

TO: Honorable Members of Health, Environment and Human Services
Committee

Honorable Members of Finance and Audit Committee
FROM: Beth Johnson, on behalf of
Texas Committee on Natural Resources
Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club
National Wildlife Federation
The Sulphur River Oversight Society (SOS)
Friends United for a Safe Environment (FUSE)
Ward Timber Company
Panhandle Community (East Texas), Save Our Homes Project

DATE: May 24, 2004

On behalf of our statewide coalition whose organizations oppose Marvin Nichols Reservoir and support increased water use efficiency, we very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss options among existing impoundments that can help meet North Texas' projected water needs in addition to water use efficiency measures to be discussed at a later briefing.

Upcoming information pertinent to your water deliberations:

- Neighborhood Water Conservation Study, by Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., commissioned by Region C Water Planning Group
- study of alternatives to proposed Ralph Hall Lake (expected to include a review of cost figures and characteristics of many of the same options that we're discussing today), by Kellogg, Brown, and Root, Inc., commissioned by City of Flower Mound
- draft City of Dallas strategic conservation plan, by Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.
- **Population Projection Discrepancies Review** expected to be completed by citizens' groups. Preliminary review indicates:
 - potentially significant and frequent high-side current-planning-round assumptions by Region C planners in a significant number of large North Texas cities that appear to contradict zoning, these city's own planners' build-out projections, and/or physical geographic ground-truthing
 - this potentially inflated population projection, coupled with today's extremely high per-capita regional water use rates, produces a high estimate of at least 1.5 million people, or the equivalent of roughly half the volume of a new Marvin Nichols Reservoir.
 - Research and discussions are ongoing with various planning agencies.

We respectfully suggest that the joint committees consider including examination of the demand-line assumptions in a future briefing, due to its great importance in driving the timing and volume of the need for future water supplies.