



STATE OF TEXAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARC VEASEY
MEMBER

March 7, 2005

The Honorable Lois Finkelman, Chair
Committee on Health, Environment and Human Services
The Honorable Members of the Dallas City Council
1500 Marilla Street, Room 5EN
Dallas, Texas
75201-6390

Dear Chairwoman Finkelman and Members of the Council:

It has come to my attention that on March 9 you will be voting on Dallas' Long Range Water Supply Plan to address future water supply issues. I commend you for your thoughtful evaluation of all possible sources.

I am concerned that you are considering a plan and related studies that include new reservoirs when I have been informed that existing resources available to you appear to be far from fully utilized. It is my understanding that reservoirs such as Marvin Nichols and Fastrill would inundate approximately 100,000 acres in East Texas and cause the sale of approximately 300,000 acres of land from many Texans. The environmental impacts, displacement of landowners, and costs of construction have already been incurred on reservoirs constructed in the past. Availing ourselves of the water resources from existing resources from existing reservoirs and implementing conservation and water recycling avoids the impacts that accrue when pursuing new projects.

I am told that the Region C Water Planning Group is currently studying over 1.5 million acre-feet per year of water from existing sources, including Lake Texoma "already authorized," Lake Texoma "not yet authorized," Lake Wright Patman, and a wide variety of other sources, which could be used to meet the gap between current supply and the region's water demands projected for 2060. Due to the tremendous loss of high-value bottomland hardwood ecosystems and the potential harm to individuals, agriculture and the local economy when some new reservoirs are built, I feel that new reservoirs should be considered when existing resources are not available.

After listening to many concerns which have been shared with me, I urge that you meet your needs by using existing developed water resources rather than pursuing new reservoirs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Veasey".

Marc Veasey
State Representative
District 95

DISTRICT 95