From the Commission

According to the *Texas Almanac*, the state of Texas occupies 7 percent of the total water and land area of the United States of America. We are the second largest state, both in land mass and population. Our population is projected to double by 2050, making it imperative that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality balance the need for strong economic growth and development with the protection of natural resources. Our goal is clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste for the citizens of Texas and for our children to come.

While these goals are broad in nature, we cannot achieve these goals alone. The TCEQ has an outstanding, capable, and superbly competent staff working for the common good of their fellow Texans. As Commissioners, it is our honor to serve beside these public servants and work collaboratively on the issues of today and those that will come tomorrow.

With the population of our great state growing at an accelerated rate, areas of concern will continue to grow as well. A growing population could lead to additional stress on our natural resources and environment. The TCEQ should continue efforts toward effective public education and continue to partner with industry, advocacy groups, and all interested stakeholders. Doing so will ensure sound policy development that will protect the environment and allow for continued growth in our state.

As Commissioners of the second largest environmental agency in the world (second only to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), we are grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and to protect the environment for which the state of Texas is both known and commended.

Buddy Garcia, *Chairman*

Larry R. Soward, *Commissioner*

Bryan W. Shaw, *Commissioner*