

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 3770

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot project conducted by the Texas Water Development Board regarding the real-time monitoring of the inundation and water quality of certain portions of the Rio Grande.

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

SECTION 1. Title 2, Water Code, is amended by adding Subtitle G to read as follows:

SUBTITLE G. PILOT PROJECT

CHAPTER 39. RIO GRANDE MONITORING PILOT PROJECT

Sec. 39.0101. PURPOSE. It is the policy of this state and the purpose of this chapter to:

(1) implement a pilot project on the Rio Grande to better provide for the public's interests and needs regarding that river;

(2) demonstrate new tools in water quality monitoring and early flood warning that will be transferable to other areas of this state; and

(3) provide more efficient and effective administration of the conservation of this state's natural resources and protection of the public and the environment.

Sec. 39.0102. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Texas Water Development Board.

(2) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

1 (3) "Pilot project" means the Rio Grande monitoring
2 pilot project.

3 Sec. 39.0103. RIO GRANDE MONITORING PILOT PROJECT. (a) The
4 board and the commission jointly shall conduct a river monitoring
5 pilot project on the Rio Grande between Columbia and Falcon Lake as
6 described by this section.

7 (b) The pilot project must include improvements to or
8 installation of monitoring sites at the following locations:

- 9 (1) Colombia Solidarity Bridge;
- 10 (2) World Trade International Bridge;
- 11 (3) Juarez-Lincoln International Bridge;
- 12 (4) US Geological Survey Site 084592000; and
- 13 (5) a site in San Ygnacio upstream from Falcon Lake.

14 (c) The board shall:

15 (1) enhance the stream gaging network that monitors
16 stream flow in the Rio Grande; and

17 (2) develop a flood inundation modeling system for the
18 Rio Grande.

19 (d) The commission shall establish a continuous, real-time
20 water quality observation network for the segment of the Rio Grande
21 described by Subsection (b), including a program of periodic water
22 sampling to determine the levels of:

- 23 (1) turbidity;
- 24 (2) acidity;
- 25 (3) temperature;
- 26 (4) dissolved oxygen;
- 27 (5) nitrates; and

1 (6) total dissolved solids.

2 (e) The commission and the board may post information
3 obtained in the pilot project on the commission's or board's
4 Internet website.

5 (f) The board may contract or cooperate with any person
6 necessary to complete the pilot project, including the United
7 States Geological Survey Texas Water Science Center.

8 Sec. 39.0104. PILOT PROJECT REPORT. Not later than
9 September 1, 2024, the board shall deliver a report to the governor,
10 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and
11 standing committees of the senate and house of representatives
12 having jurisdiction over matters related to water development. The
13 report must include a summary of the methods used and the results
14 obtained for each element of the pilot project.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.