

By: Puente

H.C.R. No. 223

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In 1997, the 75th Texas Legislature adopted Senate
2 Bill 1 and in so doing initiated for Texas what has become a
3 nationally recognized regional and state water planning process;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Subsequently, the Texas Water Development Board
6 prepared and submitted to the legislature two state water plans
7 under the Senate Bill 1 framework, in 2002 and 2007; and

8 WHEREAS, The 2007 state water plan makes the following
9 projections:

10 (1) Texas' population will more than double by 2060, to 46
11 million people;

12 (2) Texas' annual demand for water over the same period of
13 time will increase by 27 percent, from approximately 17 million
14 acre-feet in 2000 to 21.6 million acre-feet in 2060;

15 (3) the state's existing water supply, however, will
16 decrease by 18 percent from 17.9 million acre-feet to 14.6 million
17 acre-feet, primarily because of the aquifer depletion and sediment
18 accumulation in reservoirs;

19 (4) if Texas does not implement new water supply projects or
20 management strategies, its deficit relative to demand will grow
21 from 3.7 million acre-feet in 2010 to 5.9 million acre-feet in 2030
22 to 8.8 million acre-feet in 2060, by which time more than 85 percent
23 of the population will experience water shortages; and

24 (5) the state's failure to implement, on a timely basis,

1 economically feasible and diverse water management will adversely
2 impact Texans' health, safety, and prosperity, and could cost the
3 Texas economy approximately \$9.1 billion by 2010 and \$98.4 billion
4 by 2060; and

5 WHEREAS, Despite these alarming projections, Texas has
6 abundant water resources within its borders, and the challenge is
7 to develop and deliver those resources to the right places so that
8 all citizens of the state can share in the abundance; and

9 WHEREAS, The amount of water available to the state should
10 compel Texas to concentrate all its efforts within the state and not
11 to divert resources to unrealistic proposals for importing water
12 from neighboring states; and

13 WHEREAS, Such an effort will require input from both the
14 public sector and the private sector to meet the substantial
15 planning and financial demands of ensuring adequate and diverse
16 water supplies for all Texans; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby request the Texas Water Development Board to identify, based
19 on its 2007 state water plan, critical water communities served by
20 retail public utilities, as that term is defined by Section
21 13.002(9), Water Code, that the board projects may see their water
22 demand exceed their water supply in the next 5, 10, 20, and 50
23 years; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the board, in making its projections, define
25 and categorize critical water communities as follows:

26 (1) a Stage I critical water community is an
27 area that the board projects may experience a water

1 supply shortage in the next five years;

2 (2) a Stage II critical water community is an
3 area that the board projects may experience a water
4 supply shortage in the next 10 years;

5 (3) a Stage III critical water community is an
6 area that the board projects may experience a water
7 supply shortage in the next 20 years; and

8 (4) a Stage IV critical water community is an
9 area that the board projects may experience a water
10 supply shortage in the next 50 years; and, be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That the board, in determining the reliable water
13 supply available to any community, disregard supplies that are
14 interruptible or that are subject to senior claims in times of
15 drought if the senior claims in the aggregate constitute more than
16 the reliable supply available from the water source; and, be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the board, in considering whether an area
19 served by a retail public utility may be a critical water community,
20 use only water supply projections that are based on firm yield,
21 including a binding contract for service or supply, from a
22 permitted water source; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the board, in considering whether an area
24 served by a retail public utility may be a critical water community,
25 also consider whether the retail public utility water supply is
26 sufficiently diverse and comes from one or more of the following:
27 the firm yield of a proprietary source, a competitive bidding

1 process, reservoir construction, or desalination; and, be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That the legislature request the board to complete
4 its identification and forward copies of its list of critical water
5 communities no later than September 1, 2007, to the governor, the
6 governor's office of economic development and tourism, the
7 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
8 the senate committee on natural resources, the house committee on
9 natural resources, all municipalities, counties, and special
10 districts located wholly or partly within a critical water
11 community, and all retail public utilities that serve all or part of
12 a critical water community and to post the list on its official
13 website; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
15 copy of this resolution to the executive administrator of the Texas
16 Water Development Board.