Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 279, Acts of the 56th Legislature, Regular Session, 1959, is amended by adding Section 7a to read as follows:

Sec. 7a. The Authority's Board of Directors or a Board committee may hold a meeting by telephone conference call, by video conference call, or through communications over the Internet in accordance with procedures provided by Subchapter F, Chapter 551, Government Code, if holding the meeting in that way is determined to be necessary or convenient by the Board president or any three Board members.

SECTION 2. Section 19, Chapter 279, Acts of the 56th Legislature, Regular Session, 1959, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 19. Said Authority shall have and may exercise such functions, powers, authority, rights and duties as may permit the accomplishment of the purposes for which it is created, including investigating and planning, acquiring, constructing, maintaining and operating of all necessary properties, lands, rights, tenements, easements, improvements, reservoirs, dams, canals, laterals, plants, works and facilities which it may deem necessary or proper for the accomplishment of said purposes, including the acquisition within and/or without said Authority of lands, rights-of-way, surface water rights, groundwater rights, if purchased, as provided by Section 19a, and all other properties, tenements, easements and all other rights incident, helpful to, or in aid of carrying out the purposes of said Authority as herein defined; provided, however, that said Authority shall not engage in the generation or distribution of electric power except as provided by Section 14b of this Act. The right of eminent domain shall not be exercised or extend beyond the boundaries of this District.

SECTION 3. Chapter 279, Acts of the 56th Legislature, Regular Session, 1959, is amended by adding Section 19a to read as follows:

Sec. 19a. The Authority may purchase groundwater rights in a county in the Authority's territory only if:

(1) there is a groundwater conservation district that has jurisdiction over water wells located in the county; or

(2) in the case where a county is not in the jurisdiction of a groundwater conservation district, the commissioners court of the county approves the purchase of groundwater rights by the Authority in the county.

SECTION 4. Section 25, Chapter 279, Acts of the 56th Legislature, Regular Session, 1959, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 25. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing the Authority to acquire or regulate [or control in any way] underground water or underground water rights by condemnation or [purchase or otherwise or to develop] regulate [or control] the use of
SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on March 26, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; May 21, 2013, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 22, 2013, House granted request of the Senate; May 26, 2013, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendments, on May 20, 2013: Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting; May 22, 2013, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 25, 2013, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 1, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 1157
S.B. No. 320
AN ACT
relating to the powers and duties of the Montgomery County Water Control and Improvement District No. 3.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 9040, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Section 9040.105 to read as follows:

Sec. 9040.105. POWERS AND DUTIES RELATED TO FILL PROJECTS. (a) The district has the powers and duties provided by the general law of this state, including Chapters 49 and 57, Water Code, applicable to levee improvement districts created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

(b) The district may:
(1) reclaim land in the district; and
(2) construct works, facilities, and improvements necessary to accomplish that purpose.

(c) The district may finance and contract for the construction of a fill project or for the acquisition of land for a fill project in the district, including drainage and reclamation.

(d) For the district’s exercise of a power of or performance of a duty of a levee improvement district as provided by Subsection (c), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality shall consider the district to be a levee improvement district.

(e) For any fill or levee project located in the district and in the watershed of the San Jacinto River Basin, the district shall obtain approval for the plan from any state or federal agency with jurisdiction to permit a project of the same type and from any municipality with a right to divert state water from a point located between the district and Lake Houston.

SECTION 2. (a) The legal notice of the intention to introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies, officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313, Government Code.

(b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives within the required time.