

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Chairman*
Carlos Rubinstein, *Commissioner*
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*
Zak Covar, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 30 TAC CHAPTER 303

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (commission) will conduct a public hearing to receive testimony regarding proposed revisions to 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 303, Operation of the Rio Grande, §303.53, under the requirements of Texas Water Code, §11.327 and §11.3271, and Texas Government Code, Chapter 2001, Subchapter B.

The proposed rulemaking would remove the one-year limitation for certain water contracts in the Rio Grande Watermaster Program; and clarify that contracts for Domestic, Municipal, and Industrial water must terminate by the last Saturday of the calendar year in which the contract was entered. All other contracts shall terminate at a date determined by the interested parties. The amended rule would also clarify that all contracts for water would remain subject to §303.22. This would maintain the requirement that allocations of water be put to beneficial use within two consecutive calendar years; otherwise, the account will be reduced to zero as per §303.22.

The commission will hold a public hearing on this proposal in Harlingen on September 10, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at the Texas State Technical College Service Support Center (TSTC), Conference Room 145. The TSTC Service Support Center is at 1902 North Loop 499 in Harlingen, Texas. The hearing is structured for the receipt of oral or written comments by interested persons. Individuals may present oral statements when called upon in order of registration. Open discussion will not be permitted during the hearing; however, commission staff members will be available to discuss the proposal 30 minutes prior to the hearing.

Persons who have special communication or other accommodation needs who are planning to attend the hearing should contact Sandy Wong, Office of Legal Services at (512) 239-1802. Requests should be made as far in advance as possible.

Written comments may be submitted to Patricia Durón, MC 205, Office of Legal Services, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or faxed to (512) 239-4808. Electronic comments may be submitted at: <http://www5.tceq.texas.gov/rules/ecomments/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments being submitted via the *eComments* system. All comments should reference Rule Project Number 2013-031-303-OW. The comment period closes September 16, 2013. Copies of the proposed rulemaking can be obtained from the commission's Web site at http://www.tceq.texas.gov/nav/rules/propose_adopt.html. For further information, please contact Amy Settemeyer, Watermaster Section, at (512) 239-2588.