



AUSTIN OFFICE:  
P. O. BOX 2910  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910  
512-463-0452  
FAX: 512-463-1447

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
2823 E. SOUTHCROSS  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78223  
210-532-8899  
FAX: 210-532-4964

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**ROBERT R. PUENTE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 119

March 1, 2005

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

Dear Mayor Miller:

It has come to my attention that you are considering a Draft Long Range Water Supply Plan that addresses future water supply issues, and I commend you for your thoughtful evaluation of all possible sources. As chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, I have been deeply involved in water efforts such as the bottom-up planning procedures set forth under SB 1, the Statewide Conservation Implementation Task Force, and many other efforts.

I am concerned that you are considering a plan and related studies that include new reservoirs when, as I understand, existing resources are available. First, as a matter of state policy, I believe that all efforts should be made to pursue conservation measures, especially in light of the work recently completed by the Conservation Implementation Task Force. This includes the creation of a best management practices guide to help municipal, industrial, and agricultural users reduce water consumption. I would encourage you to consider providing resources for additional conservation measures, rather than focusing on the study of new reservoirs that might not be needed.

In addition, other means of maximizing use of existing resources should be considered before undertaking proposed reservoirs such as Marvin Nichols and Fastrill that will cause 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. We must be sure that we are fully availing ourselves of these water resources that have already been developed before we consider pursuing additional ones.

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

Sincerely,



Robert R. Puente