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To: <bill.roberts@twdb.state.tx.us>
Date: 10/5/2006 8:39:52 AM
Subject: 2007 State Water Plan

Members of the Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, TX 78711-3231

Dear Members of the Texas Water Development Board,

Five years to work on state plan and the best you can come up with is this? Why does the TDWB continue to ignore the needs of rural Texans, wildlife, marine life, and the health of Texas rivers, bay, and estuaries when assessing Texas' water future? Until leadership looks at the whole, rather than just the demands of municipal water systems and the unaccountable actions of river authorities, there is no plan. Where are the conservation measures?

Rivers are more than sewer drainages, groundwater is more than just a source of profit for water marketers. The natural world and water in its natural state may lack lobbyists to buy y'all off, but if you continue to fail to give them a place at the bargaining table, resistance to your so-called "plan" will not go away but intensify.

Joe Nick Patoski 706 Deer Run Wimberley, TX 78676

The Plan falls short of its charge as stated in the first paragraph of chapter one. It doesn't provide for aggressive water conservation, it doesn't factor in savings from drought management, it doesn't protect our agricultural and natural resources, and it doesn't meet water needs at a reasonable cost.

As the blueprint for how to meet water needs for the next 50 years, the Plan should aggressively lead the way in water conservation--typically the least expensive and least environmentally damaging supply. The Plan still falls far short of realizing anywhere near the full potential of this water supply strategy, and therefore relies too heavily on reservoirs and other new projects.

This continued reliance on more infrastructure before water conservation has been fully exploited puts an unjustifiable strain on our natural resources and pocketbooks, and fails to meet the objectives of the water planning process.

I am also opposed to your recommendation to the Legislature to designate a large number of unique reservoir sites. The implications of reservoir construction at those sites and to property owners in the areas proposed have not been adequately

considered.

It is astonishing that the Plan doesn't even calculate the water savings nor the cost savings possible by using drought management measures. Instead, the Plan calls for building more reservoirs and other projects that would only be needed to supply water for non-essential uses during a severe drought. This failure to employ drought management results in unacceptable costs, damage to our natural heritage, and a Plan that does not meet the statutory criteria for the water planning process.

The water development projects in the Plan should only be the very best options to meet our water needs. Instead, the \$31 billion dollar plan is an exhaustive list of projects, resulting in large-scale oversupply of water. For some regions, the recommended projects would result in more than double or triple the amount of water that is needed. We simply can't afford this "never enough" approach. The financial cost is too high, as are the costs to the economic activities that rely on healthy aquifers, rivers, and bays. In addition, this costly over-planning is a failure to meet the legislative directives for the planning process.

As you finalize the 2007 Plan, I urge you to revisit the vision of water planning, as well as the consequences of planning in a way that drains our state of its finances and natural heritage. We can provide for the water needs of our growing population in a fiscally responsible way while also protecting the environment, but to do so, we must plan in a more conservative and deliberate fashion. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Joe Nick Patoski
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