

TRENDS IN TEXAS WATER POLICY:
AN ANALYSIS OF BILLS IN THE
84TH LEGISLATURE

Jesse Libra
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TRENDS IN TEXAS WATER POLICY: AN ANALYSIS OF BILLS IN THE 84TH LEGISLATURE

Water policy is at a pivotal point in Texas. The separate regulatory regimes governing surface and groundwater have resulted in a complex landscape that, some say, threatens Texas’s ability to implement creative management strategies for dealing with water scarcity. The need to implement new technologies and water management strategies, including more active conservation measures, brackish desalination, water markets and aquifer storage and recovery opens the door for a number of changes to water policy during the 84th Legislative Session. This paper describes legislation that was referred to the Texas State House of Representatives’ Natural Resources Committee during the 84th session, analyzing these bills for emerging topics in the realm of water. First, this paper will outline the current management systems used for both surface and groundwater. This paper when then analyze the bills that passed through the House Natural Resources Committee during the 84th session prior to May 10, for a number of factors, including applicability to groundwater or surface water, impact on Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs), and the balance of water management strategies. Finally, this report will focus in on a few bills that showcase some of the more contentious water-related issues currently facing the Texas.

SURFACE WATER IN TEXAS: A SHORT REVIEW

Law governing surface water rights in Texas are derived from a combination of Hispanic law and English common law, and for a long time operated with a combination of the prior appropriation and riparian doctrines.¹ In 1967, the Texas Legislature passed the Water Rights Adjudication Act, which consolidated all rights into the prior appropriation permitting system, under what is now the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.²

Preference	Beneficial use category
1	Domestic and municipal uses ³
2	Agriculture and industrial uses ⁴
3	Mining and recovery of minerals
4	Hydroelectric power
5	Navigation
6	Recreation and pleasure
7	Other beneficial use

Table 1: Beneficial use categories and allocation preferences.⁵

Prior appropriation, commonly referred to as ‘first in line, first in right’, is a doctrine wherein the first person to use water for beneficial use obtains a priority right to that water. There are two parts to this statement: 1) the specification that water must go to ‘beneficial use’ and 2) the concept of ‘priority’.

¹ Otis W. Templer, "WATER LAW," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/gyw01>), accessed April 30, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

² TAMU. (2014). Texas Water Law. Texas A&M University. Accessed April 30, 2015 at <http://texaswater.tamu.edu/water-law>

³ includes water for sustaining human life and the life of domestic animals, it being the public policy of the state and for the benefit of the greatest number of people that in the appropriation of water as herein defined, the appropriation of water for domestic and municipal uses shall be and remain superior to the rights of the state to appropriate the same for all other purposes.

⁴ includes processes designed to convert materials of a lower order of value into forms having greater usability and commercial value, including the development of power by means other than hydroelectric.

⁵ Section 11.024 Texas Water Code

Beneficial use is defined by Texas Statute as ‘use of the amount of water which is economically necessary for a purpose authorized by this chapter, when reasonable intelligence and reasonable diligence are used in applying the water to that purpose and shall include conserved water. Different uses, however are prioritized differently (Table 1). An individual’s priority is the date at which they first obtained their water permit, and is used to determine how allocations are doled out in times of scarcity. Those with earliest priority date are given their water allocation before those with later dates. ‘Junior’ water rights, or those with the most recent priority dates obtain their allocations last, and, in times of drought, may receive no allocation at all.⁶

There are a number of contentious issues surrounding surface water rights, but this study will focus on one of the major questions in surface water policy: inter-basin transfers, or IBTs. These transfers are governed by section 11.085 of the Texas Water Code, which specifies a number of rules with respect to inter-basin transfers, including 11.085 (s) which states: “any proposed transfer of all or a portion of a water right under this section is junior in priority to water rights granted before the time application for transfer is accepted for filing.” This provision is referred to as “Junior” and was added with the original language on inter-basin transfers in 1997 under Senate Bill (SB) 1. This provision is one of the major barriers to inter-basin transfer of surface water in Texas. In fact, before 1997, all inter-basin transfers of water used surface water, while after 1997 most IBT projects were sourced from groundwater.

FIGURE 1. COMPARISON OF INTERBASIN TRANSFERS OF SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER EXPORT

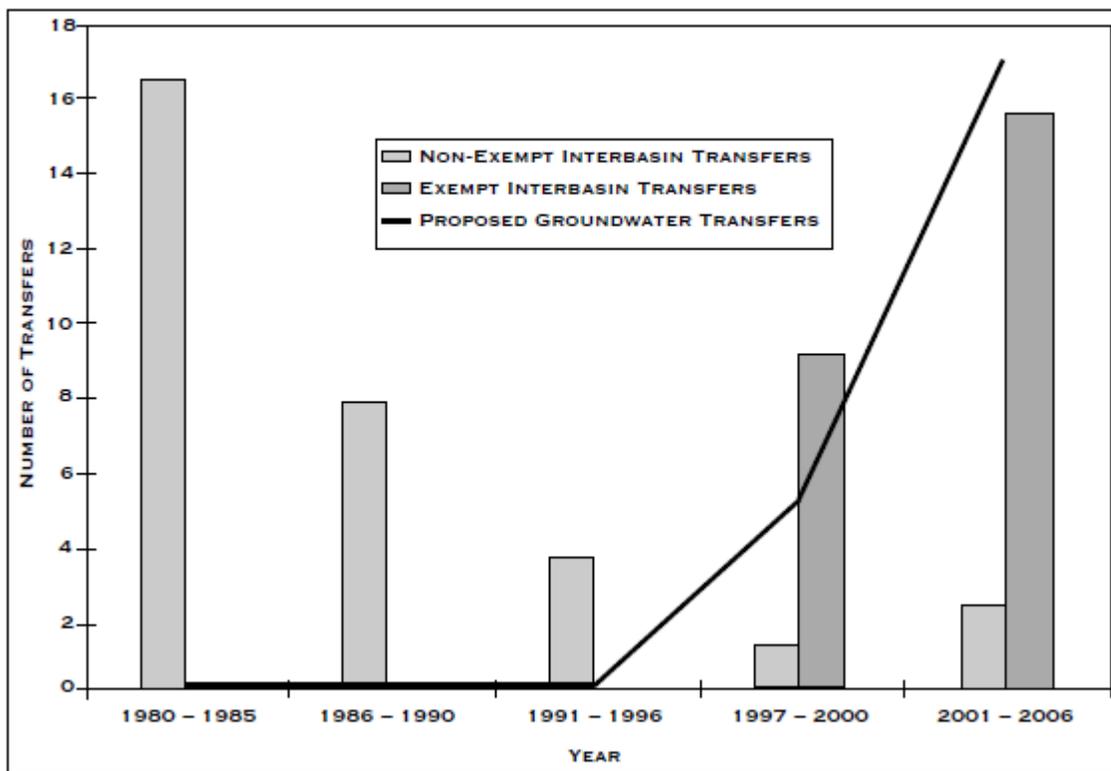


Figure 1: Intrabasin transfers from 1980 – 2006 by water source and exemption. The exempt category refers to transfers that are exempt from ‘junior’.

⁶ Colorado, Division of Water Resources (2014) Surface Water. Accessed April 30, 2015 at: <http://water.state.co.us/surfacewater/swrights/pages/priorapprop.aspx>

The merits of inter-basin transfers are controversial. There are a number of potential ecological and social impacts that could come with unbridled transfer of water (surface or ground) from one area to another. One commonly cited example of this is the infamous Los Angeles water grab from the Owens Valley for the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.⁷ Politically contentious (and slightly backhanded) water grabs like this have created a ubiquitous fear of large water conveyance projects. However, there are also instances where inter-basin transfers are a logical and socio-environmentally sound solution. Currently, Wichita Falls in Northern Texas is completely cut off. They are situated in the Red River Basin, which is mostly in Oklahoma; however, current Oklahoma statute prohibits permitting of water rights across state lines. The Red River itself is entirely allocated under the Red River Compact, and has experienced very low flows over the last several years, and there is no source of potable groundwater in the region. As a result, the city has been looking at other options, including IBTs from the Dallas Fort Worth area. The junior provision, however, means that any attempt to get water from Tarrant Regional Water Authority, which manages all the nearby Dallas Fort Worth reservoirs, would result in Wichita Falls receiving junior water rights, which under any arrangement would cause them to receive nothing in drought years.

This session, Representative James Frank (Wichita Falls) has introduced HB 2805 in order to provide Wichita Falls with an exemption to Junior. It would add the following to Section 11.085 (s) and (t): “This subsection does not apply to a transfer of water between the Tarrant Regional Water District and a municipality with a population of more than 100,000 that has implemented stage five drought catastrophe restrictions and requirements.”⁸ Junior is so politically sensitive, however, that is unlikely to pass.

GROUNDWATER IN TEXAS: A SHORT REVIEW

Groundwater ownership and management in Texas also complicated. The baseline for all groundwater ownership in Texas is the concept of the rule of capture, which is often called the ‘rule of the biggest pump’. This term originated out of the Texas Central Railroad Company v. East Case of 1904, wherein The Texas Central Railroad Company dug a well on its property to supply its locomotives, causing a neighbor’s well to go dry. The neighbor, East, sued for damages.⁹

The Court ruled that Texas Central Railroad Company had the right to pump as much water as it could capture, regardless of the repercussions for its neighbor’s water rights. This choice was based on two policy considerations described in the case decision: (1) “Because the existence, origin, movement and course of such waters, and the causes which govern and direct their movements, are so secret, occult and concealed that an attempt to administer any set of legal rules in respect to them would be involved in hopeless uncertainty, and would therefore be practically impossible, and (2) “Because any such recognition of correlative rights would interfere, to the material detriment of the commonwealth, with drainage of agriculture, mining, the construction of highways and railroads, with sanitary regulations, building, and the general progress of improvement in works of embellishment and utility.”¹⁰

Rule of capture, however, only exists today in areas that do not have a groundwater conservation district (GCD), which were designated by the Texas State Legislature as Texas’s preferred method for regulating groundwater withdrawal in 1949. GCDs manage aquifers by establishing desired future conditions (DFCs) for their aquifer and permit pumping so that these conditions are met. However, because many GCDs are established along county lines rather than aquifer boundaries, differing DFCs

⁷ Reisner, Mark. Cadillac Desert: The American West and its Disappearing Water. Viking Penguin Inc. 1968. p. 65.

⁸ Texas Legislature Online. <http://tlis/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=84R&Bill=HB2805>

⁹ Potter, H. (2004) 100 Years of Rule of Capture: From East to Groundwater Management, Chapter 1: Evolution of the Rule of Capture. Texas Water Development Board. Austin, Texas.
http://texscience.org/water/rule_capture/Potter_history_and_evolution_rule_of_capture.pdf , 1.

¹⁰ Potter, H. (2004), 2.

and pumping limits in neighboring GCDs can impact water levels across GCD boundaries. If a GCD fails to meet its DFCs, the TCEQ can step in and remove the GCD directors or force the GCD to adjust its practices to meet its DFCs.¹¹

There are over 100 GCDs in Texas, some of which follow county boundaries, while others follow aquifer boundaries. Each GCD has its own regulatory rules for governing groundwater and allocating appropriate pumping, ranging from historical use to correlative allocations, which assign pumping limits based on land tract size. GCDs board members are often elected locally, which makes politically unpopular decisions, such as metering requirements, risky, and can result in boards that are beholden to local interest groups. This results in a disjointed regulatory environment governing groundwater within a single aquifer, and provides a number of challenges to groundwater management, including maintaining aquifer levels and implementing projects involving groundwater such as brackish desalination projects and aquifer storage and recovery projects.

A controversy currently playing out in Hays County invites an interesting case study of this disjointed regulatory scheme. Electro-purification, a water engineering firm out of Houston, struck a deal to provide five million gallons of water per day to Goforth Water Special Utility District, which supplies water to unincorporated areas north of the City of Kyle, the municipality of Buda, and a subdivision.¹² The well field constructed for the project is sourcing water from the Trinity aquifer, but is within the Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, which only has the authority to regulate the Edwards Aquifer. The Trinity Groundwater Conservation District and the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer District, which both regulate the Trinity are within five miles of the site. These GCDs are concerned that the pumping will interfere with their ability to meet their desired future conditions, while nearby landowners are concerned their wells will go dry. In an attempt to address this situation, Rep. Jason Isaac has filed a series of bills, the most prominent of which is HB 3405, which would incorporate this area into the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District.

There are a number of challenges facing both surface and groundwater regulation in Texas, and with increased scarcity and growing demand, these challenges are being addressed through legislation. These legislative fixes often involve creating individual exemptions to current statute to provide local fixes, however, there have also been a few bills that point to a larger trend in the direction of both surface and groundwater policy in Texas. The next section will examine the bills that went through the House Natural Resources Committee from February 25 – May 10 during the 84th legislative session for a number of factors, including whether they were local, what water management strategies they employ, and whether they address groundwater or surface water policy.

¹¹ Lesikar and Kaiser. Questions about Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas. Texas Water Resources Institute, Texas A&M University. Accessed at: http://twri.tamu.edu/reports/2002/2002-036/2002-036_questions-dist.pdf

¹² Satija, Neena. (1/23/15) Groundwater Wars Brewing in Austin's Suburbs. Accessed at <http://www.texastribune.org/2015/01/23/hays-county-pumping-project/>

BILL ANALYSIS

The 84th Legislature was an active period for water legislation. The Natural Resources Committee, as of May 7, had heard 83 bills. These bills cover a number of issues in water policy, including the implementation and regulation of new technologies, improving available data, and shifting the current regulatory framework. This section will look at these 83 bills and analyze them to discover current trends in water policy.

METHODS

As of May 7, 2015, the House Natural Resources Committee had heard 83 bills during the 84th legislative session. This section examines the subject matter of those bills in an attempt to evaluate the overarching trends currently developing in water policy and possible goals of the legislative leadership. The data used in this study was sourced from Texas Legislature Online and House Natural Resource hearing recordings, and consists of all the bills heard on or prior to 5/7/2015 in the Texas House Natural Resources Committee. These bills were categorized based on a number of factors, including whether they dealt primarily with groundwater or surface water, the scope of the bills (local vs. statewide) and whether they made it to the House Floor for a vote. Additionally, strategies for dealing with water scarcity were also categorized by labeling bills that dealt with conservation, new technologies, water transfer, or obtaining additional hydrological data. This data, along with a short description of each bill in this study, is available in the Appendix.

The analysis section of this paper will look at these data through a few different lenses in an attempt to answer 3 questions:

- 1) What are the major trends in groundwater and surface water legislation?
- 2) What are the preferred water management strategies?
- 3) What are the major areas of regulatory change?

To answer these questions, each bill was characterized based on the following criteria:

- Type: whether the bills deal with surface water or groundwater.
- Strategies: which water management strategies the bill promotes, if any. Categories are conservation, water transport, and new technology, such as desalination.
- Regulatory shifts: most bills involve some sort of change in the regulatory process. Categories are limiting GCD powers, which represents any limiting change in the regulatory power currently available to GCDs, and changes in the state water planning process.
- Political Support: these are bills that were placed on the House Calendar to be voted on. After a bill passes committee, it goes to the Calendars Committee, wherein it is placed on the schedule for a Floor vote. Anyone in the calendar's committee can tag a bill, preventing it from moving forward. This is done anonymously. This category represents the bills that made it through that process. This category is divided into bills that went to the General Calendar and those that went to the Local and Consent Calendar, meaning they are either local bills or bills that passed unanimously out of committee.

GROUNDWATER VS. SURFACE WATER

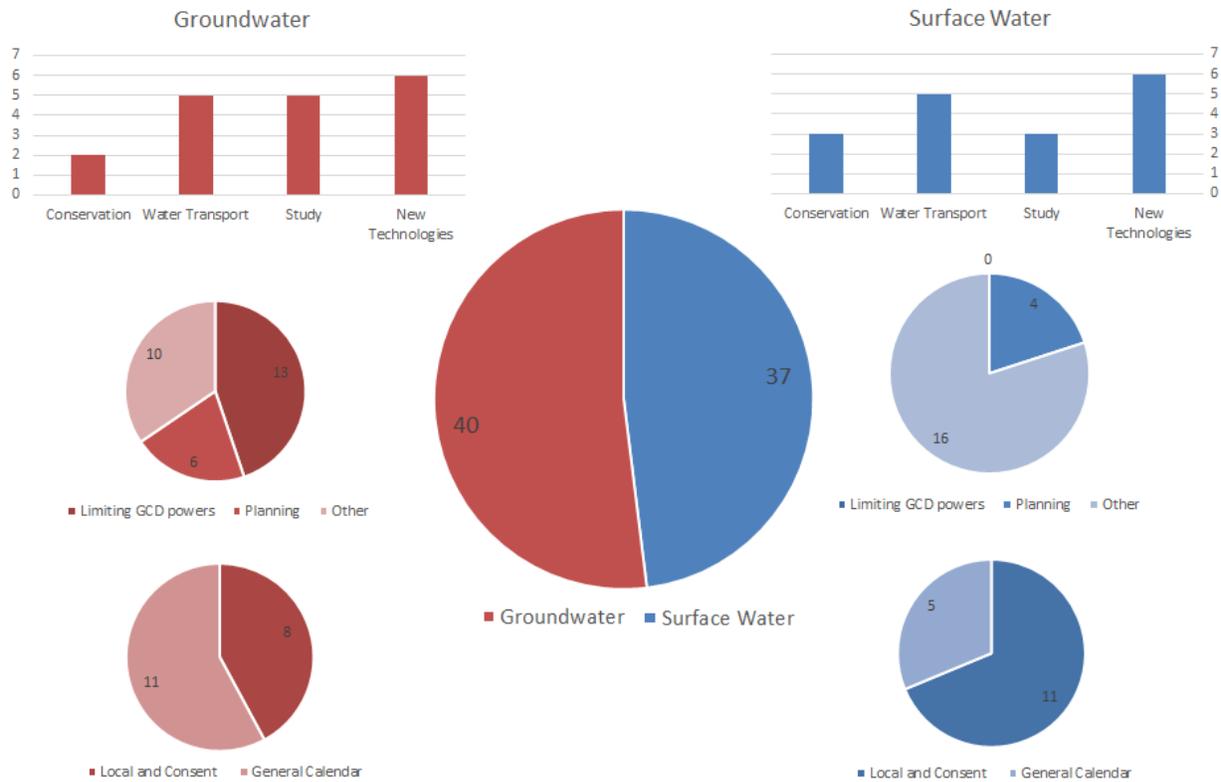


Figure 2: Analysis of bill data comparing bills focused on groundwater and surface water.

Bills going through the House Natural Resources Committee were pretty evenly split between groundwater and surface water, with 52 percent focusing on groundwater and 48 percent dealing with surface water out of the 77 bills that could be classified as dealing primarily with one or the other.

The two water sources were similar when it came to the management strategies that bills involving them focused on, with new technologies and water transfer bills being more common than those promoting conservation. Study bills, however, more commonly dealt with groundwater than surface water, which makes sense due to the lack of groundwater data available for many of the states' aquifers, especially the states' brackish aquifers.

In terms of regulatory changes, approximately 34 percent of groundwater bills that introduced regulatory changes were, in some way, limiting or taking away the regulatory power of GCDs, while 20 percent were related to incorporating groundwater more actively into the Texas state water planning process. GCDs have been under a good deal of scrutiny over the last few years, both for under-regulating and for over-regulating depending on the GCD. As a result, it is not surprising that there has been a trend this session towards more specifically define the role of these local regulators. Planning made up about the same percent of surface water bills as groundwater bills (20 percent). These bills mainly had to do with resolving conflicts in regional water plans, resulting from the recent conflict between region C and region

D over the Marvin Nichols Dam, or in the case of groundwater, incorporating groundwater projects more actively into regional planning. Additionally, as one would expect, there were no surface water bills that dealt with limiting the role of groundwater conservation districts.

The division of bills that made it to the calendar are pretty even between surface and groundwater, with 47.5 percent of the groundwater bills and 43.2 percent of the surface water bills making it to the calendar. The division between bills going to local and consent and the general calendar do not seem related to whether the bill deals with surface water or groundwater.

POLITICAL SUPPORT

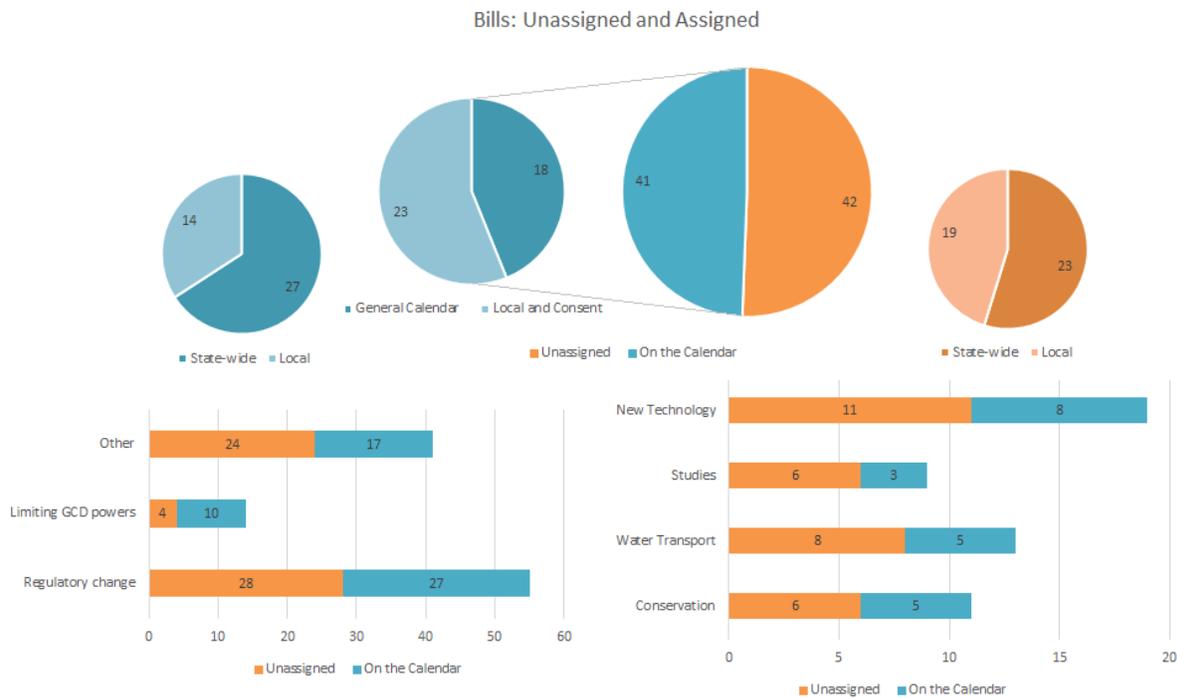


Figure 3: Analysis of bill data comparing variables for bills that made it to the House floor versus those that did not.

About half the bills that went through the Natural Resources Committee during the 84th legislative session as of May 7, 2015 made it to the house floor for a vote, and of these bills, 56 percent were placed on the general calendar, while 44 percent were placed on the local and consent calendar, meaning that these bills were either local or received a unanimous vote out of the Natural Resources Committee. There were more state-wide bills placed on calendars than reflected on the General Calendar indicating that 4 of these bills were voted out unanimously.

Approximately 42 percent of the bills that were looking at water management strategies made it to the House calendar, with this percentage being fairly consistent across management strategies (Table 2). It is likely that the percentage of bills involving management strategies that make it out of Committee is lower because they also involve controversial issues such as reuse, inter-basin transfers, and regulatory change.

	Conservation	Water Transport	New Technology
Percent on the calendar	45%	38%	42%

Table 2: The percent of bills that made it to the House floor by water management strategy.

While the sample size is small, the consistency in percentage across management strategies indicates that the Texas Legislature as a body has no clear preferred method of dealing with water scarcity. This is consistent with statements by those active in water legislation, which indicate that a diverse approach to water management is necessary for improving Texas’s water security.

Approximately 50 percent of bills in the Natural Resources Committee have been placed on the floor Calendar, and this number is proportional to the number of bills placed on the calendar that instigate some sort of regulatory change (49 percent). However bills implementing regulatory changes that limit the powers of GCDs reach the house floor at a much higher percentage: ~71 percent. This suggests that the need to more strictly define the role of groundwater conservation districts is a priority in the current session.

CONCLUSIONS

The 84th legislative session was, overall, a well-balanced session for water legislation, with roughly the same amount of bills focusing on surface water policy as groundwater policy.

1) What are the major trends in groundwater and surface water legislation?

I expected there to be both more local groundwater bills, due to the local nature of GCD regulation, and more bills addressing groundwater regulation. Contrary to what I initially expected to see, local bills were also split evenly between groundwater and surface water, and there was approximately the same number of bills dealing with regulation across sources, excluding bills specifically limiting the regulatory scope of GCDs. When these are included there is a higher number of regulatory bills focusing on groundwater than surface water.

2) What are the preferred water management strategies?

Roughly the same percentage of bills made it to the House floor across management strategies, indicating that no one strategy for water management was championed. This, too, is contrary to what was expected due to a lot of recent press covering the legislature’s emphasis on water conveyance projects.¹³

3) What are the major areas of regulatory change?

Bills dealing with groundwater and surface water addressed regulatory changes at about the same rate. Bills changing the water planning process in Texas were common, and occurred in about the same percentage across water source types (surface vs. groundwater). The more interesting story, however, is the number percentage of bills that made it to the house floor that were limiting GCD regulatory authority in some way. This could possibly indicate an effort to switch groundwater management from a localized approach to a more centralized planning regime, or it could indicate a move towards less management all together. The answer to this question would require a more in-depth analysis of the content of bills

¹³ League of Independent Voters of Texas. 5/4/15. Gridzilla hits the Texas House Thursday.

<http://independentleaguextx.org/gridzilla-hits-the-texas-house-thursday/>

Sierra Club Advocacy page (2015). Accessed at: <https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?alertId=15692&pg=makeACall>

Kramer, K. (4/20/15) Kramer: Water grid proposal not right for Texas. Austin American Statesman. Accessed at: <http://www.mystatesman.com/news/news/opinion/kramer-water-grid-proposal-not-right-for-texas/nkySb/>

addressing GCD authority. Of these bills, listed on the following page, 89 percent were filed by members of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Bill Number	Author
HB 2647	Ashby
HB 1421*	Bonnen, Dennis
HB 200	Keffer
HB 30	Larson
HB 655	Larson
HB 1248	Lucio III
HB 2179	Lucio III
HB 3356	Lucio III
HB 3858*	Stephenson

*Table 3: Bills that made it to the House floor that diminished GCD powers. An * indicates a local bill, effecting only one GCD.*

APPENDIX 1: BILLS INCLUDED IN THIS ANALYSIS

The table in this appendix indicates a one (1) if the bill targets the topic as indicated by the column, and a zero (0) if not. GW = groundwater (incorporating into planning); SW = surface water; Conservation = addresses water conservation; Transport = discusses water transport; Study = calls for a study of water; New Tech = addresses new technologies (e.g., desalination, aquifer storage and recovery); Local = local scope, not statewide; GCD Power = limiting or taking away the regulatory power of Groundwater Conservation districts; General Calendar = had been added to the general calendar of the Texas House, which means the bill has state-wide ramifications and was not voted out of committee unanimously; Local and Consent = had been added to the Local and Consent Calendar meaning the bill was voted out unanimously or only has local scope. Bills on the local and consent calendar are much more likely to pass because they tend to be less controversial and it is common practice to defer to the local representative on issues in their district.

Bill Number	Author	Subject	GW	SW	Local	Conservation	Transport	Regulatory change	Study	NewTech	GCD Power	Planning	General Calendar	Local and Consent
HB 1016	King, Tracy O.	Relating to the designation of certain river or stream segments as being of unique ecological value.	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 1042	Frank	Relating to the designation of a site of unique value for the construction of a reservoir	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 1088	Marquez et. al.	Relating to the establishment of the Texas Technical Center for Innovative Desalination at The University of Texas at El Paso in partnership with The University of Texas at San Antonio.	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
HB 1221	Lucio III	Relating to seller's disclosures in connection with residential real property subject to groundwater regulation.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 1222	Lucio III	Relating to the authority of the Texas Water Development Board to provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for water supply projects.	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
HB 1224	Lucio III	Relating to the purposes for which the assets of certain revolving funds administered by the Texas Water Development Board may be used.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
HB 1232	Lucio III	Relating to a study by the Texas Water Development Board regarding the mapping of groundwater in confined and unconfined aquifers.	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
HB 1235	King, Phil	Relating to the annexation of certain territory by the Wise County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1.	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 1248	Lucio III	Relating to the renewal or amendment of certain permits issued by groundwater conservation districts	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
HB 1275	Keffer	Relating to the audit of river authorities by the state auditor's office.	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 1290	Keffer	Relating to the sunset review of river authorities.	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 1336	Bonnen, Dennis	Relating to fees of office for the Velasco Drainage District.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 1421	Bonnen, Dennis	Relating to fees charged by the Coastal Plains Groundwater Conservation District	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
HB 1459	Bohac	Relating to the powers and duties of the West Harris County Regional Water Authority.	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 1581	Simpson	Relating to the duty of a water supply system to provide certain information to consumers regarding fluoride in drinking water.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 163	Larson	Relating to interstate cooperation to address regional water issues.	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
HB 1665	Bonnen	Relating to the notice of water level fluctuations to purchasers of real property adjoining an impoundment of water.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 1902	Howard et al.	Relating to the regulation and use of graywater.	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
HB 200	Keffer	Relating to the regulation of groundwater.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Bill Number	Author	Subject	GW	SW	Local	Conservation	Transport	Regulatory change	Study	New Tech	GCD Power	Planning	General Calendar	Local and Consent
HB 2031	Lucio III et al.	Relating to the development and production of marine seawater desalination, integrated marine seawater desalination, and facilities for the storage, conveyance, and delivery of desalinated marine seawater.	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
HB 2051	Crownover	Relating to a volume based exemption from reporting requirements for certain accidental discharge or spills from wastewater facilities.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
HB 2173	Rinaldi	Relating to quorum and voting requirements for the transaction of business by the board of the Irving Flood Control District Section III of Dallas County.	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 2179	Lucio III	Relating to hearings that concern the issuance of permits by a groundwater conservation district.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
HB 2230	Larson	Relating to the authority of the Texas Commission on Environmental Equality to authorize an injection well used for oil and gas waste disposal to be used for the disposal of nonhazardous brine produced by a desalination operation or nonhazardous drinking water treatment residuals.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
HB 2284	Walle	Relating to the revocation of certain water utilities' certificate of public convenience and necessity for major rules violations.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 2308	Keffer	Relating to the consideration by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality of the economic impact of an appropriation of state water in determining whether to grant an application for the appropriation.	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 2407	Miller, D.	Relating to the creation of the Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments and fees.	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 2528	Harless	Relating to the authority of a water district to accept donations to fund certain economic development programs.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 2647	Ashby	Relating to a limitation on the authority to curtail groundwater production from wells used for power generation or mining.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
HB 2654	Elkins	Relating to the authority of the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District to regulate certain water wells.	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 2767	Keffer	Relating to defining the occurrence of an interregional conflict between regional water plans	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
HB 2788	Springer	Relating to the authority of a retail public water utility to require an operator of a correctional facility to comply with water conservation measures.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 280	Simmons et al	Relating to the information required to be posted by the Texas Water Development Board on the board's Internet website regarding the use of the state water implementation fund for Texas.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
HB 2805	Frank	Relating to the priority applicable to certain interbasin transfers of water.	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Bill Number	Author	Subject	GW	SW	Local	Conservation	Transport	Regulatory change	Study	NewTech	GCD Power	Planning	General Calendar	Local and Consent
HB 2832	Zerwas	Relating to the powers and duties of the North Fort Bend Water Authority	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 2852	Nevarez	Relating to municipal rates for water and sewer service charged to public school districts	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 2892	Murr	Relating to the procedure by which the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality may designate a watercourse as navigable.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 2985	Israel	Relating to requiring the election of directors of certain districts to be held on a uniform election date.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 30	Larson	Relating to the development of brackish groundwater.	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
HB 3116	Cyrier	Relating to permit authority of the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
HB 3163	Cyrier	Relating to filing suit against board members of groundwater conservation districts.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 3187	Keffer	Relating to assessments for water and energy improvements in municipalities and counties; changing a fee.	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 3298	Larson	Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Water Development Board regarding the development of a market and conveyance network for water in this state.	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
HB 3324	Larson	Relating to the requirements for obtaining an interbasin water transfer permit.	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 3340	Bohac	Relating to the designation, functions, accreditation, and continuing education of floodplain administrators; adding provisions subject to a civil or criminal penalty.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 3356	Lucio III	Relating to regulation of production of wells for retail public utilities by a groundwater conservation district	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
HB 3405	Isaac	Relating to the territory and authority of the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District to regulate certain wells for the production of groundwater.	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
HB 3406	Isaac	Relating to the territory of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District; authorizing the regulation of certain wells for the production of groundwater.	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 3407	Isaac	Relating to the Goforth Special Utility District.	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 3413	Frank	Relating to a general permit to convey water using the bed and banks of a natural stream channel; authorizing a fee.	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 3545	Oliveira	Relating to the establishment of an infrastructure improvement council by the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority.	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 3597	Keffer	Relating to exports of groundwater from a groundwater conservation district.	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
HB 3640	Guillen	Relating to fees of office for the directors of a municipal utility district.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 3720	Schubert	Relating to authorizing the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District to use revenue from export fees to fund road and water infrastructure projects.	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

Bill Number	Author	Subject	GW	SW	Local	Conservation	Transport	Regulatory change	Study	NewTech	GCD Power	Planning	General Calendar	Local and Consent
HB 3803	Keffer	Relating to defining the occurrence of an interregional conflict between regional water plans.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
HB 3837	Lucio III	Relating to the licensing and regulation of certain rainwater harvesting; providing administrative penalties; authorizing fees; requiring an occupational license; creating a criminal offense.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 3858	Stephenson	Relating to fees charged by the Coastal Bend Groundwater Conservation District.	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
HB 3942	Paddie	Relating to the authority to determine the supply of groundwater in certain regional water plans.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
HB 3947	King, Tracy O.	Relating to county fee imposed on operators of oil and gas waste disposal wells.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 3953	Geren	Relating to the functions of the Public Utility Commission of Texas in relation to the economic regulation of water and sewer service.	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 4049	Isaac	Relating to authorizing a production fee on certain non-exempt wells in the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District.	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 4097	Hunter	Relating to seawater desalination projects.	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
HB 4112	Burns	Relating to the rights of an owner of groundwater.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
HB 4123	Nevarez	Relating to the creation of the Val Verde County Groundwater Conservation District; providing authority to impose fees and taxes.	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 4130	Gonzalez	Relating to the qualifications and method of electing directors of the Jonah Water Special Utility District.	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 4168	Bonnen, Dennis	Relating to the composition of the board of directors and the powers of the Gulf Coast Water Authority.	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
HB 4177	Price	Relating to the election date of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District.	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 4200	Smith	Relating to the boundaries of the Harris County Fresh Water Supply District No. 58.	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 4207	Morrison	Relating to the creation of the Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District; providing authority to issue bonds and impose a tax; providing general law authority to impose fees and surcharges.	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 632	Simpson	Relating to the planning and funding of water projects to be constructed in a region other than the region proposing the project.	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

Bill Number	Author	Subject	GW	SW	Local	Conservation	Transport	Regulatory change	Study	NewTech	GCD Power	Planning	General Calendar	Local and Consent
HB 648	Krause	Relating to the appointment of directors to the board of directors for the Viridian Municipal Management District	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 655	Larson	Relating to the storage and recovery of water in aquifers; authorizing fees and surcharges	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
HB 669	Bell	Relating to the authority of a public utility agency to provide water and sewer service and enter into contracts	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HB 908	Phillips	Relating to the continuation and duties of the Red River Boundary Commission.	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 928	Guillen	Relating to state and local planning for and responses to drought.	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
HB 930	Miller, Doug	Relating to water well drillers and pump installers; authorizing fees.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
HB 949	Lucio III	Relating to the obligation of certain retail public utilities to mitigate their system water loss.	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
HB 950	Lucio III	Relating to the review of groundwater conservation districts by the state auditor.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
HB 961	Farias	Relating to the exemption of certain school district property from certain infrastructure fees	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HCR 74	Davis, Yvonne	Directing the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to support the creation of a model water recycling project in an appropriate location.	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
HCR 90	Hunter	Requesting the speaker and lieutenant governor to create a joint interim committee to study seawater desalination on the Texas coast.	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
SB 363	Fraser	Relating to the election dates for directors of the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District.	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SB 611	Perry	Relating to the confidentiality of certain water well reports.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

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