What is a Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG)?

In response to the drought of the 1950s and in recognition of the need to plan for the future, the legislature created the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to develop water supplies and prepare plans to meet the state's future water needs. In 1997, the legislature approved a new water planning process, based on a "bottom-up," consensus-driven approach. Coordinating this water planning process are 16 planning groups, one for each regional water planning area. The planning groups, each made up of about 20 members, represent a variety of interest, including agriculture, industry, environment, public, municipalities, business, water districts, river authorities, water utilities, counties, groundwater management areas, and power generation. Each planning group evaluates population projections, water demand projections, water availability, and existing water supplies during drought. Based on this information, the planning group identifies who will not have enough water, recommends strategies and projects that could be implemented to conserve or obtain more water, and estimates the costs and environmental impacts of these strategies and projects. Once the planning group adopts the regional water plan, they send it to TWDB for approval, who then compiles information from the approved regional water plans and other sources to develop the state water plan.

Resources and Useful Links

·　　TWDB's *Regional Water Planning in Texas* summary document, https://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/shells/doc/RegionalWaterPlanning.pdf?d=33904.30000000447

·　　2022 State Water Plan, https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/swp/2022/index.asp

·　　TWDB's Regional Water Planning page, https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/index.asp

·　　TWDB's RWPG maps, https://tnris.org/maps.html

Other Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

To find additional FAQs visit the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee's FAQ webpage at https://tgpc.texas.gov/frequently-asked-questions-faqs.