Executive Orders

WPC-23A

Executive Order WPC-23 is amended as follows and shall be known as WPC-23 as Amended December 1, 1981.


WHEREAS, the continued prosperity and well being of the citizens of Texas is dependent upon the preservation and development of the state's water resources; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need both at the present time and in the future for an adequate supply of water; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas is already a water-short state in that more water is being used than is being replaced by nature; and

WHEREAS, anticipated population growth coupled with the needs of industry and agriculture will place ever greater demands upon this basic resource; and

WHEREAS, in the immediate future certain urban areas would suffer greatly curtailed water supplies in the event of a severe drought; and

WHEREAS, the need to anticipate and meet these additional demands is a statewide challenge, not limited to any single region or locality; and

WHEREAS, there is no existing mechanism which effectively coordinates the activities of the responsible state agencies planning for our present and future water needs; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Texas has the authority to create an interagency planning council to coordinate the planning efforts of the several governmental agencies in the area of water resources under Texas Civil Statutes, Article 4413/32a;

THEREFORE, in order to meet my responsibilities as chief executive officer of this state and to provide coordination and cooperation among state and local water agencies and to avoid a critical water resource shortfall, I am creating the Governor's Task Force on Water Resource Use and Conservation, hereinafter referred to as task force. The task force will be charged with the following responsibilities:

(a) to provide a forum which will facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among the various state water authorities;

(b) to advise the governor and the Texas Water Development Board on matters which impact the water development and conservation policies of this state;

(c) to study, evaluate, and investigate future water development in agriculture, industry, recreation and domestic use in all geographic portions of the state as well as both rural and urban areas;

(d) to develop alternative legislative recommendations regarding various mechanisms for state financing or guaranteeing of local water projects in Texas;

(e) to assist the Water Development Board in maintaining and updating the state water plan and to make such interim reports to the governor as necessary;

(f) to assist, support, and coordinate with the Texas 2000 Commission; and

(g) to undertake such additional tasks as, from time to time, may be assigned by the governor.

The task force will consist of not more than 30 members appointed by the governor. Task force members will serve for two year terms at the pleasure of the governor. The governor shall designate a chairman and vice-chairman from the membership who shall serve in that position at the pleasure of the governor. Principal staff support for the task force shall be provided by the Texas Department of Water Resources.

The task force shall meet regularly at the call of the chairman. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. The chairman shall, with the consultation of the governor, establish the agenda for task force meetings.

The members of the task force shall serve without compensation and without reimbursement for their travel and expenses.

All agencies of state and local governments are hereby directed to cooperate with and assist the task force in the performance of its duties.

This executive order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, or rescinded by me.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on December 2, 1981.

Doc. No. 818837 William P. Clements, Jr.
Governor of Texas

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