

Texas Water Development Board

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July 22, 2011

RE: Groundwater Management Area Representation on Regional Water Planning Groups

Dear Regional Water Planning Group Members:

Since passage of Senate Bill 660 by the 82nd Texas Legislature, Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) and representatives from Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) have begun inquiring about how the new RWPG membership requirements will be implemented. This communication is to provide the TWDB staff interpretation of this new statutory requirement under Section 16.053(c) of the Water Code.

Among other things, Senate Bill 660 requires that, in addition to the representation of 11 interest groups currently required by statute, each RWPG will have to maintain additional representation for each groundwater management area (GMA) (from a GCD located within both the regional water planning area and GMA) that is at least partially located within a regional water planning area. Senate Bill 660 modifies the Water Code as follows (underlined text was added by SB660):

"(c) No later than 60 days after the designation of the regions under Subsection (b), the board shall designate representatives within each regional water planning area to serve as the initial coordinating body for planning. The initial coordinating body may then designate additional representatives to serve on the regional water planning group. The initial coordinating body shall designate additional representatives if necessary to ensure adequate representation from the interests comprising that region, including the public, counties, municipalities, industries, agricultural interests, environmental interests, small businesses, electric generating utilities, river authorities, water districts, and water utilities. The regional water planning group shall maintain adequate representation from those interests. In addition, the groundwater conservation districts located in each management area, as defined by Section 36.001, located in the regional water planning area shall appoint one representative of a groundwater conservation district located in the management area and in the regional water planning area to serve on the regional water planning group. In addition, representatives of the board, the Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Department of Agriculture shall serve as ex officio members of each regional water planning group."

Senate Bill 660 takes effect on September 1, 2011, at which time GCDs in the GMAs are to appoint these additional RWPG members. RWPGs must accept the individuals appointed by the GCDs in the GMAs without a vote or other confirmation by the other RWPG members. It is the responsibility of the GCDs in the GMAs to appropriately maintain and refill these RWPG membership positions through appointment, for example, in the event that a GMA representative resigns from the RWPG.

Our Mission	:	Board Members		
To provide leadership, planning, financial assistance, information, and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas	:	Edward G. Vaughan, Chairman	Thomas Weir Labatt III, Member	Billy R. Bradford Jr., Member
	:	Joe M. Crutcher, Vice Chairman	Lewis H. McMahan, Member	Monte Cluck, Member
	:	Melanie Callahan, Interim Executive Administrator		

Regional Water Planning Group Members
July 22, 2011

TWDB staff interprets the requirement to mean that a RWPG must add and maintain a single, new RWPG member (that is a GCD representative) representing each GMA that:

- is at least partially located within the regional water planning area, and
- contains at least a portion of one GCD within the portion of that GMA that is located within the regional water planning area.

In addition:

- the individual appointed to the RWPG to represent the GMA is a voting member,
- the individual appointed to the RWPG to represent the GMA has to be a representative of a GCD that is located at least partially within that regional water planning area,
- one individual may not serve to represent two GMAs, and
- one RWPG member may not serve to represent two statutorily required interests.

For example, in a regional water planning area that includes portions of two GMAs but only one of those two portions of GMAs that overlap with the regional planning area includes a portion of a GCD (also within the regional planning area), the associated RWPG must maintain representation from a minimum of 12 interest groups, including one representative of a GMA. Table 1 summarizes the additional GMA representatives that will be required for each RWPG. Table 2 lists the GCDs from which each of those associated GMA representatives could be selected. The attached map shows where regional water planning areas overlap with GMAs and GCDs.

If GCDs in a GMA intend to appoint an individual to a RWPG who is already serving as a member of the RWPG (but representing a different statutorily required interest such as a 'water district'), that RWPG member could resign from the RWPG position to become the appointed representative for the GMA. The RWPG might then have to replace that original RWPG member with someone who represents the same interest that individual originally represented if required by the RWPG bylaws or if that member were the only representative of a statutorily required interest group. Alternate representation for all RWPG members is subject to each RWPG's bylaws.

TWDB anticipates that this new requirement will be incorporated into TWDB planning rules through a future rule revision. If you have any questions, please contact your TWDB Project Manager.

Thank you all for your efforts to implement this new requirement.

Sincerely,



Carolyn L. Brittin
Deputy Executive Administrator
Water Resources Planning and Information

Attachment: Map of Groundwater Management Areas, Regional Water Planning Groups, and Groundwater Conservation Districts

c: RWPG Political Subdivisions
GMA Representatives
TWDB Project Managers

Table 1: Additional RWPG members required by Senate Bill 660 to represent GMAs

	Groundwater Management Areas																New RWPG members required by SB 660	Minimum RWPG membership
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
A	1					1											2	13
B						1		1									2	13
C						0		1			1	1					3	14
D								0			1						1	12
E				1	0		1*										2	13
F		1	1				1	0									3	14
G						1	1	1				1		1			5	16
H											0	1		1			2	13
I											1			1			2	13
J							1		1	1							3	14
K							1	1	1	1		1			1		6	17
L									1	1			1		1		4	15
M													0			1	1	12
N													1		1	1	3	14
O		1				1											2	13
P															1		1	12
																	42	218

Blank = GMA is not located within regional planning area

0 = GMA located within regional planning area, but no GCD overlaps the GMA within the regional planning area

1 = GMA located within the regional planning area, and a GCD overlaps the GMA within the regional planning area (new GMA representative required)

* Subject to confirmation election

Table 2: GCDs from which each of the GMA representatives could be selected



Region	GMA	Potential Representative Groundwater Conservation Districts
A	1	Hemphill County UWCD
		High Plains UWCD No.1
		Panhandle GCD
		North Plains GCD
	6	Gateway GCD
		Mesquite GCD
B	6	Gateway GCD
		Rolling Plains GCD
	8	Upper Trinity GCD
C	6	No GCDs currently overlap Region C and GMA 6
	8	Northern Trinity GCD
		North Texas GCD
		Prairelands GCD
		Red River GCD
		Upper Trinity GCD
	11	Neches & Trinity Valleys GCD
12	Mid-East Texas GCD	
D	8	No GCDs currently overlap Region D and GMA 8
	11	Harrison County GCD
E	4	Brewster County GCD
		Culberson County GCD
		Hudspeth County UWCD No. 1
		Jeff Davis County UWCD
		Presidio County UWCD
	5	No GCDs currently overlap Region E and GMA 5
7	Terrell County GCD*	
F	2	Permian Basin UWCD
	3	Middle Pecos GCD
	7	Coke County UWCD
		Crockett County GCD
		Glasscock GCD
		Hickory UWCD No. 1
		Irion County WCD
		Kimble County GCD
		Lipan-Kickapoo WCD
		Lone Wolf GCD
		Menard County UWD
		Middle Pecos GCD
		Plateau UWC and Supply District
		Santa Rita UWCD
		Sterling County UWCD
	Sutton County UWCD	
8	No GCDs currently overlap Region F and GMA 8	

Region	GMA	Potential Representative Groundwater Conservation Districts
G	6	Clear Fork GCD
		Rolling Plains GCD
	7	Wes-Tex GCD
	8	Clearwater UWCD
		Middle Trinity GCD
		Post Oak Savannah GCD
		Prairelands GCD
		Saratoga UWCD
		Southern Trinity GCD
		Upper Trinity GCD
	12	Brazos Valley GCD
		Lost Pines GCD
		Post Oak Savannah GCD
	14	Bluebonnet GCD
Brazos Valley GCD		
H	11	No GCDs currently overlap Region H and GMA 11
	12	Mid-East Texas GCD
	14	Bluebonnet GCD
		Brazoria County GCD
		Fort Bend Subsidence District
		Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District
		Lone Star GCD
Lower Trinity GCD		
I	11	Anderson County UWCD
		Neches & Trinity Valleys GCD
		Panola County GCD
		Pineywoods GCD
		Rusk County GCD
	14	Lower Trinity GCD
Southeast Texas GCD		
J	7	Kinney County GCD
		Real-Edwards C and R District
	9	Bandera County River Authority & Ground Water District
		Headwaters GCD
10	Kinney County GCD	
K	7	Hickory UWCD No. 1
		Hill Country UWCD
	8	Central Texas GCD
		Fox Crossing Water District
	9	Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer CD
		Blanco-Pedernales GCD
		Hays Trinity GCD
	10	Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer CD
		Edwards Aquifer Authority
		Hays Trinity GCD
	12	Fayette County GCD
		Lost Pines GCD
	15	Coastal Bend GCD
		Coastal Plains GCD
Colorado County GCD		
Fayette County GCD		

Region	GMA	Potential Representative Groundwater Conservation Districts
L	9	Cow Creek GCD
		Edwards Aquifer Authority
		Hays Trinity GCD
		Trinity Glen Rose GCD
	10	Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer CD
		Edwards Aquifer Authority
		Guadalupe County GCD
		Plum Creek CD
	13	Edwards Aquifer Authority
		Evergreen UWCD
		Gonzales County UWCD
		Guadalupe County GCD
		Medina County GCD
		Plum Creek CD
		Uvalde County UWCD
		Wintergarden GCD
	15	Evergreen UWCD
		Calhoun County GCD*
		Goliad County GCD
		Pecan Valley GCD
Refugio GCD		
Victoria County GCD		
M	13	No GCDs currently overlap Region M and GMA 13
	16	Brush Country GCD
		Kenedy County GCD
		Red Sands GCD
		Starr County GCD
N	13	McMullen GCD
	15	Bee GCD
	16	Bee GCD
		Brush Country GCD
		Corpus Christi ASRCD
		Duval County GCD
		Kenedy County GCD
		Live Oak UWCD
		McMullen GCD
	San Patricio County GCD	
O	2	Garza County UWCD
		High Plains UWCD No.1
		Llano Estacado UWCD
		Mesa UWCD
		Sandy Land UWCD
		South Plains UWCD
	6	Gateway GCD
P	15	Coastal Bend GCD
		Lavaca County GCD
		Texana GCD

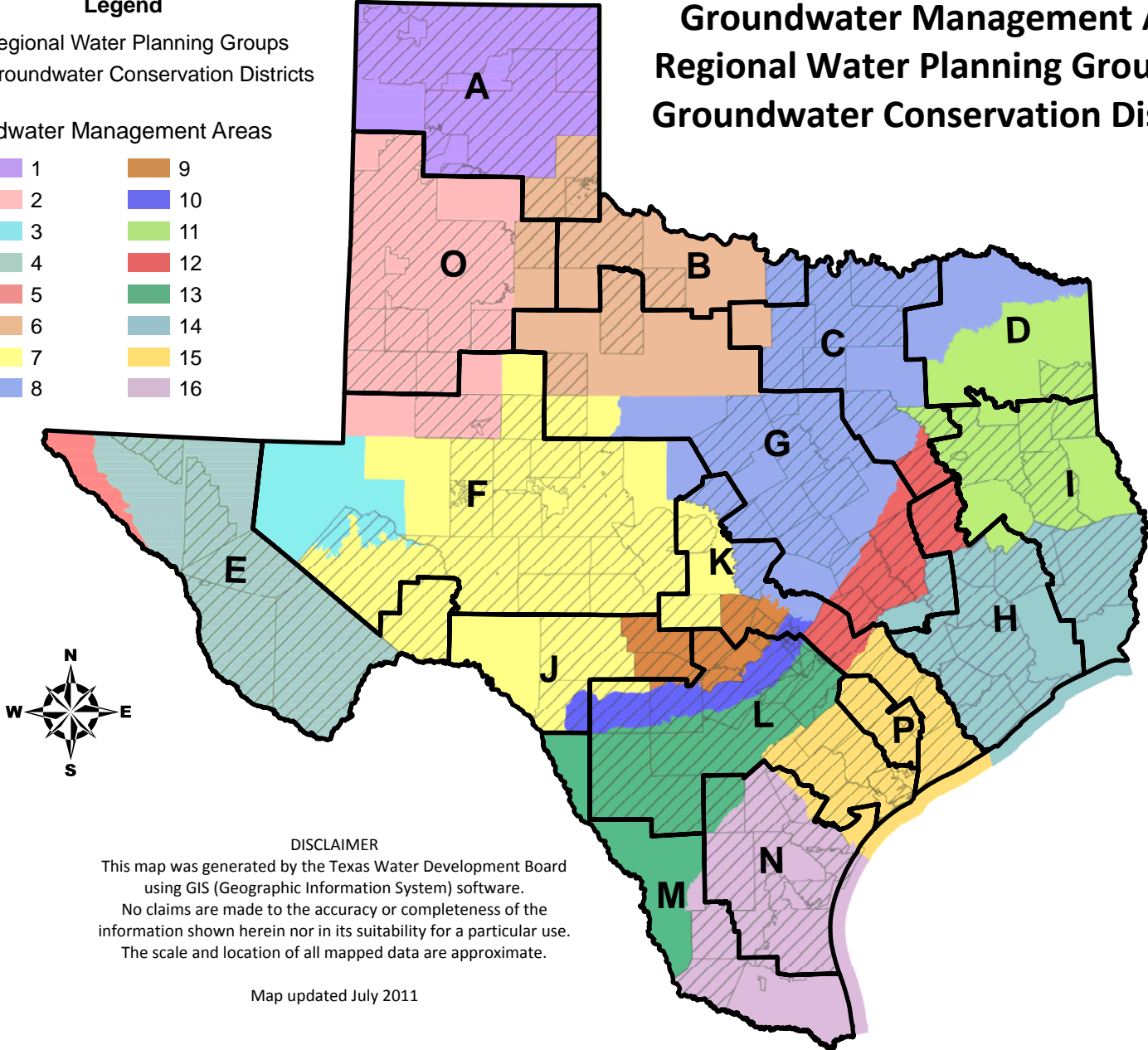
* Subject to confirmation election.

Groundwater Management Areas, Regional Water Planning Groups, and Groundwater Conservation Districts*

- Legend**
-  Regional Water Planning Groups
 -  Groundwater Conservation Districts

Groundwater Management Areas

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  1 |  9 |
|  2 |  10 |
|  3 |  11 |
|  4 |  12 |
|  5 |  13 |
|  6 |  14 |
|  7 |  15 |
|  8 |  16 |



DISCLAIMER

This map was generated by the Texas Water Development Board using GIS (Geographic Information System) software. No claims are made to the accuracy or completeness of the information shown herein nor in its suitability for a particular use. The scale and location of all mapped data are approximate.

Map updated July 2011

*Includes Terrell County and Calhoun County GCDs which remain subject to confirmation elections