

Joint Regions C&D Info Campaign and Joint Statement re: Interregional Conflict Mediated Agreement

Info Campaign Strategies:

- Post the ***mediation agreement document*** to each group's website
- Develop a ***joint statement*** and:
 - Post it to each group's respective website
 - Distribute it to local/regional/statewide media
 - Distribute it to each group's regional stakeholders / interested parties email list
 - Read it aloud at each group's next public meeting

Joint Statement from Region C and Region D Water Planning Groups:

Representatives from each region came together in a series of mediation sessions in late July to resolve the declared interregional conflict and protect the long-term interests of our respective regional stakeholders.

Through mediation, we have mutually agreed to the following action items, among others:

- (1) **Region C will make the Toledo Bend Reservoir a “recommended” strategy in its 2026 Region C Water Plan, alongside the Marvin Nichols Reservoir, so both strategies can be explored.** In Region C's Initially Prepared Plan, Toledo Bend had previously been identified as an “alternative” joint strategy for several wholesale water providers: the North Texas Municipal Water District, Tarrant Regional Water District, Dallas Water Utilities and the Upper Trinity Regional Water District.
- (2) **Region C will delay the recommended implementation of Marvin Nichols to 2070 in the 2026 Region C Water Plan** – one decade later than the 2060 implementation date previously recommended in Region C's Initially Prepared Plan, which was submitted to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) earlier this year. Additionally, **no application for Marvin Nichols project permits will be submitted prior to 2030.**
- (3) **Neither region will protest the other's 2026 Regional Water Plan, and both will avoid activities that would adversely affect the examination of the Marvin Nichols project.**
- (4) **Region C will seek funding from the TWDB to facilitate and conduct an “apples-to-apples” monetary and non-monetary comparison of the Marvin Nichols and Toledo Bend projects.** Such study will be conducted by firm(s) that can provide a fresh assessment, commence by March 2026, and be completed by July 2027.
- (5) **Regions C and D will jointly support an independent study to address the potential benefits and impacts of the Marvin Nichols project and the anticipated, associated mitigation land acquisition on the economic, agricultural and natural resources of both regions.** This study shall begin no later than March 2026 and be completed by July 2027,

so study results can be included in the September 2028 Technical Memoranda submitted by both regions to the TWDB as part of the next 5-year regional water planning cycle.

- (6) **The two regions will form an interregional working group, consisting of up to 5 members from each region**, to cooperatively participate in activities related to the interregional study and jointly communicate about the study scoping, progress and conclusions.

Mutually agreed-upon facts that influenced the successful resolution of the interregional conflict were as follows:

1. Both regions have significant vested interests in ensuring that their stakeholders feel heard and valued in the regional water planning process, as well in any future project permitting processes that may occur.
2. Both regions acknowledge and appreciate that there are individuals, businesses, communities and rural areas that care deeply about whether the Marvin Nichols project proceeds and whether future water supply needs are met.
3. Projected future population growth and related water demand growth show that Region C will need to develop additional, future water supplies.
4. Region C has made significant investments in water conservation and reuse strategies and plans to continue and increase those efforts.
5. The uncertainties associated with the potential human, economic, agricultural and natural resource-related impacts of the Marvin Nichols project have been, and continue to be, of concern to many Region D stakeholders.
6. There is a mutual desire to continue Region C's emphasis on water conservation and reuse strategies, to the maximum extent practicable. However, regional water planning projections show that water conservation and reuse alone won't be sufficient to meet all of Region C's water needs in future decades.
7. Region C anticipates a need to develop water supplies outside of its region to meet the projected water demands.
8. Region C water providers have a fiduciary duty to their customers to develop water supplies that are economical and sustainable. Both Region C and Region D have a fiduciary as well as a legislatively mandated duty to protect the economic, agricultural and natural resources of the State and the Regions.
9. There are numerous wide-ranging impacts, both beneficial and detrimental, affecting stakeholders in both regions, that need to be clearly understood and taken into consideration with respect to any proposed water supply project of this magnitude.

The Region D Water Planning Group met on August 13, 2025, and ratified the mediation agreement. The Region C Water Planning Group met on September 5, 2025 and ratified the mediation agreement.

Both regions look forward to receiving further guidance from the TWDB about the next steps and potential state funding for the future studies identified in the mediation agreement.