



PUBCAP Meeting

● ● ● Wednesday, September 18, 2024



Call Open Meeting To Order



Approval of Minutes



Old Business



New Business



Drought Update

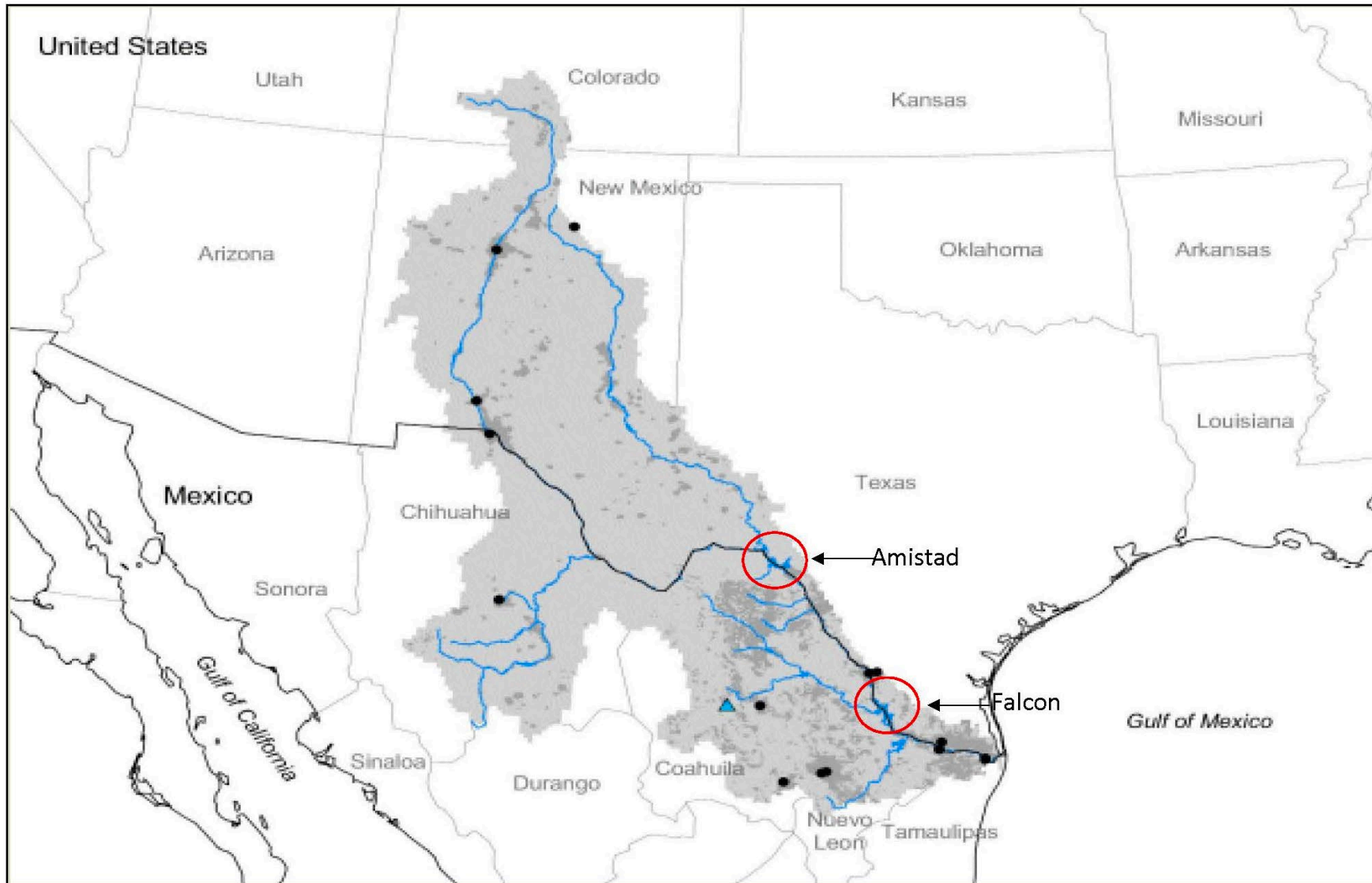
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD CONSUMER ADVISORY PANEL

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

Drought Update Message

- Currently in Stage 2 drought
- Forecast indicates moving to Stage 3 drought
- Asking community to help by complying with Stage 2 restrictions

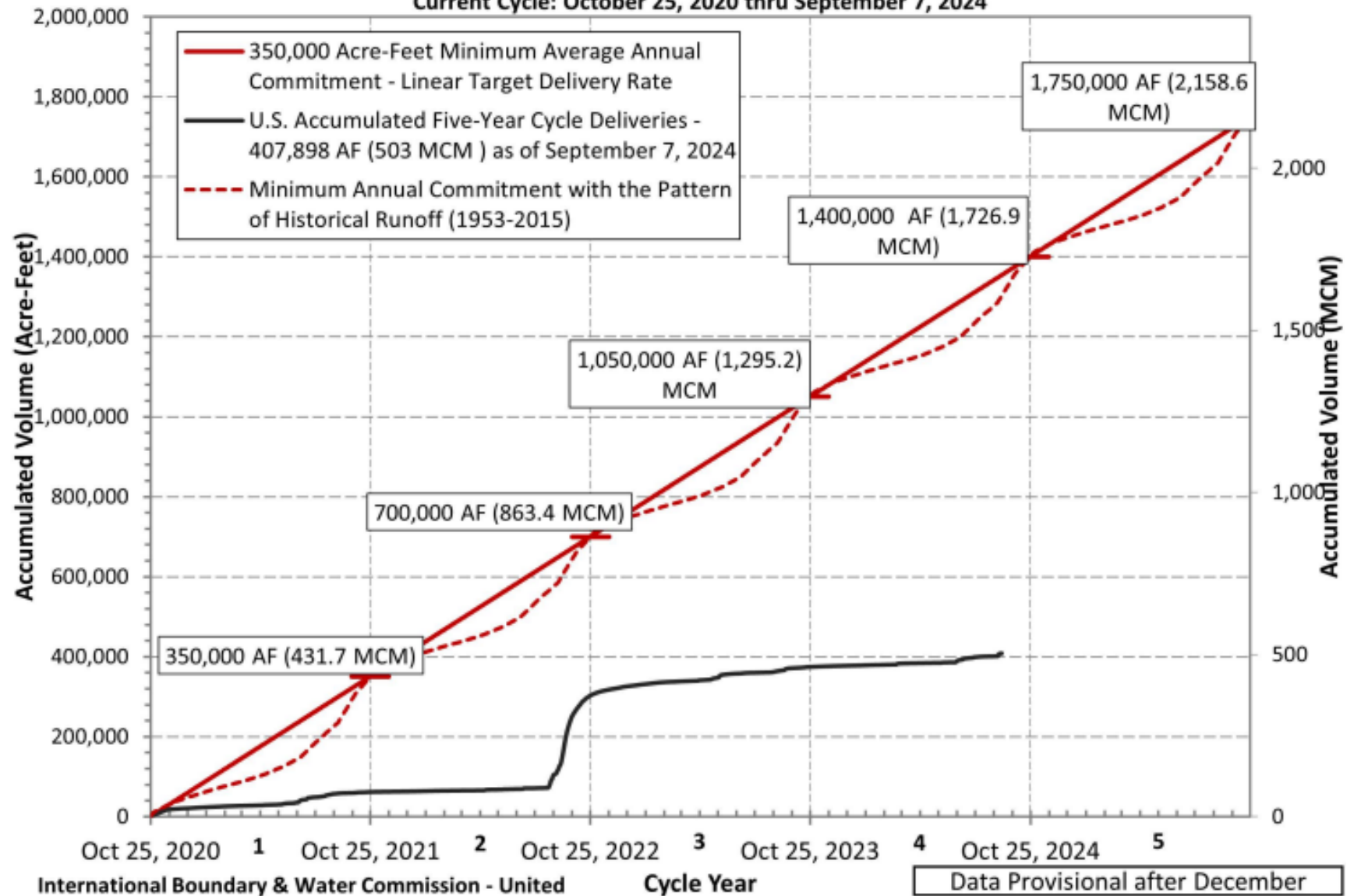
Rio Grande Watershed



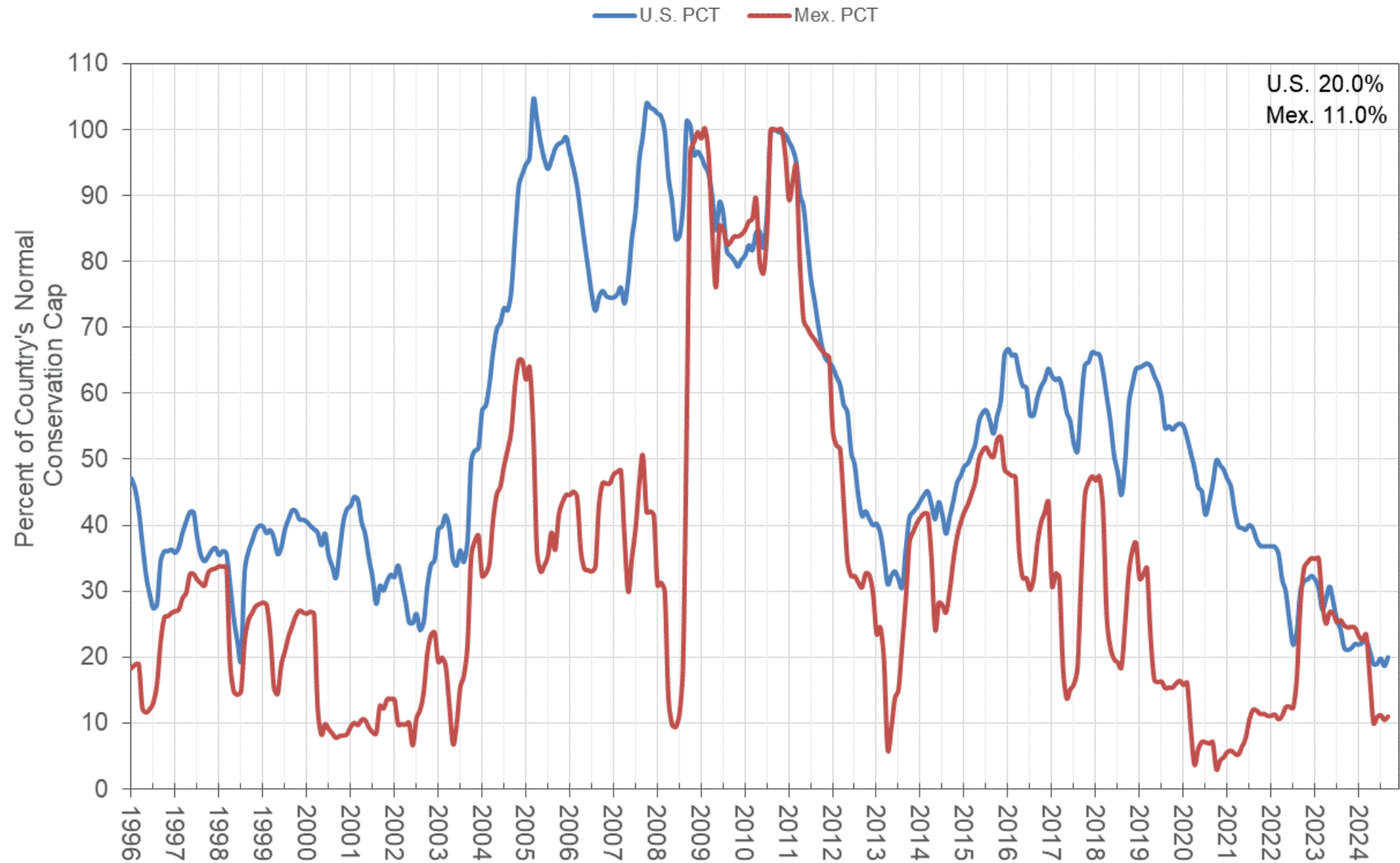
U.S International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC)

- IBWC responsible for applying treaties between US and Mexico
 - International body with US/Mexican Engineer Commissioner
- 1944 Treaty
 - Mexico obligation = 1,750,000 acre-feet/5 year cycle (= 350,000 acre-feet/year)
 - As of September 7, 2024 delivered 407,898 acre-feet (at year 4 of 5-year cycle)
- Resolutions/Communications
 - Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC).
 - IBWC
 - Legislators
 - U.S. Department of State

Rio Grande River Basin
Estimated Volumes Allotted to the United States by Mexico from Six Named Mexican Tributaries
and Other Accepted Sources* under the 1944 Water Treaty
Current Cycle: October 25, 2020 thru September 7, 2024

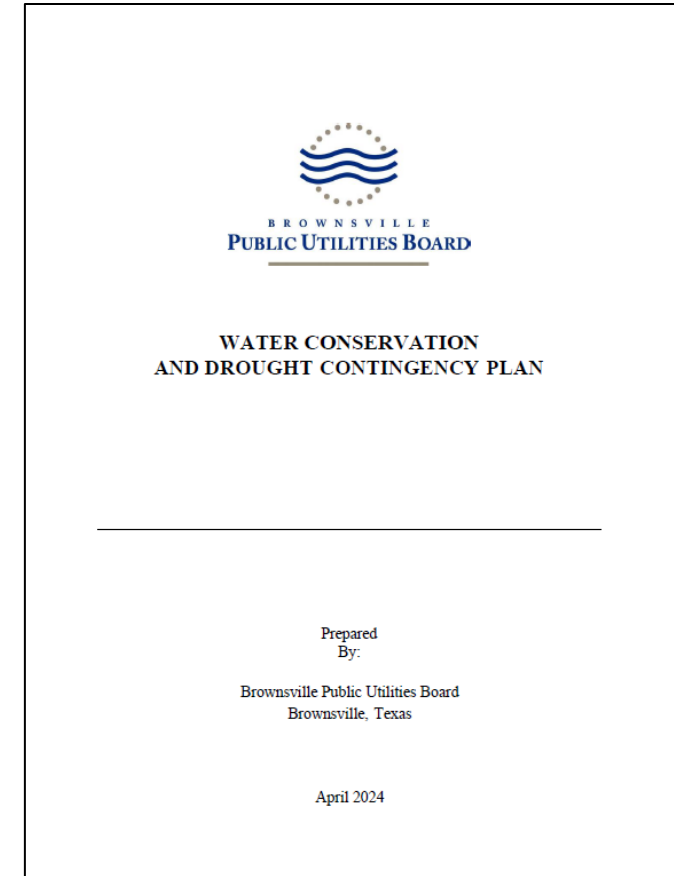


Amistad-Falcon Percent of Conservation Capacity



Water Conservation & Drought Contingency Plan (WCDCP)

- WCDCP is state mandated
 - Must be updated every 5 years (30 TAC 288)
 - Submitted to Texas Water Development Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Region M Water Planning Group
 - Due May 1, 2024 - Completed
- Water Conservation Plan
 - Conservation goals and strategies
- Drought Contingency Plan
 - Water restrictions, surcharges, enforcement



Drought Contingency Plan

City Ordinance 2006-1134-B, Sec. 1,102-281



Purpose

- To conserve and limit the demand of water during water emergencies
- To minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortages or other emergencies

Authority

- BPUB sets guidelines & criteria for implementation of the stages
- BPUB GM & CEO and the City of Brownsville Mayor, or their designees, initiate and terminate each stage

PART II - CODE OF ORDINANCES
Chapter 102 - UTILITIES
ARTICLE V. DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

ARTICLE V. DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN¹

Sec. 102-281. Adopted.

The drought contingency plan of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board attached hereto and made a part hereof is hereby adopted as the official policy of the City of Brownsville.
(Ord. No. 2006-1134-B, § 1, 2-21-2006)

Sec. 102-282. Policy.

- (a) In view of the limited water resources available to the city, it is hereby declared that the public health, safety and welfare requires that all water resources available to the city be put to maximum beneficial use and that the waste, unreasonable use, or unreasonable method of use of water be prevented. The conservation of all water resources is to be pursued with a view toward the reasonable and beneficial use thereof in the interests of the people of the area served by the city's water resources.
- (b) In making decisions under this article concerning the allocation of water between conflicting interests, highest priority will be given to allocations which will result in the least loss of employment to persons whose income is essential to their families.
(Ord. No. 2006-1134-B, § 2, 2-21-2006)

Sec. 102-283. Implementation.

The public utilities board general manager, or his/her designee, shall have the authority to implement the drought contingency plan and be responsible for initiation and termination of applicable drought response stages as well as related water use restrictions.
(Ord. No. 2006-1134-B, § 3, 2-21-2006)

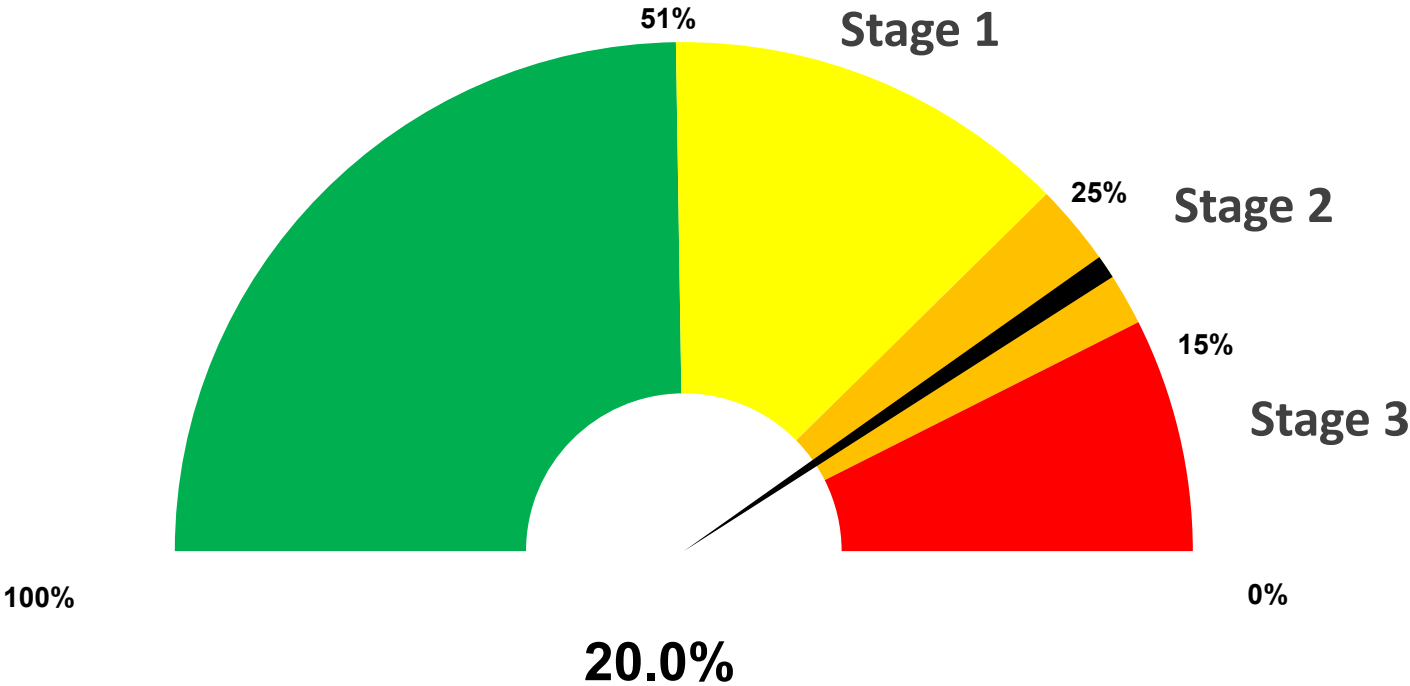
Sec. 102-284. Applicability.

- (a) The provisions of this drought contingency plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the Brownsville PUB system. The term "person" and "customer" as used in the drought contingency plan includes individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all legal entities.
- (b) The water use restrictions imposed under this drought contingency plan do not apply to reuse water sources, gray water, treated wastewater or water supply sources other than that provided by the Brownsville PUB system. However, these restrictions apply to all pumping from the Resaca system within the City of Brownsville and pumping into the Resaca system by Brownsville PUB.

¹Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 2006-1134-B, §§ 1—9, adopted Feb. 21, 2006, amended Art. V in its entirety to read as herein set out. Former Art. V, §§ 102-281—102-289, pertained to similar subject matter, and derived from Ord. No. 2002-1134-A, § 1—9, adopted Apr. 23, 2002.

BPUB Drought Stage Meter

- Stage 1 – Voluntary
- Stage 2 – Restrictions
- Stage 3 – Surcharges
- Stage 4 - Rationing



U.S. Combined ownership at Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs
September 7, 2024 = 20.0%

U.S. Combined Ownership at Amistad/Falcon

Previous 3 Readings

18.7%

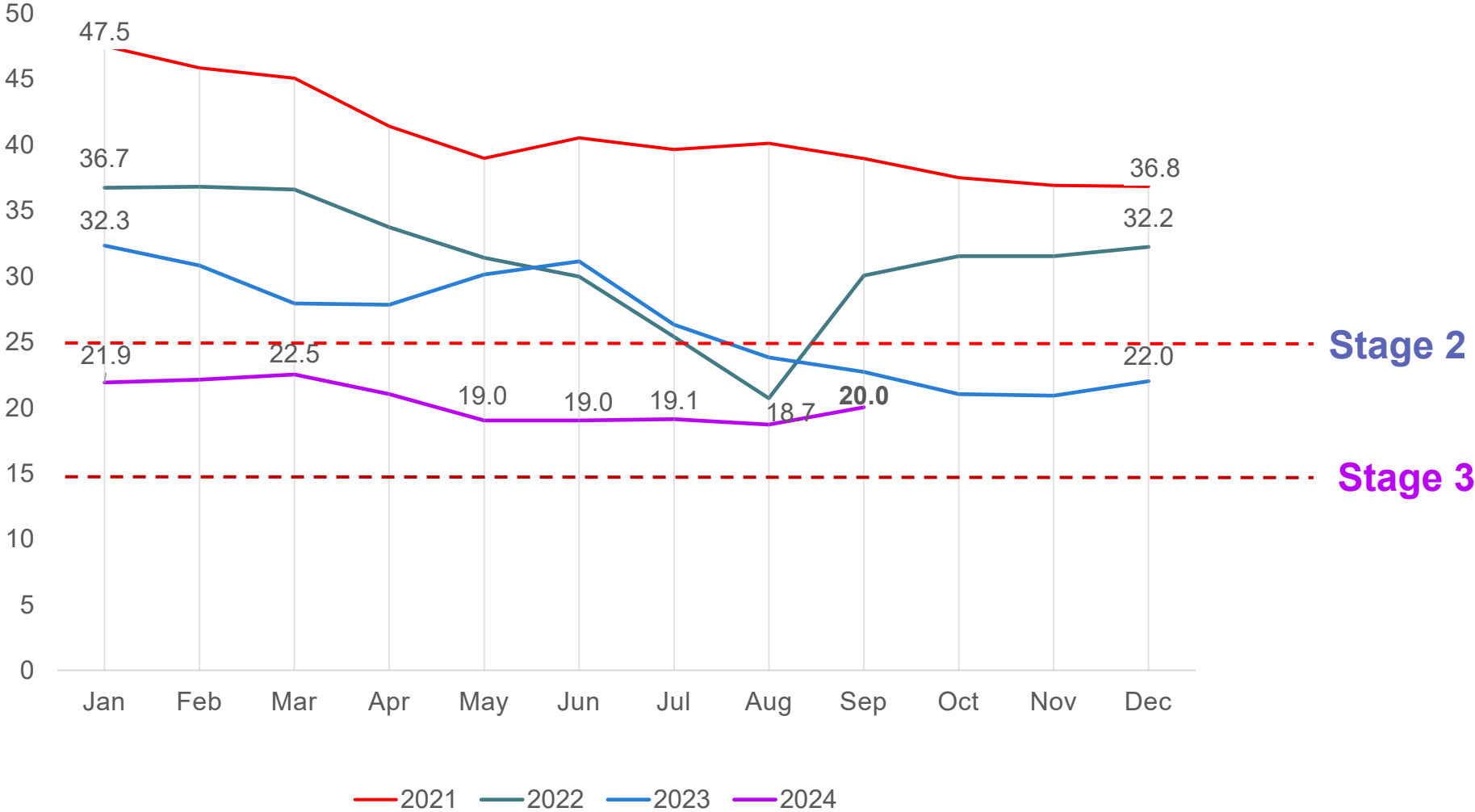
August 31, 2024

18.9%

August 24, 2024

19.2%

August 17, 2024



Restrictions Permitted by Code

STAGE 2

- Bi-weekly landscape irrigation
- Landscape variance
- Bi-weekly lawn watering
- Restricted residential car washing
- Golf course Water Management Plan
- Water on request only at restaurants
- No non-essential washing, dust control, or gutter flushing
- Must repair water leaks
- Notices for violations

STAGE 3

- Weekly landscape irrigation
- Weekly lawn watering
- Weekly residential car washing
- Using water from Resacas
- Pumping water into Resacas
- Surcharges for commercial and residential
- Enforcement for violations
- Adding water to pools, except to maintain integrity
- Outdoor ornamental fountain or pond operations
- Use of water from scenic and recreational ponds and lakes (resacas)



B R O W N S V I L L E
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

EVERY DROP COUNTS!

Learn more about drought at:



brownsville-pub.com/drought-resources

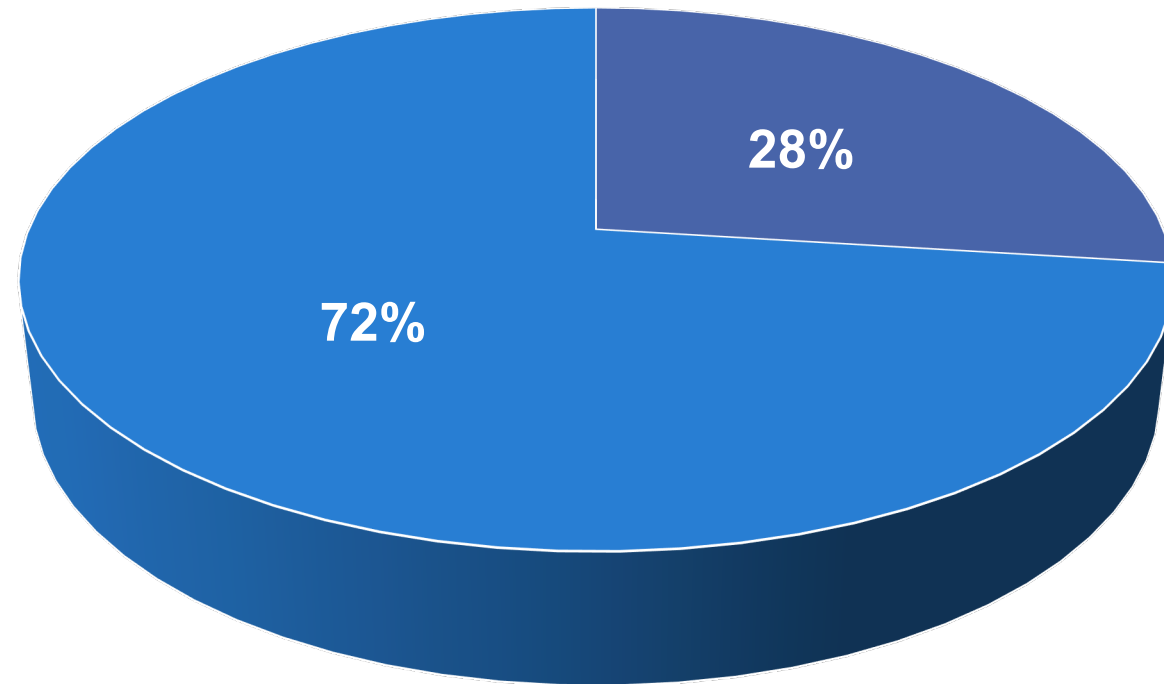
Brownsville Public Water Supply



FY2023 AVERAGE WATER DEMAND:

22.0

Million Gallons/Day (MGD)



■ Groundwater (SRWA) ■ Surface Water Plants



BPUB Organizational Overview

SEPT. 18, 2024

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD CONSUMER ADVISORY PANEL

Key Mission – Critical Services



- Water service
- Electrical service
- Wastewater service

Superior Rating - Water



- TCEQ rated as a superior water system
- 3 water treatment facilities
 - 2 surface water plants provide 40 MGD
 - 1 brackish groundwater treatment facility



Powering Brownsville - Electric

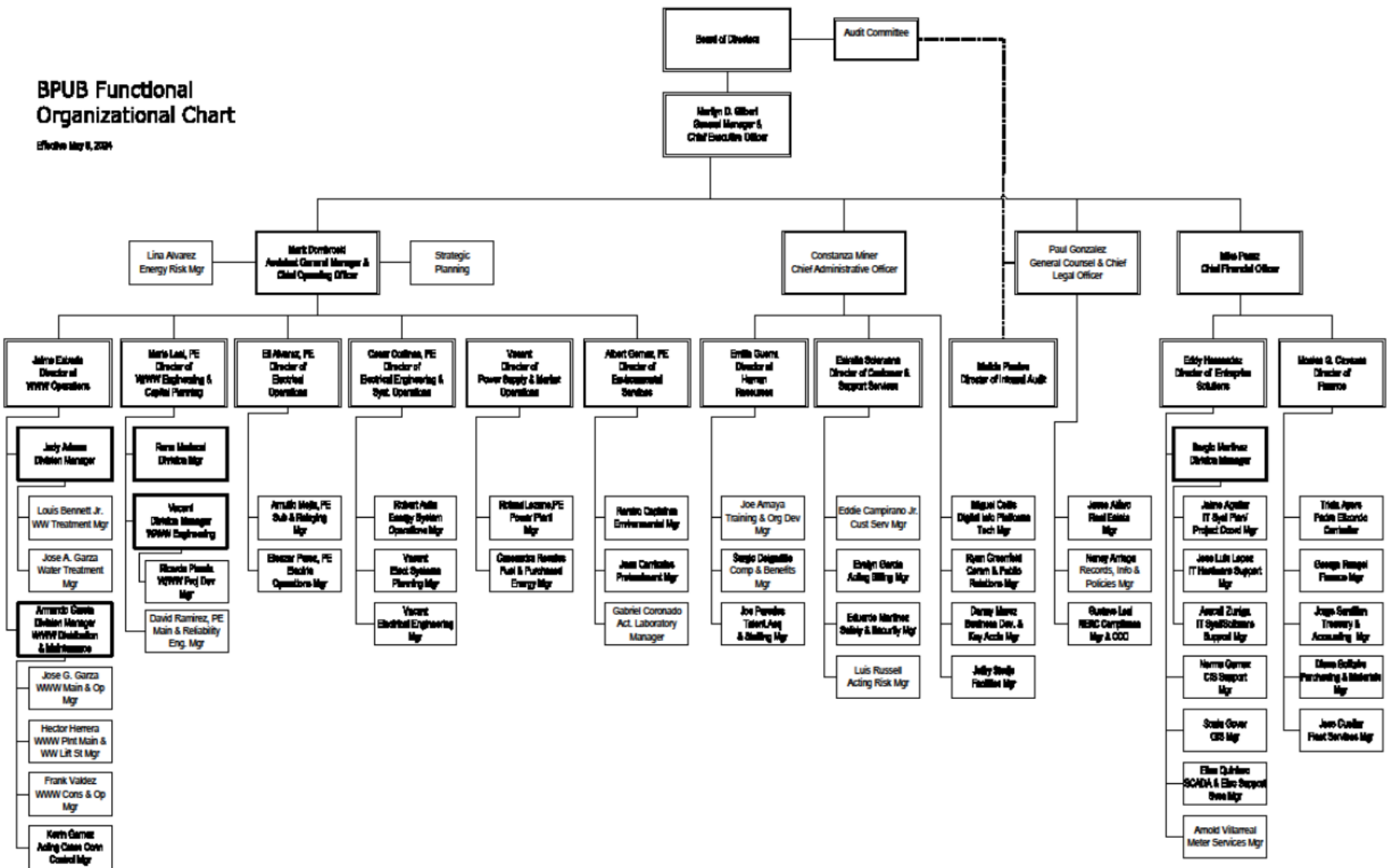
- Silas Ray Power Plant – Brownsville
 - 100% BPUB owned
 - Natural
- Hidalgo Energy Center – Edinburg
 - 21% ownership, 500 MW capacity
 - Natural gas
- Sendero Wind Farm – Hebbronville
 - 100% ownership, 78 MW capacity
- ERCOT membership
 - Buy and sell on ERCOT marketplace



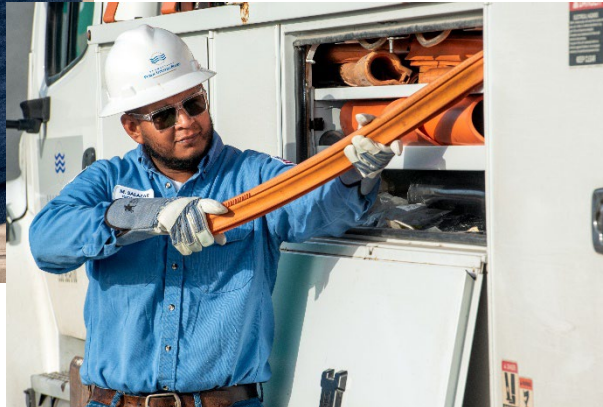
Keeping the city clean - wastewater

- 2 wastewater treatment plants
 - South Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - Robindale Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 194 lift stations
- Miles of gravity wastewater collection lines
- Subject to regulation by EPA and TCEQ

BPUB is probably bigger than you think!



Many jobs, many roles, one mission



Board of directors

- Leadership delegated to board of directors
- Seven members – six appointed by city commission with mayor serving as seventh member
- Current board chair: Arturo “Art” Rendon
- Representative leadership, hallmark of public power



Executive Management



Marilyn Gilbert, General Manager & CEO

- Responsible for executing the plans and decisions of the Board of Directors, thereby directing all aspects of utility systems
- Oversees all day-to-day operations
- Company currently divided into 4 sections, each with an executive manager

Executive Management



Mark Dombroski, Assistant GM/COO

- Responsible for operational functions and ongoing maintenance of all the utilities and ensuring all policies, resolutions are enforced

Divisions

W/WW Op.

W/WW Eng. & Cap. Planning

Electrical Operations

Electrical Eng. & Syst. Op.

Power Sup. & Market Op. Environmental Services

Department

Energy Risk Management

Executive Management



Constanza Miner, CEO

- Responsible for overseeing daily administrative operations, provides input for business planning

Divisions

Human Resources

Customer & Support Services

Departments

Comm. & PR

Dig. Info. Platforms

Key Account Marketing

Energy Efficiency & Cons.

Facility Maintenance

Facility Maintenance 511

Facility Maintenance Annex

Executive Management



Mike Perez, CFO

- Responsible for managing BPUB's finances, including financial planning, management of financial risks and financial reporting, and complying with all environmental laws and regulations

Divisions

Enterprise Solutions

Finance Office

Executive Management



Paul Gonzalez, General Counsel and CLO

- Responsible for advising on legal issues and corporate governance
- Works to minimize legal risks

Divisions

Internal Audit – reports functionally to the Board and administratively to the CLO

Departments

Records Management

NERC Compliance

Real Estate

About PUBCAP – How It Started



Public Utilities Board
Consumer Advisory Panel
(PUBCAP) was organized in
1983 for the purpose of better
informing Board officials as to
the needs and concerns of
the system customers.

PUBCAP Structure

PUBCAP is composed of 10 members representing a cross-section of the system's service area community and one staff representative of the Board.



PUBCAP Purpose: Customer Relations

- To provide a forum for customers to express concerns about utility issues and about BPUB
- To enable BPUB to improve communications
- To identify & discuss utility issues affecting BPUB & its customers
- To respond to BPUB's request for advice and consultation on various issues



QUESTIONS?



Touch-a-Truck Event

Date & Time:

Saturday, October 19 - 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Location:

Children's Museum of Brownsville

Goals:

- Enhance community relations and customer engagement.
- Educate the public on BPUB's utilities: water/wastewater and electricity.
- Highlight BPUB's programs, services, and community contributions.



Promotional Campaign

- **September 9:**
Launch Promotional Campaign
- **Channels for distribution:**
 - Social media
 - Digital Billboards
 - Lobby digital displays
 - News media coverage





Rate Comparisons Communication



Brownsville Public Utilities Board

Published by Buffer



July 2 · ⚙️

See how BPUB's rates compare to other electric service providers. For more information about our rates, visit <https://www.brownsville-pub.com/.../electric/electric-rates>.

TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC BILL

based on 1,000 kWh of electric sales

July 2024



This information is compiled and provided by the PUCT from publicly available information from the Retail Electric Providers. For comparative purposes bills shown are all fixed plans.

[See insights and ads](#)

[Boost post](#)

👍 63

63 comments 1 share

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THE BPUB ADVANTAGE



Here at BPUB, we strive to provide clear information about our electric rates. As a municipally owned utility, our rates are not listed on the Public Utilities Commission of Texas (PUCT) website www.powertochoose.org. Our goal is to assist our customers in understanding how our rates stack up and what factors to take into account when comparing them with those of other electric service providers.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

- ▶ **LOCAL SERVICE:**
Committed to serving Brownsville with integrity.
- ▶ **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT:**
Contributes to **local investment** through city cash transfers for various community improvements, such as parks and public safety.
- ▶ **CUSTOMER-FOCUSED:**
There is no need to shop around; BPUB provides dependable energy solutions tailored to our community's needs. Residential customers have a variety of **utility assistance programs**, including **payment arrangements** to help manage bills.



HOW DO WE COMPARE?



BPUB offers competitive rates compared to other local providers.



BPUB provides reliable service, with the added benefit of local governance, representation and community reinvestment.

When evaluating electricity plans, it's important to look beyond just the rate. Here's what you should know:

FIXED NOT VARIABLE RATE:

BPUB offers fixed rates without the fluctuations of variable plans, providing consistent billing.

NO CONTRACT TERM LIMITS:

BPUB does not have contracts term limits, offering flexibility compared to other providers.

NO CANCELLATION FEES:

As a municipally owned utility, BPUB does not impose cancellation fees, unlike some retail providers.


ACCESSIBLE CUSTOMER SERVICE:

Enjoy local and accessible customer service tailored to our community's needs.

RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC RATE COMPARISON

Based on 1,000 kWh of electric sales

September 2024



ELECTRIC RATE:

11.13¢ /kWh

RESIDENTIAL BILL:

\$111.26 /kWh

Based on 1,000 kWh of electric sales

This information is compiled and provided by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) from publicly available information on the [powertochoose.org](https://www.powertochoose.org) website. The rates shown are from retail electric providers and are inclusive of all fixed charges (e.g., customer and metering charges) and variable charges (e.g., transmission and distribution charges). For comparative purposes, all plans shown are fixed-rate. Actual rates may vary based on market conditions.

Company	Rate (cents)	Bill
MVEC	11.10¢	\$110.95
Ambit Energy	18.90¢	\$188.95
Cirro Corp.	15.41¢	\$154.08
Amigo Energy	13.10¢	\$130.95
Direct Energy	16.05¢	\$160.50
IGS	15.29¢	\$152.85
Reliant	16.45¢	\$164.52
TXU	17.59¢	\$175.90

EVALUATING YOUR ELECTRIC RATE



Evaluating an electricity plan on **powertochoose.org** involves more than just finding the lowest rate. Here's what to keep in mind:

► **LOWEST RATE ≠ BEST DEAL:**

The cheapest option might not offer the best value when considering service quality and additional fees.

► **READ THE ELECTRICITY FACTS LABEL (EFL):**

Reading the EFL is essential for understanding the details and terms of any electricity plan. It provides crucial information that customers should review before evaluating a service, including energy rates, pricing structures, contract terms, renewable energy content, and additional fees.

► **BPUB RATES INCLUDE ALL FEES UPFRONT:**

Our pricing ensures there are no hidden charges, providing a clear understanding of your energy costs.





visit brownsville-pub.com/compare to learn more.



Questions?



Public Comments



Next Meeting Date

OCTOBER 16, 2024



Adjournment
