



**Remarks on the State Water Plan 2007, Arlington Texas,
September 20, 2006**

My name is Bonnie Bowman. I am the president for the Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness[TCEA] TCEA is a coalition of environmental groups and individuals in Tarrant County, including the Sierra Club of Greater Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Audubon Society, and the Arlington Conservation Council. Our goal is to facilitate our ability to work together when there are issues that are important to all of us.

I want to thank everyone who worked on this plan, volunteers and staff. It contains a lot of information and more technical data than most average citizens can digest. It seems also to have been done under conditions where there were unresolved policy issues and other interim task forces that are yet to report. This is a huge task. Thank you also for giving all of us a chance to comment on the document.

Firstly, we offer support for the concept that the state should be a financial contributor to the success of the plan. We cannot comment on the amount, but we do understand that communities have various abilities to raise the revenue to make the improvements that will be required on a time line that is necessary. The essential role of water in all our lives means we must be able to smooth out potentially harmful delays.

The report stresses the vital role of reservoirs in the plan. We are not convinced. We fail to understand why the average rate used to compute our water usage was about 130% of the target for the rest of the state. The region C usage with conservation measures was at 197 gal/day whereas the state target is 140 gal/day. This number is especially critical since the plan proposes to meet our higher "need" from other basins where residents will be asked to use less.

We believe that Region C can be as conservation minded as anywhere else. Did the Region C Planning Group believe that Region C residents and business cannot live without golf course style yards? Or, does the calculation include various industrial uses that purchase municipal water? In Tarrant County, much water is used by the gas well drilling industry. Do they need to use fresh water? Did the Region C Planning Group consult any of the major industrial users to determine if the untapped reservoirs of brackish water could be used for at least some of the industrial uses while saving the surface and fresh water sources for human and environmental consumption?

We are concerned with the report that several of the major reservoirs have now been downgraded to minor reservoirs due to sedimentation. What level of sedimentation control is implemented at current reservoirs, and what level is planned for those in the