10

Public Participation and Adoption of Plan

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Contents

Chapter 10: Public Participation and Adoption of Plan 10-1
10.1 Public Participation 10-1
10.2 Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group Website 10-1
10.3 Coordination with Water User Groups and Wholesale Water Providers 10-2
10.4 Coordination with Other Planning Regions 10-2
10.5 Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group Meetings 10-2
10.6 Public Hearing and Responses to Public Comments on Initially Prepared Plan 10-3
10.7 Plan Adoption 10-3

Figures

Figure 10.1. LERWPG Meeting on November 13, 2019 10-3

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Chapter 10: Public Participation and Adoption of Plan

[31 TAC §357.50]

10.1 Public Participation

The Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group (LERWPG) provided opportunity for the public to participate in the regional water planning process. The LERWPG met all requirements under the Texas Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act in accordance with 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapters 357.12, 357.21, and 357.50(f) during development of the *Initially Prepared 2026 Llano Estacado Regional Water Plan* (Initially Prepared 2026 LERWP). LERWPG meeting agendas and other meeting materials were posted on the LERWPG website (llanoplan.org) prior to each meeting. The public was invited to speak during public comment periods during each LERWPG meeting.

To comply with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Regional Water Planning Rules [31 TAC Section 357.21(c)(7)(C)], written comments from the public were accepted for a period of 14 days prior to and 14 days after the meeting, where the LERWPG technical memorandum, included in Appendix C, was considered for approval by the LERWPG. Public comments were also accepted at the meeting where the technical memorandum was considered for approval by the LERWPG, held on February 21, 2024. No public comments were received at the meeting or during the official comment period.

The Initially Prepared 2026 LERWP for the Llano Estacado Region was approved at the February 19, 2025, meeting of the LERWPG. The plan was developed in accordance with Texas Water Code (TWC) and 31 TAC Chapters 355, 357, and 358 statutes.

Following its submittal to the TWDB, the Initially Prepared 2026 LERWP was distributed for public inspection in accordance with 31 TAC Chapter 21(d)(4).

10.2 Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group Website

The LERWPG has directed the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) to maintain a website (llanoplan.org), where LERWPG meeting notices, agendas, and presentation materials may be viewed by the public. In addition to meeting materials, the 2026 LERWP is posted for public viewing and download, as well as documents from the planning process for the development of the 2026 LERWP. The website offers other features, including LERWPG member contact information, planning area maps and planning data.

10.3 Coordination with Water User Groups and Wholesale Water Providers

The LERWPG coordinated with water user groups (WUGs), wholesale water providers (WWPs), groundwater conservation districts (GCDs), and groundwater management areas (GMAs) in the Llano Estacado Region regarding population and water demand projections developed by the TWDB, groundwater and surface water availability estimates, and proposed water management strategies (WMSs).

At the onset of the planning process in February 2023, municipal WUGs, WWPs, GCDs, councils of governments, and Llano Estacado Region county judges were mailed the Llano Estacado Region population and water demand projections for review. A revision request memorandum, included in Appendix C, which includes individual WUG requests for revisions, was submitted to the TWDB on August 11, 2023.

Municipal WUGs and WWPs were mailed a survey by SPAG staff on July 19, 2024, regarding their current and future water supply and use, and current and future water conservation strategies (Appendix G). The survey was used as a method to collect emergency interconnections information, as well. Of the 74 WUGs in the Llano Estacado Region, 29 responded to the survey.

10.4 Coordination with Other Planning Regions

Coordination with other planning regions was accomplished primarily through the technical consultants, who coordinated data and shared information that was later reported to the planning groups. Coordination was accomplished with adjacent Regional Water Planning Groups, including Regions A, B, F, and G. Other coordination was accomplished through the participation of LEWRPG members as liaisons with adjacent planning groups and with two LERWPG members who also serve as members of the Panhandle Regional (Region A) Water Planning Group.

10.5 Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group Meetings

The LERWPG regularly met in accordance with the approved bylaws. The LERPWG has met on a more frequent basis as needed in order to facilitate and direct the water planning of the region. Following is a list of the 2026 LERWP development meetings.

- November 17, 2021
- March 3, 2022
- September 20, 2022
- December 7, 2022
- February 22, 2023
- May 10, 2023
- June 28, 2023
- August 3, 2023
- November 30, 2023
- February 21, 2024
- June 19, 2024
- September 24, 2024
- December 3, 2024
- January 21, 2025
- February 19, 2025

The LERWPG also designated several work groups in order to expedite more specific work efforts and further increase the effectiveness and timeliness of the planning process.

10.6 Public Hearing and Responses to Public Comments on Initially Prepared Plan

The LERWPG approved the Initially Prepared 2026 LERWP on February 19, 2025, for submittal to the TWDB. The Initially Prepared 2026 LERWP was submitted to the TWDB on March 3, 2025, and was declared administratively complete on _____2025. The public hearing to receive comments on the Initially Prepared 2026 LERWP was held _____, 2025, providing sufficient time to accept public comments according to statute to meet the October 20, 2025, deadline for submission of the adopted Final 2026 LERWP. The Initially Prepared 2026 LERWP was provided to county libraries and county clerks in the 21 Llano Estacado Region counties and posted on the LERWPG website for public review and comment. The comments received on the Initially Prepared 2026 LERWP with responses are included in Appendix L.

10.7 Plan Adoption

The LERWPG formally adopted the 2026 LERWP on _____, 2025, and directed SPAG and HDR to submit the 2026 LERWP to the TWDB on or before the October 20, 2025, deadline.

Figure 10.1. LERWPG Meeting on June 19, 2024

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