



Post Office Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711

**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
**David Dewhurst**

512-463-0715 (Tel)  
512-463-0008 (Fax)

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**CONTACT:** Rich Parsons  
(512) 463-0715

**Lt. Governor David Dewhurst Announces Select Interim Charges for  
Natural Resources Committee**

AUSTIN—Lt. Governor David Dewhurst today announced three Interim Charges addressing Texas water issues that he will assign to the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

"In many ways, our state's future flows right through our rivers, reservoirs, lakes and aquifers," Lt. Governor Dewhurst said. "With our population expected to double in the next 30 years, safe, reliable water resources are critical to the health and quality of life of our citizens as well as business and industry."

Lt. Governor Dewhurst was joined by Senate Natural Resources Committee Chairman, Sen. Kip Averitt, and by Brazos River Authority General Manager Phil Ford.

"While I am very proud of the Legislature's success over the last four years funding the state's water plan, that funding was only the beginning of the work that needs to be done to satisfy the future water needs of Texans," said Sen. Averitt. "Governor Dewhurst has been a strong leader on this issue, and I am pleased to continue partnering with him to protect public health and the economy by ensuring a clean, affordable supply of water for future generations of Texans."

As the Senate Natural Resources Committee prepares for the 2011 Legislative Session, Lt. Governor Dewhurst directed its members to work on the following issues:

- Differences in cost between immediate and delayed implementation of the State Water Plan;
- The joint planning process for management of Texas' finite groundwater resources;
- Implementation of water conservation and reuse projects.

In 2007, Lt. Governor Dewhurst and Sen. Averitt led passage of Senate Bill 3 to strengthen the State Water Plan. Also, the 80th Legislature for the first time appropriated General Revenue for the implementation of the State Water Plan, totaling nearly \$50 million for the biennium, and set aside the acreage footprint for 19 new reservoir sites throughout the state of Texas. In 2009, the 81st Legislature

appropriated an additional \$45 million to fund the State Water Plan.

Lt. Governor Dewhurst will announce his complete list of Interim Charges for the Natural Resources Committee, as well as other Senate Committees and Subcommittees, later this month.

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