

## **FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**

### **BRAZOS G RWPG**

### **Regional Policy on 'Relationship between drought contingency planning and regional water planning', Issue #11**

**Member Assignment: Scott Diermann**

#### **Background**

State law requires that all drought contingency plans be in compliance with the approved TWDB state water plan developed by the Regional Water Planning Groups. RWPGs in turn are directed to consider and include drought contingency plans in development of their 50 year water plans.

#### **Discussion**

State law requires a review relationship between RWPGs and Water Suppliers drought contingency plans. The overlap between these groups is in a discussion centered around conservation measures. RWPGs should include all long term conservation measures adopted by water utilities, cities, etc. in their 50 year demand forecasts. Examples of long term conservation measures might include escalating pricing structures that make increased water use cost prohibitive, low flow toilet code requirements, etc. These demand projections are expressed as a function of per capita use and population growth expectations in the State Water Plan. Drought contingency plans include these long term measures but also include measures meant to deal with crisis such as car washing bans, lawn watering restrictions, etc. These measures are usually lifted when a crisis has passed. The RWPG should be about educating consumers about the increasing demands on our water supply. We should also be educating consumers on conservation measures they can adopt to make our water resources last. This education need was identified and addressed as a policy statement through item #10, education, in this policy workgroup.

#### **Recommended Policy Statement Action:**

I recommend we develop no policy statement on this issue. My research didn't find any need for adjustment of any statutes to enhance the relationship between RWPG and drought contingency planning. The only potential policy recommendation I could find would have been in support of additional funding for education but we addressed this concern in an earlier policy statement.