

1-1 By: Puente (Senate Sponsor - Wentworth) H.B. No. 3776
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 9, 2007;
1-3 May 10, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural
1-4 Resources; May 21, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 21, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the authority of the Texas Water Development Board to
1-9 approve the regional water plan for Region L and include the plan in
1-10 the state water plan.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding Section 16.053(i), Water
1-13 Code, and except as otherwise provided by this Act, the Texas Water
1-14 Development Board may approve and include in the state water plan
1-15 for the five-year period beginning January 5, 2007, the regional
1-16 water plan that was submitted to the board by the Region L regional
1-17 water planning group.

1-18 (b) The Texas Water Development Board may approve the
1-19 regional water plan for Region L only if the board:

1-20 (1) strikes Sections 4C.7, 4C.8, and 4C.32 from the
1-21 plan as submitted to the board; and

1-22 (2) includes Section 4C.33 in the plan as the Lower
1-23 Guadalupe Water Supply Project for Upstream GBRA Needs so as to:

1-24 (A) require that the project be developed by the
1-25 regional water planning group for Region L in association with the
1-26 Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority;

1-27 (B) include a transmission pipeline for the
1-28 diversion of up to 60,000 acre-feet per year of surface water
1-29 available under the water rights held by the Guadalupe-Blanco River
1-30 Authority as of December 31, 2006, from the Guadalupe River below
1-31 the city of Victoria to upstream points on the river to meet needs
1-32 identified by the Region L regional water planning group; provided,
1-33 however, that at least 100,000 acre-feet per year of the surface
1-34 water must be reserved for lower basin needs;

1-35 (C) prohibit the use of fresh groundwater for the
1-36 project;

1-37 (D) require the consent of the appropriate
1-38 property owner before off-channel storage or an off-channel
1-39 reservoir may be developed as part of the project; and

1-40 (E) require freshwater inflows in an amount
1-41 sufficient to meet the Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas
1-42 Commission on Environmental Quality, and Texas Water Development
1-43 Board's environmental consensus criteria for San Antonio Bay to be
1-44 identified and included in the project.

1-45 (c) The Texas Water Development Board shall amend the state
1-46 water plan for the five-year period beginning January 5, 2007, as
1-47 necessary to conform to the requirements of this Act.

1-48 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-49 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-50 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-51 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-52 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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