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April 15, 2008

Brazos G. Water Planning Group  
P.O. Box 7555  
Waco, TX 76714-7555

Re: Public Comment for April 16, 2008 Meeting

Dear Members of the Brazos G Water Planning Group:

As a water rights holder along the Little River I request that my comments be read and considered by the Brazos G Water Planning Group.

To call it like it is, the river water is becoming dirtier and dirtier. So much silt is being washed down the river that the flow resembles watery mud pies or dirt-colored pancake batter. Never before has so much silt and particulate matter been evident in the water. The riverbanks in Central Texas are composed of good blackland soil and sand that wash right into the river. These are not riverbanks that can withstand the sudden release of massive amounts of water from the dams followed by the total shut down of water.

Individuals from the Corps of Engineers viewed the destruction along Little River last year and again this year. They indicated that to make a meaningful difference in decreasing the devastation to the river and the environment, two things must take place: First implementation of a comprehensive environmental plan to stabilize the riverbanks AND second, establishment of a more moderate flow of water from the dams on the Lampasas, Leon and San Gabriel Rivers at all times.

I call upon your planning group to seriously consider the option that the Brazos River Authority (BRA) dedicate several feet of water in the conservation pool of each lake to conservation. The BRA could then order the discharge of waters from the conservation pools at a reasonable combined rate of less than 3,000 cubic feet of water per second, to maintain a normal flow of water in the rivers. This would eliminate the "fire hose" effect that the rivers currently experience.

Major damage resulting from the present manner of discharge of the lake waters includes:

- Loss of land, severe erosion of riverbanks and the creation of more vulnerable dirt cliffs easily washed out by the next release of water.
- Destruction of access to and loss of water quality for fish, wildlife, and livestock.
- Destruction of wildlife habitat including large trees, brush, vines, and grasses.
- Loss of the natural contour of the river floor and banks thus destroying habitat for fish and other aquatic species.
- Loss of river access for citizens to enjoy recreationally.

- Destabilization of the riverbanks. Riverbanks are now so unstable in many places that they give way when people or livestock get too close to the edge.

In summary, the water pollution and riverbank damage are caused by:

- High rates of discharge from the dams.
- Rapid release and sudden discontinuation of discharge.
- Lack of normal river flow. Discharge is cut back to a trickle (which I understand is just seepage) and then released almost full force.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. I urge you to take action to implement a multi-pronged approach to solve these problems for us and for future generations.

Sincerely,

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