

Section 5A

Identification, Evaluation, and Selection of Water Management Strategies

5A.1.2 Plan Development Criteria

It is the goal of the RWPG to develop a plan to meet projected water needs within the region. The RWPG has adopted a set of Plan Development Criteria that was used to evaluate whether a given strategy should be used to meet a projected shortage and ultimately be included in the Brazos G Water Supply Plan. The proposed plans were developed by evaluating the water management strategies using the RWPG criteria and then matching strategies to meet projected shortages. This section discusses the evaluation criteria adopted by the planning group during plan development, and criteria to be met in formulation of the plan. The adopted plan elements will meet these criteria:

- **Water Supply** – Water supply must be evaluated with respect to quantity, reliability, and cost. The criteria for quantity is that the plan must be sufficient to meet all projected needs in the planning period. The criteria for reliability is that it meet municipal and industrial needs 100 percent of the time, and agricultural needs 75 percent of the time. The criteria for cost is that the projected cost be reasonable to meet the projected needs.
- **Environmental Issues** – Environmental considerations must be examined with respect to environmental water needs, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and bays and estuaries. The criteria for environmental water flows and wildlife habitat is that stream conditions must meet permit requirements for diversions that currently have permits. For projects that require permit acquisition the project will provide adequate environmental instream flows for aquatic habitat. Projects should be sited to avoid known cultural resources, if possible. Flows to bays and estuaries should meet expected permit conditions. (It should be noted that the Brazos River does not have an estuary, so bay and estuary inflow requirements are expected to be low).
- **Impacts on Other State Water Resources** – The criteria recommends a follow-up study by the RWPG if any significant impacts are anticipated on other state water resources.
- **Threats to Agriculture and Natural Resources** – The criteria requires that the planning group identify any potential impact, compare the impact to the proposed benefit of the plan, and make recommendations.
- **Equitable Comparison of Feasible Strategies** – This is achieved by the equal application of criteria across different water development plans.
- **Interbasin Transfers** – The planning group may consider interbasin transfers as a supply option. The criteria require that the participating entities recognize and follow Texas Water Code requirements for expected permitting requirements.

- Impacts from Voluntary Redistribution – The criteria requires that any potential third party social or economic impacts from voluntary redistribution of water rights be identified and described.
- Other Criteria – Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) allows the RWPG to adopt other criteria. As of June 2000, no other criteria have been adopted by the Brazos G RWPG.

The following sections discuss the methods and procedures used to develop the information needed to evaluate the strategies and compare them to the criteria.