

To: Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group	
From: David Dunn, PE	Project: Brazos G 2011 Regional Water Plan
CC: Trey Buzbee, Brazos River Authority	
Date: February 12, 2009	Job No: 00010485-001

RE: Suggested revisions to specific population projections to be used in the 2011 Plan

Several communities have experienced population growth rates that exceed population projections developed by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and used to develop the 2006 Brazos G Regional Water Plan (2006 Plan). As we begin the process of developing the 2011 Plan, the TWDB has indicated a willingness to revise population projections for specific Water User Groups (WUGs) that have experienced greater growth than projected in the 2006 Plan. HDR and BRA have been working closely with the TWDB to develop suggested revisions to the population projections that will be acceptable to the TWDB. The TWDB is concerned about utilizing population projections that will overestimate future populations statewide, and will be very hesitant to increase any population projection within a region without a corresponding decrease in another projection.

A brief synopsis of this process follows:

1. The TWDB identified municipal WUGs for which the State Data Center has estimated year 2007 population to be at least 5% greater than an estimate developed by making a straight-line interpolation between the 2000 and 2010 projections used in the 2006 Plan. The TWDB then developed draft revised projections for those WUGs.
2. HDR reviewed those projections and developed suggested revised population projections following TWDB guidance regarding where to draw the population increases from within the Brazos G Area. These suggested revisions are shown in the attached spreadsheet, named ***Final 2006 and Proposed 2011 Population Projections, TWDB submission, 20091008.xls***. Also attached is a memorandum to the TWDB detailing our methodology for developing those suggested revisions, named ***Population Projections Memo to TWDB, 20090108.pdf***. I suggest reviewing the memorandum and spreadsheet to see where and how we developed the suggested revisions.
3. The TWDB responded to those suggestions, and provided comments that fall into three categories:
 - i. Accepted Revisions as Submitted – the majority of the suggested projections fall into this category.
 - ii. Reduced Submitted Revisions – the TWDB reduced the suggested population projections for various reasons.
 - iii. Rejected Revisions – the TWDB outright rejected the revision suggestions submitted by HDR. All rejected revisions occur in Johnson County, where the suggested revisions are directly based on the recommendations arising out of the 4-County Study completed by Region C (assisted by Brazos G). Except for the City of Mansfield, all of the Johnson County revisions were rejected because the entities are water supply corporations or districts, and are not cities for which the State Data Center has population estimates. For the City of Mansfield, HDR requested that the entire population increase be drawn from Mansfield's population in Tarrant County, as the City believes that Johnson County is where the City's growth will occur. We have asked the TWDB to reconsider the Mansfield request, but have not heard back as of the date of this memorandum. The Mansfield request will require shifting population from Tarrant County, which is in Region C, to Johnson County (Brazos G). However, the recommendation involves no increase in the population projections for Mansfield as a whole.

Attached is a spreadsheet from the TWDB detailing the agency's response to the suggested revisions. Also attached is an email from HDR to the TWDB regarding the Mansfield revisions. The spreadsheet from the TWDB is named **Reg G Population Revisions Recommended 1-23-09.xls**. The email from HDR to the TWDB is included in PDF form and named **HDR Response to TWDB Population Projections, 20090127.pdf**.

These projections represent a joint effort by HDR, BRA and the TWDB to develop a consensus set of projections. As such, HDR recommends that the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group accept the population projections as revised by the TWDB, and formally request that the TWDB revise the Brazos G population projections accordingly for use in developing the 2011 Plan. The only exception to this recommendation is for the City of Mansfield, for which we still await a response from the TWDB.

For those WUGs for which the resulting population projections may be too low (primarily in Johnson County), the planning group has the flexibility to include water management strategies that will provide supplies in excess of the TWDB-projected demands in order to allow the 2011 Plan to meet the greater demands resulting from the projections initially recommended to the TWDB.