

1-1 By: Armbrister S.B. No. 15
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed June 21, 2005; June 21, 2005, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources;
1-4 July 6, 2005, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; July 6, 2005,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 15 By: Armbrister

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the management of the water resources of the state,
1-11 including the protection of instream flows and freshwater inflows.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 5.506, Water Code, is
1-14 amended to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 5.506. EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF PERMIT CONDITION
1-16 RELATING TO, AND EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO MAKE AVAILABLE WATER SET
1-17 ASIDE FOR, BENEFICIAL INFLOWS TO AFFECTED BAYS AND ESTUARIES AND
1-18 INSTREAM USES.

1-19 SECTION 2. Section 5.506, Water Code, is amended by adding
1-20 Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsections (b) and (c) to read as
1-21 follows:

1-22 (a-1) State water that is set aside by the commission to
1-23 meet the needs for freshwater inflows to affected bays and
1-24 estuaries and instream uses under Section 11.1471(a)(2) may be made
1-25 available temporarily for other essential beneficial uses if the
1-26 commission finds that an emergency exists that cannot practically
1-27 be resolved in another way.

1-28 (b) The commission must give written notice of the proposed
1-29 action [suspension] to the Parks and Wildlife Department before the
1-30 commission suspends a permit condition under Subsection (a) or
1-31 makes water available temporarily under Subsection (a-1) [this
1-32 section]. The commission shall give the Parks and Wildlife
1-33 Department an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed action
1-34 [suspension] for a period of 72 hours from receipt of the notice and
1-35 must consider those comments before issuing an order implementing
1-36 the proposed action [imposing the suspension].

1-37 (c) The commission may suspend a permit condition under
1-38 Subsection (a) or make water available temporarily under Subsection
1-39 (a-1) [this section] without notice except as required by
1-40 Subsection (b).

1-41 SECTION 3. Subsection (j), Section 5.701, Water Code, is
1-42 amended to read as follows:

1-43 (j) The fee for other uses of water not specifically named
1-44 in this section is \$1 per acre-foot, except that no political
1-45 subdivision may be required to pay fees to use water for recharge of
1-46 underground freshwater-bearing sands and aquifers or for abatement
1-47 of natural pollution. A fee is not required for a water right that
1-48 is [This fee is waived for applications for instream-use water
1-49 rights] deposited into the Texas Water Trust.

1-50 SECTION 4. Section 11.002, Water Code, is amended by adding
1-51 Subdivisions (15) through (19) to read as follows:

1-52 (15) "Environmental flow analysis" means the
1-53 application of a scientifically derived process for predicting the
1-54 response of an ecosystem to changes in instream flows or freshwater
1-55 inflows.

1-56 (16) "Environmental flow regime" means a schedule of
1-57 flow quantities that reflects seasonal and yearly fluctuations that
1-58 typically would vary geographically, by specific location in a
1-59 watershed, and that are shown to be adequate to support a sound
1-60 ecological environment and to maintain the productivity, extent,
1-61 and persistence of key aquatic habitats in and along the affected
1-62 water bodies.

1-63 (17) "Environmental flow standards" means those

2-1 requirements adopted by the commission under Section 11.1471.

2-2 (18) "Flows commission" means the Environmental Flows
 2-3 Commission.

2-4 (19) "Science advisory committee" means the Texas
 2-5 Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee.

2-6 SECTION 5. Subsection (a), Section 11.023, Water Code, is
 2-7 amended to read as follows:

2-8 (a) To the extent that state water has not been set aside by
 2-9 the commission under Section 11.1471(a)(2) to meet downstream
 2-10 instream flow needs or freshwater inflow needs, state [State] water
 2-11 may be appropriated, stored, or diverted for:

2-12 (1) domestic and municipal uses, including water for
 2-13 sustaining human life and the life of domestic animals;

2-14 (2) agricultural uses and industrial uses, meaning
 2-15 processes designed to convert materials of a lower order of value
 2-16 into forms having greater usability and commercial value, including
 2-17 the development of power by means other than hydroelectric;

2-18 (3) mining and recovery of minerals;

2-19 (4) hydroelectric power;

2-20 (5) navigation;

2-21 (6) recreation and pleasure;

2-22 (7) public parks; and

2-23 (8) game preserves.

2-24 SECTION 6. Section 11.0235, Water Code, is amended by
 2-25 amending Subsections (c) and (e) and adding Subsections (d-1)
 2-26 through (d-5) and (f) to read as follows:

2-27 (c) The legislature has expressly required the commission
 2-28 while balancing all other public interests to consider and, to the
 2-29 extent practicable, provide for the freshwater inflows and instream
 2-30 flows necessary to maintain the viability of the state's streams,
 2-31 rivers, and bay and estuary systems in the commission's regular
 2-32 granting of permits for the use of state waters. As an essential
 2-33 part of the state's environmental flows policy, all permit
 2-34 conditions relating to freshwater inflows to affected bays and
 2-35 estuaries and instream flow needs must be subject to temporary
 2-36 suspension if necessary for water to be applied to essential
 2-37 beneficial uses during emergencies.

2-38 (d-1) The legislature finds that to provide certainty in
 2-39 water management and development and to provide adequate protection
 2-40 of the state's streams, rivers, and bays and estuaries, the state
 2-41 must have a process with specific timelines for prompt action to
 2-42 address environmental flow issues in the state's major basin and
 2-43 bay systems, especially those systems in which unappropriated water
 2-44 is still available.

2-45 (d-2) The legislature finds that:

2-46 (1) in those basins in which water is available for
 2-47 appropriation, the commission should establish an environmental
 2-48 set-aside below which water should not be available for
 2-49 appropriation; and

2-50 (2) in those basins in which the unappropriated water
 2-51 that will be set aside for instream flow and freshwater inflow
 2-52 protection is not sufficient to fully satisfy the environmental
 2-53 flow standards established by the commission, a variety of market
 2-54 approaches, both public and private, for filling the gap must be
 2-55 explored and pursued.

2-56 (d-3) The legislature finds that while the state has
 2-57 pioneered tools to address freshwater inflow needs for bays and
 2-58 estuaries, there are limitations to those tools in light of both
 2-59 scientific and public policy evolution. To fully address bay and
 2-60 estuary environmental flow issues, the foundation of work
 2-61 accomplished by the state should be improved. While the state's
 2-62 instream flow studies program appears to encompass a comprehensive
 2-63 and scientific approach for establishing a process to assess
 2-64 instream flow needs for rivers and streams across the state, more
 2-65 extensive review and examination of the details of the program,
 2-66 which may not be fully developed until the program is under way, are
 2-67 needed to ensure an effective tool for evaluating riverine
 2-68 environmental flow conditions.

2-69 (d-4) The legislature finds that the management of water to

3-1 meet instream flow and freshwater inflow needs should be evaluated
 3-2 on a regular basis and adapted to reflect both improvements in
 3-3 science related to environmental flows and future changes in
 3-4 projected human needs for water. In addition, the development of
 3-5 management strategies for addressing environmental flow needs
 3-6 should be an ongoing, adaptive process that considers and addresses
 3-7 local issues.

3-8 (d-5) The legislature finds that recommendations for state
 3-9 action to protect instream flows and freshwater inflows should be
 3-10 developed through a consensus-based, regional approach involving
 3-11 balanced representation of stakeholders and that such a process
 3-12 should be encouraged throughout the state.

3-13 (e) The fact that greater pressures and demands are being
 3-14 placed on the water resources of the state makes it of paramount
 3-15 importance to ensure ~~[reexamine the process for ensuring]~~ that
 3-16 these important priorities are effectively addressed by detailing
 3-17 how environmental flow standards are to be developed using the
 3-18 environmental studies that have been and are to be performed by the
 3-19 state and others and specifying in clear delegations of authority
 3-20 how those environmental flow standards will be integrated into the
 3-21 regional water planning and water permitting process ~~[to the~~
 3-22 ~~commission]~~.

3-23 (f) The legislature recognizes that effective
 3-24 implementation of the approach provided by this chapter for
 3-25 protecting instream flows and freshwater inflows will require more
 3-26 effective water rights administration and enforcement systems than
 3-27 are currently available in most areas of the state.

3-28 SECTION 7. (a) This section takes effect only if this Act
 3-29 takes effect immediately. If this Act does not take effect
 3-30 immediately, this section has no effect.

3-31 (b) The heading to Section 11.0236, Water Code, is amended
 3-32 to read as follows:

3-33 Sec. 11.0236. ~~[STUDY COMMISSION ON WATER FOR]~~ ENVIRONMENTAL
 3-34 FLOWS COMMISSION.

3-35 (c) Section 11.0236, Water Code, is amended by amending
 3-36 Subsections (a), (b), (c), (e) through (j), (n), and (o) and adding
 3-37 Subsection (p) to read as follows:

3-38 (a) In recognition of the importance that the ecological
 3-39 soundness of our riverine, bay, and estuary systems and riparian
 3-40 lands has on the economy, health, and well-being of the state there
 3-41 is created the ~~[Study Commission on Water for]~~ Environmental Flows
 3-42 Commission.

3-43 (b) The flows ~~[study]~~ commission is composed of nine ~~[15]~~
 3-44 members as follows:

3-45 (1) five ~~[two]~~ members appointed by the governor;
 3-46 (2) two ~~[five]~~ members of the senate appointed by the
 3-47 lieutenant governor; and

3-48 (3) two ~~[five]~~ members of the house of representatives
 3-49 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives~~;~~

3-50 ~~[(4) the presiding officer of the commission or the~~
 3-51 ~~presiding officer's designee;~~

3-52 ~~[(5) the chairman of the board or the chairman's~~
 3-53 ~~designee; and~~

3-54 ~~[(6) the presiding officer of the Parks and Wildlife~~
 3-55 ~~Commission or the presiding officer's designee].~~

3-56 (c) Of the members appointed under Subsection (b)(1):

3-57 (1) one member must be a member of the commission;

3-58 (2) one member must be a member of the board;

3-59 (3) one member must be a member of the Parks and
 3-60 Wildlife Commission; and

3-61 (4) two members must represent the public ~~[(b)(2)].~~

3-62 ~~[(1) one member must represent a river authority or~~
 3-63 ~~municipal water supply agency or authority;~~

3-64 ~~[(2) one member must represent an entity that is~~
 3-65 ~~distinguished by its efforts in resource protection; and~~

3-66 ~~[(3) three members must be members of the senate].~~

3-67 (e) Each ~~[appointed]~~ member of the flows ~~[study]~~ commission
 3-68 serves at the will of the person who appointed the member.

3-69 (f) The appointed senator with the most seniority and the

4-1 appointed house member with the most seniority serve together as
4-2 co-presiding officers of the flows [study] commission.

4-3 (g) A member of the flows [study] commission is not entitled
4-4 to receive compensation for service on the flows [study] commission
4-5 but is entitled to reimbursement of the travel expenses incurred by
4-6 the member while conducting the business of the flows [study]
4-7 commission, as provided by the General Appropriations Act.

4-8 (h) The flows [study] commission may accept gifts and grants
4-9 from any source to be used to carry out a function of the flows
4-10 [study] commission.

4-11 (i) The commission shall provide staff support for the flows
4-12 [study] commission.

4-13 (j) The flows [study] commission shall conduct public
4-14 hearings and study public policy implications for balancing the
4-15 demands on the water resources of the state resulting from a growing
4-16 population with the requirements of the riverine, bay, and estuary
4-17 systems including granting permits for instream flows dedicated to
4-18 environmental needs or bay and estuary inflows, use of the Texas
4-19 Water Trust, and any other issues that the flows [study] commission
4-20 determines have importance and relevance to the protection of
4-21 environmental flows. In evaluating the options for providing
4-22 adequate environmental flows, the flows [study] commission shall
4-23 take notice of the strong public policy imperative that exists in
4-24 this state recognizing that environmental flows are important to
4-25 the biological health of our public and private lands, streams and
4-26 riparian lands [parks, game preserves], and bay and estuary systems and are
4-27 high priorities in the water management [permitting] process. The
4-28 flows [study] commission shall specifically address:

4-29 (1) ways that the ecological soundness of those
4-30 [these] systems will be ensured in the water rights administration
4-31 and enforcement and water allocation processes; and

4-32 (2) appropriate methods to encourage persons
4-33 voluntarily to convert reasonable amounts of existing water rights
4-34 to use for environmental flow protection temporarily or permanently
4-35 [process].

4-36 (n) The flows [study] commission may [shall] adopt rules,
4-37 procedures, and policies as needed to administer this section, to
4-38 implement its responsibilities, and to exercise its authority under
4-39 Sections 11.02361 and 11.02362.

4-40 (o) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
4-41 size, composition, or duration of the flows commission.

4-42 (p) Not later than December 1, 2006, and every two years
4-43 thereafter, the flows commission shall issue and promptly deliver
4-44 to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
4-45 representatives copies of a report summarizing:

4-46 (1) any hearings conducted by the flows commission;

4-47 (2) any studies conducted by the flows commission;

4-48 (3) any legislation proposed by the flows commission;

4-49 (4) progress made in implementing Sections 11.02361
4-50 and 11.02362; and

4-51 (5) any other findings and recommendations of the
4-52 flows commission [The study commission is abolished and this
4-53 section expires September 1, 2005].

4-54 SECTION 8. (a) This section takes effect only if this Act
4-55 does not take effect immediately. If this Act takes effect
4-56 immediately, this section has no effect.

4-57 (b) Subchapter B, Chapter 11, Water Code, is amended by
4-58 adding Section 11.0236 to read as follows:

4-59 Sec. 11.0236. ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS COMMISSION. (a) In
4-60 recognition of the importance that the ecological soundness of our
4-61 riverine, bay, and estuary systems and riparian lands has on the
4-62 economy, health, and well-being of the state there is created the
4-63 Environmental Flows Commission.

4-64 (b) The flows commission is composed of nine members as
4-65 follows:

4-66 (1) five members appointed by the governor;

4-67 (2) two members of the senate appointed by the
4-68 lieutenant governor; and

4-69 (3) two members of the house of representatives

5-1 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

5-2 (c) Of the members appointed under Subsection (b)(1):

5-3 (1) one member must be a member of the commission;

5-4 (2) one member must be a member of the board;

5-5 (3) one member must be a member of the Parks and
5-6 Wildlife Commission; and

5-7 (4) two members must represent the public.

5-8 (e) Each member of the flows commission serves at the will
5-9 of the person who appointed the member.

5-10 (f) The appointed senator with the most seniority and the
5-11 appointed house member with the most seniority serve together as
5-12 co-presiding officers of the flows commission.

5-13 (g) A member of the flows commission is not entitled to
5-14 receive compensation for service on the flows commission but is
5-15 entitled to reimbursement of the travel expenses incurred by the
5-16 member while conducting the business of the flows commission, as
5-17 provided by the General Appropriations Act.

5-18 (h) The flows commission may accept gifts and grants from
5-19 any source to be used to carry out a function of the flows
5-20 commission.

5-21 (i) The commission shall provide staff support for the flows
5-22 commission.

5-23 (j) The flows commission shall conduct public hearings and
5-24 study public policy implications for balancing the demands on the
5-25 water resources of the state resulting from a growing population
5-26 with the requirements of the riverine, bay, and estuary systems
5-27 including granting permits for instream flows dedicated to
5-28 environmental needs or bay and estuary inflows, use of the Texas
5-29 Water Trust, and any other issues that the flows commission
5-30 determines have importance and relevance to the protection of
5-31 environmental flows. In evaluating the options for providing
5-32 adequate environmental flows, the flows commission shall take
5-33 notice of the strong public policy imperative that exists in this
5-34 state recognizing that environmental flows are important to the
5-35 biological health of our public and private lands, streams and
5-36 rivers, and bay and estuary systems and are high priorities in the
5-37 water management process. The flows commission shall specifically
5-38 address:

5-39 (1) ways that the ecological soundness of those
5-40 systems will be ensured in the water rights administration and
5-41 enforcement and water allocation processes; and

5-42 (2) appropriate methods to encourage persons
5-43 voluntarily to convert reasonable amounts of existing water rights
5-44 to use for environmental flow protection temporarily or
5-45 permanently.

5-46 (n) The flows commission may adopt rules, procedures, and
5-47 policies as needed to administer this section, to implement its
5-48 responsibilities, and to exercise its authority under Sections
5-49 11.02361 and 11.02362.

5-50 (o) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
5-51 size, composition, or duration of the flows commission.

5-52 (p) Not later than December 1, 2006, and every two years
5-53 thereafter, the flows commission shall issue and promptly deliver
5-54 to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
5-55 representatives copies of a report summarizing:

5-56 (1) any hearings conducted by the flows commission;

5-57 (2) any studies conducted by the flows commission;

5-58 (3) any legislation proposed by the flows commission;

5-59 (4) progress made in implementing Sections 11.02361
5-60 and 11.02362; and

5-61 (5) any other findings and recommendations of the
5-62 flows commission.

5-63 SECTION 9. Subchapter B, Chapter 11, Water Code, is amended
5-64 by adding Sections 11.02361 and 11.02362 to read as follows:

5-65 Sec. 11.02361. TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS SCIENCE ADVISORY
5-66 COMMITTEE. (a) The Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory
5-67 Committee consists of at least five but not more than nine members
5-68 appointed by the flows commission.

5-69 (b) The flows commission shall appoint to the science

6-1 advisory committee persons who will provide an objective
 6-2 perspective and diverse technical expertise, including expertise
 6-3 in hydrology, hydraulics, water resources, aquatic and terrestrial
 6-4 biology, geomorphology, geology, water quality, computer modeling,
 6-5 and other technical areas pertinent to the evaluation of
 6-6 environmental flows.

6-7 (c) Members of the science advisory committee serve
 6-8 five-year terms expiring March 1. A vacancy on the science advisory
 6-9 committee is filled by appointment by the co-presiding officers of
 6-10 the flows commission for the unexpired term.

6-11 (d) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
 6-12 size, composition, or duration of the science advisory committee.

6-13 (e) The science advisory committee shall:

6-14 (1) serve as an objective scientific body to advise
 6-15 and make recommendations to the flows commission on issues relating
 6-16 to the science of environmental flow protection; and

6-17 (2) develop recommendations to help provide overall
 6-18 direction, coordination, and consistency relating to:

6-19 (A) environmental flow methodologies for bay and
 6-20 estuary studies and instream flow studies;

6-21 (B) environmental flow programs at the
 6-22 commission, the Parks and Wildlife Department, and the board; and

6-23 (C) the work of the basin and bay expert science
 6-24 teams described in Section 11.02362.

6-25 (f) To assist the flows commission to assess the extent to
 6-26 which the recommendations of the science advisory committee are
 6-27 considered and implemented, the commission, the Parks and Wildlife
 6-28 Department, and the board shall provide written reports to the
 6-29 flows commission, at intervals determined by the flows commission,
 6-30 that describe:

6-31 (1) the actions taken by each agency in response to
 6-32 each recommendation; and

6-33 (2) for each recommendation not implemented, the
 6-34 reason it was not implemented.

6-35 Sec. 11.02362. DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW REGIME
 6-36 RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) For the purposes of this section, the flows
 6-37 commission, not later than January 1, 2006, shall define the
 6-38 geographical extent of each river basin and bay system in this state
 6-39 for the sole purpose of developing environmental flow regime
 6-40 recommendations under this section and adoption of environmental
 6-41 flow standards under Section 11.1471.

6-42 (b) The flows commission shall give priority in descending
 6-43 order to the following river basin and bay systems of the state for
 6-44 the purpose of developing environmental flow regime
 6-45 recommendations and adopting environmental flow standards:

6-46 (1) the river basin and bay system consisting of the
 6-47 Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay and the river basin
 6-48 and bay system consisting of the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine
 6-49 Lake Bay;

6-50 (2) the river basin and bay system consisting of the
 6-51 Colorado and Lavaca Rivers and Matagorda and Lavaca Bays and the
 6-52 river basin and bay system consisting of the Guadalupe, San
 6-53 Antonio, and Aransas Rivers and Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio
 6-54 Bays; and

6-55 (3) the river basin and bay system consisting of the
 6-56 Nueces River and Corpus Christi and Baffin Bays, the river basin and
 6-57 bay system consisting of the Rio Grande, the Rio Grande estuary, and
 6-58 the Lower Laguna Madre, and the Brazos River and its associated bay
 6-59 and estuary system.

6-60 (c) For the river basin and bay systems listed in Subsection
 6-61 (b)(1):

6-62 (1) the flows commission shall appoint the basin and
 6-63 bay area stakeholders committee not later than January 1, 2006;

6-64 (2) the basin and bay area stakeholders committee
 6-65 shall establish a basin and bay expert science team not later than
 6-66 March 1, 2006;

6-67 (3) the basin and bay expert science team shall
 6-68 finalize environmental flow regime recommendations and submit them
 6-69 to the basin and bay area stakeholders committee, the flows

7-1 commission, and the commission not later than March 1, 2007;

7-2 (4) the basin and bay area stakeholders committee
7-3 shall submit to the commission its comments on and recommendations
7-4 regarding the basin and bay expert science team's recommended
7-5 environmental flow regime not later than September 1, 2007; and

7-6 (5) the commission shall adopt the environmental flow
7-7 standards as provided by Section 11.1471 not later than September
7-8 1, 2008.

7-9 (d) The flows commission shall appoint the basin and bay
7-10 area stakeholders committees for the river basin and bay systems
7-11 listed in Subsection (b)(2) not later than September 1, 2006, and
7-12 shall appoint the basin and bay area stakeholders committees for
7-13 the river basin and bay systems listed in Subsection (b)(3) not
7-14 later than September 1, 2007. The flows commission shall establish
7-15 a schedule for the performance of the tasks listed in Subsections
7-16 (c)(2)-(5) with regard to the river basin and bay systems listed in
7-17 Subsections (b)(2) and (3) that will result in the adoption of
7-18 environmental flow standards for that river basin and bay system by
7-19 the commission as soon as is reasonably possible. Each basin and
7-20 bay area stakeholders committee and basin and bay expert science
7-21 team for a river basin and bay system listed in Subsection (b)(2) or
7-22 (3) shall make recommendations to the flows commission with regard
7-23 to the schedule applicable to that river basin and bay system. The
7-24 flows commission shall consider the recommendations of the basin
7-25 and bay area stakeholders committee and basin and bay expert
7-26 science team as well as coordinate with, and give appropriate
7-27 consideration to the recommendations of, the commission, the Parks
7-28 and Wildlife Department, and the board in establishing the
7-29 schedule.

7-30 (e) For a river basin and bay system or a river basin that
7-31 does not have an associated bay system in this state not listed in
7-32 Subsection (b), the flows commission shall establish a schedule for
7-33 the development of environmental flow regime recommendations and
7-34 the adoption of environmental flow standards. The flows commission
7-35 shall develop the schedule in consultation with the commission, the
7-36 Parks and Wildlife Department, the board, and the pertinent basin
7-37 and bay area stakeholders committee and basin and bay expert
7-38 science team. The flows commission may, on its own initiative or on
7-39 request, modify a schedule established under this subsection to be
7-40 more responsive to particular circumstances, local desires,
7-41 changing conditions, or time-sensitive conflicts. This subsection
7-42 does not prohibit, in a river basin and bay system for which the
7-43 flows commission has not yet established a schedule for the
7-44 development of environmental flow regime recommendations and the
7-45 adoption of environmental flow standards, an effort to develop
7-46 information on environmental flow needs and ways in which those
7-47 needs can be met by a voluntary consensus-building process.

7-48 (f) The flows commission shall appoint a basin and bay area
7-49 stakeholders committee for each river basin and bay system in this
7-50 state for which a schedule for the development of environmental
7-51 flow regime recommendations and the adoption of environmental flow
7-52 standards is specified by or established under Subsection (c), (d),
7-53 or (e). Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the size,
7-54 composition, or duration of a basin and bay area stakeholders
7-55 committee. Each committee must consist of at least 17 members. The
7-56 members must represent appropriate stakeholders, including
7-57 representatives of:

- 7-58 (1) agricultural water users;
7-59 (2) recreational water users, including coastal
7-60 recreational anglers and businesses supporting water recreation;
7-61 (3) municipalities;
7-62 (4) soil and water conservation districts;
7-63 (5) industrial water users, including representatives
7-64 of both the manufacturing and refining sectors;
7-65 (6) commercial fishermen;
7-66 (7) public interest groups;
7-67 (8) regional water planning groups;
7-68 (9) groundwater conservation districts;
7-69 (10) river authorities and other conservation and

8-1 reclamation districts with jurisdiction over surface water; and

8-2 (ll) environmental interests.

8-3 (g) Members of a basin and bay area stakeholders committee
8-4 serve five-year terms expiring March 1. If a vacancy occurs on a
8-5 committee, the remaining members of the committee by majority vote
8-6 shall appoint a member to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

8-7 (h) Meetings of a basin and bay area stakeholders committee
8-8 must be open to the public.

8-9 (i) Each basin and bay area stakeholders committee shall
8-10 establish a basin and bay expert science team for the river basin
8-11 and bay system for which the committee is established. The basin
8-12 and bay expert science team must be established not later than six
8-13 months after the date the basin and bay area stakeholders committee
8-14 is established. Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to
8-15 the size, composition, or duration of a basin and bay expert science
8-16 team. Each basin and bay expert science team must be composed of
8-17 technical experts with special expertise regarding the river basin
8-18 and bay system or regarding the development of environmental flow
8-19 regimes. A person may serve as a member of more than one basin and
8-20 bay expert science team at the same time.

8-21 (j) The members of a basin and bay expert science team serve
8-22 five-year terms expiring April 1. A vacancy on a basin and bay
8-23 expert science team is filled by appointment by the pertinent basin
8-24 and bay area stakeholders committee to serve the remainder of the
8-25 unexpired term.

8-26 (k) The science advisory committee shall appoint one of its
8-27 members to serve as a liaison to each basin and bay expert science
8-28 team to facilitate coordination and consistency in environmental
8-29 flow activities throughout the state. The commission, the Parks
8-30 and Wildlife Department, and the board shall provide technical
8-31 assistance to each basin and bay expert science team, including
8-32 information about the studies conducted under Sections 16.058 and
8-33 16.059, and may serve as nonvoting members of the basin and bay
8-34 expert science team to facilitate the development of environmental
8-35 flow regime recommendations.

8-36 (l) Where reasonably practicable, meetings of a basin and
8-37 bay expert science team must be open to the public.

8-38 (m) Each basin and bay expert science team shall develop
8-39 environmental flow analyses and a recommended environmental flow
8-40 regime for the river basin and bay system for which the team is
8-41 established through a collaborative process designed to achieve a
8-42 consensus. In developing the analyses and recommendations, the
8-43 science team must consider all reasonably available science,
8-44 without regard to the need for the water for other uses, and the
8-45 science team's recommendations must be based solely on the best
8-46 science available. For the Rio Grande below Fort Quitman, any uses
8-47 attributable to Mexican water flows must be excluded from
8-48 environmental flow regime recommendations.

8-49 (n) Each basin and bay expert science team shall submit its
8-50 environmental flow analyses and environmental flow regime
8-51 recommendations to the pertinent basin and bay area stakeholders
8-52 committee, the flows commission, and the commission in accordance
8-53 with the applicable schedule specified by or established under
8-54 Subsection (c), (d), or (e). The basin and bay area stakeholders
8-55 committee and the flows commission may not change the environmental
8-56 flow analyses or environmental flow regime recommendations of the
8-57 basin and bay expert science team.

8-58 (o) Each basin and bay area stakeholders committee shall
8-59 review the environmental flow analyses and environmental flow
8-60 regime recommendations submitted by the committee's basin and bay
8-61 expert science team and shall consider them in conjunction with
8-62 other factors, including the present and future needs for water for
8-63 other uses related to water supply planning in the pertinent river
8-64 basin and bay system. For the Rio Grande, the basin and bay area
8-65 stakeholders committee shall also consider the water accounting
8-66 requirements for any international water sharing treaty, minutes,
8-67 and agreement applicable to the Rio Grande and the effects on
8-68 allocation of water by the Rio Grande watermaster in the middle and
8-69 lower Rio Grande. The Rio Grande basin and bay expert science team

9-1 may not recommend any environmental flow regime that would result
 9-2 in a violation of a treaty or court decision. The basin and bay area
 9-3 stakeholders committee shall develop recommendations regarding
 9-4 environmental flow standards and strategies to meet the
 9-5 environmental flow standards and submit those recommendations to
 9-6 the commission and to the flows commission in accordance with the
 9-7 applicable schedule specified by or established under Subsection
 9-8 (c), (d), or (e). In developing its recommendations, the basin and
 9-9 bay area stakeholders committee shall operate on a consensus basis
 9-10 to the maximum extent possible.

9-11 (p) In recognition of the importance of adaptive
 9-12 management, after submitting its recommendations regarding
 9-13 environmental flow standards and strategies to meet the
 9-14 environmental flow standards to the commission, each basin and bay
 9-15 area stakeholders committee, with the assistance of the pertinent
 9-16 basin and bay expert science team, shall prepare and submit for
 9-17 approval by the flows commission a work plan. The work plan must:

9-18 (1) establish a periodic review of the basin and bay
 9-19 environmental flow analyses and environmental flow regime
 9-20 recommendations, environmental flow standards, and strategies, to
 9-21 occur at least once every 10 years;

9-22 (2) prescribe specific monitoring, studies, and
 9-23 activities; and

9-24 (3) establish a schedule for continuing the validation
 9-25 or refinement of the basin and bay environmental flow analyses and
 9-26 environmental flow regime recommendations, the environmental flow
 9-27 standards adopted by the commission, and the strategies to achieve
 9-28 those standards.

9-29 (q) In accordance with the applicable schedule specified by
 9-30 or established under Subsection (c), (d), or (e), the flows
 9-31 commission, with input from the science advisory committee, shall
 9-32 review the environmental flow analyses and environmental flow
 9-33 regime recommendations submitted by each basin and bay expert
 9-34 science team. If appropriate, the flows commission shall submit
 9-35 comments on the analyses and recommendations to the commission for
 9-36 use by the commission in adopting rules under Section 11.1471.
 9-37 Comments must be submitted not later than six months after the date
 9-38 of receipt of the analyses and recommendations.

9-39 (r) In the event the commission, by permit or order, has
 9-40 established an estuary advisory council, that council may continue
 9-41 in full force and effect.

9-42 SECTION 10. (a) This section takes effect only if this Act
 9-43 takes effect immediately. If this Act does not take effect
 9-44 immediately, this section has no effect.

9-45 (b) Subsections (a) and (b), Section 11.0237, Water Code,
 9-46 are amended to read as follows:

9-47 (a) The commission may not issue a new permit for instream
 9-48 flows dedicated to environmental needs or bay and estuary inflows.
 9-49 The ~~[This section does not prohibit the]~~ commission may approve
 9-50 ~~[from issuing]~~ an application to amend ~~[amendment to]~~ an existing
 9-51 permit or certificate of adjudication to change the use to or add a
 9-52 use for instream flows dedicated to environmental needs or bay and
 9-53 estuary inflows.

9-54 (b) This section does not alter the commission's
 9-55 obligations under Section 11.042(b) or (c), 11.046(b),
 9-56 11.085(k)(2)(F), 11.134(b)(3)(D), 11.147, 11.1471, 11.1491,
 9-57 11.150, 11.152, 16.058, or 16.059.

9-58 SECTION 11. (a) This section takes effect only if this Act
 9-59 does not take effect immediately. If this Act takes effect
 9-60 immediately, this section has no effect.

9-61 (b) Subchapter B, Chapter 11, Water Code, is amended by
 9-62 adding Section 11.0237 to read as follows:

9-63 Sec. 11.0237. WATER RIGHTS FOR INSTREAM FLOWS DEDICATED TO
 9-64 ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS OR BAY AND ESTUARY INFLOWS. (a) The
 9-65 commission may not issue a new permit for instream flows dedicated
 9-66 to environmental needs or bay and estuary inflows. The commission
 9-67 may approve an application to amend an existing permit or
 9-68 certificate of adjudication to change the use to or add a use for
 9-69 instream flows dedicated to environmental needs or bay and estuary

10-1 inflows.

10-2 (b) This section does not alter the commission's
 10-3 obligations under Section 11.042(b) or (c), 11.046(b),
 10-4 11.085(k)(2)(F), 11.134(b)(3)(D), 11.147, 11.1471, 11.1491,
 10-5 11.150, 11.152, 16.058, or 16.059.

10-6 SECTION 12. Subsection (b), Section 11.082, Water Code, is
 10-7 amended to read as follows:

10-8 (b) The state may recover the penalties prescribed in
 10-9 Subsection (a) [~~of this section~~] by suit brought for that purpose in
 10-10 a court of competent jurisdiction. The state may seek those
 10-11 penalties regardless of whether a watermaster has been appointed
 10-12 for the water division, river basin, or segment of a river basin
 10-13 where the unlawful use is alleged to have occurred.

10-14 SECTION 13. Section 11.0841, Water Code, is amended by
 10-15 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

10-16 (c) For purposes of this section, the Parks and Wildlife
 10-17 Department has:

10-18 (1) the rights of a holder of a water right that is
 10-19 held in the Texas Water Trust, including the right to file suit in a
 10-20 civil court to prevent the unlawful use of such a right;

10-21 (2) the right to act in the same manner that a holder
 10-22 of a water right may act to protect the holder's rights in seeking
 10-23 to prevent any person from appropriating water in violation of a
 10-24 set-aside established by the commission under Section 11.1471 to
 10-25 meet instream flow needs or freshwater inflow needs; and

10-26 (3) the right to file suit in a civil court to prevent
 10-27 the unlawful use of a set-aside established under Section 11.1471.

10-28 SECTION 14. Subsection (a), Section 11.0842, Water Code, is
 10-29 amended to read as follows:

10-30 (a) If a person violates this chapter, a rule or order
 10-31 adopted under this chapter or Section 16.236 [~~of this code~~], or a
 10-32 permit, certified filing, or certificate of adjudication issued
 10-33 under this chapter, the commission may assess an administrative
 10-34 penalty against that person as provided by this section. The
 10-35 commission may assess an administrative penalty for a violation
 10-36 relating to a water division or a river basin or segment of a river
 10-37 basin regardless of whether a watermaster has been appointed for
 10-38 the water division or river basin or segment of the river basin.

10-39 SECTION 15. Subsection (a), Section 11.0843, Water Code, is
 10-40 amended to read as follows:

10-41 (a) Upon witnessing a violation of this chapter or a rule or
 10-42 order or a water right issued under this chapter, the executive
 10-43 director or a person designated by the executive director,
 10-44 including a watermaster or the watermaster's deputy, [~~as defined by~~
 10-45 commission rule,] may issue the alleged violator a field citation
 10-46 alleging that a violation has occurred and providing the alleged
 10-47 violator the option of either:

10-48 (1) without admitting to or denying the alleged
 10-49 violation, paying an administrative penalty in accordance with the
 10-50 predetermined penalty amount established under Subsection (b) [~~of~~
 10-51 ~~this section~~] and taking remedial action as provided in the
 10-52 citation; or

10-53 (2) requesting a hearing on the alleged violation in
 10-54 accordance with Section 11.0842 [~~of this code~~].

10-55 SECTION 16. Subsection (b), Section 11.134, Water Code, is
 10-56 amended to read as follows:

10-57 (b) The commission shall grant the application only if:

10-58 (1) the application conforms to the requirements
 10-59 prescribed by this chapter and is accompanied by the prescribed
 10-60 fee;

10-61 (2) unappropriated water is available in the source of
 10-62 supply;

10-63 (3) the proposed appropriation:

10-64 (A) is intended for a beneficial use;

10-65 (B) does not impair existing water rights or
 10-66 vested riparian rights;

10-67 (C) is not detrimental to the public welfare;

10-68 (D) considers any applicable environmental flow
 10-69 standards established under Section 11.1471 and, if applicable, the

assessments performed under Sections 11.147(d) and (e) and Sections 11.150, 11.151, and 11.152; and

(E) addresses a water supply need in a manner that is consistent with the state water plan and the relevant approved regional water plan for any area in which the proposed appropriation is located, unless the commission determines that conditions warrant waiver of this requirement; and

(4) the applicant has provided evidence that reasonable diligence will be used to avoid waste and achieve water conservation as defined by [~~Subdivision (8)(B)~~] Section 11.002(8)(B) [11.002].

SECTION 17. Section 11.147, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b), (d), and (e) and adding Subsections (e-1), (e-2), and (e-3) to read as follows:

(b) In its consideration of an application for a permit to store, take, or divert water, the commission shall assess the effects, if any, of the issuance of the permit on the bays and estuaries of Texas. For permits issued within an area that is 200 river miles of the coast, to commence from the mouth of the river thence inland, the commission shall include in the permit any conditions considered necessary to maintain freshwater inflows to any affected bay and estuary system, to the extent practicable when considering all public interests and the studies mandated by Section 16.058 as evaluated under Section 11.1491[~~those conditions considered necessary to maintain beneficial inflows to any affected bay and estuary system~~].

(d) In its consideration of an application to store, take, or divert water, the commission shall include in the permit, to the extent practicable when considering all public interests, those conditions considered by the commission necessary to maintain existing instream uses and water quality of the stream or river to which the application applies. In determining what conditions to include in the permit under this subsection, the commission shall consider among other factors:

- (1) the studies mandated by Section 16.059; and
- (2) any water quality assessment performed under Section 11.150.

(e) The commission shall include in the permit, to the extent practicable when considering all public interests, those conditions considered by the commission necessary to maintain fish and wildlife habitats. In determining what conditions to include in the permit under this subsection, the commission shall consider any assessment performed under Section 11.152.

(e-1) Any permit for a new appropriation of water or an amendment to an existing water right that increases the amount of water authorized to be stored, taken, or diverted must include a provision allowing the commission to adjust the conditions included in the permit or amended water right to provide for protection of instream flows or freshwater inflows. With respect to an amended water right, the provision may not allow the commission to adjust a condition of the amendment other than a condition that applies only to the increase in the amount of water to be stored, taken, or diverted authorized by the amendment. This subsection does not affect an appropriation of or an authorization to store, take, or divert water under a permit or amendment to a water right issued before November 1, 2005. The commission shall adjust the conditions if the commission determines, through an expedited public comment process, that such an adjustment is appropriate to achieve compliance with applicable environmental flow standards adopted under Section 11.1471. The adjustment:

- (1) in combination with any previous adjustments made under this subsection may not increase the amount of the pass-through or release requirement for the protection of instream flows or freshwater inflows by more than 12.5 percent of the annualized total of that requirement contained in the permit as issued or of that requirement contained in the amended water right and applicable only to the increase in the amount of water authorized to be stored, taken, or diverted under the amended water right;

12-1 (2) must be based on appropriate consideration of the
 12-2 priority dates and diversion locations of any other water rights
 12-3 granted in the same river basin that are subject to adjustment under
 12-4 this subsection; and

12-5 (3) must be based on appropriate consideration of any
 12-6 voluntary contributions to the Texas Water Trust that contribute
 12-7 toward meeting the environmental flow standards.

12-8 (e-2) Any water right holder making a contribution
 12-9 described by Subsection (e-1)(3) is entitled to appropriate credit
 12-10 of such benefits against adjustments of the holder's water right
 12-11 pursuant to Subsection (e-1)(1).

12-12 (e-3) Notwithstanding Subsections (b)-(e), for the purpose
 12-13 of determining the environmental flow conditions necessary to
 12-14 maintain freshwater inflows to an affected bay and estuary system,
 12-15 existing instream uses and water quality of a stream or river, or
 12-16 fish and aquatic wildlife habitats, the commission shall apply any
 12-17 applicable environmental flow standard, including any
 12-18 environmental flow set-aside, adopted under Section 11.1471
 12-19 instead of considering the factors specified by those subsections.

12-20 SECTION 18. Subchapter D, Chapter 11, Water Code, is
 12-21 amended by adding Section 11.1471 to read as follows:

12-22 Sec. 11.1471. ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW STANDARDS AND SET-ASIDES.

12-23 (a) The commission by rule shall:

12-24 (1) adopt appropriate environmental flow standards
 12-25 for each river basin and bay system in this state that are adequate
 12-26 to support a sound ecological environment, to the maximum extent
 12-27 reasonable considering other public interests and other relevant
 12-28 factors;

12-29 (2) establish an amount of unappropriated water, if
 12-30 available, to be set aside to satisfy the environmental flow
 12-31 standards to the maximum extent reasonable when considering human
 12-32 water needs; and

12-33 (3) establish procedures for implementing an
 12-34 adjustment of the conditions included in a permit or an amended
 12-35 water right as provided by Sections 11.147(e-1) and (e-2).

12-36 (b) In adopting environmental flow standards for a river
 12-37 basin and bay system under Subsection (a)(1), the commission shall
 12-38 consider:

12-39 (1) the definition of the geographical extent of the
 12-40 river basin and bay system adopted by the flows commission under
 12-41 Section 11.02362(a) and the definition and designation of the river
 12-42 basin by the board under Section 16.051(c);

12-43 (2) the schedule for the adoption of environmental
 12-44 flow standards for the river basin and bay system established by the
 12-45 flows commission under Section 11.02362(d) or (e), if applicable;

12-46 (3) the environmental flow analyses and the
 12-47 recommended environmental flow regime developed by the applicable
 12-48 basin and bay expert science team under Section 11.02362(m);

12-49 (4) the recommendations regarding environmental flow
 12-50 standards and strategies to meet the flow standards developed by
 12-51 the applicable basin and bay area stakeholders committee under
 12-52 Section 11.02362(o);

12-53 (5) the specific characteristics of the river basin
 12-54 and bay system;

12-55 (6) economic factors;

12-56 (7) the human and other competing water needs in the
 12-57 river basin and bay system;

12-58 (8) all reasonably available scientific information,
 12-59 including any scientific information provided by the science
 12-60 advisory committee; and

12-61 (9) any other appropriate information.

12-62 (c) Environmental flow standards adopted under Subsection
 12-63 (a)(1) must consist of a schedule of flow quantities, reflecting
 12-64 seasonal and yearly fluctuations that may vary geographically by
 12-65 specific location in a river basin and bay system.

12-66 (d) As provided by Section 11.023, the commission may not
 12-67 issue a permit for a new appropriation or an amendment to an
 12-68 existing water right that increases the amount of water authorized
 12-69 to be stored, taken, or diverted if the issuance of the permit or

13-1 amendment would impair an environmental flow set-aside established
 13-2 under Subsection (a)(2). A permit for a new appropriation or an
 13-3 amendment to an existing water right that increases the amount of
 13-4 water authorized to be stored, taken, or diverted that is issued
 13-5 after the adoption of an applicable environmental flow set-aside
 13-6 must contain appropriate conditions to ensure protection of the
 13-7 environmental flow set-aside.

13-8 (e) An environmental flow set-aside established under
 13-9 Subsection (a)(2) for a river basin and bay system other than the
 13-10 middle and lower Rio Grande must be assigned a priority date
 13-11 corresponding to the date the commission receives environmental
 13-12 flow regime recommendations from the applicable basin and bay
 13-13 expert science team and be included in the appropriate water
 13-14 availability models in connection with an application for a permit
 13-15 for a new appropriation or for an amendment to an existing water
 13-16 right that increases the amount of water authorized to be stored,
 13-17 taken, or diverted.

13-18 (f) An environmental flow standard or environmental flow
 13-19 set-aside adopted under Subsection (a) may be altered by the
 13-20 commission in a rulemaking process undertaken in accordance with a
 13-21 schedule established by the commission. The commission's schedule
 13-22 may not provide for the rulemaking process to occur more frequently
 13-23 than once every 10 years unless the applicable work plan approved by
 13-24 the flows commission under Section 11.02362(p) provides for a
 13-25 periodic review under that section to occur more frequently than
 13-26 once every 10 years. In that event, the commission may provide for
 13-27 the rulemaking process to be undertaken in conjunction with the
 13-28 periodic review if the commission determines that schedule to be
 13-29 appropriate.

13-30 SECTION 19. The heading to Section 11.148, Water Code, is
 13-31 amended to read as follows:

13-32 Sec. 11.148. EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF PERMIT CONDITIONS AND
 13-33 EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO MAKE AVAILABLE WATER SET ASIDE FOR
 13-34 ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS.

13-35 SECTION 20. Section 11.148, Water Code, is amended by
 13-36 adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsections (b) and (c) to
 13-37 read as follows:

13-38 (a-1) State water that is set aside by the commission to
 13-39 meet the needs for freshwater inflows to affected bays and
 13-40 estuaries and instream uses under Section 11.1471(a)(2) may be made
 13-41 available temporarily for other essential beneficial uses if the
 13-42 commission finds that an emergency exists that cannot practically
 13-43 be resolved in another way.

13-44 (b) Before the commission suspends a permit condition under
 13-45 Subsection (a) or makes water available temporarily under
 13-46 Subsection (a-1) [~~of this section~~], it must give written notice to
 13-47 the Parks and Wildlife Department of the proposed action
 13-48 [~~suspension~~]. The commission shall give the Parks and Wildlife
 13-49 Department an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed action
 13-50 [~~suspension~~] within 72 hours from such time and the commission
 13-51 shall consider those comments before issuing its order implementing
 13-52 the proposed action [~~imposing the suspension~~].

13-53 (c) The commission may suspend the permit condition under
 13-54 Subsection (a) or make water available temporarily under Subsection
 13-55 (a-1) without notice to any other interested party other than the
 13-56 Parks and Wildlife Department as provided by Subsection (b) [~~of~~
 13-57 this section]. However, all affected persons shall be notified
 13-58 immediately by publication, and a hearing to determine whether the
 13-59 suspension should be continued shall be held within 15 days of the
 13-60 date on which the order to suspend is issued.

13-61 SECTION 21. Subsection (a), Section 11.1491, Water Code, is
 13-62 amended to read as follows:

13-63 (a) The Parks and Wildlife Department and the commission
 13-64 shall have joint responsibility to review the studies prepared
 13-65 under Section 16.058 [~~of this code~~], to determine inflow conditions
 13-66 necessary for the bays and estuaries, and to provide information
 13-67 necessary for water resources management. Each agency shall
 13-68 designate an employee to share equally in the oversight of the
 13-69 program. Other responsibilities shall be divided between the Parks

14-1 and Wildlife Department and the commission to maximize present
 14-2 in-house capabilities of personnel and to minimize costs to the
 14-3 state. Each agency shall have reasonable access to all information
 14-4 produced by the other agency. Publication of reports completed
 14-5 under this section shall be submitted for comment to ~~[both]~~ the
 14-6 commission, ~~[and]~~ the Parks and Wildlife Department, the flows
 14-7 commission, the science advisory committee, and any applicable
 14-8 basin and bay area stakeholders committee and basin and bay expert
 14-9 science team.

14-10 SECTION 22. Subsection (g), Section 11.329, Water Code, is
 14-11 amended to read as follows:

14-12 (g) The commission may not assess costs under this section
 14-13 against a holder of a non-priority hydroelectric right that owns or
 14-14 operates privately owned facilities that collectively have a
 14-15 capacity of less than two megawatts or against a holder of a water
 14-16 right placed in the Texas Water Trust for a term of at least 20
 14-17 years. [This subsection is not intended to affect in any way the
 14-18 fees assessed on a water right holder by the commission under
 14-19 Section 1.29(d), Chapter 626, Acts of the 73rd Legislature, Regular
 14-20 Session, 1993. For purposes of Section 1.29(d), Chapter 626, Acts
 14-21 of the 73rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1993, a holder of a
 14-22 non-priority hydroelectric right that owns or operates privately
 14-23 owned facilities that collectively have a capacity of less than two
 14-24 megawatts shall be assessed fees at the same rate per acre-foot
 14-25 charged to a holder of a non-priority hydroelectric right that owns
 14-26 or operates privately owned facilities that collectively have a
 14-27 capacity of more than two megawatts.]

14-28 SECTION 23. Subsection (e), Section 11.404, Water Code, is
 14-29 amended to read as follows:

14-30 (e) The court may not assess costs and expenses under this
 14-31 section against:

14-32 (1) a holder of a non-priority hydroelectric right
 14-33 that owns or operates privately owned facilities that collectively
 14-34 have a capacity of less than two megawatts; or

14-35 (2) a holder of a water right placed in the Texas Water
 14-36 Trust for a term of at least 20 years.

14-37 SECTION 24. Subchapter I, Chapter 11, Water Code, is
 14-38 amended by adding Section 11.4531 to read as follows:

14-39 Sec. 11.4531. WATERMASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) For
 14-40 each river basin or segment of a river basin for which the executive
 14-41 director appoints a watermaster under this subchapter, the
 14-42 executive director shall appoint a watermaster advisory committee
 14-43 consisting of at least nine but not more than 15 members. A member
 14-44 of the advisory committee must be a holder of a water right or a
 14-45 representative of a holder of a water right in the river basin or
 14-46 segment of the river basin for which the watermaster is appointed.
 14-47 In appointing members to the advisory committee, the executive
 14-48 director shall consider:

14-49 (1) geographic representation;
 14-50 (2) amount of water rights held;
 14-51 (3) different types of holders of water rights and
 14-52 users, including water districts, municipal suppliers, irrigators,
 14-53 and industrial users; and

14-54 (4) experience and knowledge of water management
 14-55 practices.

14-56 (b) An advisory committee member is not entitled to
 14-57 reimbursement of expenses or to compensation.

14-58 (c) An advisory committee member serves a two-year term
 14-59 expiring August 31 of each odd-numbered year and holds office until
 14-60 a successor is appointed.

14-61 (d) The advisory committee shall meet within 30 days after
 14-62 the date the initial appointments have been made and shall select a
 14-63 presiding officer to serve a one-year term. The committee shall
 14-64 meet regularly as necessary.

14-65 (e) The advisory committee shall:
 14-66 (1) make recommendations to the executive director
 14-67 regarding activities of benefit to the holders of water rights in
 14-68 the administration and distribution of water to holders of water
 14-69 rights in the river basin or segment of the river basin for which

15-1 the watermaster is appointed;
 15-2 (2) review and comment to the executive director on
 15-3 the annual budget of the watermaster operation; and

15-4 (3) perform other advisory duties as requested by the
 15-5 executive director regarding the watermaster operation or as
 15-6 requested by holders of water rights and considered by the
 15-7 committee to benefit the administration of water rights in the
 15-8 river basin or segment of the river basin for which the watermaster
 15-9 is appointed.

15-10 SECTION 25. Sections 11.454 and 11.455, Water Code, are
 15-11 amended to read as follows:

15-12 Sec. 11.454. DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE WATERMASTER.
 15-13 Section 11.327 applies to the duties and authority of a watermaster
 15-14 appointed for a river basin or segment of a river basin under this
 15-15 subchapter in the same manner as that section applies to the duties
 15-16 and authority of a watermaster appointed for a water division under
 15-17 Subchapter G [A watermaster as the agent of the commission and under
 15-18 the executive director's supervision shall:

15-19 ~~[(1) divide the water of the streams or other sources~~
 15-20 ~~of supply of his segment or basin in accordance with the authorized~~
 15-21 ~~water rights;~~

15-22 ~~[(2) regulate or cause to be regulated the controlling~~
 15-23 ~~works of reservoirs and diversion works in time of water shortage,~~
 15-24 ~~as is necessary because of the rights existing in the streams of his~~
 15-25 ~~segment or basin, or as is necessary to prevent the waste of water~~
 15-26 ~~or its diversion, taking, storage, or use in excess of the~~
 15-27 ~~quantities to which the holders of water rights are lawfully~~
 15-28 ~~entitled; and~~

15-29 ~~[(3) perform any other duties and exercise any~~
 15-30 ~~authority directed by the commission].~~

15-31 Sec. 11.455. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES OF WATERMASTER
 15-32 [ASSESSMENTS]. (a) Section 11.329 applies to the payment of the
 15-33 compensation and expenses of a watermaster appointed for a river
 15-34 basin or segment of a river basin under this subchapter in the same
 15-35 manner as that section applies to the payment of the compensation
 15-36 and expenses of a watermaster appointed for a water division under
 15-37 Subchapter G.

15-38 (b) The executive director shall deposit the assessments
 15-39 collected under this section to the credit of the watermaster fund.

15-40 (c) Money deposited under this section to the credit of the
 15-41 watermaster fund may be used only for the purposes specified by
 15-42 Section 11.3291 with regard to the watermaster operation under this
 15-43 subchapter with regard to which the assessments were collected [~~The~~
 15-44 ~~commission may assess the costs of the watermaster against all~~
 15-45 ~~persons who hold water rights in the river basin or segment of the~~
 15-46 ~~river basin under the watermaster's jurisdiction in accordance with~~
 15-47 ~~Section 11.329 of this code].~~

15-48 SECTION 26. Subchapter F, Chapter 15, Water Code, is
 15-49 amended by adding Section 15.4063 to read as follows:

15-50 Sec. 15.4063. ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS FUNDING. The board may
 15-51 authorize the use of money in the research and planning fund:

15-52 (1) to compensate the members of the Texas
 15-53 Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee established under
 15-54 Section 11.02361 for attendance and participation at meetings of
 15-55 the committee and for transportation, meals, lodging, or other
 15-56 travel expenses associated with attendance at those meetings as
 15-57 provided by the General Appropriations Act;

15-58 (2) for contracts with cooperating state and federal
 15-59 agencies and universities and with private entities as necessary to
 15-60 provide technical assistance to enable the Texas Environmental
 15-61 Flows Science Advisory Committee and the basin and bay expert
 15-62 science teams established under Section 11.02362 to perform their
 15-63 statutory duties;

15-64 (3) to compensate the members of the expert science
 15-65 teams created pursuant to Section 11.02362(i) for attendance and
 15-66 participation at meetings of the teams and for transportation,
 15-67 meals, lodging, or other travel expenses associated with attendance
 15-68 at those meetings as provided by the General Appropriations Act;
 15-69 and

16-1 (4) for contracts with political subdivisions
 16-2 designated as representatives of stakeholder committees
 16-3 established pursuant to Section 11.02362 to fund all or part of the
 16-4 administrative expenses for conducting meetings of the stakeholder
 16-5 committee or the associated expert science team.

16-6 SECTION 27. Section 15.7031, Water Code, is amended by
 16-7 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (e) to read as
 16-8 follows:

16-9 (c) The dedication of any water rights placed in trust must
 16-10 be reviewed and approved by the commission, in consultation with
 16-11 the board, ~~and~~ the Parks and Wildlife Department, and the
 16-12 Environmental Flows Commission. In addition, the Department of
 16-13 Agriculture and the basin and bay area stakeholders committee and
 16-14 basin and bay expert science team established under Section
 16-15 11.02362 for the river basin and bay system to which the water right
 16-16 pertains may provide input to the commission, as appropriate,
 16-17 during the review and approval process for dedication of water
 16-18 rights.

16-19 (e) While a water right is held in the trust, the water
 16-20 authorized for beneficial use under the terms of the water right is
 16-21 considered to be held for instream flows, water quality, fish and
 16-22 wildlife habitat, bay and estuary inflows, or other environmental
 16-23 uses without the need for a permit amendment. After the water right
 16-24 is withdrawn in whole or in part from the trust, the use of the water
 16-25 right or portion of the water right withdrawn must be in accordance
 16-26 with the terms of the water right.

16-27 SECTION 28. Subsection (d), Section 16.059, Water Code, is
 16-28 amended to read as follows:

16-29 (d) The priority studies shall be completed not later than
 16-30 December 31, 2014 ~~[2010]~~. The Parks and Wildlife Department, the
 16-31 commission, and the board shall establish a work plan that
 16-32 prioritizes the studies and that sets interim deadlines providing
 16-33 for publication of flow determinations for individual rivers and
 16-34 streams on a reasonably consistent basis throughout the prescribed
 16-35 study period. Before publication, completed studies shall be
 16-36 submitted for comment to the commission, the board, and the Parks
 16-37 and Wildlife Department.

16-38 SECTION 29. Subsection (h), Section 26.0135, Water Code, as
 16-39 amended by Chapters 234 and 965, Acts of the 77th Legislature,
 16-40 Regular Session, 2001, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

16-41 (h) The commission shall apportion, assess, and recover the
 16-42 reasonable costs of administering the water quality management
 16-43 programs under this section from users of water and wastewater
 16-44 permit holders in the watershed according to the records of the
 16-45 commission generally in proportion to their right, through permit
 16-46 or contract, to use water from and discharge wastewater in the
 16-47 watershed. Irrigation water rights, ~~and~~ non-priority
 16-48 hydroelectric rights of a water right holder that owns or operates
 16-49 privately owned facilities that collectively have a capacity of
 16-50 less than two megawatts, and water rights held in the Texas Water
 16-51 Trust for terms of at least 20 years will not be subject to this
 16-52 assessment. The cost to river authorities and others to conduct
 16-53 water quality monitoring and assessment shall be subject to prior
 16-54 review and approval by the commission as to methods of allocation
 16-55 and total amount to be recovered. The commission shall adopt rules
 16-56 to supervise and implement the water quality monitoring,
 16-57 assessment, and associated costs. The rules shall ensure that
 16-58 water users and wastewater dischargers do not pay excessive
 16-59 amounts, that program funds are equitably apportioned among basins,
 16-60 that a river authority may recover no more than the actual costs of
 16-61 administering the water quality management programs called for in
 16-62 this section, and that no municipality shall be assessed cost for
 16-63 any efforts that duplicate water quality management activities
 16-64 described in Section 26.177 ~~[of this chapter]~~. The rules
 16-65 concerning the apportionment and assessment of reasonable costs
 16-66 shall provide for a recovery of not more than \$5,000,000 annually.
 16-67 Costs recovered by the commission are to be deposited to the credit
 16-68 of the water resource management account and may be used only to
 16-69 accomplish the purposes of this section. The commission may apply

17-1 not more than 10 percent of the costs recovered annually toward the
 17-2 commission's overhead costs for the administration of this section
 17-3 and the implementation of regional water quality assessments. The
 17-4 commission, with the assistance and input of each river authority,
 17-5 shall file a written report accounting for the costs recovered
 17-6 under this section with the governor, the lieutenant governor, and
 17-7 the speaker of the house of representatives on or before December 1
 17-8 of each even-numbered year.

17-9 SECTION 30. (a) This section takes effect only if this Act
 17-10 takes effect immediately. If this Act does not take effect
 17-11 immediately, this section has no effect.

17-12 (b) Subsections (d), (k), (l), and (m), Section 11.0236, and
 17-13 Subsection (c), Section 11.0237, Water Code, are repealed.

17-14 SECTION 31. Subsection (b), Section 11.1491, Water Code, is
 17-15 repealed.

17-16 SECTION 32. (a) This section takes effect only if this Act
 17-17 takes effect immediately. If this Act does not take effect
 17-18 immediately, this section has no effect.

17-19 (b) The Study Commission on Water for Environmental Flows is
 17-20 abolished on the effective date of this Act.

17-21 SECTION 33. (a) The governor, lieutenant governor, and
 17-22 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the initial
 17-23 members of the Environmental Flows Commission as provided by
 17-24 Section 11.0236, Water Code, as amended or added by this Act, as
 17-25 soon as practicable on or after the effective date of this Act.

17-26 (b) As soon as practicable after taking office, the initial
 17-27 members of the Environmental Flows Commission shall appoint the
 17-28 initial members of the Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory
 17-29 Committee as provided by Section 11.02361, Water Code, as added by
 17-30 this Act. The terms of the initial members of the committee expire
 17-31 March 1, 2010.

17-32 (c) The Environmental Flows Commission shall appoint the
 17-33 members of each basin and bay area stakeholders committee as
 17-34 provided by Section 11.02362, Water Code, as added by this Act. The
 17-35 terms of the initial members of each committee expire March 1 of the
 17-36 fifth year that begins after the year in which the initial
 17-37 appointments are made.

17-38 (d) Each basin and bay area stakeholders committee shall
 17-39 appoint the members of the basin and bay expert science team for the
 17-40 river basin and bay system for which the committee is established as
 17-41 provided by Section 11.02362, Water Code, as added by this Act. The
 17-42 terms of the initial members of each team expire April 1 of the
 17-43 fifth year that begins after the year in which the initial
 17-44 appointments are made.

17-45 (e) The executive director of the Texas Commission on
 17-46 Environmental Quality shall appoint the members of the watermaster
 17-47 advisory committee under Section 11.4531, Water Code, as added by
 17-48 this Act, for each river basin or segment of a river basin for which
 17-49 the executive director appoints a watermaster under Subchapter I,
 17-50 Chapter 11, Water Code. The terms of the initial members of each
 17-51 committee expire August 31 of the first odd-numbered year that
 17-52 begins after the year in which the initial appointments are made.

17-53 SECTION 34. The changes in law made by this Act relating to
 17-54 a permit for a new appropriation of water or to an amendment to an
 17-55 existing water right that increases the amount of water authorized
 17-56 to be stored, taken, or diverted apply only to:

17-57 (1) water appropriated under a permit for a new
 17-58 appropriation of water the application for which is pending with
 17-59 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the effective date
 17-60 of this Act or is filed with the commission on or after that date; or

17-61 (2) the increase in the amount of water authorized to
 17-62 be stored, taken, or diverted under an amendment to an existing
 17-63 water right that increases the amount of water authorized to be
 17-64 stored, taken, or diverted and the application for which is pending
 17-65 with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the effective
 17-66 date of this Act or is filed with the commission on or after that
 17-67 date.

17-68 SECTION 35. This Act takes effect immediately if it
 17-69 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each

18-1 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
18-2 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
18-3 effect, this Act takes effect November 1, 2005.

18-4

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