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May 30, 2017

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### **Sierra Club Statements on Water Legislation Outcomes of the 85th Texas Legislature**

Austin, TX - At the conclusion of the regular session of the 85th Texas Legislature, the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter water lobby team issued the following remarks on the outcome of water legislation.

#### **Ken Kramer, Water Resources Chair, Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter:**

"Even though water was not a leadership priority this legislative session, there was a deluge of water bills, many of them related to groundwater. The efforts of water marketers to revise groundwater laws to favor production over conservation largely failed. Moreover, coastal and conservation groups rallied to stop a last-minute effort to revive a bill that would have negatively impacted river flows and freshwater inflows to Texas bays and estuaries. In addition, legislation to advance water conservation passed, funding for studies of environmental water needs was protected, and more money was allocated to water programs at TCEQ."

#### **Chris Mullins, Legislative & Policy Consultant to the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter:**

"One of the most notable water victories this session was the successful effort to stem the tide of legislation that would have undermined the ability of landowners, canoeists and kayakers, and hunters and anglers to protest environmentally damaging and unnecessary surface water projects. The worst bill was dammed up in a Senate committee, other bills were submerged in the House, and an effort to eliminate the requirement that surface water projects be consistent with the state water plan was diverted. Only one minor bill putting a time constraint on contested case proceedings for very specialized water permits went to the Governor."

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