

To: Brazos G RWPG Members	
From: HDR Engineering, Inc.	Project:
CC:	
Date: April 20, 2005	Job No:

**RE: April 26, 2005 Brazos G RWPG Meeting
Summary for Agenda Item 7.8 – Summary of Environmental Effects of Water Management Strategies**

The scope of work for developing the Brazos G Regional Water Plan includes evaluating the environmental effects of potential water management strategies as cited in the following excerpt from the scope of work:

4. Evaluations of water management strategies are to include a quantitative reporting of:

...

- ii. Environmental factors including effects on instream flows, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and effect on discharges to bays, estuaries, and arms of the Gulf of Mexico. Effects on instream flows will be estimated by comparing “baseline” and “with-project” streamflows.*

...

The water management strategies associated with the largest environmental impacts are those associated with new reservoir projects. Reservoir projects inundate large areas of land that often contains valuable wildlife habitat or farmland, and archeological and historical cultural resources. Reservoir projects have the potential to alter downstream streamflows by reducing variability in flows and the magnitude of both low and flood flows. For other water management strategies involving primarily pipeline projects, environmental effects are limited in scope and the effects can often be minimized or avoided altogether by judicious selection of location and route. Often existing highway or other right-of-way is available for use. For these reasons, the primary focus for environmental effects has been on potential new reservoir projects.

During this agenda item, the environmental effects of the water management strategies considered during the Brazos G planning process will be summarized. Draft text and tables summarizing the effects of reservoir projects will be presented to the planning group for review. These draft text are being incorporated into the individual descriptions of the various water management strategies. Environmental effects of other water management strategies are minimal, and will be discussed in the text as appropriate.

This agenda item is presented for informational purposes only. HDR anticipates no action from the Brazos G RWPG on this agenda item.