

AN ACT

relating to the authority of the Texas Water Development Board to approve the regional water plan for Region L and include the plan in the state water plan.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding Section 16.053(i), Water Code, and except as otherwise provided by this Act, the Texas Water Development Board may approve and include in the state water plan for the five-year period beginning January 5, 2007, the regional water plan that was submitted to the board by the Region L regional water planning group.

(b) The Texas Water Development Board may approve the regional water plan for Region L only if the board:

(1) strikes Sections 4C.7, 4C.8, and 4C.32 from the plan as submitted to the board; and

(2) includes Section 4C.33 in the plan as the Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project for Upstream GBRA Needs so as to:

(A) require that the project be developed by the regional water planning group for Region L in association with the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority;

(B) include a transmission pipeline for the diversion of up to 60,000 acre-feet per year of surface water available under the water rights held by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority as of December 31, 2006, from the Guadalupe River below

1 the city of Victoria to upstream points on the river to meet needs
2 identified by the Region L regional water planning group; provided,
3 however, that at least 100,000 acre-feet per year of the surface
4 water must be reserved for lower basin needs;

5 (C) prohibit the use of fresh groundwater for the
6 project;

7 (D) require the consent of the appropriate
8 property owner before off-channel storage or an off-channel
9 reservoir may be developed as part of the project; and

10 (E) require freshwater inflows in an amount
11 sufficient to meet the Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas
12 Commission on Environmental Quality, and Texas Water Development
13 Board's environmental consensus criteria for San Antonio Bay to be
14 identified and included in the project.

15 (c) The Texas Water Development Board shall amend the state
16 water plan for the five-year period beginning January 5, 2007, as
17 necessary to conform to the requirements of this Act.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3776 was passed by the House on May 8, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3776 was passed by the Senate on May 23, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor