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By: \_\_\_\_\_

H.B. No. \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the powers and duties of the Lower Colorado River Authority.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 8503.004 (r), Special District Local Laws Code, is amended to read as follows:

(r-1) As a necessary aid to the conservation, control, preservation, purification, and distribution of surface waters and groundwater of the Colorado River and its tributaries within the boundaries of the authority, the authority shall collect data on the surface groundwater exchange in the Colorado River basin, and identify all negative impacts of groundwater withdrawals on the Colorado River flow. The authority is delegated the responsibility and the right to defend surface water rights against infringement or diminishment by groundwater withdrawals ~~may construct, own, operate, maintain, or otherwise provide sewage gathering, treatment, and disposal services, including waste disposal services, and may make contracts regarding those services with the~~

~~United States, this state, counties, municipalities, and others.  
The authority shall charge the actual cost of those services.~~

(r-2) The authority may construct, own, operate, maintain, or otherwise provide sewage gathering, treatment, and disposal services, including waste disposal services, and may make contracts regarding those services with the United States, this state, counties, municipalities, and others. The authority shall charge the actual cost of those services.

SECTION 2. Section 8503.005 Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by the addition of Section 8503.005 (h) to read as follows:

(h) The authority may not finance, develop, own or operate groundwater well fields or facilities related to the development, transportation or any other use of groundwater. The authority may from time to time contract with public or private entities for the purchase and transportation of groundwater to supplement existing surface water supplies, provided however that any such use by the authority must be specifically authorized and approved by a groundwater conservation district with jurisdiction over the source of groundwater.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.