

Lavaca-Navidad River Authority

Enabling Act

Acts 1941, 47th Legislature, R.S., Page 574, Chapter 361, art. II;
as amended by Acts 1947, 50th Legislature, R.S., Page 321, Chapter 186;
as amended by Acts 1953, 53rd Legislature, R.S., Page 921, Chapter 383
as amended by Acts 1955, 54th Legislature, R.S., Page 845, Chapter 313;
as amended by Acts 1959, 56th Legislature, 3rd C. S., Page 434, Chapter 22;
as amended by Acts 1963, 58th Legislature, R.S., Page 20, Chapter 14;
as amended by Acts 1969, 61st Legislature, R.S., Page 1378, Chapter 417;
as amended by Acts 1983, 68th Legislature, R.S., Page 5498, Chapter 1035;
as amended by Acts 1989, 71st Legislature, R.S., Page 4022, Chapter 956;
as amended by Acts 2003, 78th Legislature, R.S., Page 3470, Chapter 1224;
as amended by Acts 2011, 82nd Legislature, R.S., Page 1482, Chapter 616;
as amended by Acts 2015, 84th Legislature, R.S. Page 3864, Chapter 1148.

Section 1. (a) There is hereby created and established within the State of Texas, in addition to the Districts into which the state has heretofore been divided, a Conservation and Reclamation District to be known as the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority (hereinafter called the District), and consisting of that part of the State of Texas which is known as and included within the boundaries of Jackson County, Texas (the boundaries of the District being coextensive with the boundaries of Jackson County, Texas, and the District including all of the lands and other property, both real and personal, within the boundaries of said county). Such District shall be a governmental agency and body politic and corporate, with the powers of government and with the authority to exercise the rights, privileges, and functions hereinafter specified, the creation and establishment of such District being essential to the accomplishment of the purposes of Section 59 of Article XVI, Constitution of Texas, including the control, storing, preservation, and distribution of the storm and flood waters, and the waters of the rivers and streams of Jackson County and their tributaries, inside and outside the boundaries of the District, for domestic, municipal, flood control, irrigation, agricultural, mining and recovery of minerals, hydroelectric power, navigation, recreation and pleasure, public parks, game preserves, and other useful purposes, the development of parks on lands owned or acquired by the District, the reclamation and drainage of the overflow land of Jackson County, the conservation and development of forests, financing of and aiding in the development of facilities located on lands owned by the District for the generation, transmission, and sale of electric power and energy inside or outside the boundaries of the District, and to aid in the protection and promotion of navigation on the navigable waters by regulating the flood and storm waters that flow into said navigable streams. In addition, the District may discover, develop, and produce groundwater within the boundaries of the Lavaca River Basin for use within that portion of a county located within the boundaries of the Lavaca River Basin where groundwater is discovered, developed, and produced and may coordinate and contract with groundwater conservation districts to engage in conjunctive groundwater and surface water management.

(b) The management and control of the District shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of nine (9) members, who must reside within the District and shall be freehold property taxpayers and legal voters of the State of Texas. The members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the Governor of Texas with the advice and consent of the Senate. As soon as practicable after the passage of this Act (as hereby amended), the members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed (hereinafter referred to as "First Board"). In appointing the members of the First Board, the Governor shall appoint three (3) members to serve until May 1, 1961, and until their successors are appointed and qualified, three (3) members to serve until May 1, 1963, and until their successors are appointed and qualified, and three (3) members to serve until May 1, 1965, and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Except for the First Board, the terms of office of the members of the Board of Directors shall be for six (6) years ending on May 1st, and until their successors are appointed and qualified, three (3) members to be appointed during the month of April of each odd-numbered year by the Governor to succeed the members whose terms of office shall expire on the following May 1st. If a vacancy on the Board of Directors occurs because of the resignation or death of a member, or otherwise, the Governor shall fill the same for the unexpired term by the appointment of a successor member. Each Director shall qualify by taking the official oath of office and filing a good and sufficient bond with the Secretary of State in the amount of One Thousand Dollars

(\$1,000.), which shall be payable to the District, conditioned upon the faithful performance of his (or her) official duties as a Director.

(c) The Board of Directors shall meet at such times and places as it shall designate, and shall hold regular and special meetings as it shall see fit. Said Board shall organize by electing one of its members as President, one as Vice President, one as Secretary, and one as Treasurer (provided that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined into one office of Secretary-Treasurer upon a majority vote of the members of the Board). Except for the First Board, such officers shall serve for a term of one (1) year, and annually during the month of May said Board shall elect such officers. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by any three members, and a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum to transact any and all business. A majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting shall be sufficient for the adoption of any proceedings or for the taking of any official action.

Section 1A. (a) The District is subject to review under Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025, Government Code, as if the District were a state agency scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2023, and every 12th year after that year.

(b) The District shall pay the cost incurred by the Sunset Advisory Commission in performing the review. The Sunset Advisory Commission shall determine the cost, and the District shall pay the amount promptly on receipt of a statement from the Sunset Advisory Commission detailing the cost.

Section 2. Except as expressly limited by this Act, the District shall have and is hereby authorized to exercise all powers, rights, privileges and functions which are now, or hereafter may be, conferred by General or Special Law upon any District or Districts created pursuant to, or operating under, Section 59 of Article XVI, Constitution of Texas. Without in any way limiting the generality of the foregoing, the District shall have and is hereby authorized to exercise the powers, rights, privileges, and functions described by Section 1 of this Act. In addition, the District has the following powers, rights, privileges, and functions:

(a) To acquire by lease, gift, devise, purchase, condemnation, or in any other manner provided by law and to construct, maintain, use, and operate any property or any interest in property, including real or personal property, inside or outside the boundaries of the District, necessary or convenient to the District's powers, rights, privileges, and functions under this Act.

(b) To lease, sell, trade, or otherwise dispose of any property or any interest in property, including real or personal property, when the same are no longer needed for carrying on the business of the District.

(c) To appoint a manager and such other officers, agents, and employees, and to prescribe their duties and fix their compensation (including an engineer or engineers and legal counsel).

(d) To authorize its officers, employees, or agents to go upon any lands lying within the District for the purpose of making surveys and examining such lands in connection with any District plans or projects and for any other lawful purpose within the scope of its authority.

(e) To devise plans and construct works to lessen and control floods or to reclaim lands in the District; to prevent the deposit of silt in navigable streams; to remove obstructions, natural or artificial, from streams and water courses; to regulate the flow of surface and flood waters; to provide drainage; and to accomplish any other purpose within the scope of its authority.

(f) To borrow money for any of the purposes, consistent with the Constitution, provided by this Act or by the General Laws (and without limitation of the generality of the foregoing, to borrow money and accept grants from the United States of America, the State of Texas, or any corporation or agency created or designated by the United States of America or the State of Texas, and in connection with any such loan or grant to enter into such agreements as the United States of America, the State of Texas, or such corporations or agencies may require), and to make and issue its notes and bonds (tax bonds or notes, revenue bonds or notes, and/or combination tax-revenue bonds or notes) for such borrowed money in the manner and to the extent provided herein.

(g) To cooperate with, or to contract with, any agency or political subdivision of the state, or any city or town within the boundaries of the District in relation to surveys, the acquisition of land or right-of-ways, the construction or maintenance of projects or parts thereof or the financing of the same in connection with any matter within the scope of this Act.

(h) To sue and be sued in its corporate name.

(i) To adopt, use, and alter a corporate seal.

(j) To make bylaws, rules, and regulations for the management and regulation of its affairs.

(k) To make contracts and execute instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of the powers, rights, privileges, and functions conferred upon it by this Act or by general law.

(l) To do any and all other acts or things necessary or convenient to the exercise of all of the powers, rights, privileges, authority, or functions provided by the Constitution of Texas, this Act, or other applicable law.

(m) In the event that the District, in the exercise of the power of eminent domain or power of relocation, or any other power granted hereunder, makes necessary the relocation, raising, rerouting or changing the grade of, or altering the construction of any highway, railroad, electric transmission line, telephone or telegraph properties and facilities, or pipeline, all such necessary relocation, raising, rerouting, changing of grade or alteration of construction shall be accomplished at the sole expense of the District.

(n) In no event shall the power of eminent domain be exercised by said District beyond the limits of Jackson County.

(o) To own, construct, operate, and maintain facilities relating to:

- (1) water supply and treatment;
- (2) wastewater treatment and distribution;
- (3) solid waste;
- (4) electric power generation, to the extent authorized by Section 1(a) of this Act;
- (5) flood monitoring, warning, and control;
- (6) water quality protection, including non-point source pollution control measures;
- (7) emergency communication support to other political subdivisions;
- (8) aquatic weed control and development;
- (9) parks and recreation; and
- (10) monitoring and collecting data to support the facilities listed in Subdivisions (1)-(9) of this subsection.

(p) To effectively and efficiently meet current and future water supply demands inside or outside the boundaries of the District, the District may acquire, construct, develop, operate, and maintain desalination projects inside or outside the boundaries of the District. In relation to the development and operation of desalination projects, the District may:

- (1) own and operate a facility that is ancillary to a desalination project, including an electric power generation facility, to the extent authorized by Section 1(a) of this Act;
- (2) incur debt and receive funding through grants; and
- (3) form development corporations that may be funded by the Texas Water Development Board.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall cause to be kept complete and accurate records and accounts conforming to approved methods of bookkeeping, and shall preserve their minutes, contracts, records, notices, accounts, receipts, and records of all kinds in a fireproof vault or safe.

A regular office shall be established and maintained for the conduct of District business within the District.

Each Director shall receive fees of office not to exceed \$100 a day for each day the Director performs the duties of a Director, or as state law otherwise authorizes, plus actual traveling expenses, provided that such compensation and expenses are approved by a vote of the Board, and provided further, that no Director shall receive more than \$6,000 per year or as state law otherwise authorizes for such fees of office. Each Director shall file with the General Manager a statement showing the amount due him each month or as soon thereafter as practicable, before a check shall be issued therefore.

No Director, engineer, officer, or employee of the District, either for himself or as agent for anyone else, shall benefit directly or indirectly by reason of any sale, purchase, or contract entered into by the District. If any such person shall directly or indirectly become interested in any such sale, purchase, or contract, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine in any sum of not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.) or by confinement in the county jail for not less than six (6) months nor more than one (1) year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

All bonds required to be given by officers and employees of the District shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Texas as surety thereon, and the District shall be authorized to pay the premium on such bonds.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall select a depository or depositories of said District under the general provisions as are now or may hereafter be provided by law for the selection of depositories for counties in this state. All checks or vouchers of the District shall be signed by two (2) Directors, by one (1) Director and an officer or employee of the District, or by two (2) of the District's employees designated by the Board, as may be provided in an order or resolution adopted by the Board.

Section 5. Said District shall be authorized to levy and cause to be assessed and collected for the maintenance, operation, and upkeep of the District and the facilities, properties, and improvements constructed or acquired by the District, an annual ad valorem tax not to exceed Fifteen Cents (15¢) on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.) valuation of taxable property within the District, whether real, personal, mixed, or otherwise; provided, that the levying of such tax shall be first submitted to the qualified property taxpaying voters of said District at an election called and held as hereinafter provided and that the proposition shall be adopted by a majority vote of those voting at the election. Subsequent elections may be ordered and held for the purpose of increasing, reducing, or abating such tax; provided, however, that such tax shall never exceed the maximum herein prescribed.

Section 6. (a) For the purpose of providing funds for any of the purposes provided by this Act or any other laws relating to districts created or operating under Section 59 of Article XVI of the Constitution of Texas, the Board of Directors shall have the power from time to time to issue negotiable bonds for and on behalf of the District, which bonds may be secured by any one of the following methods:

(1) Solely by a pledge of and payable from the net revenues derived from the operation of all or a designated part of the improvements and facilities of the District then in existence or to be constructed or acquired, with the duty on the Board of Directors to charge and collect fees, tolls, and charges, so long as the bonds are outstanding, sufficient to pay all maintenance and operation expenses of the improvements and facilities (the income of which is pledged), the interest on such bonds as it accrues, the principal of such bonds as it matures, and to make any and all other payments as may be prescribed in the bond order or resolution; or

(2) By a pledge of and payable from an ad valorem tax upon all taxable property within the District under Section 59 of Article XVI of the Constitution of Texas, with the duty on the Board of Directors each year while the bonds, or any part of them, are outstanding to levy, and cause to be assessed and collected, a tax sufficient to pay the interest on such bonds as it accrues and the principal of such bonds as it matures; or

(3) By a combination of the methods prescribed under (1) and (2) above, wherein the bonds are supported and secured by an ad valorem tax, with the duty on the Board of Directors to charge and collect fees, tolls, and charges, so long as the bonds are outstanding, so the (in the manner prescribed in the bond order or resolution) amount of tax to be collected from time to time may be reduced or abated to the extent that the revenues from the operation of said improvements and facilities (the income of which is pledged) are sufficient to meet the requirements for maintenance and operation of said improvements and facilities and to provide funds for the bonds as prescribed in said bond order or resolution.

“Net revenues” as used herein shall mean the gross revenues derived from the operation of those improvements and facilities of the District the income of which is pledged to the payment of the bonds less the reasonable expense of maintaining and operating said improvements and facilities, and said maintenance and operation expenses shall include, among other things, necessary repair, upkeep, and insurance of said improvements and facilities.

In the resolution or order adopted by the Board of Directors authorizing the issuance of bonds payable in whole or in part from net revenues, the Board may provide for the flow of funds, the establishment and maintenance of the interest and sinking fund, reserve fund, and other funds, and may make such additional covenants with respect to the bonds and the pledged revenues and the operation, maintenance, and upkeep of those improvements and facilities (the income of which is pledged), including provision for the leasing of all or a part of said improvements and facilities and the use or pledge of moneys derived from leases thereof, as it may deem appropriate. Said resolution or order may also prohibit the further issuance of bonds or other obligations payable from the pledged net revenues, or may reserve the right to issue additional bonds to be secured by a pledge of and payable from said net revenues on a parity with, or subordinate to, the lien and pledge in support of the bonds being issued, subject to such conditions as are set forth in said resolution or order. Such resolution or order may contain such other provisions and covenants, as the Board of Directors shall determine, not prohibited by the Constitution of Texas or by this Act, and the Board may adopt and cause to be executed any other proceedings or instruments necessary and/or convenient in the issuance of said bonds.

(b) Bonds payable solely from net revenues may be issued by resolution or order of the Board of Directors, and no election therefor shall be necessary. No bonds wholly or partially supported by taxes, except refunding bonds, shall be issued unless and until they have been authorized at an election called by the Board of Directors at which a majority of the duly qualified resident electors of said District who own taxable property within said District and who have duly rendered the same for taxation, voting at said election, have voted in favor thereof. Any such election shall be held not less than fourteen (14) days after the date of adoption of the order or resolution calling said election, and notice of such election shall be given by publication of a substantial copy of the order or resolution calling the election in a newspaper of general circulation within the District on the same day in each of two (2) successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of such election. No other notice of election shall be necessary. If the bonds are to be payable solely from taxes, the proposition to appear upon the ballot shall be:

For the bonds and the levy of taxes in payment thereof; and the contrary thereof.

If the bonds are to be payable both from net revenues and taxes, the proposition to appear upon the ballot shall be:

“For the bonds, the pledge of net revenues, and the levy of taxes adequate to provide for the payment thereof”; and the contrary thereof.

(c) All bonds of the District shall be authorized by resolution or order of the Board of Directors, shall be issued in the name of the District, shall be signed by the President and attested by the Secretary, and shall have the seal of the District impressed thereon; provided, that the resolution or order authorizing such bonds may provide for the bonds to be signed by the facsimile signatures of said President and Secretary, either or both, and for the seal of the District on the bonds to be a printed facsimile seal of the seal of the District; and provided further, that the interest coupons attached to said bonds may also be executed by the facsimile signatures of said officers. Such bonds shall mature serially or otherwise in not to exceed forty (40) years from their date or dates, and may be sold at a price and under terms determined by the Board of Directors to be most advantageous reasonably obtainable, provided that the interest cost to the District, calculated by the use of standard bond interest tables currently in use by insurance companies and investment houses, does not exceed six percent (6%) per annum, and within the discretion of the Board such bonds may be callable prior to maturity at such time or times and at such price or prices as may be prescribed in the resolution or order authorizing the bonds. Such bonds may be made registrable as to principal, or as to both principal and interest.

After such bonds have been authorized by the District, such bonds and the record relating to their issuance shall be submitted to the Attorney General of Texas for his examination as to the validity thereof, and after the Attorney General has approved the same (no approval of any other officer, board, or agency being necessary), such bonds shall be registered by the Comptroller of Public Accounts of Texas. When such bonds have been approved by the Attorney General, registered by the Comptroller, and delivered to the purchasers, they shall thereafter be incontestable except for forgery or fraud. When any bonds payable in whole or in part from net revenues recite that they are secured partially or otherwise by a pledge of the

proceeds of a contract or contracts made between the District and another party or parties (public agencies or otherwise), a copy of such contract or contracts and of the proceedings authorizing the same shall be submitted to the Attorney General along with the bond record, and the approval by the Attorney General of the bonds shall constitute an approval of such contract or contracts, and thereafter the contract or contracts shall be incontestable except for forgery or fraud.

(d) From the proceeds of sale of any bonds of the District, the Board of Directors may appropriate or set aside out of the bond proceeds an amount for the payment of interest expected to accrue during the period of construction of the improvements or facilities, an amount or amounts to establish such reserve fund or funds as may be provided in the bond order or resolution, and an amount necessary to pay all expenses incurred and to be incurred in issuance, sale, and delivery of the bonds.

Section 7. The Board of Directors shall have the power to issue refunding bonds of the District for the purpose of refunding any outstanding bonds of the District and accrued interest thereon. As to outstanding bonds payable wholly from taxes, such refunding bonds may be issued to refund more than one series or issue of such outstanding bonds. As to outstanding bonds payable in whole or in part from net revenues, such refunding bonds may be issued to refund more than one series or issue of such outstanding bonds and combine pledges for the outstanding bonds for the security of the refunding bonds, and such refunding bonds may be secured by other and additional revenues; provided, that no bonds payable solely from net revenues may be refunded into bonds secured by taxes unless the same is authorized by a majority vote of the taxpaying voters voting at an election called and held in the same manner as bond elections; and provided further, that such refunding will not impair the contract rights of the holders of any of the outstanding bonds which are not to be refunded.

Refunding bonds shall be authorized by resolution or order of the Board of Directors, and shall be executed and mature as is provided in this Act for original bonds. They shall bear interest at the same or lower rate than that of the bonds refunded unless it is shown mathematically that a saving will result in the total amount of interest to be paid. They shall be approved by the Attorney General as in the case of original bonds, and shall be registered by the Comptroller upon surrender and cancellation of the bonds to be refunded, but in lieu thereof, the resolution or order authorizing their issuance may provide that they shall be sold and the proceeds thereof deposited in the place or places where the original bonds are payable, in which case the refunding bonds may be issued in an amount sufficient to pay the interest on the original bonds to their option or maturity date, and the Comptroller shall register them without the surrender and cancellation of the original bonds. All such refunding bonds, after they have been approved by the Attorney General and registered by the Comptroller, shall be incontestable except for forgery or fraud.

Section 8. All bonds issued under this Act shall be and are hereby declared to be, and to have all the qualifications of, negotiable instruments under the Negotiable Instruments Law of the State of Texas, and all such bonds shall be and are hereby declared to be legal and authorized investments for banks, savings banks, trust companies, building and loan associations, insurance companies, fiduciaries, trustees, guardians, and for the sinking funds of cities, towns, villages, counties, school districts, or other political corporations or subdivisions of the State of Texas.

Such bonds shall be eligible to secure the deposit of any and all public funds of the State of Texas, and any and all public funds of cities, towns, villages, counties, school districts, or other political corporations or subdivisions of the State of Texas; and such bonds shall be lawful and sufficient security for said deposits to the extent of their face value when accompanied by all unmatured coupons appurtenant thereto.

Section 8A. The Board of Directors, without an election, may borrow money on negotiable or nonnegotiable notes of the District to be paid solely from the revenues of the District derived from the ownership of all or a designated part of the District's works, plant, improvements, facilities, equipment, or water rights, after deduction of the reasonable cost of maintaining and operating the facilities. The District may not pay any part of an obligation from taxes levied or collected by the District. The Board of Directors may designate the notes as first lien or subordinate lien notes. An obligation shall be a charge on the revenues pledged for the payment of the obligation, not a charge on the property of the District or on the taxes levied or collected by the District.

Section 9. All maintenance tax elections shall be called and held as is provided in Section 6(b) of this Act relating to elections for bonds payable in whole or in part from taxes, and the following shall appear on the ballot in such maintenance tax elections:

“For maintenance tax”; and the contrary thereof.

This being a county-wide District, the regular voting or election precincts established by the Commissioners Court of Jackson County for county-wide elections shall be the voting or election precincts for all elections called and held under the provisions of this Act. Except as modified herein, the General Election Laws of the State of Texas shall apply to and govern all elections called and held under the provisions hereof.

Section 10. The Board of Directors shall levy all taxes of the District, whether maintenance taxes or taxes to support bonds, and the tax rolls of Jackson County shall be the tax rolls of the District. The District shall furnish the officer responsible for assessing and collecting taxes for the District a certified copy of each resolution or order adopted by the Board in which taxes are levied, and that officer shall assess and collect such taxes at the same time as county taxes are assessed and collected, and shall turn the proceeds of such taxes, when collected, over to the District or its depository. All laws of the State of Texas now or hereafter enacted relating to the assessing and collecting of state and county taxes are by this Act made available for, and shall be applied to, the assessing and collection of current and delinquent taxes of the District, insofar as such laws are applicable.

Section 10a. The Board of Directors may contract as provided by Chapter 791, Government Code, with the Board of Directors of the Jackson County Appraisal District for the performance of duties relating to assessment or collection of taxes on behalf of the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority. The Board of Directors may contract with any other political subdivision of this state having authority to assess or collect taxes in Jackson County, either now existing or created in the future, for the assessment or collection of taxes on behalf of the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority.

Section 11(a). In this section, “economic development program” includes a program designed to:

- (1) encourage economic diversification;
- (2) contribute to the health and development of a community to improve the attractiveness of the community to public and private enterprises; or
- (3) improve the quality of quantity of services essential for the development of viable communities and economic growth, including services related to education, transportation, public safety, recreation, health care, training, community planning, or employment.

(b) The District may sponsor and participate in an economic development program intended to strengthen the economic base and further the economic development of this state. A determination by the Board of Directors that an economic development program is intended and expected to accomplish the program’s stated purposes is conclusive with respect to whether the program serves the purposes of this section.

(c) An economic development program must be within:

- (1) the territorial boundaries of the District; or
- (2) the District’s water service area.

(d) An economic development program may be established only by formal action of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall:

- (1) establish the goals of the program;
- (2) impose requirements on persons participating in or receiving a benefit from the program; and
- (3) provide restrictions, procedures, and budget limits the Board of Directors determines are necessary to ensure that the governmental purposes of this section and the program are achieved.

(e) An economic development program may involve the granting or lending of money, services, or property to a person engaged in an economic development activity.

(f) The District may:

- (1) employ staff and spend its resources, other than money received from an ad valorem tax or a general appropriation, to further an economic development program; and

(2) apply for and receive money, grants, or other assistance from any source to implement an economic development program.

(g) The District and any public or private person may enter into an agreement with respect to an economic development program.

(h) If the District proposes to provide scholarships, grants, loans, or financial assistance to a public fire-fighting organization, the District shall adopt guidelines for determining:

(1) eligibility for the assistance;

(2) the amount of any loan, grant, or other assistance the District may provide;
and

(3) the types of equipment, facilities, education, or training for which the assistance may be used.

Section 12. Lavaca-Navidad River Authority heretofore created is in all things validated, and any and all acts relating to the District heretofore performed or done by said District or its governing body or any other officials of the State or of Jackson County are in all things validated.

Section 13. This Act and the terms and provisions hereof shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

Section 14. It is hereby found that all property, both real and personal, within the District and within the State of Texas is benefited by said District and by its improvements and facilities acquired or constructed and to be acquired or constructed under the provisions of this Act.

Section 15. If any Section, paragraph, clause, phrase, word or other part of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect any other Section, paragraph, clause, phrase, word, or other part hereof or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances.

Section 16. All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.