

TRANS-TEXAS WATER PROGRAM

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/ STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT PLAN

West Central Study Area



San Antonio River
Authority

San Antonio Water
System

Edwards Aquifer Authority

Guadalupe-Blanco
River Authority

Lower Colorado River
Authority

Bexar Metropolitan
Water District

Nueces River
Authority

Canyon Lake Water
Supply Corporation

Bexar-Medina-Atascosa
Counties Water Control
and Improvement Dist. #1

Texas Water
Development Board

February, 1997



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**TRANS-TEXAS WATER PROGRAM
WEST CENTRAL REGION**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/
STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

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**TRANS-TEXAS WATER PROGRAM
WEST CENTRAL REGION
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to submit to the Policy Management Committee (PMC) a recommendation for a design and implementation of the public participation/stakeholder involvement plan. This recommendation is the result of the first phase of analysis and data gathering and is designed to capitalize on what has been learned from and about the public, stakeholders, and sponsoring agencies.

The public participation plan recommended here is a comprehensive approach designed to work in partnership with each of the sponsor agencies, the advisory committees, the technical contractor, and the public. The goal of the public participation plan is to work within this partnership providing input to the PMC in the fulfillment of their mission, which is: To develop a "menu" of regional water resource planning strategies which are both technically feasible and publicly acceptable, and which meets the future water needs of the entire 32 county study region.

It is recognized that public participation and input is an integral part of the Trans-Texas Water Program effort and that the conclusion of the program, as mentioned above, is a "menu" of strategies from which the regional participants would be encouraged to select strategies which best meet their individual local needs.

In order to offer this recommendation in some context the reader is strongly encouraged to carefully review the Issues Document dated February, 1997 upon which this plan is based. Nonetheless, a background of the project is included.

PART I BACKGROUND

On October 17, 1995 the Policy Management Committee authorized the commencement of a public participation/stakeholder involvement process for the West Central Region. Hired for this purpose was the firm of Robert Aguirre Consultants, L.C. with whom a contract was entered into on October 23, 1995.

The project was designed to be carried out in phases, with the first effort consisting of Tasks 1 and 2, Project Definition. The major components of these tasks included Surveys of the Advisory Committee for Public and Technical Input, a two-day public participation workshop for members of the Policy Management Committee (PMC) and senior staff, and issues identification. This first effort had two important results. The most notable of these was the drafting and subsequent unanimous adoption by the PMC of the Principles of Participation. This document outlines, in explicit constitutional

Illustration 1 - Principles of Participation

This declaration formally expresses our commitment to a comprehensive public participation/stakeholder involvement process. By adopting and implementing the principles embodied in this declaration, the public's input will play a critical role in evaluating the water planning strategies to be considered for this region.

While each participating agency is responsible to its respective constituents, our collective regional responsibility is "to identify the most cost-effective and environmentally sensitive strategies for meeting the current and future water needs of the West Central Region." In addition, we must ensure that the public and stakeholders significantly participate in deciding which strategies will be implemented.

By unanimous adoption of this statement, the West Central Policy Management Committee of the Trans-Texas Water Program commits itself to the following principles of public and stakeholder participation:

- The public/stakeholder's participation must be broadly based and inclusive of all constituencies.
- It is the responsibility of the Trans-Texas Water Program and its sponsors to be proactive in its commitment to seek public/stakeholder participation and input.
- Public/stakeholder communication must be timely, truthful, consistent, and two-way.
- The Policy Management Committee, as the responsible decision-making body, must be accountable for the integrity of the public/stakeholder participation process and the manner in which the public's input shapes the final outcomes of the project.

In this effort we recognize that the overall quality and depth of public/stakeholder participation can only be as good as our ability to effectively communicate the complex issues associated with water planning strategies.

These Principles of Participation recognize that no present or long-term water strategy can be implemented without the general support and consent of the public and stakeholders.

Policy Management Committee
Trans-Texas Water Program
West Central Region

terms, the commitment of the PMC to a meaningful public participation process. These Principles of Participation appear in Illustration 1 and are the foundation upon which the public involvement goals are based.

The second result of the initial effort was the Technical Memorandum dated January, 1996. This document outlined the results of the efforts performed to that date and offered a situational analysis which outlined an initial assessment of the components thought to be critical to a successful public participation program. These were:

- ◆ Credibility (of the sponsoring agencies *and of the public process*)
- ◆ Commitment to the public process (by the sponsor agencies)
- ◆ Communication (with and between the public and stakeholders)
- ◆ Equal Treatment (of public and stakeholders)

The Technical Memorandum concluded with a strategy for the formulation of a public process, which became Task 3 of this effort (Public Process Strategy Formulation).

Task 3 began on February 7, 1996 and was based on the premise that in order to formulate a public process it was necessary to seek input from the public and stakeholders for whom the process was intended. This involved gathering data from all sectors of the impacted public regarding their thoughts and opinions as to how a public process should be designed. The underlying premise of this Task 3 was that the public and the stakeholders would be more likely to accept a process which they had a part in designing.

Task 3 included a wide range of data gathering measures which began with a survey of the members of the Advisory Committee for Public and Technical Input, and included the following additional measures:

- ◆ PMC member interviews
- ◆ A random public issues survey of the study region (a)
- ◆ An analysis of under-represented groups
- ◆ Focus Groups
- ◆ Public Workshops
- ◆ Development of a mailing list/data base
- ◆ Development of public process models
- ◆ Identification of the public's top criterion on water issues (decision analysis criteria)

(a) Report entitled Trans-Texas Water Issues Survey dated September, 1996.

The results of this Task 3 were published in a report entitled Issues Document dated February, 1997. This report recaps the results of these extensive data gathering efforts and identifies the key issues around which a public participation plan should be built.

Key to the planning approach outlined here is an understanding of the six "mind set" areas identified in Task 3 and discussed in the Issues Document. These are:

- ◆ Agricultural
- ◆ Urban Flighters
- ◆ Metropolitan Areas
- ◆ Highland Lakes and Springs
- ◆ Downstream Interests
- ◆ Bays and Estuaries

Communication methods proposed in the public participation plan are designed to address each of these mind sets as key constituent groups.

The Issues Document report also identifies the public's decision analysis criteria as it applies to water resource planning. These criteria, and the order of their importance expressed by the public, are:

- ◆ Water Quantity
- ◆ Water Quality
- ◆ Water Cost

Additionally, the document outlines ten core issues which were identified from the public's input. These core issues, around which the proposed public participation plan is built, are:

- ◆ Trust in Decision Makers
- ◆ Equity/Economic Impact
- ◆ Conservation
- ◆ Local Elected Officials (importance of)
- ◆ Environmental Implications
- ◆ Political Will (of the decision makers *and* the public)
- ◆ Property Rights
- ◆ Communication/Information
- ◆ Complexity of Water Issues
- ◆ Population Growth

The Issues Document concludes with a recommendation to continue the broad public participation process to help facilitate and ensure that the public is informed about water resource planning issues and that their input is incorporated into the planning process.

PART II THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN DESCRIPTION

Constitution of the Plan

The investment made by the PMC in this effort has been extraordinary. With the adoption of the Principles of Participation the PMC embarked on a public process like no other seen in this region in terms of its extent and scope.

To this point the public data gathering and analysis process has been conducted on the basis that *the entire range of public and technical issues are fully integrated in, and integral to, a successful water resource planning picture.* This characterization - a process dealing with integrated issues - is the cornerstone of this proposed plan.

The public participation plan recommended here reflects a continuation of the uniqueness which has characterized this effort to date. The plan is a bold one and much different than the more traditional planning method of:

- ◆ Decide
- ◆ Announce
- ◆ Defend

In contrast to this more traditional method, the proposed public participation plan is designed as an integrated resource planning process (known as "IRP"), a planning method which:

- ◆ Investigates
- ◆ Educates
- ◆ Involves
- ◆ Evaluates (Input)
- ◆ Incorporates (Input)
- ◆ Decides

The two methods are *constitutionally* different. The biggest difference is the method and timing of the decision by the decision makers - who are the same under either method. In an integrated resource plan the emphasis is on providing public input and involvement into *the process* of decision making on the theory that there can be no general public agreement on water resource planning unless that public has a voice in the method upon which that plan was developed.

Characteristics of the Plan

Integrated Resource Planning is much more of a conceptual approach or a way of thinking than it is a set of specific formulas or measures. It is a non-traditional approach to long-term water resource planning which takes into account a wide range of interconnecting (integrated) issues that affect, and are affected by, water resource planning. These include balancing the trade-offs of various water resource options such as conservation, supply, and facilities. IRP also factors public input and

environmental impacts into the decision making process. It is extremely comprehensive, and begins with a premise that a wide-range of traditional and non-traditional supply-side and demand-side resources should be considered. What's more, its design is such that it is capable of producing a result which considers a set of options rather than a single project - a key goal considering the regional, multi-agency aspect of the Trans-Texas Water Program.

The interdisciplinary IRP approach was outlined in the previous section. Some key operational differences are that IRP includes:

- ◆ A strong focus on water conservation as a resource
- ◆ Careful consideration and public discussion of planning uncertainties and risks
- ◆ Explicit treatment of conflicting objectives and resulting trade-offs
- ◆ The treatment of the public/stakeholders as participants, rather than disputants

In order for this plan to be successful, there must be a strong commitment to the following message points:

- ◆ Conservation
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Confidence

Conservation: It is strikingly clear that, in the minds of the public, any true water resource planning effort must begin with conservation. This is especially true in Trans-Texas as a regional effort.

Communication: The importance of adequate, meaningful communication can not be over emphasized. This is true as it applies not just to the public, but to the sponsoring agencies as well. Since dealing with conflicts and competing interests in explicit ways is a part of this proposed process, good communication will be key.

Confidence: Closely related to (and a product of) communication is public confidence. By conducting a fair, honest, and equitable process, and through maintaining good lines of communication, the public's confidence in the decision makers can be elevated.

No opportunity will be missed to emphasize these three important points.

Finally, the measures which have been designed for this proposed plan are specifically designed to address the issues and the concerns expressed by the public as well as the sponsoring agencies.

Elements of the Plan

The design of the public participation plan is based upon input from the public, stakeholders, and water agencies (including the sponsor agencies) which was gathered in phase one. A large quantity of information has been assembled and analyzed, resulting in the following key findings used in the plan design:

- ◆ Residents chose having a reliable supply as the highest priority, followed closely by water quality and more distantly by keeping the cost of water low.
- ◆ One-third of the region's residents *are not* concerned about future water shortages.
- ◆ Conservation is most often mentioned as the single most important thing to do to ensure water for the future, and is the most well known and supported water management strategy.
- ◆ Except for conservation, citizens are generally not familiar with other water supply options.
- ◆ One-third of the residents do not feel they are informed on water issues.
- ◆ Residents want to be kept informed on water issues.
- ◆ When seeking reliable information on water issues, three-fourths of the residents turn to either their local water/utility department, city or county government, water districts or authority.
- ◆ Residents most frequently state they trust elected local/state officials and local water officials to make decisions about meeting future water needs, however one-third either trust nobody or do not know who to trust.
- ◆ Three-quarters of residents in the study region strongly agree that elected and water utility officials should involve the public in water planning issues.

The plan outlined in this report is centered around these key issues as each represents an important issue to be addressed or capitalized upon.

PART III PLAN RECOMMENDATION

The recommended plan is designed to address the issues as well as the opportunities which exist throughout the study region within the framework set forth above. A summary of these specific measures appears in Illustration 2.

Each of these measures is explained below.

Illustration 2 - Summary of Public Participation Plan

- ⇒ Integrated Resource Planning Workshop (Task 4-1)
- ⇒ Elected and Water Officials Briefings/Updates (Task 4.2)
- ⇒ Implementation of Media Plan (Task 4-3)
- ⇒ Assist in Development of Phase 2 Technical Scope of Work (Task 4-4)
- ⇒ Define and Implement IRP Organizational Requirements with Sponsor Agencies (Task 4-5)
- ⇒ Identify Planning Policy Objectives With Each Sponsor Agency (Task 4-6)
- ⇒ Re-Structure of Advisory Committees (Task 4-7)
- ⇒ Advisory Committee Meetings (Task 4-8)
- ⇒ Informational Materials Development and Production (Task 4-9)
- ⇒ Materials Distribution (Task 4-10)
- ⇒ Develop Public Information and Involvement Opportunities Through Outreach Efforts (Task 4-11)
- ⇒ Refine and Expand the Public's Evaluation Criteria (Task 4-12)
- ⇒ Advisory Committee's Interim IRP Report (Task 4-13)
- ⇒ Coordinate With Technical Contractor to Evaluate Resource Options (Task 4-14)
- ⇒ Assist in Characterizing Resource Options (Task 4-15)
- ⇒ Identify and Define Future Uncertainties and Potential Outcomes (Task 4-16)
- ⇒ Selection of Water Resource Scenarios (Task 4-17)
- ⇒ Advisory Committee's Final IRP Report (Task 4-18)

Task 4.1

Integrated Resource Planning Workshop - Two one-half day workshops are planned for the PMC members and senior agency staff. The purpose of the first session is to reaffirm the public involvement goals, to fine-tune the public participation plan, and to put that plan in the context of an IRP process. Organizational impacts will be assessed as well as each agency's role in the plan. The workshop will ensure that all sponsors are in agreement with the process and expectations for its outcomes.

The second session will be held after the technical contractor is engaged. This session will concentrate on the integration of the technical components with the public participation aspects, and vice versa. Key milestones will be identified including recommendation and public involvement points. Additionally a process will be established by which complex technical components will be translated into common terms of understanding.

Task 4.2

Elected and Water Official Briefings/Updates -

The current data base of elected officials will be expanded in preparation for briefings and updates. Since local elected officials are key to the success of this project, much emphasis will be spent on identifying these officials and to set in place a process by which they can be briefed and regularly updated. This task includes conducting briefings for groups of elected officials as warranted, and the distribution of a monthly status report letter to officials on the data base. In many cases elected officials (particularly state officials) will be asked to appoint a specific staff person to serve as liaison between their office and the Trans-Texas Water Program - West Central Region.

Task 4.3

Implementation of Media Plan - The media plan is divided into two parts: planned and unplanned media events.

Planned media events consist primarily of press releases at specific, predefined milestones. The media plan calls for seven general press releases and six "targeted" press releases. General press releases are distributed throughout the entire study region while targeted releases are restricted to a certain geographic area. Planned media events also include editorial board meetings.

Unplanned media events are more generally known as issues or crisis management. These are events which can not be specifically predicted but require media interaction. Unplanned media events are reactionary in nature and are in response to some event or circumstance.

Task 4.4

Assist in Development of Phase 2 Technical Scope of Work - The public participation contractor shall assist in the development of the Phase 2 Technical Scope of Work. Since that scope of work will set forth the parameters upon which an initial screening of water resource planning options will be conducted, it is essential that the public's criteria be a stated part of the screening parameters. The intent is that the resulting technical scope of work will be a reflection of both good science and public sensitivities.

In addition to the above, a unique partnership must be formed between the public and technical contractors. The success of each shall be dependent upon the other, and this interdependency must be reflected in the scope of work as a cooperative and coordinated effort.

Task 4.5

Define and Implement IRP Organizational Requirements with Sponsor Agencies - This unique planning method is much more of a way of thinking and attitude than it is a set of formulas. Additionally it views the public and stakeholders as participants in the process rather than disputants. Because of these characteristics it will be necessary to work with each sponsor agency to assess how this commitment to public participation impacts organizational demands. Not all participating agencies have public information departments and/or media spokespersons, yet all must be in a position to respond to the needs of the public for communication and information. Within the context of standards developed under the Trans-Texas umbrella, each agency must set its own policy and procedures on how the demands of the process will be responded to. This response often has organizational implications and it is necessary that each agency be properly situated to respond to the needs of the program in a reliable, standardized way.

Task 4.6

Identify Planning Policy Objectives of Each Sponsor Agency - A careful identification of each agency's planning policy objectives will be an essential element in this process. This is especially important considering the multi-agency nature of the Trans-Texas Program and the fact that each agency has their individual planning and technical analysis in progress. Each agency's planning policy objectives will form the basis of the criteria against which resource scenarios will be evaluated. Since these planning policy objectives form the very basis of that evaluation criteria, their importance can not be overemphasized.

The public participation contractor will work with the staff technical work group and the technical contractor (HDR) to ensure the infusion of the public's concerns in these planning objectives.

It is certain that objectives will differ between agencies. Explicitly addressing these differences through a process of constrained trade-offs will be an important part of this process.

Task 4.7

Re-Structure of Advisory Committees - It is recommended that the current Advisory Committee for Public and Technical Input be reconstituted and re-commissioned giving it a more focused role in the Trans-Texas process.

The Public Participation Component

While still functioning as an advisory body only, it is recommended that the public involvement component be a free standing committee comprised strictly of citizen advisors. While membership to the committee will continue to be self-selecting as it has been in the past, a conscious effort will be made to balance the representation in terms of geography, gender, race, water position, socioeconomic status, etc., in order to guarantee equal representation and participation.

A key factor in this committee makeup will be that it is comprised *solely* of citizen representatives of the public. The committee *will not* include water professionals, agency/government personnel, elected officials, political candidates, scientists, technical/professionals, etc. The intent is to protect the right of the ordinary citizen to full participation in the process without interference or over-shadow.

Membership to the committee will be promoted region-wide and elected officials will be invited to nominate citizens for membership within the set criteria. Any citizen expressing an interest in serving will be given briefing materials which will explain the project, the role of the committee, expectations of membership, and anticipated time demands of service. A recruitment effort will be conducted in geographic areas from which little citizen response is received.

In the event there is a large enrollment response, it may be necessary to organize the efforts of the advisory committee into smaller, regional groups (possibly task forces) in order to more efficiently gain their involvement and input. In this event the regional groups shall be sub-sets of the advisory committee, to which each regional group shall appoint an equal number of representatives. This method makes the process available to those impacted, calls upon citizens to represent citizens, and balances potentially skewed regional representation.

First on the public participation committee's agenda will be to develop and adopt the constitutional documents necessary to give its efforts focus and control. These documents will include the mission statement given to it by the PMC in their initial commission, a draft of which is presented in Illustration 3 for PMC consideration. The second part of the committee's agenda will be to gain a basic understanding of the Trans-Texas Water Program and its current status, to begin a process of assisting the program in materials distribution, assist in strategy development of public outreach efforts, and to begin the process of refining the decision and evaluation criteria. *Most*

importantly, the role of the advisory committee will be to provide ongoing, educated public input to the technical analysis as it progresses and within the planning constraints yet to be determined by this process.

The recommended new name of this committee is: Citizens Advisory Committee for Public Participation.

The Technical Component

It is also recommended that the technical component of the current Advisory Committee for Public and Technical Input be likewise reconfigured as a parallel advisory committee in this effort. Its mission and configuration will be determined in conjunction with the Project Manager, the technical work group, and the technical contractor.

It will be important for these two advisory committees understand and respect the essential role each must play in this process.

Illustration 2 Trans-Texas Water Program - West Central Region Citizens Advisory Committee for Public Participation: Proposed Mission Statement

The mission of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Public Participation is to provide ongoing, educated public input into the technical evaluation of water resource alternatives and scenarios by providing a diverse set of community perspectives and inputs. Based upon the committee's work in providing public feedback on various water resource issues, the committee is expected to offer input to the Policy Management Committee through the Advisory Committee for Technical Input regarding the most viable and the most publicly desirable set of options for the future of the entire study region.

Task 4.8

Advisory Committee Meetings - Throughout this process there will be meetings of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Public Participation. It will also be necessary to have public participation representation at the technical advisory committee meetings. This task includes the planning, arranging, conducting, documentation, and follow-up of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Public Participation meetings based upon the committee's tasks to be performed (tasks 4-10 through 4-17). Public participation team members will also attend the technical advisory committee meetings.

Task 4.9

Informational Materials Development and Production - Since communication will be such a large part of this process, informational materials are critical. This task includes the development of the following:

Brochures: Working with the sponsoring agencies, English and Spanish information brochures on the Trans-Texas Water Program - West Central Region will be developed, designed, and produced. These brochures will be available for general information purposes and will explain the program as well as public involvement opportunities. It will be made available to citizens, sponsoring agencies, civic and fraternal organizations, businesses, and elected officials for constituent distribution when requested. The brochure will be a tri-fold piece capable of accommodating a regional or issues specific insert as needed. The anticipated first run is 20,000 brochures.

Newsletter: Working with the sponsoring agencies, a Trans-Texas Water Program - West Central Region newsletter will be produced quarterly over the anticipated eighteen month project. This information piece is intended to inform the public and others of the progress of the study, the issues at stake, and the opportunities for public involvement. Additionally it is an opportunity to speak to current circumstances and events as needed. The content is intended to include messages from key local elected officials as well as a Spanish language section. The newsletter will be a fold-over piece capable of accommodating a regional or issues specific insert as needed. The anticipated run per issue is 10,000 pieces.

Envelope Stuffers: Three English/Spanish envelope stuffer pieces will be designed for use at key juncture points throughout the study process. These informational pieces will be designed to address current events or circumstances and can be utilized by those sponsoring agencies who have regular envelope mail outs such as monthly bills.

Informational Video: An informational video tape will be produced which explains the need for water planning, the purpose, goals, and methodology of the Trans-Texas Water Program, the role of public involvement, general water planning alternatives, and the decision making process. Two videos will be produced: a ten minute and a twenty minute version. Additionally, there will be both an English and Spanish language version. The exact content and format of the video will be determined by a joint effort between the Policy Management Committee's Public Information Committee and the contractor team. The video tape will be distributed to schools, public libraries, civic groups, elected officials, public television, agencies, special interest groups, etc.

World Wide Web Page: A home page domain will be established on the World Wide Web under the name of the Trans-Texas Water Program - West Central Region. The home page will contain an explanation of the project, the

importance of water planning, the specific goals of Trans-Texas, specific information on the study sponsors, frequently asked questions, current information on water alternatives, E-mail reception, current events, project status, and opportunities for public involvement. This web site, which will be updated monthly, will be noted in all materials published about the program.

The development of all materials will be based upon the input received from the public over the past year in addition to input on drafts received in the first months of this Task 4.

Task 4.10

Materials Distribution - This task includes the distribution of the brochure and the newsletter in a mass mailing to agencies, elected officials, and individuals on the existing data base. In addition to an initial mass mailing, individual requests received by the study team will also be responded to. Additionally this includes the distribution of the video tape to targeted individuals and groups throughout the project period.

Task 4.11

Develop Public Information and Involvement Opportunities Through Outreach Efforts - Throughout the course of this implementation process the study team will continually develop opportunities, with and through the advisory committees, to distribute information materials and to seek new ways to enhance public involvement and outreach efforts. This includes taking advantage of opportunities to involve and inform the public. This task also includes the need to respond to circumstances which are not currently identifiable in terms of issues management or crises control.

Task 4.12

Refine and Expand the Public's Evaluation and Decision Criteria - Working with the Citizens Advisory Committee for Public Participation, the technical contractor, and the Advisory Committee for Technical Input, the study team will continue to collect public input on the preliminary decision analysis criteria identified earlier in this process. At this stage it will be necessary to refine that criteria with greater specificity, constantly comparing it as it develops to the stated planning policy objectives.

Task 4.13

Advisory Committee's Interim IRP Report - The Citizens Advisory Committee for Public Participation will draft a preliminary report to be submitted to the PMC. This will include a record of the committee's mission statement, a record of the operative groundrules adopted, composition of membership, minutes of meetings held, evaluative criteria considered or adopted, and recommendations made, if any, to the Advisory Committee for Technical Input.

Task 4.14

Coordinate With Technical Contractor to Evaluate Resource Options - Public participation input must be reflected throughout the technical contractor's resource

evaluation process. The study team will be responsible for representing the public's interest in this evaluation, and will ensure that it is an integral part of the technical process. The results of these efforts with the technical component will be reported to, and considered by, the advisory committees.

Task 4.15

Assist in Characterizing Resource Options - Part of the process of option evaluation is the analysis of each such option utilizing the criteria and planning objectives which are reflective of the public's input. The public participation contractor will assist the technical contractor in this option analysis and in determining how well various options, and/or combinations of options, meet policy planning objectives and public criteria. Consultations on this issue will also be conducted with the technical work group as well as both advisory committees. Once done, resource options are then characterized and explained in terms understandable by the public.

Task 4.16

Identify and Define Future Uncertainties and Potential Outcomes - In keeping with the tenets of an IRP approach, the contractor will give explicit treatment to uncertainties and potential outcomes. It is a basic premise that the public interprets uncertainties as risks, which can rapidly transform themselves into moral, emotional, and justice issues. This phenomenon is often hastened by those who seek to create and promote controversy. Therefore these are risks which must be managed. This process is designed to carefully identify these uncertainties and potential outcomes and to make them explicit. The goal of the methodology is to produce an appropriate level of public concern and, hopefully, action. These uncertainties and their potential outcomes must be reflected throughout the process and must be taken into careful consideration when making recommendations to the decision makers.

Task 4.17

Selection of Water Resource Scenarios - The ultimate goal of Trans-Texas is to review a variety of water resource alternatives or strategies for the purpose of selecting a "menu" of options for the entire region which are both technically feasible as well as publicly acceptable, *and which best meets the stated policy objectives*. This will be accomplished only through a partnership effort between the public, the technical evaluation component, and the decision makers. The Citizens Advisory Committee for Public Participation will work through a process of criteria refinement and assessment, information dissemination, public involvement, as participants in the decision making process.

Task 4.18

Advisory Committee's Final IRP Report - At the conclusion of the public participation process a final report will be submitted by the Citizens Advisory Committee for Public Participation to the PMC. This report will detail the various steps undertaken by the committee, public participation initiatives employed and their results, minutes of meetings held, and final comments and conclusions for water resource planning

scenarios for the region. The committee's report shall then serve to shape the final decisions to be made by the decision makers.

PART IV TIME LINE

The time line for the proposed public participation plan is shown in Illustration 4.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Illustration 4 - TASK 4 ESTIMATED TIME LINE

TASK NO.	TASK	MONTH NO:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
4.1	IRP Workshop		x			x															
4.2	Elected Officials Briefings/Updates		x	x	x						x	x	x					x	x	x	
4.3	Implement Media Plan		x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x		x		x		x	x	
4.4	Phase 2 Technical Scope of Work		x	x	x																
4.5	IRP Organizational requirements		x	x	x																
4.6	Define Planning Policy Objectives		x	x	x																
4.7	Re-Structure of Advisory Committees		x	x	x	x															
4.8	Advisory Committee Meetings			x	x	x		x		x		x		x		x		x	x	x	
4.9	Materials Development and Production		x	x	x																
4.10	Materials Distribution		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4.11	Develop Public Information and Involvement Opportunities		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4.12	Refine and Expand Evaluation Criteria					x	x	x						x	x	x					
4.13	Interim IRP Report								x	x											
4.14	Evaluate Resource Options					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
4.15	Characterizing Resource Options													x	x	x	x	x			
4.16	ID and Define Uncertainties/Outcomes					x		x		x		x		x		x		x			x
4.17	Select Water Resource Scenarios															x	x	x	x	x	x
4.18	Final IRP Report																	x	x	x	x

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