



# TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD



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**TO:** Scott Mack

**THROUGH:** Carolyn Brittin, Deputy Executive Administrator, Office of Water Planning and Information  
Dan Hardin, Director, Water Resources Planning

**FROM:** Stuart Norvell, Manager, Water Planning Research and Analysis

**DATE:** December 2, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Revision of population and water demand projections for the 2007-2012 planning cycle.

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As discussed in the Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) "*Guidelines for Regional Water Plan Development (2007-2012)*," population and water demand projections from the 2002-2007 planning cycle will serve as default projections in the current round of planning. With the exception of steam-electric water demands, the TWDB is not generating new projections for approval by the Board.<sup>1</sup> However, planning groups may request that the Board consider revisions to 2006 Regional Water Plan and 2007 State Water Plan population and water demand projections if conditions in a given planning area have changed sufficiently to warrant revisions.

The January 2007 population estimates from the Texas State Data Center will be used as the primary standard to determine if changed conditions warrant any revisions to population projections, both at the local and regional level. Spreadsheets providing comparisons of the January 2007 population estimates to the equivalent projections approved for the 2006 Regional Water Plans and 2007 State Water Plan have been provided to your lead consultant.

The Texas State Data Center estimates indicate that current population growth is exceeding projected growth rates for Region G as a whole. Increased regional totals, commensurate with growth which has occurred, are likely justified for this region, subject to TWDB approval.

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<sup>1</sup> The TWDB will distribute a separate technical memorandum presenting draft thermo-electric projections for the current planning cycle. Planning groups will have the opportunity to review these projections prior to the TWDB submitting them to the Board for approval and adoption.

#### *Our Mission*

*To provide leadership, planning, financial assistance, information and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas.*

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As specified in Section 357.5 (d)(2), Title 31 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), entities wishing to revise population or demand projections address their requests through their respective regional water planning group. If a planning group concurs, they submit requests to the Executive Administrator of the TWDB. TWDB staff coordinates reviews of each request with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Texas Department of Agriculture. Designated representatives from each agency must approve each revision. The TWDB's governing board (Board) is responsible for approving and adopting final population and water demand projections (§357.5 (d)(1), 31 TAC).

Requests to the Board should be submitted to the Executive Administrator in the form of memorandums from planning groups describing: 1) what they wish to revise and how revisions compare to Board-adopted 2006 projections for each decade of the planning horizon, and 2) language clearly describing the justification and methodology for developing revised projections. Memorandums should be accompanied by spreadsheets comparing requested revisions to Board-adopted 2006 estimates. Spreadsheets should be forwarded electronically to Matt Nelson. Please refer to the "*Guidelines for Regional Water Plan Development (2007-2012)*" (pages 4-5) available at <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/wrpi/rwp/docu.htm> for further information regarding criteria for population and water demand projections revisions.

To assist planning groups who wish to change population projections, the TWDB has generated a database of alternative projections for cities and counties that TWDB staff believes are justifiable candidates for revision. Planning groups wishing to access these data may do so by contacting Matt Nelson. Please be advised that these projections *are not Board approved*. Planning groups who wish to revise population projections and thus municipal water demands must formally do so according to the process described above, but they are welcome to use the TWDB's alternative population projections as the basis for their formal request to the Board.

TWDB staff is not generating: 1) alternative projections for cities or counties that are part of region-specific studies that include reviews of population projections in their scope of work; 2) projections for newly-eligible non-city municipal water use groups (i.e., utilities);<sup>2</sup> and 3) revised figures for Gallons Per Capita per Day (GPCD) for use in municipal water demand projections; however, upon request staff will provide 2000-2006 GPCD figures for city water use groups and 2000-2006 net use volumes for non-city municipal water use groups.

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<sup>2</sup> This is not possible without new data from the U.S. Census Bureau.