

Lago Vista, Texas 78645  
[www.LagoVistaTexas.gov](http://www.LagoVistaTexas.gov)



Lago Vista City Hall  
5803 Thunderbird Street  
**Shane R. Saum**  
City Council Place 1

April 30, 2024

Re: TWDB Request for Comments on the Texas Water Fund

To the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB),

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input on the implementation of the Texas Water Fund. We the undersigned are writing to highlight the necessity for additional scoring criteria for municipal financial assistance applications, particularly for communities situated near rapidly expanding metro areas.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the US Census Bureau published a press release showing that from July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2023, Texas had 4 of the top 10 Metro Areas with the largest growth in the country. Dallas and Houston were numbers 1 and 2 on the list. Austin and San Antonio were numbers 7 and 9. Among counties with a population of 20,000 or more, Texas has 6 of the top 8 fastest growing counties in the country.

Previously, Lago Vista City Councilman Shane R. Saum advocated to the Board for consideration of additional scoring metrics for communities located near these high-growth metro areas that apply for financial assistance programs through the TWDB. It is noteworthy that current scoring mechanisms include additional points for economically disadvantaged communities, amongst other additional criteria.

We the undersigned support this proposal that additional scoring should be awarded to communities under undue stress related to neighboring communities' unfettered growth. This adjustment would ensure that smaller municipalities with a population of less than 20,000 residents located near rapidly growing metro areas are equitably supported in their efforts to meet the burgeoning demands for water resources. The absence of these funding opportunities would significantly hinder the advancement of numerous large-scale infrastructure projects, either subjecting them to prolonged delays, increasing our bond debt, or jeopardizing their realization altogether.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to the TWDB's continued dedication to promoting sustainable water management across our great state.

Sincerely,

<Insert approved elected officials names/city>