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WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 15, 2006

HOUSTON ★ **CHRONICLE**
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HOUSTON CHRONICLE **B3**

State passes new water supply plan

The Texas Water Development Board approved a new long-range water plan Tuesday, calling for a mix of conservation, underground production and 14 new reservoirs to help generate nearly 3 trillion gallons a year of new supply by 2060. The board estimated that it would cost about \$30.7 billion to meet 4,500 different strategies developed by regional planning groups, with most of the bill borne by local jurisdictions. Environmentalists complained the plan doesn't focus enough on conservation and is laden with unneeded lake and pipeline projects. "It is an everything-but-the-kitchen-sink approach with a price tag to match," said Myron Hess, manager of Texas water programs for the National Wildlife Federation.
