

Strawman Narrative
For potential inclusion as final chapter of TSJ BBASC Work Plan

Chapter XXXX: Recommendation

The process from which this Final Work Plan was developed began subsequent to the submittal of recommendations on environmental flows from the TSJ BBASC to the TCEQ. Per Senate Bill 3 mandate, the TSJ BBEST is to provide scientific support the TSJ BBASC in the development of the Work Plan. The TSJ BBASC made a formal request to the TSJ BBEST to develop a draft Work Plan for their consideration. Subsequent to its development, the Draft Work Plan was approved as “Draft” by the TSJ BBASC and provided to the Environmental Flows Advisory Group (EFAG) for its consideration. The EFAG utilized SAC to perform a review of that “draft” work product, whereupon useful guidance was proffered for the TSJ BBASC’s consideration.

Subsequent to the SAC’s review of the initial Draft Work Plan, the TSJ BBASC formally established a sub-committee to assemble a consensus on Work Plan items, attempting to address the comments and outstanding questions identified by the SAC. The sub-committee came to a consensus on a prioritized list of items from the Work Plan, and submitted a request to the TSJ BBEST seeking further detail on specific elements of the Work Plan. The TSJ BBEST responded to this request (see Appendix A), providing greater clarity as to the estimated sequencing, dependency, and level of effort of both the high priority items identified by the sub-committee and the remaining elements of the Work Plan. It should be noted that while this prioritization focused primarily upon near term tasks, it is recognized that the remaining tasks remain important for contributing towards the information base upon which future environmental flow science will be based.

Upon receiving this information from the TSJ BBEST, the sub-committee approved and submitted for the TSJ BBASC’s consideration a more detailed specification of prioritized work elements. These work elements have been formally adopted for inclusion in this Final Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Work Plan, and are presented below.

Advanced within this document is a process wherein as future work efforts are performed, the TWDB would act in a coordination capacity, monitoring where such efforts in the state might be useful for contributing to the identified scientific needs and data gaps identified in this Work Plan. The TSJ BBASC, should it persist, would operate in an oversight capacity with the support of the TSJ BBEST, whereupon the TWDB can report ongoing efforts in the environmental flow arena for the Senate Bill 3 mandated consideration of future revisions or modifications of environmental flow standards for the Trinity and San Jacinto River basins and Galveston Bay system. Should the TSJ BBASC dissolve at some future point in time, as identified in TWC §11.02362(s), it is the recommendation of the TSJ BBASC that the Regional Water Planning Groups operate in this oversight position, as those entities are presently persistent and incorporate regional water interests.