

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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COMMISSION
A. CYNTHIA LEON, CHAIR
MANNY FLORES
FAITH JOHNSON
STEVEN P. MACH
RANDY WATSON

November 10, 2014

Dear Jim Parks,

The Drought Preparedness Council, which is comprised of representatives from 16 state agencies as well as appointees of the governor, would like to offer its assistance on drought-related issues encountered during the planning process. Authorized and established in 1999 as part of the 76th Texas Legislature, the council was created to carry out the provisions of Sections 16.055 and 16.0551 of the state water code. Its responsibilities include the assessment and public reporting of drought monitoring and water supply conditions; advising the governor on significant drought conditions; recommending response plans for drought related disasters; advising regional water planning groups on drought-related issues in the regional water plans; coordinating local, state and federal drought-response planning; and submitting a report to the legislature every odd numbered year.

Council members represent a broad swath of state agencies, including Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Texas Forest Service, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Department of Economic Development, Office of the State Climatologist, Public Utilities Commission, Electric Reliability Council of Texas and Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Each member brings expertise in his or her field, and the greatest strength of the council lies in its ability to utilize the knowledge and skills of its members for the betterment of Texas. The council includes members of the emergency management community who can guide regional groups in the emergency management process, including how to request resources, and can provide instructions to local emergency management partners.

The council is aware that your regional water planning group has been drafting its 2016 Regional Water Plan, including its drought chapter. Per Title 31 of Texas Administrative Code Section 357.42(h), regional water planning groups may come to the council for “any relevant recommendations from the Drought Preparedness Council.” As chairman of the council, I would like to extend the council’s assistance on any drought related issues that you may come across while working through the regional water planning process. Additionally, the council and I recommend that regions:

- Follow the outline template for Chapter 7 provided to the regions by Texas Water Development Board staff in February of 2013, making an effort to fully address the assessment of current drought preparations and planned responses, as well as planned responses to local drought conditions or loss of municipal supply. Find this template here: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2016/doc/current_docs/project_docs/20130220_ex_outline_ch7.docx
- Evaluate the drought preparedness impacts of unanticipated population growth or industrial growth within the region over the planning horizon.

NOV 17 2014

If you have any questions for the council or would like to attend the Drought Preparedness Council's monthly meetings, please contact Mario Chapa at Mario.Chapa@dps.texas.gov or TDEM.Drought@dps.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Nim Kidd".

W. Nim Kidd, CEM, TEM

Chief

Texas Division of Emergency Management

Assistant Director

Texas Homeland Security

Texas Department of Public Safety