

By: Fraser

S.B. No. 18

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to water management plans for certain special water authorities.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 49, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 49.2127 to read as follows:

Sec. 49.2127. WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL WATER AUTHORITIES. (a) In this section:

(1) "Authority" means a special water authority to which this section applies under Subsection (b).

(2) "Firm water" means a supply of stored water that could be supplied without shortage during each year of a simulated repeat of the drought of record, while honoring all senior water rights. During a drought of record, the supply of water for firm water customers has a higher priority than that of interruptible water customers.

(3) "Interruptible water" means a stored supply of water for customers of an authority that must be curtailed before the authority curtails firm water supplies.

(b) This section applies only to a special water authority whose water management plan consists of a reservoir operation plan for the operation of two water supply reservoirs and was:

(1) developed by an applicant for a permit under Chapter 11; and

1 (2) originally required by a court order adjudicating
2 the water rights for those reservoirs.

3 (c) An authority's water management plan must:

4 (1) ensure that adequate firm water supplies are
5 available to meet the existing and projected demands of firm water
6 customers to the extent:

7 (A) provided by previously adjudicated water
8 rights; and

9 (B) other supplies are not available to the
10 authority to meet those firm water customer demands; and

11 (2) provide for curtailing water supplies under
12 interruptible commitments before requesting that firm water
13 customers institute voluntary drought contingency measures.

14 SECTION 2. A special water authority to which Section
15 49.2127, Water Code, as added by this Act, applies shall adopt or
16 amend its rules and its water management plan as required to
17 implement Section 49.2127, Water Code, as added by this Act.