



WEST-CENTRAL-TEXAS-MUNICIPAL-WATER-DISTRICT

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August 22, 2005

Mr. Michael Morrison, President
Brazos G RWPG
C/O Brazos River Authority
PO Box 7555
Waco TX 76714-7555

Attn: Teresa Clark, Administrative Agent

Dear Mr. Morrison:

The Brazos G RWPG's Policy Issue #1 references the interaction of state agencies with the Regional Water Planning Groups. The TWDB plays a critical role in Regional Water Planning and the overall state water planning process.

As we approach the conclusion of the 2nd round of regional and state water planning, many participants should be justly proud of what has been accomplished. However, as we consider the future of the process, I would like to suggest on behalf of the West Central Texas Municipal Water District, a policy change/expansion that would better suit our local situation...and perhaps other entities across Texas.

TWDB has a very difficult challenge. The capital needs that are represented by the future water supply projects across Texas are very large. Consequently, TWDB must limit the number of recognized projects to only the most essential. This inserts necessary realism into state financial planning.

Unfortunately, and hopefully unnecessarily, limiting the number and location of projects being considered causes current probabilities to limit future possibilities. These limits are initiated within population and water use projections, but an ultimate consequence is a strong limitation on the future economic possibilities for areas across the state that have recent slow growth trends.

This results in an assignment within the water plan of key projects and water reserve supplies to areas of recent high growth. The projected rapid growth rate in Texas is referenced as partial justification for this current policy choice. The State of Texas needs to get new water supplies to current high growth areas...timely.

Let me emphasize that WCTMWD is currently satisfied with our future water strategies as contained in the 2006 Initially Prepared Plan, but the policy change or alternative that I would like to encourage involves disconnecting statistically valid long-term statewide population and water needs projections from having complete domination over medium-term water planning strategies.

The District's proposed policy improvement would allow local areas [notice this doesn't say require] to imagine future growth rates higher than present growth rates and also consider the water projects that would support that growth. This policy would allow the number of possible projects to exceed the estimate of total statewide need. This suggestion obviously needs the reality check of future developments. In many cases, local dreams will not become reality and future events will overtake unjustified plans.

However, in the cases where circumstances change positively over future years, project options for higher than historical growth might be more readily available and currently slow growing parts of Texas could more realistically plan and imagine a better future.

The TWDB would have to modify current planning concepts in order to allow additional projects into the plan while maintaining overall statewide demographically justified financial planning limits. The good news in the 2006 Initially Prepared Plan is that TWDB has allowed for the documenting of "alternative plans" and drought contingencies [like reservoir safe yield].

I urge the BGRWPG to include an expanded or alternative growth concept in their 2006 policy recommendations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bell", written over the word "Respectfully,".

David Bell, P.E.
General Manager

cc: WCTMWD Board of Directors