

Water panel considers tighter rules

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Water Commission is considering more stringent surface-water quality standards for the state.

The proposed standards, along with a strong emphasis on enforcement and permit programs, "will go a long way toward assuring the people of Texas of continued availability of good-quality water without creating unnecessary or unreasonable economic burdens," Executive Director Larry Soward said Monday.

The "significant" costs of implementing some of the proposals "are reasonably balanced with the responsibility to ensure surface-water quality protection for the state," he said.

The proposals include development and implementation of standards on toxic substances, increased emphasis on standards for intermittent streams and imposition of more stringent bacteriological limits in smaller streams and rivers.

Also included is the establishment of a policy for intermittent streams and unclassified waters that may require higher levels of wastewater treatment in many areas.

Additional protection also is being proposed for rivers and streams with high-quality water.

Seventeen additional stream segments have been added for classification and modifications in uses and criteria are proposed for 62 existing segments.

No uses are downgraded in any classified segment.

A public hearing on the proposed standards has been scheduled for Nov. 24 in Austin.

The Texas Water Commission has sole authority to establish water-quality standards for the state.

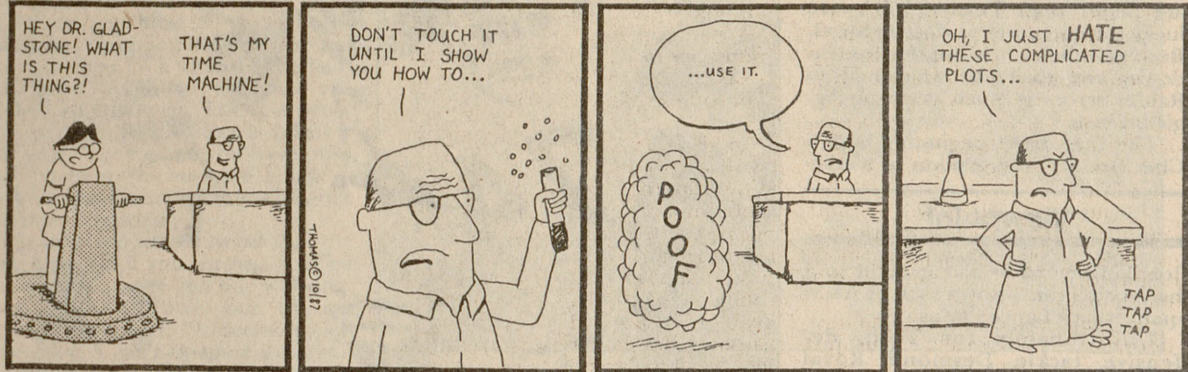
Surface-water quality standards are established every three years under state and federal laws.

Warped



by Scott McCullar

Waldo



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by Dan Barlow

College anticipates contract losses after questions rise about trip costs

KILLEEN (AP) — Central Texas College officials believe the college will lose millions of dollars in lost contracts because of questions about some travel expenses and a possible conflict of interest with a travel agency.

"It's been devastating," said Philip R. Swartz, president of American Educational Complex, which governs the college. "We've lost three contracts in the last few weeks because of this."

Questions have arisen involving the amount of travel business booked through a local travel agency partially owned by Swartz's daughter, Kasey Morrarty.

The travel expenses of Chancellor Luis B. Morton Jr., including \$33,000 in taxi fares for one year, are also being questioned.

"What good would it do?" Swartz

replied when asked by the *Houston Post* for comment about the possible conflict of interest.

The complex's board ordered an investigation and both men were cleared of wrongdoing.

But Texas Higher Education Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth has asked the state attorney general's office and the state audit committee to investigate.

Attorney general spokesman Ron Dusek said the attorney general's office has requested additional information for review before deciding whether to conduct an official investigation of the college's travel expenses or use of the travel agency.

Swartz and Morton were not immediately available for comment, Bill Alexander, spokesman for the American Educational Complex, told the Associated Press Monday.

Antonio V. Suarez-Barrio, executive dean of the college's criminal science division, said his investigation found nothing wrong.

"There's no love of Phil Swartz here," Suarez-Barrio said. "He's the boss and he's not a likeable guy. But he was right."

Suarez-Barrio said Swartz is an employee and cannot make policy at the school.

In addition, the college used Morrarty's Casa Blanca Tours and Travel about 75 percent of the time in the last year, the same percentage the agency was used in the years before Morrarty bought it.

Central Texas has campuses in various parts of the world and serves about 250,000 students, mostly on military bases.

Morton runs up high taxi fares

because he travels extensively in pursuit of more students and government and industry contracts, Suarez-Barrio said.

"Dr. Morton might be meeting with a dozen people at one place and he picks up their taxi fares to and from his hotel," Barrio said.

"Of course, one man couldn't have \$33,000 worth of taxi bills and one man didn't," he said. "Sometimes he might have 10 different people or 10 different taxis."

But questions persist and Suarez-Barrio estimates the college has already lost \$200,000 in lost faculty time caused by the investigation.

The college provides a police academy for several surrounding counties but the September class had to be dropped so Suarez-Barrio could head the investigation, he said.

Court says SMU cannot seek NCAA records

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that Southern Methodist University cannot take part in a lawsuit seeking NCAA records of its investigation into the recruiting scandal that eventually cost SMU its football program.

The suit was filed in 1985 against the NCAA and the Southwest Conference by Belo Broadcasting Corp. and its reporter, Carole Kneeland of WFAA-TV. The *Dallas Morning News* and the *Dallas Times Herald* later joined the suit against the NCAA and the SWC.

The court, without comment, refused to let SMU intervene as a defendant with the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the SWC in

their effort to keep certain records from the news media. The university had sought to make its own arguments why the records should be kept private.

The news organizations, seeking NCAA records since 1980 of football recruiting practices at SMU, said the Texas Open Records Act required disclosure of the material that the groups refused to release.

The university said disclosure would violate rights of privacy and academic freedom and argued that the NCAA and SWC would not represent its interests adequately if the records were released.

But the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals handed down a ruling saying that the NCAA and the SWC "have the same ultimate objective as SMU . . . to prevent disclosure of the documents."

SMU was rocked by scandal last winter and spring when the NCAA suspended the school's 1987 football season and part of the team's 1988 season in the harshest penalty ever given a college football program. SMU officials later canceled the remainder of the 1988 football season.

The NCAA cited SMU for making \$61,000 in illicit payments to 13 current or former football players.

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