Executive Summary

In 1997, the State Legislature, through Senate Bill 1, determined that water planning should be accomplished at a regional level rather than with the centralized approach employed previously by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). To accomplish this task, the TWDB divided the state into 16 regional water planning areas and appointed representational Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) to guide the development of each region's plan. The TWDB guides the process for each cycle of planning through rules and guidance by the agency. The planning process is cyclic, with updated Regional Water Plans and State Water Plans produced every five years.

The designated water planning area for the east and southeast portions of Texas is the East Texas Regional Water Planning Area (ETRWPA), also known as Region I or the East Texas Region. The water planning process in the ETRWPA is guided by the East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (ETRWPG). These individuals are charged with the responsibility for development of the 2021 ETRWPA Water Plan (2021 Plan). The ETRWPG is currently comprised of the following voting members representing specific community interests:

- David Alders, Agriculture
- Josh David, Agriculture
- Judge Chris Davis, Counties
- Fred Jackson, Counties
- Randy Stanton, Electric Power
- Dr. Matthew McBroom, Environmental
- John McFarland, Groundwater Management Areas
- John Martin, Groundwater Management Areas
- Darla Smith, Industries
- David Gorsich, Industries
- David Brock, Municipalities
- Gregory M. Morgan, Municipalities
- Stevan Gelwicks, Public
- Terry Stelly, Public
- David Montagne, River Authorities
- Monty Shank, River Authorities
- Kelley Holcomb, River Authorities
- Scott Hall, River Authorities
- Mark Dunn, Small Business
- Worth Whitehead*, Water Districts
- Roger Fussell, Water Utilities

**Mr. Whitehead retired from the ETRWPG prior to final plan approval.*

The regional water planning process involves the evaluation of Texas Water Development Board projected water demands, identification of water supplies, and development of water management strategies designed to meet identified water shortages. However, the process also involves the evaluation of a broad range of issues that directly relate to water planning. Some of these issues notably include protection of natural resources and agricultural resources, water conservation and drought contingency, and water management strategy quantity, reliability, and cost.

Regional water planning in the ETRWPA is a public process, involving frequent public meetings of the ETRWPG, careful consideration of the requests and needs of various water user groups and wholesale water providers in the region, and an understanding of the need to allow for public comment throughout the planning cycle. For an in-depth discussion of any of the topics addressed in this Executive Summary,

the reader is referred to the full 2021 Plan. An electronic copy of the 2021 Plan is available online at the ETRWPA website: http://www.etexwaterplan.org/ and at the TWDB website: http://twdb.state.tx.us.

ES.1 REGIONAL DESCRIPTION

The ETRWPA consists of all or portions, as indicated, of the following 20 counties located in the Neches, Sabine, and Trinity River Basins, and the Neches-Trinity Coastal Basin:

- Anderson
- Angelina
- Cherokee
- Hardin
- Henderson (partial)
- Houston
- Jasper
- Jefferson
- Nacogdoches
- Newton
- Orange
- Panola
- Polk (partial)
- Rusk
- Sabine
- San Augustine
- Shelby
- Smith (partial)
- Trinity (partial)
- Tyler

The region extends from the southeastern corner of the state for over 150 miles north and northwest as illustrated in Figure ES.1. The ETRWPA consists of approximately 10,329,800 acres of land, accounting for roughly six percent of the total area of the State of Texas.

Much of the ETRWPA is forested, supporting various types of timber industry. Plant nurseries are common in portions of the region. Oil production is scattered through the region, and beef cattle are prominent. Poultry production and processing are prevalent and there is diverse manufacturing in addition to timber industries. Commercial fishing is an important economic characteristic of Sabine Lake. Tourism is important in many areas, especially on and around large reservoirs, Sabine Lake, and the Gulf of Mexico. Timbered areas include a number of state parks and national forests, etc., that offer recreational and hunting opportunities.

Agriculture is a vital component of the ETRWPA economy and culture. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the 20 counties that make up the ETRWPA contain over 21,000 farms with a total of over 3.6 million acres of cropland [1].

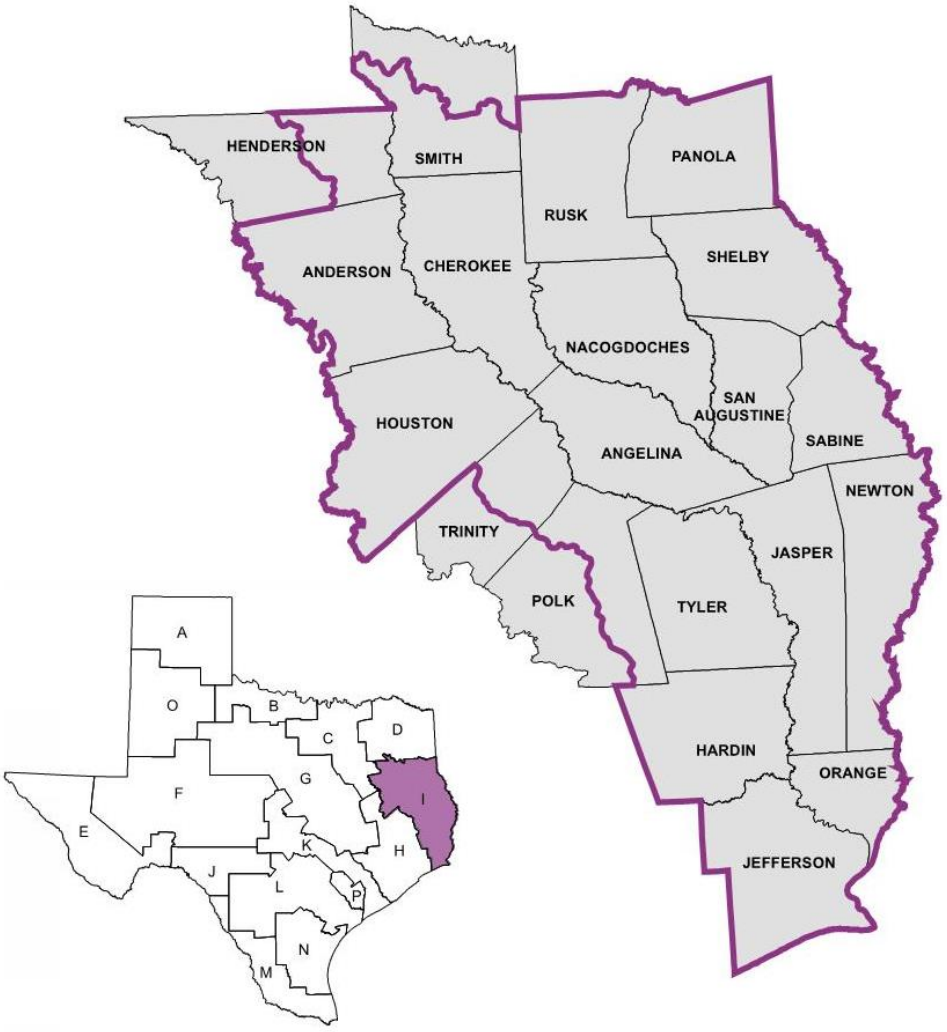

Figure ES.1 Region I Reference Map

SOURCE: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

ES.2 COUNTY SUMMARY SHEETS

Following the Executive Summary is a section with a summary sheet for each county in the ETRWPA. Each sheet includes the water-dependent economy, water sources, population projections, demand projections, available supply summary, and Recommended Water Management Strategies for the county.

ES.3 REGIONAL WATER PLANNING APPLICATION

The State Water Planning Database (DB22) is an online database created by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). RWPGs submit all data generated during the planning cycle to the TWDB through the DB22's web interface. Once data is entered into the DB22 by each RWPG, the data can be queried to generate various summary reports referred to as DB22 Reports. The following 25 DB22 Reports are required by the TWDB to be included in this Executive Summary and can be found in Volume II of the 2021 Plan as Appendix ES-A.