

1-1 By: Uresti S.C.R. No. 2
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed November 10, 2010; February 2, 2011,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources;
1-4 March 24, 2011, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; March 24, 2011,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.C.R. No. 2 By: Uresti

1-8 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-9 WHEREAS, The Amistad International Reservoir, situated on
1-10 the Texas-Mexico border near Del Rio, supplies water to numerous
1-11 area communities for municipal, industrial, and agricultural
1-12 purposes; yet, with a salt content near the upper limit of the Texas
1-13 standard for drinking water, the reservoir may become an unusable
1-14 resource for all; and

1-15 WHEREAS, Two of its main tributaries, the Rio Grande and the
1-16 Pecos River, are heavily saturated with salt due in part to the
1-17 composition of the surrounding land, which was once part of a great
1-18 inland sea; when dry land emerged, salt from the sea was trapped in
1-19 the soil and in underground aquifers; originating in New Mexico,
1-20 the Pecos River, in particular, is one of the most saline waterways
1-21 in North America and accounts for nearly 30 percent of the salt
1-22 loading of the reservoir; and

1-23 WHEREAS, The upper limit of Texas drinking water standards
1-24 for minerals including salt is 1,000 milligrams per liter; when
1-25 that limit is exceeded, municipalities that rely on water released
1-26 into the Rio Grande from the Amistad Reservoir will face costly
1-27 treatment methods to meet state standards; moreover, the elevated
1-28 levels of salt may force farmers to discontinue the growth of
1-29 certain crops; while fresh water inflow from runoff could help
1-30 alleviate the salinity, the potential for such runoff is limited;
1-31 and

1-32 WHEREAS, The Amistad International Reservoir is shared by
1-33 both the United States and Mexico, in accordance with the terms of a
1-34 1944 treaty; for that reason and because the reservoir's holdings
1-35 derive from multiple states, it is incumbent on the national
1-36 government to take the lead in addressing this urgent problem; and

1-37 WHEREAS, Congress began that process by enacting Section 729
1-38 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, 33 U.S.C. Section
1-39 2267a, and by developing a program in Section 5056 of the Water
1-40 Resources Development Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-114, 121 Stat.
1-41 1041, 1213-1214 (2007), that directs the secretary of the army to
1-42 rehabilitate and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and to implement
1-43 long-term monitoring, data collection and analysis, applied
1-44 research, and adaptive management within the Rio Grande Basin; and

1-45 WHEREAS, Past studies must be evaluated to determine a
1-46 strategy for moving forward; in addition, it is imperative that
1-47 funding and continuing authority for Section 5056 of the Water
1-48 Resources Development Act of 2007, which is set to expire in 2011,
1-49 be reenacted so that efforts to solve the salt problem in the
1-50 reservoir can continue; now, therefore, be it

1-51 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
1-52 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to reauthorize
1-53 the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Section 5056, and to
1-54 appropriate sufficient funds to carry out work related to that
1-55 legislation; and, be it further

1-56 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
1-57 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the
1-58 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
1-59 senate of the United States Congress, and all the members of the
1-60 Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution
1-61 be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to
1-62 the Congress of the United States of America.

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