

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
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Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

December 30, 2015

Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0667
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Docket Center
Mail Code 2821T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
OW-Docket@epa.gov

Re: Comments on the National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA) 2011 Draft Report,
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0667

Dear Sir:

The Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability of the draft report on the National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA 2011) was published in the *Federal Register* on November 5, 2015. The notice describes the key goals of the NWCA as: (1) describe the ecological condition of the nation's wetlands and stressors commonly associated with poor condition; (2) collaborate with states and tribes in developing complementary monitoring tools, analytical approaches, and data management technology to aid wetland protection and restoration programs; and (3) advance the science of wetland monitoring and assessment to support wetland management needs.

The TCEQ's comments address the following:

- Recognition in the report of TCEQ's participation in the study,
- The approach taken in conducting the study and evaluating the data, and
- TCEQ's concern in terms of the resources required to conduct iterative national assessments of water quality.

The TCEQ appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft report. We urge the EPA to consider our comments. If you have any questions concerning the enclosed comments, please contact Kelly Holligan, Director, Water Quality Planning Division at (512) 239-2369 or by e-mail at Kelly.Holligan@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. A. Hyde".

Richard A. Hyde, P.E.
Executive Director

cc: L'Oreal W. Stepney, P.E., Deputy, TCEQ Office of Water

Enclosure

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