Texas Environmental Flows Advisory Group

January 14, 2014

The Honorable Rick Perry                          The Honorable Joe Straus
Governor, State of Texas                          Speaker, House Texas of Representatives

The Honorable David Dewhurst
Lieutenant Governor of Texas

Dear Sirs:

During the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, the Texas Legislature adopted a Contingency Rider for House Bill 4 (copy attached) providing that $2,000,000 shall be appropriated out of the General Revenue Fund to Strategy A.1.1, Environmental Information, for the purposes of continued study of environmental flows and instream flows for river basins. Pursuant to Section 18.03 of the Appropriations Bill, the Rider determined that at least $750,000 be used for research projects in the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers, and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Area. Additionally, the Rider required that the division of the remaining funds be determined by the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and approved by the Environmental Flows Advisory Group (EFAG).

Pursuant to the SAC’s recommendation (copy attached) that the Guadalupe/ San Antonio basin be allocated $750,000 and that the remainder be allocated evenly to the Trinity/ San Jacinto, the Brazos, the Colorado/ Lavaca, and the Nueces basins ($312,500 to each of the 4 basins), the EFAG hereby approves the distribution of these funds to be administered accordingly by the Texas Water Development Board.

Please note, this approval of SAC’s recommendation for the allocation of funds does not address nor constitute an approval of any work plan that has not previously been approved by EFAG, and under no circumstances does it further obligate any third party, including any state agency, addressed in any approved or proposed work plan(s).

Respectfully submitted,

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