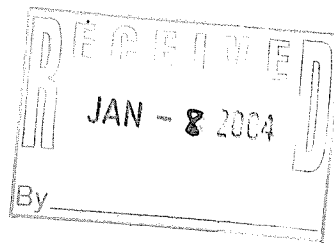


BRAZOS G

WATER PLANNING GROUP



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BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY, Administrative Agent
P.O. Box 7555 Waco, Texas 76714-7555
(254) 761-3100 Fax (254) 761-3204

January 5, 2004

Mr. Bill Mullican
Deputy Executive Administrator
Office of Planning
Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, Texas 78711-3231

Re: Request from the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group to Allow Water Availability Estimates in Region G to Account for Return Flows

Dear Mr. Mullican:

We are in receipt of your letter dated October 23, 2003 to Mr. Phillip Ford of the Brazos River Authority (BRA) in which you summarize discussions held in your office with the Brazos G technical consultant and BRA staff concerning Brazos G proposed modifications to the WAM Run 3 assumptions. I would first like to take this opportunity to note your flexibility and willingness to assist the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) during this round of planning. The Brazos G RWPG thanks you for your spirit of cooperation.

We appreciate your consideration of our requests and your positive response to two of the items discussed during the meeting: use of the 75/75 convention for determining availability to irrigation water rights and inclusion of subordination agreements between the BRA and three entities upstream of Possum Kingdom Reservoir in the model. Those two assumptions will go far in allowing the Brazos G RWPG to develop reasonable estimates of surface water availability in the region.

At its November 12, 2003 meeting, the Brazos G RWPG voted to request that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) allow wastewater treatment plant effluent, commonly referred to as "return flows," to be considered in water availability analyses. The Brazos G RWPG believes that return flows should be included in the model runs utilized to determine surface water available to existing water rights and to evaluate potential water management strategies. It is the position of the Brazos G RWPG that a reasonable level of return flows should be included, in order to account for this important existing source of water in the region.

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Mr. Bill Mullican
January 5, 2004

I have enclosed a letter from our technical consultant (HDR Engineering, Inc.) that summarizes the rationale for inclusion of return flows in water availability analyses. These points were discussed at length during the November 12 meeting. Please consider the points therein as you consider this request. It is the position of the Brazos G RWPG that the level of return flows to assume for purposes of determining surface water availability is one of many assumptions upon which the 2006 regional water plans will be based. The assumption that no effluent will be returned to the rivers and streams of the Brazos River Basin in all future decades is one with which the Brazos G RWPG disagrees. The Brazos G RWPG recognizes that consumptive reuse of treated wastewater will become increasingly common to meet a portion of future water needs, however, it is most unlikely that full consumptive reuse will be attained within our planning horizon.

The Brazos G RWPG would appreciate the opportunity to work with you and your staff to determine appropriate levels of effluent discharge to be assumed for purposes of determining current and future water availability in the Brazos River Basin for planning purposes. All assumptions regarding current and future effluent will be explicitly discussed by the RWPG and documented in the 2006 Regional Water Plan.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tony Jones, Chairman
Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group

cc: Brazos G RWPG members (w/out enclosure)
Mr. David Meesey, TWDB (w/out enclosure)
Ms. Teresa Clark, Brazos River Authority (w/out enclosure)
Mr. Jim Adams, Chairman, Region H Water Planning Group (with enclosure)
Mr. David Dunn, HDR Engineering, Inc. (w/out enclosure)