

DFW-NORTH TEXAS SHOULD FULLY UTILIZE EXISTING SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY BEFORE PLANNING TO BUILD MARVIN NICHOLS RESERVOIR

Everyone shares the goal of meeting the future water needs of Dallas, Fort Worth, and North Texas. We certainly hope that everyone shares the goal of meeting those needs by adopting the lowest-cost strategies for water supply with minimum impact to the environment and economy.

- Water providers in the DFW-North Texas area are planning a \$1.7 billion reservoir on the Sulphur River, Marvin Nichols Reservoir, which would flood 72,000 acres of productive farms and forests.
- Water experts have identified a number of less harmful, less costly alternatives to Marvin Nichols Reservoir to meet North Texas' projected future water needs.
- Per-person water usage in the North Texas area is one of the highest in the state. There is tremendous opportunity for North Texas to reduce its per-person municipal water usage to levels that other cities have achieved (including in North Texas) through water efficiency measures.
- North Texas has not fully utilized existing water sources. North Texas does not require new reservoirs to meet future (fifty years) water needs. Water needs could be filled instead by a combination of: (1) utilizing unsold water in existing reservoirs, (2) having the region's top 50 cities achieve the moderate water efficiency that 20 of the top 50 are already on schedule to achieve, and (3) increasing use of wastewater, as already envisioned in the regional water plan.
- A significant quantity of already impounded water is available to North Texas because it is as yet unsold in reservoirs such as Lake Texoma and Wright Patman Lake (near Texarkana). Water purveyors in the DFW-area are proceeding with the expensive Marvin Nichols Reservoir project without giving these already existing sources sufficient consideration.
- Construction and mitigation of Marvin Nichols Reservoir would require condemnation of 235,000 - 720,000 acres of private land. Thousands of Texans would be forced to sell the family land that provides their annual livelihoods.
- According to the principal economist for the Texas Forest Service, Marvin Nichols would cause a loss to the timber industry alone of 400 to 1300 jobs and \$87 million to \$275 million in annual revenues. Wildlife habitat in the Sulphur Basin would also be severely impacted by Marvin Nichols. More than 40 miles of river and 30,000 acres of increasingly rare bottomland hardwood forests would disappear forever.
- Charging North Texas ratepayers a minimum of \$1.7 billion, destroying valuable ranchland and wildlife land, and negatively impacting the economy of Northeast Texas are options that should not be considered as long as there are lower-cost, lower-impact water supply alternatives available to the Metroplex.
- The unprecedented level of opposition to Marvin Nichols Reservoir can be expected to cause permit difficulties, delays, escalating costs, and a high level of uncertainty for the project.

We urge elected officials, water planners, the Texas Water Development Board, and the Region C Water Planning Group to oppose Marvin Nichols Reservoir (and any studies of that or other new reservoirs) and to adopt an expressed goal of satisfying DFW-North Texas' projected water needs by fully utilizing water readily available in existing reservoirs before erecting costly and destructive new reservoir projects.