



OFFICE OF STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
JOSEPH D. DESHOTEL  
22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

MAILING ADDRESS  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768-2910

512-463-0662  
Fax: 512-463-8381

PHYSICAL ADDRESS  
E2.306  
The Capitol  
Austin, TX

DISTRICT OFFICE  
One Plaza Square  
Suite 203  
Port Arthur, TX 77642  
409-724-0788  
Fax: 409-724-0750

March 8, 2005

The Honorable Lois Finkelman, Chair,  
Committee on Health, Environment, and Human Services  
The Honorable Members of Dallas City Council  
1500 Marilla Street, Room 5EN  
Dallas, Texas 75201-6390

Dear Chairwoman Finkelman and Members of the Council:

It has come to our attention that on March 9 you will be voting on Dallas' Long Range Water Supply Plan to address future water supply issues. We commend you for your thoughtful evaluation of all possible sources.

Like our colleagues Senate Natural Resources Committee Chair Ken Armbrister, House Natural Resources Committee Chair Robert Puente, Senator Kevin Eltife, and Representatives Mark Homer and Stephen Frost, we are concerned that you are considering a plan and related studies that include new reservoirs when existing resources available to you appear to be far from fully utilized. Reservoirs such as Marvin Nichols and Fastrill would inundate approximately 100,000 acres in East Texas and cause the sale of approximately 300,000 acres of land from what will undoubtedly be many unwilling Texans. The environmental impacts, displacement of landowners, and costs of construction have already been incurred on reservoirs constructed in the past. Availing ourselves of the water resources from existing reservoirs and implementing increased conservation and water recycling avoids the impacts that accrue when pursuing new projects.

We are told that the Region C Water Planning Group is currently studying over 1.5 million acre-feet per year of water from existing sources, including Lake Texoma "already authorized", Lake Texoma "not yet authorized", Lake Wright Patman, and a wide variety of other sources, which could be used to meet the gap between current water supply and the region's water demands projected for 2060. Due to the tremendous loss of high-value bottomland hardwood ecosystems and the harm to individuals, agriculture, and the local economy when any new reservoir is built, we feel that new reservoirs should be considered only if existing resources are not available.

We urge that you meet your needs by using existing developed water resources rather than considering new reservoirs.

Sincerely,

Joe D. Deshotel  
State Representative  
22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District