

Region H Update
Report to Region G Regional Water Planning Group
Presented By: Susan Morgan, Lower Basin Regional Manager
August 11, 2004

Region H is in the Final Stages of Reviewing Final Ground and Surface Water Availability

- Demands
 - Municipal demands – portions of Region H are predicted to face up to 300% population growth by 2060
 - Industrial/manufacturing demands – to be revised
 - Brazoria County Year 2000 baseline expected to increase by ~100,000 AFY
 - Galveston County (which uses Brazos water) expected to increase slightly
 - Fort Bend County numbers should remain same or decrease slightly
 - Harris County Year 2000 baseline expected to increase by 40 – 80,000 AFY
- Groundwater – majority of the water demand in Region H occurs in areas that are subject to subsidence/conservation district regulations that limit the use of groundwater
- Surface water – Region H will use a modified Trinity River Water Availability Model that will take into account the expected level of return flows and provide more accurate picture of true availability. Example: WAM run 3, with no return flow, reduces the yield of Lake Livingston (City of Houston water supply) by almost 200,000 acre-feet. The modified Brazos WAM prepared for Region G will be used by Region H as well.

Amendments to Region H 2001 Plan

- San Jacinto River Authority/COH – permit applications to use remaining unappropriated firm water supplies from Lake Houston, additional San Jacinto run-of-river yield, reuse from groundwater and interbasin transfers, and interruptible supplies from the lower San Jacinto basin have been submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and would provide additional long-term water supply for the area. The permits are administratively complete at TCEQ and pending approval. The COH reuse permit application has not been considered administratively complete. The SJRA reuse permit application number 5809 has been granted.
- Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigation District's request for a permit amendment to re-designate supply in the Trinity River basin from irrigation to multiple-use water
- Brazos River Authority System Management and Drought Protection Permit
- Potential North Harris County Regional Water Authority (or other entities within their service area) reuse permit application(s)
- Expanded groundwater use by County-Other WUGs (i.e., small districts) to meet interim water needs prior to surface water sources becoming available

Next Meeting - Wednesday, September 1

- Hear presentation by BRA on System Management and Drought Protection Permit
- Presentation of proposed amendments to the 2001 Regional Water Plan, to be approved following an October public meeting
- Policy Issue Survey results
- Final presentation of groundwater supply by county
- Identification of supply shortages (pending approval of revised manufacturing demand projections)
- Review of conservation measures (best management practices) applicable to Region H municipal, agricultural, and industrial water user groups, as well as wholesale water providers
- Begin reviewing water management strategies