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BRAZOS RIVER  
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July 22, 2009

The Honorable Dale Spurgin, Chairman  
Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group  
c/o Trey Buzbee  
Brazos River Authority  
4600 Cobbs Dr.  
Waco, TX 76714-7555

Re: Region G Planning Group  
Agenda Item for August 19, 2009 Meeting

Dear Judge Spurgin:

The City of Abilene requests that the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group utilize a two-year safe yield estimate as the basis for determining the water supplies available from Fort Phantom Hill Reservoir. We request the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group consider this request as a posted agenda item at the scheduled August 19, 2009 meeting.

As a retail and wholesale water provider, the City serves as a regional water supplier to numerous entities located in the greater Abilene area using supplies from Hubbard Creek Reservoir, O.H. Ivie Reservoir, and Fort Phantom Hill Reservoir. From 1993-2006, streams in the Abilene area have experienced approximately a 20% reduction in stream flow from flows available during the previous drought of record, lasting from 1943-1956. Based on the recent drought our area experienced between 1997 and 2007 and the uncertain impacts that future climate change may have on rainfall patterns in west Texas, the City believes that the future availability and dependability of its water supplies should be conservatively evaluated, particularly given the City's position as a regional water supplier. Utilization of a two-year safe yield estimate for the Fort Phantom Hill Reservoir supplies will provide such a conservative approach.

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A two-year safe yield assumption for Fort Phantom Hill Reservoir will also provide a consistent basis for establishing available supplies from the City's existing resources. The West Central Texas Municipal Water District, which supplies water to us from Hubbard Creek Reservoir, allocates 85 percent of its estimated one-year safe yield supply to its contractual customers. As shown in the presentation made to the planning group on June 17, 2009, that 85 percent is approximately equivalent to a 2-year safe yield supply for Hubbard Creek Reservoir. Furthermore, the one-year safe yield supply from O.H. Ivie Reservoir has been re-evaluated during the past 10 years, resulting in a reduction of the one-year safe yield by 27.3 percent. I understand that the current estimated one-year safe yield of O.H Ivie Reservoir is approximately what the original 2.5-year safe yield would have been before the recent drought cycles. We believe these facts provide a strong foundation for this request.

We thank you and the other members of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group for your consideration in this matter. Our consultant, Mr. Scott Hibbs of Enprotec/Hibbs and Todd, will present a more detailed explanation of our request at the August 19 meeting. He will also be available to assist you in securing this approval from the Texas Water Development Board, should the planning group support our request.

Please feel free to call Mr. Hibbs (325-698-5560) if you would like to discuss the details of this request prior to the August 19 meeting.

Sincerely,



Larry D. Gilley  
City Manager  
City of Abilene

CC: David Vela, Assistant City Manager  
Tommy O'Brien, Director of Water Utilities  
Scott Hibbs, Enprotec/Hibbs and Todd  
David Dunn, HDR Engineering