

Biennial Report

to the 82nd Legislature

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TEXAS
COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY



Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution





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Biennial Report *to the 82nd Legislature*

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*Texas Commission on
Environmental Quality*

Agency Mission and Philosophy

Mission

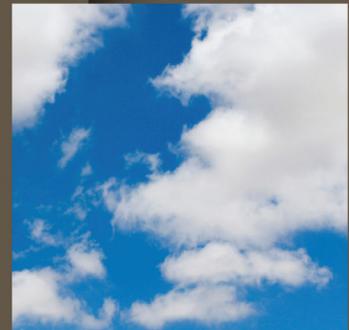
The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality strives to protect our state's human and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development. Our goal is clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste.



Philosophy

To accomplish our mission, we

- Base decisions on the law, common sense, good science, and fiscal responsibility.
- Ensure that regulations are necessary, effective, and current.
- Apply regulations clearly and consistently.
- Ensure consistent, just, and timely enforcement when environmental laws are violated.
- Promote and foster voluntary compliance with environmental laws and provide flexibility in achieving environmental goals.
- Hire, develop, and retain a high-quality, diverse workforce.



From the Commission



Texas is a great place to live and work, thanks to a wealth of natural resources that enhance our economy and provide an abundance of recreational opportunities. With projections showing the state's population to increase significantly in the coming decades, protecting these important natural resources, as well as protecting human health, can pose increasingly complex challenges for state leaders.

As this report demonstrates, addressing these challenges is a crucial job of the TCEQ. As one of the most comprehensive state environmental agencies in the nation, the TCEQ works with stakeholders, legislative resources, and the citizens of Texas to protect the state's environmental quality and the public health by ensuring clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste.

Texas is a leader when it comes to protecting the environment, and has proven that growth is not incompatible with pollution prevention and reduction. Our desire for a healthy environment goes hand-in-hand with our expectation of a sound, vibrant economy—both of which we enjoy in Texas.

The state has been especially successful in reducing air pollution. For example, in the last eight years, ozone has been reduced by 22 percent across the state, and NO_x , a precursor to ozone formation, was reduced by 53 percent from 2000 to 2008. And although Texas has some of the most highly industrialized and populated areas in the nation, air quality in these and other areas of the state continues to improve and is comparable to or better than that of similar areas in other states.

New, more stringent federal air quality pollution standards, expected to take effect in fiscal 2011, also pose challenges by causing concern for areas of the state currently in attainment.

As an agency, we will meet the challenges that lie ahead. We will achieve our goals by continuing to incorporate the latest scientific methods and research with cutting-edge technology in order to strategically investigate, evaluate, and improve the environment. As Commissioners, we will continue to serve our beautiful state and continue to strive to make Texas a better place for all Texans!

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Bryan W. Shaw".

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D. | Chairman

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Buddy Garcia".

Buddy Garcia | Commissioner

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Carlos Rubinstein".

Carlos Rubinstein | Commissioner

Protecting Texas by Reducing

Report Status

Texas expect air that is safe to breathe, water that is free from contaminants, and a system of waste management that is efficient and well regulated.



The TCEQ's *Biennial Report to the Legislature* is published every December prior to a regular legislative session, as required by the Texas Water Code, Section 5.178. This submission to the 82nd Legislature contains other information and reports that are required by statute:

- Agency research efforts, page 31. This

information was last published in December 2008 in the *Biennial Report to the 81st Legislature* (SFR-057/08).

- Waste exchange results (RENEW), page 50. This information was last published in the *Biennial Report to the 81st Legislature*.
- Alternative-Fuel Fueling Facility Study,

page 54. This information is published for the first time.

- Assessment of complaints received, page 62. This report was last published in the *Biennial Report to the 81st Legislature*.
- Permit time-frame reduction process, page 70. This report was last published in the *Biennial Report to the 81st Legislature*.

Reports that were once issued as separate appendices to the *Biennial Report* are no longer required. Those covered the topics of used oil, pollution prevention, needs assessment for commercial management capacity of hazardous waste, and low-emission vehicles and alternative fuel use.

and Preventing Pollution

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As the state's lead environmental agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality assumes the primary role in these areas.



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