

# Texas Water Quality Board to ask for large budget increase

AUSTIN (AP)—The Texas Water Quality Board voted Tuesday to ask the legislature for a 50 per cent increase in its budget for the fiscal year beginning Sept. 1.

Gov. Smith has said he would veto any state budget that calls for new taxes.

The board wants \$6,748,553, compared with the current budget of \$4,442,946. The request includes \$1.5 million for river basin planning.

Joe Teller, deputy director of the board, said the federal Environmental Protection Agency insists on the planning money as a condition for receiving federal grants.

Board member G. R. Herzik Jr. said he did not understand what the EPA wanted.

"I'd like to see that million and a half go into sewage treatment," Herzik said. "On the one hand they want us to plan and on the other hand they tell us that in the Galveston Bay study we planned it to death."

"I think you've stated it very precisely," Teller said.

The proposed budget also would include \$117,000 for six division directors at \$19,500 each and \$50,000 for microfilming the board's records.

The board also considered, among others, proposals involving San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Lufkin and Beaumont-Port Arthur.

Teller explained that the legislature declared Mitchell Lake near San Antonio a nuisance and then decided that the board should decide if it was. The board also was directed to determine if a plan to convert the lake into a recreational facility was practical.

"The lake is an integral part of the city's treatment facilities,"

Teller said. "Maybe it shouldn't be, but it is. To do away with that would cause the city of San Antonio to increase their income to this operation by some 17 per cent."

The cost of losing Mitchell Lake would be "in excess of \$5 million," he said.

As for turning it into a facility suitable for recreation, Teller said: "The lake has been used for over 70 years for receiving sewage. Is there anything that

could be done to make the people accept it for recreational purposes?"

Hugh Yantis, executive director, said the main objection to the lake was its odor. This is caused by deposits on its banks, which are exposed by evaporation during hot weather, and this condition is being taken care of through dredging and filling operations, he said.

Teller said the 850-acre lake has an abnormally small drainage

area feeding it—1,500 acres. "If they stop discharging into it, it's going to dry up and be a stinking old mud hole," he said.

Teller said the staff would continue its study of the lake and devise a plan for recreation because "You've practically got to draw the plan to determine if it's 'practical'."

The board told its staff to set up public hearings to determine if Corpus Christi or the Lower Nueces River Authority should

be the policing agency for tank regulation on Lake Christi.

Lufkin mayor Pitzer told the board his city was in a position to build a collection and treatment plant that the board has been planning for three years to build.

The city has been in court, Garrison said, by a named Gibson that contract the city originally had to use for the treatment

## Novotny sued for \$1 million

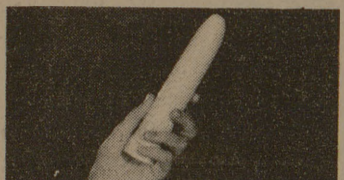
HOUSTON (AP)—Joe Novotny, former president of the now-defunct Sharpstown State Bank, was sued for \$1,030,447 Tuesday by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. for two past due notes he had at the bank.

The FDIC took over the bank when it closed its doors in 1971 after it and its principal stockholder, Frank W. Sharp, were accused of stock manipulation in a civil suit filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Tuesday's suit claims a \$1 million loan was made to Joe Novotny Inc. on Jan. 15, 1971, in which Novotny agreed to make 10 semi-annual payments of \$50,000 each, paying off the note by 1976.

Novotny also made a second loan for \$297,000 to be paid off in installments of \$14,850, the suit claims.

The suit says Novotny still owes \$1,030,447 on the two notes, plus interest and attorney fees.



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