

By: Cook of Colorado

H.C.R. No. 247

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, In 1954, the United States Congress authorized the
2 construction of Lake Somerville to provide flood control, water
3 conservation, and other beneficial uses for nearby areas;
4 subsequently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began reservoir
5 construction in 1962 and began to impound water in 1967; and

6 WHEREAS, Straddling the borders of Burleson, Washington, and
7 Lee Counties, on Yegua Creek 20 river miles upstream from that
8 creek's confluence with the Brazos River, the lake has a storage
9 capacity of 337,700 acre-feet; and

10 WHEREAS, Operation of the lake is supervised by the Fort
11 Worth District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the lake is one
12 of nine federal reservoirs that are integrated into the Brazos
13 River Authority's basin-wide system and associated water resource
14 development master plan; and

15 WHEREAS, The Brazos River Authority owns the stored water, a
16 source from which it furnishes supplies to the City of Brenham
17 according to a contract that was last renewed for a 10-year period
18 in 2003; and

19 WHEREAS, Also significantly involved in the region is the
20 Lower Colorado River Authority, which, from its diverse mix of
21 power plants, provides wholesale electricity to various
22 communities as well as offering them its economic research and
23 expertise; and

24 WHEREAS, Although Lake Somerville has long been a tourist

1 destination for fishing and other water recreation, the facility
2 has not fully effectuated the three-county economic impact that
3 originally was expected at the time that it was built; and

4 WHEREAS, A study of Lake Somerville's role in economic
5 development would assist in explaining why the lake has not yet had
6 that impact, beyond the tourism industry, and would help to
7 identify impediments that currently restrict its contribution as
8 well as strategies that would better maximize its economic
9 potential; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby request the Brazos River Authority and the Lower Colorado
12 River Authority to conduct, with appropriate input from the public
13 and private sectors, a joint baseline study of the role of Lake
14 Somerville in the economic development of the surrounding vicinity;
15 and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the two authorities jointly submit a full
17 report of their findings and recommendations to the 81st
18 Legislature when that legislature convenes in January 2009.