

Agenda Item 6b. Review and Consider Adoption of Hydrologic Variance Request for Surface Water Supplies

The Texas Water Development Board rules require the use of the TCEQ Water Availability Model (WAM) Run 3 for evaluating supplies for water management strategies, unless a hydrologic variance request is granted. WAM Run 3 relies on strict priority analysis. The subordination strategy in Region F recognizes that historically, the Colorado Basin has not operated this way. Instead upstream reservoirs in Region F store and divert inflows before downstream reservoirs in Region K. This agenda item is to review and consider adoption of a hydrologic variance request for surface water supplies from strategies in Region F.

Attachment:

1. Letter to TWDB: Hydrologic Variance Requests for Water Availability Determination of Surface Water Supplies from Water Management Strategies in Region F



July 19, 2018

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

Re: Hydrologic Variance Requests for Water Availability Determination of Surface Water Supplies from Water Management Strategies 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. To determine future supplies from water management strategies, Region F requests the hydrologic variances outlined below.

Colorado WAM

In Region F, a major water management strategy is the subordination of downstream senior water rights in the lower Colorado basin (Region K) to junior water rights in the upper Colorado basin (Region F). For the subordination strategy, Region F requests to use the Region K Colorado WAM “cutoff model” (including any hydrologic variances) that Region K requests and is approved to use. The Region K cutoff model modifies the priority dates for all water rights at and above Lakes Ivie and Brownwood by making them senior to water rights below those locations. The cutoff model does not change the relative seniority within the upper Colorado River Basin. In addition to the Region K hydrologic variances, Region F requests the following:

- Include the City of Junction run-of-river right and Brady Creek Reservoir’s water right as senior to those downstream in Region K. These water rights are in the upper Colorado River Basin within Region F.
- Consistent with previous regional planning efforts, Region F requests to coordinate with reservoir owners in the Pecan Bayou watershed to establish mutually agreeable terms for priority calls within the Pecan Bayou watershed.
- Region F also requests the use of safe yield for all reservoirs under the subordination strategy.

Rio Grande WAM

There are no surface water management strategies in Region F in Rio Grande basin, so no hydrologic variances are requested.

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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.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,

John Grant
Region F Chairman