

SIGNATURES

NAME

ADDRESS/COUNTY

SIGNATURES

BILL LAYNE	206 W. OAK (GAUSE) MILAM	Bill Layne
Darrell Johnson	505 S. FIRST MILAM TX	(Mary) Darrell Johnson
Phyllis Shuffield	1542 CR 238 CAMERON TX	Phyllis Shuffield
Adam Price	1005 E. GILLS AVE CAMERON TX	Adam Price
John Anderle	1101 E 19 th CAMERON	John Anderle
RICHARD KREMER	1054 CR 250 CAMERON TX	Richard Kremer
ROBERT SCHILLER	1400 N. JACKSON CAMERON	Robert Schiller
MONICA M SCHILLER	1400 N. JACKSON CAMERON TX	Monica M Schiller
Colby Trevino	111 VASSAR CR BRAZOS TX	Colby Trevino
Case Rodriguez	314 Hickory St Rockport, TX	Case Rodriguez
Alan C. Love	502 E. 12 th ST	Alan C. Love
Charles R. Earney	1222 CR 250	Charles Earney
J. M. Stewart	323 CR 144	J. M. Stewart
Theresa Breeden	808 E. 12 th AVE. BELTON TX (Bell)	Theresa Breeden
Robert Morris	2304 W. 11 th CAMERON TX	Robert Morris
Mark S. Brantley	4393 FM 3242 CAMERON TX	Mark S. Brantley
Sherri Brantley	" "	S. Brantley
Curtis Lacke	184 CR 247 CAMERON	Curtis Lacke
Chris Wilson	675 Cox Hollow ROAD GAUSE TX	Chris Wilson
Franki Crowder	" "	Franki Crowder
Thomas W. Wilgots	177 CR 140 CAMERON TX	Thomas W. Wilgots

Stop the Government Takeover of our Land and Homes!

Oppose the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir!

The Brazos G Water Planning Group, appointed by the Texas Water Development Board, is attempting to implement a plan to divert water from the Little River or Brazos River and construct an "Off-Channel Reservoir" that would flood over 4,300 acres of private land in the area between Texas Highway 79 near Milano and FM 2095 near Gause in Milam County, Texas.

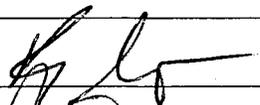
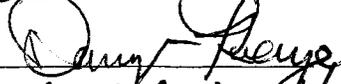
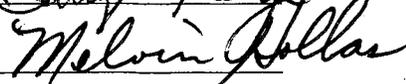
This devastating action would take historical land tied to the El Camino Real National Trail, impact agriculture, remove wildlife, and take away our precious natural resources. Farms and ranches that have been owned and operated by Milam County families for generations would be inundated! It would also flood the site of the Pin Oak Cemetery, which dates to the 19th Century and has been designated a Historic Cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission.

Although all the environmental issues are not known at the present, there is potential for more acquisition and management of additional land due to wildlife habitat mitigation as noted in 4.7-24 of the Initially Prepared 2016 Brazos G Regional Water Plan. In other words, more land could be taken in the area to relocate wildlife whose habitat will be covered with water. Please get informed, get involved, and take action! Send questions to stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com.

For more information search for: Initially Prepared 2016 Brazos G Regional Water Plan

We, the undersigned citizens of Milam and surrounding counties, declare our support for private property rights and our opposition to the Brazos G Water Planning Group's attempt to seize private property in our counties.

SIGNATURES

NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
RANDY DENIO	782 CR 226 MILAM	
JIM DENIO	850 HWY 77 N. MILAM	
MAURICE GOZAN	2800 N. TRAVIS	
JOE GOZAN	1703 10 JUNE	
Dany Dreyer	1704 Sunset Circle	
Melvin Hollas	1221 W Fm 485 ^{Cameron} Milam	

SIGNATURES

NAME

ADDRESS/COUNTY

SIGNATURES

GENE GOEKE CAMERON 1706 GOLF LINKS - MILAM *Gene Goeke*

COLE YORKUM MILAM TEX 5589 EAST 79 *Bob Cole*

R.J. Willingham PO BOX 24 MILAM 76556 *R.J. Willingham*

Matthew Betros 473 W 224 CAMERON, TX 76520 *Matthew Betros*

JAMES WILLIS 461 Oak Park Four 76567 *James Willis*

Ronnie Mancillas III 303 Crockett st. 76567 *Ronnie Mancillas III*

Avely Stum 3023 W F 485

Kenneth A Andrews 286 CR 263 LOOP CAMERON, TX 76520 *Kenneth A Andrews*

RUDY ARACHAVI 4850 TEMPLE FM 3117 *Rudy Arachavi*

Edwin J. Moore 3359 West H. D. 38 CAMERON, TEX 76520 *Edwin J. Moore*

Ananda Childs 219 FM 1444 Burlington, Tx. 76517

Darienne Wright 306 W Ave Dst. Rosebud Tx, 76570

Cam Kay 131 Falls st. Marlin TX 76661

Paul H. Heitz Paul H. Heitz 11675 N FM 486 Rockdale Tx 76567

Sylvia Butler 6500 Moody Rd. Moody TX 76555

Bobby Butler " " " "

Mills County Farm Bureau

Jim Armstrong 122 W 4th Heorm Robertson *Jim Armstrong*

Travis Meyer 8643 Paddy Hamitts Bell *Travis Meyer*

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NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
<i>John</i>	<i>140 cr 145 / Bonleson</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Carla</i>	<i>Loop 348 Milam</i>	<i>Carla Kennedy</i>
<i>Ken Rhodes</i>	<i>1445 22 Hills Road - Milam</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Carla Rhodes</i>	<i>il il</i>	<i>Carla Rhodes</i>

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NAME ADDRESS/COUNTY SIGNATURES

<i>Alan Cowap</i>	<i>1521 Nallas, Milam Co</i>	
<i>Ferris O Bigell</i>	<i>728 CR 240 milam Co</i>	
<i>Emily Elen</i>	<i>371 cr 228 c Milam Co</i>	
<i>Millard Morandy</i>	<i>MILAM Co</i>	
<i>Gouie Mitchan</i>	<i>Milam County</i>	
<i>Raven McDermott</i>	<i>371 CR 228C milam county</i>	<i>Raven McDermott</i>

(6)

STOP LITTLE RIVER OFF CHANNEL RESERVOIR

PRINTED NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Loren Warnick	1067 CR 228 Cameron, TX	Loren Warnick
Polly Hawk	1409 County Club Dr 76520	Polly Hawk
Carol DeLong	2652 E FM 485 Cameron TX 76520	Carol DeLong
James Vogelsang	103 CR 136 A Burlington TX 76519	James Vogelsang
FRANK KLECKA	2103 N. Austin CAMERON, TX 76520	Frank Klecka
Beaver Shuffield	431 CR 230 Cameron TX	Beaver Shuffield
Sheryl Overall	Box 393 Milano	Sheryl Overall
John Overall	" "	John Overall
Betty McDonald	1009 E 7th Cameron TX	Betty McDonald
LESLIE HORWZ	1903 CR 104 Buckholts TX	Leslie Horwz
Katie Karl	1950 CR 330 Milano TX	Katie Karl
Derrick Rozicka	606 Buckholts TX	Derrick Rozicka
Roderick Holcombe	1000 N. Fanning CAMERON	Roderick Holcombe
Elizabeth Hewitt	PO Box 874 Cameron	Elizabeth Hewitt
XXXXXXXXXX		
JEDDY MAYER	883 CR 137	Jeddy Mayer
Douglas Buck	2702 N. Polk Ave Cameron, TX	Douglas Buck
Ryan Karl	1968 CR 330 Milano, TX 76526	Ryan Karl
Darrel Karl	1950 CR 330 Milano, TX 76526	Darrel Karl
Gary Randall	581 Cr 209A Buckholts TX	Gary Randall
HOWARD KREUER	1654 CR 250 CAMERON TX	Howard Kreuer
COOY ALLISON	1479 CR 228 Cameron	Cooy Allison
Jerry D. Goshie	707 East Sixth St Cameron	Jerry D. Goshie
Beverly Emerson	122 CR 218 Cameron	Beverly Emerson
Scott Allen	2803 Foa Yang Dr Temple, TX 76504	Scott Allen
Janet Gloget	2588 CR 258 Cameron, Texas	Janet Gloget
KRIS MUECK	648 CR 220 Cameron TX	Kris Mueck

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NAME

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RUSTY ABBOTT

4251 FM 3310 S HENDERSON COUNTY



ANNA BOENDE

979-953-8325

GAUSE

WIP TADOL

979-299-5757

5055 CR 353 GAUSE

ANGELA MURKIN

979-279-2129

DAVID HAZEN

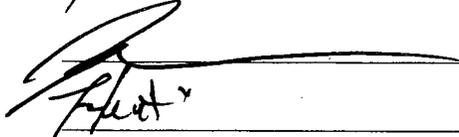
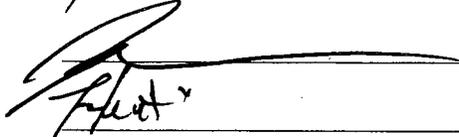
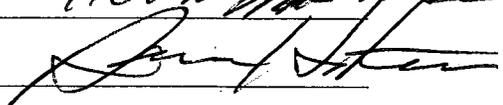
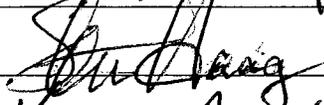
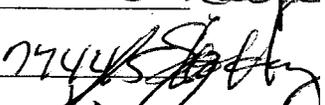
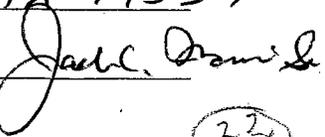
R.M. [Signature]

SIGNATURES

NAME

ADDRESS/COUNTY

SIGNATURES

M. Smith	221 N. Arendell / Milam County	
Mat Logan	235 Garrettsville St / Harris County	
Pine Parks	922 Deer Hill Began TX	
	5424 CR 358 Caldwell	
	5424 CR 358 Caldwell	
Lee Houser	705 East Garrett Colvert TX	
Danell M. Ma	2189 CA 347 LP, Gause, TX	
Cindy McManus	2189 CR 347 LP, Gause, TX	
martha Ruddick	979-280-0232 Gause TX	
Lou Ann Rees	979-280-0232 Gause-TX	
Malvin Colland	- Gause TX	
Kathy Jones	PO Box 13 Gause, TX 77857	
Supine Juyiso	7995 prospect hr 7802 Gause Juyiso	
Quin Ren	279-2506 Gause TX	
Walter Matthews	820-2399 Heard TX	
Danny Hitchcock	5954080 	
Ellen Mayer	7469 CR 333 Burtson Ellen Mayer	
	2146 16th Hempstead TX 77445 	
WILLIAM ALMOND	221 OLIVE MILAM Gause, TX. 77857 	
Glen Myer	- Milam TX	
Dawn Park	11995 FM 2095 Gause TX 77857	
JACK C. MARINO SR	1800 22 HILLS RD GAUSE, TX 77857 	

SIGNATURES

NAME

ADDRESS/COUNTY

SIGNATURE

HOMER LEE Mowdy 7896 FM 2085 CAMERON TX.

Frances Jovent 5253 S. HY. 77 CAMERON TX. 76520

Norma Chapen 688 Cold 239 (Cameron, Tex 76520

MAGDALENO CAMCINO ERL RL

ERNEST PACHEN GAUSE TX

Elton Frost Jr. 62 Elm Willow Ct. Spring TX

[Signature]

Kathy Frost 62 Elm Willow Ct. Spring TX

[Signature]

Luby Woodard P.O. Box 181

[Signature]

Fossie A. Jabeo P.O. Box 861 Rockdale, Tex

Truman E. Ditto P.O. Box 313 GAUSE, TX. 77857 Truman E. Ditto

B. Ferson Box 92 GAUSE TX *[Signature]*

RAY THOMPSON 5203 CR 140 Caldwell TX

JOEL CAMPBELL 8234 #79 MILANO TX. *[Signature]*

William Seeke 607 CR 300 Rockdale TX

Ronald R. Pate 109 W 210 Newry TX

Paul William 1120 WEST Deane Texas *[Signature]*

Paul E. Little ET 358

Leland Baker

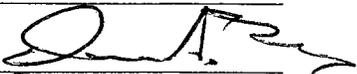
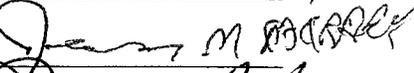
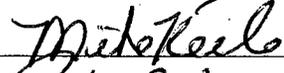
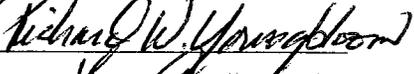
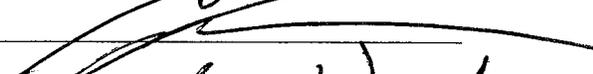
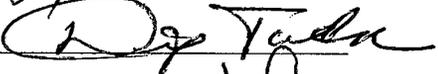
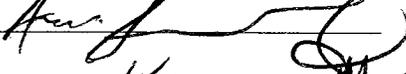
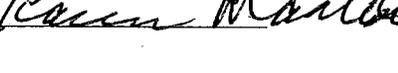
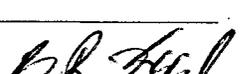
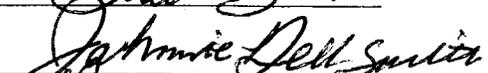
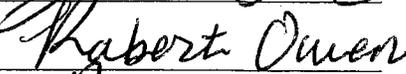
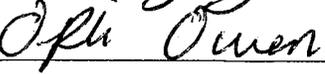
Bonnie Rollings 439 CR 350A Gause Bonnie Rollings *[Signature]*

Mae Grandchamp 139 CR 350A Gause Mae Grandchamp

Brianna Summerlin 531 CR 350A Gause Brianna Summerlin

Callaway, Jon 5325 Stonewood Ct. *[Signature]*

SIGNATURES

NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
DARWIN MCCRARY	252 CACTUS WREN NB TX 78130	
JESSICA MCCRARY	252 Cactus Wren NB TX	
Donny C	274 CR 3041	
Mike Keele	3416 N. Hwy. 77	
Brian: Saw Youngblood	12440 CR 2000 Hix	
Luz Almond	221 OLIVEST (HIX)	
Jason Barta	5424 CR 358	
LEON Woods	Gause TX	
Dip Toan	Gause TX	
Jimmy Holmes	Barlett TX	
Edward Stewart	Gause TX	
ARTHUR HERNANDEZ	HEARNE TX	
ARTHUR HERNANDEZ SR	HEARNE TX	
Raven Mardalek	Tracy Jg/Bell	
B.K. Hill	Camargo TX	
Brenda Wall	Gause	
Dollie Scanlin	Gause TX.	
Johnnie Dell Smith	Gause TX.	
Robert Owen	Gause TX.	
Kandy Jones	Gause TX.	
Opie Owen	Gause TX.	

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Albert Ruddick	Gause TX.	Albert Ruddick
Billy Bennett	Gause TX.	Billy Bennett
Lou Ann Bennett	Gause TX.	Lou Ann Bennett
Michelle Reese	Gause TX.	Michelle Reese
Elmer May Reese	Gause TX.	Elmer May Reese
Teresa Johnson	Gause TX.	Teresa Johnson
Rufus Jackson Reese	Gause TX.	Rufus Jackson Reese
Rosie Henry Reese	Gause TX.	Rosie Henry Reese
MARTIN Joseph Elman	Rockdale,	Martin Joseph Elman
Blake Hobbs	Gause TX	Blake Hobbs
ROBERT GASTON	GAUSE, TX	R. H. Gaston
Irmalie Goode	Gause TX	Irmalie Goode
J. T. Thompson	MILANO TX	J. T. Thompson
Jesse Ruiz	Gause TX	Jesse Ruiz
Harold Baker	3464 FM 2095	Harold Baker
Cecil Wilson	8317 CR 528	Burleson TX.
Dave Wilson	CR 119	Centerville TX
Mark Wilson	PO. Box 433 Culvert TX	Mark Wilson
Antonio Z. Flores	Hearne TX	Antonio Z. Flores
Rosa Henry	Gause TX	Rosa Henry
Rufus Reese	Gause TX	Rufus Reese
Xavier Flores	Gause TX	Xavier Flores

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Sarah Flores	Gause TX	Sarah Flores
Amber Reese	Gause TX	Amber Reese
Jacoby Reese	Gause TX	Jacoby Reese
John L. Paniagua	Milano TX	John Paniagua
Gloria Paniagua	Milano, TX	Gloria Paniagua
Jason Paniagua	Milano TX	Jason Paniagua
John Paniagua, Jr.	Milano, TX	John Paniagua, Jr.
Christopher Linkem	Gause TX	Chris Linkem
Melinda Linkem	Gause TX	Melinda Linkem
Karen Linkem	Gause TX	Karen Linkem
Jan Willard	Gause, Texas	Jan Willard
Craig Usborn	HARRIS TX	Craig Usborn
CRAIG USBORN	HARRIS TX	Craig Usborn
Ed Laughter	Milano	Ed Laughter
Mary Ann Russell	Milano/Gause	M Russell
Kenny Roper		
Roy Wells Jr	Gause TX	
Reynold Sheppard	Gause TX	
Melanie Sheppard	Gause TX	
Daniel Ditto	Gause TX	
Michelle Tibbitts	Milano TX	Michelle Tibbitts
Jeff Morgan Jeff Morgan	Cameron TX	Jeff Morgan

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R.L. Shopen 688 Col. Rd 239

Ameron, TX 77520

Clint Rollings 439 CR 350A Gause TX

Shelley Shockley 395 CR 353 Gause, TX 77857

James Shockley " " " " " "

Libby Shockley " " " " " "

Leslie Shockley " " " " " "

Balton Shockley " " " " " "

Olas Ruddick

Nilda Ruddick

Lawn Ditto 7118 CR 353 Gause, TX 77857

Rebecca Payne PO BOX 316 Gause, TX 77857

Jordan Millar " " " " " "

Joshua Millar " " " " " "

Clint Dollahan " " " " " "

Jim Millar " " " " " "

Spillie Millar " " " " " "

Grady Byrd Bishop 989 CR 353 Gause TX 77857 Milan

Nathan Bishop " " Milan

Jacey + Lisa Dixon 1117 22 Hills Rd Gause TX 77857

Candy Boehle 308 Helcombe Dr. Lexington TX 78947

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Walter Ray Ditto	P.O. Box 265 Gause TX Milam	WRD
Mr. Mrs. Melvin Anna Colard		
Danny Hitchcock	7469 CR 333 Caldwell	Danny Hitchcock
Delores Jernett	422 CR 350A Gause	Delores Jernett
	251 CR C35	
LeFord Stanford	PO Box 273 Gause	LeFord Stanford
Cindy Stanford	PO Box 273 Gause	LeF Cindy Stanford
Larry Bluhm	7 S Thomas Walker Lake Rd	Larry Bluhm
Frank Herrera	2091 CR-259 Cameron TX	Frank Herrera
Jerry	The Woodlands	Jerry
Amy Birchfield	1423 ACR 469 Palestine TX	Amy Birchfield
Olivia Tompkins	1423 ACR 469 Palestine TX	Olivia Tompkins
BRANDON STANISLAW	6404 CR. 264 GAUSE TX	Brandon Stanislaw
KESEY STANISLAW	6404 CR. 264 GAUSE TX	Kesey Stanislaw
Sinda Brown	1169 CR 348 GAUSE TX	Sinda Brown
Jerry Brown	1169 CR 348 LP Gause, TX	Jerry Brown
L. C. Walker	204 Calhoun Road TX	L. C. Walker
Mark Russell	1780 CR 347 LP Gause, TX	Mark Russell
Brenda Vandell	PO Box 15 Christman TX	Brenda Vandell
John N. Londa Green	1250 SALEM RD. BRENNHAM	John N. Green
Michael Long	13284 FM 2095 Gause	Michael Long
Jack Heath	10639 HEATH LN. Bryan	Jack Heath

CAMERON TIRE ~~42~~ 41

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Alan Harvey	P.O. Box 1213 Cameron	Alan Harvey
Kevin Humphrey	1201 Burkett Cr. Cruda, Cameron	Kevin Humphrey
Don Venzel	435 CR 144 Buckhorn	Don Venzel
Eric Perez	606 E 11 th Cameron	Eric Perez
Be Jones	1604 Murray Rockdale	Be Jones
Nathan Drake	1222 ST HWY 320 COTT	Nathan Drake

SIGNATURES

NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
Chris Daskoicil		
Chris Daskoicil	633 W. Main St Rockdale Gp	Chris Daskoicil
Navis Spivey		Navis Spivey
Clifford Madson	219 FM 1444 B. of Ig. Co. TX	Clifford Madson
Recky Mitchell	Po Box 361 Rosebud TX 76570	Recky Mitchell
Mason Marburger		Mason Marburger
Byron Wise	P.O. Box 249 Gause, CR 348-2382	Byron Wise
Scott Elliott	Milam	Scott Elliott
Bobby Elliott	Rockdale	Bobby Elliott
James R. Parker Sr.	414 CR 228C Cameron TX.	James R. Parker Sr.
Larry Stephens	462 CR 446 A Rockdale	Larry Stephens
Susan Cunningham	184 CR 234 Loop Cameron	Susan Cunningham
TERRY CUNNINGHAM	184 CR 234 Loop Cameron	Terry Cunningham
Mona Simacek	1450 CR 218 Cameron	Mona Simacek
DE LAD EZEQUIEL	EAST HOWING CAMERON	Ezequiel Salas
Dennis Wallace	9290 E US Hwy 74 Milano	Dennis Wallace
Ted Martin	5116 Waterford Dr. Temple 76502	Ted Martin
FRANC DENIO	782 CR 226 Cameron, TX 76520	Franc Denio
JAMES ANDERLE	902 E 18 th Cameron TX 76520	James Anderle
Carl Foster	284 CR 202A	Carl Foster
Phil DeRoh	706 East 16 th Cameron TX 76520	Phil DeRoh
Kim Burbr	1705 Harding Cameron TX	Kim Burbr

SIGNATURES

NAME

ADDRESS/COUNTY

SIGNATURES

Jeanne Schmick	3723 S Hwy 77 - Milam	Jeanne Schmick
Greg Schmick	3723 S Hwy 77	Greg Schmick
Dodie Wilkins	3735 S Hwy 77	Dodie Wilkins
Maria E. Villalobos	537 Foster Road	Maria Villalobos
Edward F. O'Connell	CR 338 Milano	Edward F. O'Connell
Judd Rainey	205 CR 338 Milano	Judd Rainey
Stan Fisher	3310 CR 457	Stan Fisher
Brian Harris	1407 N Travis	Brian Harris
Quyn Harris	Cameron, TX 76520	Quyn Harris
Jackleene Montoya	7008 CR 249 ^{cameron}	Jackleene Montoya
Kenneth Lara	1204 East 15th Cameron	Kenneth Lara
W.K. Melton	129 CR 238 CAMERON	W.K. Melton
Kolette Morgan	602 E 10 Cameron	Kolette Morgan
Stanley Morgan	CAMERON	Stanley Morgan

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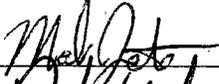
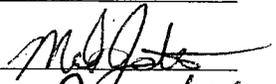
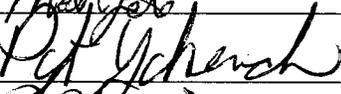
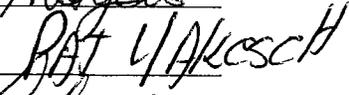
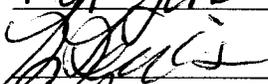
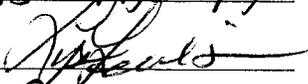
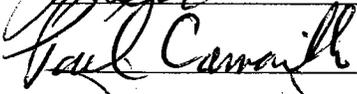
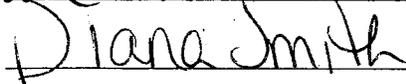
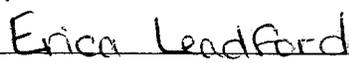
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SIGNATURES

NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
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	Milam	
	Milano 175 CR 338	
	Cameron	
	Cameron	
	Caldwell Caldwell TX	
	Cameron / Milam	

SIGNATURES

NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
Patti Kieffer	14480 Knobs Hill ^{Rosers,} Tx	Patti Kieffer
Jimm C. Richardson	2850 CR 412 Rockdale, Tx	Jimm C. Richardson
Steve Graham	1039 P.P. 258	
Ronald Brown	2539 CR 139 Cameron	
Joe Roden	1074 CR 206 Cameron	Joe Roden
Donna Marie	12180 Fm 2410 Belton	Donna Marie
Robert H. Glenn	2818 N. Hwy 36, Cameron	Robert H. Glenn
Jared Brock	588 CR 214 Cameron	Jared Brock
Derrick Holt	641 CR 265 S Cameron	Derrick Holt
Blair Dornier	433 CR 140 Cameron TX	Blair Dornier
Richard Froock	913 CR 237 CAMERON TX	Richard Froock
Earl Collett	1629 CR 241 Cameron TX	Earl Collett
John Terry	20239 NFM 486 - Cameron TX	John Terry
Victor C. Moss	504 E 9th Cameron TX	Victor C. Moss
JOHN C. WALLACE	P.O. Box 208 Cameron TX	John C. Wallace
Leon E. Rieger	2300 W. Gillis Cameron, TX	Leon E. Rieger
Roy E. Haines	314 FM 1600 Cameron TX	Roy E. Haines
Renae Dart	300 PR 6040, 3351 FM 2095 Cameron TX	Renae Dart
Amanda Duncan	2240 E FM 485, Cameron, TX	Amanda Duncan
Eric M. Strom	582 CR, 214 CAMERON TX.	Eric M. Strom
A. L. Sunders	178 CR 265 Cameron TX	A. L. Sunders
Lawrence Schattle	707 E. 10th ST CAMERON	Lawrence Schattle

22

SIGNATURES

NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
Guy B Lewis	Po Box 142 • milam	Guy B Lewis
Cathy Enrriquez	1066 CR 241 milam Co.	Cathy Enrriquez
Kim STEWART	709 CR 328 Milam Co TX	Kim Stewart
Richard Gordon Todd	PO Box 429 Rockdale Milam	Richard Gordon Todd
Chad Johnson	1299 CR 246 Milam	Chad Johnson
Johnny Mabrey	831 So. Hwy 77 Cameron TX	Johnny Mabrey
Richard Gordon Todd	1000 East 9th	Cameron

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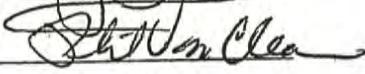
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SIGNATURES

NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
Joe Barbo	7634 FM 485 E. Cameron Co Milam	
Shirley Ann Clea	632 Gaults Reed County	

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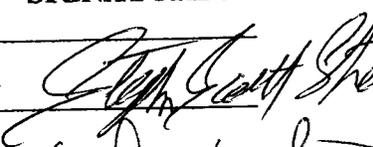
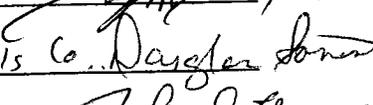
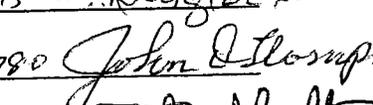
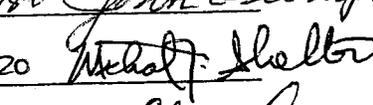
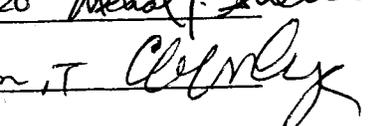
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SIGNATURES

NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
STEPHEN SCOTT SHELTON	1105 E 12 th ST CAMERON TX 76520	
Douglas Sonntag	1567 FM 831 LOTT TX 76656 Falls Co.	
John D Thompson	18016 N Harding Cameron 76840	
MICHAEL J. SHELTON	730 CR 226 A CAMERON TX 76520 MILAM CO.	
Cheryl Cyger	1602 sunset Cir Cameron, TX	

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NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
Shelley Eanes	446 Murray, Milam	Shelley Eanes
KENNETH HAUSER/KAMP	4939 N FM 487	Kenneth Hauser
Jim Eanes	446 Murray	Jim Eanes
VERNON GUEST	704 Hunter DR.	Vernon Guest
DELBERT YARBROUGH	310 Cy, RD. 305 ⁷⁶⁵⁶² 76562	Delbert Yarbrough
Joy Woodruff	704 Morrison Dr. ⁷⁶⁵⁶⁷	Joy Woodruff

SIGNATURES

NAME

ADDRESS/COUNTY

SIGNATURES

Quanita Dawes	918 Duess	Quanita Dawes
Carley Rogers	200 Parkway St. #15 Rockdale, Tx 76567	Carley Rogers
Donna Barker	606 Francine Dr., Rockdale, TX 76567	Donna Barker
Rock Eanes	615 Murray Rockdale TX 76567	Rock Eanes
Sharon Cloud	Milam cnty 521 San Gabriel St., Rockdale, TX	Sharon Cloud
Richard Johnson	637 N. Wilcox Rockdale TX 76567	Richard Johnson
Rick Henderson	1703 Sager Rockdale Milam	Rick Henderson
Frank Burford	1703 Murray Ave Rockdale	Frank Burford
David Hamilton	4130 FM 1712 Rockdale TX	David Hamilton
Denise Wallace	300 Hazel Rockdale Milam County	Denise Wallace
Debra Heale	410 Boyd Ave. Rockdale Milam County	Debra Heale
Bill Kelly	404 Boyd Ave. Rockdale	Bill Kelly
Kennard Morton	8015 PR 1011 Rockdale	Kennard Morton
Jerry Catwood	215 Piney Ridge Drive Bastrop, 75602	Jerry Catwood

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NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
<i>Aina Glaser</i>	<i>564 CR 126 Buckholts/Milam</i>	<i>Aina Glaser</i>
<i>Geri Burnett</i>	<i>2101 O'Kelley Rd, Rockdale, Milam</i>	<i>Geri Burnett</i>
<i>Russ Smith</i>	<i>885 Cty Rd 333 Rockdale, Milam</i>	<i>Russ Smith</i>
<i>Thomas Raymond</i>	<i>266 N. AUSTIN AVE. CAMERON, TX. Myran Co.</i>	<i>Thomas Raymond</i>
<i>SANDY TURNER</i>	<i>6335 3665 CR 328, Milano, Tx</i>	<i>Sandy Turner</i>
<i>Maidell Carter</i>	<i>872 CR 309 Rockdale</i>	<i>Maidell Carter</i>
<i>Janelli Greene</i>	<i>657 Goetz Rd. Cameron, TX. 710520</i>	<i>Janelli Greene</i>

STOP LITTLE RIVER OFF CHANNEL RESERVOIR

	PRINTED NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1	Bonnie		
2	Bonnie Raymond	2406 N Austin, Cameron TX	Bonnie Raymond
3	Kay Stark	502 SAN Jacinto Rockdale TX	Kay Stark
4	Jane Monroe	1006 E. 19th Cameron TX	Jane Monroe
5	Denise Betchan	21030 Kelley, Rockdale TX	Denise Betchan
6	MARLIS Davidson	771 CR 317 Rockdale	Marlis Davidson
7	Blane Laywell	703 EAST 10th CAMERON	Blane Laywell
8	ERWIN GATES JR	2825 FM 1712 Rockdale TX 76567	Erwin Gates
9	STACY Zalesky	362 Benton Ave Cameron TX	Stacy Zalesky
10	Betty McDonald	1009 E 7th Cameron TX	Betty McDonald
11	Carol McDaniel	P.O. Box 204, 44th St, Oaklawn Dr	Carol McDaniel
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NAME	ADDRESS/COUNTY	SIGNATURES
Mitch Moore	1101 N. 13th St / Milam	Mitch Moore
Marissa Freeman	1505 N Travis / Milam	Marissa Freeman
Austin Reymundo	403 E 16 th St	Austin Reymundo
Henry L. Hill	1505 N Travis	Henry L. Hill

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<i>David E. Newberry</i>	<i>Milam County</i>	
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<i>Joe Balch</i>	<i>Milam County</i>	
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<i>Gloria Caward</i>	<i>Cameron, TX, Milam County</i>	
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<i>Jill Ayers</i>	<i>604 W. 22nd ST. Cameron</i>	<i>Jill Ayers</i>
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<i>Grey Stanislaw</i>	<i>Cameron Texas/Milam</i>	<i>Grey Stanislaw</i>
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<i>Jan Eames</i>	<i>Cameron, Texas / Milam Co 1376 CR 250 Cameron</i>	
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James Olyse - Cameron - T - Miller - County - Long Hays

Cameron / Miller / David Fincher

Charlie Sheffield / Cameron / Miller

[Handwritten signature]

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Overview:

Landowners and supporters in Milam County are leading a grassroots movement to stop the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir. This section provides documentation of our efforts and a sampling of speeches given to the Brazos G board. Highlights are listed below:

- June 11, 2015 Community Meeting:
 - Over 100 landowners and supporters attended a meeting at Gause Baptist Family Life Center to get involved and get informed.
- June 23, 2015 Brazos G Public Hearing:
 - 150+ community members attended the Brazos G Public Hearing to oppose the Little River OCR. 14 speakers spoke against the reservoir.



STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

The Little River Off-Channel Reservoir Environmental Impact

Author: Joyce Conner

Good Morning, Board Members. I am Joyce Conner. My husband Mike and I are relatively new to Milam County, but “we got here as fast as we could.” Mike’s great grandparents settled in Grimes County and mine in the Hill Country. We are blessed that we found such a beautiful area in between our two large extended families. And, it only took us 13 years of searching!

We own just over 700 acres in the Reservoir targeted area, and are sure to lose 85% of it to the flooding. And maybe more if needed for buffer and mitigation.

And, there will definitely be mitigation. We practice wildlife management and we have accumulated over 40,000 photos of plants, animals, and management practices that we have taken on our property in the last 12 years. These were culled from at least double that number. About 75% could have been taken anywhere in the proposed reservoir area. (Note: I will be showing a slideshow of ~150 of these photos during my talk.)

We are committed to be stewards of this land. As stewards, we are dedicated to its protection, restoration, and improvement. I hope to speak for all of the other landowners who treasure Milam County land, animals, and plants.

Some of the things we have done:

- Spent over \$200,000 (and countless hours of labor) on wildlife management equipment, repairs, materials, and projects;
- Had designed a custom "green building" house by our architect son to reduce impact on the environment;
- Retrofitted two man-made water ponds;
- Maintained over ½ mile of pristine Alligator Creek and an undeveloped riparian zone;
 - Restored ~75 (out of ~600) acres of native oak forest by using mechanical and chemical means to reduce the woody understory;
 - Made and/or maintained ~20 miles of trails and meadows for wildlife and data collectors;
 - Removed invasive species – over 200 Chinaberry trees and many feral hogs

- Water stored during the year can be used during dry, hot months.
 - Maximizes use of pumpage allocations from the aquifer throughout the year.
 - Underground storage means no evaporation.
 - Less vulnerable to contamination than surface storage.
 - Most land directly above the underground reservoir can continue its prior use!
- New conservation paradigms

It is time to rethink everyone's water use. Implement stricter conservation practices and educate citizens on how and why it is important to save water. Some examples are:

- Use native drought resistant plants or xeriscaping;
- Reduce large fields of exotic grasses in public areas;
- Reduce impervious cover

For the sake of the Environment, please revise your water plans and remove Little River Off-Channel Reservoir from them. Thank you.

Joyce Conner
Cedar Hill Ranch
12374 FM 2095
P.O. Box 8
Gause, TX 77857
[512-368-3618](tel:512-368-3618) ranch
[512-659-0308](tel:512-659-0308) cell
joyce@conner.net

- Participated with state, county, environmental, and federal agencies on:
 - Replanting pastures with native grass seed for Upland Birds
 - Restored wooded areas under a conservation easement agreement for the endangered Houston Toad

- Collected and archived data from:
 - 40,000 plant and animal wildlife photos; daily journal observation entries
 - Biannual bird surveys by Audubon (see eBirds.org)
 - Herpetology survey of Alligator Creek and pond areas; A&M to plan additional surveys
 - 40 Eastern Bluebird nest boxes along on fence lines (see nestwatch.org, Cornell University Lab of Ornithology)
 - Box Turtle Watch and Project Feeder Watch (see feederwatch.org, Cornell University Lab of Ornithology)

Also, A&M classes have been invited to help with identification of historical sites and artifacts.

Now we find that our land may be confiscated to construct a reservoir of water. Is destruction of the surface land for this purpose a necessary solution?

“Reservoirs are inefficient ... due to evaporation, and the major ones lose as much as 2.3 trillion gallons of water per year, according to the Texas Water Development Board” ([The Oregonian](#), June 18, 2015). In addition, we know they are of extremely high cost to utility users, landowners, wildlife, environment, and communities.

And there are now alternative solutions which can be implemented as long as we consider unintended environmental impacts:

- Ocean and groundwater desalination
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
 - Environmentally friendly method of storing aquifer drinking water in a designated aquifer.

Environmental Impact of Reservoirs on Texas Lands

Joyce Conner, Cedar Hill Ranch, Gause, TX 77857

Depending on where you live, when you leave your house, you will travel over brooks, creeks, and/or rivers as you go about your daily business. Each stream is part of an intricate network of water that flows across the land. Each tiny rivulet of water feeds into the next larger one downstream, and then into the following larger one downstream, and on and on until (and if) the water finally finds its way into the sea.

The way we care for the land around each stream that feeds water into it (called its watershed) determines the health of the whole country. If we pollute or negatively impact the water in even the smallest stream, it will likely affect all of the others along its path. It is easy to visualize that if we dirty our water upstream, this will affect the cleanliness of the water downstream. A lot of money is spent trying to clean up and repair watersheds.

But, sometimes we forget that keeping the water clean or available for people is not our only goal.

Watersheds also create unique ecosystems that protect and sustain our wildlife. *The Practice of Watershed Protection*, a compilation of information about watershed research and trends funded partly by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency, states that "small streams and their riparian areas are the single most important habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in any landscape." They provide life-giving water and "create a critical wildlife corridor that links downstream habitats with upland ones." That "corridor" is the home of many unique plant and animal species, whether in the stream or on the land.

In addition, the stream and its riparian area serve to filter out unwanted materials like carbon, sediment, and certain nutrients, thus leaving the water and surrounding land in a cleaner more healthy state.

We tend to forget that the small streams are so important (giving more of our attention to the large rivers, lakes, and estuaries downstream) but research has shown that they are best left in their natural conditions. In this way they can best serve plants, animals, and people upon which they depend.

Every time we modify a watershed, riparian area or stream, we negatively impact its benefits. Whether we cut down the forests, remove native grasses, construct channels to move water more quickly through urban areas, install large areas of impervious cover, or flood the ecosystem with a reservoir, we are negatively affecting the whole system.

The Brazos G proposed water plan evaluates 14 new reservoir options to meet future water needs. In this report environmental impacts are listed and weighed by some cost analysis process. What is missing is the impact of losing all of these forested valleys, all of these springs, all of these primary watersheds -- all these very unique ecosystems from our Texas rural areas.

The Little River Off-Channel Reservoir plan does not consider the uniqueness of the watershed in Milam County that would be destroyed by the reservoir. It would destroy a number of beautiful small streams and their mostly pristine riparian areas. For example, this reservoir would flood about 7/8 of pristine Alligator Creek and its mostly undisturbed riparian area. It would also flood much of Yellow Rabbit Creek and a unique dogwood forest in its watershed.

A number of the owners in the proposed area practice wildlife management on their land. The creeks are protected and in most cases left as natural as possible. I would suggest that the Alligator Creek/Yellow Rabbit Creek riparian areas are two of the most pristine in the State.

Janice Bezanson with the Texas Conservation Alliance (formerly the Texas Committee on Natural Resources) states, "We are opposed to all unneeded reservoirs or reservoirs for which there is an economically feasible lower-impact alternative."

You can argue that off-channels can provide a water supply while causing less environmental damage than a larger on-channel reservoir. But stricter water conservation, water reuse and other low-cost water supply options **should be the preferred strategies** in any plan that hopes to meet the water needs of people while also minimizing the impacts on our Texas environment. For, once these valleys are flooded, they will be irrevocably damaged. We Texans will have lost a valuable part of our state forever.

Please remove this reservoir from your plans. Thank you.

Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Recommendations and Analysis

Mike Conner
mike@conner.net

Recommendations

1. Remove the LR-OCR from the recommended list in the 2016 plan
 - Very high risk
 - Not cost effective
2. Substitute less damaging, lower risk, and lower cost alternatives
 - 95% of the growth in Williamson County water needs in 2070 comes from metropolitan use
 - More aggressive conservation and waste water reuse can meet these needs
3. Remove the LR-OCR area from the Unique Reservoir Site list, and from evaluation in future water plans

Recommendations

4. If not dropped then move the targeted completion date to 2060 or 2070

LR-OCR is High Risk

- About 1/3 of the reservoir is over the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer outcrop
 - May leak into the aquifer, which will heavily pumped in the future
 - Testing can show that the reservoir will fail
 - The science is not there to prove the reservoir will not fail after 10 or 20 years, when pumping increases.
- Permitting: Army core of engineers requires a reservoir to be the *least damaging* of all practicable alternatives.
- Land owner resistance
 - "Sec. 21.0121. CONDEMNATION TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS" of Texas Property Law gives land owners very strong rights to resist condemnation.
- Others will talk about environmental risks, and historical/cultural risks

Cost/Benefit Analysis of LR-OCR

- Cost to LR-OCR Users (assuming BRA underwrites cost of reservoir)

Completion Date	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Cost per 1000 gallons to LR-OCR Users		\$ 29.24	\$10.82	\$6.37	\$4.00	\$2.70

Would raise
Hutto water
rates by 40%

- Comparison to Allens Creek OCR

- Cost of Allens Creek Reservoir/Yield (ac-ft/year): \$1,950

- Cost of LR-OCR/Yield (ac-ft/year): \$4,430

- Impact on current customers of BRA

Twice the water for
1/3 of the rate impact

	% Increase in available water	% Increase in System Rate
LR-OCR	2%	62%
Allens Creek Reservoir	4%	20%

What's in a Name? Reflections on the Historic Pin Oak Cemetery

Author: Melissa (Baumann) Shehane, Ph.D.

Brazos G Public Hearing: June 23, 2015

Good Morning. My name is Dr. Melissa Baumann Shehane, I reside in Brazos County, and I am representing the Baumann, Shafer, Shehane, Hahn, Russell, Young and Kopriva Families today. A comprehensive list of family members is noted at the bottom of this speech, which will be submitted as public record for the purposes of this hearing. We ask that you REMOVE the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir from the Brazos G 2016 Regional Water plan.

What's in a name? We see names everyday. Do you ever stop and wonder what a name truly represents? For instance, my name. From reading my name one might conclude, that I am a woman, my name sounds American, I have Irish and German heritage, and I have a doctorate. Beyond that not much else is known...UNTIL...you begin to peel back the layers and truly explore the identity beyond my name. Then, you would learn that, I represent the 4th generation on my family's land, land that has been designated by the Texas Department of Agriculture as property that has been a continuous agricultural operation for over 100 years by the Family Land Heritage Program, I am a Christian, I have rural roots, I love agriculture and our precious environment, I am part of the millennial generation, I studied both renewable natural resources and agricultural leadership in college, I am a daughter, sister, mother, wife, and friend, and every day I go to work at an institution of higher education and strive to mold active citizens that become leaders in their communities who serve those in need. As you can see, a name is not just a group of letters strung together on a page. A name represents an identity, a contributing member of society, and collectively - our cultural heritage.

If the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir was to come to fruition, engineers building the site would be allowed to dig up names, dig up bodies of my ancestors – our ancestors, which are part of our community's cultural heritage and recognized as a Historic Site in the State of Texas. This historic site I am referencing is the Pin Oak Cemetery. What's significant about this cemetery? Why should you care? Let's look at the numbers. According to the Texas Historical Commission, there are over 50,000 cemeteries in Texas (Texas Historical Commission, 2015). However, only 1,706 are designated as Historic Cemeteries – which means the Pin Oak Cemetery is listed among 3% of historic cemeteries within approximately 171 million acres in the State of Texas. There are about 130+ graves, including 9 graves of Civil War soldiers, one of which is my great-great grandfather (Jerry Watson), one soldier from the Korean War, and many more dating back to the Civil War era. On a personal note, my beloved grandmother was interred there in 2000 and I hope to be buried there, too.

The Texas Historical Commission (2015) shared that "Cemeteries are among the most valuable of historic resources. They are reminders of various settlement patterns, such as villages, rural communities, urban centers, and ghost towns. Cemeteries can reveal information about historic events, religions, lifestyles, and genealogy. Names on gravemarkers serve as a directory of early residents and reflect the ethnic diversity and unique population of an area. Cultural influence in gravemarker design, cemetery decoration, and landscaping contribute to the complete narrative of Texas history.

Established in large part for the benefit of the living, cemeteries perpetuate the memories of the deceased, giving a place character and definition” (p. 1).

What is the narrative tied to the Pin Oak Cemetery space? What are the layers behind those names? “The burial ground, which extends along Pin Oak Creek, has served the rural Pin Oak settlement, as well as the surrounding Gause, Hanover, Liberty, [Cameron, Rockdale, and Hearne] communities. Most of the area settlers, the earliest of whom were here by the 1850s, took advantage of the area’s fertile soil and engaged in agriculture. Many of the early Pin Oak settlers were related, with a number coming from Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, and Morgan and Marshall counties in Alabama. The settlers established a school prior to the Civil War which served Pin Oak until it consolidated with the Milano Independent School District in 1949” (Pin Oak Cemetery Historical Marker, 2010).

What you don’t see and feel when hearing this narrative is the towering old trees whipping in the wind, the vibrant wildflowers blooming nearby, and peace and serenity as you sit in the presence of those that poured their hearts and souls into this land. When I close my eyes on a dew-kissed morn, I feel a slight breeze running through the air and can hear my ancestor’s gently whisper their sweet memories in my ear.

The less glamorous aspect of these multi-million dollar projects and what is not shared publically, is how reservoir projects force communities to dig up their ancestors and move them with complete disregard to the community’s culture, disrespecting the rights of our citizens – “the pursuit of happiness”, and costing tax payers 100s of thousands of dollars to make this happen.

These names are not just numbers that you can strikethrough, dismiss, or dig-up their remains.

These names represent - Real people...

These names represent - Lives lost to serve our country...

These names represent - Agriculture...

These names represent - Texas History...

These names represent – Rich culture and historical significance...

AND...

These names WILL NOT be ignored!

References:

Pin Oak Cemetery Historical Marker. (2010). Pin Oak Cemetery. Texas Historical Commission.

Texas Historical Commission. (2015). Historic cemeteries. Retrieved from <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/cemetery-preservation>.

StateMaster.com. (2015). Geography statistics. Retrieved from http://www.statemaster.com/graph/geo_lan_acr_tot-geography-land-acreage-total

Roster of Families Represented by Speaker:

Eugene Baumann	Judy (Young) Kopriva
Elaine Shafer Baumann	Jimmie Kopriva
Melissa Baumann Shehane	Amy Harris
Michael E. Shehane	KC Harris
William E. Shehane	Kenley Harris
Lillian F. Shehane	Brian Kopriva
Kimberly Baumann Hahn	Shelly Kopriva
Chad Hahn	Claire Kopriva
Macey Hahn	Kate Kopriva
Braden Hahn	Paige Kopriva
Kellan Hahn	Melissa Vaculin
	Jeremy Vaculin
	Jazmin Vaculin
	Mason Vaculin
Watson Hubert Shafer	Mike Young
Opal Shafer	Barbara Young
Frank Shafer	Micahel Young
Phillip Shafer	Lanie Young
William Shafer	Tatum Young
Jonathan Shafer	Javin Young
Deborah Shafer Russell	Darla Tamez
Jerrod Russell	Greg Tamez
Graham Russell	Caydence Tamez
Sean Russell	Camryn Tamez
	Chris Scarlett
Marvin Young	Megan Scarlett
Regina Young	Derek Young
Lisa Seaton	
James Seaton	
Ashlyn Seaton	
Emma Seaton	
Trey Young	Harold Shafer
Jennifer Young	Susan Shafer
Jordan Young	Clay Shafer
Kobe Young	Allison Riherd
Jeff Young	John Riherd
Renae Young	Reece Riherd
Jaden Young	Parker Riherd
	Kyle Shafer
	Sheryl Shafer

22 Hills Homeowner's Association

Author: Sheryl Hall

Brazos G Public Hearing: June 23, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Sheryl Hall and I am representing the landowners of 22 Hills in Gause, Texas.

22 Hills is a rural, deed-restricted subdivision consisting of approximately 1700 acres of land. There are 32 parcels of land with 25 owners – some owning multiple parcels. There are presently 17 homes and 32 people living in 22 Hills.

New construction currently underway or planned to begin soon include a 2500 sf home, 2400 sf home, 800 sf addition to an existing home, and a 6000 sf barn. Construction on an additional new home is planned within the next 1-2 years. That would bring the total number of homes in 22 Hills to 20.

Many of us have spent our life savings to purchase land and build homes to fulfill lifelong dreams of retiring and living the rest of our lives at 22 Hills. We have seen the values of our properties increase dramatically over the years we've been here due to the quality of construction and improvements to the properties.

We came to 22 Hills for many reasons, and I will try to list just a few of them. Some of the reasons is the fact that it is has deed restrictions and paved road frontage, which are not often found in rural areas. We also love the quiet and solitude we experience on a daily basis. Many of us came from Houston, Dallas, and other cities where that is certainly not the case. The scenic view and beauty of nature are not available anywhere else in this region. We all love watching the abundance of wildlife such as deer, bobcats, foxes, roadrunners, rabbits, and many species of birds. We have easy access to Cameron, Rockdale, Hearne, and Bryan/College Station. The ability to give our heirs real property in a secluded area is also important to us.

Based on the maps that we've had access to, 10 of the landowners' properties will be impacted by rising waters from the lake itself. 4 will be significantly affected, with water covering their land. The other 15 landowners could be impacted if their properties are selected for displaced wildlife.

So my question to you is this: Why do you want to build a reservoir here? Local residents will lose their land, taxes will rise for landowners who remain, and our natural beauty will be lost.

If the lake is for the benefit of another county, why not pipe the water there and let them build the lake in their own area? You will have to pipe the water to them anyway. Why do you want to destroy our property when the residents of Milam County will in no way benefit from it?

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Real Estate

Author: Dave Cunningham

Brazos G Public Hearing: June 23, 2015

I am Dave Cunningham. I'm a resident of the Gause area and a local real estate broker for this area for over 30 years.

I have been involved in property transactions on several thousand acres that are included in the Little River off Channel Reservoir proposal. I have studied the geology, topography, and the history, both before and after the Anglo settlements. This is a special area, some of the first real elevation and topography changes coming from the coastal plains are in our area. The abundance of wildlife and post oak region flora and fauna create a real diamond in the heart of Texas.

It has been so very rewarding to help so many of the families represented here today to realize their dreams to own and raise families, or retire on a little piece of Texas. They have invested their time and their financial futures in this land and in this community that are now being threatened. They have hired fence builders, dozer operators, and road and building contractors, spent countless dollars at local hardware stores and tractor dealers and many other merchants in their quest to improve and maintain their part of the Texas dream. Not to mention the thousands of dollars brought into our county and schools, through property taxes, because of their improvements to the land. These landowners have a tremendous impact on the daily economy of this area.

The proposal of the LROCR has effectively pressed the "hold" button on the lives of these families. If this proposal is flawed then time is of the essence. The land owners and their neighbors are not able to effectively market their property, should they become faced with a medical or financial emergency and need to sell. They are reluctant to continue spending money in the local economy, as it pertains to improvements and continuing with future plans for their property investment. These families all have a representable portion of their net worth invested in these properties. The legacy and family heritages represented here cannot be measured in monetary worth. There is no value to be placed on that.

For the families left with land in the area, in the event this is passed, there is no upside. No positive impacts. If they still have access at all, as a non-recreational, non-constant level lake, it leaves those joining properties with little hope for market value increases, or increased tourism or revenue for the community.

Mark Twain said "Buy land, they're not making it any more." I have often been heard saying throughout my real estate career "Romance sells" as in that property has romance. These properties represent the essence of the beauty and "romance" that Milam County has to offer, and they aren't making any more of it!! Cedar Hill doesn't need to be Cedar Hill Island and 22 Hills doesn't need to be 22 sometimes islands.

With these families sitting on "HOLD", I respectfully ask that you make a prompt ruling in favor of these families and our community and their financial futures, and put a stop to this plan NOW. Please preserve and protect our families, our communities, our county and our economy! Thank you for the time you give to the Brazos G board and being here today.

Native American Artifact Preservation

Author: Kimberly Baumann Hahn

Brazos G Public Hearing: June 23, 2015

My father was a Texas history teacher early in his career and my parents have a combined total of ninety-one years in the education profession dedicating their lives to educating thousands of youth in our great state. One thing that my parents have instilled in me over the years is a love of our property and Texas history and an appreciation for the Native Americans who lived here. Most all of their property will be flooded along with their home.

Milam County's rich history starts significantly before the early settlers of the 1800s. It started with the Indian tribes that called this area home and lived out their lives here. Milam County has supported human habitation for at least 10,000 years. One of the early tribes in the region was the Tonkawas. They were a nomadic buffalo hunting people who lived in scattered villages of teepees and arbors. Some of my best childhood and adult memories have been sifting for arrowheads with my family and our dear friend, Calvin Whitely, on our property. We have been so excited over the years to find innumerable arrowheads, mutates (which are used to grind seeds and other foods), hand axes, blades, midden (which is burnt rock), scrapers, pottery sherds and chert. Our property was obviously heavily inhabited by Native Americans at one time, as was the property of other landowners who have found their own share of Indian artifacts and treasures.

According to experts this area was a campground for Native Americans, especially the Tonkawa. There were at least two or three Rancheria Grande sites in Milam County. A Rancheria Grande is an association of several large American Indian villages where multiple tribes settled together. The Tonkawas were known to be one of those tribes. One of those sites is thought to be identified, but the other two are yet to be clearly established. A local expert has questioned as to whether an area overlooking our creek is an Indian mount. We are in the process of having that authenticated.

So, we ask that you please take into consideration this very important part of our state and local history and the Native Americans who first inhabited our county as you consider whether or not to go forth with the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir. Please don't destroy our chance to further explore and learn about Native Americans in our area.

Historical and Cultural Impact

Author: Melissa (Baumann) Shehane, Ph.D.

Brazos G August meeting: August 5, 2015

Good Morning. My name is Dr. Melissa Baumann Shehane and I am from Brazos County. I grew up in Milam County and I am representing the Baumann, Shafer, Shehane, Hahn, Russell, Young, and Kopriva Families today. Together we ask that you remove the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir from the plan. I would like to present facts tied to the historical and cultural impacts the Reservoir will have on Milam County and the state of Texas.

If the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir were to come to fruition, engineers building the site would be allowed to destroy the Pin Oak Cemetery, which is registered as a historic cemetery in the state of Texas, a portion of the El Camino Real national Historic Trail, and Native American artifacts. I am going to provide a brief overview of each of these historic and cultural resources.

Pin Oak Cemetery

According to the Texas Historical Commission, there are over 50,000 cemeteries in Texas (Texas Historical Commission, 2015). However, only 1,706 are designated as Historic Cemeteries – which means the Pin Oak Cemetery is listed among 3% of historic cemeteries within approximately 171 million acres in the State of Texas. There are about 130+ graves, including 9 graves of Civil War soldiers, one of which is my great-great grandfather, one soldier from the Korean War, and many more dating back to the Civil War era. On a personal note, my beloved grandmother was interred there in 2000 and I hope to be buried there, too.

The Texas Historical Commission (2015) shared that “Cemeteries are among the most valuable of historic resources. They are reminders of various settlement patterns, such as villages, rural communities, urban centers, and ghost towns. Names on gravemarkers serve as a directory of early residents and reflect the ethnic diversity and unique population of an area. Cultural influence in gravemarker design, cemetery decoration, and landscaping contribute to the complete narrative of Texas history.” (p. 1).

“The burial ground, which extends along Pin Oak Creek, has served the rural Pin Oak settlement, as well as the surrounding Gause, Hanover, Liberty, [Cameron, Rockdale, and Hearne] communities. Most of the area settlers, the earliest of whom were here by the 1850s, took advantage of the area’s fertile soil and engaged in agriculture. The settlers established a school prior to the Civil War which served Pin Oak until it consolidated with the Milano ISD in 1949” (Pin Oak Cemetery Historical Marker, 2010).

El Camino Real National Historic Trail

The El Camino Real is one of nineteen national historic trails in the United States. Each of the nineteen trails was designated because of its high historical significance. National Historic Trails are designated only by an act of Congress. The El Camino Real de los Tejas spans 2580 miles across 40 counties and 2 parishes and 2 states and was

established by U. S. Congress in 2004. The Trail through Milam County features several sites designated as significant by the National Park Service. These include three mission sites near the San Gabriel River, Sugarloaf Mountain and Apache Pass River Crossing. Milam County is the first county to have completed road signs marking the Trail. The area to be affected by the proposed reservoir is critical to the history of the Trail, Sugarloaf Mountain is likely the site of a Rancheria Grande, a fact which could not be proved if the area is under water. Should any part of the Trail be placed under water, evidence of its historical significance would be gone forever. It is the major purpose of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Association to preserve and protect the historical integrity of the Trail. El Camino Reales are royal roads which led to the founding of Texas. Stephen Gonzales, Executive Director of El Camino Real de los Tejas Historic Trail Association opposes the reservoir due to the historical devastation it would create. Landowners and community members are working closely with the Texas Historical Commission to preserve our historical treasures that make Milam County and our great state unique.

Native American Artifacts

Finally, landowners throughout the 4,300+ acres have found Native American artifacts scattered throughout their properties. Milam County's rich history starts significantly before the early settlers of the 1800s. It started with the Native American tribes that called this area home and lived out their lives here. One of the early tribes here was the Tonkawas. Specifically, arrowheads, metates, hand axes, blades, midden, scrapers, pottery sherds, and chert have been identified in the area.

History and culture should not be ignored. Citizens of Milam County matter. We contribute to the unique narrative that shapes Texas history. This reservoir does not belong in Milam County. We ask that you find alternative means for long-term water planning that do not destroy our historical and cultural livelihood.

References:

Pin Oak Cemetery Historical Marker. (2010). Pin Oak Cemetery. Texas Historical Commission.

Texas Historical Commission. (2015). Historic cemeteries. Retrieved from <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/cemetery-preservation>.

StateMaster.com. (2015). Geography statistics. Retrieved from http://www.statemaster.com/graph/geo_lan_acr_tot-geography-land-acreage-total

STOP

Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

MEETING

When: June 11, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Where: Gause Baptist Church Family Life Center

Who Should Attend: All interested community members

What: The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group is proposing to flood 4,350+ acres near Gause.

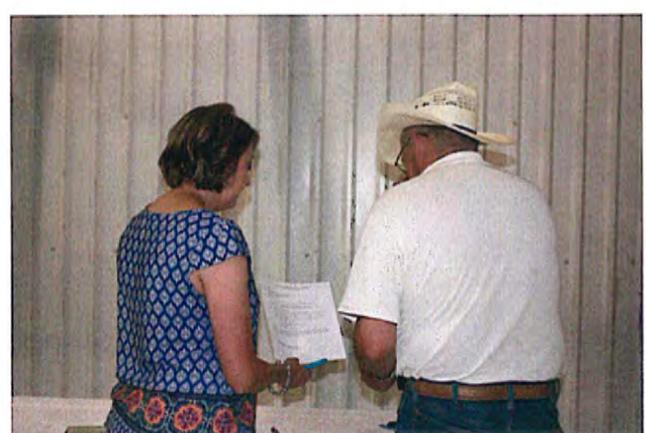
Why: Help save our precious environmental resources, historical landmarks, & land before they are taken!

Questions: stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com or Facebook

GET INFORMED.GET INVOLVED.

Community Organizing

June 11, 2015
Gause Baptist Family Life Center



Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir Stakeholder Meeting June 11, 2015

Welcome

- Why we are here, *Eugene Baumann & Judge Barkemeyer*
- Who is Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group, *Melissa (Baumann) Shehane*
- Overview of Little River Off-Channel Reservoir Proposal, *Mike Conner*

Things in our Favor to Save our Land, *Elaine Baumann*

What plans are currently in place, *Melissa (Baumann) Shehane*

- Contact Information, *Elaine Baumann*
 - Collected landowner & supporter contact information for listserv
- Landowner Survey, *Judy Marks & Melissa (Baumann) Shehane*
 - Sent to landowners with deadline of June 12
- Resolution, *Wayne Fisher & Eugene Baumann*
 - Working with Gause ISD, Milano ISD, Milano City Council, & Milam County Commissioners Court to sign Resolutions opposing the Little River OCR
- Local Media, *Elaine Baumann*
 - Newspaper announcements
 - Radio stations announcements
- Social Media, *Kim (Baumann) Hahn, Deborah (Shafer) Russell, & Amanda Dent*
 - Facebook Page
- Petitions, *Mike Kornegay & Melvin Wall*

Overview of Public Hearing June 23, *Kimberly (Baumann) Hahn*

- Meeting will be recorded and will be public record
- Need minimum 3-5 well-rehearsed speakers to voice concerns – Limit of 3-5 minutes
 - Wayne Fisher
 - Mike Conner
 - Melissa (Baumann) Shehane
- Anyone can speak or ask questions
 - Please know that Brazos G will respond at a later date

Written Comments about Initially Prepared Plan due August 24

- Compile survey data, photos, documents, letters, and petitions to Brazos G

Ideas to discuss

- Organization structure
- Questions & Comments

Take Action

LANDOWNER CHECKLIST

- Submit materials to Eugene & Elaine Baumann or email to stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com by June 12
 - Complete Survey
 - Submit Copies of 1-10 Photos/Documents with labels
 - Write a letter to Brazos G (samples/templates available)
- Send Emails of your letter to the Brazos G Board members

SUPPORTER CHECKLIST (non-impacted landowners)

- Write Letters
 - Submit materials to Eugene & Elaine Baumann or email to stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com.
 - Email stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com for a sample/template if interested.
- Join Listserv (Email Group)
 - Join the listserv/email group. Email stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com if you are interested.

EVERYONE'S CHECKLIST

Attend Public Hearing

- Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 9:00 am at the Brazos River Authority Office, 4600 Cobbs Drive, Waco, Texas 76710
 - Please bring 10 people with you
 - Directions will be emailed over the listserv

Contact State Representatives

- Senator Charles Schwertner and voice your concern (don't know what to say, we have a script)
 - Send Message at website: <http://www.schwertner.senate.state.tx.us/>
 - Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0105
 - District Office - Bryan Phone: (979) 776-0222
 - District Office - Georgetown Phone: (512) 863-8456
- Representative Marsha Farney and voice your concern
 - Send Message at website: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=20>
 - Capitol Phone: (512) 463-0309
 - District Office - Georgetown Phone: (512) 863-7872

BRAZOS G RWPG NAME / TITLE	VOTING MEMBERS (23): PHYSICAL ADDRESS COUNTY	(updated 05/20/2015) MAILING ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS	INTEREST
Wayne Wilson, Self-employed; ranching CHAIR	Wilson Cattle Company 7026 East OSR Bryan, Texas 77808 (BRAZOS COUNTY)	Wilson Cattle Company 7026 East OSR Bryan, Texas 77808	Cell: (979) 218-1800	wwilson@iconline.net	Agriculture ✓
Gail Peek, Of Counsel VICE-CHAIR	Beard Kullgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson 220 South 4th Street Waco, TX 76701 (BELL COUNTY)	P.O. Box 21117 Waco, TX 76702-1117	Office: (254) 776-5500	peek@thetexasfirm.com	Small Business ✓
Phil Ford, General Manager/ CEO SECRETARY/TREASURER	Brazos River Authority 4600 Cobbs Drive Waco, TX 76714-7555 (MCLENNAN COUNTY)	Brazos River Authority P.O. Box 7555 Waco, TX 76714-7555	Office: (254) 761-3194 Fax: (254) 761-3203	pford@brazos.org	River Authorities
Dale Adams, General Manager	Wes-Tex GCD 100 E. 3rd Street, Ste. 305B Sweetwater, TX 79556 (NOLAN COUNTY)	Wes-Tex GCD 100 E. 3rd Street, Ste. 305B Sweetwater, TX 79556	Office: (325) 236-6033 Fax: Same	dale.adams@co.nolan.tx.us	Groundwater Management Area Representative
Charles Beseda, Manager / Operator	Birome WSC Rt. 1 Box 73 Mt. Calm, TX 76673 (HILL COUNTY)	Birome WSC Rt. 1 Box 73 Mt. Calm, TX 76673	Office: (254) 749-7718 Fax: (254) 826-3368	waterman.cb@gmail.com	Water Utilities
Jim Briggs General Manager Utilities	City of Georgetown PO Box 409 Georgetown, Texas 78627-0409 (WILLIAMSON COUNTY)	City of Georgetown PO Box 409 Georgetown, Texas 78627-0409	Office (512) 930-3889 Cell (512) 630-1588	Jim.Briggs@georgetown.org	Municipalities ✓
Tim Brown, County Commissioner	Bell County Courthouse Central and Main Belton, Texas 76513 (BELL COUNTY)	Bell County Courthouse P.O. Box 768 Belton, TX 76513	Office: (254) 933-5102 Cell: (254) 217-2424	Tim.brown@co.bell.tx.us	Counties
Joe Cooper, General Manager	Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District 930 N. Wolfe Nursery Rd Stephenville, TX 76401 (ERATH COUNTY)	Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District 930 N. Wolfe Nursery Rd Stephenville, TX 76401	Office: (254) 955-6705	mtgcd1@centurylink.net	Water Districts ✓

Alva Cox, Assistant Director of Public Works	City of Granbury P.O. Box 969 Granbury, TX 76048 (HOOD COUNTY)	City of Granbury P.O. Box 969 Granbury, TX 76048	Office: (817) 573-7030 Fax: (817) 573-5591	cox@granbury.org	Municipalities
Travis Floyd, County Judge	Knox County 100 W. Cedar Benjamin, TX 79505 (KNOX COUNTY)	Knox County P.O. Box 77 Benjamin, TX 79505	Office: (940) 459-2191 Cell: (940) 256-3422	tfloyd@srcaccess.net	Counties
VACANT					Industries
Zach Holland, General Manager	Bluebonnet GCD 303 E. Washington Ave, Ste. D Navasota, TX 77868 (GRIMES COUNTY)	P.O. Box 269 Navasota, TX 77868	Office: (936) 825-7303	zholland@bluebonnetgroundwater.org	Groundwater Management Area Representative✓
Kelly Kinard, Owner/Principal	Design Growth Investments, Inc. P.O. Box 6317 Abilene, TX 79608 (TAYLOR COUNTY)	Design Growth Investments, Inc. P.O. Box 6317 Abilene, TX 79608	Office: (325) 695-1399 Cell: (325) 665-5286	kkinard@abilene.com	Water Districts✓
Mike McGuire, General Manager	Rolling Plains GCD 135 N. Munday Ave. Munday, Texas 76371 (KNOX/HASKELL/BAYLOR COUNTIES)	P.O. Box 717 Munday, Texas 76371	Office: (940) 422-1095 Cell: (940) 864-4646	mmcquire@rpqcd.org	Groundwater Management Area Representative, & Region B Liaison✓
Gary Newman, President	Trio Development, LLC 7811 Ranch Road 2338 Georgetown, TX 78633 (WILLIAMSON COUNTY)	Trio Development, LLC 7811 Ranch Road 2338 Georgetown, TX 78633	Office and cell: (512)-751-3337	gnewman@trio-dev.com	Public✓
Tommy O. O'Brien, Executive Director of Water Utilities	City of Abilene 555 Walnut Street Abilene, TX 79601 (TAYLOR COUNTY)	City of Abilene P.O. Box 60 Abilene, TX 79604-0060	Office: (325) 676-6416 Cell: (325) 676-6416	tommv.obrien@abilenelx.com	Municipalities✓
Judy Parker Director, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District	Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District PO Box 1989 Belton, Texas 76713 (BELL COUNTY)	Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District PO Box 1989 Belton, Texas 76713	Office: (254)933 0120	ibp49@icloud.com	Groundwater Management Area Representative✓
Gary L. Spicer Water Quality & Solid Waste Manager Luminant Power	Luminant Power 1601 Bryan Street Dallas, Texas 75201 (HOOD COUNTY)	Luminant Power 1601 Bryan Street Dallas, Texas 75201	Office: (214) 875-8299 Cell: (214)793-6150	spicer@luminant.com	Electric Utilities✓

Dale Spurgin, County Judge	Jones County Courthouse 1200 Commercial Avenue Anson, Texas 79501 (JONES COUNTY)	P.O. Box 148 Anson, TX 79501	Office: (325) 823-3741 Cell: (325) 669 2212	dale.spurgin@co.jones.tx.us	Agriculture ✓
Mike Sutherland, County Judge	Burleson County 100 W. Buck, Suite 306 Caldwell, TX 77836 (BURLESON COUNTY)	Burleson County 100 W. Buck, Suite 306 Caldwell, TX 77836	Office: (979) 567-2333 Cell: (979) 218-4458	co_judge@burlesoncounty.org	Counties ✓
Kevin Wagner Associate Director Texas Water Resources Institute	1500 Research Parkway, Suite 240 College Station, Texas 77843 (BRAZOS COUNTY)	2118 TAMU College Station, TX 77843-2118	Office: 979 845 2649 Cell: 979 204 9101	kiwagner@ag.tamu.edu	Environmental ✓
Jerry K. "Kenny" Weidon Mayor City of Stephenville	City of Stephenville 298 West Washington Street Stephenville, Texas 76401 (ERATH COUNTY)	City of Stephenville 298 West Washington Street Stephenville, Texas 76401	Office (254)918-1212 Cell: (254) 459-0867	jkweidon2@gmail.com	Municipalities ✓
Gary Westbrook General Manager Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District	301 East Avenue C Milano, Texas 76556 (MILAM COUNTY)	P. O. Box 92 Milano Texas 76556	Office (512) 455 9900 Cell: 979-571-5761	gwestbrook@posgcd.org	Groundwater Management Area Representative ✓

Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir Sign-in Sheet

Name	County
Jeff Carroll	Milam
NORA ANZALDUA	MILAM
KIRBY FLEMING	MILAM
DON WYATT	MILAM
FRANK WALL	MILAM
IRMA WALL	MILAM
LINDA waiters	milam
Lee waiters	milam
BARBARA PASCHALL	MILAM
HOLLY & MARY MATTHEWS	MILAM
JO JOHNSON	2293979 Milam
Ray Fisher	milam
John & Fisher	milam
Kenneth Roper	milam
Kary Rose	MILAM
PETER LAWSON	MILAM
Mary Walden	Milam
Keith McRee	milam
Billy Stein	Milam
Virgil Wall	milam
Hayla Wall	milam

Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir Sign-in Sheet

Name	County
Jay Davis (KRXT, Rockdale)	Milam
Todd Heatly	Milam
Cheri Heatly	Milam
Blake Hobbs	Milam
Scott Kornegay	Milam
MICHAEL WALL	MILAM
Madeline Morse	Milam
Mark A. Morse	Milam
Lucile Estell	Milam
Joy Graham	Milam
Dorlen Schnepfender	Milam
Amanda Dent	Milam
Michael Shehane	Brazos
Chad Hahn	DeWitt
Lorenzo	Milam
Elaine Baerman	Milam
Eugene Baerman	Milam
Judy Marks	Milam
Lurtis Wall	Milam
Melina Shehane	Brazos

Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir Sign-in Sheet

Name	County
Jesse Stracey	MILAM
B.W. Lindsey	Milam
Melba Louie Nell	
Mike J. Ady or Kewey	MILAM
Cathy Lanman	Robertson
Jois Wilkins	Milam
Linda Cornelius	Robertson
Karen Rose	Milam
Don Rose	Milam
Joe Hobbs	Milam
Mike Conner	Milam
Joyce Conner	Milam
Della Potliff	Milam
Jean Schanz	Milam
Guthy Dunes	Milam
Gregg Moore	Milam
TERRI MOORE	Milam
Mary Neely	milam
Tommy Ray	Milam
Kay Wible	milam
Margie Ribee	milam

Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir Sign-in Sheet

Name	County
Lamy Zawadzka	Milam
Oat Kanarr	MILAM
Virginia Kipp	Milam
Cindy Bolch	Milam
Connie Dent	Milam
DAVID KORNEIAN	MILAM / BELL
Deborah Russell	Milam / Harris
Kheesa Holmes	Milam
Miranda Steir	Milam
Ruth Hardy	Milam
Ron & Beverly Cunningham	Milam
Ron & Elaine Day	Milam
Charmaine Muelto	Milam
Jeff Hughes	Milam
Arnold Kornegay	Milam
Tam Courtney	Milam
DAN FISCHER	MILAM
CURTIS CHUBB	MILAM
Dennis Owens	Milam
Carol Chisell	Gause
Earl W Campbell	Gause -

Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir Sign-in Sheet

Name	County
Heather Wald	Milan
Robert Jones	Robert Jones
D. Caldwell	Milan
Dorey Willard	Milan
Jan Willard	Milan
Beverly Puryear	Milan
V.V. Turner	Milan
Cody Wald	Milan
Kim Hahn	DeWitt

WELCOME

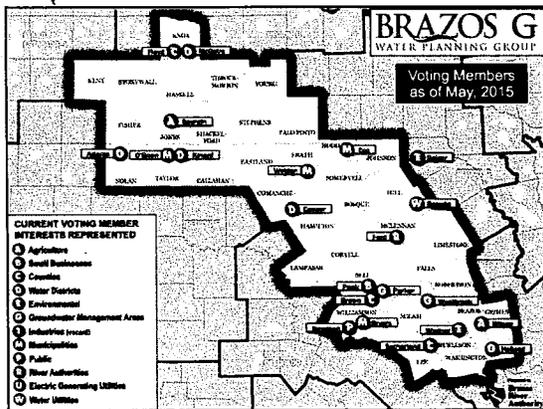
- Judge Barkenmeyer, Milam County
- Eugene Baumann, Landowner

STOP LR OCR

WHO IS BRAZOS G?

- Senate Bill 1 – 75th Legislative Session
- 1 of 16 Regional Planning Groups established by the Texas Water Development Board
- Working since 1998 develop a comprehensive regional water plan
- Brazos G Water Authority (BRA) – Political Sub-division
- HDR – Engineering Consulting Firm
- Website: www.brazoswater.org

STOP LR OCR



WHO ELSE IS INTERESTED?

- Region H
- Website: www.regionhwat.org

STOP LR OCR

OVERVIEW LR OCR PROPOSAL

- Mike Conner
– Cedar Hill Ranch

STOP LR OCR

WHAT'S IN OUR FAVOR?

- El Camino Real Trail
- Historic Cemeteries
- Indian artifacts
- Environmental Factors
- Family Land Heritage Recognition

STOP LR OCR

CURRENTLY IN PLACE...

- Contact Information
- Landowner Survey
- Resolution
- Local Media
- Social Media
- Petitions

STOP LR OCR

PUBLIC HEARING: JUNE 23

- Recorded & Public Record
- Sign-in to Speak & have up to 5 minutes
- Coordinating a line-up
 - Wayne Fisher, Mike Conner, Melissa Shehane
- Questions will not be answered during hearing
- Buttons - Pick-up at 8:15 near the entrance
- Future meeting opportunities

STOP LR OCR

WRITTEN COMMENTS: AUG. 24

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- Compiling all materials in a book to send to
 - Brazos G Water Planning Group
 - State Representatives

STOP LR OCR

TAKE ACTION

- Review Checklists on back of Agenda
- Attend Public Hearing June 23!
- Call your State Representatives
 - Senator Charles Schwertner
 - Representative Marsha Farney
- Got Ideas? Please share with us!

STOP LR OCR

IDEAS TO DISCUSS...

- Organization structure
- Questions & Comments

STOP LR OCR

CLOSING

- Visit Tables
 - Letter Writing / Phone your Representative
 - Petition Sign-up
 - Landowner Survey
 - Photo Session / Testimonial
 - Maps
- Listserv / Email Group Sign-up

STOP LR OCR

STOP

Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

PUBLIC HEARING – PLEASE ATTEND!

When: June 23, 2015 at 9:00 pm

Where: Brazos River Authority Office
4600 Cobbs Drive, Waco, Texas 76710

Who Should Attend: Everyone

What: The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group is proposing to flood 4,350+ acres near Gause.

Why: We need hundreds of people to come out and show that we will not stand for this! Help save our precious environmental resources, historical landmarks, & land before they are taken!

Questions: stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com or Facebook

GET INFORMED.GET INVOLVED.



STOP

**L
R
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PUBLIC HEARING
June 23 at 9:00 am
Brazos River Authority
4600 Cobbs Drive
Waco, Texas 76710

PLEASE SUPPORT MILAM COUNTY! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

3 DAYS & COUNTING...



STOP

**L
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R**

PUBLIC HEARING
June 23 at 9:00 am

“Building grassroots support. It’s about identifying the people around you with whom you can create a common passionate cause.”
-Tom Peters

2 DAYS & COUNTING...
BE THERE!

STOP

LROCR

PUBLIC HEARING
June 23 at 9:00 am

...we've got to make a stand...
 ...of thoughtful, committed citizens
 ...can change the world...
 ...the only thing that never dies...
 ...Margaret Mead

1 DAY & COUNTING...
SHARE YOUR VOICE & SEE YOU THERE

STOP

LROCR

PUBLIC HEARING TODAY

...sturdy, massive, low, nature, stay close to
 ...architecture. It will never fade away.
 ...Reana, Lloyd W. ...

El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail

WITNESS THE BEAUTY & HISTORY THAT COULD BE DESTROYED!

STOP

Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

BRAZOS G BOARD MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

When: August 5, 2015 at 10:00 am

Where: Brazos River Authority Office
4600 Cobbs Drive, Waco, Texas 76710

What: The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group is proposing to flood 4,350+ acres near Gause.

Why: We need to continue to show that we will not stand for this!
Help save our precious environmental resources, historical landmarks, homes, & land before they are taken!

Questions: stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com or Facebook

GET INFORMED.GET INVOLVED.



STOP

**DEADLINE APPROACHING
AUGUST 15, 2015**

**L
R
O
C
R**

Quick Checklist:

- ✓ Call State Representatives!
- ✓ Write a letter to Brazos G & Region H

NOTE: See previous posts for details, Send copies of materials to stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com so we can compile all materials!

**PLEASE SUPPORT MILAM COUNTY!
5 DAYS & COUNTING...**



STOP

**DEADLINE APPROACHING
AUGUST 15, 2015**

**L
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O
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R**

Quick Checklist:

- ✓ Call State Representatives!
- ✓ Write a letter to Brazos G & Region H

NOTE: See previous posts for details, Send copies of materials to stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com so we can compile all materials!

**PLEASE SUPPORT MILAM COUNTY!
4 DAYS & COUNTING...**

DON'T FORGET!



STOP

DEADLINE APPROACHING
AUGUST 15, 2015

L
R
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R

Quick Checklist:

- ✓ Call State Representatives
- ✓ Write letter to Brazos G & Region H

NOTE: See previous posts for details. Send copies of materials to stop.little.river.oc@gmail.com so we can compile all materials!

PLEASE SUPPORT MILAM COUNTY!
3 DAYS & COUNTING...



STOP

DEADLINE APPROACHING
AUGUST 15, 2015

L
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R

Quick Checklist:

- ✓ Call State Representatives
- ✓ Write letter to Brazos G & Region H

NOTE: See previous posts for details. Send copies of materials to stop.little.river.oc@gmail.com so we can compile all materials!

PLEASE SUPPORT MILAM COUNTY!
2 DAYS & COUNTING...



STOP

**L
R
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R**

DEADLINE APPROACHING AUGUST 15, 2015

STOP & HELP NOW!

Quick Checklist:

- ✓ Call State Representatives!
- ✓ Write a letter to Brazos G & Region H

NOTE: See previous posts for details, Send copies of materials to stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com so we can compile all materials!

**PLEASE SUPPORT MILAM COUNTY!
LAST DAY...**



STOP

**L
R
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SIGNATURE SATURDAY LAST CALL!!

1,009!

Quick Checklist:

- ✓ Click on the change.org link
- ✓ Fill in the boxes on the right of the page
- ✓ Click sign
- ✓ Share with others!

Sign this petition

1,009 supporters

481 needed to reach 1,500

Downloaded at 8:30 am on 8/15/15

change.org

We will download our final numbers for Brazos G's Deadline Tonight!

NEWS ARTICLES

Overview:

This section includes copies of articles from local newspapers. Newspapers listed are:

- Cameron Herald
- Rockdale Reporter
- Robertson County News
- The Eagle
- The Temple Daily Telegram

Additionally, local news and radio stations have been following our cause. Please see the attached DVD to watch the news footage.



STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Little River off-channel reservoir proposed near Gause

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015 • VOL 155 NO 11

By CURTIS CHUBB
Special to the Herald

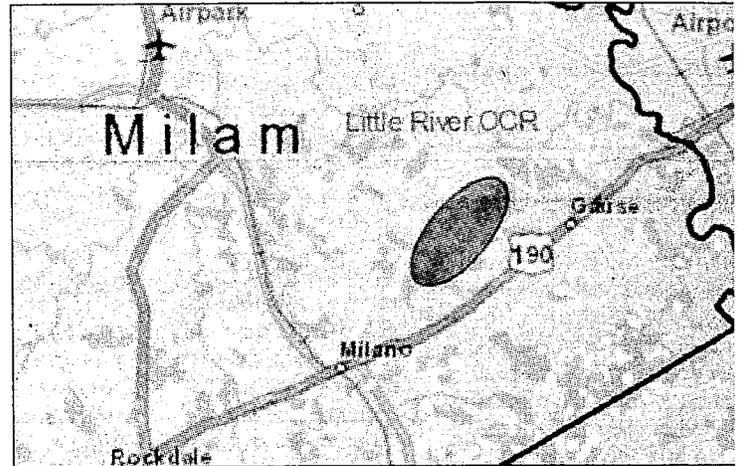
The Cameron Herald

Milam County may be supplying surface water to Williamson County in the near future. At least, that is what the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group is including in their draft 2016 regional water plan due May 1.

Brazos G's planning area encompasses 37 counties within the Brazos River Basin between Kent and Washington counties — that includes Milam and Williamson Counties. Their primary mission is “to ensure that all of our communities have adequate supplies of water during times of drought.”

When they compared water supplies with water demand, Brazos G determined that Williamson County will need an additional 129,000 acre-feet/year of water supplies by 2070 (acre-foot = 326,000 gallons). In light of this large shortfall in water supply, Brazos G personnel met with county and water officials in Williamson County.

One of the ideas originating from that January meeting was for Williamson County to access water from an off-channel reservoir filled with water pumped from the Brazos River during high flows.



The red oval marks the approximate location of the 4,300-acre Little River Off-Channel Reservoir.

The Brazos River Authority defines an off-channel reservoir as “a water supply lake built next to or near a river.”

Brazos G's plan (called a water management strategy) is to construct the off-channel reservoir northwest of Gause near the Little River; it would be named the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir (see map). The reservoir would cover 4,300 acres of the Beaver Creek Watershed and have a storage capacity of 155,812 acre-feet.

Brazos River water would be transported to the reservoir through

eight miles of 144-inch diameter pipe using a 25,000-hp pump station. The estimated cost for constructing the reservoir and transport system is \$248 million.

Brazos G predicts that the reservoir would have a firm yield of 56,000 acre-feet/year (firm yield means the amount available during the drought of record).

For Williamson County to access the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir, they would have to construct 43 miles of 48-inch pipeline from the reservoir to a water treatment

See Page

The Cameron Herald • www.cameronherald.com

COUNTY FROM PAGE 1

David Greene requested approval of an interlocal cooperation agreement with Robertson County so that Milam County inmates can be housed at the Robertson County jail. Milam County has a similar agreement with Lee County. Precinct 4 Commissioner Jeff Muegge's motion to approve the agreement received unanimous support.

In other business, the commissioners court appointed a new director of the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District. The appointment process started last month after long-time director Dwayne Jekel announced his intention to resign. Milam County rural water supply corporations nominated Robert Jekel, Erik Westbrook, and Bob Wil-

son who were interviewed by the commissioners court on April 7.

At Monday's meeting, Bob Wilson was selected as the new director representing the interests of rural water supply corporations. Wilson received three votes (Barkemeyer, Precinct 3 Commissioner John Fisher, and Muegge). Robert Jekel received two votes (Watkins and Precinct 2 Commissioner Donald Shuffield).

Wilson has served on the Board of Directors of the Southwest Milam Water Supply Corporation for nine years and has served as that board's president for the last four years.

When asked for a comment about his appointment, Wilson said, “It is a privilege to be able to serve on the Post Oak board. I feel that my background and experience give me the ability to make the decisions going forward.”

COUNTY FROM PAGE 1

The National Historic Trail covers the United States section of the El Camino Real de Los Tejas.

Graham and Lucile Estell were the primary Milam County volunteers who made the national recognition of the Trail in Milam County a reality. Both now serve as members of the 15-person board of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association.

Graham presented a map illustrating where the El Camino Real de los National Historic Trail runs through Milam County – and it appears to

run through the area that would be inundated if the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir is constructed.

This presents a significant challenge to the construction of the reservoir since “Cultural Resources” is one of the “impact categories” evaluated when a reservoir is being considered.

For example, the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group has included an off-channel reservoir near College Station in its draft 2016 plan. This reservoir, named Peach Creek Off-Channel Reservoir, has already been evaluated for its impact on cultural resources.

In the draft plan’s discussion of Peach Creek’s cultural resources, the

following is emphasized: “A review of available GIS datasets provided by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) for the 2011 Regional Water Plan revealed that there are no National Register Properties, National Register Districts, cemeteries, or historical markers located within or near the project area. Cultural resources that occur on public lands or within the Area of Potential Effect of publicly funded or permitted projects are governed by the Texas Antiquities Code (Title 9, Chapter 191, Texas Natural Resource Code of 1977), the National Historic Preservation Act (PL96-515), and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act (PL93-291).”

Another report was presented by Maribel Gonzales of the Milam County Health Department. Gonzales presented an overview of the Texas Immunization Registry (known as ImmTrac) which is a no-cost service offered by the Texas Department of State Health Services. The state considers ImmTrac as an important step to increasing vaccine coverage in the state.

Gonzales emphasized that ImmTrac offers a secure and confidential registry available to all Texans. Texas law requires written consent to participate in the program which can be accessed only by those authorized by law such as doctors and nurses.

The Health Department contacts parents of children aged 19 – 36 months to inform them of the advantages of participating in ImmTrac. When the children enroll in school, school nurses assume the responsibility of working with the ImmTrac program.

Milam County Judge David Barkemeyer’s column this week is focused on ImmTrac.

The Rockdale

and Messenger

Vol. 143, No. 26

Thursday, April 30, 2015

Reporter

ROCKDALE REPORTER.COM

Milam County reservoir in long-range plan

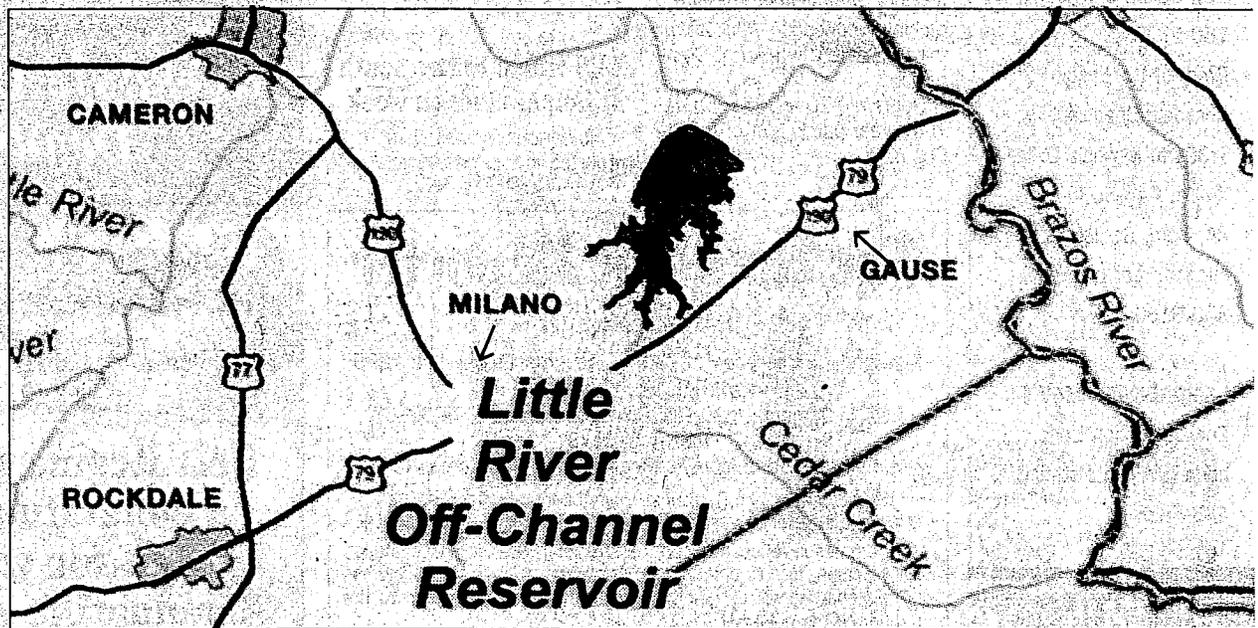
But it's not old
Cameron Lake'

As has been the case for years, a Milam County reservoir remains part of long-range options for state water planners.

Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group has a reservoir in East Central Milam included in a draft 50-year water plan that's due to the state next month.

It's roughly centered north of a line between Milano and Gause, and it's the old "Cameron Lake" area which has drawn substantial opposition in past decades.

The 155,812-acre/feet capacity proposal has been tagged the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir (LROCR) and would cover about 4,300 acres in the Beaver Creek drainage. The reservoir rises in the northeast of Milano,



flows under County Road 343/243 and FM 3242 and empties into the Little River west of Sugarloaf Mountain.

OPPOSITION—While the LROCR idea remains just that—an idea, it's not

the recurring specter of a lake virtually encompassing Cameron.

That reservoir was first proposed in 1967 and was a part of the Region G 50-year water plan at least as recently as 2001.

The "Little River Reservoir" would have surrounded Cameron on three sides—including parts of Cameron suburbs—and inundated 35,500 acres of land. The Bell-Milam Land and Water Rights Associa-

tion was formed and fought the proposal.

WESTBOUND—The Cameron reservoir would have been for the benefit of the Houston area, while th

See WATER, page 6

Water

The Rockdale Reporter

Thursday April 30
2015

Continued from page 1A

LROCR would be tied to Williamson County, which continues to be one of the fastest-growing areas of the nation.

"It's a plan, and is in no way binding on anyone at this time," Gary Westbrook, Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District general manager, and a Region G voting member the past two years, told *The Reporter*.

"It's hard to say which of the options (for future Williamson County water needs) will actually become a reality," he said.

But Westbrook added, "at present it is my understanding that this (LROCR)

may indeed be the highest-ranked project (for Williamson)."

PROJECTIONS—Westbrook noted that projections on which Williamson planners base that county's future water needs aren't set in stone.

While Region G has estimated Williamson will need an additional 129,000 acre/feet per year by 2070, the group wasn't able to include all the future water already spoken for.

"Some of the (Williamson County) cities have more water contracted from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) than is shown," Westbrook said. "But that can't be counted because they have

not built the infrastructure to deliver and process the water."

He said when the already-contracted water is included, Williamson County's estimated additional water needs in 2070 compute to 40,000 acre/feet, not 129,000, according to HDR Consulting, figures.

PIPELINE—Will the LROCR ever actually happen?

Much will depend on infrastructure in that area, too.

"This project cannot become a reality until a sponsor commits to it," Westbrook said. "No one from Williamson County has committed to it, or any

of the other recommended strategies at this time."

However, there's precedent for such commitments happening.

Most obvious example is the San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) pipeline which will link Burleson County and the Alamo city.

And Blue Water Systems has built a pipeline from Burleson County to Manor.

"In the event a project does come forward (to create LROCR) it remains to be seen whether it could be accomplished," Westbrook said.

"It is very difficult these days to build surface water reservoirs due to so many environmental concerns," he added.

Milam County reservoir in long-range plan

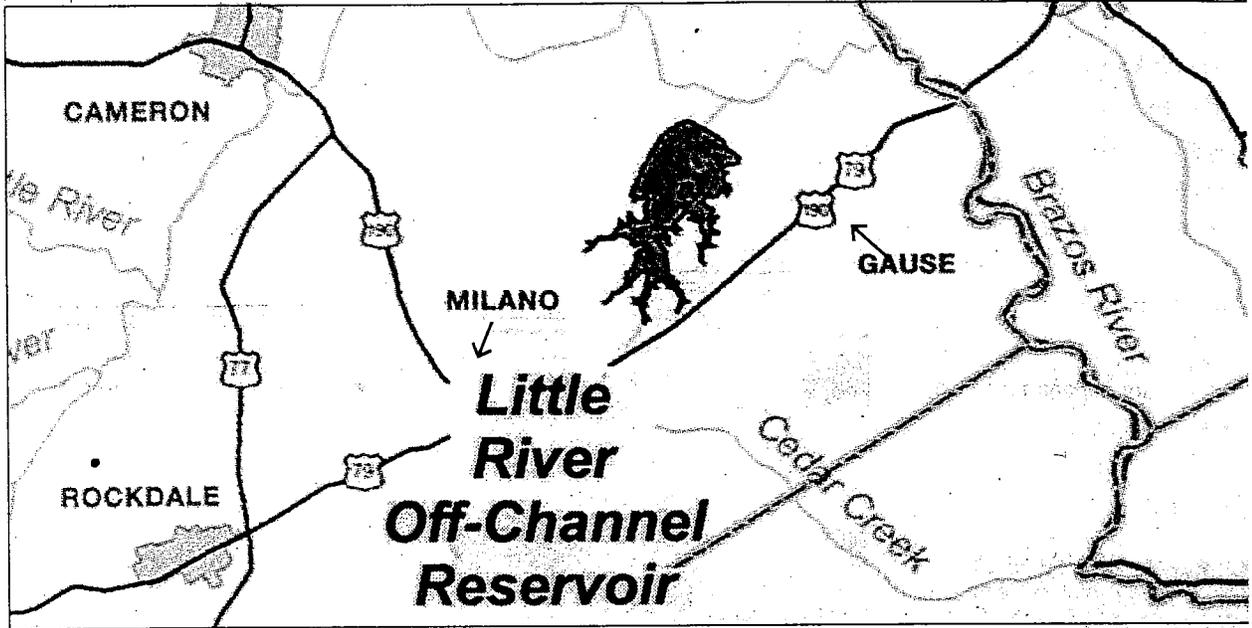
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Continued from page 1A

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Intersection of county history, Little River off-channel reservoir

■ By CURTIS CHUBB
Special to the Herald

At Monday's Milam County Commissioners Court, the local resistance to the planned Little River Off-Channel Reservoir may have been presented an important tool with which to challenge the reservoir plans.

At the meeting, Joy Graham, Chair of the Milam County Certified Local Government Committee, delivered the committee's annual report to the commissioners court.

Milam County attained the "Certified Local Government" designations by requiring the Milam County Historical Commission to incorporate certain duties in their bylaws which the committee helps fulfill.

One of those duties is to develop and maintain an inventory of historic properties.

At Monday's meeting, Graham presented each of the commissioners and the county judge a two-volume set of books containing the "Milam County Historic

and Architectural Resources Surveys" for 2006 (Volume 1) and 2014 (Volume 2). These are also available at local libraries.

The surveys provide an in-depth look at the historic properties within Milam County even including their GPS locations and photographs. Milam County's history is rich and deep.

One of the most high-profile of the history preservation efforts in Milam County has been the work involving the El Camino Real de los Tejas.

The El Camino Real de los Tejas is a trail that originated in Mexico City and stretched 2,500 miles to Natchitoches in Louisiana. It was first marked by Spanish explorers and missionaries in the 17th-century.

In 2004, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Representative Ciro Rodriguez sponsored legislation leading to the designation of El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail which is now administered by the National Parks Service.

See Page 9

Commissioners oppose Gause reservoir

Residents to make plans on Thursday

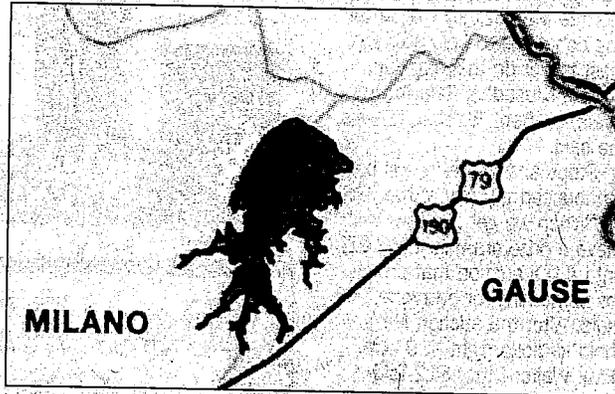
CAMERON—Milam County commissioners, meeting in regular session Monday, have unanimously gone on record as opposing a state water planning group's "long range" option of creating a reservoir near Gause.

And residents of the Gause area are organizing to fight the idea.

A public meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Gause Baptist Church Family Life Center.

The group can be contacted at stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com.

RESOLUTION—Gause area resident, and Houston attorney, Wayne Fisher, appeared before commis-



sioners Monday to support the resolution.

"We all recognize the need to try and solve water problems," he said, but added he did not agree with the concept of "might makes right."

"That the majority can take from the minority that which they've had for years and years is not a good

thing," he added.

Fisher pointed out the much-touted, and congressionally-approved, El Camino Real National Historic Trail "runs right through the middle" of the proposed reservoir.

"They're trying to flood a nationally-designated historic trail," he said.

LAKE—Brazos G

Regional Water Planning Group included the "Little River Off-Channel Reservoir" in a draft 2016 water plan.

The 155,812 acre-feet capacity proposal would cover about 4,300 acres in the Beaver Creek drainage south of the Little River and between Gause and Milano.

Resolution text reads: "The Commissioners' Court of Milam County, Texas opposes the creation of the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir and urges the Brazos G. Regional Water Planning Group and /or Brazos H. Regional Water Planning Group proposals be amended to delete this particular project from their plans or from further consideration."

The Eagle

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TUESDAY
June 16, 2015
75 cents

Planned Milam reservoir unfair to county landowners

At a recent meeting in Milam County, our neighbors were introduced to the tools needed to oppose the construction of a 155,000 acre-foot reservoir between Gause and Milano. Although a proposed reservoir in Milam County has been in the State Water Plan since 1968, the current version was a complete shock to landowners whose properties would be inundated with Brazos River water.

How can a project so large come as a surprise? Why would public oversight planning boards and elected officials know about this possibility but the landowners be in the dark? Well, when you are busy with work and family, it is difficult to find time to scour thousands of pages of an ever-changing State Water Plan.

No one expects to be blindsided. The state should be required to forewarn property owners when their land is declared a unique reservoir site.

As for the State Water Plan, it is becoming the ultimate profit churn for a select, government connected and privileged group of Texans.

We have dozens of public oversight boards, but none with absolute authority. We have public hearings, but the listeners are these same political subdivision board members who initially approved the plan. On the other hand, the real planners are hired specialists whose professional self-interests lean toward generating more studies, more water projects, and more water allocation plans requiring their expertise.

The Little River off-channel reservoir project in Milam County will cost \$250 million. The specialists and contingency fees will be \$50 million — a good chunk of change. For the more than 4,300-acre lake the state wants to create, costing families their homesteads, the planners expect to pay less than \$18 million — about \$4,200 per acre. From a landowners perspective, how can this be fair?

Get engaged. Stay informed. Ask questions.

CATHY LAZARUS
Calvert

Reservoir 'lose/lose' for Milam County

Residents plan appeal before water authority

GAUSE—The proposed "off channel" reservoir for eastern Milam County drew over 130 concerned persons to a meeting at Gause Baptist Church Thursday.

The group was concerned the proposal—it's listed as a long-range option for Williamson County water by a regional planning group—will take away land that's been in some families for generations.

NO BENEFIT—County Judge Dave Barkemeyer said the "Little River Off-Channel Reservoir" has a lot of down sides and no

up sides so far as Milam residents are concerned.

"There will be no economic benefit," he said.

"There would be no recreational value, no boating, or fishing allowed in the lake," Barkemeyer said. "There would be no commercial or residential development allowed around its perimeter."

Milam County commissioners two weeks ago unanimously passed a resolution opposing the reservoir, which would be north of US 79 between the Milam and Gause areas.

"The primary concern we all ought to have is our land owners and the people who are directly affected," Barkemeyer said. "We need to back them and give them our support."

CHALLENGE—Land owner Mike Conner, who said 60 of his 70 acres would be affected, challenged whether the reservoir would actually help fast-growing Williamson County as much as Region G planners believe.

"By their own numbers they don't have the need to justify this reservoir until at least 2050," he said.

"There are other alternatives that are probably a lot cheaper and easier to achieve."

Property owner Wayne Fisher, who is also an attorney, said there are serious legal problems with the process.

"They'll say they will only condemn surface land," he said. "We as land owners own the groundwa-

ter that's down below that."

"If that's the case, if you inundate all that land with water, how would we be able to retrieve the groundwater that's down below that?"

Fisher had also pointed out the reservoir, as envisioned, would also inundate a portion of the much-promoted El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, which was created by an act of Congress.

(See editorial, page 5A.)

Land owners decided representatives of the anti-reservoir movement would appear before the next Region G meeting June 23 in Waco to voice their opposition to the reservoir, which would drain 4,300 acres and have a capacity of 155,812 acre-feet.

EDITORIAL

Lines on a map

Gause reservoir plan sprang from failing to see impact on real people

It now appears the plan to place a reservoir in east central Milam County is about to be—pardon the phrasing—dead in the water.

A motion to remove the reservoir from Brazos G Regional Planning Group's long-range water plan is expected to be presented this fall and at least one voting member of that board believes it will pass. (See story page 1A)

The reservoir's impact on area residents and even our state's history—it would inundate a portion of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail—has been well documented. But if this is, indeed, the beginning of the Pin Oak Reservoir's obituary, it's fair to ask where the idea came from in the first place.

It almost certainly sprang from a computer program which was designed to show where population-exploding Williamson County could find more water later on this century. The program was asked to prioritize where the water might be and how close to North Austin Metro.

It looked at those factors and saw Pin Oak Creek, the Little River and the Brazos. In other words, lines on a map.

What it did not see was people whose families have lived in the area for well over 100 years. Did not see the winding driveway through pristine wetlands that's 15 degrees cooler than the county road on a summer afternoon.

Did not see the red sandstone rocks that tower a dozen feet high over a hill that almost certainly was visited by the first Americans a thousands of years ago.

Did not see the pride in a resident's eyes, nor hear the catch in his voice, when he described how his great grandfather had settled the land on which he was now standing and still lived.

The bureaucrats who initially looked at Pin Oak Creek aren't bad people. They just needed to be shown it's more than lines on a map.

Now they have. We trust they will do what's right.—M.B.

The Rockdale

and Messenger

Thursday, June 18, 2015

Reporter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stay informed to stop Gause Reservoir plan

Dear editor,

At a recent meeting in Milam County, our neighbors were introduced to the tools needed to oppose the construction of a 155,000-acre reservoir between Gause and Milano.

Although a proposed reservoir in Milam County has been in the State's Water Plan since 1968, the current version was a complete shock to landowners whose properties would be inundated with Brazos River water.

So how can a project so large come as a surprise? Why would public oversight planning boards and elected officials know about this possibility but the landowners be in the dark?

Well, when you are busy with work and family, it is difficult to find time to scour thousands of pages of an ever-changing State Water Plan. No one expects to be blindsided. The state should be required to forewarn property owners when their land is declared a "unique reservoir site."

As for the State Water Plan, it is becoming the ultimate profit churn for a select, governmentally connected and privileged group of Texans. We have dozens of public oversight boards, but none with absolute authority. We have public hearings, but the listeners are these same political subdivision board members that initially approved the plan.

On the other hand, the real planners are hired specialists whose profession-

al self-interests lean to generate more studies, more water projects, and more water allocation plans requiring their expertise.

The Little River - Off Channel Reservoir project in Milam County will cost \$250 million. The specialists and contingency fees will be \$50 million - a good chunk of change. For the 4300+ acres they want to flood and families losing their homesteads, the planners expect to pay less than \$18 million - about \$4200/acre. From a landowners' perspective, how can this be fair?

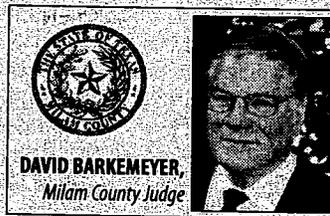
Get engaged. Stay informed. Ask questions.

Cathy Lazarus
Robertson County resident
clazhome@msn.com

Commissioner's Court opposes off-channel reservoir

At our most recent Commissioner's Court meeting we unanimously passed a resolution opposing the construction of an off channel reservoir near Gause that is being considered for inclusion in both the Brazos G and Brazos H Regional Water Planning Group in the next water planning cycle of the state of Texas. At their last meeting the Gause School Board has also joined us in passing a resolution opposing the reservoir.

I'm sure there are at least some of you that are questioning why we would be opposed to this, thinking that this could be a good deal for



Milam County, providing a recreational fishing and boating haven in our area as well as a potential real estate and commercial stimulus for the county, not to mention a long term source of water.

The answer is that we are told that it would do none of the above. The reservoir would be off limits to boating, no development would be

allowed around the perimeter, and the water would be only available to the out-of-county sponsor of the project.

In addition the Milano and Gause school districts as well as Milam County would lose much needed tax base, the local land owners that would be affected would lose their property at condemnation values only; in other words, there is no apparent significant economic benefit to us locally.

But most of all, I feel we should back our fellow Milam County citizens who would lose their homes, their family owned property, and family grave sites in Pin Oak Cemetery.

Robertson County

News

Dear Editor

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*Cathy Lazarus
Robertson County Resident*

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JUDGE'S COMMENTS

DAVID BARKEMEYER
Milam County Judge

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dbarkemeyer@milamcounty.net

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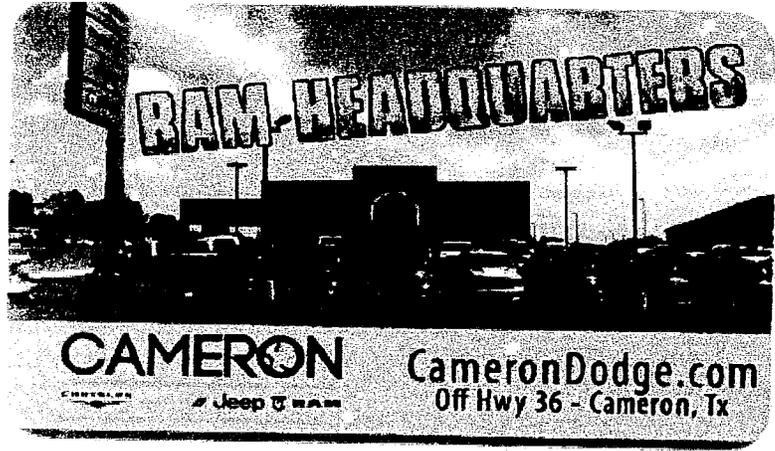
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MILAM COUNTY LANDOWNERS FACE POTENTIAL PROPERTY LOSS

(GAUSE) A group of landowners in Milam County is due in Waco today to speak at a public meeting at the Brazos River Authority office where it will oppose an effort to flood more than 4,343 acres of land that is intended to reserve water for Williamson County.

Wayne Fisher, a Houston lawyer who grew up near Gause, is representing the group of landowners, which he says numbers about 50, at today's public meeting on the issue of the pipeline building.

The proposal calls for seizing 4,343 acres of land in east central Milam County near Gause and putting it into a reservoir that would store water for sale to Williamson County. The impoundment, which would inundate Farm-to-Market Road between Gause and Cameron. The proposal is included as part of Water Planning Branch Regional Group's 2016 regional water plan. The pipeline project and treatment plant would cost about \$177 million.

To be viable in the future, the plans must be submitted by Dec. 1 as part of the 2016 Water Plan.

[Return to Headlines](#)

Milam County residents make their case

CATHY LAZARUS

Robertson County News

More than a hundred Milam County residents crowded three Brazos River Authority conference rooms to oppose the construction of the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir during the public hearing for the initially proposed regional water plan. This plan is being compiled by the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group and will eventually become part of the 2016 State Water Plan.

With obvious controlled passion and emotion, several attendees methodically presented very compelling arguments against inundating their family legacies, historic cemeteries, livelihoods, and hopes for the future with Brazos River water... even part of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Heritage Trail would be lost forever. They demonstrated why destroying wildlife and botanical habitats would be a true travesty. They explained why the knowledge of this impeding reservoir and inevitable litigation would put the lives on hold. They showed concern that destroying these beautiful homes and property would be an economic blow to local businesses and local tax bases.

Applause from their community supporters fol-

lowed each speaker. None and then by the Texas Water



CATHY LAZARUS | ROBERTSON COUNTY NEWS

Milam County native Wayne Fisher opens residents' civil discord with the Brazos G Regional Planning Group

more welcomed than when Gary Westbrook, the manager of the Post Oak Savannah GCD and a member of this planning group representing groundwater districts, announced he would move to omit the Little River - OCD from the 2016 Regional Water Plan. Apparently, recent geological studies were not supporting the LR-OCR location as a unique reservoir site.

However, their fight is not over. The motion will have to be approved by a majority of the Planning Group

Development Board later this year.

The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group will accept written comments about the extensive plan until August 24, 2015. The final approval will be in December. Visit www.brazosgwater.org for more information.

BRA Region G proposed off-channel reservoir adds insult to injury

Guest commentary by
Marion Travis, Cameron

To BRA Region G Members:

Although qualified to do so, I have to do no academic research to assert that your Brazos G Regional Planning Group seeks, perhaps unwittingly, to add a shameful new chapter of neglect to the people of Milam County. Most of my long life has been lived in Central Texas; accordingly I am a witness to Brazos River Authority's disregard for the topographical realities of this county since the BRA's beginning in the 1930s.

Born in Cameron in 1929, I grew up on the upland of Little River immediately north of Cameron. My family's property included Little River bottomland that frequently flooded my family's crops. Occasionally the floods were beneficial; otherwise they were destructive. Thanks be to God we were fortunate to have other sources of income. We were excited about the creation of Brazos River Authority expecting improved life in Milam County. Naively, we believed Milam County—crossed by Little River—would benefit someday. No one knew that BRA planning from the beginning would disregard, even exploit, Milam County's people.

Now we see that BRA practices over untold decades have encouraged economic development elsewhere in the Brazos basin while its policies continue to degrade our environment.

Little River's watershed embraces 2,349 square miles, which means, according to the U.S.-Geological Survey, it is bigger than the two U.S. states—Delaware at 2026 square miles and Rhode Island at 1213 square miles.

Instead of the expected public benefit in Milam County, BRA planning over the years would eventually reduce water flow in Little River turning

"BRA planning over the years would eventually reduce water flow in Little River turning it into a convenient sewer for wastes from 41 permitted outfalls from municipal and industrial waste."

it into a convenient sewer for wastes from 41 permitted outfalls from municipal and industrial waste. Further, rains wash animal waste, fertilizer, and pesticides into Milam's majority share of Little River. The river is unfit for public recreational use. BRA administrators had to know all along that, after construction of watershed dams, Little River watershed's configuration would produce precisely this result. Did BRA have a policy to do no harm? I see no such evidence. In fact, it continues its exploitation.

The Brazos River is the longest river in the U.S. to be confined to one state. The Brazos River Authority is an important, huge, wealthy entity today. It contracts with world-class engineers at great cost to plan its water improvements. Likely, looking for the least expensive practical solution to a need, the BRA puts constraints on its engineers to find the least expensive means to accomplish a desired result.

It is out of these circumstances that the newly proposed Little River Off-Channel Reservoir is designed. Its purpose is to provide Brazos River water storage chiefly for population needs outside of Milam County. Milam citizens are asked once more to play a purely utilitarian role at the behest of BRA for benefit of other counties. We are again being used. How? Now BRA plans to seize valuable private property in Milam County to someday build a reservoir of no benefit to the people living in Milam County. Instead it is destructive; meanwhile—whatever time that covers—the titles of targeted private property are clouded.

BRA's historical maltreatment of Milam County is an outrage that no local citizen can take lightly.

Everyone knows a dam on Little River—before it drains into the Brazos—would not be an optimal solution because City of Cameron is near the vastness of our river bottomland. Doubtless BRA policy is to make its projects cost-effective. Apparently, providing potable or recreational water to Milam County would not be cost-effective.

Yet we know also that world-class engineers such as those who contract with BRA are capable of designing a solution to most problems. Did their planning seek alternatives to an off-channel reservoir in Milam County?

Did the BRA's engineers look at all the alternatives to increase water supply for others? Did they examine the possibility of increasing the capacity of Lake Georgetown or Lake Granger? Increasing the size of a water storage lake is not a new idea. It has been done successfully before. If river water storage capacity is not keeping up with population growth, a second taller, wider dam may be built downstream from an existing, outmoded dam. Upon completion of the new dam, the old dam is demolished. The result is a greatly increased water supply for nearby population.

The above would be only the beginning of other solutions for water supply rather than the proposed off-channel reservoir in Milam County.

To be sure, water is an essential of life. It must be provided for Texans. But in the U.S.A. planners affecting the public good shall exhaust all possibilities before sacrificing private property when such an action will produce no comparable benefit to citizens stripped of their land.

I demand that BRA Region G shall take a long, second look at what it is proposing.

TEMPLE DAILY

Visit us online at www.tdtnews.com

FRIDAY, June 26, 2015

Vol. 108, No. 220

TELEGRAM

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CENTRAL TEXAS WATER

Brazos G plan aims to ensure water for future growth

BY CHRISTIAN HERNANDEZ
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

Despite recent rainfall, water shortage continues to be an issue in Central Texas. According to Water Data for Texas, a part of the Texas Water Development Board's Surface Water Resources division, state reservoirs were only 84 percent full as of Thursday.

The Texas Water Development Board divided the state into 16 regions labeled A through P — each tasked with the development, management and conservation of its region's water resources, according to the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group's 2016 Plan.

The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group is responsible for 31,600 square

Water

Continued from 1A

about 70 miles from the Texas-Oklahoma border.

Every five years, regional groups produce a plan to address water issues as they arise. Brazos G's 2016 Plan uses a planning horizon of 50 years, from 2020 to 2070, and includes proposals for up to 14 new reservoirs, the augmentation of four existing reservoirs and various other strategies such as water reuse, water conservation and aquifer management.

Several potential strategies included in the 2016 plan could affect the Telegram coverage area — two in particular. A Belton-Stillhouse Hollow pipeline could move up to 30,000 acre-feet from Lake Belton to Stillhouse Hollow Lake, which has a direct pipeline to Granger Lake in Williamson County. Also, the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir would create a 4,300-acre reservoir and displace several fourth-generation landowners.

According to the Brazos River Authority, the final plan would be

submitted later this year to the water development board for review and possible inclusion in its 2017 state plan.

Water plans deal with huge amounts of water which are usually expressed in terms of acre-feet. An acre-foot is the volume of water that would cover one acre one foot deep — roughly 325,800 gallons.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average daily water usage for an American family is more than 300 gallons. In other words, one family uses 108,000 gallons, or about a third of an acre-foot, per year.

The water that a typical household uses is considered to be a part of the municipal demand. Other factors that contribute to this same demand are commercial establishments, fire protection, public recreation and sanitation. The total water demand for Region G in 2010 was 870,180 acre-feet, and 42 percent of that was municipal water.

Municipal demand, though, is only one of six types of demands;

the others are manufacturing, steam-electric, mining, irrigation and livestock. By 2070, the total demand for Texas is calculated to be 1,478,731 acre-feet — a growth of 69.9 percent, according to the Brazos G plan, which can be read online at www.brazosgwater.org/2016-Water-Plan.aspx.

The region's population was 1,972,449 in 2010, and is expected to more than double that by 2070. It is projected that together, Bell and Williamson counties in 2070 will have more than the population for the entire region from 2010, according to the Brazos G plan.

This projected growth is centered in a few key hotspots. Six counties in the region — Bell, Brazos, Coryell, Hood, Johnson and Williamson — are expected to have an annual growth rate of more than 1 percent. But none of the others tops Williamson's, at 2.4 percent growth annually.

Growth in all of Region G is said to concentrate around the Interstate 35 corridor and U.S. Highway 183, which coincide in Williamson County. Brazos G

predicts the populations of Williamson County cities Round Rock, Leander, Georgetown and Hutto to more than quadruple from 2010 and 2070.

The rise in population would obviously come with a increase in demand for water.

Thirty of the 37 counties are expected to experience a shortage of water at some point between now and 2070. For the counties immediately surrounding Bell County in Region G, all but Milam County are included in the list of projected shortages, according to the Brazos G website.

Counties are divided into water user groups. They are defined as cities of more than 500. County land not covered by a city water supply falls into a sort of blanket water user group for the area. For Bell County, three of the 12 water user groups will experience shortage in the 2020s — with Temple following closely in the 2030s.

Comparatively, 14 of 18 Williamson County water user groups will see a shortage in the 2020s.

chemandez@tdtnews.com

FRIDAY, June 26, 2015

Property

Continued from 1A

In the 2016 Plan, Brazos G has budgeted money to purchase the land, but Gause landowners say that financial compensation is beside the point.

"It's my life," Kornegay said. "It's not about the money." Both Kornegay and Marks are fourth-generation landowners whose great grandfathers purchased the original land parcels in the late 1800s.

"It's a heritage issue," Marks said. "We can go buy more land somewhere else if they make us sell it to them, but we don't want to buy other land."

Kornegay, a 68-year-old retiree, owns about 300 acres in Gause. If the plan goes through, all but about 20 acres would be underwater and the remaining land would no longer be accessible, he said.

An additional 244.5 acres owned by the family would be in danger of being inundated should the proposal go through. These family lands are where Kornegay's father was born, and where together they cleared the land to eventually rear cattle, he said. "Lots of blood, sweat and tears went into this place," Kornegay said. "But I did it for the love of my daddy."

How the community is speaking up

Though the plan for a Milam County reservoir is still in the preliminary stages and has not been approved, disgruntled landowners are not waiting to act.

Petitions are available at Milam County businesses in opposition to the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir:

- **M&M Farm Supply** — 2208 W. Fourth St., Cameron
- **Anderle Lumber Supply** — 1300 W. Fourth St., Cameron
- **Midway Grocery** — 446 Murray Ave. Rockdale
- **Coats Grocery** — 120 E. Gause Blvd. Gause
- **Croew Co.** — 7257 U.S. 79 Milano

An online petition was created to supplement the paper ones, and a Facebook page was created. The Facebook page, called "Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir," recruited 364 followers since its creation in late May. On the group's wall, followers share photos of historical artifacts found in the area, family pictures dating back decades, and news coverage telling their story.

Marks also is retired. She moved back to her birth place to look after properties that her mother had left her, including 235 acres on Alligator Creek. The land was purchased by her great-grandfather to use as farmland. As far as she knows, all of the property is in danger of being flooded, she said.

Fisher is an attorney and travels frequently, but said that his main home is Alligator Creek Ranch, a 1,500-acre ranch in Gause. He serves as

Gause residents defend property, heritage

BY CHRISTIAN HERNANDEZ
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

A proposed 4,300-acre reservoir has many Milam County landowners outraged. The Little River Off-Channel Reservoir, proposed to be built in the unincorporated community of Gause, is a part of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group's 2016 plan.

A future need for water in neighboring counties has

led Brazos G to propose this and 13 other new reservoirs in the region.

Brazos G held a public hearing Tuesday morning at the Brazos River Authority Central Office in Waco. Many people opposed to the plan attended to speak their minds. Mike Kornegay, Judy Simmons Marks and Wayne Fisher live in Gause and own land that would be affected by the reservoir.

Please see PROPERTY, 5A

It comprises Bell, Williamson, Milam, Falls, McLennan, Coryell and 31 other counties from Washing-

ton County in the south to Knox County in the north.

Please see WATER, 5A

In addition to the heritage, the natural beauty of the area and its historical significance, another argument against the reservoir is that the landowners report sand on their properties would make it very difficult to hold water on the land.

Fisher invested \$100,000 to make a lake of about 4 acres on his property. The results? "It was like someone pulled a stopper from a bathtub." After recent rainfall, his planned lake filled up again, but had dropped about 4 feet a week or two later.

Of the three landowners mentioned, not one remembers anybody coming out to their property to inspect it for the feasibility of the reservoir.

The landowners believe that the proposed reservoir would not directly benefit Milam County residents. The Little River Off-Channel Reservoir would have a direct pipeline to Granger Lake in Williamson County, which has had difficulty satisfying its increasing water demand.

Marks urges Brazos G to explore other options to address the Williamson County's water woes, "I'm sorry for the people of Williamson County ... but we shouldn't have to make that sacrifice for them."

chernandez@tdtnews.com



Reporter/Mike Brown

Mike Kornegay looks over land that's been in his family well over 100 years. Virtually all of it would be under water, or inaccessible, if the proposed Little River Reservoir is constructed to supply water for Williamson County.

It's all about family

Many generations lived in area now threatened

By **MIKE BROWN**
Reporter/Editor

Mike Kornegay pulls his ATV over to the side of Milam County Road 343.

"See that little trickle of water running down the ditch? It does that all the time. This hill just seeps out water."

There's not much about this land northeast of Milano he doesn't know. The first Milam County Kornegay—great-grandfather Robert Arnold Kornegay—came to this place at least 128 years ago.

And there's an unbroken line down through the years, from Robert Arnold to son A. W. Sr. to grandson A. W. Jr. (Bulldog) to great grandson Mike and siblings Gary Kornegay and Cheryl Stewart.

FIGHT—And now it's threatened. No group would lose more than the several Kornegay families who live on about 800 acres of virtually untouched land quite literally deep in the heart of Texas.

"It would all be affected," Mike Kornegay said. "It would either get covered up with water or there wouldn't be any access to it."

Needless to say, the Kornegays and their neighbors are heavily involved in the fight to keep 4,300 acres of land from being flooded by the proposed Little River Off-Channel Reservoir.

He returned to his ranch Friday afternoon after a busy morning getting signatures for a petition opposing the reservoir plan.

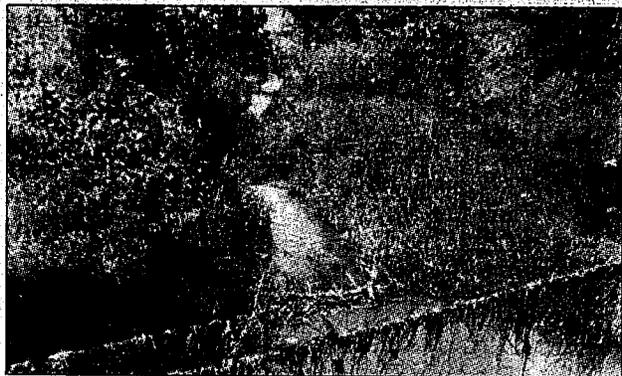
"We're getting good response but where we're really getting great support is on the Internet," he said. "This movement has really taken off. A lot of peo-

See **FAMILIES**, page 6A



Reporter/Mike Brown

Above, the view from Gary and Lisa Kornegay's hill-top house. If the reservoir is built, those hay bales and trees would be under water and the home would become an island. At right, placid Pin Oak Creek would disappear as would historic Pin Oak Cemetery.



Families

Continued from page 1A

ple care."

Kornegay cares a lot. An invitation to tour the land on his ATV—kind of a cross between a golf cart and a Sherman tank—turns into a three-hour travelogue, nature hike and history lesson.

A visitor ends up feeling the land more than seeing it.

ROCK STAR—Kornegay steers down a lane owned by a neighbor. Trees make a canopy above. It's 15 degrees cooler than the county road. There's standing water to one side.

"They talk about wetlands," he said. "These are our wetlands. We'd never touch them. If that lake comes they'll all be gone. If it doesn't, we'll preserve them."

The destination is a 12-foot high red sandstone rock that towers above an outcrop. Kornegay says you can see a face in it if you look hard enough.

It's impressive and more than a little spooky. There were Native Americans in the area thousands of years ago. It doesn't take much

imagination to see this place being a sacred spot.

The trusty ATV somehow groans up a hill to provide a view that would fit proudly in a national park.

Across the county road, on top of a slightly higher hill, is a house.

"My brother Gary and his wife, Lisa, that's their house," Kornegay said. "That would be an island. They'd be totally surrounded by water. No way in or out."

(Officials have said there would be no recreation use, no development and no tax advantages if the reservoir is built.)

'DON'T GET IT'—Kornegay admits to being angry at the plans but, out here in his element, something deeper comes across.

"Why would anyone want to cover this up?" he asked, sweeping his hand across a vista that literally stretches across 360 degrees.

"I just don't get it," he said.

He doesn't think the

planners at Brazos G Regional Water Planning are bad people. He's just not sure they see the same things the Kornegay families have cherished since at least the McKinley Administration.

When the reservoir idea first came up, Kornegay wrote letters to 25 officials in the Brazos River Authority.

"I got three replies," he said. "And one of those three was from somebody who lives here in this area. They were all nice to me. But three out of 25?"

"So far as I know nobody from that water bunch has ever come out here and looked at this land," he said.

The Kornegay family has expanded its holdings since Robert A. moved onto the first 244-1/2 acres so long ago the exact date isn't known.

"We know it was at least 128 years ago," Mike Kornegay said. "He may have

come here not too long after the Civil War"

About 600 more acres have been added by the family in approximate 300-acre increments, purchased during World II and sometime later in the 1940s or early in 1950s.

"This effort to keep the land from being ruined, it's not just for us who live here now, it's also for all of those who have lived here before, all the way back to my great grandfather," he said.

Kornegay's uncle Willard and cousin Arnold also own land in the immediate area.

The sun is starting to bend low over land that a couple of decades from now will either be the shore of a lake, or look a lot like it does now.

The ATV rattles on and the "weeping hill" trickle of water reappears.

"That's the only water we want to see," Mike Kornegay says.

CONTINUE TO OPPOSE OFF-CHANNEL RESERVOIR

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the persons, who made presentations on this subject at last Tuesday's Region G meeting/Public Hearing in Waco. The presentations were well prepared and they limited their material to the subject at hand. It am taking this opportunity to discuss some topics that seem to be overlooked, and have been since the debates surrounding the 2001 and 2006 Public Hearings and action relative the Little River Reservoir on channel.)

It seems to me that we in



DAVID BARKEMEYER,
Milam County Judge



Editor's Note: County Judge David Barkemeyer is on vacation this week. His column will resume when he returns.

Milam County do not realize that our distracter is not the citizens of Williamson County and Harris County, the distracter is the Brazos River Authority (BRA) and will continue to be such for years to come, and maybe even generations to come. If my understanding of the history of the area is near close to reality, this battle has been going on since the mid 1960s. It then reared its ugly head again in the late 1990s, and here it is again in the 2010s. On each of the previous occasions there has been a significant opposition mustered up to fight back, and once again the opposition is well organized and energetic.

Since I have been on the fringe of these issues and have not had land that will be directly affected physically by any of these projects, there is a definite affect on my life, and on my community, which is Milam County. This is not a battle between Region G and the folks in Pin Oak Cemetery, 22-Hills, etc., this is a battle between BRA and its encroachment on the liberties and property rights of the people of all of Milam County, and surrounding counties. Each time BRA takes another acre for their water marketing practices, that is another acre that the citizens of Milam County have to cover the lost tax base, and productivity losses for the to the County, and affected School Districts. I am sure that

the Houston and Georgetown Independent School Districts would not have to make and serious changes in the operations if they lost a million dollars of revenue over a short period of time, but \$1 million is total devastation to a small rural school system like Gause Independent School District.

Let us not be confused, and let us get out of the habit of calling these reservoirs that BRA, Region G, and Region H keep pushing as lakes. Lake Conroe is a lake and what is, and has been, proposed for Milam County are shallow reservoirs that will be detrimental to the area.

While at the meeting in Waco I heard the number of about 4,300 acres. I believe that is the foot print of the actual reservoir, and not the acreage that would be purchased for captured by eminent domain. During the 2006 hearing process the BRA, Region G and Region H that the reservoir would be about 35,000 acres, yet hidden down inside of the multi-volume plan a outline for surveying, appraising and acquiring over 50,000 acres, Is the Little River OCR, going to survey, appraise and acquire 4,300 acres, or more like 6 to 7,000 acres?

I would like to encourage the citizens of Milam County to get behind this usurpation of eminent domain and let

See Page 5

Continued from Page 4
us lend our assistance to the group of persons affiliated with the Stop Little River OCR movement. If history repeats itself you could be the next victim of this type of reckless behavior by government and quasi-government organizations. Remember it is BRA that gets the water from the Little River OCR to in turn market it at a profit to the people of other counties with no apparent benefit to Milam County.

*- Nicholas J. Roberts,
Cameron*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Allegations of POSGCD mismanagement listed

Dear editor,

Many of us have watched with alarm as the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District has adopted policies which will deplete our aquifers.

Unfortunately, the district is rewarded for issuing excessive pumping permits since permit holders have to pay fees to the tune of \$1.8 million this year.

Since the district's general manager is one of Milam and Burleson counties' highest-paid public officials, the district should be one of the best-managed government agencies in our area.

Unfortunately, that is not the case. Instead, annual financial audits for 2011, 2012, and 2013 show that annual spending was greater than revenues.

We have documented using public information requests that the district violates its own financial management policies. Here are just two of the problems that we uncovered:

- Four water wells were completed at a cost of \$77,000 without a contract, although board policy calls for contracts.

District employees do

not submit required travel vouchers, a practice which prevents the public from knowing where they travel, why they travel, and how they spent our money. In 2014, district employees spent more than \$16,000 for travel.

On May 8, we sent an e-mail to each district director and shared our findings about these and other policy violations and requested a full-scope audit.

Even though we requested a response, no director has replied.

Although the directors appear to be unconcerned about the financial problems that we uncovered, we believe that they are serious and have forwarded our concerns to the Texas State Auditor's Office.

Is there anyone at the district who cares about how our money is being spent?

The financial accountability and transparency of the district have to be improved. The citizens of Milam and Burleson Counties deserve better.

Curtis Chubb
texas.ccm@centurylink.net

Colleen Waring
cwarling@berryhillfarm.us

The Rockdale

Vol. 143, No. 34

Thursday, July 2, 2015

Reporter

Tide turns against reservoir

Board member 'optimistic' on removing Gause option

By **MIKE BROWN**
Reporter Editor

The proposed Gause-Milano area reservoir may have dried up and blown away by Christmas-time.

A crowd of 160 persons—many of them affected Gause-area landowners—packed a regional water planning group meeting last Tuesday in Waco to express opposition to the plan in no uncertain terms.

"I believe we got their attention," area resident Wayne Fisher, and spokesman for the group, told *The Reporter*.

That attention could soon yield the kind of results members of the Stop the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir organization want to see.

Gary Westbrook of Milano, a board member of Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group which listed the project in its long-range plans in April, said he would introduce a motion at a subsequent meeting to drop the reservoir from those plans.

Westbrook told *The Reporter* he was "very optimistic" the motion would be approved by the 22-member Brazos G board.

"There's certainly enough evidence (to drop it)," he said.

Westbrook is also general manager of the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD). He said the POSGCD is undertaking a study of the area, which he termed "highly undesirable as a reservoir site."

"(After the study) I don't think anyone, Brazos G or another water planning group, would ever want to consider putting a reservoir there," he said.

DRAINAGE—Westbrook said the site of what's been termed the Pin Oak Reservoir was not evaluated in depth before April when it was placed in Brazos G's long-term plans to relieve a projected future Williamson County water shortage.

See RESERVOIR, page 6A

Reservoir

Continued from page 1A

He said more recent data has revealed the site's shortcomings.

"It's sandy land and it's going to drain right into the (underground) Carrizo Outcrop," he said. "Forty-two percent of the reservoir is over that outcrop. That means much of the water would just drain into the ground, where it could be accessed by water pumpers and not ever get into the pipeline to Williamson County, which is supposed to be the purpose of the project."

Land owner Fisher agrees. "I've faced that problem on my land with my own small lake," he said.

"It would just drain down. When we got all that rain this spring it filled up for the first time in five years," he said. "But in a very short amount of time it went down four feet."

"Old-timers in this area know that," he said. "I was told by one, you're never going to get water to stay in there."

Westbrook said his motion to scrap the Pin Oak site probably wouldn't be at Brazos G's next session in August, but would be before the board's water plan is due to be adopted in December.

Westbrook said Brazos G board members had viewed the reservoir as only "an idea" and that it turned up in their planning "because of its proximity to Williamson County; this was the closest thing the modeling research showed."

'IRREPLACEABLE'—The site has another huge "strike" against it.

The Pin Oak Reservoir would inundate a part of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail, which has been touted as a major tourist and cultural attraction for Milam County.

Steven Gonzales, executive director of the trail association joined the chorus of voices asking the water planning group to reconsider.

"This action would forever alter a nationally significant roadway and destroy an elemental part of our state's history," he said.

Gonzales said it's hard to overstate the importance of the trail. "The Camino Real led to the founding of Texas," he told Brazos G. "In fact, it's easy to state we would not be calling Texas 'Texas' without it," he said.

"Our association, along with the citizens and elected representatives of Milam County, ask that you reconsider this proposed inundation, as we hope that you will see that the project will do great harm to this irreplaceable resource," Gonzales said.

He said ECR trail officials are working to set up a meeting, likely in Gause, in late July.

"We will bring together potentially affected landowners, county officials, our organization, and GTI Environmental (an archaeological firm) to discuss some things we might be able to do to link landowner properties to the trail and to demonstrate the historic significance of these properties, so that they will hopefully be better protected from inundation by the proposed reservoir," he said.

See editorial, page 4A.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STOP LITTLE RIVER OCR

The selfishness and greed exhibited by the tyranny of eminent domain perpetuated on innocent victims is blatantly illustrated by the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir proposal collaborated by the Brazos River Authority / Post Oak Savannah Water District.

The reaction of the organized Stop Little River OCR exploded this debacle to front page status, exposed for all to see.

All of Milam County should be very grateful for the continued efforts of this group and many others as well as for the excellent and informative reports in The Cameron Herald. This affects us all.

In the 1960s, San Antonio had a proposal for their own water reservoir. They voted it down. Our founders sought God for freedom from the iron hand of England. God heard their plea and gave them the most exceptional country, ever, with life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness and the freedom of owning property. There is only one God, It wasn't King George III of England nor is it the BRA.

The BRA should proffer large cities water conservation, water rationing, enlarging existing

lakes (great idea), not "take" or steal private property for ever-expanding "public use" purposes. This proposed reservoir is NOT for public use. The victims of Milam County will get no use whatsoever, no just compensation, but will get further reduction of the tax base, less water, homelessness, lives turned upside down, and the history, beauty and richness of this valuable area gone forever.

Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

How many water directors own property in this proposed reservoir area?

Karen Clark, Cameron

August 13, 2015

September motion eyed to remove Gause reservoir

WACO—Residents of eastern Milam County, irate because a long-range water plan for Texas includes a reservoir which would inundate their property, returned to make their voices heard at a regional water board meeting last Wednesday.

No action on removing the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir from the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group's long-range plans, but that's expected to change, perhaps as soon as next month.

Gary Westbrook, Post Oak Savannah Ground-water Conservation District manager, and a voting member of the 22-person Region G board, said he plans to make his motion to drop the reservoir from the entity's plans as soon as next month.

"The comment period for this plan runs through the end of August, so there is

not an opportunity to make such a motion until after that period has expired."

That leaves the September Region G meeting as the first opportunity to make such a motion.

"I hope to be able to do so at that time," he said.

Last month Westbrook told *The Reporter* he was "very optimistic" the motion would be approved by the board.

PETITION—Opponents of what's called the Pin Oak Reservoir aren't taking any chances.

They continue to collect names on petitions opposing the reservoir, both in person and on-line, and hope to have 1,000 signatures before Saturday's deadline.

Opponents are also contacting State Sen. Charles Schwertner and State Rep. Marsha Farney to enlist their aid in fighting the reservoir.

The Rockdale Reporter

The Rockdale Reporter

June 4, 2015

RESERVOIR PROPOSAL

A reservoir has been proposed that would flood 4,343 acres in rural areas between Gause and Milano, Texas. This reservoir would provide water to urban areas and other communities within the state. There will be a meeting of the Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir group who oppose this proposal on Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 pm at the Gause Baptist Church Family

Life Center. Please attend and help us organize an effort to save our land, historical landmarks, environmental resources, and homes. Send questions to: stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com.

Property owners organize to oppose Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

■ By CURTIS CHUBB
Special to the Herald

More than 100 people gathered at a church building in Gause last Thursday night to discuss the proposed Little River Off-Channel Reservoir.

What really struck me at the meeting was the evident respect that everyone had for each other. I believe that the meeting's can-do atmosphere was due to everyone believing that they could do anything if they stood shoulder-to-shoulder - including having the reservoir removed from the Brazos G regional water plans.

Although there are three coordinators of the Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir movement (Baumann Family, Conner Family, Wayne Fisher), the meeting place was swarming with people who wanted to help others write letters to Brazos

NEWS

ANALYSIS

G and legislators, who would take photographs of people's property which would then be presented to Brazos G, who would arrange rides to Waco for the Brazos G hearing on June 23, who had the petitions to sign, and the list goes on.

In short, this movement is a group effort and they all have a dog in the fight - that dog being their land or their friend's land. The three coordinators do their work in such a way that everyone feels equal to one and all - a mark of good leadership.

In fact, instead of using "group" to refer to the people fighting for their land near Gause, a more accurate term is "community."

The community's mastery

of Facebook has resulted in a Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir Facebook page which not only spreads information fast, it also allows everyone to share their ideas and concerns - instantaneously.

On the community's Facebook page, you can find photos of people petting their Charolaise bull, Pin Oak Cemetery tombstones of people buried in 1869, grazing horses, arrowheads, ponds, and even the Gause meeting. But you can also find links to all types of information concerning the proposed reservoir. As I said, the community has mastered Facebook and has harnessed its immense power to bring people together and share knowledge.

I believe that the Gause meeting was not held to simply share information; it was held to allow people to understand that they are not alone in this fight.

See Page 2

OPPOSE

FROM PAGE 1

At the meeting, Mike Conner presented an overview of the proposed 4,300-acre reservoir and pointed out several interesting points. For example, he mentioned that the bonds used to build the reservoir would be repaid by selling the water from the reservoir. The problem that Conner pointed out is that it appears that no one needs the reservoir water for several years, so how could they repay the bonds.

Also, Conner pointed out that the estimated purchase price of water from the reservoir is based on pumping the maximum amount allowed. He suggested that the maximum amount of water would not be pumped annually which would increase the price of the water; a fact which is not mentioned in the Brazos G plan.

Wayne Fisher mentioned some of the advantages that the community has which will help in blocking the proposed reservoir. These factors include: the Milam County Commissioners Court's resolution to stop the reservoir; the presence of cultural resources such as the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail and Pin Oak Cemetery (a designated Historic Texas Cemetery); and the presence of land owned and operated by the same families for more than 100 years which have been accepted into the Family Land Heritage Program

sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Fisher also discussed some unique legal avenues which could be used to thwart the building of the reservoir.

Melissa Shehane, a member of the Baumann family who serves as a central contact person, urged people to attend Brazos G's public hearing scheduled for June 23 (Tuesday). The announcement on Brazos G's website reads: "... notice is hereby given that the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group ('Brazos G/Region G') will conduct a public hearing at 9 a.m., Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at the Brazos River Authority Office, 4600 Cobbs Drive, Waco, Texas 76710. The purpose of the hearing is to receive oral and/or written comments regarding the content of the Initially Prepared Brazos G Regional Water Management Plan."

Shehane requested that anyone wishing to speak at the hearing (five minutes are allocated to each speaker) contact her so that there could be some coordination of the speakers in order to minimize the repeating of the same ideas.

In addition to the Milam County Commissioners Court, Shehane said that

resolutions against the reservoir construction had been requested from Gause ISD, Milano ISD, and the City of Milano City Council.

One of the Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir emails included a statement which provided the perfect ending for this report: "Remember we are stronger together than we are alone!"

STAY INFORMED ABOUT BRAZOS G PLANS

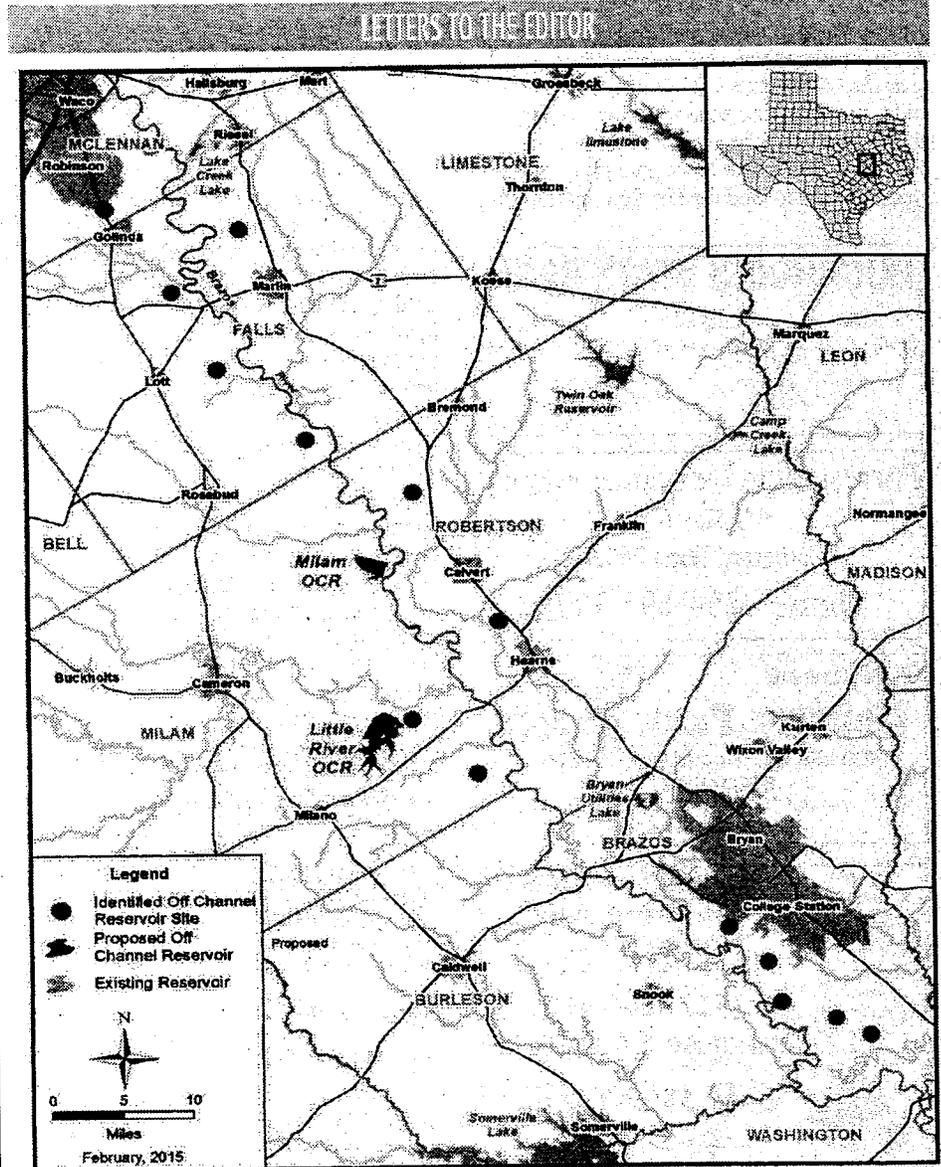
Brazos G Water Plan, Section 4.3 - Main Stem Off-Channel Reservoirs (OCR) [http://brazosgwater.org/IPPP-2016/Volume-II/4-8-MainStemOCR.pdf] should be of interest to landowners near the Brazos River in Falls, Milam, Robertson and Brazos Counties. Why? Because the Brazos River Authority (BRA) asked that off-channel reservoirs (OCRs) be built to store unappropriated river flow during

wet times so they can release it downstream during dry periods.

Of the 14 OCR sites identified, most would be built over the recharge zones of our groundwater aquifers. Since these recharge zones are necessary for rainwater to infiltrate our aquifers, it does not seem wise to try to build reservoirs over them.

It is common to flood recharge zones during irrigation projects or build small containment levees to redirect and/or slow down surface water over recharge zones so more water is absorbed into these soils. However, the Main Stem OCR's purpose is to store Brazos River water for future use downstream. It means building 5' to 12' diameter

See Page 5



Identified OCR Sites, Initially Prepared 2016 Brazos G Regional Water Plan I Volume II, New Reservoirs I Main Stem Off-Channel Reservoir

From Page 4

pipelines to divert the river water needed, then pumping it uphill to the OCR. Since the reservoir will primarily be filled with excess flow (i.e. water not already permitted to another BRA

reservoir or customer or needed for environmental flow), it might be years between events that could refill this continually evaporating mud hole. There may also be times when senior water rights downstream may require the reservoir to give its bounty back to the river from whence it came regardless of its water level.

Annualized cost of a 1500 acre OCR & operation - \$11 million/year for years to

come.
 - Cost of botanical, aquatic, amphibian, and other wildlife habitats lost - irreplaceable.
 - Cost of letting Mother Nature do her thing - nothing!
 - Natural recharge of our underground aquifers to renew our local water supply - priceless!
 Stay informed. Get engaged.

- Cathy Lazarus, Robertson County

Opinions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Get involved and learn more about Brazos reservoir plans

The Brazos G Water Plan, Section 4.8 — Main Stem Off-Channel Reservoirs, which can be found at brazosgwater.org/IPP-2016/Volume-II/4-8-MainStemOCR.pdf, should be of interest to landowners near the Brazos River in Falls, Milam, Robertson and Brazos counties.

Why? Because the Brazos River Authority asked that off-channel reservoirs be built to store unappropriated river flow during wet times so it can be released downstream during dry periods. Of the 14 reservoir sites identified, most would be built over the recharge zones of our groundwater aquifers. Since these recharge zones are necessary for rainwater to infiltrate our aquifers, it does not seem wise to try to build reservoirs over them.

It is common to flood recharge zones during irrigation projects or build small containment levees to redirect and/or slow down surface water over recharge zones so more water is absorbed into these soils. The Main Stem Off-Channel Reservoirs' purpose, however, is to store Brazos River water for future use downstream. It means building pipelines to divert the river water needed, then pumping it uphill to the reservoir. Since the reservoir primarily would be filled with excess flow (i.e. water not already permitted to another river authority reservoir or customer or needed for environmental flow), it might be years between events that could refill this continually evaporating mud hole. There also may be times when senior water rights downstream may require the reservoir to give its bounty back to the river from whence it came, regardless of its water level.

Annualized cost of a 1,500-acre off-channel reservoir operation is \$11 million a year for years to come. Cost of botanical, aquatic, amphibian and other wildlife habitats lost is irreplaceable. Cost of letting Mother Nature do her thing is nothing! Natural recharge of our underground aquifers to renew our local water supply is priceless!

Stay informed. Get engaged.

CATHY LAZARUS
Calvert

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No OCRs, let Mother Nature 'do her thing'

Dear editor,

Brazos G Water Plan, Section 4.8 - Main Stem Off-Channel Reservoirs (OCR) [<http://brazos-gwater.org/IPP-2016/Volume-II/4-8-MainStemOCR.pdf>] should be of interest to landowners near the Brazos River in Falls, Milam, Robertson and Brazos Counties.

Why?

Because the Brazos River Authority (BRA) asked that off-channel reservoirs (OCRs) be built to store unappropriated river flow during wet times so they can release it downstream during dry periods

Of the 14 OCR sites identified, most would be built over the recharge zones of our groundwater aquifers. Since these recharge zones are necessary for rainwater to infiltrate our aquifers, it does not seem wise to try to build reservoirs over them.

It is common to flood recharge zones during irrigation projects or build small containment levies to redirect and/or slow down surface water over recharge zones so more water is absorbed into these soils.

However, the Main Stem OCR's purpose is to store Brazos River water for future use downstream. It means building 5' to 12' diameter pipelines to divert the river water needed, then pumping it uphill to the OCR.

Since the reservoir will primarily be filled with excess flow (i.e. water not already permitted to another BRA reservoir or customer or needed for envi-

ronmental flow), it might be years between events that could refill this continually evaporating mud hole.

There may also be times when senior water rights downstream may require the reservoir to give its bounty back to the river from whence it came regardless of its water level.

Annualized cost of a 1500 acre OCR & operation - \$11 million/year for years to come.

Cost of botanical, aquatic, amphibian, and other wildlife habitats lost--Irreplaceable.

Cost of letting Mother Nature do her thing--Nothing.

Natural recharge of our underground aquifers to renew our local water supply--Priceless.

Stay informed. Get engaged.

Cathy Lazarus,
Robertson County
clzhome@msn.com

Region G water planners get earful

by CURTIS CHUBB
Special to the Herald

NEWS

ANALYSIS

from Milam County property owners

"I'm not nervous, I'm mad."

That's what Milam County landowner Mike Kornegay said at Tuesday's public hearing in Waco concerning the proposed Little River Off-Channel Reservoir (OCR) which would flood 4,300 acres of land and be used to supply water to other counties.

It all started in April with a few neighbors calling each other and talking about the Little River OCR northwest of Gause that they had heard mentioned. The next thing you knew, an entire community of people had organized a 'Stop Little River OCR.'

On Tuesday, the 'Stop Little River OCR' movement rolled into Waco to voice their concerns directly to the Brazos G regional water planning group — the group that made the deci-

sion to include the Little River OCR in their plans.

And that is when 'Stop Little River OCR' became a force... a rip-snorting, fire-breathing force. If you were one of the 165 people at the public hearing, you understand what I mean.

If you were one of the 13 Brazos G members who looked as if in a trance during the hard-hitting presentations by 18 people, you understand what I mean.

The presenters came loaded for bear — they had honed their talks and didn't try to hide their deep-felt emotions which came bubbling to the surface. They made everyone in the audience feel what they felt inside. It was riveting.

The presentations showed others how people living

northwest of Gause felt about their land... felt about the people who came before... felt about passing their land to their children... and why they thought the reservoir is a really, really bad idea. The emo-

tions were strong.

Almost every speaker started their talk by saying that they represented landowners who would be affected by the planned reservoir. This unselfish attitude is just another

sign about how they work together as a community. The following quotes provide a global view of the main points made at the public hearing.

"We intensely oppose the construction of this reservoir

at the presently proposed location... Reason and fairness have to be part of the plan."

"Little River OCR is a very expensive, inefficient reservoir. There must be better alternatives. Take it out of the plan and replace it with conservation and reuse."

"Your plans will force our communities to dig up our ancestors... The names of people buried in the Pin Oak Cemetery are not just numbers to be struck through. They represent our heritage and will not be forgotten."

"The reservoir will have unintended consequences on Gause ISD... The present superintendent estimates that over ten years, the loss of tax revenues would run into the millions."

"These properties represent the beauty and romance of Milam County."



Milam County residents gathered at the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group public hearing in Waco Tuesday.

CURTIS CHUBB/Special to the Herald

See Page 1.

STOP

FROM PAGE 1

"Is constructing the reservoir worth its environmental impact on the wetlands and 60-foot tall Pin Oaks and Sycamores?"

"I work in Hutto and there is no conservation effort in Williamson County ... The land will be lost forever if flooded."

"We grow cattle and raise hay on the best pastures in Texas ... If forced to sell, it will have an emotional impact and cause financial hardship."

"While the recent floods were an 'act of God' - your plan for the reservoir is an act of an intrusive and abusive government takeover of private land."

"You have to consider the Native Americans who lived here ... A Rancheria Grande, a settlement of several tribes, existed in this area."

"Many of us have spent our savings to buy land and build a retirement home

MCFB Opposes Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

The Milam County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met on July 9 in their regular board meeting. During the meeting the MCFB Board of Directors, in an effort to protect and defend the private property rights of the land owners in Milam County, unanimously voted to oppose and support the opposition to the building of a reservoir and the taking of 4,300 acres of privately-owned land in Milam County by the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir project of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group.

The directors noted several points regarding the proposed reservoir:

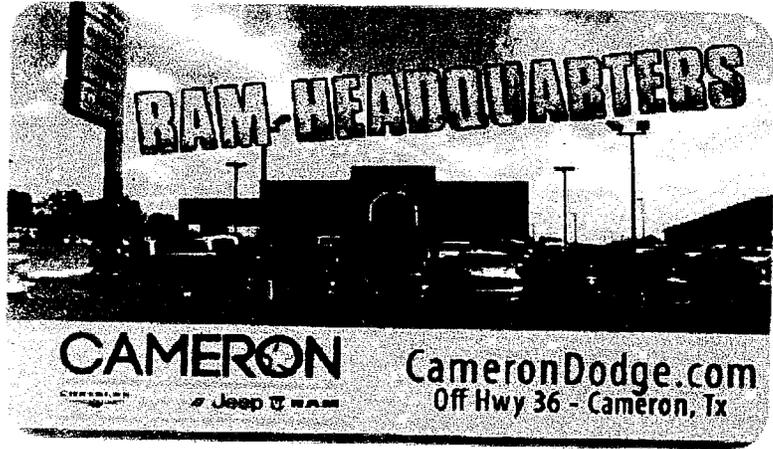
- 1) It is situated over a recharge zone for the Carrizo Wilcox aquifer,
- 2) The reservoir would not benefit Milam County residents,
- 3) The reservoir would obliterate a portion of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, and
- 4) Would take privately-owned property that has been in Milam County citizens families for over one hundred years.

The Board of Directors of the Milam County Farm Bureau supports the deletion of this project from further consideration by the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group.

— *Durwood Tucker,*
Milam County Farm Bureau

105.1 FM

The Ranch 105.1 fm Super Star Country for all of Central Texas and around the w

[News Room](#)[Today's Local News](#)[News Headlines](#)[Tropical Weather](#)[Top Stories from CBS News](#)[CBS Sports Headlines](#)[Business News from CBS](#)[Central Texas Obituaries](#)[Missed Yesterday's News? Click here](#)[News Archives](#)[Our Home Page](#)[KMIL Weather](#)[Local Conditions](#)[Local Weather Graphs](#)[Doppler Radar \(in motion\)](#)[Current Loop \(State\)](#)[Current Loop \(National\)](#)[Forecast \(Cameron/Rockdale\)](#)[Forecast \(Temple/Killeen\)](#)[Forecast \(Brenham\)](#)[Forecast \(Taylor/Georgetown\)](#)[NWS-CAMERON](#)[NWS-ROCKDALE](#)[Watches/Warnings](#)[Videos](#)[Yoemen Claim The Bell](#)[Yoemen Highlights](#)[1981 State Championship qtr 4](#)[Audio Archives](#)[Sports Audio Archives](#)[About Us](#)**STOP LITTLE RIVER OFF-CHANNEL RESERVOIR PETITION**

(CAMERON) The Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir campaign is collecting signature testimonies from concerned citizens until August 15.

Several Milam county residents who are involved in the SLROCR campaign will be speaking in opposition to the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir at the Brazos G Regional Planning Group monthly board meeting on Wednesday, August 5. That meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00AM at the Brazos River Authority in Waco. The agenda for Wednesday's meeting can be found online at brazosgwater.org. For more information concerning the SLROCR campaign, email stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com

[Return to Headlines](#)

FACEBOOK CAMPAIGN

Overview:

This section provides documentation from our Facebook Campaign. Slides cover testimonies from local citizens, recommendations on how to get involved, and educational resources. Please visit the Stop Little River Off-Channel Reservoir Facebook page to see posts and testimonies from over 490 members who are involved in our campaign. Weekly themes include:

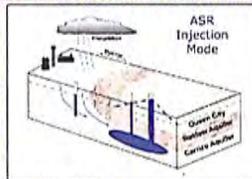
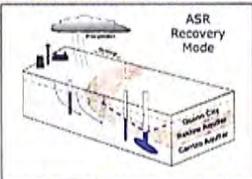
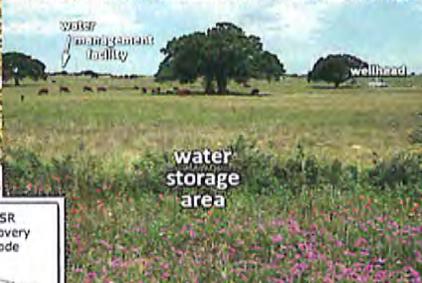
- Testimony Tuesday: Shares the voices of landowners and supporters
- What to do Wednesday: Highlights how citizens can get involved
- Thought-Provoking Thursday: Highlights educational resources and ideas



STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR): "When there is extra Edwards water around, it can be injected into locally occurring sands and extracted during times of shortage. Water from other sources can also be transported and stored in the sands for later use" (The Edwards Aquifer, 2015, p.1).

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:
Wouldn't ASR be a better option than an off-channel reservoir?

Get Informed. Get Involved.
The Edwards Aquifer. (2015) *Aquifer storage and recovery*. Retrieved from <http://www.edwardsaquifer.net/asr.htm>

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir





According to the Texas Historical Commission, there are over 50,000 cemeteries in Texas (Texas Historical Commission, 2015). However, only 1,706 are designated as Historic Cemeteries – which means the Pin Oak Cemetery is listed among 3% of historic cemeteries within approximately 171 million acres in the State of Texas.

Get Informed. Get Involved.
Texas Historical Commission. (2015). *Historic cemeteries*. Retrieved from <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/cemetery-preservation>.

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir



XERISCAPE LANDSCAPING
 “quality landscaping that conserves water and protects the environment...Traditional landscapes may incorporate one or two principles of water conservation, but they do not utilize the entire concept to reduce landscape water use effectively”
 (Welsh, Welch, & Richards, 2000, p.1).

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:
 Wouldn't xeriscaping lawns be a better option for Texas communities, especially urban areas within the state? Why wait? See what Southern California is doing in the news report entitled "California Drought: Rebates Offered for Ripping Out Lawns Under Nation's Largest Program".



Get Informed. Get Involved.

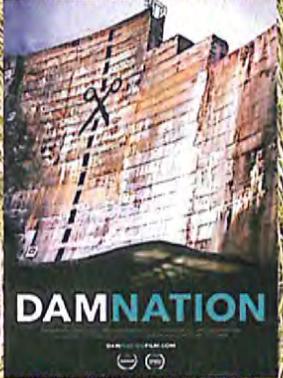
Welsh, D. F., Welch, W. C., & Duble, R. L. (2000). Landscape water conversation...Xeriscape. Retrieved from <http://arscic-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/xeriscape/xeriscape.htm>

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Watch this fascinating documentary about dams. Although the landscape highlighted in this film is different than Texas, the message and historical lessons are powerful. Let's conserve our natural resources and not destroy our environment. Dams and reservoirs are not the answer for Milam County!

“Dams are built for four main reasons: flood control, irrigation, municipal water supply, and power production. Through improved technology and smarter planning, we can provide all four of these needs more effectively and without the negative cultural and ecological impacts of blocking an entire river system with a dam”
 (Damnation, 2014, p. 1).

“Reservoirs slow and broaden rivers, making them warmer, reducing water quality, and harboring destructive non-native species that disperse throughout the watershed and prey on and compete with native wildlife. The environmental, economic, and social footprint of a dam and reservoir may run the entire length of the river...”
 (Damnation, 2014, p. 1).



Get Informed. Get Involved.

Damnation. (2014). FAQ. Retrieved from: <http://damnationfilm.com/>.

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

UNDERSTANDING THE STATE WATER PLANNING PROCESS:
 "In accordance with Senate Bill 1 passed during the 75th Texas Legislative Session, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in Austin was authorized to divide the state into 16 regional water planning areas" (Brazos G, 2015, p. 1). The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group (Brazos G) and Region H are regional planning groups established by the TWDB to develop a regional water plan.

REMEMBER OUR TIMELINE
 August 5: Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group Board Meeting
 Now – August 15: We are gathering materials & letters
 August 24: Final deadline for materials to be received by Brazos G
 September 1: Final deadline for materials to be received by Region H
 Fall: Brazos G Monthly Meetings
 December 1: Decision made about LROCR (and the entire plan) by Regional Water Planning boards



http://www.twdb.com/programs/maps/Regional_Planning_Groups.jpg

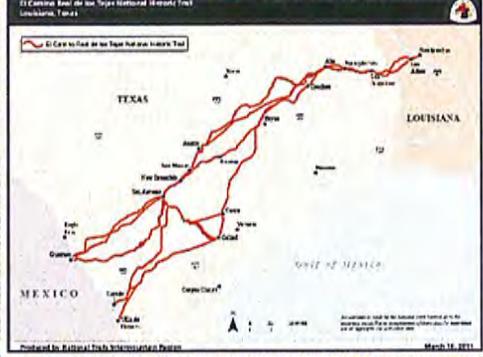
**THE FIGHT IS NOT OVER...
 IT IS JUST BEGINNING!
 PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAUSE**

Get Informed. Get Involved.
 Brazos G. (2015). *What is Brazos G?* Retrieved from: <http://www.brazosgwater.org/>.

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

"El Camino de los Tejas (the Royal Road to Tejas) National Historic Trail, a combination of historic routes (including Old San Antonio Road) totaling approximately 2,580 miles, extending from the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass and Laredo, Texas, to Natchitoches, Louisiana" (National Park Service, 2011).

The El Camino de los Tejas National Historic Trail runs through the proposed LROCR. This devastating destruction would inundate a portion of this national treasure.



Get Informed. Get Involved.
 National Park Service. (2011). *El Camino Real de los Tejas national historic trail: Comprehensive management plan/environmental assessment.*

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

- 1) Private engineering and consulting firms involved in all aspects of plans, evaluations, scoring, remedies, bids, proposals, and construction.
- 2) Potential for conflict because of enlightened self-interest.
- 3) Decreased funding of Texas Water Development Board by 2011 Legislature forced Ground Water Conservation Districts to various private sector contractors.
- 4) This creates potential for non-uniform data collection, modeling, and analysis practices and methodologies.

FRONT PAGE DATA DIRECTORY EVENTS FESTIVAL MULTIMEDIA NEWSLETTERS TREETALK

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Private Sector Plays a Big Role In State Water Planning

by Neena Satija | March 13, 2015 | 11 Comments

1 Comment 0 Reaction 0 Like 0 Tweet 0 Recommend



Until recently, Texas' state water plan wasn't much to look at.

Essentially a catalog of more than 3,000 water supply projects across the state that some government or another hoped to build, it was seen as nothing more than a wish list, compiled from the work of 16 regional planning groups every five years.

That changed in 2013 when lawmakers —

Get Informed. Get Involved.

Satija, N. (2015). Private sector plays a big role in state water planning. *The Texas Tribune*. Retrieved from: <http://www.texastribune.org/2015/03/13/private-sector-plays-big-role-state-water-planning/>.

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Environmentalist and philosopher Aldo Leopold once said, "Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left."

State representatives & leaders, Brazos G, & Region H... Please don't chop off Milam County's left hand!

Get Informed. Get Involved.

June 24, 2015

WHAT YOU CAN DO CHECKLIST!

- ✓ **Sign the petition!**
 - Local signatures needed!
 - Find locations in our FB Description
 - Share the online petition on your Facebook wall from change.org
- ✓ **Write a letter voicing your concerns!**
 - Email copy to stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com
 - We are compiling all materials for Brazos G
 - Don't know what to say? Email us! We have examples and can help.
- ✓ **Call your state legislators!**
 - Senator Charles Schwertner
 - Capitol: 512-463-0105
 - Bryan: 979-776-0222
 - Georgetown: 512-863-8456
 - Representative Marsha Farney
 - Capitol: 512-463-0309
 - Georgetown: 512-863-7872



Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Every supporter PLEASE complete by August 15!

July 1, 2015

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Seize the moment...pick up your phone

CALL NOW!



- Senator Charles Schwertner
 - Capitol: 512-463-0105
 - Bryan: 979-776-0222
 - Georgetown: 512-863-8456



- Representative Marsha Farney
 - Capitol: 512-463-0309
 - Georgetown: 512-863-7872



Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Every supporter PLEASE complete by August 15!

July 8, 2015

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Write letters to Brazos G & Region H!

What you need to know:

- Brazos G has LROCR as a proposed plan
- Region H has LROCR as an alternative plan
- We need a critical mass of letters to voice our opposition



Who do I address my letter to:

Mr. Trey Buzbee, Administrator Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group Brazos River Authority 4600 Cobbs Drive Waco, Texas 76710	Hon. Mark Evans, Chair Region H Water Planning Group c/o San Jacinto River Authority P. O. Box 329 Conroe, TX 77305-0329
--	---

Write two separate letters voicing your concerns:

- Email copy to stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com
- We are compiling all materials for Regions G & H
- Don't know what to say? Email us! We have examples and can help.



Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Every supporter PLEASE complete by August 15!

July 15, 2015

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Sign the Petition Online or Locally

What you need to know:

- We need a balance of hard copy signatures & online signatures of different people. Learn more here & in the comments!

Online Petition on change.org Share Everywhere:

- Post on your Facebook wall and invite your friends to sign-it. See how to the right!
- Email your network. Share by copying the URL in your message!
- Use all Social Media outlets to help our cause!





Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Every supporter PLEASE complete by August 15!

July 22, 2015

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Sign the Petition Locally or Online

What you need to know:
We need a balance of hard copy signatures & online signatures of different people. Learn more here & in the comments!

Visit the following locations to sign the petition:

- **GAUSE:** Coats Grocery, Gause Baptist Church
- **CAMERON:** M&M Farm Supply, Anderle Lumber, Cameron Seed, Milam Grain, Malers Furniture and Appliances, True Value (ace hardware) Cameron VFD, & Attorney Mark Humble's office, Milam Co. Livestock Exchange, Cameron Tire
- **ROCKDALE:** Midway Grocery
- **MILANO:** Crowe Co., Milano Livestock Auction
- **CALVERT:** Calvert Livestock Auction

PETITION

Stop the Governor's Expansion of the Little River

FOR SIGNATURES ONLY

NAME (PRINT): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

DATE: _____

Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Every supporter PLEASE complete by August 15!

July 29, 2015

WHAT YOU CAN DO CHECKLIST!

- ✓ **Sign the petition!**
 - Local signatures needed!
 - Find locations in our FB Description
 - Share the online petition on your Facebook wall from change.org
- ✓ **Write a letter voicing your concerns!**
 - Email copy to stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com
 - We are compiling all materials for Regions G & H
 - Don't know what to say? Email us! We have examples and can help.
- ✓ **Call your state legislators!**
 - Senator Charles Schwertner
 - Capitol: 512-463-0105
 - Bryan: 979-776-0222
 - Georgetown: 512-863-8456
 - Representative Marsha Farney
 - Capitol: 512-463-0309
 - Georgetown: 512-863-7872

DO IT NOW!

Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Every supporter PLEASE complete by August 15!

August 5, 2015

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Write letters to Brazos G & Region H!

What you need to know:

- Brazos G has LROCR as a proposed plan
- Region H has LROCR as an alternative plan
- We need a critical mass of letters to voice our opposition



Who do I address my letter to:

Mr. Trey Buzbee, Administrator
Brazos G Regional Water
Planning Group
Brazos River Authority
4600 Cobbs Drive
Waco, Texas 76710

Hon. Mark Evans, Chair
Region H Water
Planning Group
c/o San Jacinto River Authority
P. O. Box 329
Conroe, TX 77305-0329

PLEASE HELP

Write two separate letters voicing your concerns:

- Email copy to stop.little.river.ocr@gmail.com
- We are compiling all materials for Regions G & H
- Don't know what to say? Email us! We have examples and can help.



Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

Every supporter PLEASE complete by August 15!



Little River Off-Channel Reservoir



"My granddad bought the property in 1914. It has remained in the family name. I have deeded the property to my 4 children. Currently 2 of them live on the property and 2 of them hope to build on the property in the coming years. If this reservoir goes through there is no way that our family legacy will live on."

Melvin Wall, June 2015



"The Light of Christ Ministry building (pictured to the right) was a vision that my wife and I had 12 years ago for an outreach to the churches and people in the area. It is listed as a non-profit organization and the main building is a house that my father lived in. It has been used by a number of churches in the area ranging from Waco to Austin. I don't know where there would be another place that could be as peaceful in the state of Texas."



Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

How Soil and Water Conservation Improve Water Quality

Soil and water conservation is vital for life and improved water quality. Soil conservation is the protection of fertile topsoil from erosion by wind and water and the displacement of nutrients in the soil. Water conservation is the preservation, control and development of water resources. I'm lucky enough to see soil and water conservation every day because my dad uses no till farming practices on his farm.

Excerpt from Macey Hahn's 1st Place Essay
State Soil & Water Conservation Contest
13 and under category



"We are the 5th generation on our family's land.
We are the future of agriculture and the great state of Texas. We matter too!"
-Lily, Macey, Braden, Will, & Kellan

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir



*"We have lived here for 35 years and have raised 8 children on this land. Many hours of blood, sweat, and tears have gone into this property. I believe God gave us this property and God is going to protect it."
-Leroy & Jan Willard*

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir



*"We have run cattle here over the past 20 plus years. This fishing hole (top left) has a lot of great memories. This is where my dad took me, where I took my kids, and now I take my grandkids here."
Jerald & Joan Wise, June 2015*

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

“What a joyous day to share with family! May the hopes and dreams of past generations on this land continue to live on in the lives of the future, and may *The American Dream* never die! 105 years and counting!”
 Elaine Shafer Baumann, July 2015

“The majority of my family has spent their lives in two very important vocations, agriculture and education. The values of both were instilled in me from an early age. My husband and I are both educators and proud Texans and we share a love for the history of our great state. When I learned our family was to be honored by the Texas Land Heritage program it was very important to both of us that our two young sons be present at the ceremony. They were there the day that the hard work and sacrifice of generations before them were recognized. Agriculture is a career that is worthy of honor and respect. Generations before them labored to provide a better life for their family. How heartbreaking and infuriating to think that it might all be covered in water. I believe there are better alternatives to the reservoir that are yet to be fully pursued. The sacrifice of our unique Texas culture is not a matter to be entered into without exploring every possible option.” -Deborah Shafer Russell, July 2015

STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

“God has truly blessed our family with such a beautiful place to call home. I think I know why God rested on the seventh day. I believe that it took the Lord a full day to sculpt the rolling hills and lush meadows that we are fortunate enough to call home. All of the area that is in this lake proposal is just as beautiful as what we own. This has been in our family for over 100 years and cannot be replaced. I am pleading with you to not take away what each one of us holds so dear, please!”
 Gary & Lisa Kornegay, July 2015



STOP Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

"My family and I are standing in front of our home....a home that is located on land that has had 5 generations of Walls raised on it, a home that has been in the Wall name for 100 years, a home that my 3 children know as their home, a home where my wife and I plan to grow old, a home that will be under 30-40 feet of water if the LROCR passes, and a home that they plan to destroy."

Michael & Stacey Wall & Family, July 2015



Brazos River Authority

August 21, 2015

Mr. Wayne Wilson
Chair
Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group
P.O. Box 7555
Waco, Texas 76714

RE: Brazos River Authority Comments on 2016 Initially Prepared Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Dear Chair Wilson:

The Brazos River Authority (BRA) appreciates the efforts of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group (Brazos G), the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and the many others that have contributed their time and resources to develop the 2016 Initially Prepared Brazos G Regional Water Plan (2016 IPP) and the opportunity to provide comments on the 2016 IPP. I also want to thank you for your leadership and commitment as Chair of Brazos G and the effort you and the other voting members devoted to this planning process.

As you know, the BRA is committed to working through the regional water planning process with our customers and other Brazos River basin stakeholders to address the challenges of meeting future water needs in the Brazos G region. The Plan that has been developed will provide the framework for meeting those needs over the next 50 years.

We have reviewed the 2016 IPP and offer the attached suggestions, comments, and questions (Attachment A) for consideration in finalizing the 2016 Brazos G Regional Water Plan.

In addition to the attached comments, the BRA would also like to emphasize its position on several major points and assumptions that are contained in the 2016 IPP. These include subordination of BRA supplies, BRA's System Operation Permit, and the proposed Little River Off-Channel Reservoir (LROCR) water management strategy.

Subordination

Brazos G's consultant, HDR, Inc., has assumed that BRA can subordinate its water supplies for certain upstream reservoir projects recommended in the 2016 IPP. In some cases, the feasibility of these water management strategies is dependent upon a subordination agreement with BRA.

The BRA wants to make Brazos G and HDR, Inc. aware that all of BRA's existing water supplies are fully contracted, so subordination agreements for these reservoir projects may not be possible as the water is already committed to BRA long-term water supply customers. The BRA requests that Brazos G and HDR, Inc. include a caveat in every water management strategy that assumes a subordination agreement with BRA that clearly states subordination may not be possible.

System Operation Permit

There are frequent references that subordination for some recommended water management strategies will be possible upon issuance of BRA's System Operation Permit. It is possible that this may be the case in some circumstances, but it is not a certainty and will have to be further evaluated on a case-by-case basis. BRA does not want sponsors of other recommended water management strategies to assume that a subordination agreement with BRA is "automatic." The System Operation Permit may offer no additional solution to subordinations.

Additionally, it appears that the volume of water resulting from use of the BRA System Operation Permit as a recommended water management strategy exceeds the amount discussed by BRA and HDR, Inc. earlier in the planning cycle. BRA believes that the total amount of water assumed to be available from the System Operation Permit as a recommended water management strategy should not significantly exceed the volume contained in the 2011 Plan until effects of the recent drought are evaluated. We strongly recommend that HDR, Inc. revisit the use of BRA's System Operation Permit as a recommended water management strategy to address this concern.

Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

The BRA is identified as the default sponsor for the LROCR because it is the major wholesale water supplier for much of the Brazos G region. Since the project's inception, there has been significant local opposition to the project.

Later this year, Brazos G will decide whether to remove the project or leave it in the final 2016 Brazos G Regional Water Plan as a recommended water management strategy. If Brazos G opts to leave the LROCR project in the 2016 plan, the BRA has no objections to being listed as the sponsor for planning purposes. However, I want to clarify that the BRA's Board of Directors has taken no action directing BRA staff to implement this reservoir project.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments. The BRA looks forward to completing the 2016 Brazos G Regional Water Plan and continued participation in the regional water planning process. Please contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Phil Ford
General Manager/CEO

PF:kld
Attachment

Attachment A

Brazos River Authority Comments 2016 Brazos G IPP (Dated May 2015)

BRA has identified two potentially significant issues within the 2016 Brazos G IPP that are associated with BRA's role as a wholesale raw water provider.

1. Strategies that involve subordination of BRA's existing water rights, and
2. Allocation of supply under the System Operation Permit.

Strategies that involve subordination of BRA's existing water rights

A number of strategies within the IPP either assume subordination of BRA's water rights and/or state that a subordination agreement from BRA may be needed if a certain strategy is implemented. A list of instances where BRA subordination is referenced within the IPP is provided below, but this may not be an exhaustive list.

BRA's existing water supply system is fully contracted, so new subordination agreements with entities may not be possible due to the supply already being committed to long-term water customers. The BRA requests that Brazos G and HDR, Inc. include a caveat in every water management strategy that assumes a subordination agreement with BRA that clearly states subordination may not be possible.

Comments and locations within the IPP that are associated with general subordination of BRA water rights:

- a. Volume II, Page 4.3-1: Coryell County Off-Channel Reservoir is a project whereby a subordination agreement at Lake Belton must be implemented in order for the project to be viable.
- b. Volume II, Pg. 4.4-4, Third paragraph: Suggest including additional information that states that the diversion amounts from the Navasota River into the off-channel reservoir will not exceed the original water right for the City. Any additional water diverted above the prior authorization could require subordination of BRA's water rights or a contract with the BRA for that volume of water, provided that BRA has water in that location available.
- c. Volume II, Page 4.5-1: First paragraph discusses the need for BRA subordination at Lake Belton.

- d. Volume II, Page 4.5-3, First paragraph: This paragraph discusses BRA subordination of Lake Belton water rights.
- e. Volume II, Page 4.10-1, Section 4.10.1, Second paragraph: The discussion states that a subordination agreement with Possum Kingdom Reservoir would allow for these inflows to be impounded by Lake Creek Reservoir and it goes on to state that *“Any subordination agreement with the BRA is dependent on the BRA being able to successfully obtain the System Operation permit (See Section 7.12), currently pending at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. A subordination agreement would have to be negotiated and acquired for this strategy to be implemented as presented in this section.”*
- f. Volume II, Page 4.10-4, First paragraph: This paragraph discusses subordination in the context of the yield impact that the Lake Creek Reservoir project has on Possum Kingdom Reservoir. The second sentence states *“...the Possum Kingdom subordination (subject to BRA obtaining the System Operations permit) and the Brazos River diversions.”* The second to the last sentence in this paragraph again ties any subordination agreement to the System Operation permit.
- g. Volume II, Page 4.10-16: First sentence, states *“The project may also have an impact on the firm yield of Possum Kingdom, which may require mitigation with the Brazos River Authority in terms of a water supply contract in the amount of the firm yield impact.”*
- h. Volume II, Page 4.14-18, Section 4.14.5 Implementation Issues: Second paragraph states, *“The project may also have an impact on the firm yield of Navasota River, which may require mitigation with the Brazos River Authority in terms of a water supply contract in the amount of the firm yield impact.”*

**Subordination dependent upon BRA
obtaining the System Operation Permit**

Additionally, during the review of the IPP it was observed that numerous locations within the plan referenced subordination of BRA water rights and cited a dependency of the subordination on the BRA obtaining the System Operation Permit. A list of instances that reference subordination and the dependency of BRA obtaining the System Operation Permit can be found below. Again, it should be noted that this may not be an exhaustive list of each occurrence.

Obtaining the System Operation Permit does not automatically guarantee that a subordination agreement will be possible. There are a number of factors that

would need to be more fully evaluated, and in many cases, the System Operation Permit may offer no additional solution to subordinations.

Comments and locations within the IPP concerning subordination agreements dependent upon BRA obtaining the System Operation Permit:

- a. Volume I, Page 5.14-1, under City of Haskell's water supply plan and cost source for Lake Creek Reservoir: Bullet states that the *project requires a subordination agreement with the BRA, which is dependent on the BRA obtaining the System Operation permit.*
- b. Volume I, Page 5.14-2, under City of Haskell's water supply plan and cost source for Millers Creek Reservoir Augmentation strategy: Bullet states that the *project requires a subordination agreement with the BRA, which is dependent on the BRA obtaining the System Operation permit.*
- c. Volume I, Page 5.14-3, under City of Rule's water supply plan under Lake Creek Reservoir and Millers Creek Reservoir Augmentation strategy by NCTMWA: Bullet states that the *project requires a subordination agreement with the BRA, which is dependent on the BRA obtaining the System Operation permit.*
- d. Volume I, Page 5.14-4, Haskell County-Other: Under Millers Creek Reservoir Augmentation strategy by NCTMWA: Bullet states that the *project requires a subordination agreement with the BRA, which is dependent on the BRA obtaining the System Operation permit.*
- e. Volume I, Page 5.20-2, first bullet at top of page: Bullet states that the *project requires a subordination agreement with the BRA, which is dependent on the BRA obtaining the System Operation permit.*
- f. Volume I, Page 5.23-3, Groesbeck Off-Channel Reservoir – bullet immediately beneath cost source: Bullet states that the project requires a subordination agreement with the BRA, which is dependent on the BRA obtaining the System Operation permit.
- g. Volume I, Page 5.32-2:*Project requires a subordination agreement with the BRA, which is dependent on the BRA obtaining the System Operations permit.*
- h. Volume I, Page 5.34-2:*Project requires a subordination agreement with the BRA, which is dependent on the BRA obtaining the System Operations permit.*

- i. Volume I, Page 5.38-16:*Project requires a subordination agreement with the BRA, which is dependent on the BRA obtaining the System Operations permit.*
- j. Volume I, Page 5.38-29, bullet c, Coryell County Off-Channel Reservoir: Bullet states....*Project requires a subordination agreement with the BRA, which is dependent on the BRA obtaining the System Operations permit.*
- k. Volume II, Page 4.4-16 – 4.4-17: The sentence reads: *Note that any subordination agreement would need to be negotiated with BRA and is dependent on the BRA successfully obtaining the System Operations permit from the TCEQ. Compensation could be required to BRA as part of the subordination agreement.*
- l. Volume II, Page 4.10-1, Section 4.10.1, Second paragraph: The discussion states that a subordination agreement with Possum Kingdom Reservoir would allow for these inflows to be impounded by Lake Creek Reservoir and it goes on to state that *Any subordination agreement with the BRA is dependent on the BRA being able to successfully obtain the System Operation permit (See Section 7.12), currently pending at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. A subordination agreement would have to be negotiated and acquired for this strategy to be implemented as presented in this section.*
- m. Volume II, Page 4.10-4, First paragraph: This paragraph discusses subordination in the context of the yield impact that the Lake Creek Reservoir project has on Possum Kingdom Reservoir. The second sentence states*the Possum Kingdom subordination (subject to BRA obtaining the System Operations permit) and the Brazos River diversions.* The second to the last sentence in this paragraph again ties any subordination agreement to the System Operation permit.
- n. Volume II, Page 4.10-14, last sentence in paragraph: Another sentence that states that a subordination agreement is dependent on the BRA successfully obtaining the System Operations permit from TCEQ.
- o. Volume II, Page 4.10-16, last bullet point under the State and Federal Permits may require the following studies and plans: The bullet states *Coordination with BRA on any potential subordination agreement, subject to availability under the System Operations permit.*
- p. Volume II, Page 4.12-1, Section 4.12.2, Second paragraph: Discusses subordination of Possum Kingdom Reservoir and the dependency of subordination with obtaining the System Operation permit.

- q. Volume II, Page 4.12-11, Section 4.12.4: Another area discussing subordination and the System Operation permit.
- r. Volume II, Page 4.12-13, Section 4.12.5: Last bullet, under *State and Federal Permits may require the following studies and plans*, discusses subordination subject to availability under the System Operation permit.
- s. Volume II, Page 7.5-5, Last paragraph: This paragraph discusses subordination for the yield impact on Possum Kingdom Reservoir and the dependency of the subordination on the BRA being able to successfully obtain the System Operation permit.
- t. Volume II, Page 7.5-12, First paragraph: Additional discussion regarding subordination and the dependency of the subordination on the BRA being able to successfully obtain the System Operation permit.
- u. Volume II, Page 7.5-13 under Engineering and Costing: Additional discussion on subordination and the dependency of the subordination on the BRA being able to successfully obtain the System Operation permit.
- v. Volume II, Page 7.5-15 under State and Federal Permitting Requirements: last bullet discusses subordination and the dependency of the subordination on the BRA being able to successfully obtain the System Operation permit.

System Operation Permit Water Supply Allocations

It appears that the BRA System Operation Permit is a recommended water management strategy for various water user groups totaling 166,952 acft/yr. This value includes the System Operation Permit supply recommended in both the Brazos G and Region H planning areas.

In a meeting between BRA and consultants for Brazos G and Region H it was discussed that the new supply from the System Operation Permit strategy be limited to roughly what was included in the previous 2011 regional water plans.

It was further explained that the reason for keeping the allocations consistent with the previous plans is associated with possible decreases in water availability under System Operations due to the recent drought. The previous plans included 25,350 acft/yr of supply for entities in Region H and 84,899 acft/yr of supply for entities in Brazos G. This sums to 110,249 acft/yr of total supply from System Operations. The supply allocated to System Operations in the 2016

Brazos G IPP appears to be almost 57,000 acft/yr more than the 2011 Brazos G Plan.

BRA plans to initiate a hydrologic analysis that will evaluate the most recent drought and study the impact of the drought on the BRA System, but the results of this analysis will not be available in time for inclusion in the 2016 regional plans.

Therefore, BRA recommends that the Brazos G consultant revisit the use of BRA's System Operation Permit as a recommended water management strategy and limit the new supply to a volume closer to the 84,899 acft/yr that is contained in the 2011 Brazos G Plan.

Volume I

Executive Summary

- a. Page ES-2: Correct formatting on last bullet point.
- b. Page ES-4: Update name of LCRA and TDA non-voting representatives.
- c. Page ES-15, last paragraph, last sentence: This sentence notes Appendix M as a detailed listing of water management strategies. Appendix M contains Water Availability Modeling Files not the detailed listing of water management strategies.

1. Region Description

- a. Page 1-4: Remove "Error..." statement from paragraph.
- b. Page 1-4: Remove "Error..." statement from voting member table.
- c. Page 1-5: Update name of LCRA and TDA non-voting representatives.
- d. Page 1-60: First bullet point, update font style of "is" in sentence.
- e. Page 1-60: 2001 Plan new reservoir bullet list; are colons (:) needed after each bullet point?
- f. Formatting error found in Title heading of Table 1 on page 1-4.

2. Demands

- a. Page 2-40: Title for Section 2.3.4 seems inconsistent with other titles and the first paragraph under 2.3.4 is repeated under 2.3.5.
- b. Section 2.3.4, Page 2-40: The title of this section appears to be a sentence from the paragraph above (Section 2.3.3). The table of contents also needs to be corrected to include the correct title of this section. It appears that this entire section needs to be deleted. Recommend removing the text that begins with the sentence "The steam-electric generation process uses water in boilers and for cooling." And goes to just before the Table 2-6 begins. This paragraph repeats in the appropriate place just below this table in Section 2.3.5.
- c. In Table 2-7 on page 2-43: Historical and Projected Steam-Electric Water Demand in the Brazos G Area, it appears that the projected steam-electric

water demand for Somervell County in 2020 was inadvertently copied left into the historical 2010 column. The historical 2010 steam-electric water use for Somervell County should be on the order of 40,000-50,000 acft.

3. Supplies

- a. Page 3-16 formatting: Table 3.1-3. Move “Aquilla Water Supply” to top of table on page 3-17.
- b. Page 3-17 formatting: Table 3.1-3. Move “Central Texas WSC” to top of table on page 3-18.
- c. Page 3-32: First paragraph section 3.2.4, “Appendix G” is highlighted.
- d. Page 3-56: Formatting of reference to Figure 3.4-6 in second sentence of first paragraph.
- e. Page 3-57: Formatting of first paragraph, section 3.4.4.
- f. Page 3-11, Table 3.1-1. Major Reservoirs of the Brazos River Basin. Priority date for Lake Abilene is listed in the future (1/23/2018).
- g. Table 3.1-3 in the BRA (main stem) section: Footnote 1 is incorrectly noted with a superscript indicator in the table by the City of Lubbock. A superscript indicator for footnote 2 in the table was not found. The superscript for footnote 3 is difficult to read, placement and font sizing may need to be adjusted.
- h. Table 3.2-2.: Footnote number 3 concerning Lake Davis does not have a superscript indicator in the table next to the text that this references.
- i. Table 3.5-1. The superscript indicator for footnote No. 2 in the table is difficult to read as it appears to be cut off by the formatting of the table borders.

4. Identification of Needs

- a. Section 4.3.1 Brazos River Authority, Page 4-13, Second paragraph, second sentence: This sentence needs to be clarified further. Suggest including the following text at the end of this sentence. *.....all of these contracts are long term and considered perpetual through 2070 for regional water planning purposes. However, in reality, the BRA will consider contract renewals on a case by case basis as contracts expire.*
- b. Page 4-15, Table 4.3-1. Projected Demands, Supplies and Balance for BRA. Regarding the comment that the shortages are largely overstated because it includes some irrigation and mining demands that will go unmet. Suggest specifying, possibly in a footnote in this table, how much irrigation/mining demands will go unmet and where these demands are located.
- c. Page 4-36, Table 4.3-22. Footnote 2 doesn't have a superscript indicator in the table.

5. County Plans

- a. Page 5.1-7. The last sentence under the description of supply for Fort Hood refers to Table 5-1.1. The table referenced should be Table 5.1-7.
- b. Page 5.1-10. First sentence under the Water Supply Plan references City of Lorena instead of City of Killeen.
- c. Table 5.1-15. Recommended Plan Costs by Decade for Bell County – Steam Electric. Data appears to be missing from portions of this table.
- d. Table 5.1-16. Recommended Plan Costs by Decade for Bell County – Mining. Same comment as comment 4 above.

- e. Page 5.24-11, Section 5.24.13 City of McGregor: Recommend revising to read “...from surface water from Lake Belton via a *contract with the Brazos River Authority*. Bluebonnet WSC *treats and delivers water to the City from Lake Belton*.”
- f. Page 5.36-13, Section 5.36.12 Jarrell-Schwertner WSC: Suggest mentioning the contract that Jarrell-Schwertner WSC holds with BRA for water in Stillhouse Hollow Lake within this paragraph. They do not currently utilize this contract water.
- g. Page 5.36-13, Section 5.36.13 Jonah Water SUD: Suggest rewording the first sentence to say something similar to the following, “Jonah SUD obtains its water supply from groundwater from the Edwards-BFZ (Northern Segment) Aquifer and a contract with the BRA for treated supply through the East Williamson County WTP. Additionally, Jonah Water SUD also holds a long-term water supply contract for water within Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir with BRA.”
- h. Page 5.36-15, Section 5.36.15 Liberty Hill: Suggest revising the Description of Supply paragraph to include mention of the HB1437 contract water of 600 acft/yr with BRA.
- i. Page 5.36-17, Section 5.36.19 City of Taylor: Suggest revising first sentence. “The City of Taylor obtains its water supply from a contract with the Brazos River Authority for water from Lake Granger *through the East Williamson County WTP.*”

6. Impacts/Consistency/Protection

- a. Chapter 6 appears to be incomplete. Missing page 6-19.
- b. Page footers in Chapter 6 reference both May 2014 & May 2015.

7. Drought Response Activities and Recommendations

- a. Page 7.1-2, 2nd paragraph, last sentence in 7.1.3 Drought Indicators: Suggest revising the following sentence to clarify the description of the most recent drought. “....; however it also does not capture the entirety of the 2007-2009 drought or the *drought that plagued parts of the region between 2011 and the Spring 2015.*”

8. Policy Recommendations

- a. Page 8-2: Section 8.3, paragraph indentation not consistent with other sections.

- b. Page 8-3: Use consistent enumeration style for each “Issue...” listed in Chapter 8.

11. Implementation with 2011 Plan

- a. Page footers in Chapter 11 reference both May 2014 & May 2015.
- b. Page 11-1: Section 11.1, first paragraph, second sentence references “TRWDB”. Should this be TWDB?
- c. Page 11-2: Section 11.2, revise last sentence of section... (*such as... for irrigation supply*).
- d. Page 11-9, New Reservoirs paragraph: Does Little River OCR need to be included as a new reservoir?

Volume II

References to “TNRCC” permits in Volume II; update to TCEQ?

- Page 4.9-10, Section 4.9.5 a. & f.
- Page 7.3-51, footnote in Table 7.3-23 (reference may be correct in this instance)
- Page 7.11-8, Section 7.11.4 f.

1. Methodology

- a. Page 1.2-2, Section 1.2 – Is the 75/75 criteria for water supply reliability for agricultural needs correctly stated in this section?

3. Reuse

- a. Page 3.2-81, Table 3.2-1. The last entry in this table does not specify an associated water right with the application.

4. New Reservoirs

4.2 Cedar Ridge Reservoir

- a. Pg. 4.2-1, Section 4.2.2 – Available Yield: First sentence should read, “*The City has applied for a water right.....*”

4.3 Coryell County Reservoir

- a. Page 4.3-4 last paragraph. Sentence “The largest change in the Navasota River would.....” Navasota River should be replaced with Cowhouse Creek in this sentence.
- b. Page 4.3-9 (top of the page, starting on second line) Reference to Table 4.3-2. Endangered, Threatened, Candidate and Species of Concern Listed for Coryell County should be changed to Table 4.3-1. Median Monthly Streamflow: Cowhouse Creek Diversion Site.
- c. Page 4.3-1, Section 4.3.2, second paragraph: First sentence of paragraph reads, *This strategy could potential be provided supply under the BRA System Operation permit (See Section 7.12), currently*

pending at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Suggest using potentially in this sentence instead of potential. There are a number of other sentences similar to this sentence throughout Chapter 4 that should be updated regarding the use of potential versus potentially.

- d. Page 4.3-4: Line 10, Cowhouse Creek near Pidcock, TX should read Pidcoke, TX.

4.4 Groesbeck Off-Channel Reservoir

- a. Pg. 4.4-4, Third paragraph: Suggest including additional information that states that the diversion amounts from the Navasota River into the off-channel reservoir will not exceed the original water right for the City. Any additional water diverted above the prior authorization could require subordination of BRA's water rights. See previous comments regarding subordination above and below.

4.7 Little River Off-Channel Reservoir

- a. Page 4.7-20, Bottom paragraph: *Supplies developed and stored in the Little River OCR could potentially be used to meet needs in Williamson County. Supplies developed by the Little River OCR could also potentially be used to meet needs in Milam County in the 2050 to 2070 timeframe (steam electric demands).*

4.8 Main Stem Off-Channel Reservoir

- a. Page 4.8-4, Section 4.8.3: Need to restate per Section 4.8.1 that if an entity other than BRA sponsors these projects, then an agreement with the BRA may be required to address concerns related to potential subordination of the BRA's water rights.

4.10 Lake Creek Reservoir

- a. Page 4.10-13, Table 4.10-2 Cost Estimate for Lake Creek Reservoir. Is the "Purchase of Water" line item referring to the compensation of yield impacts to PK? If so it lists a system rate of \$65.65/acft instead of the current system rate

5. Acquisition of Existing Supplies

5.1 Lake Aquilla Augmentation

- a. Page 5.1-4, Third paragraph, third sentence: Suggest rewording *If the yield of Lake Aquilla decreases as indicated by recent BRA analysis.....*to "If the yield of Lake Aquilla decreases as indicated by previous analyses...."
- b. Page 5.1-4, Third paragraph, fifth sentence: Suggest rewording this sentence to the following: *This strategy could potential be provided supply under the BRA System Operation permit.....*to "This strategy could potentially be provided supply under the BRA System Operation permit....."

6. Conjunctive Use

6.1 Lake Granger Augmentation

- a. Page 6.1-6 (last paragraph) the text states that two test wells were drilled in 2013. Should read that one test well was drilled in 2013.

7. Management of Existing Supplies

7.1 Belhouse Pipeline

- a. Page 7.1-3, Section 7.1.2, second paragraph, fifth sentence: *The demands at Lake Georgetown are met by releases from both Lake Stillhouse Hollow and Lake Georgetown.* This sentence should be reworded to read, "Under this strategy the demands at Lake Georgetown are being met by water pumped from both Lake Stillhouse Hollow through the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line that connects Lake Stillhouse Hollow to Lake Georgetown and Lake Belton through the Lake Belton to Lake Stillhouse Hollow pipeline."

7.2 Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority

- a. Page 7.2-3, Section 7.2.2, Table 7.2-2 Allocation of New Highland Lake Supply in Williamson County: The totals (fifth column) for Round Rock and Unallocated should read 20,928 acft/yr and 3,472 acft/yr, respectively.

7.3 Chloride Control

- a. Page 7.3-2, Section 7.3.1, second to the last sentence: The text "Figure 7.3-2" appears twice in this sentence.

7.6 Lake Aquilla Storage Reallocation

- a. Page 7.6-1 and 7.6-2. Table 7.6-1 Lake Aquilla Characteristics: It appears that not all of the footnotes to Table 7.6-1 are located at the bottom of page 7.6-2. Footnote 1 appears on the bottom of page 7.6-1. Additionally, it would be beneficial if the footnotes appeared in numerical order within the table. (AA)
- b. Page 7.6-4, second paragraph, sixth sentence: *This strategy could potential be provided supply under the BRA System Operation permit (See Section 7.12).....* Recommend using potentially instead of potential within this sentence.
- c. Page 7.6-4, second full sentence: It's recommended to use USACE as the acronym for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers instead of USCOE. This is consistent with other sections of the IPP.

7.8 Lake Stillhouse Hollow Reallocation

- a. Page 7.8-4, first paragraph, sixth sentence: *This strategy could potential be provided supply under the BRA System Operation permit (See Section 7.12) ...* Recommend using potentially instead of potential within this sentence.

- b. Page 7.8-5, first paragraph, third full sentence: The font of the text differs in this sentence from the surrounding text.

7.9 Lake Whitney Reallocation

- a. Page 7.9-3, second to the last sentence: *This strategy could potential be provided supply under the BRA System Operation permit (See Section 7.12) ...* Recommend using potentially instead of potential within this sentence.

7.10 BRA Sediment Reduction Program

- a. Page 7.10-2, last paragraph, last sentence: An extraneous numeral 7 is present at the end of the sentence*21 acres of participating cropland7.*

7.11 Brazos River Authority System Operation of Reservoirs

- a. Page 7.11-1 through 7.11-2, Section 7.11.1 Description of Option and Section 7.11.2 Available Yield: These sections refer to previous draft permits of the System Operation permit that are currently out of date with respect to the requested authorization. Please refer to the following link on the BRA website that houses information related to the System Operation Permit and Water Management Plan. <https://www.brazos.org/SysOpsWMP.asp>
- b. Page 7.11-2 and 7.11-3: The diversion amount for the expansion at Comanche Peak is referenced as 76,270 acre-feet per year on page 7.11-2 (third paragraph) and 76,120 acre-feet per year on page 7.11-3 (within Table 7.11-1).
- c. Page 7.11-3, Table 7.11-1: Water availability numbers for Abilene at Possum Kingdom shows 14,400 acft/year which is different than the City's supply plan (Section 5.38.15) that indicates that the System Operations permit could provide 14,800 acft/yr to the City.
- d. Page 7.11-3 – 7.11-4: Based on information in Volume I (Section 5.38.2) and in this section of Volume II (Section 7.11) a total of 166,952 acft/yr of supply is recommended under the System Operations Permit. Based on a meeting between HDR, Freese and Nichols (Region H consultant), and BRA staff, earlier in 2015, it was discussed that the supply from System Operations should be limited to roughly what was included in the previous 2011 regional water plans. The reason for keeping the allocations consistent with the previous plan is associated with possible decreases in yield under System Operations due to the recent drought. The previous plan included 25,350 acft/yr of supply for entities in Region H and 84,899 acft/yr of supply for entities in Brazos G. This sums to 110,249 acft/yr of total supply from System Operations in the 2012 State Water Plan. The supply allocated to System Operations in the 2016 IPP appears to be almost 57,000 acft/yr more than the 2012 State Water Plan. BRA recommends that the supply allocated to System Operation be

reevaluated and adjusted downward to be more consistent with the previous plan.

8. Regional Water Supply Projects

8.1 Bosque County Regional Project

- a. Page 8.1-1: First paragraph, third sentence, correct foot-note "1" style.

8.4 West Central Brazos Water Distribution System

- a. Page 8.4-1, in paragraph one instead of industrial use, it should be for municipal, irrigation and mining purposes.
- b. Page 8.4-1, paragraph two should include the City of Abilene. They have made a request for water and have contracted with BRA for 4,481 AF.
- c. Page 8.4-1, paragraph two remove Graham, Shackelford WSC and Stephens Regional SUD from the list. They already have an executed contract with BRA.
- d. Page 8.4-1, paragraph two remove the word "industrial."
- e. Page 8.4-1, paragraph two reference to Table 8.3-1 should be 8.4-1.
- f. Page 8.4-1, paragraph three remove the word "only" in first sentence.
- g. Page 8.4-1, paragraph three add the City of Abilene as one of the entities that could be served.
- h. Page 8.4-1, paragraph four, remove "for the Midway Group participants: Shackelford Water Supply Corporation (WSC), Stephens Regional SUD, the City of Throckmorton and the City of Breckenridge. The Midway Group provides much of the water in Shackelford, Stephens and Throckmorton Counties," And insert "by several west Texas entities including many from the 2004 study."
- i. Page 8.4-1, paragraph four, remove any reference to the Midway Group. Entities are seeking to utilize the existing line and right of way, but are looking to develop treatment options independent of one another.
- j. Page 8.4-2, Table 8.4-1, remove "Industrial."
- k. Page 8.4-2, Table 8.4-1, Shackelford is now called Fort Griffin SUD
- l. Page 8.4-2, Table 8.4-1, neither Shackelford (Ft. Griffin), Breckenridge, Stephens Regional SUD, or Throckmorton have requested additional water.
- m. Page 8.4-3, delete Figure 8.4-1 Schematic of Midway Group Interconnections Using the WCBWDS Facilities. This plan is no longer being pursued.
- n. Page 8.4-3, paragraph one, successfully instead of "successful."
- o. Page 8.4-4, paragraph two, remove any reference regarding the injection of brine water into the WCBWDS. This will not ever be pursued.
- p. Page 8.4-4, any reference to Shackelford WSC should be Fort Griffin SUD.

- q. Page 8.4-4, paragraph four, Ft. Griffin SUD plans to build their own WTP.
- r. Page 8.4-4, paragraph five, remove reference to new regional water treatment plant. There is not one currently in place and will not be constructed. Entities in the area are building their own treatment facilities.
- s. Page 8.4-5, Table 8.4-2, remove reference to regional water treatment plant near Breckenridge. Abilene is making upgrades to the WTP in Breckenridge, but those upgrades will benefit Abilene and probably Breckenridge only.
- t. Page 8.4-5, Table 8.4-2, For Fish and Wildlife Habitat section, it will be more than a low to moderate impacts if brine effluent is discharged to surface water streams. The Sharp Nose Shiner has already precluded Abilene from discharging in the river above PK. Same comment for Threatened and Endangered Species below.
- u. Page 8.4-5, Engineering and Costing, this may no longer be applicable if a regional water treatment plant strategy is not pursued.
- v. Page 8.4-7, paragraph 3, “requires” should be requirements.

9. Groundwater

9.2 City of College Station

- a. Font style in Table 9.2-2 is inconsistent with other font styles.

9.3 Williamson County

- a. Section 9.3.1: Remove hyphens in well production values ...1,500-gpm...
- b. Font style in Table 9.3-2 & 9.3-3 are inconsistent with other font styles.

10. Aquifer Storage and Recovery

10.3 Johnson County SUD and Acton MUD ASR

- a. Page 10.3-1: 10.3.1 Description of Option: The first bullet point states that the surface water rights in Lake Granbury are owned by Johnson County SUD and Acton MUD. These surface water rights are owned by the BRA. This water is purchased by Johnson County SUD and Acton MUD through a contract with the Brazos River Authority. Johnson County SUD has contracts totaling 9,210 acft/yr with the BRA and Acton MUD has contracts totaling 7,000 acft/yr with the BRA.



August 14, 2015

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Carter P. Smith
Executive Director

Mr. Trey Buzbee, Administrative Agent for
Region G Regional Water Planning Group
c/o Brazos River Authority
4600 Cobbs Drive
Waco, Texas 76710

Re: 2016 Brazos G Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan

Dear Mr. Buzbee:

Thank you for seeking review and comment from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ("TPWD") on the 2016 Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan for Brazos G (IPP). As you know, water impacts every aspect of TPWD's mission to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas. As the agency charged with primary responsibility for protecting the state's fish and wildlife resources, TPWD is positioned to provide technical assistance during the water planning process. Although TPWD has limited regulatory authority over the use of state waters, TPWD is committed to working with stakeholders and others to provide science-based information during the water planning process intended to avoid or minimize impacts to state fish and wildlife resources.

TPWD understands that regional water planning groups are guided by 31 TAC §357 when preparing regional water plans. These water planning rules spell out requirements related to natural resource and environmental protection. Accordingly, TPWD staff reviewed the IPP with a focus on the following questions:

- Does the IPP include a quantitative reporting of environmental factors including the effects on environmental water needs and habitat?
- Does the IPP include a description of natural resources and threats to natural resources due to water quantity or quality problems?
- Does the IPP discuss how these threats will be addressed?
- Does the IPP describe how it is consistent with long-term protection of natural resources?
- Does the IPP include water conservation as a water management strategy?
- Does the IPP include Drought Contingency Plans?
- Does the IPP recommend any stream segments be nominated as ecologically unique?
- If the IPP includes strategies identified in the 2010 regional water plan, does it address concerns raised by TPWD in connection with the 2010 Water Plan.

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To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

The Brazos G planning region encompasses 37 counties making it the largest water planning region in the state. The population of Brazos G was nearly 2 million in 2010 and is expected to more than double to over 4 million by 2070. Regional water use, which was about 850,000 acre-feet in 2010, is expected to increase by 74 percent to 1.48 million acre-feet by 2070. Approximately 69 percent of the current water use in Region G is for municipal and irrigation supply. In addition, about 51 percent of the water use in Region G in 2010 was supplied by groundwater. To address future water demands, the IPP recommends new supplies totaling nearly 400,000 acre-feet.

According to the IPP, water conservation in the 2016 Plan is much more aggressively considered than in the 2011 Plan. Total municipal conservation savings in the 2060 decade in the 2011 Plan was 21,366 acre-feet/year versus 73,835 acre-feet/yr in the 2016 Plan. There appears to be an error on page ES-16 stating municipal conservation savings in the 2016 plan are 21,366 acre-feet/year. TPWD staff applauds increased emphasis on conservation and with it, the projected reduction in average gallons per capita per day (gpcd) from 146 to 130, lower than the statewide goal of 140.

In addition to conservation and reuse, a number of new water management strategies (WMS) are proposed. New on-channel reservoirs include Brushy Creek, Cedar Ridge, Lake Creek, South Bend, and Throckmorton. New off-channel reservoirs include Coryell, City of Groesbeck, Hamilton County, Palo Pinto, Little River, Main Stem, Meridian, and Peach Creek. Existing Lake Palo Pinto is proposed to be enlarged with the addition of Turkey Peak Dam. TPWD is pleased that the proposed Millican Panther Creek Reservoir is no longer included as a recommended WMS in the Brazos G IPP.

The System Operation of Brazos River Authority (BRA) Reservoirs is proposed as a WMS. TPWD collaborated with the BRA to ensure impacts to environmental flows were minimized. Five new aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects are also proposed as well as a number of brackish groundwater development projects. From the perspective of environmental impacts, ASR projects are generally preferred over surface reservoirs since habitat impacts can be minimized. Impacts from brackish groundwater development can be minimized by disposing of brine concentrate via deep well injection.

The upper basin in Brazos G may be experiencing a new drought of record. Drought contingency plans are discussed in Chapter 7 but are not included as recommended water management strategies. However, the IPP does suggest that water user groups without drought contingency plans review plans from other districts and create a plan appropriate for their area. TPWD supports each Water User Group in having a drought contingency plan.

Chapter 1 describes the natural resources in Brazos G and the threats to those resources. Threats to natural resources include land use disturbance, reduced stream flows from drought and water diversions, and reduced lake levels. Water quality concerns discussed include those resulting from improper wastewater disposal, high-density agricultural activities, and high concentrations of chlorides. High nutrient and bacteria issues also occur in the upper and lower Central Basin in creeks and reservoirs. The IPP notes that Aquilla Creek and Aquilla Lake have been placed on the State's 303 (d) list for water quality impairments due to high concentrations of atrazine.

According to the IPP, there are few major springs in Brazos G. The three largest springs are Salado Springs, Berry Springs and San Gabriel Springs. TWDB planning rules now require that groundwater supplies not exceed the Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) values that were determined to meet the desired future conditions (DFCs) of the groundwater source. No water management strategies are recommended that would increase groundwater withdrawal beyond the MAGs established by the county and aquifer. Projected GW conditions are expected to be within the DFCs. DFCs designed to protect the flow of Salado Springs have been adopted. Ultimately TPWD would like to see DFCs adopted to protect additional springs in other areas.

Zebra mussels and aquatic invasive species are not mentioned in the IPP. Please include updated information to help clarify the present status of zebra mussels in Texas. The present known distribution (as of July 27, 2015) of zebra mussels in Texas reservoirs includes two reservoirs in Brazos G: Lake Waco and Belton Reservoir. Other reservoirs in Texas with known zebra mussels include Texoma, Lake Ray Roberts, Lewisville, Bridgeport, and Lavon. Zebra mussels have also been found on isolated occasions in the Red River below Texoma, the Elm Fork of the Trinity River below Lake Ray Roberts, Sister Grove Creek above Lake Lavon, and a boat with zebra mussels attached was found in Lake Ray Hubbard. Transporting zebra mussels is illegal. To prevent the transmission of invasive species TPWD recommends avoiding transport of water from basins where these species are known to occur. If this is unavoidable these transfers of water should be directly to water treatment plants.

According to the IPP, new reservoirs (Lake Creek Reservoir, Cedar Ridge Reservoir, Throckmorton Reservoir, Turkey Peak Reservoir, Coryell County Off-Channel Reservoir, City of Groesbeck Off-Channel, Little River Off-Channel Reservoir, and Brushy Creek Reservoir) will inundate more than 17,400 acres, reducing wildlife habitat including bottomland hardwoods forest. TPWD has concerns about reservoirs impacts to fish and wildlife, especially main-stem reservoirs like Cedar Ridge Reservoir. The proposed Cedar Ridge Reservoir in Shackelford County on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River would inundate 6,635 surface acres at the conservation pool elevation. The IPP notes the importance of flow variability to the instream biological community as well as the riparian community. Even though the project was evaluated using environmental flow standards adopted by TCEQ, streamflow variability downstream will be altered substantially and median monthly flows reduced significantly (Figure 4.2-4). The reservoir could also potentially affect up to 27 threatened, endangered, and rare species, including the recently listed federally endangered Smalleye Shiner *Notropis buccula* and Sharpnose Shiner *Notropis oxyrhynchus*.

If constructed, Cedar Ridge Reservoir would impound fresh water from the Clear Fork of the Brazos, reducing fresh water inflow into Possum Kingdom. Possum Kingdom presently experiences issues arising from golden algae. Scientific evidence demonstrates a link between increasing levels of salinity and toxic blooms of golden algae. The Clear Fork of the Brazos contains lower levels of dissolved salts and minerals than the Salt Fork and the Double Mountain Fork. Without the current flows from the Clear Fork, TPWD expects concentrations of dissolved salts and minerals in Possum Kingdom and releases from Possum Kingdom to increase. If Cedar Ridge is constructed, it would also appear that lake levels at Possum Kingdom will experience greater fluctuations.

Mr. Trey Buzbee
Page 4 of 4
August 14, 2015

TPWD staff recognizes the water supply constraints caused by natural salt brine springs. These water sources contribute to environmental conditions in the upper Brazos drainages that support a unique prairie stream ecosystem. Alterations in hydrologic and water quality conditions due to reservoir construction and operation, water diversions, control of brine sources, and consequent effects may disrupt the dynamics of the unique ecosystem and render habitat unsuitable for species adapted to prairie streams, including pupfish, killifish and minnows. Once known from throughout the Brazos River and its major tributaries, two prairie stream minnows, Smalleye Shiner *Notropis buccula* and Sharpnose Shiner *Notropis oxyrhynchus*, are now largely restricted to the drainages of the upper Brazos River (upstream of Lake Possum Kingdom) and have recently been listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The IPP does not recommend any stream segments be nominated as ecologically unique. No explanation is provided for the lack of recommendations. TPWD continues to see importance in recommending and designating significant stream segments and will support Brazos G in this regard if requested in the next planning cycle.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. While TPWD values and appreciates the need to meet future water supply demands, we must do so in a thoughtful and sound manner that ensures the ecological health of our state's aquatic and natural resources. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, please feel to contact Cindy Loeffler at 512-389-8715. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ross Melinchuk
Deputy Executive Director, Natural Resources

RM:CL:ms

cc: Craig Bonds, Division Director, Inland Fisheries Division, TPWD
Clayton Wolf, Division Director, Wildlife Division, TPWD
Jennifer Bronson-Warren, Water Resources Branch, Coastal Fisheries Division, TPWD

RECEIVED
AUG 13 2015
Brazos River Authority

Texas Water Development Board

P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

August 6, 2015

Mr. Wayne Wilson, Chair
Brazos Regional Water Planning Group
7026 East OSR
Bryan, Texas 77808

Mr. Trey Buzbee
Brazos River Authority
P.O. Box 7555
Waco, Texas 76714

Re: Texas Water Development Board Comments on the Brazos Regional Water Planning Group
(Region G) Initially Prepared Plan, Contract No. 1148301318

Dear Mr. Wilson and Mr. Buzbee:

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff completed a review of the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) submitted by May 1, 2015 on behalf of the Region G Regional Water Planning Group. The attached comments follow this format:

- **Level 1:** Comments, questions, and online regional water planning database revisions that must be satisfactorily addressed in order to meet statutory, agency rule, and/or contract requirements; and,
- **Level 2:** Comments and suggestions for consideration that may improve the readability and overall understanding of the regional water plan.

The TWDB's statutory requirement for review of potential interregional conflicts under Title 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §357.62 will not be completed until submittal and review of adopted regional water plans. However, as previously requested by our Executive Administrator, please inform TWDB in advance of your final plan if your planning group believes that an interregional conflict exists. Additionally, subsequent review will be performed as the planning group completes its data entry into the regional water planning database (DB17). If issues arise during our ongoing data review, they will be communicated promptly to the planning group to resolve.

Our Mission	:	Board Members
To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas	:	Bech Bruun, Chairman Carlos Rubinstein, Member Kathleen Jackson, Member
	:	Kevin Patteson, Executive Administrator

Mr. Wayne Wilson
Mr. Trey Buzbee
August 6, 2015
Page 2

Title 31 TAC §357.50(d) requires the regional water planning group to consider timely agency and public comment. Section 357.50(e) requires the final adopted plan include summaries of all timely written and oral comments received, along with a response explaining any resulting revisions or why changes are not warranted. Copies of TWDB's Level 1 and 2 written comments and the region's responses must be included in the final, adopted regional water plan. While the comments included in this letter represent TWDB's review to date, please anticipate the need to respond to additional comments regarding data integrity, including any water source overallocations, in the regional water planning database (DB17) once data entry is completed by the region.

Standard to all planning groups is the need to include certain content in the final regional water plans that was not yet available at the time that IPPs were prepared and submitted. In your final regional water plan, however please be sure to also incorporate the following:

- a) Completed results from the regional planning group's infrastructure financing survey (IFR) for sponsors of recommended projects with capital costs [31 TAC §357.44];
- b) Completed results from the implementation survey [31 TAC §357.45(a)];
- c) The socioeconomic impact evaluation provided by TWDB at the request of the planning group [31 TAC §357.33(c)];
- d) Documentation that comments received on the IPP were considered in the development of the final plan [31 TAC §357.50(d)];
- e) Evidence, such as a certification, that the final, adopted regional water plan is complete and adopted by the planning group [31 TAC §357.50(j)(1)]; and,
- f) The required DB17 reports, as made available by TWDB, in the executive summary or elsewhere in the plan as specified in the Contract [31 TAC §357.50(e)(2)(B), *Contract Scope of Work Task 4D(p), Contract Exhibit 'C', Table 2*]. Please ensure that the numerical values presented in the tables throughout the final, adopted regional water plan are consistent with the data provided in DB17. For the purpose of development of the 2017 State Water Plan, water management strategy and other data entered by the regional water group in DB17 (and as presented in the regional plan) shall take precedence over any conflicting data presented in the final regional water plan. [Contract Exhibit 'C', Sections 12.1.3. and 12.2.2]

The following items must accompany, separately, the submission of the final, adopted regional water plan:

- The prioritized list of all recommended projects in the regional water plan [Texas Water Code 15.436(a), *Contract Scope of Work Task 13*]; and,
- Any remaining hydrologic modeling files or GIS files that may not have been provided at the time of the submission of the IPP but that were used in developing the final plan. [31 TAC §357.50(e)(2)(C), *Contract Exhibit 'C', Section 12.2.1; Contract Scope of Work Task 3-III-13*]

Note that provision of certain content in an electronic-only form is permissible as follows: Internet links are permissible as a method for including model conservation and drought contingency plans within the final regional water plan; hydrologic modeling files may be submitted as electronic appendices, however

Mr. Wayne Wilson
Mr. Trey Buzbee
August 6, 2015
Page 3

all other regional water plan appendices should be incorporated in hard copy format within each plan. [31 TAC §357.50(e)(2)(C), Contract Scope of Work Task 5e, Contract Exhibit 'C', Section 12.2.1]

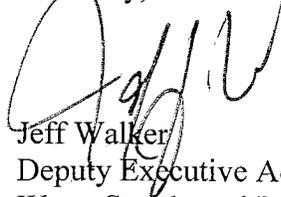
The following general requirements that apply to recommended water management strategies must be adhered to in all final regional water plans including:

- Regional water plans must not include any strategies or costs that are associated with simply maintaining existing water supplies or replacing existing infrastructure. Plans may include only infrastructure costs that are associated with volumetric increases of treated water supplies delivered to water user groups or that result in more efficient use of existing supplies [31 TAC §357.10(28), §357.34(d)(3)(A), Contract Exhibit 'C', Section 5.1.2.2, Section 5.1.2.3]; and,
- Regional water plans must not include any retail distribution-level infrastructure costs (other than those costs related to conservation strategies such as water loss reduction). [31 TAC §357.10(28), §357.34(d)(3)(A), Contract Exhibit 'C', Section 5.1.2.3]

To facilitate efficient and timely completion, and Board approval, of your final regional water plan, please provide your TWDB project manager with early drafts of your responses to these IPP comments for preliminary review and feedback.

If you have any questions regarding these comments or would like to discuss your approach to addressing any of these comments, please do not hesitate to contact Lann Bookout at (512) 936-9439. TWDB staff will be available to assist you in any way possible to ensure successful completion of your final regional water plan.

Sincerely,



Jeff Walker
Deputy Executive Administrator
Water Supply and Infrastructure

Attachments

cc w/att: Mr. David Dunn, HDR, Inc.

TWDB Comments on the Initially Prepared 2016 Brazos (Region G) Regional Water Plan

Level 1: Comments and questions must be satisfactorily addressed in order to meet statutory, agency rule, and/or contract requirements.

1. Tables 2-5 through 2-10 present water user group (WUG) demands by category of use, but do not include demand projections over the planning horizon for wholesale water providers (WWP) by water use category and by county. Please include WWP demands by category of use and county in the final, adopted regional water plan. [31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §357.31(b)]
2. Page 3-51, Table 3.4-1 and Appendix B, page B-13: The Dockum Aquifer table of availability in Appendix B presents water volumes that differ from Table 3.4-1. Please reconcile Table 3.4-1 for the Dockum Aquifer in Nolan County with Appendix B information in the final, adopted regional water plan. [31 TAC §357.32(d)]
3. Volume I, Section 3.2.4 and Volume II, Section 1.2: Section 3.2.4 states that water availability was determined as the minimum annual supply for run-of-river rights; however, in Vol. II, Section 1.2, the methodology states the use of a 75/75 criteria for water right availability. Water availability for water management strategies must represent the anticipated diversion volume under drought of record conditions. Please confirm annual run-of-river availability and whether it is anticipated to be available under drought of record conditions. If necessary, please adjust strategy yields to reflect the volume of the run-of-river supplies that would be available under drought of record conditions in the final, adopted regional water plan. [31 TAC §357.34(d)(3)(A); Contract Exhibit 'C', Section 3.4]
4. Volume I, Table 5.39-2: The Summary of Recommended Strategies includes “Out of Region.” It is not clear what this strategy rollup represents and an associated technical memorandum in Volume II could not be identified. Please clarify the “Out of Region” water management strategy(s) in the final, adopted regional water plan. [Contract Exhibit 'C', Section 12.1.2]
5. Please describe how publicly available plans of major agricultural, municipal, manufacturing and commercial water users were considered in the final, adopted regional water plan. [31 TAC §357.22(a)(4)]
6. Please provide a statement regarding any water availability requirements promulgated by a county commissioners court pursuant to Texas Water Code §35.019, which in Region G applies to the North - Central Texas Trinity and Woodbine Aquifers and Central Texas - Trinity Priority Groundwater Management Areas. [31 TAC §357.22(a)(6)]
7. The plan does not include a subchapter in Chapter 5 consolidating the planning group's recommendations regarding water conservation and model water conservation plans. Please consolidate this information in the final, adopted regional water plan. [31 TAC §357.34(g)]
8. The plan does not appear to document the planning group's process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies. Please include this documentation in the final, adopted regional water plan. [31 TAC §357.12(b) and §357.34(b)]

Level 2: Comments and suggestions for consideration that may improve the readability and overall understanding of the regional water plan.

1. In the Volume II, Table of Contents, the table heading number 3 for “Reuse” appears to have been omitted. Please consider revising in the final, adopted regional water plan.
2. Tables 5.39-2 and 5.39-6: Recommend clarifying that the numbers listed in the column “WUG/WWP using Strategy” are the number of entites using the strategy in the final, adopted regional water plan.
3. Tables 5.39-2 and 5.39-6: The “Supply Developed” for the “Reuse” alternative strategy appears to only account for the City of Bryan and does not account for WMARSS reuse (WMARSS is indicated as an alternative strategy for Cities of Mart, Riesel, and Waco). Suggest confirming supply volumes in the final, adopted regional water plan.
4. Table 5.39-6: It appears that the following Alternative Strategies are missing from Table 5.39-6: Voluntary Transfers such as Lake Whitney diversion to Cleburne (City of Cleburne), supply from City of Caldwell (Burleson Co. Manufacturing), supply for City of Gatesville (Coryell Co. – Other), supply from City of Granbury (City of Tolar), supply from Acton MUD (Hood Co. – Other), and supply from Somervell Co. water supply project (City of Glen Rose); Groundwater development of Edwards BFZ (Bell Co. Manufacturing); and WMARSS – Reuse (Cities of Mart, Riesel, and Waco). Please consider adding these alternative strategies to the table in the final, adopted regional water plan.



Southern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

420 North 6th Street

P.O. Box 2205

Waco, Texas 76703

254 759-5610

stgcd@att.net

August 15, 2015

VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

Wayne Wilson, Chair
Region G Water Planning Group

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Region G – 2016 Regional Water Plan

This letter is in reply to Region G Water Planning Groups request for public comments regarding the Planning Group's proposed 2016 Region G Water Plan. The comments and recommendations contained in this letter are those of the Southern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (Southern Trinity GCD) which manages the groundwater resources of McLennan County. We appreciate you allowing us to comment on the proposed 2016 Regional Water Plan. Some of the comments contained in this report were presented by Mr. Scooter Radcliffe (general manager of Southern Trinity GCD) during Region G's public hearing in Waco, Texas this June.

Southern Trinity GCD was formed in 2007 and has issued permits for both historical and non-historical groundwater withdrawals from the Trinity and Brazos River Alluvium aquifers. The district is activity promoting conservation of Trinity aquifer groundwater through improvements in water system efficiency, reduction in demand through conservation and increased use of surface water, and use of Brazos River Alluvium groundwater. Southern Trinity GCD is working with the City of Waco and other water users and Baylor University in developing policies and programs that promote the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water to optimize the amount of water available to McLennan County during surface water shortages and extending the viability of the Trinity aquifer for many decades.

Southern Trinity GCD's current desired future conditions and the associated modeled available groundwater (MAG) for the Trinity Aquifer is 20,640 acre-feet per year. This amount of groundwater is required so that the district has the ability to permit sufficient groundwater water pumping during times of drought while promoting conservation and surface water use during times of adequate surface water supplies. The District currently has a sufficient amount

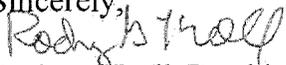
of unpermitted groundwater available for permitting to communities that do not have access to surface water and are shown in the proposed Regional Plan to have shortages in future years. The Texas Water Development Board's publication "*The Role of Modeled Available Groundwater in Regional Water Planning*" states, in part, that:

"the regional water planning process focuses on anticipated pumping volumes in each planning decade rather than on permit volumes."

Southern Trinity GCD approach and use of the existing Trinity Aquifer MAG is consistent with this role and allows our permitted volumes to be equal to or less than the MAG while promoting long term conservation of the aquifer through reduced pumping during times of adequate surface water supplies.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the regional water plan and wish to thank you and all members Region G for their time and hard work on the draft plan.

Sincerely,



Rodney Kroll, President

Southern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

CC: Southern Trinity Board Members, Scooter Radcliffe, General Manager

Multi County Water Supply Corporation

P.O. Box 1006

Gatesville, Texas 76528

(254) 865-2269 ~ (254) 248-1113

June 29, 2015

Brazos G Water Planning Group

Attn: Trey Buzbee

P.O. Box 7555

Waco, Texas 76714-7555

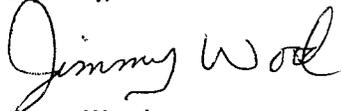
Dear Mr. Buzbee,

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware that Multi County Water Supply Corporation would like to be considered as the project sponsor to the Coryell County (Off Channel) Reservoir that is included in the 2011 Brazos G Regional Water Plan. This proposed off channel reservoir will be located in the center of MCWSC's Certificated of Convenience and Necessity.

Multi County Water Supply Corporation understands it has no water rights of its own. We feel it is critical that Multi County WSC be given a high priority status as our only current source of water is Proctor Reservoir. While Multi County Water would still purchase the allotted contracted water from the City of Hamilton, it is the southwestern portions of our system near Ft. Hood that are experiencing the most growth and cannot be served with our present water requirements. We have approximately 1250 customers and maintain nearly 450 miles of water lines in Hamilton, Coryell and Lampasas counties. Without Multi County being a high priority to receive additional amounts of water, a critical shortage will occur and Multi County will be unable to serve the West and South Western portions of Coryell County, in addition to any future growth in Hamilton and Lampasas counties.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and its 1250 members, a sincere request is made that the Region G will recognize the urgency of placing Multi County Water Supply Corporation as the project sponsor on this off channel reservoir.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Wood
President of the Board of Directors



Kate Timmons
Office Manager

MULTI COUNTY WATER SUPPLY CORP.
P. O. BOX 1006
GATESVILLE, TX 76528



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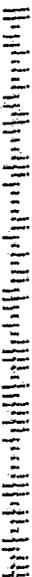
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Brazos River Authority

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Brazos G Water Planning Group

Attn: Trey Buzbee

P.O. Box 7555

Waco, TX. 76714-7555

MULTI COUNTY WATER SUPPLY CORP.
P. O. BOX 1006
GATESVILLE, TX 76528

CERTIFIED MAIL™



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JUL 10 2015

1st NOTICE
2nd NOTICE
RETURNED

RECEIVED

JUL 10 2015

Brazos River Authority

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Brazos G Water Planning Group

Attn: Trey Buzbee

P.O. Box 7555

Waco, TX. 76714-7555



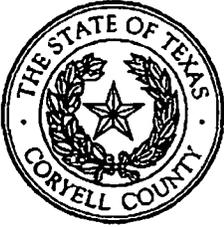
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CORYELL COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 15
WATER PLANNING PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the completion of State Highway 9 from Fort Hood and US 190 into Coryell County, the expansion of construction and activity at North Fort Hood, construction of a regional medical center on Fort Hood and the anticipated increase of retired military personnel locating to areas adjacent to Fort Hood will accelerate the future population growth and water requirements within Coryell County beyond what has been forecast in Regional and State Water Plans; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) study supporting the 2008 Central Trinity Aquifer Primary Groundwater Management Area mandate concludes that groundwater in Coryell County will be a critical issue over the next 25 years and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the lack of surface water availability in Western Coryell County (sourced from Lake Proctor) is already negatively impacting the ability to provide surface water to major parts of Coryell County, thus putting more pressure on the future use of critically limited groundwater; and

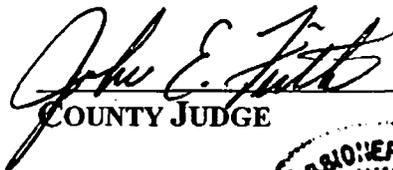
WHEREAS, water supply corporations supporting most of Western Coryell County, Multi-County Water Supply Corporation, will require an alternative water source in the future and that a Coryell Off-Channel Reservoir in the current State Water Plan could provide the water source to support areas of Coryell, Hamilton, and Lampasas Counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

The County of Coryell request that the State Water Development Board and Region G support increasing the priority for the construction of the Coryell Off-Channel Reservoir given the limited known water resources that will be available to Western Coryell County and neighboring counties.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED on this 22nd day of June, 2015 at a regular meeting of the Commissioners' Court, which meeting was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, 551.001, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

APPROVED:



COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:



COUNTY CLERK



Trey Buzbee

From: stgcd <stgcd@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 11:51 AM
To: Trey Buzbee
Subject: Brazos G Meeting
Attachments: Public Hearing comments for Brazos G meeting.docx

Trey,
Attached is a copy of the comments I read for the record. Would you place this with the other documents for the hearing.
Thanks
Scooter
STGCD

STGCD Public Comments for Brazos (G) Regional Water Planning Hearing June 23, 2015

My name is Scooter Radcliffe and I am the general manager of Southern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District which manages the groundwater resources of McLennan County. Thank you for allowing me to comment in regard to the proposed 2016 Regional Water Plan.

Southern Trinity GCD was formed in 2007 and issued permits for both historical and non-historical groundwater withdrawals from the Trinity and Brazos River Alluvium aquifers. The district is activity promoting conservation of Trinity aquifer groundwater through improvements in water system efficiency, increased use of surface water and use of Brazos River Alluvium groundwater.

The District is working with the City of Waco, Baylor University, and other water users in developing policies and programs. These programs and policies will promote the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water to optimize the amount of water available to McLennan County during surface water shortages. This will extend the viability of the Trinity aquifer for many decades.

The District's current desired future conditions and the associated modeled available groundwater for the Trinity Aquifer is 20,640 acre-feet per year.

This amount of groundwater is required so the District has the ability to permit sufficient groundwater water pumping during times of drought while promoting surface water use and conservation during times of adequate surface water supplies.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the regional water plan and plan on submitting written comments. Thank you for your time.

Trey Buzbee

From: Judge Firth <county_judge@coryellcounty.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 9:05 AM
To: 'Wayne and Linda Wilson'; David Dunn; Trey Buzbee
Cc: jw@coryellcounty.org; mcwscgv@centurylink.net; Ben Roberts
Subject: Coryell Off-Channel Prioritization
Attachments: 2015-15 RES - Water Planning Priorities.pdf

Mr. Buzbee, et. al.,

Over the past year, communications have been developing between Region G and Multi-County Water Supply Corporation which supports major areas of Coryell County as well as Hamilton and Lampasas Counties. This is important since only Multi-County Water Supply Corporation can comprehensively articulate the challenge of their current situation and growing future challenge. I believe that you will be meeting with them this week...this will be very helpful in making sure that the gravity of their challenge is captured.

Attached is a copy of a Coryell County Commissioners' Court resolution approved yesterday in Court. County leadership is concerned about water availability because of 1) the assessment done by TCEQ on the availability of groundwater in the county as communicated in the PGMA legal action taken against the County, 2) the current and future growth within the county (2010 numbers from Census are not correct because the thousands of military and civilians out of the US in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other counties on April 1, 2010 were not counted in the Census), 3) the facts outlined in the resolution will prompt future growth much more than currently forecast by water planners, and 4) Multi-County is currently not able to support current requests for water....a challenge that will only increase in the years ahead. An off-channel, as presented in the current State Water Plan could address all of these issues.

The off-channel concept was shown to be idea for the location which water planners have studied in Coryell County....for many reasons to include the depth of the location which reduces relative evaporation. What I have heard from those against the off-channel concept is that State water availability would not be enhanced by an off-channel in Coryell county because it would not increase the total capture of water. The irony is that the recent rains have shown just the opposite. In fact, reports that I have heard is that over half of the rain water from the recent rains have already ended up in the Gulf of Mexico. Water captured by a Coryell Off-Channel would have provided a capability to have captured more water for use in Central Texas within several counties...this is especially important given the age, condition, and future challenges at Lake Procter. The state can continue down the path of looking to build more miles of pipe to support areas of Texas, but unless more holding capacity is built, much of the water in future heavy rain events will end up in the Gulf of Mexico. Because off-channels are less expensive to build and can gain permitting much more quickly, they appear to be a logical direction to go to meet future State water needs....and the Coryell County location is reportedly ideal for an off-channel because of the depth of the facility.

As you enter into upcoming project priority discussions, Coryell County leadership asks that Region G consider all aspects of the Coryell Off-Channel project and assign a priority for the project based on those considerations.

John Firth
Coryell County Judge
254 865-5911 x2222

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Mike Conner – I am Mike O’Conner from Milam county and I have a ranch that would be flooded by the reservoir and I represent the property owners of that area. So what I want to do is look at the proposal at a technical level and say basically why it is not a good proposal, it’s not cost effective, its high risk and there are better alternatives. First I want to start out with a few things that seem to be errors in the plan and I need to point them out because I am going to use them later on. One of them is that the Williamson County other needs don’t match what the plan describes as their needs it should be second set of rows there which are quite different that the 20,000 acre feet of needs. The second is, and I may be misinterpreting this but there is no indication of savings from conservation in any of the areas that are using water from the reservoir that could be that they were just factored in and not broken out like I think or it could be that you put no advanced conservation requirements on them. The supply available to the Brazos River Authority in the plan shows them getting the entire amount of water from the reservoir available water and yet that is in the context of them having shortages and all and only a small amount of that water would be available to them because it dedicates the rest of the water to other users. Finally, the plan says the completion date under the Brazos River Authority Section is to be by 2020 well that’s not technically feasible to do by then and we would recommend that if nothing else that date be moved out quite a bit probably to 2060 or 2070. Okay we are first going to look at the costs, I am not going to go through all these numbers, because I don’t have enough time, I did make some assumptions, all those assumptions I think are very conservative or they are just taken from documents. So the first thing is to talk about how this thing is to be funded and according by reading between the lines in the plan it looks like the Brazos River Authority pays for the reservoir and then sells the water to Williamson County and other people, what I call the Little River Reservoir users, at their systems rate and then the users of that water pay for the pipeline and water treatment and so on necessary to take advantage of it. Under those assumptions I then looked at the impact this would have on Brazos River Authority’s system rate

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

and of course by the time this might happen things might change but right now it would raise their rates by about 65% and that is being very conservative about how much they could distribute that over. And let me just skip this next one the cost to the users of the water mostly Williamson County is extremely high and especially in the early years and I broke out an example here with Hutto just to show and you see it goes from about a 70% rate increase would be necessary down to about 40% at the end. And the other thing I wanted to do was to look at this and I saying this not efficient and expensive well everything is expensive today but in fact Allen's Creek Reservoir is being planned right now and its costs dollars should be in the same amount of dollars this should be and its at least twice as effective as the Little River Reservoir. And in fact if you look at it from the point of view of the customers of the Brazos River Authority it's like 6 times more effective they get only two percent increase in water at a 60 something percent increase in cost in the system rate verses the Allen Creek which is much less. So in summary it is very expensive and there are better alternatives. The other thing is it is very high risk. Its high risk because of third of the reservoir would actually be over the Carizo Wilcox Aquifer (?) recharge zone there for it could leak into that of is possible at the time of implementation to try to find out if that is going to happen and we might find out it would happen for sure and cancel the project or we might find out it might not. I don't know if we could ever be certain it wouldn't. Landowner resistance is very high and I have a couple of references there to say that we have quite a strong criteria about when this could be implemented and I don't think that criteria could be met. So recommendations would be move the plan out at least, second the better recommendation is to take it out plan and substitute it things that are lower risks and lower costs and particularly conservation and water re-use. Almost all the water growth in Williamson County is coming from municipal use 95+%. That could easily be met by better conservation. Maybe there are some risks to it but not as must risk as there is to this reservoir. And finally I just wanted to summarize the risk there. There are risks in a lot of ways here, one is that if you build this reservoir and the water is not needed you have locked

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

those users into a very rate increase for no benefit and of course there is the risk of not being able to do it all. Where is with conservation you can evaluate it over time and you could always look for alternatives if you can't meet the goals you set. Thank you.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Joyce Conner – It should be an automatic slide show. Good morning board members I am Joyce Conner, sorry I was running around. I am representing the land owners in the Little River Off Chanel Reservoir area. My husband Mike and I are relatively new to Milam County but we got here as fast as we could. Mikes great grandparents settled in Grimes County and mine are from the Hill Country. So we were very blessed when we found a beautiful area in between both of them and are extended very large families. And it only took 13 years of searching. We live on just over 700 acres and are sure to lose about 85% due to the flooding and maybe more if it is needed for buffer and mitigation and I am definitely going to tell you there is going to be mitigation. We practice wildlife management and as documentation we have accumulated over 40,000 of plants, animals and management practices that we have taken on our property over the last 12 years. These were culled from at least double that number and at least 75% could have been taken anywhere in the proposed reservoir area. We are committed to be stewards of this land and as stewards we are dedicated to its protection, restoration and improvement and I hope I speak today for all of the other land owners that treasure Milam County land, animals and plants. Some of the things we have done well we have invested over 200,000 additional dollars and countless hours of labor in wildlife equipment, repairs, materials and projects. We have designed a custom built green house by our architect son to reduce impact on the environment. We have retrofitted two man made water ponds. We have maintained over a half mile of pristine Alligator Creek and an undeveloped riparian zone. We have restored 75 out of 600 acres of native oak forest by using mechanical and chemical means to reduce the woody jupon understory. We have made or maintained 20 miles of trails, should I still keep going? We have removed invasive species over two hundred china berry trees and many Ferrell hogs. We have participated State, County and Environmental and Federal agencies on replanting pastures with native seeds for (?) birds. Restoring wooded areas under a conservation easement agreement for the endangered Houston Toad, and we have collected and reported data not only from those 40,000 photos but have

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

biannual bird surveys by Audubon we have had herpetology surveys we have 40 eastern bluebird nest boxes along the perimeter of our land, we do box turtle watch and project feeder watch, and also we have invited A & M classes to come and help us to identify the historical sites and artifacts. Now we find that our land may be confiscated to a reservoir of water. Is this really necessary? To destroy the surface land as a solution. According to the Texas Water Development Board this year 2015 they said reservoirs were inefficient due to evaporation and the major ones lose as much as 2.3 trillion gallons was water per year. And we know of alternative solutions. As long as we consider any unintended environmental impacts we do have ocean and groundwater desalination, aquifer restore and recovery, new conservation (?). It is also time to rethink everyone water use. Implement stricter water conservation practices and educate citizens on how and why it is important to save water. There is so much these municipalities can do such as using drought resistant plants and xeriscaping. For the environment please revise your water plans and remove the Little River Off Channel Reservoir from them. And I have out of that 40,000 pictures brought about 150 so if you would just like to sit here and look all of these animals and plants are rampant in Milam County. It is the most beautiful place that we could find, thank you.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Wayne Fisher – I am a long time resident of Milam County and Harris County additionally. I represent many concerned citizens of Milam County in connection with proposed reservoir which we for very good reasons hope to explain to you so you will have more information we intensely oppose the creation of this reservoir where it is being proposed at this time. I have as I say been in Milam County for a long time that maybe doesn't mean much to you. Except my family came there in 1857 so we have been there 158 years. And personally I have paid for every acre of land that I have I paid for it myself by the sweat of my brow and working hard, I didn't inherit it. And so having said that there are many other just like me whose heritage and families heritage is founded in Milam County who grew up there whose father whose grandfathers and what is being proposed here is suddenly and with a whole lot of warning a proposal to inundate 3343 acres of the most beautiful scenic area of Milam County and you say I am biased maybe I am but if you will go look at it and I challenge anyone who doubts to go to to to Farm Road 2095 and come to my place, come to Melvin Wall's place come to Mike Conner's place and many many others and you will see the beautiful rolling hills it is almost like a slice of the Texas Hill Country was lifted up and placed right there uncharacteristically in central Texas. Beautiful cliffs, ravines, dogwood forests. I have open my property up for decades for people to come and tour opened up and people coming from Austin, Taylor, Bryan College Station because of the dogwoods there and by dogwoods I can kiss them goodbye when they are inundated with 6 to 8 feet of water and that may not seem like much to you, for the greater good of other people somewhere why any of you that are here that are complaining you are just like anybody else's property we intend to condemn. Well I say that is not exactly correct. There are all kinds of property that you can condemn for public use. Property, everybody whose property is condemned I will say at the outset they don't like it. And I understand that but when you pristine you're talking about a unique reservoir you are talking about uniquely beautiful property in Milam County that will be destroyed. Homes, barns forests and in addition to that hopes and aspirations of many of the families here whose

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

roots are deeply in Milam County and this is to send water to other counties. This is not for Milam County well it's for the good and glory of Brazos G so we have to take over here to give over here we understand that but in that process reason and fairness has to be an essential part of the decision making process and and we hope that you will see and come and see what we are talking about. It will destroy Farm Road 2025 which is a major road going from Gause Texas to Highway 79 around to Cameron. And that will disrupt the community there for various reasons. It will also completely destroy county road 343 it gone it won't be there anymore if this is done. It will inundate a United States congressionally approved and designated national historic trail. A United States National historic trail runs right through this proposed reservoir and other will speak in more detail about it that is the El Comino Real National historic trail. The Pin Oak Cemetery a designated Texas historic cemetery with graves going back to 1869 will be totally inundated and we we uh hear well we just move it, we no, it can't be moved. And certainly the feelings of people for those who are buried there can't be moved. There are peat bogs those others will explain this, there are actual Indian artifacts that have been with digs and so forth and people will explain this to you. Camp grounds, Indian artifacts going thought this property. It is opposed by the people who showed up in Gause Texas recently concerned not all were the actual property owners but concerned about what effect this would have on it. Thank you I will just simply say is what this does is cloud the titles of everybody in this entire area because no one can say oh yeah we will sell you this but we have to tell you this is under prospective condemnation. Thank you so much and I am sorry if I exceeded my time.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

M. Sheehan – Well good morning my name is DR. Mellissa B. Sheehan I reside in Brazos County and I represented the Bauman, Shafer Sheehan Haun Russell Young and numerous other families today. Together we request that the LROCR be removed from the water plan. What's in a name we see names everyday do you every stop and wonder what a name truly represents. For instance my name, from readying my name one might conclude that I am woman, my name sounds American and I have a doctorate. Beyond that not much else is known until you begin to peel back layers and truly explore the identity beyond my name then you would learn that I represent the fourth generation on my family's land. Land that has been designated by the Texas Department of Ag that property has been continuous ag operation for over a hundred years by the family land heritage program. I am a Christian I love ag in our precious ag environment. I am part of the millennial generation I studied both renewable natural resources and agricultural leadership in college. I am a daughter, mother, sister, wife and friend and every day I go to work at an institution of high education to mold active citizens to serve those in need. As you can see a name is not just a group of letters strung together. A name represents an identity a contributing member of society and collectively our cultural heritage. If the LROCR was to come to fruition engineers at the site would be allowed to dig up names, dig up bodies of my ancestors, our ancestors which are a part of our community cultural heritage and recognized as a historical site in the state of Texas. This historical site I am referencing is the Pin Oak Cemetery. What is significant about this cemetery? Let's look at the numbers. According to the Texas Historical Cemetery Association there are over 9000 cemeteries in the State of Texas and only 1706 are listed as historical cemeteries which means Pin Oak Cemetery is listed among 3 percent of historical cemeteries within approximately 171 million acres in the State of Texas. There are about 130+ graves including 10 graves of civil war soldiers one of which is my great grandfather, one soldier from the Korean War and many more dating back to the civil war era. On a personal note my beloved grandmother was entered there in 2000 and I hope to be buried there too. The Texas

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

historical commission shared that cemeteries are among the most historical valuable resources. They are reminders of various settlement patterns such as villages, rural communities urban centers and ghost towns. Names on grave markers serve as a directory of early residents and represent the ethnic diversity and unique population of an area. Cultural influence and grave design cemetery decoration and landscaping contribute to the complete narrative of Texas history. So what is a narrative tied to the Pin Oak Cemetery space. What are those layers behind those names? The burial ground that extends along the Pin Oak Creek has served the rural Pin Oak settlement as well as surrounding Gause, Hanover, Liberty, Cameron, Rockdale, and Hearne communities. More so the area settlers who were here by the 1850s took advantage of the areas fertile soil and engage in agriculture. The settlers established a school prior to the civil war that served Pin Oak until it consolidated with the Milano ISD in 1949. So what you don't see and feel when you hear the narrative is the towering old trees the vibrant wildflowers peace and serenity as you sit in the presence of those that poured their hearts and souls into this land. When I close my eyes on a dew kissed morn I feel a slight breeze and can hear my ancestors whisper their sweet memories in my ear. The less (?) of these multimillion dollar projects and what is not shared publicly is how reservoir projects force communities to dig up their ancestors and move them with complete disregard to the community culture, disrespecting the rights of citizens the pursuit of happiness and costing tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars to make this happen. These names are not just numbers that you can strike through, dismiss or dig up their remains. These names represent real people, lives lost to serve our country, agriculture, Texas History, rich culture, historical significance and will not be forgotten and ignored. Thank you.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Steve Gonzales – I am Steve Gonzales executive director of El Camino Real National Trail (ECRNT) Association. I am based in Austin Texas and I am here with citizens, elected officials from Milam County to speak about the Associations oppositions to the proposed LROCR. Currently my college is passing out letters that voice the disagreement with this project and on the back is a map that shows how the reservoir could affect the trail. The El Camino Real means The Royal Road of the Tejas Indians. Historically the road connected Mexico City with (?) first capital of Texas. This allowed Spanish influence to spread into the province. The road also allow Angelo settlers to head west in the 1800s. It was a major artery of trade and culture. The trail created the cultural diversity of the Texas we know today. On October 18, 2004 the trail was designated as a national historic trail and part of the trail system. This makes this trail a part of the unique trail that have been deemed naturally significant by the US congress. So if you could imagine only 19 events have been deemed significant this road was one of them. ECRNTA is an advocacy group that seeks to restore the integrity of the trail to educate the public about it significance to promote tourism along its path. We work closely with the Nation Parks Service, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Department of Transportation and others to protect and develop the trail. The proposed LROCR would inundate a stretch of ECRNT in Milam County in the vicinity of Gause Texas. This action will forever alter a nationally significant roadway and destroy an elemental part of our state's history. The ECRNT (?) founding of Texas. In fact it is easy to say that we would not be calling Texas Texas without it today. Therefore our organization along with the citizens of Milam County ask you that you reconsider the proposed inundation as we hope you will see that the project will irreparable harm to this historical treasure. I thank you for your time and I ask you not to allow the road that led to the founding of Texas to be forgotten. Thank you.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Judge Dave Barkermeyer – My names if Dave Barkermeyer I Milam County Judge. I am here representing the Milam County commissioners Court and also Mayor Billy Barnett and the City Council of the Milano have asked me to present their resolution as well and here also to present a resolution that has been adopted as well by the Commissioner’s Court of Milam County. I am not going to read all the way through both of these resolutions but the resolution that the commissioners Court adopted on June 8 begins by saying Whereas the Brazos G Water Planning Group and/or the Brazos H Regional Water Planning Group, appointed by the Texas Water Development Board, is/are proposing a plan to divert water from the Little River or Brazos River and construct an “Off Channel Reservoir” that would flood 4,343 acres of private land in the area between Texas Highway 79 and FM 2095 near Gause in Milam County, Texas to export the water to other Counties, and there a number of whereas’ that we have commented on here that include the comment made about the ECRNT, the Pin Oak Cemetery, about the flooding of the land of many folks that are sitting this room here. The fact that this reservoir doesn’t do anything of significance for us in Milam County. It’s all for the benefit of people in other places. And therefore we have concluded our resolution by saying that the Commissioner’s Court is opposed to the building of this reservoir either by Brazos G or Region H and myself and other commissioners, Billy Barnet and his city council have sign their resolution and Melissa would you pass these resolutions out to the folks. But as I listen to this man here make his presentation the thing that strikes me is that when we do this planning you do all the consideration of all the needs of these areas that are going to be short on water and you think about what their needs are but I would recommend that you think about the needs of these locations that you thinking about putting these reservoirs. It seems like you have not paid any attention to what our needs are in the communities where you are thinking about placing these reservoirs. And then you wonder why there are several hundred people here today it is because you have not paid any attention to what our needs are.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Linda Hoppe – Good morning my name is Linda Hoppe and I represent Gause ISD. And of course I just want to visit with you a little bit today about some unintended consequences for the school districts in the area. I will start off by telling you that I was the superintendent of Gause for about 10 years up until the time of retirement. My husband and I not in this area that would be flooded but across highway 79. I think that Milano ISD will also have the concerns of lost property tax revenue. And we went to the appraisal district to find out about how much that might be because in our conservative community we don't have a lot of money to spend on our schools. So the appraisal district was unable to give us any kind of definite information about revenues lost. But it would include this 3 to 4 thousand acres that would be flooding the pristine land and the beautiful homes in the area. So we have to think about what that would do to the programs. When I started Gause had 50 students. And it's built up to a little over 200 now. And some of those are transfers which brings state money in but if we are unable to continue with our programs and attract new students and transfers and good teachers all of that will be for naught. Oh and just mentioning the bus route on 2095 from Milano and Gause ISD. The school is the life blood of our community I have been there since 1966 in the area I am a new comer and so I just wish you would take that into consideration. We did adopt at our last board meeting and I know we have several board members here a resolution to oppose this because we see in fact I had a little visit with current superintendent and he thought over a ten year period the lost revenue would be in the millions. So you can see what an impact that would have. Thank you.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Dave Cunningham – I am Dave Cunningham and I live in the Gause area and I am speaking about the economic impact in the real estate business. I have been a resident of Gause and a real estate broker for over 30 years. I have involved in property transactions on several thousand acres that are included in the LROCR proposal. I have study the geology, topography the history, both before and after the Anglo settlers. This is a special area, some of the first elevation and topography coming from the Gulf Coast Plains or from Houston you hit in our area its really really pretty and I hope you get a chance to see some of the pictures that have been taken of this particular area. The abundance of wildlife, flora and fauna in Post Oak creates a diamond in Texas. We often told customers you get the beauty of the Hill Country but we have a lot of trees we have a variety of trees not just two kinds of trees we have lots of trees. Lots of beautiful plant life. It has been so rewarding to help so many families that are here today to realize their dream to own land and raise families and retire on a little piece of Texas. They have invested their time and financial futures in this land that is not being threatened. They have hired fence builders, dozer operators, built roads, hired building contractors, hey have spent countless dollars at local hardware stores, tractor dealers and many other merchants in their quest to improve and maintain their part of the Texas dream. Not to mention the thousands of dollars brought into our county and schools through property taxes because of their improvements to their land. These landowners have a tremendous impact on the economy of this area. This proposal has effectively pressed the hold button on the lives of these families. The landowners, if this program is flawed time is of the essence. The landowners and their neighbors are not effectively able to market their property should they be faced with a medical or financial emergency or just need to sell it. They are reluctant to continue spending money in the local economy for property improvements and continuing with future plans for their property investments. These families all have a representable portion of their net worth invested in these properties. The legacy and heritage represented here cannot be measured in monetary worth please release to the hold bottom. For the families left

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

with land in this area or near this area in the event this is passed there is really no upside. No positive impacts. If they still have access at all as a non recreation non-constant level lake it leaves these joined properties with little hope of market value increases or increased tourism or revenue for the community. Mark Twain said buy land they are making any more of it. I have often said throughout my real estate career when we would look at property and say boy that property really has romance it's going to sell really well. And romance sells. These properties represent the beauty and romance that Milam County has to offer. And they aren't making any more of it. Cedar Hill does not need to be Cedar Hill Island. Twenty Two Hills doesn't need to be Twenty Two Hill sometime islands. Alligator, Pin Oak and Beaver Creeks don't need to the lakes associated with them. With these families sitting on hold I respectfully asked that you make a prompt ruling in favor of these families our community and their financial futures and put a stop to this plan now. Thank you for your time.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Melvin Wall – I am Melvin Frank Wall Gause. I am a landowner with my wife and four children and we will be directly impacted by this reservoir. My granddad purchased the first property in 1914 it has been family owned ever since and hope it will continue to be. We noticed uhhhh my parents noticed that there were a number of Indian artifacts on the property. Come to find out I found out a few years ago that in the original deed purchased by my granddad is designated to include the creek bottom camp ground. We have Indian artifacts to the Palo (?) era as 9 to 10 thousand years all the way up to the Indians were moved from the area. We also have wetlands I have three distinct wetlands areas on the property, spring fed, vegetation I am not a biologist so I don't know. The cattle have trouble walking across it about 9 to 10 months out of the year. Also there is the Lone Star, the remains of the Lone Star peat bog on the property. This will be directly impacted, be gone. As Mr. Fisher was referring to the prettiest country in the state of Texas lies along Beaver and Pin Oak Creeks. We have pin oak trees 60 to 80 foot tall we have sycamore trees along the creek bank 60 to 80 foot tall over a hundred years old. This will all be gone. Is it worth it, is it worth it for the environmental impact. Also we have my wife and I started Light of Christ Ministries some about 11 years ago that is a part of property. It is Christian retreat center set up non-profit organization set up for small churches. My question is how would this be relocated to a facility that would even come an idea of equaling what we have out there what God has provided. We have had churches from all over the area we had a church from Houston, some from Austin area, Waco. How would/could this be replaced. Simply it cannot. My property has been deed to my four children two of them which live on the place and two of them want to build. I thank you very much for your time.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Michael Wall – Thank you very much for letting us speak. I live on property on County Road 343 on the property that was just spoken of. Just turned 38 years old this weekend. I have been on that property since 3 days after my birth all for except for 6 months of my life I spent living in Waco. It's all I have ever known I am raising the fifth generation on this property we have had this property for over a hundred years in the family name raising the fifth generation. My eight year old, nine year old and twelve year old all they know is Pin Oak Creek. Hopefully that is all they will know until they decide to move somewhere else or build. Its family property. My dad said all the history we have with the Indian artifacts all I can is the reservoir does not need to be located here. All I can is I work in Hutto the conservation is not does whenever you are looking at just at the car washes that are built in Williamson County. It is ridiculous to think that there is conservation being done and I don't believe it will be done. But if the property is covered in water it will be lost forever, just like Mr. Cunningham said they don't make no more land. And I definitely won't find anything close to what I have. So that is about all I have to say thank you.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Mike Kornegay – I am Michael Wayne Kornegay and live at ground zero in Milam County Texas. The property I am on has just been in my family for 75 years. Right next to us is property that my uncle who is in the right next room and my cousin has had for 130 years. I think you know that we are a proud and productive group who serve our county well by growing cows, hay and some of the best pasture land you will ever see. It's funny how I have been over this speech a hundred times in my mind but I can't think of a thing to say now. It ain't okay, oh I'm not nervous, I'm mad. I haven't slept in forever, ever since I heard about this travesty but I am here to talk about cows. Our land is home to 2000 heads of the best cattle in the state. Our pasture land grows some of the best hay and it maintains and sustains our cows. If we are forced to sell out since many of us don't have anywhere else to go with our cattle and certainly anywhere else to go with our land it will have an impact emotionally and a great financial impact hardship to us because money won't buy my land. For years down the road it will have an impact on local businesses that Mr. Cunningham spoke about and as everybody has said we can't replace our heritage. I speak for my dad, excuse me, I was looking at Mellissa when she was doing her thing and that woman made me cry and I haven't stopped since. Anyway I thank you for your time and Governor Abbot said the other day he spoke to the tragedy of the recent floods. People losing their homesteads and their land. How is this any less tragic? One was an act of God the other an act of an intrusive and abusive government takeover of private land. I certainly did not say what I wanted to today because I don't want it taped but I do thank you ladies and gentlemen for listening.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Kimberly Hahn – My name is Kimberly Baumann Hahn. I am representing Milam County, the Baumann family and many other families that are possibly going to lose their property. And I also represent the Stop the LROCR Group. I live in Dewitt County and we are going to speak about Indian artifacts. My father was a Texas history teacher early in his career and my parent have a combined total of Sob I am sorry, I am so upset about this and my family. My sister is going to speak. Melissa Baumann – sorry I am speaking on behalf of my sister. My father a was a history teacher early in his career and my parents have a combine total of 91 years in the education profession dedicating their lives to educating thousands of youth in this great state. One thing my parents have instilled in me is a love of our property and Texas history. And an appreciation of the Native Americans who lived here. Most of all their property would be flooded along with their homes. Milam County history started significantly before the settlers of the 1800s. It started with the Indian artifacts that called this area home and lived out the Indian tribes that called this are home and lived out their lives here. Milam County has supported human habitation for at least 10,000 years. One of the early tribes in the region was the Tonkawas. They were a nomadic buffalo hunting people in scattered villages of teepees and arbors. Some of my best childhood memories have been of sifting for arrowheads with my family and dear friend Calvin Whitely on our property. We have been so excited over the years to find innumerable arrowheads which are used to grind seeds and other foods, hand axes, blades, midden which is a burnt rock, scrapers, pottery shards and (?). Our property was obviously heavily inhabited by Native Americans at one time. As those of the property land owners who have found their own share of Indian artifacts and treasures. According to the experts this area was a campground for the Native Americans especially the Tonkawa. There were at least two or three Rancheria sites in Milam County. A Rancheria Grande is an association of several American Indian villages where multiple tribes settled together. The Tonkawas were known to be one of those tribes. One of those sites has been clearly identified but the other two are yet to be stabled. A local expert questioned

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

whether an area overlooking our creek in an Indian mound. We are in process having that authenticated. So we ask that you take this into consideration about our state and local history and the Native Americans that first inhabited our county as you consider whether or not to go forward with the LROCR please don't destroy our chance to further explore and learn about Native Americans in our area. Thank you.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Sheryl Hall – Good morning ladies and gentlemen thank you for letting me speak to you today. My name is Sheryl Hall and I am here representing the land owners in Twenty Two Hills in Gause which is in Milam County. I want to tell you a little bit about Twenty Two Hills (TTH). TTH is a rural subdivision with deed restrictions consisting of approximately 1700 acres of land. There are 32 parcels of land with 25 owners some of the owners have multiple parcels. There are presently 17 homes and 32 people living in TTH. New construction underway and planned to begin soon include a 2500 sq. ft. home, a 2400 sq. ft. home, a 800 sq. ft. addition to an existing home, and a 6000 sq. ft. barn. Construction on an additional new home is planned with the next one to two years that would bring the total number of homes in TTH to 20. Many of us have spent our life savings to build homes to fulfill lifelong dreams of retiring and living the rest of our lives at TTH. We have seen the values of our property increase dramatically over the years we have been here due to the quality of construction and improvements to the properties. We came to TTH for many reasons and I will try to list just a few of them. Some of the reason is the fact that it has deed restrictions and paved road frontage which is not often found in rural areas. We also enjoy the quiet and solitude we experience on a daily basis. Many of us came from Houston, Dallas and other cities where are you know is certainly not the case. The scenic view and beauty of nature is not available anywhere else in our region. We all enjoy watching the abundance of wildlife that we have such as deer, bobcat, fox, roadrunners, rabbits and many many species of birds. We have easy access to Cameron, Rockdale, Hearne and Bryan College Station. The ability to give our heirs secluded property in an area is also very important to us. Based on the maps that we have access to, ten of the owners property will be impacted by rising waters from the lake itself, four will be significantly affected by water covering their land. The other 15 owners could be impacted if their property is selected for displaced wildlife. So my question for you is this. Why do you want to build a reservoir here? Local resident will lose their land, taxes will rise for landowners who remain and our natural beauty will be lost. If the lake is for the benefit of another

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

county why not pipe the water there and let them build a lake in their area. You are going to have to pipe the water to them anyway. Why do you want to destroy our property when the residents of Milam County will in no way benefit from it? Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Scooter Radcliffe – Hello my name is Scooter Radcliffe I live at 1414 Lisa here in Waco and I am the Groundwater Manager of the Southern Trinity GCD which manages groundwater resources of McLennan County. Thank you for allowing me to comment on the 2016 Regional Water Plan. South Trinity GCD was formed in 2007 and issued permits for historical and non-historical ground water withdrawals from the Trinity and Brazos River Alluvium Aquifers. The District is actively promoting conservation of Trinity Aquifer Groundwater through improvements through the water efficiency increased use surface water and use of Brazos River alluvium groundwater. The District is working with the City of Waco, Baylor University and other water user in developing policies and programs. The policies and programs will promote the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water to optimize the water available to McLennan County during surface water shortages. This will extend the viability of the Trinity Aquifer for many decades. The Districts desired future condition and associated model of available groundwater for the Trinity Aquifer is 20,648 acre feet per year. This amount of groundwater is required to permit sufficient groundwater pumping during times of drought while permitting surface water use and use of conservation during time of adequate surface water supplies. We appreciate this opportunity to comment, Thank you.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Cathy Lazarus – Hello I a Mary Catherine Lazarus. I live at in the northern part of Robertson County. I am representing myself as a landowner and the topic of my discussion this morning is that basically in uhh I need to thank all the people from Milam County because they gave me a call and they said Cathy we need some help with El Camino Regal. In finding out with what was happening to them I did a lot of research on Little River OCR and in doing so the other night last week there was segment in your plan called the Main Stem OCR. The Main Stem OCR is a Brazos River Authority program management strategy whatever you guys want to call it but it also seems to be a problem in that you have pin pointed 14 areas along Brazos River from Waco to Hempstead that could potentially be OCRs. You have 14 areas that is going to have people much like the group you have here today here before you telling you that we do not want these OCRs in our backyards. The one in particular is across the street from me and again I have to thank the Milam County folks for bringing this to my attention we appreciate it. I have a few neighbors here this morning and we have not had the opportunity to collect the data that we need to really give a formal presentation. However I want to mention a few things very quickly and I agree with Dr. (?) that there are really some significant discrepancies in you plan. I have read a lot of it what is said in the summary part in not exactly what you are saying the rest of the document. I am sure that you have read all thousand plus pages but that I realllly think you need to a little bit more work a little more editing on your plan. The first think I need to say very quickly is that the notice to the public is Robertson County I have been able to validate. I know you said that you had that validation I can't find it uhhh I know that it was sent to one paper in Franklin but Franklin's paper does not reach County wide. The second thing I would like to uhhh say right up front very quickly again I want the segment or the option of the main stem OCR Section 4.8 whatever it is I don't think that has been totally thought out and totally umm planned it seemed to all of a sudden a second thought for much of the discussions and I have listen to a large part of your audio meetings or the audio of your meetings a lot of the discussion early on was for 13 reservoirs and suddenly

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

there was a 14th main stem reservoir planned that included another reservoir in Milam County called Milam County Reservoir. Uhhh I think that whole plan needs to be taken off the table and perhaps with more thought and purpose if you want to include it include it next round of planning not this one. I also have a problem with CCEFNS which is another like Dr. Barrett Dr. Lyle (?) I am sorry uuhhhhh I just find flaws as why we are taking 1997 criteria and applying today's science is just beyond me. It says in the documentation that we are letting you use this consensus criteria and you make all these judgments based on all these calculations but then you also say we could really be wrong when we select these unique reservoir sites we could really be wrong when we plan these items. If you don't get out and do field work you are not going to have any clue what you think you are going to be able to do and have it come out right. Uhhh I know that kinda of sounds strange but what I am is that you have planned some reservoirs on top of recharge zones. I think that is a very difficult thing to do it's like trying to fill up the bathtub with the stopper undone. You know it just goes on down you can't seal it you ruin the aquifers and if you hhhh I am not a hydrologist I don't know I think it's a very good question to ask umm very quickly, I am sorry how much time do I have on I'm done oh. I have more hahaha but anyway I will leave with that.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Marlan Scully – My name is Marlan Scully. I represent agriculture environment and education and endangered species. That's a lot. Right. My sons and I came out here a few years ago about five miles along the Brazos is Salter Farms. A farm developed by a civil war captain Salter. Our goal was agriculture. We have lost enough money in agriculture to be considered serious farmers. HAHHAHAHA. My day job is at Texas A & M and Baylor. I am a scientist working with people there to the point of education and preservation of the best state in the union. I wasn't born in the Texas but my grandfather was and my grandson was I am a Texas on the average. HAHHAHAHAH. And I am particularly pleased to say that the kinds of biological and physical resources that we have here is unique. We have on our property, bald eagles, we have a migration I brought this I am going to leave with our chairman Mr. Wilson who represents agriculture admirably and I don't worry about that but I do worry about the fact that we have here an unusual opportunity The State of Texas and especially the beautiful Brazos River especially places like the Little River to preserve our heritage and our stewardship of this land. Thank you for your attention.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Janice Bezanson – Thank you I am Janice Bezanson with Texas Conservation Alliance I live in Salado not in Salado just out of Salado in the Hidden Springs Development there and I am here to talk about the Cedar Ridge Reservoir Project which is in the Brazos G water plan as a recommended strategy. The City of Abilene is proposing to build Cedar Ridge Reservoir for which there is not adequate justification. Abilene currently uses about 21,000 acre feet a year they are projected to go up to slightly over 30,000 in the year 2070 including the smaller cities they sell water to. Their current surface water, current right now existing surface water supply is 32,506 acre feet more than their projected demand for in the year 2070. In addition to that they are doing reuse that the newspaper has quoted your own Tommy Obrien as being about 7000 acre feet. So we are looking at something 10,000 acre feet more of current supply than projected plan for 3070 2070. So clearly there is not a municipal demand for Cedar Ridge Reservoir. They will have to do a new treatment plant to to to develop all that but that's in the plan. The the the demand that the gap in the demand and supply for that's listed under Abilene in the plan refers to two steam electric plants uh uh uh water for two steam electric facilities are for water for steam electric in Nolan County and for the City of Clyde. Together 18,000 acre feet a year. It would be both unprecedented and in appropriate for the people of the City of Abilene to be asked to spend their tax dollars and their rate money to build a reservoir for steam electric. Besides which there is not really any steam electric planned this area. If you look at the Public Utilities Website they list all the pro uhh ummm Steam Electric plants all the power generating plants that have been announced and there aren't any in any of the counties being referenced here. Nolan Callahan Tyler or Jones. This wind energy and that's what you would do if you needed more electricity in the area there are wind industry uh uh wind power plants proposed. Steam electric generating is declining all over the country. There have been more than 150 new coal fired plants that the people that the applicants have withdrawn their permits canceled on their proposals to do it. Existing plants are being proposed steam electric has gone from being about half our energy

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

source to about like a third and is continuing to decline. So which water from Cedar Ridge would be very expensive it would be in the neighborhood of \$1000 an acre foot and no steam electric plan has said that they would pay that kind of money for it. So to use steam electric to justify building this reservoir is highly speculative extremely premature there is no demand to do that with. There is also some water that is listed under Abilene for what is call West Texas Partnership. This is an agreement between Abilene, Midland and San Angelo to explore future water needs and potential sources of water. To have but but but all it says about it that once they have done their studies it will show up in future water plans. To put 10,000 acre feet of water in this plan for a partnership that has not done their studies yet to learn the demand and supply is an inappropriate process for the planning process. If additional water was ever needed in Abilene or this area Cedar Ridge would not be the most economical way to do it. There are other ways to go about it, primarily we my organization Texas Conservation Alliance actually commissioned an hydrologist to look at the feasibility and costs to bringing water from the Clear Fork which is the the the Cedar Ridge would be on the Clear Fork of the Brazos to bring water from the Clear Fork and store it Hubbard Creek Reservoir and keep its levels higher. That would cost about a third of what it costs for water from Cedar Ridge. There are other I won't go into any detail but there are other ways to develop water if it is ever needed but at this time Abilene doesn't need additional water and if this reservoir is built or any other reservoir is built by or if the people of Abilene pay for any other uh uh what new water source they are going to be paying for water that is for someone else. I strongly urge you to take Cedar Ridge out of this planning round of the plan and look at this more carefully and see that there are other alternatives and that this reservoir isn't needed at this time.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Gary Kornegay – My name is Gary Kornegay. I am here to represent the fine people of my community that is opposing this reservoir. According to what all everyone has said here this morning there is really not a lot I can add to it with the exception of as arrogant as this sounds in the company that I am in I pay taxes on the most beautiful place in Milam County. I don't have a PowerPoint I did submit about 50 pictures from our front yard north south east and west you can see 360 deg. Its breathtaking it's beautiful God actually reached down and touched that property with his hand and my father deeded me that land. Unlike Mr. Fisher from the sweat of his brow as he put it worked for his I have worked for mine but I had parents that gave me what they wanted me to have as they did all of their siblings. My wife and I have two children we were blessed with two beautiful babies. They are fourth generation Kornegays. As many people have said on this day our land is not replaceable it is not for sale. Like my brother it is ground zero. We are right in the middle of it. On a different note I would like to thank Mr. Parker, is it and Gary Westbrook you two responded to my emails and I appreciate that. I don't have anything else to say with the exception of this cannot be allowed. Thank you.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Gary Westbrook – Quickly my intention is to comment on the location of the LROCR and also on the need for flexibility in the water plan. Here is a map we did do some mapping internally at Post Oaks Savannah we have the ability to do GIS work. The blue that you notice is Carrizo outcrop there are some questions about that today that the answer is 42% of the footprint and this is the footprint that was provided recently by HDR due to the questions that were raised by the folks of Milam county wanting to see to have the best guess of this would be. By the way in defense of HDR they don't get paid and we don't have the budget to get an in-depth analyses that some fold assume that we might we wish we could but we don't so this is some stuff we did in house with approval of my board of directors. So the Carrizo is 837 acres you see it in the blue there that's in the footprint of the reservoir itself. And like I claim a lot I am not the smartest guy in the world but if you are going to build a stock pond to hold water you can have sand in the bottom right, so this is some in-depth work that would be done if someone decided to do a little research to decide if this project would be viable or not. So anyway, so 42% that is a very large percentage of the foot print that would be sand and that sand is very course is very trans missive has some good qualities for moving water soaking up water storing water as you can see to put a big bowl with a sand bottom uhhh not the best maybe not the best idea that we could come up with but based on the level of the amount of work we are allowed to do that is about the best we can do until someone wants to actually come in and do some work. So surface water in the Carrizo outcrop is a source of recharge to the Carrizo aquifer we know that. We can model that one of the things that is coming is that we will do some model. There is a lot of leased up in our county and in our district for production of water to supply other areas of the state. This area that this reservoir is located in is no exception to that. And so I can only imagine how the water in the reservoir will be effected with some large production wells in the vicinity not far south from there a little down deep maybe 400 450 feet deep pumping about 1000 a minute and the amount of water that would be lost to that as you can imagine what a conduit that might be for a recharge project. As I was talking to

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

David Dunn with HDR we we we uh realized that evaluation hadn't been done yet that is why we did it and we both agreed that instead of being a reservoir that is built to hold water it might actually more of a recharge project so it could be the LROCrecharge project so not a good idea maybe. Anyway we haven't finished all the modeling we have one of the best modelers in Dr. Steve Young unfortunately he is out of the country for another couple of weeks. When he does return we will finalize our comments to the region so everyone will know what we find out from the modeling that we choose to do to look at the impacts of productions south of there. So umm I am going to plead again I have done this over the last two years since being member of the Region G I apologize to my constituents that set on this group with me you are tired of hearing me say this but until we get the folks at TWDB and also the legislature to give us some flexibility we are kinda hamstrung on what we do. Flexibility is needed model development districts I see groundwater districts managers around the table with me and I heard another a while ago we use the MAG as a tool to evaluate with its not a cap but when you are looking at planning with the group we are hamstrung because it use is forced upon us a cap. Because it is a cap it allows some games to the played on paper with water supplies. If we had some flexibility to consider those supplies in a different way we would show some of the shortages we currently show in this IPP. So that's my comment there so surface water should be dealt with in a similar situation. David and I recently discussed that again I wanted to be sure I was correct in my assumptions we do use drought of record for supplies and we use dry year demands which is maximum demands during years of demands and so it really puts us in a corner when we are trying to figure out what water is available and what is not. We show shortages when there are abundances in certain places and things like that. So that is really the extent of my comments there other than to say that I appreciate my neighbors for coming out appreciate the comments, appreciate the organization and the respect shown by all if the Lord is willing and I am still breathing at the proper time then I will move to for this group to remove the LROCR from the plan.

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

Thomas Barrett Lynne – I am a soil scientist PHD Texas AM university also a wildlife biologist from A & M. I represent myself as a private land owner. My address is 18075 FM 974 Bryan Texas. I am a Brazos County. I was asked to come here by some friends in Robertson and Milam Counties because we in Brazos County went through this in 2010. I have given the board a copy of the bill proposed by a state representative in 2010 Fred Brown in regards to exactly what the citizens are enduring at the moment. So this is not about the Brazos River or the Little River but the same soil system applies so the same science applies there vs. the Navasota River. We are in southern clay pan soil and it runs throughout this region. Okay if we lose our water we are going to lose our heritage our children will no longer be our farmers producers. Alright the model we are using to make the estimates on this um groundwater are at fault, deficient they have flaws. They are all based upon the Darcey Law this is an old old soil science equation established in 1856 by Charles Darcey. And in these models one thing we need to know they are simply estimates and our TWDB does not warranty there is no warranty here it is no warranty, no assurances, no promises, and no accountability. Okay? That's important for all yall to understand what they are doing to us we are the ones that pay nobody else is accountable. Okay Darcey made 4 assumptions in developing his equation and I don't want to get into the mathematics of this but I wanted to show some pictures. Pucelli developed a model and proved that water flows in a laminar fashion. Kind of like a telescope the old telescoping eye piece that people use water flows with the center mass moving faster than the sides because of the friction. Another assumption he made was in the flow of water through the soil the tortuosity of the soil is assumed in his basic equation with the wedding front and as you can see water moves through a very tortuous network in the soil. But yet his model equation is for what they call straight line flow orthogonal flow so that's a huge fallacy a huge assumption in these models and that is one reason why these models are fundamentally flawed. Another important things is the Justice Kennedy in 2006 and this is earth shattering ground breaking news Justice Kenny(?) on the Supreme Court

TRANSCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SPEAKERS - JUNE 23, 2015 - Initially Prepared 2016
Brazos G Regional Water Plan

ruled that the significant nexus in the old day we would go out and see a stream flowing in to an estuary called that a nexus a connection between surface water and a large body of water. He said that is not the case that it goes deeper than that that if the very meniscal discreet movement of water in our soils below the surface that also account for that nexus connection it's not just a water body. Very important that changes the game. This is picture of some aquifers and a recharge zone. This is the recharge area here and aquifer here the water goes in and fills these aquifers then we pump the water out of the aquifers the more we pump water out of the aquifers the more hungry they become and they take more of the rainwater into the recharge zone to fill those aquifers. That means less water over shed to fill the surface the water table above the aquifer and our particular soil system of the Post Oak Savannah clay pan we have these perched clay pan lenses that form perched water tables. These are astral I mean just hugely important because we have all experienced our torrential rainfall for the season. We have had a significant amount of rainfall we may not get rainfall again until September alright but what keeps those soils systems moist so we can grow crops that is these clay pan water tables, perched water tables. So it is very important to understand this concept. And also the water models do not take in again this directional flow multivector flow and here are some problems with this orthogonal concept developed by Darcey in 185. We have bio pores. Here we have rabbits and ants and fire ants and pocket gophers that dig tunnels huge massive networks of tunnels that form a shunt for the water going into the soil. The model computer does not compute it does not compute. When it comes to something like that there is no computing they don't it does understand water movement like this. Here is a study by Cornell University this is call the finger funnel infiltration. We have a funnel system. Okay times up.

Trey Buzbee

From: bezanson@texas.net <janicecrumpbezanson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 1:22 PM
To: Trey Buzbee
Subject: comments on Brazos G IPP
Attachments: TCA, FBR Comments on Brazos G IPP, with attachment.pdf

Good afternoon, Trey,

Please accept the attached comments from Texas Conservation Alliance and Friends of the Brazos River on the Brazos G Initially Prepared Plan.

Since the deadline is today, we would appreciate your confirming receipt of our comments.

Thank you,

Janice

Janice Bezanson, Executive Director
Texas Conservation Alliance
254-947-5572, Cell 512-327-4119
bezanson@texas.net
TCAtexas.org

***Comments on the Brazos G Initially Prepared Plan
Submitted by Texas Conservation Alliance
And Friends of the Brazos River***

Texas Conservation Alliance (TCA) and Friends of the Brazos River (FBR) appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Brazos G Initially Prepared Plan.

City of Abilene

Abilene's Future Demand

Table 4.3-13 in the Brazos G IPP projects that in 2070 Abilene will have a demand for treated water of 30,060 AFY and a demand for additional raw water of 29,021 AFY.

This latter figure includes 10,000 AFY of “demand” attributed to the West Texas Water Partnership. The only other reference to this partnership TCA and FBR could find in the Brazos G IPP is contained in Section 1.12 on Page 1-59:

The City of Abilene and the Cities of Midland and San Angelo (Region F) have formed the West Texas Water Partnership (WTWP) to identify and secure long-range water supplies for the three cities and the surrounding region. Results from ongoing studies will be reflected in future regional water plans.

Water resulting from this partnership would constitute a supply – it should not be listed as a demand on Table 4.3-13. No demand has been identified.

Removing this 10,000 AFY from Table 4.3-13 leaves a raw water demand of 19,021 AFY. Almost all of this is cooling water for hypothetical steam electric power plants in Nolan County.

In fact, no steam electric plants are planned for Nolan County, or in other counties near Abilene. Furthermore, it is extremely unlikely that any new steam electric plans will be planned for this area.

There was in the past a proposal for a coal-fired steam electric plant in Nolan County, the Tenaska Trailblazer plant. Tenaska has formally announced that it will not be built. The reason Tenaska chose Nolan County was an expectation that federal subsidies for carbon capture would make this an economically sound place to locate the plant. When the subsidies failed to develop, plans for the plant were scrapped.

Coal is declining across the entire country. According to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which publishes the most respected science journal in the country, plans for more than 150 new coal-fired power plants have been canceled since the mid-2000s, existing plants have been closed, and in 2012, just one new coal-fired power plant went online in the United States.

Recent development of wind power in the Abilene area has resulted in a surplus of local electrical generating capacity, necessitating the construction of new power lines to the more heavily populated parts of Texas to the east. If a steam electric power plant were to be built in

the Abilene area, there would be no local demand for the power. Power lines would have to be built for export, making construction of a steam electric plant in this area extremely unlikely.

Texas Conservation Alliance and Friends of the Brazos River are aware that the projected demands for steam electric are generated by the Texas Water Development Board, not by the Brazos G WPG. However, the TWDB guidelines provide for regional planning groups to request adjustments in those projections. The situation in Nolan County is that there is no longer a coal-fired plant proposed nor is there likely to be. TCA and FBR urge you to request that TWDB eliminate the 17,952 AFY for steam electric from Abilene's list of future demands.

Abilene's Supply

To meet Abilene's projected demands, Table 4.3-13 lists three reservoirs with supplies in 2070 totaling 32, 506 AFY.

Abilene's "Constrained" Water Supplies

	2070
Lake O.H. Ivie	4,097
Fort Phantom Hill Reservoir	9,592
Hubbard Creek Reservoir	18,817
Total	32,506

This is the so-called "constrained supply", meaning the current water supply is constrained by Abilene's current treatment capacity. This is not a legitimate definition of supply.

A correct accounting of Abilene's current water supply would be as follows:

On Table 3.2-2, the safe yield of Fort Phantom Hill is reported as 16,300 AFY. Abilene has a contract with West Central Texas Municipal Water District for 20,400 AFY. Abilene is entitled to one-sixth of the yield of O.H. Ivie Reservoir. Ivie's yield currently seems to be about 54,000 AFY, making Abilene's portion roughly 9,000 AFY. In addition, Abilene is putting about 7,800 AFY of highly treated wastewater from the Hamby Treatment Plant into Fort Phantom Hill. Totaling these, Abilene's actual current water supply is approximately 53,500 AFY.

Abilene's Current Water Supplies

	2070
Lake O.H. Ivie	9,000
Fort Phantom Hill Reservoir	16,300
Hubbard Creek Reservoir	20,400
Hamby Reuse	7,800
Total	53,500

This supply is to be compared with the realistic estimate of future demand of 32,060 AFY.

Even when the hypothetical steam electric power plants are included in the demand, current supplies are adequate to meet those demands.

Obviously there is no need for further water supply for Abilene in the foreseeable future.

Cedar Ridge Reservoir

By inaccurately accounting for supply and demand conditions, the IPP creates an apparent “need” for 29,021 AFY of raw water in 2070, for which the IPP recommends building the proposed Cedar Ridge Reservoir. It is hard to image a more ill-advised course of action.

Not only is there no real need for the water, Cedar Ridge Reservoir would not even be a new source of water supply for the upper Brazos River Basin.

While Cedar Ridge would increase the total storage capacity of the basin, it would also significantly increase the amount of water lost to evaporation. An analysis of the evaporation that would occur from the proposed Cedar Ridge Reservoir, prepared by Trungale Engineering and Science, indicates that the average annual evaporative losses would be roughly 16,000 AFY. Diversion of up to 26,575 AFY plus evaporative losses of 16,000 AFY would reduce the yield of Possum Kingdom Reservoir during the critical drought period by more than the yield of Cedar Ridge Reservoir.

The only advantage of building Cedar Ridge would be to move some of Possum Kingdom’s yield upstream closer to possible centers of demand. This could be done more economically by bringing water from Possum Kingdom Reservoir. Water from Possum Kingdom would not have to be treated for the purpose of cooling a power plant. Abilene has two pipelines from Hubbard Creek Reservoir, providing capacity in excess of the municipal supplies Abilene obtains from the reservoir. One could be used to transport water from Possum Kingdom to Abilene. The only cost associated with using water from Possum Kingdom to cool the hypothetical power plants would be transporting the water from Possum Kingdom to the existing pipelines at Hubbard Creek Reservoir. The cost of this pipeline would be a small fraction of the cost of building Cedar Ridge and its associated pipelines.

The citizens of Abilene are being asked to pay \$290,868,000 to build Cedar Ridge Reservoir, primarily to meet speculative steam electric demands in Nolan County.

It would be unprecedented and inappropriate for the taxpayers and water ratepayers of Abilene to be called on to build a lake to supply water for steam electric generating purposes. If it were economical for Abilene to develop Cedar Ridge for steam electric, it would be economical for the steam power company to develop it.

Conclusion re Cedar Ridge

It should be clear from the facts above that there is no rational basis for pursuing the proposed Cedar Ridge Reservoir. It should be removed from the Brazos G Water Plan altogether.

A Better Way to Obtain Water from the Clear Fork

Should sufficient demand develop in the Abilene area, a more cost-effective way to use the water that would flow into the proposed Cedar Ridge Reservoir would be to pipe water from the Clear Fork into the Hubbard Creek Reservoir. The proximity of the Clear Fork to Hubbard Creek Reservoir and the existing infrastructure to deliver water to Abilene from Hubbard Creek Reservoir make this a low-cost option.

As the attached cost analysis, prepared by Trungale Engineering and Science, illustrates, the cost of such a project would be roughly \$300 per acre-foot, compared to \$1,031 per acre foot for Cedar Ridge.

Texas Conservation Alliance
Contact: Janice Bezanson, Executive Director
254-947-5572, bezanson@texas.net

Friends of the Brazos River
Ed Lowe, President
214-358-0612
ed@friendsofthebrazos.org

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LITTLE RIVER OFF-CHANNEL RESERVOIR AS DESCRIBED
IN THE “INITIALLY PREPARED 2016 BRAZOS G REGIONAL WATER PLAN”

Mike Conner
PO Box 8, Gause, TX 77857
mike@conner.net

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The justification for these recommendations is explained in detail starting in Section 2 below. A list of errors and/or anomalies in the plan is given in Section 4 below.

1.1 REMOVE THE LR-OCR FROM THE RECOMMENDED LIST IN THE 2016 PLAN

The very high relative cost of the LR-OCR combined with the extreme risks to implementation and effectiveness make the LR-OCR an unsuitable solution to the water needs identified in the plan. Given the high risks to completion it is necessary to develop alternative approaches anyway. Those approaches (most likely more aggressive conservation combined with aggressive waste water reuse) should be the recommended solutions. The very real risk that the LR-OCR would not be effective if completed due to leakage through the underlying aquifer recharge zone makes pursuing the LR-OCR project now or in the future unconscionable. Conservation and waste water reuse are better, lower cost, lower risk alternatives to the LR-OCR.

1.2 REMOVE THE LR-OCR AREA FROM THE UNIQUE RESERVOIR SITES LIST AND FROM EVALUATION IN FUTURE WATER PLANS

The arguments given above against the LR-OCR will not change in the future. It makes no sense to list a reservoir with a 40% overlap of a major aquifer’s recharge zone as a possible solution. It certainly does not meet the criteria for a Unique Reservoir Site and it does not justify the expense of continued evaluation in the future. It should be removed completely from the 2021 and subsequent water plans.

2 RISK ANALYSIS

This section presents a number of risk factors that could prevent the LR-OCR from being constructed or compromise its utility if it is constructed. These are presented to support our recommendations.

2.1 OVERLAP WITH THE AQUIFER RECHARGE ZONE

About 40% of the planned LR-OCR Reservoir is over the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer outcrop. This means the reservoir may “leak” into the aquifer. Testing can show that this is true, but cannot really prove that it won’t happen. Too little is known about the underlying geology and about surface water/groundwater interaction to insure that major leaking will not occur after 10 or 20 years. This is especially true as the underlying aquifers are barely pumped today, but will be very heavily pumped in the decades to come. So even if testing predicts an acceptable level of leakage, this could increase over time rendering the reservoir nearly useless, but leaving the BRA and LR-OCR Users with nearly 500 million in capital costs. And, of course, all the damage to the community and environment cannot be recovered.

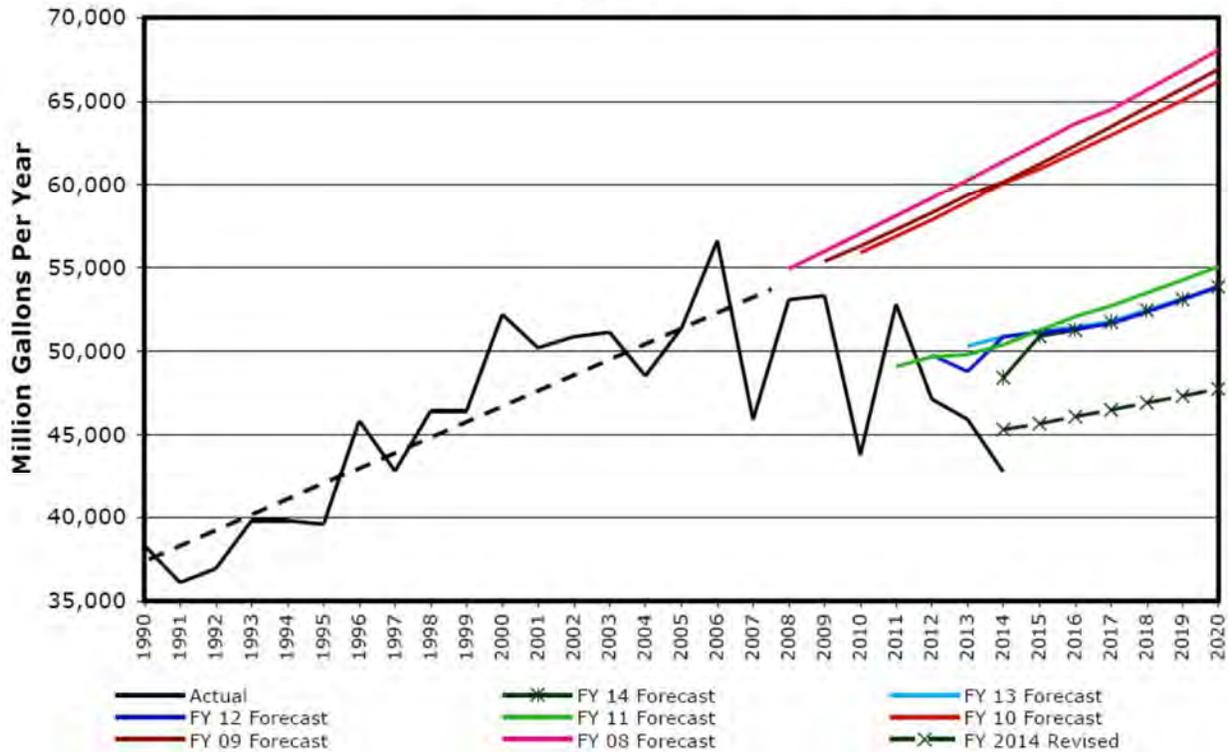
2.2 PERMITTING

The Army Core of Engineers requires a reservoir to be the least damaging of all practicable alternatives. As 95% of the growth in Williamson County water needs in 2070 comes from metropolitan use it is clear that more aggressive conservation, combined with waste water reuse, are practicable solutions to Williamson County’s predicted future water shortages, and these solutions would be dramatically less damaging than the LR-OCR. Therefore, given the high level of scrutiny from the community impacted by the LR-OCR, the Army Core of Engineers would not be able to issue a permit to build the LR-OCR.

2.3 REDUCED NEED

There is good evidence that water planners underestimate the future benefits of conservation. The chart below, compiled by Bill Bunch, a leading Austin environmental lawyer, shows that Austin’s water planners have had to continually reduce their forecasts for future water needs because conservation has continually out performed expectations. This means that the costs of LR-OCR could be passed on to water users that don’t actually need the water.

Chart 1: Austin Water Utility Predictions and Trends vs Actual Use Volume



2.4 LAND OWNER RESISTANCE

The first community meeting to organize resistance to the LR-OCR drew about 140 people (a very substantial fraction of the entire community that would be impacted by the LR-OCR). At the Brazos G Public Input Meeting on June 23, 2015 the number of attendees filled the meeting and overflow rooms. Almost all of these people were there to protest the LR-OCR. Virtually every one of the 2-hours' worth of presentations was to protest the LR-OCR. Much of the land has been held by the same family for many generations. The landowners, in general, made it abundantly clear that they were not interested in selling their land at any price. Therefore, eminent domain condemnation will be necessary to acquire the more than 4,300 acres to be flooded by the reservoir. Three highly respected lawyers (two with extensive environmental law experience) have stated that "Sec. 21.0121. CONDEMNATION TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS" of Texas property law (copied with markup below) would apply to any condemnation actions taken to support the reservoir.

This section gives land owners very strong rights to resist condemnation. Note that conservation must be "developed and implemented," not just planned. There seems to be no reason why Region H municipalities cannot achieve the level of water conservation achieved, say, in parts of Albuquerque, NM where all the houses have xeriscape lawns. This would reduce "consumed" water drastically, allowing conservation and especially reuse to easily meet their needs.

Note also, that the law places the burden of proof on the political subdivision not on the landowner and the court is **required** to deny condemnation unless all the criteria are met.

Thus, given the overwhelming landowner determination to retain their land, and the very high bar set for condemnation, it is very unlikely that the necessary land for the LR-OCR can be acquired.

Sec. 21.0121. CONDEMNATION TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS. (a) In addition to the contents prescribed by Section 21.012(b), a condemnation petition filed by a political subdivision of this state for the purpose of acquiring rights to groundwater or surface water must state that the facts to be proven are that the political subdivision has:

(1) prepared a drought contingency plan;

(2) **developed and implemented a water conservation plan that will result in the highest practicable levels of water conservation and efficiency achievable in the political subdivision's jurisdiction;**

(3) made a bona fide good faith effort to obtain practicable alternative water supplies to the water rights the political subdivision proposes to condemn;

(4) made a bona fide good faith effort to acquire the rights to the water the political subdivision proposes to condemn by voluntary purchase or lease; and

(5) made a showing that the political subdivision needs the water rights to provide for the domestic needs of the political subdivision within the next 10-year period.

(b) A court shall deny the right to condemn unless the political subdivision proves [] to the court that the political subdivision has met the requirements of Subsection (a).

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1032, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

2.5 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES

Other people have explained in detail the environmental and cultural risks associated with building the LR-OCR including:

- Over 1.5 miles of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail would be submerged.
- A 150+ year old cemetery would be flooded.
- Numerous sites with extensive ancient cultural artifacts would be flooded.
- Many miles of pristine creek bed would be destroyed.
- About two thousand acres of prime wildlife habitat would be destroyed.

Mitigation delays and costs would be enormous, and there is the real possibility that the project would not get all its necessary permits.

3 COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF LR-OCR

This section presents a cost/benefit analysis of the plan to support our recommendations that follow. The plan gives the following project costs:

Reservoir Related Costs	
Total Cost of Construction	\$ 248,761,000
Fixed Annual Costs	\$ 20,932,000
Annual Costs That Directly Scale With Water Usage	\$ 2,256,000

Delivery Related Costs	
Total Cost of Construction	\$ 238,850,000
Fixed Annual Costs	\$ 24,416,500
Annual Costs That Directly Scale With Water Usage	\$ 11,322,861

In the above I divided the annual costs into those unrelated to the amount of water pumped and those that might vary based on the amount of water pumped. To be conservative in my cost estimates I assumed that the part of annual cost that varies with water usage varies in direct proportion to the amount of water used. I.e. if half the maximum yield is used then only half the variable cost would be incurred.

3.1 FUNDING MODEL

Based on the plan cost tables I assume g that BRA pays for the reservoir and sells water to the LR-OCR Users at its system rate. And, that LR-OCR Users pay for delivery related costs (pipeline to Williamson County, water treatment plant, etc.).

3.2 IMPACT TO BRA SYSTEM RATE

In 2014, BRA had 294,506 ac-ft under its system rate contract, out of 669,225 ac-ft under all contracts. By 2019 they hope to have 388,993 ac-ft under its system rate contract. In order to be conservative and allow for increased use of the system rate contract and allow for changes in rate of other adjustable rate contracts, I used 500,000 ac-ft/year as the amount under the system rate contract.

With this assumption BRA would have to distribute their share of annual costs over 500,000 ac-ft/year which comes to about \$45 per ac-ft as the LR-OCR Users start to increase their usage in 2060. **This would mean more than a 65% increase to BRA current system rate** of \$69.50 per ac-ft/year.

3.3 COMPARISON TO ALLENS CREEK RESERVOIR

BRA is currently pursuing the construction of a reservoir on Allens Creek. This reservoir would have a yield of 100,000 ac-ft/year at a cost of \$195,000,000. This gives a construction cost of \$1,950 per ac-ft/year verses a cost of 4,430 per ac-ft/year for the LR-OCR. Thus the LR-OCR is very expensive for the amount of water produced verses a currently planned reservoir.

3.4 COST TO LR_OCR USERS

The following table shows the cost of water from the LR-OCR to the LR-OCR Users. It shows that the cost of water is extremely high, at least until 2060.

Decade	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Annual Cost to LR-OCR Users		\$25,153,455	\$26,516,541	\$28,208,187	\$31,063,328	\$35,739,361
Cost per acre foot to LR-OCR Users		\$ 9,528	\$3,525	\$2,077	\$1,305	\$881
Cost per 1000 gallons to LR-OCR Users		\$ 29.24	\$ 10.82	\$ 6.37	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.70

The following shows the impact on The City of Hutto, based on Hutto having to cover 21% of the LR-OCR Users costs. The table uses data from the Texas Water Development Board for Hutto's project water needs. It show what dollar cost would have to be added to Hutto's water rates (assuming the cost was distributed equally over all water users) and what the percentage increase that cost would be over Hutto's current \$6.98 rate.

Decade	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Projected water needs	3,767	5,189	6,992	8,937	11,144	13,428
Projected water shortages		378	2,121	4,001	6,215	8,499
Increase in water cost to Hutto users per 1000 gallons		\$ 4.85	\$ 3.79	\$ 3.16	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.66
% Increase (based on \$6.98 rate)		69%	54%	45%	40%	38%

This shows that impact on utility customer will be very high even in 2070 and extremely high prior to 2050.

3.5 SUMMARY

The LR-OCR is a very expensive, inefficient reservoir. It would have a major impact on water utility customer's rates and an unreasonable (for the benefit derived) impact on BRA's system rate contract users. There must be better alternatives.

4 ERRORS/ANOMALIES

There are a number of errors and/or anomalies described below. Some of the specified “corrections” are used in the following sections of this document.

4.1 TABLE 5.36-19 REGARDING WILLIAMSON COUNTY – OTHER

Table 5.36-19 Currently Reads:

Plan Element	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Supply From Plan Element (acft/yr)	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

The Table Should Read:

Plan Element	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Supply From Plan Element (acft/yr)	(27)	2,262	5,402	5,242	9,890	14,243

The revised numbers, above, are derived directly from the projected shortages in the table minus to supply to be derived from other sources.

4.2 TABLES FOR LR-OCR USERS DO NOT SHOW CONSERVATION SAVINGS

None of the tables for LR-OCR Users (Milam County – Steam Electric, Chisholm Trail SUD (Williamson County), Round Rock (Williamson County), City of Hutto (Williamson County), and Williamson County – Other) show any savings over the decades from conservation. For example:

Table 5.36-9. Recommended Plan Costs by Decade for City of Hutto

Plan Element	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Projected Surplus/(Shortage) (acft/yr)	(2,256)	(3,678)	(5,481)	(7,426)	(10,193)	(12,477)
Conservation						
Supply From Plan Element (acft/yr)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Annual Cost (\$/yr)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Projected Surplus/(Shortage) after Conservation	(2,256)	(3,678)	(5,481)	(7,426)	(10,193)	(12,477)

Either all conservation savings have already been factored in. In which case they should be factored out to be consistent with the rest of the plan and for transparency. Or, no advanced conservation strategies have been planned. In which case they should be added and the projected shortages after conservation should be adjusted.

4.3 TABLE 5.38-3 HAS WRONG VALUES FOR SUPPLY FROM LR-OCR

Table 5.38-3 Currently Reads:

Plan Element	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Supply From Plan Element (acft/yr)	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

Supply From Plan Element (acft/yr)	56,150	56,150	56,150	56,150	56,150	56,150
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It Should Read:						
Plan Element	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Supply From Plan Element (acft/yr)	15,588	15,588	15,588	15,588	15,588	15,588

This table occurs in the plan document in the context of how the projected BRA LR System shortages can be supplied. As the plan commits 40,562 ac-ft to LR-OCR Users, it is not available to meeting BRA LR System shortages.

4.4 UNREALISTIC COMPLETION DATE

Section “5.38.2 Brazos River Authority (Little River System)” gives a completion date for the LR-OCR of “before 2020”. Section “5.36.25 County-Other” gives a completion date of 2020. These dates are completely unrealistic and should be moved out. We recommend, below, that these dates be set to 2060 or 2070, but certainly no sooner than 2050.

4.5 DAM SIZE ERROR

Section “4.7.1 Description of Option” says the dam for the LR-OCR would be approximately 1-mile long. This appears to be a typo as the dam would be approximately 3.5 miles long.