

Overview

The proposed rider would provide funding including additional FTEs to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to provide technical assistance to the Basin and Bay Expert Science Teams (BBESTs). The rider would also provide TCEQ with \$250,000 in General Revenue in each fiscal year for the upgrade and maintenance of water availability models. Further, the rider would provide the TWDB with \$1.3 million in General Revenue for the 2008-2009 biennium to be transferred to the Water Assistance Fund (WAF) No. 480 to provide funding for the reimbursement of board-related duties for each of the BBESTs and the Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee.

Required Action

In Article XI add the following rider for the TCEQ, TPWD, and TWDB:

____. Contingency Appropriation for HB 3. Contingent upon the passage of HB 3, or similar legislation relating to the management of water resources, including the protection of instream flows and freshwater inflows by the Eightieth Legislature, Regular Session:

(a) The Texas Commission for Environmental Quality is hereby appropriated out of the General Revenue Fund, in Strategy A.2.2, Water Resource Permitting, \$681,974 in fiscal year 2008 and \$551,974 in fiscal year 2009 to provide technical assistance to the Basin and Bay Expert Science Teams and for contract costs associated with the upgrade and maintenance of water availability models.

In addition, the Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTE) indicated above for the TCEQ is hereby increased by 5.0 in each fiscal year of the 2008-09 biennium;

(b) The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is hereby appropriated out of the General Revenue-Dedicated Game, Fish and Water Safety Account No. 9, \$122,566 in fiscal year 2008 and \$118,776 in fiscal year 2009 in Strategy A.2.1, Inland Fisheries Management, and \$61,283 in fiscal year 2008 and \$59,388 in fiscal year 2009 in Strategy A.2.3, Coastal Fisheries Management, to provide technical assistance to the Basin and Bay Expert Science

Teams.

In addition, the Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTE) indicated above for the TPWD is hereby increased by 3.0 in each fiscal year of the 2008-2009 biennium; and;

(c) The Texas Water Development Board is hereby appropriated out of the General Revenue Fund, in Strategy A.1.1, Environmental Impact Information, \$696,904 in fiscal year 2008 and \$970,902 in fiscal year 2009 of which \$525,000 in 2008 and \$760,000 in 2009 is to be transferred to the Water Assistance Fund (WAF) No. 480 to provide funding for the reimbursement of board-related duties for each of the Basin and Bay Expert Science Teams (BBESTs) and the Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee. The remaining funds are to be used to provide technical assistance to the BBESTs.

In addition, the Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTE) indicated above for the TWDB is hereby increased by 3.1 in fiscal year 2008 and 4.1 in fiscal year 2009.