

INTERNATIONAL PAPER

Texarkana Mill, Hwy. 59 & FM 3129, Queen City, Texas 75572

March 7, 2005

The Honorable Laura Miller
Mayor of Dallas
1500 Marilla Street, Room 5FN
Dallas, Tx 75201-6390

Dear Mayor Miller:

As one of 80,000 Texans employed in a wood based job and as facility manager at Texas' only International Paper mill, I am concerned by the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir and the potential negative impact the reservoir would have on a significant amount of renewable resources.

In fact, governmental agency reports show a minimum of 250,000 acres and as much as almost 1,000,000 acres of renewable resources could be eliminated. Texas Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Texas Forest Service reports show the loss of agricultural land from both actual reservoir construction and required habitat mitigation would be, at a minimum 250,000 acres and could actually be as high as 986,000 acres, depending on the mitigation management option.

This is a significant amount of forestland in a forestry-dependant region. Consider that timber is Texas' third most valuable agricultural commodity and accounts for 35 percent of East Texas' agricultural income. The proposed Marvin Nichols reservoir will result in permanent removal of much of the region's renewable resources.

At International Paper, we operate according to the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program and believe that through proper stewardship we can keep our forests across the globe healthy for future generations. Our leadership role in the SFI program exemplifies our commitment to the continuous planting, growing and harvesting of trees while protecting wildlife, plants, soil, air and water quality.

Certainly the water needs throughout the state of Texas are indeed significant and must be addressed. However, the potential negative impacts to significant renewable resources are too great to warrant further consideration of Marvin Nichols as a primary water supply solution. I urge you and your council to fully explore other alternatives instead of proceeding with this harmful reservoir project. This reservoir isn't the best approach for Texas. And it certainly isn't the best for our community, our jobs and our economy.

Respectfully,



Kirt Cuevas, Texarkana Mill Manager