

Region K Initial Consideration of Public Input on Planning Process for 5th Cycle

Region K responsibility (Y1 - Y27):

#	RWP Task	Topic	Organization	RWP Timeframe	Supporting arguments	Responsibility	Will Region K Consider for 2021 RWP Inclusion?
Y1	Overall Planning Process	RWPG should adopt and apply a set of guiding principles to serve as a blueprint for long-term water sustainability	Hill Country Alliance	2016- 2017	Core principles maintain clarity of mission and inform the process.	Region K	Yes, Hill Country Alliance will draft and submit to Reg K for consideration
Y2	Overall Planning Process	Recommendations for future planning in Chapter 8 will be presented and reviewed in each appropriate chapter; Would like confirmation that IPP Review comments will be considered in 2021 Region K planning and assume they will be presented and reviewed in each appropriate chapter; Recommend all comments in the IPP list and Chapter 8 be combined into one list and organized by Chapter and Time order to create a review checklist for the RWPG	Donna Klaeger	2016-2020		Region K (Not a TWDB requirement, though)	Yes
Y3	Regional Planning Description	Add discussion to Chapter 1 of the climate-related differences, drivers and impacts across the Colorado River Basin within Region K, particularly the Balcones Escarpment where the Gulf Coastal Plains transition into the Texas Hill Country	David Lindsay; Central Texas Water Coalition	By end of 2019	Provides important context for influences on future water supplies and availability	Region K	Yes
Y4	Regional Planning Description	Chapter 1 does not provide a basin wide economic review. Recommend replacing Chapter 1 with a complete review of the Colorado River Basin economic status	Donna Klaeger	By end of 2019	Refer to Region F complete economic review by county of its region.	Region K	Yes, Region K will consider modifying current Chapter 1 section to include data similar to Region F plan.
Y5	Population and Demand Projections	Review methodology and assumptions behind generating agricultural irrigation demands	Central Texas Water Coalition/ Kevin Klein	Fall 2016 / Spring 2017	Use of three different irrigation demand data sets (1992-2011, 2000-2011 and 2009) is inconsistent, irrigated acres and water use/acre not considered in demand calculations, historical use numbers may not reflect accurately reflect future use	Region K	Yes

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Not Region K responsibility, but Region K may consider (M1 - M13)

Not Region K responsibility and Region K will not consider (N1 - N7)

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Y6	Population and Demand Projections	Believe the Domestic and Livestock demands are understated.	No Colorado River Dam	Fall 2016 / Spring 2017	Been told that D&L demand is determined by various indirect methods. Why not identify the number of D&L users, apply a reasonable projection of demand, and list it as a separate WUG in the projections? Currently these estimates are buried somewhere in Livestock and/or County-Other. Why not be clear about these needs?	Region K	Yes
Y7	Population and Demand Projections and Water Availability	Incorporate consideration of climate change and thus climate uncertainty into both our supply and demand planning.	City of Austin - Austin Water	2016-2018	Including discussion of these items early in the process could strengthen our approach to drought planning and overall preparedness for a range of climate conditions.	Region K	Yes, City of Austin Water Utility will share data
Y8	Water Availability	Reassess firm yield calculations for Lakes Buchanan and Travis	Central Texas Water Coalition; Joe Don Dockery (Burnet County Commissioner)	By September 2018	LCRA will be operating under a new water management plan as of 2016, which will create the need to update firm supply as well as other aspects of the plan.	Region K	Yes
Y9	Water Availability	Incorporate as much as possible extended hydrology for WAM modeling into our planning (including naturalized hydrology data for 2014 and beyond).	City of Austin - Austin Water	2017-2018	Including discussion of these items early in the process could strengthen our approach to drought planning and overall preparedness for a range of climate conditions.	Region K (if data is available)	Yes, if available
Y10	Water Management Strategies	The total volume of yield from recommended WMS should be similar to or equal to the volume needed to meet water shortages	Sierra Club/ NWF/ Environment Texas/ Hill Country Alliance	Spring-Fall 2018	RWPs are reworked every 5 yrs, amendment process is straightforward, alternate water strategy category already exists	Region K	Yes
Y11	Water Management Strategies	Adopt policy change to make conservation goals more aggressive for WUGS with GPCD between 140 and 200.	Sierra Club/ NWF/ Environment Texas/ Hill Country Alliance	Spring-Fall 2018	2012 Region K Plan had this stronger water conservation recommendation, 140 gpcd is attainable (ex. Austin)	Region K	Yes
Y12	Water Management Strategies	Include wider breadth of discussion regarding the necessity of flood irrigation as the main irrigation method; Include additional WMS for agricultural irrigation as supported by research and application in other communities	Central Texas Water Coalition	By end of 2019	Alternatives to flood irrigation should be discussed as well as a wider breadth of management techniques to make flood irrigation more efficient. Innovative water management strategies for agricultural irrigation such as drip irrigation and use of brackish groundwater were not included in the 2016 Region K water plan	Region K	Yes
Y13	Water Management Strategies	Include more detailed discussion in Chapter 5 on feasibility/legality of enhanced recharge water management strategy	Central Texas Water Coalition	By end of 2019	This is a complicated concept and should be vetted further.	Region K	Yes

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Y14	Water Management Strategies	Revisit quantification of savings for on-farm sprinkler irrigation water management strategy and assumptions behind savings	LCRA	Fall 2018- Fall 2019	Based on a survey conducted for LCRA through UT, only 25% of Lakeside farmers flush as a standard practice before holding a permanent flood. Including artificially high savings for this strategy makes it seem more cost effective than most other strategies with that may not be the case.	Region K	Yes
Y15	Water Management Strategies	Work with NRCS to modify potential irrigated acreage where on-farm strategies can be adopted to include groundwater areas, not just LCRA's service areas	LCRA- new comment	Spring- Fall 2019	Current adoption rates are only based on LCRA's service area and are therefore under- estimated	Region K	Yes
Y16	Water Management Strategies	Revisit City of Wharton water supply strategy to adopt as a recommended or alternative strategy	City of Wharton	Spring-Fall 2018	This strategy was included in the 2016 Region K Plan as a considered but not recommended or alternative strategy due to the late timing of submittal to the RWPG and the lack of feasibility studies.	Region K	Yes
Y17	Water Management Strategies	Prioritize and encourage water neutral decentralized systems that capture, use and reuse water in place.	Hill Country Alliance	Spring-Fall 2018	19th Century transmission pipeline infrastructure systems encourage waste and the de- watering of one region at the expense of another.	Region K	Yes
Y18	Water Management Strategies	Promote dredging of the Highland Lakes by LCRA to increase the capacity of the lakes.	Joe Don Dockery (Burnet County Commissioner), Donna Klaeger	Spring- Fall 2019	By TWDB's estimation, the Highland Lakes have lost 155,000 to 175,000 acre/feet of permitted storage to siltation since their construction. Keeping in mind this lost storage is already permitted. It simply needs to be reclaimed.	Region K	Yes, will consider as a strategy
Y19	Water Management Strategies	Region K should establish rules that make it clear that if a water user proposes a project, it is the RWPG's responsibility to include the project in the plan subject to any concerns or issues raised by opponents of the project. The rules should clarify that Region K is not a regulatory agency and should not "decide" whether a project should be approved, but rather should evaluate and analyze those strategies put forward.	City of Goldthwaite	Spring-Fall 2018	The City of Goldthwaite's in-channel dam project was removed from the 2016 Plan as a recommended strategy.	Region K	N/A; projects that provide no water supply during a drought of record do not meet TWDB guidelines for inclusion in regional water planning

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Y20	Water Management Strategies	Concern regarding Hays County Pipeline project	Barbara Hopson, Wimberley resident	Spring- Fall 2019	According to the State Plan's own reckoning, the Wimberley area will not need additional water until 2040 at the earliest, although the Dripping Springs area needs additional water immediately because the City of Dripping Springs continues to approve plats for enormous subdivisions for which there is insufficient water available.	Region K	Yes
Y21	Water Management Strategies	Consider more rainwater harvesting as a strategy for the Region	TBD	Spring- Fall 2019		Region K	Yes
Y22	Water Management Strategies and Policy Recommendations	Policy recommendation for each WUG to consider alternative supplies such as reuse and rainwater in addition to water conservation before adopting large infrastructure projects to import water long distances	Hill Country Alliance	Spring-Fall 2018	Conservation and re- use are more economical than building large infrastructure at public expense so that a few user groups can consume large amounts of water on discretionary uses.	Region K	Yes, but not as a policy
Y23	Water Management Strategies (Environmental Impacts)	Evaluate cumulative impacts of new WMS on instream flows	Sierra Club/ NWF	Spring- Fall 2019	multiple new downstream surface storage, direct/indirect reuse and full use of water rights can have cumulative impacts on instream flows	Region K	Yes
Y24	Water Management Strategies (Ch 5) and Implementation (Ch 11)	Apply quantifiable targets and metrics for water conservation to all water user groups, not just municipal	Central Texas Water Coalition/ Kevin Klein; Donna Klaeger	Spring-Fall 2018	Consistency is needed across water user groups to quantify conservation goals and track progress toward goals	Region K	Yes, if data is available
Y25	Policy Recommendation	Request the RWPG discuss a request to study to understand the hydrology for low inflows and a study to provide a current firm yield from the Highland Lakes, so that we are dealing with verified yields in this plan	Donna Klaeger	2016-2017		Region K	Yes
Y26	Consultant Procurement	Recommends Region K use an RFQ process to select a consultant.	Jordan Furnans, LRE Water LLC	Fall 2020 - Spring 2021	n/a	Region K	N/A
Y27	Water Supply and Water Management Strategies	Describe process to determine environmental water needs and results/recommendations (SB3 process)	Sierra Club/ NWF	2019	Region K acknowledges that environmental water needs are important and should be included in the plan, but it is not in our purview to recommend strategies to meet those needs at this time.	Region K	Yes

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#	RWP Task	Topic	Organization	RWP Timeframe	Supporting arguments	Responsibility	Will Region K Consider for 2021 RWP Inclusion?
M1	Overall Planning Process	Strengthen collaborations with allies, state agencies, universities, and other planning groups	No Colorado River Dam	2016-2020	There are many ways that allies in the region, including state agencies and universities, as well as other planning groups, can come together to identify ways to improve the vitality of the river. Particular concern about the health of the river near The Biological Field Station at the Timberlake Ranch and Colorado Bend State Park.	Not Region K responsibility, but individual members can act if they so choose	Potentially, using no TWDB funds. Educational field trip may be an idea for Region K members
M2	Regional Planning Description and Water Management Strategies	Address distribution and conveyance system water loss for agricultural irrigation water users	Central Texas Water Coalition	Spring- Fall 2019	Water loss is addressed for municipal water user groups in Chapter and therefore should be addressed for agricultural water user groups as well.	TWDB	Region K will request data, if available
M3	Population and Demand Projections	Revision of population and water demand estimates should go through a formal public comment process	Hill Country Alliance	Fall 2016 / Spring 2017	This will make the revision process more transparent	TWDB (process already in place)	Yes
M4	Water Availability	Assumptions used in Water Availability models regarding demand seem unreasonable.	No Colorado River Dam	By September 2018	Under DOR conditions, it seems impossible that 100% of authorized demand would be available to all permit holders. Those who live on the Colorado River realize that the river can't deliver 100% of demand under what has become "new normal" conditions. Why not statistically validate the model using past projections with documented actuals? If we can get the assumptions and the models right, we'll be able to make wiser decisions.	TWDB / TCEQ	Region K will look at as part of modeling assumptions
M5	Water Management Strategies	Address how to include distribution- side extensions of reuse projects as viable recommended water management strategies that have associated project costs	LCRA -new comment	2016-2017	There are several municipalities around the highland lakes that have active reuse programs that do not have associated costs in the 2016 regional water plan due to lack of information or that they are extensions of existing reuse lines. This is an important strategy that needs to be included as a viable WMS in the water planning process	TWDB	Will look for guidance from TWDB; may be considered as a Chapter 8 recommendation
M6	Water Management Strategies/ Conservation and Policy Recommendations	Encourage WUGs within Region K to develop more uniform conservation oriented management plans	Hill Country Alliance	Spring- Fall 2019	Conservation and re- use are more economical than building large infrastructure at public expense so that a few user groups can consume large amounts of water on discretionary uses.	TCEQ	Hill Country Alliance can provide information for Region K to consider

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M7	Drought Response (Chapter 7)	Include information pertaining to extended drought-related climatology cycles and historical extended drought cycles that have been more severe than the Drought of Record, should be incorporated in this planning cycle	David Lindsay	By March 2020	This information could provide valuable insights and context to consider regarding the question of whether our current water planning processes are sufficiently responsive and protective	N/A	If data is available
M8	Policy Recommendation	Authorize study on the relationship between groundwater level elevations and spring-flow rates in hill country rivers	Hill Country Alliance	2016-2017	The relationship between groundwater level elevations and spring-flow rates in most hill country rivers is poorly understood. Few monitoring wells exist that can provide continuous water level readings and this data has not been compared to spring flows	N/A	If data is available
M9	Policy Recommendation	Advocate to lift the discharge ban for the Highland Lakes	Joe Don Dockery (Burnet County Commissioner), Donna Klaeger	By March 2020	The currently available wastewater treatments can equal or surpass the water quality levels of naturally occurring water sources and should be included in returns to the water storage facilities.	Individual stakeholders; Region K (Chapter 8 policy recommendation only)	Yes, consider as part of Chapter 8
M10	Policy Recommendation	Request TCEQ to expand the permitted uses of "purple pipe" (treated effluent) water by municipalities to relieve the pressure on our existing raw water sources.	Joe Don Dockery (Burnet County Commissioner)	By March 2020	n/a	Individual stakeholders; Region K (Chapter 8 policy recommendation only)	Yes, consider as part of Chapter 8
M11	Policy Recommendation	Ask LCRA to reexamine the impacts of the Non-point Source Pollution Ordinance on inflows to the water storage system.	Joe Don Dockery (Burnet County Commissioner)	By March 2020	The Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance is too aggressive in its capture of runoff from impervious cover construction, therefore withholding inflows. The requirements are also an impediment to new commercial growth in the Highland Lakes area from an added cost of construction aspect.	Individual stakeholders; Region K (Chapter 8 policy recommendation only)	Yes, consider as part of Chapter 8
M12	Unique Stream Segments	Region K recommend designation of the ten streams identified as warranting further study for consideration as unique stream segments be designated by the 2017 Legislature	Hill Country Alliance	2016 to be addressed in 2017 session	Increases visibility, ecological and economic value of particular stream segments	State Legislature	Include the same ten in Chapter 8 as previous plans
M13	Overall Planning Process	Focus on the health of the river	No Colorado River Dam	2016-2020	Because the Colorado River is the lifeblood of Region K, we suggest the RWPG start with an intensely fresh focus on the health of the river and the controllable conditions in the river basin that affect water quality and availability.	TCEQ / State Legislature	Region K considers environmental flow and water quality issues as part of the strategy evaluation process

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N1	Population and Demand Projections	Include environmental water needs as water user groups	Sierra Club/ NWF/ Environment Texas/ Central Texas Water Coalition	2016	Formalizing a process to include environmental water needs as a water user group will ensure that water needs for instream flows are accounted for just like any other water user category	State Legislature / TWDB	No, refer to Y27 for additional information related to environmental water needs
N2	Population and Demand Projections	Include the protection of recreational use as a formal category of use to be planned for	Central Texas Water Coalition	2016		State Legislature / TWDB	No, but the plan will continue to include discussion related to recreation and its importance to the Region
N3	Water Management Strategies	Include water pricing as a water management strategy for all water user groups	Central Texas Water Coalition / Frank Cooley; Donna Klaeger	Spring-Fall 2018	Tiered pricing is a proven, cost-effective water management strategy	Water wholesalers and retailers	No, however Region K could consider including a Chapter 8 recommendation regarding water pricing
N4	Water Management Strategies	Implore LCRA to increase the "full" lake level of Lake Buchanan from 1018 msl to 1020 msl.	Joe Don Dockery (Burnet County Commissioner), Donna Klaeger	Spring- Fall 2019	This additional storage capacity would equate to approximately 45,000 acre/feet of increased raw water, or 5,000 acre/feet more than the LCRA Lane City reservoir currently under construction. With the addition of lifts at each individual gate on Buchanan Dam and the installation of the Hydromet warning system, this can be a reality in the very near future.	LCRA	No
N5	Drought Response (Chapter 7)	Include a more comprehensive drought plan for LCRA's irrigation districts	Central Texas Water Coalition	By March 2020	Drought planning should be addressed equally across all water user groups	LCRA	Refer to LCRA
N6	Policy Recommendation	Clarify TCEQ Rule TAC 295.16 so that TCEQ would have a defensible basis to cease processing an application which was specifically omitted from the Water Plan.	No Colorado River Dam	2016	Region K did not include the Goldthwaite In-Channel Dam project as a recommended strategy in the 2016 RWP, but proponents continue to suggest the dam is justified and TCEQ spends public resources to process the permit application.	TCEQ	No
N7	Unique Stream Segments	Add additional unique stream segments to the Region K list for cycle 5	Hill Country Alliance	By March 2020	Increases visibility, ecological and economic value of particular stream segments	State Legislature	No

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