

## How long will our water last?

Thank goodness for the recent rains!

This past year we have seen so many water wells go dry, so it raises the all-important question: How long will our water last?

It behooves each one of us to educate ourselves as to what the water situation is in Texas and, most especially, in our region. So, let's take a look at water and water planning for our future.

The state of Texas is divided into Regional Water Planning areas. The Plateau Region, or "Region J" as defined by the state, is shown below.



### Regional Water Planning – Region J, Plateau Region

Region J is located on the southern edge of the Edwards Plateau, stretching from The United States-Mexico border in the west to the Texas Hill Country in the east. It is a vast and diverse region!

The Plateau Region includes portions of the Colorado, Guadalupe, Nueces, Rio Grande, and San Antonio river basins. Land use in the western portion of the region is primarily range land, while

the eastern portion (which is rapidly changing!) is a mix of forest land, range land, and agricultural areas. The largest cities in the region are Kerrville and Del Rio.

Historically, the economy of the Plateau Region's six counties has been based on tourism, hunting, ranching, and government (primarily Laughlin Air Force base in Val Verde County). But this is rapidly changing as the eastern sector of this water planning region is being dramatically impacted by urban flight.

In this eastern sector, new housing and new businesses are popping up everywhere – all of this during a time when so many water wells are going dry.

So, what's the plan?

It is important that we educate ourselves on the water planning for our region, all of which takes place under the auspices of the Texas Water Development Board. To learn about the particulars of the water plan for the state *and for our region*, go to:

<http://www.ugra.org/plateau-water-planning-group>

Here you will be able to read about the process that was used to develop our regional and our state water plan and to view various water planning maps.

To have your voice heard, anyone can attend the regional water planning meetings. The next meeting, hosted by the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, is scheduled for June 23, 2023, at the UGRA offices at 125 Lehmann, Suite 100, Kerrville, Texas, 830-896-5445.

If RLAT members are interested in hearing more about what the future holds for us in terms of water, we can sponsor a workshop/presentation for our membership.

When it comes to your water: Be informed and be involved.