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RQ-0044-GA

April 11, 2003

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OPINION COMMITTEE

The Honorable Greg Abbott, Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Opinion Committee
209 West 14th St.
Austin, TX 78711

FILE # ML-43068-03
I.D. # 43068

Dear Attorney General Abbott:

I would like to respectfully request an Attorney General's Opinion on the following issue:

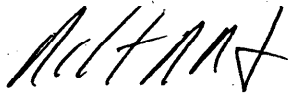
Does a river authority violate the Open Meetings Act when it holds informational meetings which are open only to the press and other community leaders who are permitted entrance by invitation only?

As you may know, river authorities are quasi-governmental entities created by individual enacting legislation. Generally, these entities have been created to manage water resources in various river basins across the state. However, due to the unique creation of each river authority, the entities vary in powers, duties, and composition of the governing board. For instance, while most river authorities are governed by a board appointed by the Governor, some governing boards are appointed by a state agency, such as the Texas Water Development Board, as specified in their enacting legislation.

For your information, I have also attached two documents which provide examples and further information regarding an informational meeting held by a river authority by invitation only.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Puente". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a stylized "P".

Robert R. Puente