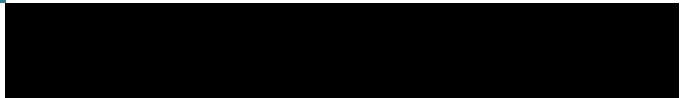




# 10

## *Public Participation and Plan Adoption*

*[31 TAC § 357.12;  
31 TAC § 357.21;  
31 TAC § 357.50;  
31 TAC § 358.3]*



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# Chapter 10: Public Participation and Plan Adoption

## 10.1 Public Involvement Program

The public involvement program was incorporated at the onset of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group (CBRWPG) water planning process in order to maximize the opportunity for public review and input into the process of developing the water plan as well as providing comments on the Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan.

The public involvement program included:

- An opportunity at all regional water planning group meetings for the public to comment on any aspect of the plan or planning process;
- Press releases and notices of public meetings; and
- Dedicated website for CBRWPG information.
- **Public Hearing for the Initially Prepared Plan was held on May 15, 2025 at Nueces River Authority offices (500 IH69, Suite 805) in Robstown, TX.**
- **Public Hearing for Adoption of the Final Plan will be held on September 11, 2025 at Nueces River Authority offices (500 IH69, Suite 805) in Robstown, TX.**

See Nueces River Authority website for additional details, in accordance with statutory posting notice requirements: <https://www.coastalbend-rwpq.org/>

The CBRWPG conducted all business in meetings that were posted according to Texas Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act provisions. The plan was developed in accordance with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) public participation requirements specified in 31 TAC §357.12, §357.21, and §357.50(f).

## 10.2 Coordination with Wholesale and Major Water Providers

Information was provided by wholesale water providers located in the Coastal Bend Planning Region throughout development of the plan. Wholesale water providers (WWPs) were contacted to confirm water supplies and future water supply plans prior to identifying feasible water management strategies. Furthermore, wholesale water providers were provided water supply plan information from the technical consultant for review and comment prior to providing to the CBRWPG for consideration.

Emails were sent to water user groups (WUGs) and WWPs in November 2023, January 2024, and February 2024 with follow-up phone calls to gather information on potentially feasible water management strategies to evaluate for the *2026 Coastal Bend Regional Water Plan*. In the fall 2024, HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) received requests from the City of Corpus Christi, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, and City of Mathis on new water management strategies that they

would like considered in the Coastal Bend Region plan. In response, the CBRWPG agreed on an approach at the December 12, 2024, meeting that placeholders for new water management strategies in the early stages of development would be included in the Initially Prepared Plan if full evaluations could not be completed in time. In January and February 2025, additional request of four new water management strategies were received which included one new water management strategy for the City of Corpus Christi, one new strategy by the City of Beeville, and two new water management strategies for the South Texas Water Authority (STWA).

Representatives from water supply entities within the CBRWPG were also regularly notified of all CBRWPG meetings and public informational meetings.

## 10.3 Rural Outreach

The CBRWPG held a rural community and water utility workshop on January 26, 2024. A Region N survey was sent to rural water user groups on November 19, 2024 to gather input on water supplies and contract relationships, water supply challenges, current water supply plans and future projects under consideration. The survey remained open until February 1, 2025. The following six water utilities sent back survey responses: River Acres Water Supply Corporation, City of Mathis, City of Beeville, City of Portland, City of Orange Grove, and Nueces County WCID No. 3. The survey results are included in Table 10-1 and Table 10-2.

The following entities were sent a survey by email, but no responses were received:

- Aransas County
- Bee County
- Duval County
- Jim Wells County
- Kleberg County
- McMullen County
- Nueces County
- San Patricio County
- City of Agua Dulce
- City of Alice
- City of Aransas Pass
- City of Benavides
- City of Bishop
- City of Driscoll
- City of Falfurrias
- City of Freer
- City of George West
- City of Gregory
- City of Ingleside
- City of Kingsville
- City of Odem
- Port Aransas
- City of Premont
- City of Robstown
- City of Rockport
- City of Sinton
- City of Taft
- City of Three Rivers
- El Oso WSC



**Table 10-1.**  
**Rural Outreach General Survey Results**

Survey 1: General						
Name	Rodriguez, Kaylee	Davis Sr., Cedric	Benson, John	Wright, Randy	Salazar, Raul	Castaneda, Hector
City or Municipal Entity that you Represent:	River Acres Water Supply	Mathis	City of Beeville	Portland	Orange Grove	Nueces County WCID No. 3
Your role/position	Office Manager	City Manager	City Manager	City Manager	Public Works Director	Engineer
Your email address	rawscorp@stx.rr.com	c.davissr@cityofmathis.com	john.benson@beevilletx.org	randy.wright@portlandtx.gov	<a href="mailto:r.salazar@ogtx.us">r.salazar@ogtx.us</a>	hcastaneda@ardurra.com
Your direct phone number	(361) 387-2614	(461) 547-3343	(361) 358-4641	(361) 877-0007	(361) 271-5686	(361) 960-1166
Population served by your city/municipal water entity:	2500.00	4,600	13,669	25,000	1,170	15900
Water supply is from:	Groundwater	Both	Both	Surface Water	Groundwater	Surface Water
Water supplies are:	Purchased from another water provider	Both	Both	Purchased from another water provider	Self-supplied	Purchased from another water provider
If purchased from another water provider, who?	Nueces County Water Control and Improvement District #3	CCW	City of Corpus Christi	SPMWD		TCEQ Water Right Permit Nueces River
Do you experience any of the following water supply challenges? (check all that apply)	No specific concerns (only check this box if none are selected above)	High water loss (old infrastructure) - Growing water demands but not enough current supply - Water quality concerns - Costs of existing supplies are increasing and becoming too high	High water loss (old infrastructure) - Water quality concerns - Costs of existing supplies are increasing and becoming too high	Growing water demands but not enough current supply	High water loss (old infrastructure)	No specific concerns (only check this box if none are selected above)
Please indicate if your entity is CONSIDERING potential new ... >> New Source >> Insert Details		Reactivate Well Water Usage as a secondary source of water	Wells			
Please indicate if your entity is CONSIDERING potential new ... >> Quantity (Acre-Feet/Year or MGD) >> Insert Details		350000 MGD	5 MGD			
Please indicate if your entity is CONSIDERING potential new ... >> Addl. New Source >> Insert Details						
Please indicate if your entity is CONSIDERING potential new ... >> Addl. Quantity (Acre-Feet/Year or MGD) >> Insert Details						
Please indicate if your entity is ACTIVELY PURSUING potentia... >> New Source >> Insert Details		Reactivate Well Water Usage as a secondary source of water				



Survey 1: General						
Name	Rodriguez, Kaylee	Davis Sr., Cedric	Benson, John	Wright, Randy	Salazar, Raul	Castaneda, Hector
Please indicate if your entity is ACTIVELY PURSUING potentia... >> Quantity (Acre-Feet/Year or MGD) >> Insert Details		600000 MGD				
Please indicate if your entity is ACTIVELY PURSUING potentia... >> Addl. New Source >> Insert Details						
Please indicate if your entity is ACTIVELY PURSUING potentia... >> Addl. Quantity (Acre-Feet/Year or MGD) >> Insert Details						
Please indicate if your entity is ACTIVELY PURSUING potentia... >> Addl. New Source >> Insert Details						
Please indicate if your entity is ACTIVELY PURSUING potentia... >> Addl. Quantity (Acre-Feet/Year or MGD) >> Insert Details 2						
Is your entity pursuing any of the following water sources in the future? (check all that apply)	None of the above (only check this box if none are selected above)	Brackish groundwater desalination	Brackish groundwater desalination	None of the above (only check this box if none are selected above)	None of the above (only check this box if none are selected above)	None of the above (only check this box if none are selected above)
Do you have a water conservation plan?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If yes, what date was it adopted?	April, 2021	1980's	2024	2013		October 8, 2019
Do you have a drought contingency plan?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If yes, what date was it adopted?	July 11, 2024	2024	2024	2010		May 12, 2021
Do you follow another entity's drought contingency provisions as part of your water supply contract?						
If yes, who?						



Survey 1: General						
Name	Rodriguez, Kaylee	Davis Sr., Cedric	Benson, John	Wright, Randy	Salazar, Raul	Castaneda, Hector
Please select efforts your utility is taking to prepare for future drought conditions (check all that apply):	Emergency connections - Restrict non-essential water use during severe drought - Implementation of drought plan or water restrictions	Maximum permitted amounts - Restrict non-essential water use during severe drought - Replacement of aging infrastructure - Implementation of drought plan or water restrictions	Restrict non-essential water use during severe drought - Implementation of drought plan or water restrictions	Maximum permitted amounts - Restrict non-essential water use during severe drought - Replacement of aging infrastructure - Implementation of drought plan or water restrictions	Restrict non-essential water use during severe drought - Replacement of aging infrastructure - Implementation of drought plan or water restrictions	Replacement of aging infrastructure
What measures does your utility take to prepare for emergency water supply needs? (check all that apply)	Emergency interconnections	Reduce water rights - Local groundwater well - Use brackish groundwater with limited treatment - Brackish groundwater desalination	Release from upstream reservoir		None listed above (only check this box if none are selected above)	Release from upstream reservoir
Does your entity currently have emergency water supply connections?	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
If yes, with whom?	City of Corpus Christi					
Is your entity considering developing new or additional emergency connections?	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
If yes, with whom? 2		NA				
Are there implementation challenges that have prevented your entity from developing emergency connections? (check all that apply)	No implementation challenges		Infrastructure needed - Haven't identified an entity to provide supply	Haven't identified an entity to provide supply	Haven't identified an entity to provide supply	Haven't identified an entity to provide supply





**Table 10-2.**  
**Rural Outreach Industrial Water Users Survey Results**

Survey 2: Industrial Water Users				
<b>Name</b>	Villenas, Diane	Baggett, Aaron	Coleman, Maegan	Almaraz, Joe
<b>Type of industry that you represent</b>	Construction	Chemical Manufacturing	Crude Terminal	Refining
<b>Your role/position</b>	Environmental Manager	Environmental Manager	Environmental Manager	Director, Health, Safety & Environmental
<b>Your email address</b>	diana.villenas@kiewit.com	Aron_Baggett@oxy.com	maegan.coleman@enbridge.com	joe.almaraz@valero.com
<b>Your direct phone number</b>	(361) 244-1270	(361) 776-6395	(361) 677-3489	(361) 289-6000
<b>I would like the name of the industry and/or my personal information to be confidential and not included in the regional planning documents released to the public</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Current water use (Specify acre-feet/year or MGD):</b>		7.85 MGD	26,184,600 gallons/year	~7.5 MGD
<b>Water supply for your industry/company comes from:</b>	Surface Water	Surface Water	Surface Water	Surface Water
<b>Water supplies are:</b>	Purchased from another water provider	Purchased from another water provider	Purchased from another water provider	Purchased from another water provider
<b>If purchased from another water provider, who?</b>	City of Ingleside	San Patricio Municipal Water District	City of Ingleside	City of Corpus Christi
<b>What best management practices has your industry implemented to reduce water use during drought? (check all that apply)</b>	Eliminate non-essential water use	Eliminate non-essential water use - Increase number of cycles for cooling water - On-site reuse	Eliminate non-essential water use	Eliminate non-essential water use - Increase number of cycles for cooling water - On-site reuse
<b>During drought, approximately how much of a reduction in overall water use is achieved? (please select that which describes your system best)</b>	<10 percent saved	<10 percent saved	<10 percent saved	15-20% saved
<b>Does your industry/company have its own drought contingency plan (in addition to the plans held by the City of Corpus Christi or San Patricio Municipal Water Districts?)</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>What voluntary water supply best management practices has your facility considered or would consider in the future to reduce water use? (Check all that apply. Please note this is voluntary and does not have any enforcement.)</b>	Management and employee education programs - Industrial facility landscaping	Industrial water audit - Industrial water waste reduction - Industrial submetering - Cooling Tower - Stormwater runoff (capture onsite) - Alternative cooling water technologies - Industrial Alternative Sources, Reuse, and Recirculation of Process Water - Retrofits and process improvements - Increase cooling cycles - Management and employee education programs - Industrial facility landscaping - Industrial site-specific conservation	Industrial site-specific conservation	Industrial Alternative Sources, Reuse, and Recirculation of Process Water - Increase cooling cycles
<b>If you selected Alternative cooling water technologies above, please check the applicable practices below.</b>		Thermosyphon hybrid cooling - Hygroscopic cooling tower		



Survey 2: Industrial Water Users				
Name	Villenas, Diane	Baggett, Aaron	Coleman, Maegan	Almaraz, Joe
If you selected Retrofits and process improvements above, please check the applicable practices below.		Rinsing/cleaning - Water Treatment - Boiler and Steam Systems - Refrigeration		
Does your industry have plans within the next five years to implement future projects (on-site and/or process related) to achieve further water savings and water demand reductions?	No	Yes	No	Yes
If yes, list the projects being considered AND estimated water savings.		Changing water source at SPMWD to provide higher quality water to cooling towers to allow higher cycles and reduced blowdown, resulting in 69 million gallons water savings per year.		Continue to optimize reverse osmosis and boiler operations to minimize water consumption.



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## 10.4 Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group Meetings

The CBRWPG regularly met in accordance with the approved bylaws. The CBRWPG met on a more frequent basis as needed in order to facilitate and direct the water planning of the region. The following is a summary of the meetings associated with development of the 2026 regional water plan.

### Coastal Bend RWPG Meetings

- February 4, 2021
- July 1, 2021
- October 7, 2021
- August 4, 2022
- March 3, 2022
- January 26, 2023
- May 18, 2023
- October 12, 2023
- January 26, 2024
- February 22, 2024
- May 16, 2024
- October 17, 2024
- December 12, 2024
- January 30, 2025
- February 27, 2025
- May 15, 2025
- June 19, 2025
- September 11, 2025\*

\*Future meetings.

The CBRWPG requested that the TWDB execute the initial contract to develop the 2026 Coastal Bend Regional (Region N) Water Plan on February 4, 2021. Consistent with by-laws, the CBRWPG elected not to re-procure for the 2026 planning cycle and selected HDR as the technical consultant for development of the 2026 regional water plan.

The CBRWPG executive committee was appointed on March 3, 2022, consisting of Scott Bledsoe (co-chair), Dr. Pancho Hubert (co-chair), Lonnie Stewart (secretary), Tom Reding (member-at-large), Joe Almaraz (member-at-large).

The CBRWPG held a pre-planning public meeting on October 7, 2021, to obtain public input on development of the 2026 regional water plan.

The CBRWPG adopted the process to identify potentially feasible water management strategies on October 12, 2023.

On January 26, 2023, the CBRWPG discussed identifying infeasible water management strategies recommended in the 2021 regional water plan. The CBRWPG on October 12, 2023 requested to keep all strategies included in the 2021 regional water plan as responses were not received from WUG or sponsor that projects were infeasible.

The CBRWPG accepted public and wholesale water provider input on potentially feasible water management strategies at the CBRWPG meeting on January 25, 2024, and at a water utility workshop on January 26, 2024. The CBRWPG approved water management strategies for evaluation in the 2026 regional water plan on May 16, 2024.

The CBRWPG chose no Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) peak factors for groundwater availability on January 26, 2024.

The CBRWPG also designated several subcommittees in order to expedite more specific work efforts and further increase the effectiveness and timeliness of the planning process. The following summarizes these committee and subcommittee meetings.

### **Review Population, Municipal and Mining Water Demand Projections**

- Subcommittee Members: Gene Camargo, Carl Crull, Esteban Ramos, and Mark Scott
- Designated by the CBRWPG: March 3, 2022
- Subcommittee meeting: June 1, 2022 (for draft list of municipal WUGs, historical use, and per capita); April 10, 2023 (population and municipal water demand projections)

### **Review Non-municipal Water Demand Projections (Manufacturing, Steam-Electric, Irrigation, Livestock)**

- Subcommittee Members: Teresa Carrillo, Andy Garza, Esteban Ramos, Charles Ring, Mark Sugarek, and Lonnie Stewart
- Designated by the CBRWPG: March 3, 2022
- Subcommittee meeting: September 8, 2022

### **Develop and Review List of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies and Prioritize for Evaluation**

- Subcommittee Members: Joe Almaraz, Carl Crull, Andy Garza, Esteban Ramos, John Marez, and Lonnie Stewart
- Designated by the CBRWPG: October 12, 2023
- Subcommittee meeting: April 9, 2024

### **Subcommittee to Discuss Drought Response Recommendations and Identify Emergency Interconnections**

- Subcommittee Members: Scott Bledsoe, Teresa Carrillo, James Dodson, William Griffin, and Esteban Ramos
- Designated by the CBRWPG: October 17, 2024
- Subcommittee meeting: November 6, 2024, and December 2, 2024

### **Subcommittee on Unique Stream Segments/Reservoir Sites and Legislative and Policy Recommendations**

- Subcommittee Members: Carl Crull, Dr. Pancho Hubert, Esteban Ramos, and Lonnie Stewart.
- Designated by the CBRWPG: October 17, 2024
- Subcommittee meetings: November 14, 2024

The CBRWPG approved the Initially Prepared Plan on February 27, 2025 for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

## 10.5 Regional Water Planning Group Chairs Conference Calls and Meetings

The Texas Water Development Board held conference call meetings with Regional Water Planning Group chairs to provide guidance and respond to issues regarding the planning process on February 22, 2021, June 30, 2021, January 26, 2022, December 8, 2022, June 27, 2023, September 28, 2023, January 16, 2024, May 10, 2024, and December 9, 2024.

## 10.6 Interregional Coordination

On October 7, 2021, the CBRWPG discussed the process for conducting interregional coordination for water management strategies during development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan. At that time, Carl Crull was appointed as interregional planning council representative, with Teresa Carrillo as an alternate. Carl Crull participated in interregional planning council meetings on November 30, 2023, and February 8, 2024, as well as numerous calls during development of the 2026 regional water plan.

Several coordination calls between the CBRWPG technical consultant and the South Central Texas (Region L) regional water planning group consultant occurred during development of the initially prepared plan. After the submittal of the Initially Prepared Plan, a new strategy was identified that relies on groundwater supplies in Jim Hogg County (Region M). Coordination calls were made with Brushy Creek Groundwater Conservation District and Rio Grande (Region M) regional water planning group consultant.

There are no known interregional coordination conflicts for any recommended or alternative water management strategies in the 2026 Coastal Bend Plan.

## 10.7 Coordination with Other Entities

Frequent coordination calls occurred between the technical consultant and wholesale water providers and individual WUGs to confirm water supplies and future water supply plans.

Region N surveys were developed for (1) municipal water users and (2) industrial water users. The municipal water survey was sent in response to TWDB guidance to gather information on current supplies, drought response, and emergency connections for rural water users groups. It was sent on November 19, 2024, to over 30 municipal WUGs in the Coastal Bend Region with reminders sent on December 3, 2024. The industrial water survey was developed in response to industrial water conservation discussions to gather information on best practices. The survey was sent on November 22, 2024, with reminders sent on December 4 and 9, 2024.



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