

November 6, 2017

Jeff Walker
Executive Administrator
Texas Water Development Board
1700 North Congress
Austin, Texas 78711-3231

Re: Hydrologic Variance Requests for Water Availability Determination of Current Surface Water Supplies in Region F

Dear Mr. Walker:

Region F is one of the largest regions in the state, encompassing 32 counties in west Texas. Surface water supplies are obtained from the upper Colorado River Basin and Pecos River Basin, which is a tributary of the Rio Grande River Basin. A small portion of the region lies in the Brazos River Basin but there is little to no surface water supplied to Region F from this river basin.

In accordance with regional planning rules and guidelines, Region F intends to use the Full Authorization Run (Run 3) of the TCEQ-approved WAMs for determine surface water availability in the region. However, to most accurately reflect the current conditions and operations of the region, the following modifications to WAM Run 3 are requested.

Safe Yield

Region F requests the use of safe yield for the allocation and distribution of surface water supplies from all reservoirs within the region. Safe yield is the amount of water that can be used during the critical drought while leaving a minimum one-year supply in reserve. Safe yield is consistent with the current operations of surface water in the region and previous regional water planning. In accordance with the TWDB planning rules, firm yields will also be determined and reported in the plan.

Colorado WAM

Per the TCEQ website, as of November 2017, the TCEQ is still updating the WAM files for the Colorado basin and the files are unavailable. As part of the 2016 planning cycle, Region F obtained an advanced copy of the Colorado WAM with hydrology extended to 2013 from the TCEQ. This is still the most up to date and accurate version of the WAM available. There were no hydrologic variances beyond reservoir storage capacities and safe yield applied to this model. Therefore, Region F proposes to retain the surface water supplies from the 2016 Plan for the 2021 Plan. Region F does not request any hydrologic variances for the Colorado WAM besides the use of safe yield as mentioned above.

Rio Grande WAM

The Rio Grande WAM is used to evaluate surface water supplies in the Pecos sub-basin that extends into Region F. The yield for Lake Balmorhea is assumed to be the minimum annual supply from the springs that feed the reservoir. The Rio Grande WAM does not include these springs in its naturalized flows. Since there will not be any changes to the WAMs from the 2016 Region F Water Plan, currently available supplies adopted for the 2016 plan are proposed to be retained for the 2021 plan.

Hydrologic Variance Requests for Water Availability Determination for Surface Water
Supplies in Region F
November 6, 2017
Page 2 of 2



Brazos WAM

The Brazos basin is largely located in Region G however, some areas extend into Region F. Region F proposes to adopt the version of the Brazos WAM (including any hydrologic variances) that Region G requests and is approved to use.

Sincerely,

John Grant
Region F Chairman

cc:

Attachments