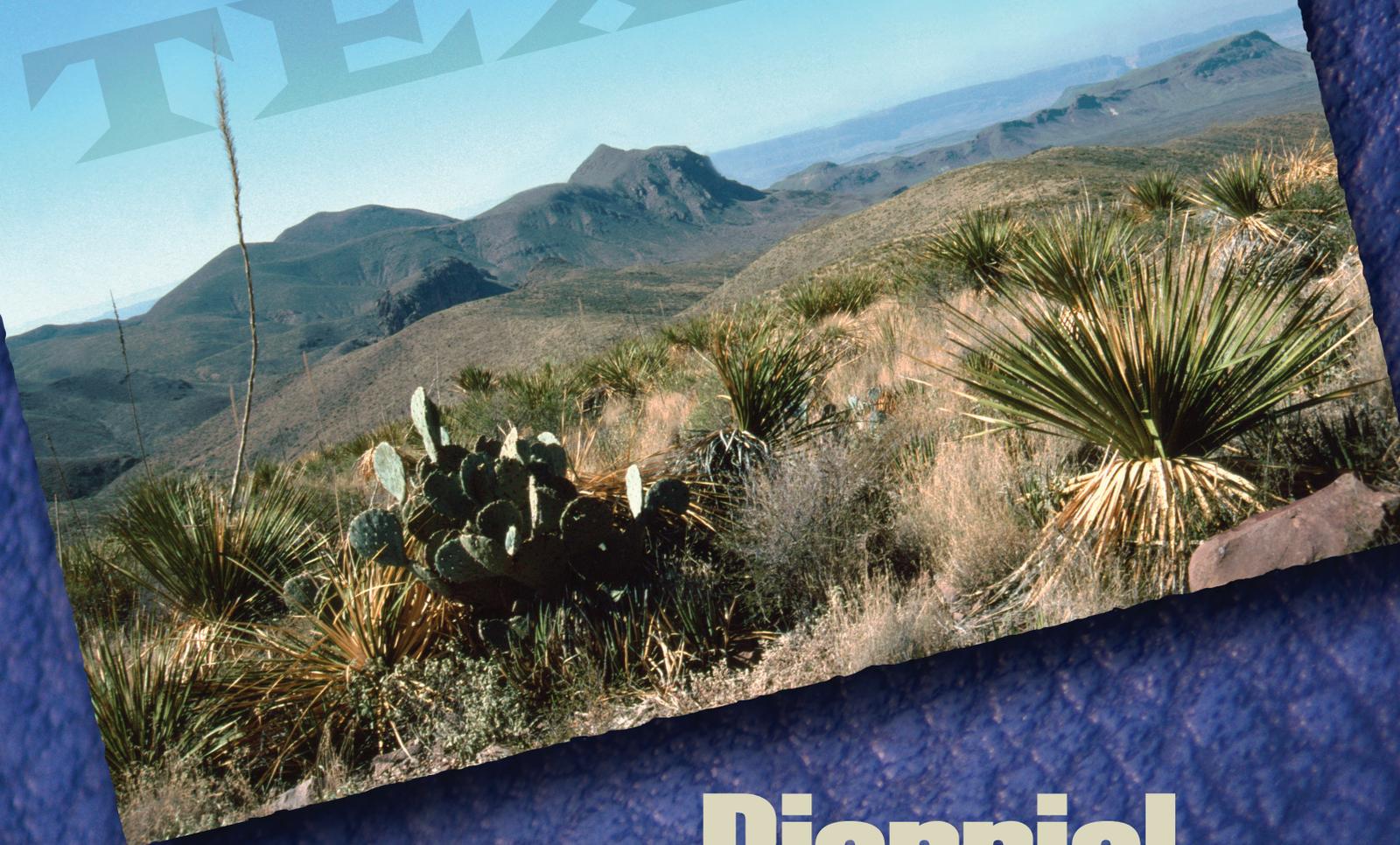


TEXAS



# Biennial Report

to the 81st Legislature  
FY2007-FY2008

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



# Biennial Report

to the 81st Legislature  
FY 2007 – FY 2008



T E X A S   C O M M I S S I O N   O N   E N V I R O N M E N T A L   Q U A L I T Y



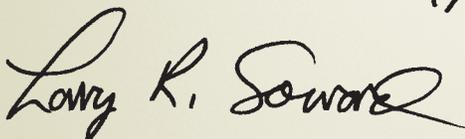
# From the Commission

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.

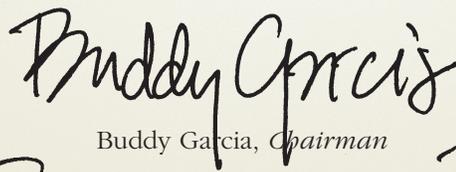
While these goals are broad in nature, we cannot achieve these goals alone. The TCEQ has an outstanding, capable, and superbly competent staff working for the common good of their fellow Texans. As Commissioners, it is our honor to serve beside these public servants and work collaboratively on the issues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



Larry R. Soward, *Commissioner*



Buddy Garcia, *Chairman*



Bryan W. Shaw, *Commissioner*



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# 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.

# Report Status

The TCEQ's *Biennial Report to the Legislature* is published every December before a regular legislative session, as required by the Texas Water Code, Section 5.178. This submission to the 81st Legislature contains other information and reports that are required by statute:

- [Agency research efforts](#), page 17. This information was last published in December 2006 in the *Biennial Report to the 80th Legislature* (SFR-057/06).
- [Waste exchange results \(RENEW\)](#), page 31. This information was last published in the *Biennial Report to the 80th Legislature*.
- [Assessment of complaints received](#), page 43. This report was last published in the *Biennial Report to the 80th Legislature*.
- [Permit time-frame reduction process](#), page 51. This report was last published in the *Biennial Report to the 80th Legislature*.

Reports that were once issued as separate appendixes 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.

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**December 2008**