DUTIES OF THE GUADALUPE, SAN ANTONIO, MISSION, AND ARANSAS RIVERS AND MISSION, COPANO, ARANSAS, AND SAN ANTONIO BAYS BASIN AND BAY EXPERT SCIENCE TEAM EXPRESSLY STATED IN SENATE BILL 3

- Finalize environmental flow regime recommendations and submit them to the basin and bay area stakeholders committee, the advisory group, and the commission not later than October 1, 2010 (**according to the revised schedule adopted by the Environmental Flows Advisory Group on 7/24/2008. This may be revised to reflect appropriate time lines due to the late appointment of the current stakeholder groups**), except that at the request of the basin and bay area stakeholders committee for good cause shown, the advisory group may extend the deadline provided by this subdivision [§Sec. 11.02362(c-3)].

- Develop environmental flow analyses and a recommended environmental flow regime for the river basin and bay system for which the team is established through a collaborative process designed to achieve a consensus. In developing the analyses and recommendations, the science team must consider all reasonably available science, without regard to the need for the water for other uses, and the science team's recommendations must be based solely on the best science available [§Sec. 11.02362(m)].

- Submit its environmental flow analyses and environmental flow regime recommendations to the pertinent basin and bay area stakeholders committee, the advisory group, and the commission in accordance with the applicable schedule specified by or established under [§Sec. 11.02362] Subsection (c), (d), or (e). The basin and bay area stakeholders committee and the advisory group may not change the environmental flow analyses or environmental flow regime recommendations of the basin and bay expert science team [§Sec. 11.02362(n)].

- In recognition of the importance of adaptive management, after submitting its recommendations regarding environmental flow standards and strategies to meet the environmental flow standards to the commission, each basin and bay area stakeholders committee, *with the assistance of the pertinent basin and bay expert science team*, shall prepare and submit for approval by the advisory group a work plan. The work plan must:

    1. establish a periodic review of the basin and bay environmental flow analyses and environmental flow regime recommendations, environmental flow standards, and strategies, to occur at least once every 10 years;
    2. prescribe specific monitoring, studies, and activities; and
    3. establish a schedule for continuing the validation or refinement of the basin and bay environmental flow analyses and environmental flow regime recommendations, the environmental flow standards adopted by the commission, and the strategies to achieve those standards [§Sec. 11.02362(p)].

- Provide comment on published reports completed under Section 11.1491 of the Texas Water Code [§Sec. 11.1491(a)].

Other Relevant Text:

- Senate Bill 3 defines an "environmental flow analysis" as the "application of a scientifically derived process for predicting the response of an ecosystem to changes in instream flows or freshwater inflows."

- "Environmental flow regime" is defined by SB3 as "a schedule of flow quantities that reflects seasonal and yearly fluctuations that typically would vary geographically, by specific location in a watershed, and that are shown to be adequate to support a sound ecological environment and to maintain the productivity, extent, and persistence of key aquatic habitats in and along the affected water bodies."