



P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

March 29, 2024

Dear Groundwater Conservation District Representatives and Regional Water Planning Group Chairs:

The TWDB Executive Administrator released the groundwater availability model for the central and southern portions of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System in Texas in May 2023. Following the model release, our Groundwater Modeling staff used the model to calculate historical groundwater budgets for several groundwater conservation districts and created a predictive model to estimate drawdowns resulting from pumping the modeled available groundwater for groundwater management areas 15 and 16. Results of those analyses raised concerns about the performance of the new model.

Our analyses suggested that several model inputs need to be reduced to produce more reasonable model results, particularly for water budgets. The attached report documents how we have already addressed those problems. The nature of these changes requires that the model be recalibrated. Our planned recalibration approach is also outlined in the attached report.

Due to the complexity of this model, and the numerous changes required, the recalibration will likely be completed in late Fall 2024. The changes and recalibration will be documented in a technical report, and we will host a stakeholder advisory forum to discuss the technical details of the recalibration.

We apologize for any delays this introduces to the joint planning timeline. The attached document includes a detailed progress report and work plan for the upcoming recalibration. Please feel free to reach out to Dr. Daryn Hardwick of our Groundwater staff at 512-475-0470 or daryn.hardwick@twdb.texas.gov or myself at 512-463-2779 or natalie.ballew@twdb.texas.gov with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely, 

Natalie Ballew, P.G.
Groundwater Division Director

Attachment

c w/ att: Daryn Hardwick, Ph.D., Groundwater, TWDB
John T. Dupnik, P.G., Deputy Executive Administrator of Water Science & Conservation

<p>Our Mission</p> <p>Leading the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas</p>	<p>Board Members</p> <p>Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman George B. Peyton V, Board Member L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member</p> <p>Bryan McMath, Interim Executive Administrator</p>
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