

**From:** Elma Holden <elmaholden@juno.com>  
**To:** <bill.roberts@twdb.state.tx.us>  
**Date:** 9/27/2006 4:13:40 PM  
**Subject:** water

Dear Sir:

I am very concerned about plans for water use in Texas. I remember driving out to West Texas many years ago and stopping at an old hotel that had been turned into a museum. The hotel had been built on that site because there was a spring there that had never been known to go dry. When wells were drilled for agricultural irrigation nearby it did go dry.

I have read about how the Oglala aquifer is being taken down with little hope of replenishment and how the Rio Grande doesn't flow all the way to the Gulf at times.

I've also read how channeling the Mississippi River at New Orleans has caused erosion of the wetlands that served as a protection from hurricanes. We all know what happened in Katrina. On the west coast dams have caused streams to be impassable for salmon that must swim upstream to mate. In Florida they have been busy undoing the channelizing that the government imposed years ago.

We need to consider carefully any changes in water use in Texas. I am especially concerned about companies withdrawing groundwater in order to bottle and sell it.

Sincerely,

Elma D. Holden