



December 1, 2022

Jennifer Jones, Executive Director
Sunset Advisory Commission
1501 North Congress
6th Floor, Robert E. Johnson Building
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Jones:

On behalf of the San Jacinto River Authority, please find attached our official response to the Sunset Staff Report.

The board members and staff of the San Jacinto River Authority share the Sunset Commission's fundamental goal of increasing "efficiency, effectiveness, fairness, and accountability." It is our desire to maintain a culture at the Authority that strives for excellence and continuous improvement in everything we do, therefore, we sincerely appreciate and support the sunset review process and the recommendations in our Sunset Staff Report.

I also want to specifically express my appreciation for your staff's thoroughness and professionalism in their review of the Authority. It was a pleasure being able to meet in-person, a stark contrast to the last review.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this official response. As noted in the Sunset Staff Report, we have already implemented most of the recommendations from our 2020 Sunset report, and we look forward to implementing the recommendations in this year's Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jace A. Houston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent loop at the beginning.

Jace A. Houston
General Manager

OFFICIAL SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY RESPONSES TO SUNSET RECOMMENDATIONS

ISSUE 3: SJRA Would Benefit from Improved Communication and Common Good Governance Practices.

Authority Response: SJRA agrees that improved communications are vital to increased public trust in and understanding of SJRA's roles and responsibilities. SJRA appreciates Sunset staff's distinction between direct, wholesale customers and the general public who are often the final, retail customer. The Authority is committed to developing specific communications strategies to address each stakeholder group.

Change in Statute

3.1 Statutorily require SJRA to adopt a public engagement policy that guides and encourages public involvement on key decisions.

Authority Response: SJRA has already adopted a public engagement policy that will seek to encourage public involvement and improve the connection between SJRA and its direct customers, stakeholders, and general public. SJRA will monitor the legislative process as this provision is added to the Authority's enabling statute and will maintain this board-adopted policy as part of the Authority's governing documents.

3.2 Apply the standard across-the-board requirement regarding the governor's appointment of the presiding officer of the SJRA's board.

Authority Response: There are no anticipated actions required of SJRA to implement this recommendation.

3.3 Apply the standard across-the-board requirement regarding grounds for removal of a board member to SJRA.

Authority Response: There are no anticipated actions required of SJRA to implement this recommendation.

3.4 Apply the standard across-the-board requirement regarding board member training to SJRA.

Authority Response: SJRA currently has a comprehensive orientation and training program for new board members but will review the program to ensure it addresses all of Sunset's recommendations.

3.5 Apply the standard across-the-board requirement regarding the separation of duties of board members from those of staff to SJRA.

Authority Response: SJRA currently has a board policy that addresses the separation of duties between board members and staff but will review the policy to ensure it addresses all of Sunset's recommendations.

3.6 Apply the standard across-the-board requirement regarding public testimony to SJRA.

Authority Response: SJRA currently includes a public comment agenda item at the beginning of every regular board meeting, therefore, there are no anticipated changes required to implement this recommendation.

3.7 Apply the standard across-the-board requirement related to developing and maintaining a complaints system and making information on complaint procedures available to the public.

Authority Response: SJRA's individual operating divisions previously had separate processes for receiving and tracking complaints. SJRA recently developed an Authority-wide process for consistent documentation and resolution of complaints with the intention of developing a more robust process for the public to submit complaints, including easy-to-understand instructions on SJRA's website. SJRA will review any adopted legislation and evaluate its processes to ensure that all of Sunset's recommendations are implemented.

3.8 Amend SJRA's board member terms to four years to comply with constitutional requirements.

Authority Response: There are no anticipated actions required of SJRA to implement this recommendation.

3.9 Amend SJRA's Sunset review date to 2035.

Authority Response: There are no anticipated actions required of SJRA to implement this recommendation.

Management Actions:

3.10 Direct the Texas Legislative Council to update SJRA's governing law.

Authority Response: SJRA agrees that codification of its enabling statute would benefit the Authority and the general public. SJRA is committed to working with Sunset staff and the Texas Legislative Council at the appropriate time to complete the codification process.