter-productive barriers to interbasin transfers be removed from Texas Water Code - C, G, H
- Review the definition of "need" in basin of origin to ensure that needs are met before transfers are permitted - D
- Evaluate compensation to basin of origin - D
- Protect current water rights holders in interbasin transfers - F
- Opposes any legislation that would repeal or modify the "junior priority provision" for interbasin transfers from the Colorado River Basin (Water Code 11.085 (t)) - F
- Supports retention of the junior water rights provision (Water Code 11.085(s) and (t)) - F
- Legislature and TCEQ to study and develop mechanisms to protect current water rights holders - F
- Oppose and recommend the re-evaluation of the junior water rights provision - G
- Protect basins of origin in interbasin transfers - K
- Verify that interbasin transfers are consistent with regional water plans - K

RESERVOIRS - SIX REGIONS: B, D, G, H, N, AND P

- Extend designations for unique reservoir sites until permits are filed - B
- Designate Toledo Bend Reservoir as a supply strategy for upper Sabine Basin in Region D and supply option for Region C - D
- Recommend entities proposing new reservoirs through the planning process include a map of proposed mitigation acreage - D
- Consider potential economic and environmental impacts to reservoir development - D
- Consider raising the level for Lake Wright Patman prior to development of new reservoirs in Region D - D
- Oppose the inclusion of the Marvin Nichols Reservoir in the state water plan - D
- All alternatives should be pursued and mitigation considered before any reservoir development - D
- Oppose development of reservoirs in the Sulphur Basin in Region D prior to development of environmental flow standards through Senate Bill 3 process - D
- Uphold the primary purpose of Texas water supply reservoirs to ensure long-standing agreements and contracts are honored - G
- Protect water supply reservoirs from future policies or rules that convert water supply purposes to flood control purposes - G
- Clarify the liability of reservoir operators passing storm flows through water supply reservoirs - H
- Support development of Lake Texana but developers should discuss with property owners prior to permitting - N
- Support efforts to mitigate environmental impacts of Palmetto Bend Stage II - P

WATER PERMITS - SEVEN REGIONS: C, F, J, K, L, M, AND N

- Encourage TWDB and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality work with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to revise Section 361(b) regulations on power plant cooling water - C
- Notify all basin water rights holders when a request to amend a water right increases quantity or changes purpose or place use - F

- State agencies should survey to estimate diversion of unpermitted riparian water - J
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality should notify planning groups of pending water supply actions - K
- Fund Texas Commission on Environmental Quality adequately to ensure appropriate use of permitted surface water rights - L
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality should review rules on water rights conversion factors and operational rules - M
- Urge Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to enforce existing rules and regulations regarding impoundments - N

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - TWO REGIONS: D AND I

- Recommend that future mitigation strongly consider utilization of land that may have previously been a functional wetland - D
- Develop guidelines for evaluations of federally permitted water projects to produce documentation to support the National Environmental Policy Act process, including use of state and regional population projections - I

SEDIMENT CONTROL - TWO REGIONS: B AND C

- Support efforts, including land management, to rehabilitate existing sediment control structures and construct new ones - B
- Seek additional federal funding to improve and maintain Natural Resources Conservation Service sediment and flood control structures - C

UNCOMMITTED WATER - TWO REGIONS: C AND I

- Recommend changing Texas Water Code to exempt from cancellation non-use associated with developing and managing reservoirs - C
- Oppose canceling uncommitted water contracts/ rights - I
- Support use of 'interruptible' water supply before long-term rights are fully utilized - I

WATERMASTER PROGRAM - ONE REGION: M

- Watermaster Advisory Committee should continue to oversee the watermaster budget - M

OTHER - FIVE REGIONS: C, E, F, G, AND M

- Continued and increased state support of efforts to develop water supplies in Oklahoma - C
- Encourages enforcement of the Rio Grande Compact - E
- Review state surface water policy to ensure its appropriateness for next 50 years - F
- Amend state water law to incorporate river basin subordinations in regional water plans - F
- Support long-term contracts for future projects and droughts - F
- Support shorter-term “interruptible” water contracts to meet needs before long-term water rights are fully utilized - F
- Support coordinated operation of two or more water supply sources - G
- Encourage International Boundary and Water Commission to give delivery credit from Mexican tributaries in accordance with 1944 Water Treaty - M
- Continue considering allocation of Rio Grande Flows upstream of Ft. Quitman for treaty compliance - M
- Inform stakeholders of state activities regarding the 1944 Water Treaty - M

WATER MARKETING

THREE REGIONS: F, O, AND P

- Oppose export of surface water outside of region, except for existing contracts until a comprehensive plan is in place - F
- Support willing buyer/ willing seller water transactions - O
- Consider export fee to offset negative impacts of transferring water out of basin - P

WATER QUALITY

EIGHT REGIONS: A, B, D, F, G, K, L, AND N

STANDARDS - FIVE REGIONS: B, D, F, G, AND L

- Allow flexibility in drinking water standards for small systems, such as use of bottled water programs - B, F
- Recommend TWDB and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality standardize rules for minimum water supply requirements - D

- Recommend that Texas Commission on Environmental Quality revise its policy requiring use of secondary water standards, particularly total dissolved solids, when granting permits - F
- Encourage regionalization for systems unable to meet drinking water standards - G
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and local governments should promote regulations to protect water quality - L

WATER PLANNING - THREE REGIONS: A, K, AND L

- Require Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to attend regional planning meetings and assist with water quality issues - A
- Support integrating water quality into water supply planning by coordinating with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Clean Rivers Program - K
- Fund the Clean Rivers Program - L

MINING - ONE REGION: N

- Amend rules to require routine, non-partisan water quality monitoring of mining operations - N

OTHER - THREE REGIONS: B, D, AND G

- Recognize chloride control project as regional priority - B
- Recommend Texas Commission on Environmental Quality expedite effort to replace methyl tertiary butyl ether in gasoline - D
- Promote water development policies that support efforts to protect both groundwater and surface water sources by encouraging sound practices that will not adversely affect water supply or quality - G

OTHER

TWO REGIONS: F AND G

- Encourages the use of higher Total Dissolved Solids water for electric generation when possible to conserve available fresh water sources within the region - F
- Streamline state agencies’ processes for project implementation - G