

The Colorado and Lavaca Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee

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June, 2012

The Honorable Troy Fraser, Co-presiding Officer
The Honorable Allan Ritter, Co-presiding Officer
Environmental Flows Advisory Group

Zak Covar, Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Dear Senator Fraser, Representative Ritter, and Mr. Covar:

For your consideration, the Colorado and Lavaca Rivers Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (CL-BBASC) hereby submits this draft Work Plan pursuant to its charge under Senate Bill 3 (80th R, 2007) and Section 11.02362(p) of the Texas Water Code. Having previously submitted our consensus environmental flow standard recommendations, this draft Work Plan addresses the additional investigations and data review and collection efforts considered necessary to fill data voids found to exist by CL-BBASC and BBEST in our consideration of environmental flow needs in the Colorado and Lavaca River Basins and the Matagorda and Lavaca bay and estuary systems.

In preparing our Work Plan, we identified, and broadly defined, the study of sixteen (16) individual issues, along with twenty (20) sub-areas of concern. Of these 36 items, we have identified a subset of top priorities for action and have further proposed that responsibility for implementing most of these prioritized items be assigned to either the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Water Development Board, or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. In addition, because of the nature of the tasks, we have proposed to assign implementation of two priority items to our BBEST.

Availability of funding will limit the implementation of our Work Plan. The projected costs for addressing our initial prioritized list, as estimated by the aforementioned agencies and the BBEST, range from a low of two (2) million dollars to a high-end figure nearing four (4) million dollars. Given the significance of this issue, the CL-BBASC hereby urges the Environmental Flows Advisory Group to support the allocation, during future legislative sessions, of adequate funding to implement these recommended tasks.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Brzozowski, P.E.
Chair