

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

WORKGROUP ON  
ARTICLES VI, VII & VIII

Article VI Rider Packet  
ARTICLE XI RIDERS

March 24, 2015

By: Hinojosa

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Proposed Funding and Rider  
Fund 5000: Solid Waste Disposal Program**

**Overview**

The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program is currently funded at \$5.4 million per year. During Fiscal Years 2012/2013, the 24 regional councils funded 231 projects totaling \$6.1 million. As a General Revenue-Dedicated account, the full appropriation has not been made to the regional councils of governments, leaving the Solid Waste Disposal Account No. 5000 with an estimated balance of \$110 million. Though they funded \$6.1 million in projects, the regional councils across the state had funding requests totaling well over \$10 million.

In addition to amounts recommended in House Bill 1, this rider seeks the full appropriation of tipping fees collected and an allocation by TCEQ of no less than 33.3% of the tipping fees to regional councils for local and regional waste reduction programs, as provided by current law (\$1.6/year). In addition, the rider requests for funds to spend down the fund balance for its intended purpose from 5000 (\$4million/year). The total appropriation would be \$11 million which would get the program back to its prior biennia appropriation levels and begin drawing down the fund balance for its intended purpose in compliance with existing state law.

**Required Action**

In addition to the amounts appropriated above, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is hereby appropriated \$5,500,000 each year of the biennium beginning on September 1, 2015, out of Solid Waste Disposal Account No. 5000 for the purpose of funding activities associated with local and regional solid waste diversion projects promoting cooperative efforts among state, regional, local governments, and private enterprise that enhance the state's solid waste management program, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 361.014(b).

RIDER REQUEST

**Member Name:** Bettencourt

**Affected Agency:** Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

**Purpose:** Game wardens deployed along the Rio Grande play a key role in helping to secure our state against transnational criminal activity. To continue to fully fund the state's border security efforts at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, increase funding by \$13.4 million.

**Amount Requested (if applicable):** \$13,400,000

**Method of Finance (if applicable):** General Revenue

**Rider Language:** Increase funding by \$13,400,000 for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to continue to fully fund the state's border security efforts.

By Hinojosa/Rodriguez

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Franklin Mountains State Park Visitors' Center**

**Overview**

The following action adds a new rider that directs \$3.5 million for the creation of a Franklin Mountains State Park headquarters and visitors center. In 2012, more than 43,000 people visited Franklin Mountains State Park. Currently there are just two buildings serving these visitors, a small converted farmhouse which serves as a visitors center and a small rangers' booth at which fees are collected. Creation of a new visitors center would encourage users to pay park entrance fees; currently there is no consistent way to collect fees. Creation of a new visitors center at a central location would also enhance rangers' ability to timely respond to emergencies.

**Required Action**

On page VI-52 of The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department bill pattern, add the following new rider:

- \_\_\_\_. **Franklin Mountains Headquarters and Visitors Center.** Included in amounts appropriated in Strategy D.1.1, Improvements and Major Repairs is \$3,500,000 in fiscal year 2016 from the Sporting Good Sales Tax Transfer to the State Parks Account No. 64 to construct a visitor's center at Franklin Mountains State Parks. Any unexpended balances as of August 31, 2016, in funds appropriated for this purpose are appropriated for the same purpose in the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2016.

By:

ORESTI

**Soil and Water Conservation Board, Article VI**  
**Proposed Funding and Rider**  
**Funding for removal of Carrizo cane along Rio Grande**

Prepared by LBB Staff, 2/27/2015

Overview

Provide increased appropriations of \$4,900,000 in General Revenue in each fiscal year and add a new rider requiring these funds to be only for the purpose of removing Carrizo cane along the banks of the Rio Grande.

Required Action

- 1) On page VI-60 of the Soil and Water Conservation Board bill pattern, increase funding in Strategy C.1.1, Water Supply Enhancement, by \$4,900,000 in each fiscal year from General Revenue Funds.
- 2) On page VI-63 of the Soil and Water Conservation Board bill pattern, add the following rider:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Removal of Carrizo Cane.** Out of funds appropriated above in strategy C.1.1, Water Supply Enhancement, \$4,900,000 in General Revenue in each fiscal year may only be used the removal of Carrizo cane along the banks of the Rio Grande.



By: Lucio/Hinojosa

**Water Development Board**  
**Proposed Funding and Rider**  
**Delta Region Water Management Project**

**Overview**

Provide new funding to the Texas Water Development Board of \$10,000,000 in General Revenue for each year of the 2016 and 2017 biennium to provide a grant to Hidalgo County's Delta Region Water Management Project.

**Required Action**

- 1) On page VI-63 of the Texas Water Development Board's bill pattern, increase General Revenue funding by \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2017.
- 2) On page VI-64 of the Texas Water Development Board's bill pattern, increase funding in Strategy B.1.1., State and Federal Financial Assistance Programs, by \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2017.
- 3) On page VI-71 of the Texas Water Development Board's bill pattern, add the following new rider:

\_\_\_\_\_. **Delta Region Water Management Project.** Included in amounts appropriated above out of the General Revenue Fund in Strategy B.1.1., State and Federal Financial Assistance Programs, is \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 to provide a grant to Hidalgo County for the Delta Region Water Management Project. Any unexpended balances remaining in this appropriation on August 31, 2016 are hereby appropriated for the same purpose for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2016.

\* This rider:

1. **Increases GR funding to the Texas Water Development Board's bill pattern by \$20,000,000 in the biennium;**
2. **Increases funding to Strategy B.1.1, State and Federal Assistance Programs, by \$20,000,000 in the biennium; and**
3. **Applies the \$20,000,000 from B.1.1, State and Federal Assistance Programs as well as any unexpended balances from the strategy, to the Delta Region Water Management Project.**

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