



SAN ANTONIO

RIVER AUTHORITY

Leaders in Watershed Solutions



Legislative Update

March 31, 2011

SB 181



- Would require the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), in consultation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC), to develop a standard formula for calculating and reporting municipal water use in Gallons Per Capita Per Day (GPCD) in accordance with established guidelines.
- Would aid in conservation and drought management benchmarking.
- Passed in the Senate.
- Received but not yet assigned in the House.

SB 181 cont.



The Legislature finds that:

“ . . . using a single gallons per capita per day metric to compare the water use of municipalities and water utilities does not produce a reliable comparison because water use is dependent on several variables, including differences in the amount of water used for commercial and industrial sector activities, power production, permanent versus temporary service populations, and agricultural sector production . . . ”

SB 181 cont.



The Legislature further finds that:

“ . . . a sector-based water use metric, adjusted for variables in water use by municipalities and water utilities, is necessary in order to provide an accurate comparison of water use and water conservation among municipalities and water utilities . . . ”

SB 181 cont.



The methodology for calculation of GCPD must address:

- total water use for municipality or water utility;
- total water use (revenue and non) per each sector of water users;
- classification of water users within sectors;
- water use in residential sector that includes single- and multifamily;
- calculation of water use in other use sectors that is not dependent on # of population or connections; and
- use of service populations (permanent and temporary) in making calculations.

HB 1733/SB 409



- Would allow appraisal for ad-valorem tax purposes of open-space land devoted to water stewardship purposes – including holding a water right for in-stream flows.
- House version in Ways and Means.
- Senate version in Finance.
- SB 449 is similar and was left pending in Finance.

SB 449



Per the Bill Analysis: “The creation of the water stewardship valuation option in S.B. 449 will give landowners a new land management option that is both incentive-based and cost-effective. It also will help protect valuable open space land and fight fragmentation, promote water conservation, help the state meet its overall water conservation goals, advance the state water plan, and protect water quality in rivers, streams, and aquifers.”

HB 1132/SB 1814



- Would reduce the time to enforce a nuisance violation notice from 30 to 15 days (in unincorporated areas of counties).
- If passed, would aid in enforcement of water waste prohibition.
- House version (Larson) was left pending in County Affairs.
- Senate version (Zaffirini) assigned to Criminal Justice – not yet set.

HB 1132/SB 1814 cont.



SECTION 1. Section 343.012(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if:

(1) the person violates Section 343.011(b); and

(2) the nuisance remains unabated after the 15th [~~30th~~] day after the date on which the person receives notice from a county official, agent, or employee to abate the nuisance.

HB 3372/SB 1073



- Would allow household use of rainwater for potable purposes.
- House version (Tracy King) set for 3/29 in House Natural Resources. Committee action pending.
- Senate version (Jackson) assigned to Senate Natural Resources – not set.
- No fiscal impact.

HB 3372/SB 1073



SECTION 1. Section 341.042(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) ~~AA~~The commission by rule shall provide that if a structure is connected to a public water supply system and has a rainwater harvesting system for indoor use, ~~[~~+

~~[(1)]~~ ~~AA~~the structure must have appropriate cross-connection safeguards ~~[~~+

~~[(2)]~~ ~~AA~~the rainwater harvesting system may be used only for nonpotable indoor purposes].

SECTION ~~A~~2. ~~AA~~This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

Other Bills of Interest



- SB 332 “Vested Rights”
- SB 1306 and HB 2166 Appeals of Desired Future Conditions
- HB 2939 Reporting of Water Used in Oil and Gas Extraction
- HB 3530/SB 660 Texas Water Development Board Sunset