

Sept. 20, 2006

Texas Water Development Board
Public Hearing on State Water Plan
Duncan Center, Vandergriff Park
Arlington, TX

Sirs:

I am a native Texan and have been an active participant in local and state water, drainage, air and park issues since the 1970's when I lived in Dallas.

I am still advocating the same things that I stood for then. That is conservation of those resources required for reasonable living within a society without taking away from others.

I moved to Dallas in 1949, the Trinity River spring flood year made memorable at Fort Worth's Montgomery Ward's Bldg. My previous homes, having been in Abilene and El Paso, I thought Dallas was the greenest place that I had ever seen. It was almost oppressive.

It's OK for a place to be super green in a year when nature dumps buckets, but that is not the norm. We have no right to gauge our landscaping on the peak year of rainfall. We need to plan for the norm and especially now in a time of climactic uncertainty it is prudent to plan for much less than the normal rainfall.

It makes no sense that the per capita consumption of water in North Texas is as much more than the statewide average as it is. Nor does it make any sense that the projection for 2060 is for us to still be using the 197 gallons per person per day that we use now. We need to get that number down to at least 140 before we go taking other people's livelihood away from them and mucking up the environment many miles away so that we can be inefficient.

Also with respect to the plan, Fastrill Reservoir must be removed. I remember when I first learned about the critical habitat in that area from Catherine Perrine 10 or 15 years ago. Planners knew then that it would be a travesty to build that reservoir. Today it is even more so as such locations become scarcer and scarcer. Migratory bird populations are having their habitat stripped out from under them north and south. If it's not cell towers that they collide with it's finding previous bottomland forests gone. Vagaries of climate give them enough disasters to cope with, why must we provide more?

And finally, will someone in the planning and building communities, please recognize that we are not duty bound to continue providing resources for growth. If we don't readily and reasonably have the water, decent air, electricity, etc. for unbridled growth, we can instead develop a sustainable economy that doesn't keep robbing Peter to pay Paul. We continue to chew up more land and leave other developed land devastated or greatly underused

Thank you for holding this meeting. I was unable to attend most Region 3 and 4 meetings.

Sincerely,

Julia Burgen

Julia Burgen 2312 Winewood Lane, Arlington, TX 76013.
Past member Arlington City Council, 1997 - 2003

My yard is Smart Scape certified.