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May 13, 2004

The Honorable Laura Miller  
Mayor  
City of Dallas  
Dallas City Hall  
1500 Marilla Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201-6390

Honorable Members  
Dallas City Council  
City of Dallas  
Dallas City Hall  
1500 Marilla Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201-6390

Dear Mayor Miller and Honorable Members of the Dallas City Council:

It has come to my attention that one or more Dallas City Council members have been told that I support a proposed Sulphur River Basin Watershed Study that includes Marvin Nichols Reservoir. Let me assure you that I do not support any study that could lead to furthering the cause of or otherwise recommending the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir or other new reservoirs within the Sulphur River Basin.

The project costs and environmental and economic impacts that would derive from pursuing the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir are well known, have been studied extensively, are delineated in the current state water plan, and need no further study. Decision-makers have more than sufficient information to render a judgment that building Marvin Nichols Reservoir is an unwise and unnecessary choice. The same is true for other proposed reservoirs in this basin. I am not interested in obtaining federal funding for further studies of these options and would oppose such funding if such a proposal were brought to me.

As I stated to you in previous communications, I welcome studies or other activities to optimize usage of water from existing reservoirs (such as Lakes Wright Patman and Jim Chapman in the water planning region I represent). I would certainly hope that Region C would simultaneously pursue optimizing existing resources within its own region, particularly water from Lake Texoma.

I commend the efforts that two of your council committees have undertaken to explore fully the various options for meeting your needs, and I trust that my staff's research delineating the availability of more than half a million acre-feet of unused water from existing reservoirs will be helpful.

Letter to Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council  
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As I have stated, it would be my pleasure to assist in any way to increase the City's access to existing water resources. I would be happy to call on my colleagues in Congress and in state and city government, to work with the appropriate agencies and authorities, and to cooperate with them and with interested constituencies in exploring the necessary studies, authorizations, and agreements necessary to enable Dallas to satisfy its water needs from existing reservoirs within Region C or elsewhere.

I would appreciate an opportunity to work with you toward a mutually satisfying and beneficial solution to ensure that the Metroplex has a readily available, affordable, and reliable water supply.

With warmest regards, I am

Yours truly,



Max A. Sandlin  
Member of Congress

cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ft. Worth District  
Sulphur River Basin Authority, c/o Executive Director Mike Burke  
Texas Water Development Board, c/o Executive Director Kevin Ward