



State water Planning and SB 3 Environmental Flow Standards

Texas Water Environment Horizon
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Robert J. Huston
Chairman, Texas Environmental Flows Science
Advisory Committee



Senate Bill 3 E-Flows Goals

- Basin-specific Standards
- Science-based Environmental Flow Objectives
- Local Stakeholder Process to Balance Water Needs
- Certainty for Water Rights Permit Applicants
- Strong Adaptive Management Principles – Work Plan required



Players

- Environmental Flows Advisory Group (EFAG)
- Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committees (BBASC)
- Basin and Bay Expert Science Teams (BBEST)
- Science Advisory Committee (SAC)
- TCEQ – Water Rights Regulatory Role
- State Resource Agencies (TCEQ, TPWD, TWDB)

Establishing Environmental Flow Standards



Science-based Environmental Flow Analyses and Environmental Flow Regime developed by Science Experts (BBEST)

Recommended Standards and Strategies by Stakeholders (BBASC)

TCEQ

Input from Public & Other Stakeholders

Guidance/Input from EFAG and SAC

Environmental Flow Standards

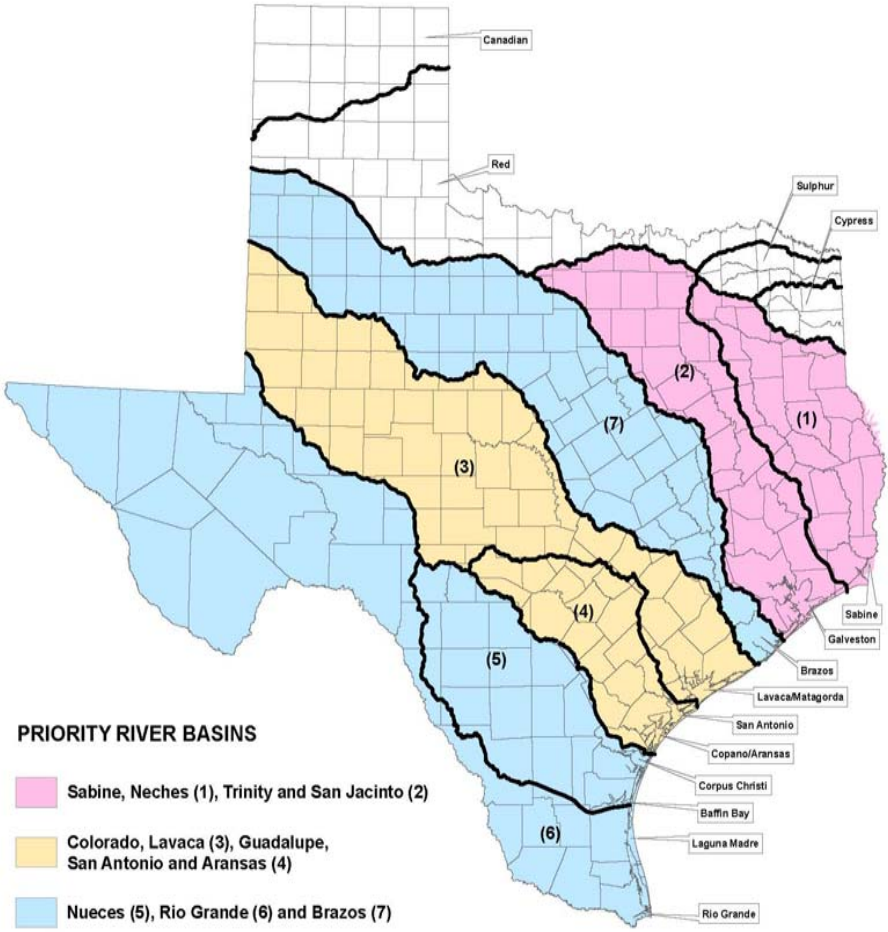


Environmental Flow Standards

- Standards must be:
 - **“adequate”** to support a **“sound ecological environment”**
 - to the **“maximum extent reasonable”**
 - after considering **“other public interests and other relevant factors”**
- TCEQ must apply the environmental flow standards to develop the appropriate conditions for water rights permits.

Water Code §§ 11.1471(a)(1), 11.147(e-3)

PRIORITY RIVER BASIN AND BAY SYSTEMS



PRIORITY RIVER BASINS

- Sabine, Neches (1), Trinity and San Jacinto (2)
- Colorado, Lavaca (3), Guadalupe, San Antonio and Aransas (4)
- Nueces (5), Rio Grande (6) and Brazos (7)





Time Table – Each Basin

- EFAG appoints BBASC members
- Stakeholders select BBEST members
- BBEST develops Environmental Flow Regime recommendations (12 mos.)
- BBASC recommends Flow Standards and Strategies (6 mos.)
- TCEQ adopts Environmental Flow Standards by rule (12 mos.)



Where are we in the Process?

- Tier 1 Basins

Trinity/San Jacinto/Galveston Bay and Sabine/Neches/Sabine Lake

- BBEST recommendations - Nov 2009
- BBASC recommendations - May 2010
- TCEQ Proposed Rules – Nov 2010
- Expected Adoption – April 2011

- Tier 2 Basins

Colorado/Lavaca and Guadalupe/San Antonio

- BBEST recommendations – March 1, 2011
- BBASC recommendations – Sept 1, 2011
- TCEQ Rule Adoption – Aug 2012 (est.)



Where are we in the Process?

- Tier 3 Basins

Nueces, Rio Grande and Brazos

- BBASC members just appointed – Oct 2010
- BBEST selections – March 2011 (est.)
- BBEST recommendations – March 2012 (est.)
- BBASC recommendations – Sept 2012 (est.)
- TCEQ Rule Adoption – Aug 2013 (est.)

- Note: Nueces Basin ahead of schedule



SB3 – Water Planning Relationship

- BBEST Charge – Environmental-based Flow needs
- BBASC Charge – Balance with other Water demands
- Regional (State) Water Planning – comprehensive process for defining future needs, and strategies to meet
- Currently considers environmental flows (Consensus Planning)



Logical Interplay

- BBASC requires data on future needs – Regional Planning Process
- Regional Planning Groups require data on environmental flow need – SB3 Process - Standards
- SB 3 Adaptive Management – revisitation/refinement/validation of adopted standards – nominally on a 10-year schedule (may be shorter)



Recognized by First SB3 BBASC's

- Trinity/San Jacinto/Galv. Bay
 - need to synchronize planning process
 - make work products available
 - include groundwater planning
- Sabine/Neches/Sabine Lake
 - further planning cycle integration could have merit
 - might influence content and phasing of Work Plan



Texas EFlows – Water Planning

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_supply/water_rights/eflows/group.html