



# WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

**FOR THE** 

CENTRAL HARRIS COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY HOUSTON, TEXAS

July 2022

IDS Project No. 1029-000-00

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#### SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Central Harris County Regional Water Authority ("Authority") of Harris County was created by House Bill Number 3181 of the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas, Regular Session, 2005. The purpose of the Authority is to prepare and implement a plan to construct and operate the necessary public water transmission facilities to convert an area in central Harris County, Texas from groundwater to surface water. The Authority is expressly authorized to purchase, own, hold, lease and maintain pipelines for the transportation of water, to build and operate plants for the treatment and distribution of water, to purchase from and sell water to towns, cities, conservation and reclamation districts and other political subdivisions of the State of Texas, or to private corporations and individuals. The Board of Directors has the managing control and operation of the Authority's system. Three members of the Board of Directors are elected by precincts comprised of one or more districts. Two members are elected at-large.

The Authority boundary includes all the acreage encompassed by the Member Districts (as defined in the above legislation creating the Authority) and is estimated at 4,800 acres. The Member Districts are in Regulatory Area III of the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District that permits their water wells.

The Authority provides wholesale treated surface water to connected Member Districts. The Authority operates a surface water transmission and distribution system ("the system") in order to meet the Harris Galveston Subsidence District ("HGSD") mandates for surface water conversion by the Member Districts through ultimately providing an overall 80 percent surface water usage rate among the Member Districts. Surface water is purchased from the City of Houston and is conveyed to certain Member Districts water plant facilities by way of the System.



20.250

#### SECTION 2.0 UTILITY EVALUATION

# 2.1 WATER SUPPLY AND TRANSMISSION SYSTEM INFORMATION

1.	Popula	28,350	
2.	Area o	4,800 acres	
3.	Water Production and Sales Information:		
	a.	Water supplied during the last year (2018)	1,702.35 MG
	b.	Avg. water supplied for last two years (2017 - 2018)	1,685.37 MG

c. Monthly water sales by user for last year (2018) See Table 1 below

TABLE NO. 1

2018 Total Water Usage
(Thousands)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
HCMUD 33	17080	14651	21237	23735	19028	18881	19090	16791	16940	16736	15988	19316
HCMUD 150	22625	18651	20309	20318	22567	21946	22253	21959	19528	19694	18749	19993
HCMUD 217	5390	4557	5634	5515	6498	6561	6606	6767	5757	5731	5351	5245
HCMUD 304	14502	12258	16961	16202	19434	20676	20922	19288	14903	15563	14332	14710
FALLBROOKUD	17452	15479	19086	18039	20670	24182	23344	19183	16795	16608	16348	17164
HCMUD 200	39983	33766	47627	39240	43359	44026	45228	44780	41463	42203	39320	38322
HCMUD 205°	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rankin Rd MUD**	4432	3451	3830	4724	5749	5610	5685	5753	4398	4200	3954	4105
HCMUD 399*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ð
HCMUD 215	4481	3917	2964	3761	5043	5011	5141	5265	52 <del>6</del> 8	4732	4467	4386
HCUD 16	6843	5960	9025	9402	11518	11916	14069	14212	11871	12984	12193	10935

<sup>\*</sup> included with HC MUD 200 usage

<sup>\*\*</sup> Surface water only, well pumpage included in HC MUD 200 usage

d.	Highest average daily water use on record for system	5.104 MGD
	(2011)	

e. Average daily use for the last year (2018) 4.664 MGD

4. Number and type of meter connections in service area: 11 – Public Entity

5. Net gain of new connections per year: N/A – Residential

N/A - Commercial

6. Source of Water: City of Houston

7. Safe annual yield of water supply: Not Applicable

8. Design capacity of water system: 7.5 MGD



#### 9. Major high-volume customers:

	<u>Name</u>	Quantity (MGY)
1.	HC MUD 200	499.317
2.	HCMUD 150	248.592
3.	Fallbrook UD	224.350
4.	HC MUD 33	219.473

#### 2.2 UTILITY FINANCIAL OPERATIONS INFORMATION

#### 2.2.1 Water rate structures

Effective as of March 1, 2018 the Authority assesses a pumpage fee of \$3.01 per 1,000 gallons for groundwater and \$3.35 per 1,000 gallons for surface water to all Member Districts based on total water pumped. The fee is also assessed on imported groundwater.

#### 2.2.2 Sources Revenue

Percent of Annual Revenues from water rates – 100% (assuming is importation fee revenue)

#### 2.2.3 Annual Operating Costs

1.	Average Annual Operating Costs	\$5,000,000
2.	Percent of Average Annual Operating Cost that are Fixed Cost	60%
3.	Percent of Average Annual Operating Costs that are Variable	40%

#### 2.3 OTHER APPLICABLE INFORMATION

- 2.3.1 Applicable local regulations relating to Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Planning.
  - 1. City of Houston Drought Contingency Plan
  - 2. Water Supply Contract by and among the Authority and the City of Houston.
  - 3. HGSD Water Wise Program Eight of the Member Districts participate in the AWBD Water Smart Program.



# 2.3.2 Information on Member Districts

#### TABLE NO. 2

#### **Member Districts**

Fallbrook UD	Rankin Road West MUD
c/o Abraham Rubinsky	c/o G. Taylor Goodall
Schwartz Page & Harding, LLP	Smith, Murdaugh, Little & Bonham, LLP
1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 2400	2727 Allen Parkway, Suite 1100
Houston, TX 77056	Houston, TX 77019
Harris County MUD 150	Harris County MUD 215
c/o Kara E. Richardson	c/o Justin Cox
Marks Richardson, PC	Schwartz, Page & Harding, LLP
3700 Buffalo Speedway, Suite 830	1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 2400
Houston, TX 77098	Houston, TX 77056
Harris County MUD 217	Harris County MUD 200
c/o Frank Mitchell	c/o Gina M. Free
Mitchell & Zientek, LLP	Schwartz, Page & Harding, LLP
24624 N Fwy, Suite 200	1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1400
The Woodlands, TX 77386	Houston, TX 77056
Harris County MUD 304 c/o Jonathan Roach Roach & Associates, PLLC 2800 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 4100 Houston, TX 77056	Harris County MUD 205 c/o Diana Miller Schwartz, Page & Harding, LLP 1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1400 Houston, TX 77056
Harris County MUD 33 c/o Regina Adams Radcliffe, Bobbitt, Adams, Polley PLLC 2929 Allen Pkwy., Suite 3450 Houston, TX 77019	Harris County UD 16 c/o David M. Marks Marks Richardson, P.C. 3700 Buffalo Speedway, Suite 830 Houston, TX 77098
Harris County MUD 399 c/o Abraham Rubinsky Schwartz, Page & Harding, LLP 1300 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1400 Houston, TX 77056	



# SECTION 3.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

# 3.1 Public at Large

The Authority holds regular board meetings once each month. Directors meet the first Wednesday of each month. These meetings are open to the public.



#### SECTION 4.0 WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

#### 4.1 EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

- 4.1.1 The Authority promotes water conservation by informing the public of ways to conserve water. The following methods are used to inform water users.
  - 1. The Authority makes its Member Districts aware that water conservation material is available from the TWDB and the HGSD.
  - 2. The Authority provides an annual water conservation message to its Member Districts.
- 4.1.2 Information obtained from various regulatory agencies is used as the basis for public education as well as pre-printed brochures from:

Texas Water Development Board P. O. Box 13231, Capital Station Austin, Texas 78711-3231

- 4.2 PLUMBING CODE NOT APPLICABLE
- 4.3 RETROFIT PROGRAM NOT APPLICABLE

### 4.4 WATER RATE STRUCTURE

The rate structure is based on a formula included in the rate order adopted by the Authority on February 7, 2018 (Effective March 1, 2018).

#### 4.5 METERING

- 4.5.1 The AUTHORITY will meter 100% of the water sold. Incorporated into the Water Conservation Plan, the Authority will set up the following meter testing schedule:
  - Authority Delivery Meters Calibrated annually.
  - 2. City of Houston Delivery Point Meters Calibrated annually.
  - 3. Water well meters Calibrated annually.
- 4.5.2 The Authority engages the services of an operating company (the "Operator") which uses a computer billing system to handle all of the billing. The billing system compares meter readings monthly and notes dramatic changes.
- 4.6 WATER CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING NOT APPLICABLE



#### 4.7 LEAK DETECTION AND REPAIR

#### 4.7.1 The Authority leak detection program includes:

- Electronic Surveillance Monitor the quantity of water purchased from the City of Houston compared with the quantity sold to the Member Districts.
- Leak Detection and Location Program visual inspection by Operator employees to watch for abnormal conditions indicating leaks (i.e. sink holes, flowing water, etc.).
- 3. Maintain an adequate and qualified maintenance staff, which is available to repair leaks as they are located or perform corrective measures.
- 4. Monthly water use accounting by the billing computer system, which identifies high water use for service meters indicating possible leaks or malfunction.
- 5. Water Accountability Achieve less than 5% water loss through application of the above steps.

#### 4.8 RECYCLING AND REUSE

The Authority currently has no means to recycle or reuse water. There are no customers at this time that are able to recycle water.

#### 4.9 IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT – NOT APPLICABLE

#### 4.10 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND/OR RESIDENTIAL PRESSURE CONTROLS - NOT APPLICABLE



#### SECTION 5.0 DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

#### 5.1 INTERRUPTED SUPPLY STRATEGY

The rate order adopted by the Authority requires Member Districts to maintain water wells in operation to augment or provide water supply in the case of an interrupted supply from the System.

#### 5.2 LIMITS ON WATER SUPPLY

- 5.2.1 If the City of Houston restricts the Authority to less than 100% of its contracted water supply the Authority has:
  - 1. The right to limit water supply to each Member District directly proportional to the City restriction.
  - 2. The right to limit water supply to each Member District considering Member District alternative sources of water supply, such as wells and interconnects.
- 5.2.2 If the water supply from the City is suspended each Member District is responsible to meets its own demands by alternative sources such as wells and/or interconnects.
- 5.2.3 See also Texas Water Code, Section 11.039.

#### 5.3 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Each Member District is required by TCEQ rules to adopt a Drought Contingency Plan. By implementing their plans, the reduction of demand would be directly reflected in Authority demand in the event of drought conditions.

#### 5.4 CONTRACTUAL SURCHARGES

If the City imposes a surcharge on water delivered to the Authority as a part of its Drought Contingency Plan, the Authority will limit its supply to Member Districts so as to avoid or minimize the impact of the surcharge.

- 5.5 DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN APPENDIX A
- 5.6 DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN ADOPTION APPENDIX B



# APPENDIX A

**DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN** 







# **DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**FOR THE** 

CENTRAL HARRIS COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY HOUSTON, TEXAS

July 2022

IDS Project No. 1029-000-00

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#### SECTION 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The board of Directors (the "Board") of Central Harris County Regional Water Authority (the "Authority"), has carefully considered the current water conditions in the Authority and has determined that the adoption of this Drought Contingency Plan (the "Plan") by the Authority is necessary to ensure that an adequate supply of water is maintained. The Board also desires to provide in the Plan for the possibility of a natural disaster or equipment failure.

#### SECTION 2.0 WATER FROM THE CITY; CITY REDUCTIONS

The Authority receives water from the City of Houston ("City") and consults with the City in order to respond appropriately to the City's Drought Contingency Plan for reductions in water supply. To that end, the Authority has determined that its drought response stages shall directly correspond with the City's implementation of the City's drought contingency plan.

#### SECTION 3.0 EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Authority will periodically provide the public with information regarding the Plan which may include any of the following:
  - Distribution of information regarding the plan to Member Districts of the Authority;
     and
  - Direct distributions of educational and informational material regarding the Plan to customers of the Member Districts; and
  - Additional educational activities consisting of:
    - a. publishing articles, providing tips or information on water saving techniques in a newsletter of general circulation in the Authority's service area, or
    - conducting an informational school program in a school attended by students within the Authority's service area, or
    - c. conducting an educational program at a public place accessible to residents of the Authority, or conducting or engaging in such other informational or educational activity designed to further the Plan as may be consistent with the purposes and policies of this Plan, or
    - d. any combination of the foregoing.



#### SECTION 4.0 RETROFIT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

4.1 The Authority shall make information regarding the Plan available to Member Districts to provide to its customers purchasing and installing various plumbing fixtures, lawn watering equipment, and other water-using appliances.

#### SECTION 5.0 THE DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

#### 5.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Authority holds regular public meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. Member Districts are encouraged to attend and provide input regarding the Plan.

#### 5.2 TRIGGER CONDITIONS

For the purpose of this Plan, the Authority hereby adopts the trigger conditions (the "Trigger Conditions") set forth below, which are based on study and/or statistical analysis of the vulnerability of water sources under "drought of record" conditions. These Trigger Conditions include, but are not limited to, the following situations:

- 1. reduction in available water supply up to a repeat of the drought of record;
- 2. water production or distribution system limitations;
- 3. supply source contamination; or
- 4. water system outage due to the failure or damage of major water system components (e.g., pumps).

In the event any Trigger Condition is met, the Authority has authorized its operator to implement all applicable measures, as set forth below, subject to the provisions of the Plan.

#### 5.3 MILD DROUGHT

This condition (herein, "Mild Drought Conditions") exists when the City reduces supply of water by 10% for 5 consecutive days, or the City has implemented Stage 1 of their Drought Contingency Plan.

#### 5.4 MODERATE DROUGHT

This condition (herein, "Moderate Drought Conditions") exists when the City reduces the supply of water by more than 10% but less than 20% for 5 consecutive days, or if the City has implemented Stage 2 of their Drought Contingency Plan



#### 5.5 SEVERE DROUGHT

This condition (herein, "Severe Drought Conditions") exists when the City reduces the supply of water by more than 20% for 5 consecutive days, or if the City has implemented Stage 3 of their Drought Contingency Plan.

#### 5.6 NOTICE

- 5.6.1 Once one of the above Trigger Conditions has occurred, Member Districts will be notified that such Trigger Condition has occurred and of the Drought Response Measures (as defined below) to be taken. The process of notifying Member Districts may include any of the following:
  - Mailing, at least 48 hours prior to the commencement or termination of the required
     Drought Response Measures, a written notice to each Member District; and
  - 2. Posting notices at public places in the Authority.

# 5.6.2 Any notice issued shall contain:

- 1. the date the Drought Response Measures will begin,
- 2. the date the Drought Response Measures will terminate, if known,
- 3. the circumstances triggering the Drought Response Measures,
- 4. a list of Drought Response Measures to be implemented, and
- 5. an explanation of penalties for violations of such Drought Response Measures.

#### 5.7 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- 5.7.1 The Authority hereby establishes and adopts the following measures ("Drought Response Measures") for the respective Trigger Conditions. The Drought Response Measures related to each Trigger Condition shall automatically become effective and shall be implemented by the Authority when Trigger conditions occurs.
  - 1. <u>Mild Drought</u>: In the event of Mild Drought Conditions, the following Drought Response Measures shall be taken:
    - a. Member Districts will be asked to take actions to voluntarily reduce water use and will be informed of specific steps that can be taken to reduce water use.



- 2. <u>Moderate Drought</u>. In the event of Moderate Drought Conditions, the following Drought Response Measures shall be taken.
  - a. The Drought Response Measures established for Mild Drought Conditions shall continue to be implemented.
  - b. The Authority shall recommend that the following water use by any customers of its Member Districts not essential for public health and safety be curtailed:
    - (1) Street washing;
    - (2) Fire hydrant flushing; and
    - (3) Filling of swimming pools.
- Severe Drought. In the event of Severe Drought Conditions, the following Drought Response Measures shall be taken:
  - a. The Drought Response Measures established for Mild Drought Conditions and Moderate Drought Conditions shall continue to be implemented.
  - b. Consistent with the City of Houston's Drought Contingency measures, the Authority is authorized to ration water to Member Districts.

#### 5.8 TERMINATION OF TRIGGER CONDITIONS

When a Trigger Condition occurs, the Authority shall enforce the Drought Response Measures applicable to such Trigger Conditions for a minimum of five (5) days after the last day the demand on the Authority's water supply facilities reaches or exceeds the limits of such Trigger Conditions or the day the City terminates any stage of the City's Drought Contingency Plan, as applicable. After such five (5) day period, the Drought Response Measures prescribed may, in the discretion of the Board, be continued for an additional five (5) day period. After the expiration of ten (10) days, and assuming no other Trigger Conditions have occurred, the Drought Response Measures prescribed shall terminate and the Authority shall cease implementation and enforcement of such measures.

#### SECTION 6.0 EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the event of a fire, flood hurricane, lighting strike, tornado, windstorm, or any other act of God, riot, terrorist act, or any other act of civil disobedience, or any other similar occurrence which results in the inability of the Authority to provide potable water to Member Districts (or the likelihood thereof), the Board, in its discretion, may, without prior notice, invoke all or any of the Drought Response Measures set forth in this Plan as "Emergency Response Measures". The Board may establish any of the penalties set forth in Section 8 for violations of the Emergency Response Measures.



#### SECTION 7.0 IMPLEMENTATION

Without limitation to specific actions stated in this Plan to be taken by the Authority's operator, the Authority's operator will administer and enforce this Plan, and will oversee and be responsible for the execution and implementation of all elements of this Plan. The operator shall keep adequate records for plan verification. The Authority's operator shall report to the Board of the Authority, at meetings of the Board, regarding actions taken and which need to be taken under this Plan. Without limiting the foregoing, the Authority's operator shall advise the President of the Board (or if the President is unavailable to receive notification, another member of the Board) as soon as reasonably practicable when a particular Trigger Condition has been reached under this Plan and when a particular drought condition no longer exists.

#### SECTION 8.0 VARIANCES

#### 8.1 POLICY

The Authority may, in writing, grant a temporary variance to rationing or pro rata water allocation policies adopted pursuant to this Plan, or a temporary variance to a provision in the Plan, if it is determined that:

- 1. Failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the public health, welfare, or safety;
- Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect; or
- Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

### 8.2 PETITION

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Plan may file a petition for variance at anytime. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the Authority and shall include the following:

- Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- 2. For Authority residents and other users of water within the Authority, a detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioners complies with this Plan or rationing of water adopted by the Authority pursuant to this Plan.
- 3. For wholesale water customers, if any, a detailed statement with supporting data and information as to how the pro rata allocation of water under the policies and procedures



established in the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this plan.

- Description of the relief requested.
- Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- 6. Alternative measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and compliance date.
- 7. Other pertinent information.

#### 8.3 CONDITIONS

Variances granted by the Authority shall be subject to the following conditions unless waived or modified by the Authority or its designee:

- Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- Variances granted shall expire when the Plan is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.

No Variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

#### SECTION 9.0 REMEDIES CUMULATIVE

All rights, remedies, sanctions, penalties and enforcement procedures provided for in this Plan are cumulative. In addition, the Authority shall have and may exercise and enforce any and all rights and remedies provided by law or in equity.

#### SECTION 10.0 NOTICE TO TCEQ

The Authority shall notify the executive director of the TCEQ within five (5) business days of the implementation of any mandatory provisions of this Plan.

#### SECTION 11.0 RATE ORDER PROVISIONS.

The rate order adopted by the Authority includes a provision that in case of a shortage of water resulting from drought, the water to be distributed shall be divided in accordance with Texas Water Code, Section 11.039.



#### **APPENDIX B**

WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN ADOPTION



# CERTIFICATE FOR RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISED WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Central Harris County Regional Water Authority (the "Authority"), hereby certify as follows:

1. The Board, composed as follows:

Margaret L. Cox, President
Julian F. Boddy, Vice President
David Granadino, Secretary
Tom Gower, Assistant Secretary
Richard C. Meek, Assistant Secretary

met in regular session, open to the public, on July 6, 2022, at the offices of IDS Engineering Group, Inc., 13430 Northwest Freeway, Suite 700, Houston, Harris County, Texas, 77040, and all of the members of the Board were present, except Director Meek, thus constituting a quorum. Whereupon, among other business, the following was transacted at such meeting: A written

# RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISED WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

was duly introduced for the consideration of the Board. It was then duly moved and seconded that such Resolution be adopted, and, after due discussion, such motion, carrying with it the adoption of such Resolution, prevailed and carried by the following vote:

AYES: 4 NOES: 0

2. A true, full and correct copy of the aforesaid Resolution adopted at the meeting described in the above and foregoing paragraph is attached to and follows this certificate; such Resolution has been duly recorded in the Board's minutes of such meeting; the persons named in the above and foregoing paragraph are the duly chosen, qualified and acting officers and members of the Board as indicated therein; each of the officers and members of the Board was duly and sufficiently notified officially and personally, in advance, of the time, place and purpose of such meeting, and that such Resolution would be introduced and considered for adoption at such meeting; and such meeting was open to the public, and public notice of the time, place and purpose of such meeting was given, all as required by Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, as amended, and Section 49.063, Texas Water Code, as amended.

# SIGNED AND SEALED this 6th day of July, 2022.



Secretary, Board of Directors

# RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISED WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

WHEREAS, Central Harris County Regional Water Authority ("Authority") adopted its Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan, dated May 1, 2019 (the "Plan"), pursuant to Chapter 288, Texas Administrative Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Authority has determined that it is in the public interest to revise and replace the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Central Harris County Regional Water Authority that the policies, procedures, and provisions set forth in the Plan are hereby amended pursuant to the attached Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan which shall remain in effect until amended by further action of the District and the Plan is hereby revoked effective as of the effective date of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 6th day of July, 2022.

ATTEST:	CENTRAL HARRIS COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
/s/ DAVID GRANADINO By:	/s/ MARGARET L. COX By:
Secretary	President
Board of Directors	Board of Directors
(SEAL)	

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**APPENDIX C** 

**AUTHORITY MAP** 



