



KEN ARMBRISTER  
District 18

The Senate of  
The State of Texas  
Austin 1871

COMMITTEES:  
NATURAL RESOURCES, Chairman  
BUSINESS AND COMMERCE  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
STATE AFFAIRS

March 1, 2005

The Honorable Laura Miller  
Mayor, City of Dallas  
Dallas City Hall  
1500 Marilla  
Dallas, Texas 75201

Dear Mayor Miller:

Thank you for your interest in and efforts to ensure future water supply for Dallas. I know that you and your fellow city planners will thoughtfully evaluate all possible alternative water management strategies.

As chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the 78th Interim Select Committee on Water Policy, and the ongoing Joint Study Commission on Environmental Flows (co-chair with Rep. Robert Puente) I have been deeply involved in water planning efforts statewide. The Select Committee on Water Policy's Report to the 79th Legislature evaluated a wide range of water management strategies, and included water conservation recommendations developed by the Statewide Conservation Implementation Task Force.

I am concerned that you are considering a plan and related studies relating to the proposed Marvin Nichols reservoir project, especially in light of the fact that **Region D** - in which the Nichols project would actually be located - took the significant action recently and **DELETED this project from their Regional Water Plan**. Additionally, as a matter of state policy, I believe that all efforts should be made to pursue conservation measures and other increasingly viable alternative water management strategies, including desalination of coastal or brackish groundwater.

In addition, our limited local and state resources should first be focused on other means of maximizing use of existing resources before focusing on the study of new reservoirs that provoke major opposition and might not be needed, if alternative strategies can be implemented that would avoid environmental harm and disruption to local landowners. Reservoirs constructed in the past have already inundated ecosystems, people who once lived there have already lost their land, and taxpayers or ratepayers who paid for these reservoirs have already incurred the expensive burden of construction.

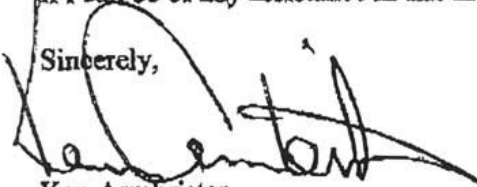
The Region C Water Planning Group is currently studying over 1.5 million acre-feet per year of water as water management strategies for connection of existing supplies that are recommended as potentially feasible for the 2006 Region C Water Plan.

These supplies listed as available to Region C include Lake Texoma "already authorized", Lake Texoma "not yet authorized," Lake Wright Patman, and a wide variety of other sources. My understanding is that large sources in this strategy category alone exceed the approximately 1.4 million acre-feet per year projected gap between the region's demand and supply in 2060.

In order to ensure the most efficient water use possible, I urge you to adopt a long range water plan only after a thorough examination of conservation and other alternative water management tools to maximize existing resources.

If I can be of any assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Armbrister", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ken Armbrister  
State Senator