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Myron Hess
Manager, Texas Water Programs

“Today, Governor Perry issued an executive order creating an Environmental Flows Advisory Committee to look at issues surrounding the protection of instream flows and freshwater inflows for the state's rivers and coastal bays.

“We applaud Governor Perry for his leadership and we are hopeful this step will move the state forward in creating the legal protections our rivers and coastal bays need to remain healthy and productive for future generations of Texans.

“This committee is tasked with a serious and important challenge. Over the last 100 years, the state has granted permits authorizing a total of about 23 million acre-feet of water to be taken from Texas lakes, rivers and streams every year. During a dry year, the total amount available could be only about 15 million acre-feet of water. Without adequate protections, that could spell serious trouble for Texas’ rivers and the coastal bays that depend on those river flows. Fortunately, many permit holders are not using their full allotment right now, but that use will increase as the states population grows.

“We owe it to ourselves, our children and their children to find a way to create common-sense legal protections for our rivers and coastal bays now, while there is still time.”

More information on this story:

- Press release from the governor's office:
<http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/press/pressreleases/PressRelease.2005-10-28.4301>
- The text of the executive order:
<http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/press/exorders/rp50>
- Background information on environmental flows in Texas:
<http://www.texaswatermatters.org/environment.htm>

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