

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 7.9 – Drought Management and Water Conservation Recommendations**

The scope of work for developing the Brazos G Regional Water Plan includes the following:

Task 6. Water Conservation and Drought Management Recommendations

- A. *Develop a consolidated summary of water conservation and drought management recommendations of the Regional Water Plan (TAC 357.7(a)(11)).*
- B. *Model Water Conservation Plan. A model water conservation plan will be included in the appendix of the Regional Water Plan. (TAC 357.7(b))*
- C. *Model Drought Management Plan. A model drought management plan will be included in the appendix of the Regional Water Plan. (TAC 357.7(d))*

HDR is currently summarizing the water conservation recommendations included for the individual Water User Group plans. Water conservation is a viable water management strategy that makes more efficient use of available supplies to meet projected water needs. HDR has previously summarized the water conservation recommendations and methodology adopted by the Brazos G RWPG for determining supplies made available by water conservation and the associated costs.

Drought management recommendations to meet needs have not been made and HDR recommends that they not be made by the Brazos G RWPG as a water management strategy for specific WUG needs. The regional water plan is developed to meet projected water demands during a drought. The purpose of the planning is to ensure that sufficient supplies are available to meet future water demands. Reducing water demands during a drought as a defined water management strategy does not ensure that sufficient supplies will be available to meet the projected water demands; it only eliminates the demands. While demand management during a drought should be encouraged and promoted, it should not be identified as a new “source” of supply. HDR contends that recommending demand reductions as a water management strategy is ant ethical to the concept of planning to meet projected water demands. It does not make more efficient use of existing supplies as does conservation, but instead effectively turns the tap off when the water is needed most. It is planning to not meet future water demands. When considering the costs of demand reduction during drought, the costs for drought management could be considered as the economic costs of not meeting the projected water demands.

HDR is in the process of developing model water conservation and drought management plans that are consistent with Texas Water Code § 11.1271 and § 11.1272.

This agenda item is presented as an update on HDR’s activities in this area. HDR anticipates that these required plan elements will be available on the Brazos G website for review by Brazos G RWPG members in early May.