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To: <bill.roberts@twdb.state.tx.us>
Date: 10/2/2006 4:20:37 PM
Subject: Water Plan/Fastrill dam

Mr. Bill Roberts

Texas Water Development Board

PO Box 13231

Austin, TX 78711-3231

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I and many others who live in the Lufkin area worked very hard in support of the Neches River Wildlife Refuge. We see the refuge as our northern gateway for our Neches River Corridor which follows the river to the gulf, feeding our unique river bottom as well as the Big Thicket, along the way. The Neches River Basin is the heart of East Texas, central to our cultural and natural history, and to our developing tourist economy. We are very excited about our future, not only in preserving our river corridor but also in celebrating and preserving our unique East Texas culture which is tied to the future of the river.

Please remove the Fastrill Reservoir project from the state water plans. All studies support the fact that it is not needed. Dallas, the highest per capita user of water in the state, will want to conserve in the future and mitigate any need for another reservoir. The proposal for Fastrill reservoir is driven more by developers and construction companies than by the need for water for Dallas.

To destroy one of the great remaining hardwood forests that the Neches River Wildflower Refuge is designed to preserve would be a tragic event in our state where most of our citizens care passionately for the land, its plant and animal life.

It would be one of the great ironies if a few in Texas were able to dictate water policies that destroy our East Texas ecosystem, just at the time when we need most to preserve it for a new kind of economy based on sustaining the clean air and underground water which we must have to live here and which will give citizens of our great cities, Dallas and Houston, a refuge in all ways of much more value than a

pitiful lake.

This is important work that you are doing. Our future here in East Texas depends on these decisions. We need your support.

Thank you very much.

Ellen Temple

Lufkin, TX