

**DUTIES OF THE COLORADO AND LAVACA RIVERS AND MATAGORDA AND  
LAVACA BAYS BASIN AND BAY AREA STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE  
EXPRESSLY STATED IN SENATE BILL 3**

**Definitions:**

- ❖ 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."

Sec. 11.02362 (o) Each basin and bay area stakeholders committee shall review the environmental flow analyses and environmental flow regime recommendations submitted by the committee's basin and bay expert science team and shall consider them in conjunction with other factors, including the present and future needs for water for other uses related to water supply planning in the pertinent river basin and bay system. The basin and bay area stakeholders committee shall develop recommendations regarding environmental flow standards and strategies to meet the environmental flow standards and submit those recommendations to the commission and to the advisory group in accordance with the applicable schedule specified by or established under Subsection (c), (d), or (e). In developing its recommendations, the basin and bay area stakeholders committee shall operate on a consensus basis to the maximum extent possible.

Sec. 11.02362 (c)(4) the basin and bay area stakeholders committee shall submit to the commission its comments on and recommendations regarding the basin and bay expert science team's recommended environmental flow regime not later than September 1, 2011.

Sec. 11.02362 (n) 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 (g) Members of a basin and bay area stakeholders committee serve five-year terms expiring March 1. If a vacancy occurs on a committee, the remaining members of the committee by majority vote shall appoint a member to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

Sec. 11.02362 (i) Each basin and bay area stakeholders committee shall establish a basin and bay expert science team for the river basin and bay system for which the committee is established. The basin and bay expert science team must be established not later than six months after the date the basin and bay area stakeholders committee is established. Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the size, composition, or duration of a basin and bay expert science team. Each basin and bay expert science team must be composed of technical experts with special expertise regarding the river basin and bay system or regarding the development of environmental flow regimes. A person may serve as a member of more than one basin and bay expert science team at the same time.

**DUTIES OF THE COLORADO AND LAVACA RIVERS AND MATAGORDA AND  
LAVACA BAYS BASIN AND BAY EXPERT SCIENCE TEAM EXPRESSLY  
STATED IN SENATE BILL 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)].
- ❖ 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 March 1, 2011, 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)].

**ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

- ❖ 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)].

<b>Basin Groups</b>	<b>Initial Environmental Flows Schedule TWC Ch. 11.02362</b>	<b>Environmental Flows Schedule (as Revised May 2010)</b>
11.02362(b)(1): the river basin and bay system consisting of the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay and the river basin and bay system consisting of the Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay	BBASC formed 8/1/2008; BBEST formed 12/1/2008; BBEST Recommendations due 12/1/2009; BBASC Comments due 6/1/2010; TCEQ adopt environmental flow standards by 6/1/2011	<b>No Change.</b>
11.02362(b)(2): the river basin and bay system consisting of the Colorado and Lavaca Rivers and Matagorda and Lavaca Bays and the river basin and bay system consisting of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays	BBASC formed 6/1/2009; BBEST formed 10/1/2009; BBEST Recommendations due 10/1/2010; BBASC Comments due 4/1/2011; TCEQ adopt environmental flow standards by 4/1/2012	BBASC formed 10/1/2009; BBEST formed 3/1/2010; BBEST Recommendations due 3/1/2011; BBASC Comments due 9/1/2011; TCEQ adopt environmental flow standards by 9/1/2012
11.02362(b)(3): the river basin and bay system consisting of the Nueces River and Corpus Christi and Baffin Bays, the river basin and bay system consisting of the Rio Grande, the Rio Grande estuary, and the Lower Laguna Madre, and the Brazos River and its associated bay and estuary system	BBASC formed 6/1/2010; BBEST formed 10/1/2010; BBEST Recommendations due 10/1/2011; BBASC Comments due 4/1/2012; TCEQ adopt environmental flow standards by 4/1/2013	BBASC formed 10/1/2010; BBEST formed 3/1/2011; BBEST Recommendations due 3/1/2012; BBASC Comments due 9/1/2012; TCEQ adopt environmental flow standards by 9/1/2013

BBASC: Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee  
BBEST: Basin and Bay Expert Science Team

