

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

COMMITTEE: Natural Resources  
TIME & DATE: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, June 01, 2016  
PLACE: E2.010  
CHAIR: Rep. Jim Keffer

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The Committee will address Interim Charges 1, 6, and 9:

Charge 1: Examine the regional and state water planning processes, with emphasis on the following:

- a. the integration of HB 4 (83R);
- b. the appropriate role of the state in ensuring that the process both supports regional goals and priorities and the water needs of the state as a whole, and how the state might encourage strategies to benefit multiple regions;
- c. the structure and operation of the regional planning groups;
- d. the interaction between the planning process and groundwater management;
- e. whether the "drought of record" remains the appropriate benchmark for planning; and
- f. any impediments to meeting the conservation, agricultural, and rural project goals set by HB 4 (83R), and possible new approaches to help meet these goals.

Charge 6: Evaluate the status of legislation to encourage joint groundwater planning, including HB 200 (84R), and monitor ongoing legal developments concerning ownership and access to groundwater and the impact of these developments on property rights and groundwater management.

Charge 9: Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:

- a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
- b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;
- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs; and
- e. review the surface water permitting process in Texas, including previous legislative attempts to modify the process, and assess the potential effects of these and other changes.

The Committee will hear invited and public testimony.

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**NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE AT PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, are requested to contact Stacey Nicchio at (512) 463-0850, 72 hours prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.