April 3, 2019

Mr. J. Kevin Ward
General Manager
Trinity River Authority
P.O. Box 60
Arlington, TX 76004

Mr. Walt Sears
General Manager
Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
P.O. Box 955
Hughes Springs, TX 75656

RE: Region C and D Regional Water Planning Group Facilitation

Dear Mr. Ward and Mr. Sears:

As you know, in the last water planning cycle, an interregional conflict between the Region C and Region D Initially Prepared Plans resulted in an October 2015 mediated resolution between the 2016 Region C and Region D Regional Water Plans. Part of the signed agreement included that the regional representatives agreed: “that they will seek to have their regions work more cooperatively in the next [fifth] regional water planning process.” We are sending this letter to make clear TWDB’s interest in supporting all regions’ efforts to work through any relevant issues that arise especially those that could impact the Board’s review and approval of the 2021 Region C and Region D Initially Prepared Plans.

At this point, as Region C and D are beginning the process of evaluating water management strategies, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff have identified at least one area that may warrant some additional interregional coordination, if it hasn’t already occurred. It is regarding the data and approaches being used to evaluate the availability of Sulphur Basin supplies, particularly related to a potential Wright Patman Reservoir reallocation. While there is nothing that precludes the use of multiple methods for evaluating water supplies, it may be worth discussing the regions’ approaches being used since TWDB is ultimately responsible for developing a state water plan based on a single, reconcilable set of data. In addition, any strategies that are recommended in regional plans may not over-allocate the water availability associated with any water source. Sharing methods and
information regarding Wright Patman might, for example, only require coordination/communications between your respective technical consultants.

In the meantime, we are requesting your general input, as the administrators of the Region C and Region D Regional Water Planning Groups, regarding what steps, if any, that you think your respective planning groups should take to:

- identify and resolve potential issues that could impact the review and approval of your regions' Initially Prepared Plans, and/or
- identify and share potentially mutually beneficial information or strategies.

Such steps could, for example, be as simple as regular, informal teleconference calls. Specifically, we'd like to hear:

1. What you believe would be the most effective way for Regions C and D to coordinate in advance of the March 3, 2020 Initially Prepared Plan due date? (e.g., need for and frequency of conference calls? face-to-face meetings?)
2. If teleconferences or meetings are proposed, what do you think those should look like?

Please send your input to me at Jessica.Zuba@twdb.texas.gov by April 30, 2019 or feel free to call me directly at 512-475-3734. Once we've received your initial feedback, TWDB staff will contact you to schedule a conference call with you to further discuss interregional coordination options. The TWDB is committed to assisting all regions lay the groundwork necessary to ensure another successful regional planning cycle.

Thank you for your input and your participation in the regional water planning process.

Sincerely,

Jessica Zuba
Deputy Executive Administrator
Water Supply and Infrastructure

cc: Howard Slobodin, Trinity River Authority
Richard LeTourneau, Region D Chair
Jeff Walker, TWDB
Todd Chenoweth, TWDB
Temple McKinnon, TWDB
Sarah Backhouse, TWDB
Ron Ellis, TWDB
May 29, 2019

Mr. J. Kevin Ward               Mr. Walt Sears
General Manager                General Manager
Trinity River Authority        Northeast TX Municipal Water District
P.O. Box 60                    P.O. Box 955
Arlington, TX 76004            Hughes Springs, TX 75656

RE: Region C and D Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) Facilitation Meeting

Dear Mr. Ward and Mr. Sears:

To follow up on my April 3, 2019 letter seeking input on the steps necessary for Regions C and D to coordinate in advance of the March 3, 2020 Initially Prepared Plan due date, I propose the following actions.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) intends to initially facilitate a joint meeting with the RWPG technical consultants to ensure sharing of technical approaches and data development for the shared sources or evaluations of strategies in adjacent regions. We will copy the RWPG chairs and political subdivision staff of Regions C and D on meeting coordination communications and any related technical information and will arrange a meeting later this summer, such as in July or August of 2019.

Following the technical information meeting, TWDB intends to facilitate a second meeting with the appropriate interested parties on the RWPGs. Temple McKinnon, Director of Water Use, Projections, & Planning, will reach out to you both as the Region C and D administrators in the near future to determine meeting dates and logistics.

Should you have any questions, please email me at Jessica.Zuba@twdb.texas.gov or feel free to call me directly at 512-475-3734.

Sincerely,

Jessica Zuba
Deputy Executive Administrator
Water Supply and Infrastructure

c: Howard Slobodin, Trinity River Authority
Richard LeTourneau, Region D Chair
Amy Kaarlela, Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Tony Smith, Carollo Engineers
Jeff Walker, TWDB

JZ/TM/mts
Agreement Resolving the Declared Conflict
Between the Region C and Region D Initially Prepared Water Plans

On September 9, 2015, the Texas Water Development Board found that an interregional conflict existed between the 2016 Region C and Region D Initially Prepared Plans, and encouraged the regional water planning groups to engage in mediation to attempt to resolve the conflict.

On October 5, 2015, the undersigned representatives of the regions met in mediation and discussed the issues related to the current conflict in their regional water plans relating to the Marvin Nichols Reservoir.

The undersigned representatives of Region C and Region D agree to resolve the conflict that the Texas Water Development Board found between their initially prepared regional water plans as follows:

1. Region C will move the Marvin Nichols Reservoir as a designated strategy to the year 2070 in its 2016 regional water plan;
2. Region C will support Region D’s efforts to obtain Texas Water Development Board funding to study alternative water supplies to Marvin Nichols Reservoir for the process of the 5th cycle of regional water planning for Regions C and D, resulting in the development of the 2021 regional water plans;
3. Region C will adopt a resolution to recommend that water suppliers in Region C not submit any water rights applications for new reservoirs that would be located in Region D through the end of the 5th cycle of regional water planning; and
4. Region D agrees that it will not challenge Marvin Nichols Reservoir as a unique reservoir site through the end of the 5th cycle of regional water planning.

The undersigned representatives further agree (1) to seek ratification of this agreement by their respective regional water planning groups, and (2) to seek inclusion of the language relating to the terms of the agreement in their region’s adopted 2016 regional water plans. The representatives further agree that they will seek to have their regions work more cooperatively in the next regional water planning process.

For Region C

Jody Puckett Date: 10-9-15
Wayne Owen Date: 10-8-2015
Mike Rickman Date: 10-9-15
Kevin Ward Date: 10-8-2015

For Region D

Linda Price Date: 10-8-15
Elizabeth Fazio Date: 10/9/2015
Bret McCoy Date: 10-8-2015
Jim Thompson Date: 10/8/15