



State Representative Mike Villarreal
Texas House of Representatives

October 06, 2006

Mr. Bill Roberts
Texas Water Development Board
P. O. Box 13231
Austin, TX 78711-3231

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I'm writing to provide input on the Draft 2007 State Water Plan. A number of my constituents have written to me expressing concern that this plan falls short in terms of water conservation and protecting our natural resources. At their urging, I have reviewed the plan and want to share a few key concerns with you:

- The plan is overly reliant on reservoirs and infrastructure projects. This \$31 billion plan includes a number of large-scale infrastructure projects to increase the water supply. One of the objectives of the water planning process is to ensure that conservation efforts are being fully pursued to avoid further strain on our natural and financial resources.
- The plan does not estimate potential financial and water savings that could be realized through drought management measures. Additionally, the plan does not take into account drought contingency plans that the Legislature has required major water rights holders to submit, which is likely to lead to an overestimation of water needs in a drought situation.
- While some regional plans include a commitment to groundwater sustainability, there are a number of regions that have not incorporated this as a goal. The depletion of groundwater resources will have long-term adverse effects on our state's agricultural and natural resources.

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I recognize the tremendous effort that the Texas Water Development Board and the regional planning groups have put into producing this state plan. I urge you take my concerns and those of my constituents into consideration in order to ensure that the 2007 State Water Plan meets the legislative directives for the water planning process. The plan must provide us with a more forward looking roadmap for conservation, efficiency and innovation in water management that allows us to meet our state water's needs at a reasonable cost.

If I can be a resource as you seek legislative support for policy recommendations that support water and environmental conservation, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael U. Villarreal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael U. Villarreal

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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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