

SB 3: Review and Future Prospects

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SB 3: Healthy Rivers and Bays for the Future

At least that was the goal.

SB 3 Findings and Goal

- 11.0235(d-2):
 - *The legislature finds that to provide certainty in water management and development and to provide adequate protection of the state's streams, rivers, and bays and estuaries, the state must have a process with specific timelines for prompt action to address environmental flow issues.*

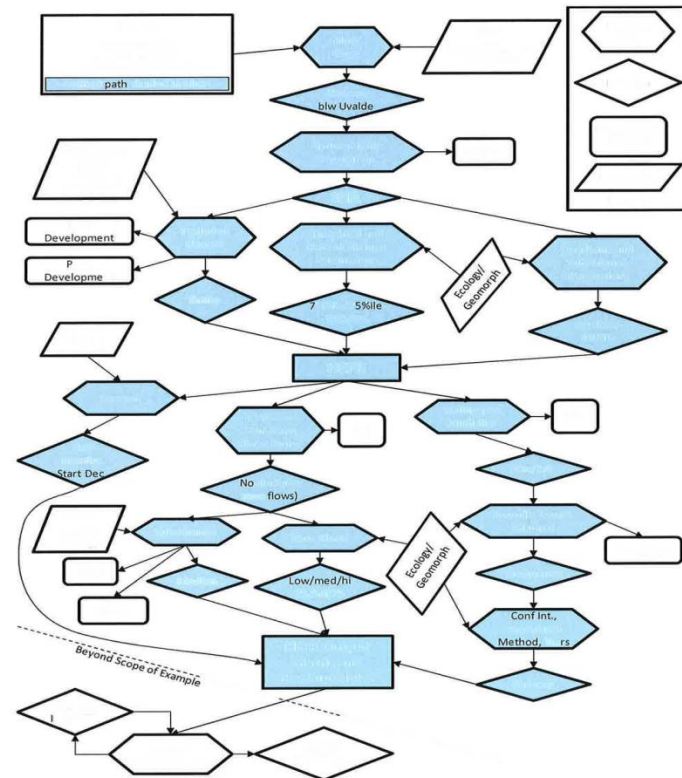
Successes

- Importance of healthy flows gets attention at all levels
- Better understanding of values/needs of our rivers and bays
- Involving full range of science expertise
- Forum for trying to reach consensus about future flow needs
- CO basin



Problems-1

- Data availability
- Science: flow need determinations still difficult; reliance on historical hydrology
- Demands on science and stakeholder groups
- Complexity of issues for stakeholders



Problems-2

- First two basins lacked consensus at stakeholder level
- TCEQ rulemaking approach didn't encourage consensus in future basins
- Funding for work plan implementation not secured





But, not the end of the road.

Or at least it doesn't have to be.

Worth it?

- Economic and natural heritage values of healthy rivers and bays are as important as ever, if not more.
 - \$\$\$
 - *ESA and project specific fights still loom large if we dry up flows*
- Have developed substantial information on needs of rivers and bays, and identified the gaps that need to be filled.
- Tools and process to integrate quantified flow needs with water planning (surface and groundwater) for a true “state water plan.”
- Some groups have identified voluntary strategies that could provide good examples for future.



What do we need to go forward?

And can we get it?

Moving Forward

- Recommitment of leadership support
- Funding for work plan and voluntary strategy implementation
- Integration with the SB 1 process—
informal/formal?
(WAM and data limitations?)

