

East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region I)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Engineers for the East Texas Regional Water Planning Group Wednesday outlined proposed planning tasks for the 20-county region in 2009 and 2010. Meeting at Nacogdoches, the Group heard a summary of the tasks from Rex Hunt of Allan Plummer Associates, Inc., which was chosen to lead the engineering consulting team.

The tasks will include an update of the Group's 2006 regional plan, the incorporation of special studies undertaken in 2008, and other factors which could include the outcome of the planning work.

The tasks will also include:

- A description of the region, which will include new population projections, the incorporation of new water users, and water demands for steam electric needs.
- An update of water supply numbers from the previous plan, the updating of groundwater availability models, and changes due to water transmission, surface water rights, the effects of environmental flow policies and water quality impacts, and direct and indirect water reuse.
- Water management strategies focused on new water usage.
- Impacts of water management strategies on key parameters of water quality and the impacts of moving water from rural and agricultural areas.
- Water conservation and drought management recommendations.
- A description of how the regional water plan is consistent with long-term protection of the state's overall water resources, agricultural resources and natural resources.
- Unique stream segments and reservoir sites and legislative recommendations.
- Infrastructure financing recommendations and funding mechanisms for groups with no political subdivision, such as livestock, mining and irrigation.

- Public participation in the adoption of the final plan.

The East Texas Group also agreed to make a formal request to the Texas Water Development Board to use a revised water availability model and use water supply yields other than the firm yield of reservoirs in East Texas for surface water supply.

The Group also agreed to hold Planning Group meetings or Technical Committee conference calls in March, April June, July, August, September, October, November, and December in 2009 and January and February in 2010, as well as other meetings which may be needed. The Group plans to adopt its final water plan in September of 2010.

The Group's next scheduled meeting will be on April 8 in Nacogdoches Region I includes all or portions of Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Hardin, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Trinity and Tyler counties.