

# The 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature: Updates Relevant to Conservation & Planning\*

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August 8, 2019

*\*Unless specifically noted, this presentation does not necessarily reflect official Board positions or decisions.*

# Legislative Update

During the regular session, the Legislature passed three bills directly relevant to conservation and planning. This update covers the following bills:

- HB 807
- HB 3339
- SB 1574

# House Bill 807

- New interregional planning council.
  - Appointed by TWDB
  - One member from each RWPG
- Adds several new requirements to the development of RWPs (listed on next slide).

# House Bill 807

1. Identify unnecessary or counterproductive variations in drought response strategies.
2. Provide a specific assessment for ASR projects to meet significant water needs identified in the RWPA.
3. Set specific GPCD goals for each decade for municipal WUGs.
4. Assess the progress in encouraging cooperation between WUGs to develop WMSs that achieve economies of scale and benefit the entire region.
5. Recommend legislative changes to improve the water planning process.

# House Bill 807

## *Implementation:*

- TWDB is currently working on the logistics for the planning council nomination process and will send more information soon.
- Rulemaking will be initiated to address HB 807 requirements.
- Preliminary input on rulemaking will be solicited from RWPG stakeholders.

# House Bill 807

- **Texas Water Code (TWC) §16.053(e)(3)(E)** —  
Unnecessary or counterproductive variations in drought response strategies
- **TWDB Guidance**
  - *RWPGs should review information collected through current requirements outlined in [31 TAC §357.42\(c\) and \(i\)](#) and Section 7.5 of [Exhibit C](#).*
  - *Drought response strategies determined to be “unnecessary or counterproductive” should be documented in Chapter 7 of the RWP.*

# House Bill 807

- **TWC §16.053(e)(11)** — Setting Gallons Per Capita Daily (GPCD) goal(s) for each planning decade
- **TWDB Guidance**
  - *TWDB will provide a list of municipal WUGs in each RWPG as well as supporting information.*
  - *GPCD goals may be a specific GPCD, or ranges of GPCD; may be based on specific municipal WUGs, or groupings of municipal WUGs as determined appropriate by the RWPG.*
  - *To be included in Subchapter 5B of the RWP.*

# House Bill 807

- **TWC §16.053(e)(12)** — Assess progress of “regionalization”
- **TWDB Guidance**
  - *RWPGs shall include documentation of the RWPG’s general assessment of progress of the RWPA in encouraging cooperation between WUGs for the purpose of achieving economies of scale and otherwise incentivizing strategies that benefit the entire region.*
  - *To be included in Chapter 11 of the RWP.*



# House Bill 807

- **TWC §16.053(i)** — Recommendations on process improvements
- **TWDB Guidance**
  - *RWPGs should include any legislative recommendations that members of the planning group believe would improve the regional and state water planning process.*
  - *To be included in Chapter 8 of the RWP.*

# House Bill 3339

- Conservation “Clean-up” bill
- Creates one new section in the Water Code requiring conservation plans for all TWDB financial assistance programs.
- Adds a definition for ‘water conservation plan’

# Senate Bill 1574

- Removes the required joint TWDB-TSSWCB report – An Assessment of Water Conservation in Texas
- Removes the required biannual report – Summary of Evaluations of Best Management Practices in Certain Water Conservation Plans

# Questions?

## TWDB is hiring!

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/jobs/index.asp>

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