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REGION C WATER PLANNING GROUP

PUBLIC HEARING

TO SOLICIT PUBLIC FEEDBACK

ON THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN

July 11, 2005

Bob Duncan Community Center
in Vandergriff Park
2800 S. Center Street
Arlington, Texas

Prepared by Judy K. Hobart, CSR, RPR, FAPR
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Registered Professional Reporter
Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters

1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

2 CHAIRMAN JIM PARKS: Let me see now

3 about -- start taking public comments. First let me

4 just indicate to you that we had -- on the green form 13:42:44

5 you filled out we had blocks on there to indicate your 13:42:45

6 position if you wished to do so and not speak. 13:42:52

7 We had ten folks that indicated they 13:42:55

8 opposed the plan for one reason or another and did not 13:42:58

9 wish to speak. We had eleven that indicated they 13:43:02

10 support the plan and likewise did not wish to speak, 13:43:04

11 just so you know that. 13:43:08

12 I've got the speakers forms in two stacks 13:43:09

13 right here. One stack again is individuals wishing to 13:43:16

14 speak in opposition to the plan for one reason or 13:43:23

15 another; and the other group, other stack, is those 13:43:26

16 supporting the plan for one reason or another. 13:43:28

17 And I am going to move back and forth 13:43:30

18 between those two stacks of forms so as to balance the 13:43:33

19 "for" and "against" reservoir and/or plan comments. 13:43:39

20 So I want to start by asking Mayor Jody 13:43:44

21 Smith, the town of Flower Mound, to come forth and speak 13:43:50

22 to us. And the next speaker behind Mayor Smith will be 13:43:54

23 Jan Hart Black, just so you know who is coming up, which 13:44:02

24 may help you timewise to get up to the counter. 13:44:04

25 So is Mayor Smith in the room? 13:44:11

1 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: She is outside. 13:44:22

2 MR. PARKS: While they are looking for 13:44:23

3 Mayor Smith then let me ask Jan Hart Black if you would 13:44:25

4 come forth and make your comments. 13:44:29

5 And again remember that there is a 13:44:30

6 three-minute time limit, and Mr. Johnson, you are going 13:44:33

7 to keep time and indicate that to the speakers. 13:44:36

8 MS. JAN HART BLACK: Thank you, Chairman.

9 Is this the microphone that you wish me to speak from?

10 MR. PARKS: Yes, it should --

11 MS. JAN HART BLACK: Thank you.

12 MR. PARKS: And I think it's still on.

13 You can.....

14 MS. JAN HART BLACK: Can you hear?

15 MR. PARKS: Stand a little closer.

16 MS. JAN HART BLACK: My name is Jan Hart 13:44:49

17 Black. I'm president of the Greater Dallas Chamber. I 13:44:52

18 am delighted to be here today. Thank you for holding 13:44:55

19 this public hearing. Over the last 18 months the 13:44:58

20 Greater Dallas Chamber has been a vocal supporter of the 13:45:00

21 City of Dallas, planning for future long-term water 13:45:01

22 supply, both for itself and for its customer cities, 13:45:05

23 which represents a large proportion of this region. 13:45:08

24 With your recent unanimous vote in support 13:45:10

25 of the initially proposed Region C 2006 plan we believe 13:45:15

1 it is imperative that we continue this forward momentum 13:45:17
2 in this region. We urge the Region C Water Planning 13:45:21
3 Group to plan for the region's long-term water supply 13:45:26
4 through conservation, water reuse, and the study of the 13:45:27
5 connection of existing and proposed sources. 13:45:30

6 We encourage the Water Board to keep all 13:45:31
7 options available, including participation and funding 13:45:34
8 in the studies of new water sources. The Greater Dallas 13:45:37
9 Chamber believes the participation in these studies, as 13:45:41
10 well as conservation, research, reuse are crucial to 13:45:43
11 ensuring supplemental sources of water for Dallas, and 13:45:47
12 its customer cities, and for the region as a whole for 13:45:50
13 the next 50 years. 13:45:52

14 By your own accounts water use in Region C 13:45:53
15 has increased dramatically in recent years due to 13:45:58
16 increases in population and municipal demand, and 13:45:59
17 preliminary analyses projected 17 percent reduction in 13:46:02
18 employment and 21 percent reduction in projected income 13:46:06
19 by 2060 if we do not meet the region's water needs. 13:46:10

20 With this population increase we must 13:46:16
21 study all the options now to plan for our future. 13:46:16
22 Analysts expect the population of this region to 13:46:21
23 continue to develop at a rapid rate, and we must provide 13:46:22
24 water resources to supply that expanding population and 13:46:26
25 the expanding economy. 13:46:31

1 As the Chamber of Commerce we do believe 13:46:33
2 that it is imperative that we plan for our future 13:46:35
3 economic development. The industries that our region 13:46:38
4 wants to invest in for our future, semiconductor and 13:46:41
5 biotechnology, just to name a couple, and the highways 13:46:45
6 jobs that come with them, need to feel secure about 13:46:47
7 Dallas and the region's long-term water supply. 13:46:50
8 This is an important consideration that 13:46:54
9 they will take into account as they consider relocating 13:46:56
10 to this region. 13:46:58
11 Please let me just say in closing, I ask 13:46:59
12 you to remember this: That we do require adequate water 13:47:02
13 supplies for healthy economic growth in the future. 13:47:05
14 Based on regional population projections we must secure 13:47:08
15 new water sources. Economic losses from curtailed 13:47:12
16 economic growth, if we do not have sufficient water, 13:47:16
17 measure in the billions of dollars. 13:47:19
18 A healthy region makes for a healthy and 13:47:21
19 prosperous Texas, and we must keep all options 13:47:24
20 available. Thank you for the opportunity to comment to 13:47:27
21 you all today. Thank you. 13:47:29
22 MR. PARKS: Thank you. Next speak will be 13:47:32
23 Mayor Smith, if you will come up to the speaker. Thank 13:47:36
24 you. 13:47:41
25 MS. JODY SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Parks. 13:47:42

1 Ladies and gentlemen, if I might just take 13:47:43
2 one minute. My grandpa used to say all work and all fun 13:47:46
3 is done on the ground, so why be tall, but sometimes 13:47:52
4 it's difficult. 13:47:53

5 Thank you all for letting us be here 13:47:54
6 today. Again my name is Jody Smith, and I am the Mayor 13:47:56
7 of Flower Mound. Thank you for all of the work you do 13:48:00
8 and for all of the time and effort you have dedicated to 13:48:02
9 planning our region's water needs. 13:48:05

10 As you know we are opposed to the 13:48:07
11 construction of Lake Ralph Hall on the timeline proposed 13:48:09
12 by the Upper Trinity Regional Water District. We 13:48:15
13 believe that Region C and the Texas Water Development 13:48:18
14 Board were correct in 2001 when they listed this as an 13:48:20
15 alternative water supply strategy, and nothing has 13:48:23
16 changed over the four -- past four years that would 13:48:27
17 warrant upgrading Lake Ralph Hall's priority status. 13:48:31

18 If there were a verifiable need for Lake 13:48:34
19 Ralph Hall or if Dallas Water Utilities were unable to 13:48:40
20 meet the district's future needs, we would not be here 13:48:42
21 today. 13:48:44

22 However, the lack of need, the abundance 13:48:45
23 of planned projects, the potential of numerous untapped 13:48:48
24 sources, and the regulation of Dallas Water Utilities as 13:48:52
25 a reliable provider all lead to the conclusion that Lake 13:48:56

1 Ralph Hall is not needed at this time, and should remain 13:49:01
2 as an alternative supply option. 13:49:03

3 More and more residents and elected 13:49:05
4 officials of Denton County are actively voicing their 13:49:09
5 concerns related to the lake. 13:49:12

6 The town of Double Oak recently passed a 13:49:14
7 resolution opposing the construction of Lake Ralph Hall, 13:49:19
8 and other cities and residents are beginning to question 13:49:19
9 the justification of this project. 13:49:22

10 It is important for us not to forget the 13:49:23
11 residents of Fannin County who also are voicing 13:49:26
12 opposition to the lake. They too understand that there 13:49:30
13 must be sacrifice in the name of progress; however, no 13:49:33
14 one has fully researched this project understands why it 13:49:37
15 would be necessary to prematurely drive landowners from 13:49:40
16 their property and increase water rates for thousands of 13:49:46
17 residences and businesses when other reliable and more 13:49:49
18 cost effective water sources exist. 13:49:52

19 The reality is that Dallas Water Utilities 13:49:55
20 can meet the district's future water needs in a fiscally 13:49:59
21 responsible manner, and Lake Ralph Hall is a gratuitous 13:50:01
22 project that will unnecessarily force the residents and 13:50:05
23 businesses of Denton County to pay two and a half to 13:50:08
24 three times more than is necessary for their water 13:50:11
25 bills. 13:50:13

1 We are not asking you to disregard Lake 13:50:14
2 Ralph Hall altogether. We are simply requesting that 13:50:19
3 you recognize it as an alternative water strategy, 13:50:20
4 rather than a recommended reservoir, until it does 13:50:24
5 become a viable and necessary project. 13:50:28

6 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Ms. Smith. 13:50:28

7 MS. SMITH: Thank you, ladies and 13:50:30
8 gentlemen for your time. Appreciate it. 13:50:31

9 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mayor. 13:50:37

10 The next speaker will be Mary Decker, and 13:50:38
11 then following Mary will be Walt Humann, I think is..... 13:50:43

12 Okay. 13:50:43

13 MS. MARY DECKER: My name is Mary Decker. 13:50:43
14 I'm from Jacksonville, Texas, which is in Cherokee 13:50:55
15 County, which is one of the counties that the Fastrill 13:50:58
16 Reservoir would be placed in. I want to thank the Mayor 13:51:02
17 of Flower Mound for her statement because we feel very 13:51:05
18 much like she did. 13:51:06

19 And I was listening to the woman from the 13:51:07
20 Dallas City Council I felt like a third world county, 13:51:10
21 and that's the way we feel when a place like Dallas 13:51:12
22 feels that it has the right to come and take our major 13:51:15
23 resource, which is our water. 13:51:18

24 And I can tell you that the people of the 13:51:19
25 two counties, Anderson and Cherokee, are very opposed to 13:51:22

1 this. And we might fight like cats and dogs as 13:51:27
2 Republicans and Democrats, but we are not fighting when 13:51:30
3 it comes to trying to keep the Fastrill Reservoir from 13:51:33
4 being built. Thank you. 13:51:37
5 MR. PARKS: Thank you. 13:51:38
6 Mr. Walt Humann. 13:51:43
7 MR. WALT HUMANN: Good afternoon. Thank 13:52:02
8 you for your public service. My name is Walt Humann. I 13:52:03
9 am a member of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce; serve 13:52:07
10 as the chairman of their environmental committee, and a 13:52:09
11 board member, and executive committee member. 13:52:12
12 I appreciate the opportunity to appear 13:52:15
13 before you today. The chamber represents about 25,000 13:52:16
14 businesses in the greater Fort Worth area. We strongly 13:52:20
15 endorse the Region C plan, and like very much the 13:52:23
16 balance that it provides. 13:52:29
17 I put up on the podium there one bottle of 13:52:31
18 water to the left. In many parts of the world that one 13:52:35
19 bottle of water represents the entire daily usage for 13:52:39
20 food, drinking, and other personal uses. 13:52:45
21 Now, if you join those three bottles, that 13:52:48
22 is what I use when I brush my teeth in the morning that 13:52:52
23 runs down the drain. The point I am trying to get at is 13:52:56
24 that for too long we as Americans have become very, very 13:53:00
25 complacent about water. 13:53:06

1 If you talk to people in Colorado, water 13:53:07
2 is gold. Texas, it will become that way. 13:53:10

3 My parents told me in the 1950s the crisis 13:53:15
4 that we endured. When you turned on the water faucet it 13:53:19
5 ran red because of the high saline content where they 13:53:23
6 were drawing the water, and we said never again. 13:53:27

7 And so at that time there was an 13:53:29
8 aggressive effort to satisfy water needs. I think we 13:53:32
9 need this balanced plan that you have thoughtfully 13:53:36
10 pulled together taking a strong advantage of 13:53:40
11 conservation and reuse. 13:53:44

12 And I would urge you to consider not only 13:53:45
13 governmental programs to reuse it, but also investigate 13:53:48
14 present day technologies where that reuse can occur 13:53:56
15 actually on the individual household level, so it never 13:53:57
16 gets back into the general system but is recirculated 13:54:00
17 just as they are talking about the possibility of fuel 13:54:07
18 cells powering some of our energy needs at home. 13:54:10

19 Second was the reuse and the conservation, 13:54:13
20 and I am trying to illustrate that here; connecting to 13:54:15
21 existing supplies and then finally creating new 13:54:19
22 supplies. 13:54:22

23 It is always difficult and you have to 13:54:23
24 balance interests. 13:54:26

25 THE TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Mr. Humann. 13:54:28

1 MR. HUMANN: In the long term interest we 13:54:31
2 absolutely cannot afford to run out of water. It is the 13:54:33
3 life blood of this community and will adversely impact 13:54:37
4 the entire economy, and that means jobs. 13:54:40
5 Now, it is not right for us to pound the 13:54:42
6 table and say we need new reservoirs and new activity 13:54:45
7 when we don't also hit those other two key items that 13:54:48
8 you've so thoughtfully come up with; and that is reuse, 13:54:52
9 conservation, and connecting to existing facilities. 13:54:55
10 We applaud what you're doing; we support 13:54:59
11 what you're doing. 13:55:00
12 THE TIMEKEEPER: Time. 13:55:00
13 MR. HUMANN: Thank you for your time. 13:55:01
14 MR. PARKS: Thank you. 13:55:04
15 Arthur Kuehne. 13:55:04
16 MR. ARTHUR KUEHNE: Thank you. 13:55:04
17 MR. PARKS: And the next speaker will be 13:55:11
18 Julie Hunt. 13:55:13
19 MR. ARTHUR KUEHNE: Thank you. My name is 13:55:13
20 Arthur Kuehne, and I am a resident of Dallas, Texas. 13:55:17
21 The four new unneeded reservoirs that you 13:55:19
22 are recommending, Marvin Nichols, Fastrill, Ralph Hall, 13:55:22
23 Lower Bois D'Arc Creek, will drown approximately 125,000 13:55:27
24 acres of increasingly rare Texas floodland habitat. 13:55:29
25 They would also take at least 375,000 acres of 13:55:38

1 productive private land from thousands of mostly 13:55:38
2 unwilling sellers and would devastate ranching, farming, 13:55:41
3 and timber industries in large areas of Texas. 13:55:44
4 Some of Texas best remaining bottomland 13:55:47
5 hardwood forest and critical wildlife habitat would be 13:55:50
6 lost forever, including the extremely high quality 13:55:53
7 proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. 13:55:56
8 You've also chosen three other new 13:55:59
9 needless reservoirs as alternative strategies: 13:56:02
10 Parkhouse, Columbia, and Tawakoni, that would drown an 13:56:06
11 additional 41,000 acres and condemn an additional 13:56:08
12 123,000 acres. 13:56:13
13 I ask that you eliminate these new 13:56:13
14 reservoirs from your consideration. I say to the 13:56:15
15 individuals who sit on this appointed body that I can 13:56:18
16 not fathom why you would want to associate your name, or 13:56:20
17 on your behalf, or on your company's behalf, your 13:56:27
18 organization's behalf, or the interest group that you 13:56:32
19 represent with a plan that needlessly devastates our 13:56:33
20 Texas environment and the rural neighbors and 13:56:37
21 industries. 13:56:40
22 Such a plan would be a shameful, 13:56:40
23 uncalled-for way for North Texas to treat fellow Texans, 13:56:43
24 literally with no good reason. This is not who we are 13:56:48
25 in North Texas, I don't think. 13:56:51

1 This should not be the way we act on our 13:56:53
2 behalf -- you act on our behalf. You do not have my 13:56:57
3 support in this behalf in this approach, and I hope you 13:57:01
4 won't imply that you're representing the public's wishes 13:57:06
5 in this matter. Please don't sign your name to this 13:57:09
6 plan that chooses destructive and illogical new 13:57:12
7 reservoirs before fully explaining -- before fully 13:57:15
8 utilizing the existing ones. 13:57:18

9 If you insist on choosing this route, at 13:57:20
10 least have the guts to tell me and everyone else in this 13:57:23
11 audience, and everyone else around here in North Texas, 13:57:26
12 why in writing you want to do this and contradict all of 13:57:30
13 the evidence of existing available developed water 13:57:34
14 resources that your consultants have brought to you. 13:57:36

15 I hope you will tell me now why you want 13:57:39
16 to do this and why you want to drown these people out. 13:57:42
17 I would ask a couple of you, just picking a couple at 13:57:45
18 random here: Mr. Fisseler, Mr. Martin -- 13:57:48

19 THE TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Mr. Kuehne. 13:57:48

20 MR. ARTHUR KUEHNE: -- with the cities of 13:57:51
21 Fort Worth and Denton, I know you wouldn't drown your 13:57:52
22 own residents for this, so why is it okay to drown the 13:57:55
23 residents in East Texas. Is cheap water for St. -- to 13:57:59
24 green up our St. Augustine more important than the 13:58:07
25 Neches River Wildlife Refuge? I don't think so. 13:58:11

1 For the rest of you I wish you would 13:58:14
2 answer that same question for yourselves. For instance, 13:58:16
3 Mr. Zweiacker -- 13:58:19
4 MR. PARKS: Mr. Kuehne, your time is up, 13:58:21
5 sir. 13:58:23
6 MR. KUEHNE: Okay. Thank you. 13:58:23
7 MR. PARKS: Thank you. Julie Hunt? 13:58:23
8 MS. JULIE HUNT: Good afternoon. My name 13:58:28
9 is Julie Hunt, and I am Acting Director of Water 13:58:32
10 Utilities for the City of Arlington. I appreciate the 13:58:35
11 opportunity to appear on behalf of Arlington Water 13:58:38
12 Utilities this afternoon, and I welcome the members of 13:58:42
13 the Region C Regional Water Planning Group to the City 13:58:45
14 of Arlington. 13:58:48
15 The City of Arlington continues to thrive 13:58:50
16 largely due to its success in providing water and 13:58:53
17 wastewater services to residential and commercial 13:58:56
18 customers. 13:58:58
19 Our population currently approaches 13:58:59
20 360,000. We currently have more than 100,000 retail 13:59:02
21 water accounts. Arlington Water Utilities is committed 13:59:07
22 to the principles of effective water conservation. 13:59:11
23 Through a recently adopted landscape management 13:59:16
24 ordinance Arlington now requires rain and pre-sensors on 13:59:19
25 irrigation systems and has implemented inclining block 13:59:22

1 rates to encourage wise water usage. 13:59:25

2 On June 1st, 2005, the City of Arlington 13:59:29

3 initiated time-of-day restrictions on outdoor irrigation 13:59:36

4 and launched extensive outreach to inform the public of 13:59:38

5 those restrictions. 13:59:41

6 As the second largest customer of the 13:59:42

7 Tarrant Regional Water District the City of Arlington 13:59:47

8 benefits from the planning conducted by its wholesale 13:59:49

9 water provider Tarrant Regional Water District. 13:59:54

10 Arlington Water Utilities closely monitors 13:59:57

11 water supply planning and development efforts of the 14:00:00

12 district and supports the management strategies that 14:00:03

13 have been identified by the Regional Water Planning 14:00:05

14 Group. 14:00:05

15 Since 1997 the District has coordinated 14:00:10

16 with the regional water planning process to accurately 14:00:11

17 project population and water demands, as well as to 14:00:14

18 identify management strategies to meet those water 14:00:17

19 supply demands. 14:00:20

20 Arlington Water Utilities supports the 14:00:21

21 regional water supply plan and management strategies 14:00:23

22 that are currently being implemented by our wholesale 14:00:24

23 water provider, and these include enhanced water 14:00:28

24 conservation, education programs, raw water transmission 14:00:31

25 system improvements, water reuse projects, as well as 14:00:34

1 efforts to access existing as well as proposed surface 14:00:38
2 water supply projects. 14:00:41

3 Again, thank you for coming to Arlington 14:00:42
4 to share the progress of the Region C Regional Water 14:00:44
5 Planning Group. 14:00:47

6 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Hunt. 14:00:50
7 Beth Johnson is the next speaker, and then 14:00:53
8 following Ms. Johnson, Dan Petty. 14:00:57

9 MS. BETH JOHNSON: Thank you, 14:01:19
10 Mr. Chairman. 14:01:22

11 My name is Beth Johnson, and I'm a 14:01:23
12 consultant representing the Lone Star chapter of the 14:01:23
13 Sierra Club and the Texas Committee on Natural 14:01:27
14 Resources. 14:01:28

15 And what should be finding its way to you 14:01:29
16 at the tables at this time is the latest version of the 14:01:31
17 chart that we have dialogued with you a couple of times 14:01:34
18 on. This is taken from the latest figures in the Region 14:01:38
19 C draft plan. 14:01:40

20 And basically you see there on the left 14:01:42
21 side the gap you are trying to fill between supply and 14:01:45
22 demand in 2060, and the colored stack there of water are 14:01:47
23 all supplies available in existing, developed 14:01:54
24 reservoirs. 14:01:58

25 And as you will notice the height of that 14:01:59

1 stack is 98% higher than the gap you are trying to fill, 14:02:02
2 so as you know you have a lot of options to work with. 14:02:07
3 And you've chosen conservation, reuse, 14:02:10
4 return flows, Texoma authorized, a portion of the Patman 14:02:14
5 flood pool reallocation, a portion of Toledo Bend, and a 14:02:19
6 portion of Oklahoma as your recommended strategies from 14:02:23
7 the existing supplies. And as you can see, that alone 14:02:26
8 exceeds your gap you are trying to fill. 14:02:30
9 So you are off to a good start, and I know 14:02:32
10 that you want to have a reserve supply on top of that. 14:02:36
11 So we wanted to bring to your attention the figures that 14:02:39
12 are embedded in your plan. Again these are all Tom 14:02:42
13 Gooch's figures, the ones you've been working with. 14:02:42
14 These are -- this is just our graphical depiction of 14:02:47
15 your figures. 14:02:49
16 Now, Texoma, not yet authorized, begins 14:02:51
17 that next stack there. These are in the alternatives 14:02:55
18 that your -- that you've got in your plan. That's 14:02:58
19 220,000 acre-feet available from Texoma that no one is 14:03:01
20 choosing as recommended. We don't know why. We feel 14:03:04
21 that there has not been a good thorough explanation yet. 14:03:07
22 Secondly, the next little piece there is 14:03:11
23 the Patman flood pool. It's mysterious that Dallas did 14:03:15
24 not choose this 68,000 acre-feet when it chose the other 14:03:16
25 112,000 acre-feet in that particular mechanism from 14:03:22

1 Patman. It would seem as if that would simply run up 14:03:24
2 the cost. If you are going to do Patman flood pool, do 14:03:28
3 Patman flood pool. 14:03:28
4 The two other slices right above that, 14:03:32
5 Patman Texarkana and the Patman system operation, are 14:03:34
6 also unclaimed as a recommended strategy. Well, there 14:03:37
7 again if one major supplier is going to this source, 14:03:41
8 wouldn't it be better to cooperate and bring all of that 14:03:44
9 in at a more cost effective way. 14:03:47
10 Next we get up into the itty-bitty yellow 14:03:50
11 one there. That is a slice of Oklahoma, an additional 14:03:53
12 50,000 that no one has claimed, but it's listed as 14:03:56
13 available. You would think if you are counting the 14:03:59
14 other Oklahoma as a recommended strategy you would go on 14:04:02
15 and count this, too, so you would get the full amount. 14:04:04
16 So we work on up through Toledo Bend, 14:04:06
17 through these other things. When you get to the top of 14:04:09
18 the colored ones, that is the end of the existing 14:04:11
19 supply. In our view these are innocent until proven 14:04:14
20 unworkable and should be your first choices; but as you 14:04:17
21 can see, you've left lying on the table unutilized about 14:04:21
22 half of that supply. 14:04:26
23 We feel that when you start getting into 14:04:27
24 the Neches, the gray, which are new unneeded reservoirs, 14:04:30
25 that there's a burden of proof on you. You should be 14:04:34

1 telling the public, and showing, and understanding 14:04:37
2 yourselves why you are doing that. We feel that those 14:04:39
3 gray ones are guilty until proven absolutely necessary. 14:04:42
4 As we go on up through there -- 14:04:46
5 THE TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Mr. Johnson. 14:04:47
6 MS. JOHNSON: -- the new reservoirs that 14:04:49
7 you are recommending would drown 125,000 acres of 14:04:51
8 beautiful flood plain habitat, bottomland, and other 14:04:58
9 pastures, etc., condemning 375,000 acres again unneeded 14:05:00
10 and not proven that it is absolutely necessary. 14:05:04
11 The four new, alternative new, reservoirs 14:05:07
12 you are putting in your plan would drown 41,000 acres 14:05:11
13 and condemn a 120,000 acres of people's land. 14:05:15
14 TIMEKEEPER: Ms. Johnson, your time has 14:05:17
15 expired. 14:05:17
16 MS. JOHNSON: So again -- I'm sorry. Was 14:05:20
17 that time? 14:05:22
18 TIMEKEEPER: Yes. 14:05:22
19 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. 14:05:22
20 MR. PARKS: Thank you. 14:05:26
21 Next speaker is Dan Petty, and following 14:05:26
22 Mr. Petty will be George Frost. 14:05:36
23 MR. DAN PETTY: Mr. Chairman, members, 14:05:37
24 good afternoon. My name is Dan Petty, and I am 14:05:37
25 President and CEO of the North Texas Commission, a 14:05:38

1 member regional organization of businesses, counties, 14:05:42
2 cities, higher education institutions, and economic 14:05:44
3 development agencies founded in 1971. 14:05:48

4 We have followed closely the work of the 14:05:50
5 Region C Planning Group since its beginning because we 14:05:52
6 believe that careful planning for the future water 14:05:56
7 supply needs is critical to the quality of life and 14:05:59
8 prosperity of the North Texas region. 14:06:03

9 We have had representation at most of your 14:06:05
10 meetings during phase one and phase two cycles. The 14:06:08
11 North Texas Commission commends you for your excellent 14:06:09
12 service to the region. You have devoted many hours to 14:06:13
13 this important water planning effort. You should be 14:06:16
14 proud of your product. 14:06:18

15 The initially prepared plan is one that 14:06:20
16 the North Texas Commission can wholeheartedly endorse. 14:06:22
17 It carefully balances conservation, reuse, and 14:06:24
18 development of new supplies in addressing the Region's 14:06:28
19 future water needs. 14:06:31

20 As Mr. Gooch presented earlier, the Texas 14:06:32
21 Water Development Board has conducted a preliminary 14:06:36
22 analysis of the impacts of not meeting the Region's 14:06:38
23 projected water demands, and those failures would result 14:06:40
24 in a reduction of population by 7%, reduction of 14:06:45
25 employment or jobs by 17%, and a reduction in projected 14:06:51

1 income in 2060 by \$58 billion dollars. 14:06:56

2 These are adverse consequences which all 14:06:59

3 of us should see unacceptable. We urge you, the 14:07:02

4 Regional C Planning Group, to retain in the plan all of 14:07:06

5 the options you have identified as recommended water 14:07:10

6 management strategies. We do not agree with those who 14:07:13

7 would suggest eliminating all new reservoir options from 14:07:16

8 your recommended strategies. 14:07:21

9 Estimates indicate that replacing the 14:07:24

10 volume of water by transporting water from more distant 14:07:26

11 existing reservoirs would add more than \$7 billion 14:07:30

12 dollars to the cost of implementation. Moreover you 14:07:33

13 have increased from the previous plan the proportion of 14:07:35

14 future water supply from conservation, which we applaud, 14:07:39

15 and from reuse, which we applaud. 14:07:43

16 Your plan now shows 26% of the region's 14:07:46

17 2060 water supply coming from conservation and reuse, 14:07:50

18 and only 18 percent from new reservoirs. We believe 14:07:53

19 that the proposed new plan reflects a reasonable balance 14:07:57

20 of sources of supply. 14:08:00

21 Eliminating any one of these -- 14:08:03

22 THE TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Mr. Petty. 14:08:05

23 MR. PERRY: -- from your recommended water 14:08:07

24 management strategies we believe would be unwise. Thank 14:08:10

25 you for the opportunity to comment, and again thank you 14:08:12

1 for your dedicated service and your quality work. 14:08:14

2 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Petty. 14:08:18

3 Next speaker is Mr. George Frost. The 14:08:20

4 speaker behind Mr. Frost will be Martha Mason. 14:08:23

5 MR. GEORGE FROST: My name is George 14:08:23

6 Frost. I am on the Region D Water Board representing 14:08:28

7 the public, and I'm at great pleasure here today 14:08:32

8 representing the common man, the man that is out there 14:08:35

9 working that can't be here. Seems that big shots can 14:08:37

10 take care of themselves, but the little man can't. 14:08:41

11 With that in mind I would like to read one 14:08:44

12 little quick statement, the last in our Region D water 14:08:46

13 plan on Marvin Nichols. We passed it last month and it 14:08:50

14 states "Due to significant negative impact upon 14:08:55

15 environmental factors, agricultural resources, rural 14:08:59

16 areas, other natural resources, and third parties Marvin 14:09:04

17 Nichols I reservoir should not be included as a water 14:09:09

18 management strategy in the 2006 Regional Water Plan or 14:09:13

19 the 2000 State 7 Water Plan." 14:09:16

20 Accordingly, and in conclusion -- 14:09:20

21 including (sic) Marvin Nichols Reservoir and any 14:09:24

22 regional water plan would be inconsistent with the 14:09:26

23 region's effort to ensure long-term protection of the 14:09:29

24 region's water resources, agricultural resources, and 14:09:32

25 natural resources. 14:09:36

1 I have heard your people say here what 14:09:36
2 would happen if you did not get enough water in your 14:09:40
3 region. Flip the coin over. What is going to happen 14:09:43
4 when you take Marvin Nichols out of our region? I 14:09:48
5 promise you it is going to be more than 17 percent. We 14:09:51
6 have the figures here. 14:09:56

7 Another question I would like to ask the 14:09:57
8 Board: If Region C can trump Region D, why are we in 14:09:59
9 Region D having any planning at all? I would like you 14:10:04
10 to think about that. If might makes right, well then 14:10:08
11 that's what it's all about then; but if you stand for 14:10:14
12 what is right, and I think most of you will, you'll 14:10:17
13 reevaluate this. 14:10:17

14 My son, Steven Frost, is a State 14:10:21
15 representative, and he has written several letters to 14:10:24
16 you; but one of the little things that I would like for 14:10:26
17 you to read, which we are in sympathy with you, is that 14:10:29
18 we in Northeast Texas are sympathetic to the ever 14:10:34
19 growing needs of the Dallas metroplex. There are many 14:10:37
20 ways the people in Northeast Texas can help without 14:10:41
21 creation of new reservoirs. We would be glad to work 14:10:45
22 with Region C in exploring these options in order to 14:10:48
23 have a relationship beneficial to all. 14:10:52

24 That's very important, people. If you 14:10:54
25 look at your water plan with Marvin Nichols, 14:10:55

1 Parkhouse -- 14:10:59

2 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Mr Frost. 14:11:00

3 MR. FROST: -- Parkhouse I or II, and then 14:11:02

4 you look at what litigation it's going to take, then 14:11:04

5 think to yourself "What is it going to do to our area?" 14:11:10

6 I tell you it will be devastating, so if 14:11:10

7 you want to just do that, then go ahead because that is 14:11:13

8 exactly what you will be doing, destroying Northeast 14:11:15

9 Texas when you can get options elsewhere. 14:11:18

10 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Frost. Next 14:11:23

11 speaker is Martha Mason, and following Ms. Mason will be 14:11:26

12 Sharron Nabors. 14:11:33

13 MS. MARTHA MASON: My name is Martha 14:11:36

14 Mason, and I represent the -- can you hear me? I 14:11:37

15 represent the town of Argyle and the Board of Directors 14:11:39

16 of the Upper Trinity Regional Water District. 14:11:42

17 I am a member of the Defenders of 14:11:45

18 Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, National Park 14:11:48

19 Commission, and TCNR, so I am concerned about the 14:11:53

20 environment, and about the status of water. 14:12:00

21 I want to commend your work and your 14:12:02

22 effort and what you have presented for the plan that you 14:12:06

23 have. It covers a great deal of area and it has many 14:12:10

24 options, and unfortunately I believe that we are going 14:12:16

25 to need every option available for the years to come in 14:12:20

1 providing adequate water. 14:12:25

2 So I do appreciate what you have -- the 14:12:27

3 emphasis you have placed on water conservation, water 14:12:30

4 reuse with the reservoirs as needed. Upper Trinity's 14:12:34

5 reservoir that they have proposed, Lake Ralph Hall, is a 14:12:42

6 needed backup because even though we do plan on water 14:12:47

7 conservation, and as much water reuse as the state will 14:12:52

8 allow, it is not going to be enough to supply the people 14:12:57

9 in our area in the next few decades. 14:13:02

10 So with Lake Ralph Hall we would be 14:13:08

11 providing a water supply source that has the least 14:13:13

12 environmental detrimental impact, and yet at the same 14:13:18

13 time it would help the financial impact, the health of 14:13:23

14 the Fannin County; not just for us, but for the people 14:13:27

15 that will be around that lake. 14:13:31

16 I do appreciate your time, your effort, 14:13:34

17 and your commitment to planning for water for the state 14:13:38

18 of Texas, and I do appreciate your courtesy today. 14:13:43

19 Thank you. 14:13:45

20 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Mason. 14:13:49

21 Next speaker is Ms. Sharron Nabors, and 14:13:52

22 then Todd Madison. 14:13:56

23 MS. SHARRON NABORS: Sharron Nabors from 14:14:00

24 Paris, Texas. 14:14:01

25 I'd like to list some concerns of many 14:14:01

1 people like myself, the landowners, the farmers, 14:14:04
2 ranchers, history buff, and others at the proposal to 14:14:06
3 build more reservoirs in Northeast Texas; for instance, 14:14:10
4 Marvin Nichols, Parkhouse, Ralph Hall, Bois d'Arc. 14:14:10
5 If this proposal is carried out to the end 14:14:15
6 it will destroy up to one million acres of farm and 14:14:15
7 timber lands, land that will be sorely needed for food 14:14:22
8 and fiber production within the next 30 to 40 years. 14:14:26
9 This production will replace lost 14:14:30
10 production in West Texas and the Rio Grande Valley due 14:14:32
11 to the cost of irrigation water that will severely limit 14:14:36
12 farming in these areas. 14:14:39
13 According to the State water plan we have 14:14:40
14 in this state over 41 million acre-feet of water 14:14:43
15 currently in over 400 reservoirs. In addition we in 14:14:46
16 Texas have almost 15 million acre-feet of water in 14:14:50
17 underground aquifers. 14:14:54
18 Granted, some of the aquifers has a water 14:14:55
19 problem, salinity, et cetera; but this can be overcome 14:14:59
20 by treatment, either desalinization or filtering. 14:15:03
21 Also, according to the State water plan, 14:15:06
22 it is estimated that we will need approximately 22 to 25 14:15:08
23 million acre-feet of water in 2060 and past. We now use 14:15:13
24 about 17 million acre-feet per year. With 55 million 14:15:16
25 acre-feet already why do we need to build more 14:15:21

1 reservoirs and destroy valuable farmland, timber 14:15:23
2 resources, and a rapidly disappearing wildlife habitat? 14:15:28
3 I agree the Dallas-Fort Worth complex will 14:15:33
4 need more water, but you can purchase water from the 14:15:35
5 existing reservoirs; for example, Toledo Bend, Wright 14:15:38
6 Patman, underground aquifers, and other existing water. 14:15:42
7 This will require a network of pipelines, 14:15:45
8 but building new reservoirs will require a netline of 14:15:48
9 pipelines anyway. 14:15:53
10 Governor Perry proposed two years ago that 14:15:55
11 Texas begin a major desalinization project. The 14:15:59
12 Legislature and Governor appropriated \$238 million 14:16:03
13 dollars for this project, and it will be almost drought 14:16:06
14 proof. 14:16:11
15 Current costs of desalinization is not yet 14:16:12
16 less than existing water surfaces, but is much less 14:16:15
17 costly than building new surface water resources such as 14:16:19
18 lakes and reservoirs. 14:16:24
19 Dr. Jorge Arroya of the Texas Water 14:16:25
20 Development Board has submitted a report to the Texas 14:16:29
21 Legislature entitled The Future of Desalinization in 14:16:32
22 Texas, which details research studies -- 14:16:34
23 THE TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Ms. Nabors. 14:16:34
24 MS. SHARRON NABORS: 30 seconds. Okay. 14:16:34
25 I had a lot, you see, to -- left out that 14:16:50

1 I can't get in there. 14:16:50

2 Water prices should be factored into any 14:16:52

3 equation before building new reservoirs. As long as 14:16:55

4 water is cheap we human beings will waste and not 14:16:57

5 conserve. 14:16:57

6 I ask you that you help save our ancestral 14:17:00

7 lands and ensure that everyone in our great Texas has 14:17:04

8 plenty of water. When the Good Lord made this earth he 14:17:07

9 made it two-thirds water and one third land. Ever 14:17:10

10 since, man has been trying to change that ratio. 14:17:14

11 I do not believe we can improve God's 14:17:17

12 design very much, and we should strive to use what he 14:17:20

13 gave us for the greater good of all mankind. Thank you. 14:17:23

14 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Nabors. 14:17:23

15 Next speaker is Todd Madison, and then 14:17:36

16 following Mr. Madison will be Janice Bezanson, and then 14:17:36

17 Tony Almeida. 14:17:36

18 MR. TODD MADISON: Hello. I'm Todd 14:17:36

19 Madison, and I'm speaking on behalf of the town of 14:17:46

20 Lincoln Park, the home of the Trail Dust Steakhouse. It 14:17:48

21 is a small community in northeast Denton County. It's 14:17:51

22 one of the smallest towns in Region C. I operate the 14:17:55

23 water and wastewater systems of this town. 14:17:59

24 Lincoln Park may be a small community, but 14:18:02

25 we still have water needs, especially for the future. 14:18:05

1 We rely on groundwater; however, that is not adequate to 14:18:09
2 meet future needs. We are within a growing commercial 14:18:14
3 corridor along U.S. Highway 380, which means larger 14:18:18
4 water demands. 14:18:23

5 In the future dependability on groundwater 14:18:24
6 will decrease and the town will become more dependent on 14:18:28
7 Upper Trinity Regional Water District for their water 14:18:32
8 supply. We are working with Upper Trinity to ensure 14:18:35
9 adequate water supply for families and businesses 14:18:37
10 tomorrow. 14:18:40

11 Our town's future needs are included in 14:18:41
12 Upper Trinity's water plan. Upper Trinity's long range 14:18:45
13 strategies are reasonable, and can be achieved in time 14:18:49
14 to meet the demand. Their water supply portfolio 14:18:52
15 includes water from Chapman, Lewisville, and Ray Roberts 14:18:57
16 lakes, water conservation, and water reuse. 14:19:01

17 To further diversify its portfolio Upper 14:19:04
18 Trinity is planning a new reservoir, Lake Ralph Hall. 14:19:08
19 Small cities like Lincoln Park do not have the resources 14:19:12
20 to create visionary plans for the next 50 years. For 14:19:15
21 that reason we rely on and support what Region C 14:19:18
22 Planning Group is doing, and we participate in our local 14:19:23
23 regional system. 14:19:26

24 Let's face it, if we do nothing or we 14:19:27
25 don't do enough, we will face a water crises in the 14:19:30

1 future. 14:19:34

2 Upper Trinity strategies are sound, and we 14:19:34

3 are depending on them for our future water supply. 14:19:37

4 Region C's strategies are comprehensive and responsible. 14:19:42

5 We support them. 14:19:45

6 Thank you for ensuring that Lincoln Park 14:19:46

7 and this region will have enough water today and in the 14:19:48

8 future, and we urge the adoption of the water management 14:19:52

9 plan. Thank you. 14:19:56

10 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Madison. Next 14:19:56

11 speaker is Janice Bezanson, and then Tony Almeida. 14:20:13

12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: MS. Bezanson was on her 14:20:13

13 way to the restroom and asked if we could -- 14:20:13

14 MR. PARKS: I'll set her aside and come 14:20:14

15 back then. 14:20:14

16 Let's go to Mr. Almeida, if I can. 14:20:15

17 MR. TONY ALMEIDA: Good afternoon. My 14:20:39

18 name is Tony Almeida, and I'm here representing Joe 14:20:40

19 Novoa in his role as Chairman of the Air Quality and 14:20:42

20 Environmental Committee of the Dallas Chamber of 14:20:46

21 Commerce. 14:20:50

22 The Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and the 14:20:50

23 rest of the North Texas region within Region C planning 14:20:52

24 area will have to assure that it will have the 14:20:56

25 sufficient water to support the projected population and 14:20:58

1 business growth over the next 50 years. 14:21:01

2 This fact is paramount in maintaining an 14:21:03

3 environmentally supportive -- of business as well as the 14:21:08

4 standard of living that we are all accustomed to. 14:21:10

5 Successful economic development without 14:21:15

6 water is just not possible. The initially prepared 2006 14:21:15

7 Region C Water Plan establishes guiding principles for 14:21:20

8 water resources development, water management 14:21:23

9 strategies, and defines the leadership role in the 14:21:27

10 protection and development of future water supplies for 14:21:28

11 this region. 14:21:31

12 The planning -- the plan identifies a 14:21:31

13 comprehensive portfolio of water supply projects that 14:21:33

14 will enable the region to provide an affordable, 14:21:37

15 dependable, and diversified, and sustainable supply of 14:21:41

16 water resources now and in the future. 14:21:44

17 The plan contains a wide variety of water 14:21:47

18 management strategies that include current availability, 14:21:50

19 environmental impacts, costs, conservation, reuse, and 14:21:53

20 recycling, considering existing and new supplies in the 14:21:57

21 region now and in the future. 14:22:01

22 The Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce has 14:22:05

23 reviewed the draft of the 2006 plan, and the Committee 14:22:08

24 of Air Quality and Environmental Committee has also 14:22:11

25 reviewed it, and supports the initiatives in 14:22:14

1 conservation, the goals and plan elements as presented 14:22:16
2 in the five-year strategic plan. 14:22:19

3 The plan recognizes the needs to implement 14:22:21
4 the best management practices as defined by the State of 14:22:23
5 Texas Conservation Implementation Task Force. 14:22:25

6 In the area of recycling it supports the 14:22:28
7 development of indirect water use. The plan is clear 14:22:31
8 that the reuse of treated wastewater will be a 14:22:32
9 significant source of future water supply for Region C 14:22:36
10 now and in the future. 14:22:37

11 Connection of existing supplies supports 14:22:40
12 the recommendations to connect existing supplies in 14:22:42
13 order to maximize the use of available resources as a 14:22:44
14 cost effective and sustainable supply. 14:22:47

15 Acquisition and connection of other 14:22:50
16 existing and proposed sources: The Chamber and the 14:22:52
17 Committee realizes that many additional water resources 14:22:52
18 have been investigated and are listed in the plan as 14:22:52
19 potential alternatives for development of future water 14:22:52
20 supply. 14:22:52

21 We support further study of the 14:23:02
22 feasibility of all of these sources, including the new 14:23:05
23 reservoirs, and I congratulate you for your efforts, and 14:23:07
24 I thank you for your time and attention. 14:23:09

25 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Almeida. I am 14:23:15

1 going to go back now and ask Janice Bezanson to come 14:23:16
2 forward. The next speaker behind Ms. Bezanson will be 14:23:21
3 Bill Madden, and then David Nabors. 14:23:26
4 MS. JANICE BEZANSON: Mr. Chairman, 14:23:26
5 members of the Committee, I am Janice Bezanson with the 14:23:33
6 conservation -- statewide conservation group, the Texas 14:23:35
7 Committee on Natural Resources. We are the state 14:23:39
8 affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. 14:23:43
9 One of the things I want to remind y'all 14:23:44
10 this morning is that projections are not facts. We have 14:23:47
11 projected 13.3 million people for Region C in the year 14:23:50
12 2060, and -- but the water use assumptions associated 14:23:54
13 with those projections would be if those people use 14:23:59
14 225 gallons per capita per day. 14:24:04
15 A much more reasonable amount would be 14:24:07
16 about 160. If that were the amount that they actually 14:24:09
17 used it would only be 2.3 million acre-feet instead of 14:24:13
18 the projected 3.3 million acre-feet. This is a 14:24:17
19 variation of a million acre-feet. 14:24:21
20 And if that were the projection then the 14:24:23
21 current use in Region C, plus the planned reuse, would 14:24:29
22 be enough to meet the future water needs of this region. 14:24:34
23 So that's why this is so important that we must remember 14:24:37
24 that these projections are high. They are designed to 14:24:40
25 be high, and they are not likely ever to be reached. 14:24:44

1 We are going to make more people, but we 14:24:46
2 are not going to make more grass. 14:24:49

3 If there ever is a need for additional 14:24:52
4 water in Region C other than cons -- that could not be 14:24:55
5 met by conservation, current use, and this increased 14:24:58
6 plan to reuse, more reuse would be the first option. It 14:25:02
7 is the cheapest one, according to Mr. Gooch, and a lot 14:25:04
8 more reuse can be done now because of ultra filtration 14:25:08
9 processes that keep -- allowed -- allow -- technology 14:25:15
10 that allows more reuse. 14:25:15

11 Ultra filtration now only costs 25 cents 14:25:17
12 per thousand gallons. This is a very sound way to move 14:25:22
13 into the future. 14:25:22

14 If you will look at your chart of what it 14:25:24
15 cost to desalinate water in Lake Texoma, it looks like 14:25:27
16 it is a whole lot more expensive; but when you 14:25:31
17 desalinate water, you get treated water, and all of the 14:25:35
18 other things on the chart are for untreated water. 14:25:36

19 If you make that adjustment you find that 14:25:38
20 desalinating water from Lake Texoma, which gets you 14:25:41
21 pure, untreat -- pure, fully treated water is a cost 14:25:45
22 effective way to go. It is competitive with these other 14:25:47
23 sources. 14:25:47

24 Similarly, the Brazos River is a little 14:25:52
25 bit saline, but it is real, real close to Fort Worth. 14:25:54

1 It is an excellent potential source of water for the 14:25:57
2 western part of the region with just this same small 14:26:01
3 amount of desalination. 14:26:05
4 There is also other existing reservoirs 14:26:06
5 such as Wright Patman that you've heard us talking about 14:26:08
6 in the sulfur basin. It is unconscionable -- 14:26:12
7 THE TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Ms. Bezanson. 14:26:16
8 MS. BEZANSON: -- to be forcing people off 14:26:17
9 their lands, to be drowning a national wildlife refuge 14:26:18
10 that's proposed for the same site as the Fastrill 14:26:23
11 Reservoir, to be having this huge impact on East Texas, 14:26:26
12 and on the timber industry, and other agricultural 14:26:27
13 aspects of East Texas when there are existing sources of 14:26:31
14 water that can get you into the future. 14:26:33
15 We are not opposed to anybody in Region C 14:26:35
16 having water. We agree with the Chamber of Commerce 14:26:38
17 that you are going to need water, but there is a way to 14:26:42
18 get it without having these huge impacts, and I do not 14:26:44
19 understand why this regional planning group is not 14:26:47
20 following Connie Standridge's lead and putting existing 14:26:51
21 water sources before new reservoirs. 14:26:53
22 No new reservoirs. 14:26:56
23 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Bezanson. 14:26:57
24 Next speaker is Bill Madden, and then 14:27:00
25 following Mr. Madden will be David Nabors. 14:27:03

1 MR. BILL MADDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 14:27:03

2 My name is Bill Madden, and I am here basically as a 14:27:12

3 private citizen and speaking on behalf of the support of 14:27:13

4 the work that you folks have done. 14:27:16

5 My role as a former chairman of the Texas 14:27:18

6 Water Development Board was small, minute, compared to 14:27:21

7 what you all have accomplished and undergone in the past 14:27:26

8 several years of your water planning efforts, and I 14:27:29

9 really commend you all for that work and that effort, 14:27:33

10 and I would encourage you to keep up the good work. 14:27:35

11 Remember, this is a perpetual process. It 14:27:38

12 is never going to stop, and you just have to -- going to 14:27:42

13 revise, and revise, and study, and continue, and there 14:27:46

14 have to be some decisions to be made. 14:27:49

15 Now, let me talk about the decisions 14:27:51

16 because you are at that point now. I sort of compare 14:27:53

17 water is an asset to me. We are all users of water in 14:27:56

18 this room, everybody, and I would compare it as an 14:28:00

19 asset. 14:28:03

20 I am in the asset management business, and 14:28:04

21 when I am working with people who have savings and 14:28:06

22 retirement plans we look at multiple asset classes to go 14:28:09

23 into those savings and retirement plans. We do not just 14:28:14

24 pick a small cap stock, or a large capitalization stock, 14:28:18

25 or an international stock. We keep all of these options 14:28:22

1 available. 14:28:22

2 We study them, we recommend them, and we 14:28:28

3 recommend parts of each one of them. So as you all 14:28:31

4 develop your strategies, and I think I count ten 14:28:36

5 strategies that you have on the board right now, those 14:28:39

6 strategies are like asset classes that we consider for 14:28:44

7 retirement and savings, and I think it is important that 14:28:48

8 you keep those in mind. 14:28:51

9 And obviously conservation and reuse are 14:28:53

10 at the top of those strategies, but those other eight 14:28:55

11 strategies that you list here are very important to 14:29:00

12 study because many of the pros and cons that you hear 14:29:03

13 today, about some of these issues that are going on, 14:29:09

14 need further study; and the only way to do it is to keep 14:29:11

15 all of the options on the table. 14:29:15

16 So ladies and gentlemen I urge you to keep 14:29:17

17 all of your options on the table, and I thank you for 14:29:20

18 all of your efforts. 14:29:23

19 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Madden. 14:29:26

20 Next speaker is David Nabors. 14:29:28

21 MR. DAVID NABORS: Mr. Chairman -- 14:29:28

22 MR. PARKS: Following Mr. Nabors it will 14:29:31

23 be Marc Maxwell. 14:29:36

24 MR. NABORS: Mr. Chairman, for the record 14:29:36

25 my name is David Nabors, and this thing is a little bit 14:29:38

1 short, but I'll make do with it, I guess. 14:29:40

2 One of the first charges as a planning 14:29:40

3 group to you is to protect agricultural and natural 14:29:43

4 resources, and you have not done this in this new plan. 14:29:46

5 To even propose building any new reservoir 14:29:46

6 before using existing water already impounded or in the 14:29:46

7 underground aquifers is to ignore the agricultural base 14:29:55

8 of the state of Texas, the economy, as well as destroy 14:29:58

9 the remaining bottomland hardwood forest in the state. 14:30:00

10 When, as a planning group, are you going 14:30:04

11 to look at this 35% engineering fee and see the amount 14:30:06

12 of dollars here and ask your paid consultants, Freese 14:30:10

13 and Nichols, why they are going to earn this enormous 14:30:15

14 amount of money if they build these reservoirs, and ask 14:30:18

15 them is that why they are pushing you to build the 14:30:19

16 reservoir and not use existing water. 14:30:22

17 Two -- one million and possibly two 14:30:26

18 million acre-feet of water is available in Toledo Bend 14:30:28

19 Reservoir. 14:30:30

20 The Sabine River Authority has offered to 14:30:30

21 sell to you, or anybody else that wants to buy it, for 14:30:34

22 20 cents per thousand gallons. 14:30:36

23 There is 100,000 acre-feet in Lake of the 14:30:38

24 Pines they have offered to sell you for 38 cents a 14:30:41

25 thousand gallons. 14:30:41

1 There's 300,000 acre-feet in Lake Wright 14:30:41
2 Patman right now. They haven't determined the price on 14:30:47
3 it. You will have to negotiate that. As Wright Patman 14:30:50
4 currently exists the level is now set at 223 mean sea 14:30:54
5 level. The Corps of Engineers owns the surrounding land 14:30:58
6 up to 265. If you raise the water level one foot in 14:31:01
7 Wright Patman today that creates 60,000 acre-feet of 14:31:06
8 storage. Raise it 10 feet, 600,000 acre-feet of water 14:31:10
9 storage. 14:31:14
10 You don't have to inconvenience one 14:31:14
11 landowner. You don't disturb any wildlife. It is 14:31:17
12 already there; the Corps already owns it. 14:31:22
13 Why would it not make more sense to spend 14:31:24
14 \$1,695,500,000 -- this is table U16, Volume Three of the 14:31:27
15 plan -- on building a pipeline from Toledo Bend that 14:31:33
16 will supply more water than you will ever need than it 14:31:37
17 would be to spend \$2,092,720,000 -- this is Table U, 14:31:40
18 Volume -- U20 Volume Three, Freese Nichols figures, and 14:31:48
19 get less than half the water. 14:31:51
20 Why couldn't one or more of the water 14:31:54
21 entities in Region C go into a partnership and put in a 14:31:55
22 desalinization problem -- process and plant with the 14:31:59
23 cooperation of the Water Development Board. They are 14:32:04
24 sitting there, jumping up and down for somebody to take 14:32:06
25 that. 14:32:09

1 I realize the population numbers are going 14:32:09
2 to increase by large numbers in the next 50 years, and 14:32:11
3 these people will have to have water. 14:32:14

4 THE TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Mr. Nabors. 14:32:17

5 MR. NABORS: But if you are going to 14:32:19
6 destroy thousands of acres of productive farmland who is 14:32:19
7 going to feed all of these people. If you leave our 14:32:19
8 land alone and get your water somewhere else, we can 14:32:22
9 feed you, and we can all get along. 14:32:25

10 I believe that we -- that is you and us -- 14:32:28
11 can work together to solve both sides of this equation 14:32:29
12 and protect our future for our children and our 14:32:32
13 grandchildren. 14:32:35

14 I humbly ask you as a planning group to 14:32:36
15 consider all factors before making a decision on any new 14:32:37
16 reservoir. For all of our futures please don't allow a 14:32:40
17 small handful of people to get control of all of the 14:32:44
18 water in North Texas for their own personal gain to the 14:32:47
19 detriment of us all. Thank you very much. 14:32:49

20 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Nabors. Next 14:32:52
21 speaker will be Mr. Marc Maxwell, and then Dolores 14:32:55
22 Bryson, and Mr. Jack Black. 14:33:01

23 MR. MARC MAXWELL: Thank you very much. 14:33:05
24 My name is Marc Maxwell. I'm the City Manager of 14:33:06
25 Sulphur Springs, Texas. We are not in Region C. We are 14:33:09

1 in Region D; however, I am sure you will agree with me 14:33:11
2 that our interests are inexorably intertwined. 14:33:14
3 My reason in coming here today was 14:33:18
4 twofold: First, to say thank you for the serious and 14:33:20
5 important work that you do. Lord knows that water 14:33:22
6 planning is never without its share of controversy and 14:33:27
7 you have handled it well; and secondly I wanted to tell 14:33:29
8 you that not everyone in Northeast Texas is opposed to 14:33:31
9 the planning and development of new reservoirs. 14:33:35
10 No. There are many of us who see the 14:33:38
11 wisdom in such planning and who see the benefits that 14:33:40
12 can be derived from, dare I say, the actual development 14:33:44
13 of the new reservoirs. 14:33:48
14 The City of Sulphur Springs is one such 14:33:49
15 city. We are presently partners with the North Texas 14:33:52
16 Municipal Water District and with the City of Irving in 14:33:55
17 the Cooper Lake project and we have benefitted from that 14:33:58
18 partnership. 14:34:02
19 I noticed earlier that the Parkhouse 14:34:03
20 Basins are not the preferred strategy but rather an 14:34:11
21 alternative strategy, and I must admit that I was a 14:34:16
22 little disappointed; however, I respect your decision. 14:34:19
23 And I want to extend this invitation to 14:34:21
24 you. If at some point in the future one or more of you 14:34:25
25 should decide to pursue either or both of the Parkhouse 14:34:29

1 Basins, please give us a call. Thank you very much. 14:34:31

2 MR. PARKS: Thank you Mr. Maxwell. 14:34:36

3 Dolores Bryson. 14:34:36

4 MS. DOLORES BRYSON: Good afternoon. My 14:34:44

5 name is Dolores Bryson. I'm from Rusk, Cherokee County, 14:34:45

6 Texas, and I would like to tell you, first of all, that 14:34:48

7 we appreciate the opportunity to be heard here. 14:34:51

8 I want to tell you now why I am opposed to 14:34:53

9 your damming the North Neches River to create the 14:34:56

10 Fastrill Reservoir. This proposed reservoir would 14:35:01

11 destroy, as has been mentioned beforehand, one of the 14:35:07

12 few remaining old hardwood forests and very unique 14:35:11

13 ecosystems on a Texas River. 14:35:11

14 This would also impact not only the 14:35:13

15 immediate area surrounding this Fastrill Reservoir, but 14:35:16

16 those downstream; most notably the Big Thicket, which, 14:35:19

17 as you may know, may not know, is already on the 14:35:22

18 National Park endangered list. 14:35:25

19 The Texas State Railroad, which is an 14:35:29

20 excursion steam engine train that runs between -- thank 14:35:32

21 you -- that runs between Rusk, Texas, and Palestine, 14:35:36

22 Texas, would be placed in jeopardy. 14:35:39

23 Our bridge that crosses one of the 14:35:42

24 channels there would be cut -- destroyed if it were 14:35:45

25 covered by this lake. Replacement cost to this bridge 14:35:49

1 alone would be approximately \$110,000,000. And, of 14:35:52
2 course, you know that is a kind of an iffy proposition 14:35:56
3 for us to have to work with. That does not include the 14:35:59
4 cost of repairing and even moving some of the 14:36:02
5 approaching train tracks from both sides. 14:36:04

6 This railroad is the major tourist 14:36:07
7 attraction for Palestine and for us, and it does help 14:36:13
8 fill our coffers. It's much needed, please. 14:36:16

9 There are also to be dealt with the 14:36:20
10 unwilling landowners, people who have had their family 14:36:24
11 homes in this area along this Neches River, for some of 14:36:27
12 them, over 150 years. They take their stewardship of 14:36:32
13 this land and of their ecosystem very, very seriously. 14:36:36

14 Not only do these landowners that 14:36:40
15 personally own family homes, ancestral homes there, take 14:36:42
16 this seriously, but there are those of us who simply 14:36:47
17 love the environment, and we hate to see your lake or 14:36:50
18 your reservoir destroy this because it can never be 14:36:53
19 created again. 14:36:56

20 I thank you so very, very much for 14:36:58
21 allowing us to come and talk to you. There are many who 14:37:00
22 would like to have been here today, but due to their 14:37:03
23 work situations and family responsibilities they simply 14:37:07
24 could not be here. But, please don't be misled; their 14:37:10
25 numbers are large. Thank you. 14:37:13

1 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Bryson. Next 14:37:15
2 speaker is Jack Black, and then the following speaker 14:37:18
3 will be Eugene Decker. 14:37:23
4 MR. JACK BLACK: Good afternoon. Thank 14:37:27
5 you so much for the opportunity to speak, and I do want 14:37:30
6 to first of all tell you how much my wife and I both 14:37:32
7 appreciate the efforts of what you are doing. We are 14:37:37
8 homeowners in Garland about a thousand feet, or yards 14:37:43
9 rather, from Lake Ray Hubbard. That brings us into -- 14:37:51
10 can everybody hear me now? Thank you. 14:37:57
11 That brings us -- that brings us within 14:38:00
12 Region C because we are Garland residents, and would 14:38:02
13 potentially stand to benefit along with everyone else in 14:38:07
14 this many-county area. 14:38:11
15 However, my wife inherited several hundred 14:38:13
16 acres of land in Bowie County, Region D, right along the 14:38:16
17 north side of the Sulphur River. Now, this land that 14:38:22
18 she inherited, and has paid taxes on for all of her life 14:38:27
19 practically, is just like God created it. 14:38:33
20 There are animals in there that, you talk 14:38:36
21 about trophy game, I know some expert hunters that will 14:38:38
22 not go in there. It's too dangerous. 14:38:44
23 Now, hardwood, plenty of it, yes. If 14:38:46
24 Marvin Nichols goes in, everything she owns will go 14:38:50
25 underwater. The elevation, I think is 312, which means 14:38:50

1 that the top of the map I have puts the bulk of her land 14:39:01
2 under water. So I couldn't say she is going to gain 14:39:02
3 anything by watching 300 acres of land go under water, 14:39:05
4 especially when it's trophy animals, hardwood forest, 14:39:10
5 and everything that goes with it. 14:39:12

6 But I cannot emphasize enough the need for 14:39:13
7 this Marvin Nichols to go in there. The time to go for 14:39:17
8 water is before you need it. I could quote that over 14:39:21
9 and over. You don't appreciate water until the well 14:39:26
10 runs dry. 14:39:30

11 But, you know, I just can't hardly believe 14:39:31
12 the opposition. Let's just talk about Bowie County for 14:39:33
13 a minute, and I'm not from Bowie County now. She is; 14:39:35
14 I'm not. I'm an old Tennessee boy. I appreciate good 14:39:39
15 water. 14:39:42

16 But Bowie County is one of the largest 14:39:42
17 counties in Texas; yet the population of the entire 14:39:45
18 Bowie County is probably less than half of the City of 14:39:50
19 Arlington. I think a hundred thousand would probably 14:39:54
20 come pretty close to getting it. Texarkana is one of 14:39:57
21 the biggest cities. It has about 40,000. But the thing 14:39:59
22 I am getting at is that I don't know of a single 14:40:03
23 reservoir -- 14:40:06

24 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Mr. Black. 14:40:07

25 MR. JACK BLACK: -- anywhere that has 14:40:08

1 not -- the people around that reservoir have done 14:40:10
2 nothing but gain from the presence of it. 14:40:12
3 When I came to Texas in '58, July of '58, 14:40:14
4 I might add, it was hot. Oh, yes, it was hot. There 14:40:18
5 was no I-30; Highway 67, two lanes, east and west. 14:40:22
6 There was no Lake Ray Hubbard; just a bunch of cows 14:40:27
7 standing out there in scrabble, nothing growing. I 14:40:31
8 thought who in the world would pay \$300 an acre for this? 14:40:33
9 You know, have to be nuts. 14:40:38
10 Don't I wish. But the point is now the 14:40:38
11 reservoir was put in and now look at it. They sell it 14:40:44
12 by the foot over there. 14:40:48
13 MR. PARKS: Mr. Black, your time is up, 14:40:50
14 sir. 14:40:52
15 MR. BLACK: Many, many -- I appreciate 14:40:53
16 that. I could talk all day on this, believe me. 14:40:54
17 MR. PARKS: Thank you. 14:40:56
18 MR. BLACK: I can only say this: Please, 14:40:59
19 I urge you, get Marvin Nichols in there. Don't believe 14:40:59
20 all of these scare stories and horror stories. Thank 14:41:04
21 you so much. 14:41:10
22 MR. PARKS: Thank you. 14:41:10
23 MR. BLACK: I appreciate it. 14:41:10
24 MR. PARKS: The next speaker is Eugene 14:41:10
25 Decker, and then following Mr. Decker will be Chip 14:41:10

1 Perryman. 14:41:15

2 MR. EUGENE DECKER: Yes, my name is Eugene 14:41:15

3 Decker and I live part-time in Houston, but most of the 14:41:17

4 time in Jacksonville and Cherokee County, and I am a 14:41:19

5 landowner in the area that would be fairly, fairly close 14:41:22

6 to where the reservoir, Fastrill Reservoir, would be 14:41:26

7 put. 14:41:31

8 I have, or course, some personal interests 14:41:32

9 and want to keep my land intact; but what I want to say 14:41:34

10 is basically something that is a more of a global 14:41:37

11 nature. I've worked in third world agriculture in Haiti 14:41:40

12 and in West Africa, and I have seen the effect of what 14:41:44

13 happens to countries when they don't take care of the 14:41:47

14 environment. 14:41:49

15 Haiti, for example, at the time of the 14:41:50

16 American Revolution had a GNP greater than all of that 14:41:52

17 of North America combined; and yet now it's one of the 14:41:58

18 poorest countries in the world. They didn't take care 14:41:58

19 of the environment. And I'm beginning to see that we 14:42:03

20 are making the same mistakes here in the United States. 14:42:03

21 We are destroying our forests. We are 14:42:05

22 building lakes that, in fact, are drying up because of 14:42:08

23 the fact that we are cutting off the sources that 14:42:10

24 nourish them. Lake Powell, Lake Mead, for example, have 14:42:14

25 dropped a lot. Even the Great Lakes have dropped three 14:42:15

1 to four feet to the point where cargo ships that ply the 14:42:18
2 Great Lakes are having to carry fewer tons of cargo per 14:42:22
3 load. 14:42:26

4 We are losing, for example, because of 14:42:27
5 what has happened to the levying of the Mississippi 14:42:28
6 River. The state of Louisiana, the little state that 14:42:32
7 has 40 percent of all of the coastal wetlands in the 14:42:34
8 United States, is losing the equivalent of a football 14:42:37
9 field size acre of land to the Gulf every 20 minutes. 14:42:41

10 Already, just what's happened in damming 14:42:44
11 up the Neches River on Lake Palestine has affected the 14:42:47
12 Gulf Coast of Texas. 14:42:51

13 I don't envy you in what you have to 14:42:52
14 decide because you have to make some very difficult 14:42:55
15 decisions about water, but also about the whole future 14:42:57
16 of this country, and I would urge you to consider this 14:43:00
17 environmental question very, very seriously. 14:43:04

18 We are in a crisis, and I would also like 14:43:06
19 to know if there is any foreign money involved in this 14:43:10
20 water. The TXDOT Trans-Texas Corridor is going to carry 14:43:13
21 water, and that is being built and will be operated by a 14:43:18
22 company from Spain. 14:43:23

23 It is true that European countries are 14:43:24
24 buying up water rights here in the United States. 14:43:27
25 Atlanta, Georgia's, water system now belongs to a 14:43:30

1 British company, for example. And I think if we ruin 14:43:34
2 our environment it's already a great tragedy, but if we 14:43:36
3 do it to enrich some foreign companies I think it would 14:43:40
4 be a double tragedy, and I would hope that maybe any 14:43:45
5 members of the press here might look at the web site 14:43:48
6 called watch.org and also PolarisInstitute.org. Thank 14:43:54
7 you. 14:43:57

8 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Decker. 14:43:57

9 Mr. Perryman is the next speaker, and then 14:43:57
10 Rita Beving will follow Mr. Perryman. 14:43:57

11 MR. CHIP PERRYMAN: Thank you. I am Chip 14:44:12
12 Perryman. I am the president of the Athens Municipal 14:44:13
13 Water Authority. Athens is a town of about 12,000. We 14:44:17
14 are a partial county here in Region C. About half of 14:44:21
15 our supply goes to the City of Athens and about half to 14:44:25
16 the Texas Fresh Water Fishery Center, the state of the 14:44:28
17 art bass hatchery in Athens. 14:44:31

18 As I said, we're split between the two, 14:44:34
19 Region C and Region I. That split goes right through 14:44:35
20 the city limits of Athens. The process that we've gone 14:44:38
21 through for the last through years -- few years like 14:44:41
22 this Board is kind of a microcosm of what y'all are 14:44:43
23 going through on behalf of Region C and the state of 14:44:48
24 Texas. 14:44:48

25 We have a complicated story. Right now we 14:44:51

1 are upside-down on our sources and uses. We see 14:44:53
2 ourselves in dire need by about the year 2016. The 14:44:57
3 answers to our problem are most of the strategies that 14:45:01
4 Region C and the statewide planners are incorporating. 14:45:05
5 Our answer is existing sources, ground water, existing 14:45:10
6 surface water, interbasin transfers, both coming into -- 14:45:13
7 from with potable water and reuse going back; 14:45:17
8 conservation, again indirect reuse, and an alternate use 14:45:22
9 for an existing reservoir. Complicated answer. 14:45:25
10 We haven't come up with this answer by 14:45:28
11 ourselves. A lot of you have helped us come up with 14:45:30
12 these answers and I wanted to come here today to thank 14:45:33
13 the officers, the directors, the consultants, the 14:45:36
14 members of the Texas Water Development Board. I wanted 14:45:41
15 to come and publicly thank all of y'all for the help you 14:45:44
16 have given us for coming up with our best answer to our 14:45:47
17 problem, and to publicly, on behalf of Athens, give 14:45:51
18 y'all our full support of the plan as written. Thank 14:45:55
19 you. 14:45:57
20 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Perryman. 14:46:00
21 Rita Beving will be the next speaker and 14:46:03
22 then Jean Black. 14:46:05
23 MS. RITA BEVING: Hi. My name is Rita 14:46:05
24 Beving. I'm the Conservation Co-Chair of the Dallas 14:46:08
25 Sierra Club, which has approximately 4,000 members, and 14:46:11

1 I am also authorized here today to speak on behalf of 14:46:15
2 the Fort Worth Sierra Club, which has 1,700 members. 14:46:18
3 For those of you in the audience who are 14:46:22
4 new to this process I think it would behoove me to say 14:46:24
5 that in regards to the opposition of these new 14:46:30
6 reservoirs proposed in the current plan, there is much 14:46:34
7 alignment with what some people might call uncommon 14:46:37
8 allies for us, including International Paper, including 14:46:43
9 the timber industry, agricultural and ranch folks as 14:46:46
10 well, many County Commissioners, Chambers of Commerce, 14:46:51
11 East Texas Legislators, including legislators such as 14:46:57
12 the Chairs of the Texas Committee on National Resources, 14:47:01
13 Puente and Armbrister; have all expressed concerns about 14:47:06
14 many of these new reservoirs, so I think that should be 14:47:11
15 noted for those who don't know. 14:47:12
16 I would also like to ask a question of Mr. 14:47:14
17 Parks. Perhaps this can be answered at the end, but we 14:47:19
18 are requesting that the comments, not just from today 14:47:21
19 forward, but from April that were also given through 14:47:24
20 September 9th, all be included in this public comment. 14:47:28
21 I would also like to note that I am hoping 14:47:32
22 if we have another hearing that you would consider a 14:47:35
23 7:00 p.m. time so a lot more of the public can come; not 14:47:38
24 unlike Region D's meeting coming up. And also as I 14:47:41
25 understand it from one of your members, some regions are 14:47:47

1 having more than one public hearing. 14:47:49

2 It is difficult for the public to come in 14:47:53

3 the middle of the day. I am very pleased that you are 14:47:57

4 letting each individual speak today. We had some 14:47:59

5 members refuse to come because of what happened at the 14:48:01

6 last meeting with the alignment that was made. Some 14:48:03

7 folks drove, some of the committee may not know, all of 14:48:06

8 the way from Austin, four hours to speak last time, and 14:48:10

9 they were not allowed to because they were aligned. And 14:48:13

10 many of the East Texas people that drove over two and a 14:48:17

11 half hours were not also allowed to speak. 14:48:21

12 As we all know there are four new dams 14:48:22

13 proposed in this plan: Marvin Nichols; Fastrill 14:48:25

14 Reservoir, which would destroy the possibility of the 14:48:31

15 Neches River National Wildlife Refuge; the Lower Bois 14:48:34

16 D'Arc Reservoir; and Ralph Hall Lake. 14:48:38

17 As you know some officials have come 14:48:42

18 before you today who don't support these four new 14:48:43

19 reservoirs. These reservoirs would all have staggering 14:48:47

20 negative impact -- 14:48:51

21 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Ms. Beving. 14:48:51

22 MS. RITA BEVING: -- taking land and 14:48:51

23 livinghoods of thousands of unwilling Texans, 14:48:55

24 devastating wildlife, and hurting ranch, timber, and 14:48:57

25 farming industries. 14:49:00

1 I ask that all of you on the committee, 14:49:01
2 because you have heard us before, that you consider that 14:49:03
3 you have more than 70 percent of the water you need in 14:49:06
4 existing reservoirs. You don't need to destroy Texans' 14:49:08
5 land with new reservoirs to get the water supply we all 14:49:14
6 need through 2060. Thank you. 14:49:19
7 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Beving. Jean 14:49:25
8 Black, and then following Ms. Black will be Charles 14:49:33
9 Allen. 14:49:35
10 MS. JEAN BLACK: Hello. My name is Jean 14:49:35
11 Black. I am a resident of Dallas County, Texas. My 14:49:40
12 home -- and a property owner in Bowie County, Texas. My 14:49:43
13 property is located approximately three miles from the 14:49:46
14 proposed dam in Bowie County. I would like to see 14:49:49
15 Marvin Nichols go in, but most of the timber has been 14:49:56
16 cut from that area and most of it is swampland. I am 14:50:01
17 for Marvin Nichols, and I appreciate you, Region C. 14:50:08
18 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Black. Charles 14:50:17
19 Allen, and then I think it's Ronda if it is -- if 14:50:20
20 it's -- if that's -- if I'm mispronouncing the first 14:50:27
21 name, I apologize. Visintainer will be the next 14:50:28
22 speaker. 14:50:31
23 MR. CHARLES ALLEN: Thank you for the 14:50:34
24 opportunity to speak today. My name is Charles Allen. 14:50:35
25 I'm from Dallas, Texas. I own a small business, Trinity 14:50:38

1 River Expeditions, and I do canoe trips on the Trinity 14:50:40
2 Watershed. 14:50:43

3 I would like to say that to your credit 14:50:44
4 this group has already recommended conservation, 14:50:46
5 recycled water, and obtaining water from existing 14:50:49
6 sources that meet projected unmet need in the next half 14:50:52
7 century. 14:50:52

8 You have also chosen additional existing 14:50:57
9 reservoirs as alternative strategies to fulfill any 14:51:00
10 margin of error. Together these lower impact existing 14:51:06
11 resources provide about 98 percent more water than 14:51:08
12 needed to fulfill unmet needs in 2060 on a regionwide 14:51:12
13 basis. 14:51:17

14 With these sources alone you have 14:51:18
15 fulfilled your responsibility to plan prudently for 14:51:20
16 future water supplies. Given that you have fulfilled 14:51:24
17 your responsibility with these lower impact available 14:51:26
18 sources, I am utterly dismayed that you are additionally 14:51:30
19 recommending permanently drowning floodplain acreages 14:51:36
20 almost as large as East Texas Big Thicket National 14:51:38
21 Preserve and five national forest wilderness areas 14:51:43
22 combined. 14:51:43

23 I make my living off the Trinity River 14:51:48
24 bottoms by conducting canoe trips and people pay me to 14:51:53
25 see wildlife: the trees, the natural areas, the 14:51:55

1 riparian habitat. 14:52:00

2 There are people in East Texas that make 14:52:01

3 their living off the rivers and the floodplains down 14:52:03

4 there, too. Whether it's ranching, or farming, or 14:52:07

5 hunting, timber production, they deserve to be able to 14:52:09

6 make a living off of their floodplain and their acreage 14:52:13

7 down there, too. Thank you. 14:52:16

8 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Ms. 14:52:20

9 Visintainer will be our next speaker, and then Becky 14:52:26

10 Bornhorst. 14:52:30

11 MS. RONDA VISINTAINER: Good afternoon. 14:52:38

12 My name is Ronda Visintainer. I'm president of the 14:52:39

13 American -- the Fort Worth branch of the American 14:52:41

14 Society of Civil Engineers. 14:52:42

15 I am here this afternoon to lend our 14:52:43

16 support of the initially proposed Region C Water Plan. 14:52:47

17 A 100% of the Board of Directors of the Fort Worth 14:52:51

18 branch voted aye on submittal of this letter of support 14:52:54

19 as we recognize maintaining an environment supportive of 14:52:55

20 the standard of living to which the region is accustomed 14:52:59

21 as well as sustaining economic development in our region 14:53:02

22 relies on adequate water supplies. 14:53:04

23 As a synopsis our letter supports the 14:53:06

24 plan's conservation recommendations, recycling 14:53:10

25 recommendations, and expanding use of existing supplies, 14:53:12

1 as well as further study of acquisition and connection 14:53:14
2 of other existing and proposed sources. 14:53:17

3 Respectfully submit the letter of support 14:53:20
4 from the Fort Worth branch of ASCE to Mr. Parks. Thank 14:53:22
5 you for your time. 14:53:26

6 MR. PARKS: Thank you. 14:53:29
7 Becky Bornhorst and then Mr. James 14:53:32
8 Gathings. 14:53:32

9 MS. BECKY BORNHORST: Hello. My name is 14:53:37
10 Becky Bornhorst. I am a citizen of DeSoto, Texas, and 14:53:39
11 my father owns ancestral land in Leon County and in 14:53:42
12 Cherokee County in East Texas. 14:53:48

13 I am here today to urge you to revise your 14:53:49
14 water plan to omit all new reservoirs from the 14:53:53
15 recommended and alternative strategy. Official policy 14:53:57
16 should be to fulfill our projected water needs with 14:54:00
17 existing reservoirs, conservation measures, and recycled 14:54:02
18 water. Your own draft plan admits that building new 14:54:06
19 reservoirs will negatively impact environmental, 14:54:11
20 agricultural, and rural resources far more than 14:54:14
21 utilizing the existing ones. 14:54:17

22 These new reservoirs will require the 14:54:19
23 confiscation of over 375,000 acres of productive private 14:54:24
24 lands from thousands of unwilling sellers. You may have 14:54:26
25 the power to confiscate family farms and ranches but you 14:54:30

1 have a moral obligation to only do so after you have 14:54:35
2 exhausted all other possibilities. 14:54:39
3 The burden of proof should be on the 14:54:41
4 agency; not on the public, and so far you have not 14:54:43
5 proved the necessity of building new reservoirs over 14:54:48
6 using existing water supplies. 14:54:51
7 I thank you for the work you have done so 14:54:53
8 far on this plan, but I urge you to go back to the 14:54:56
9 drawing board. Thank you. 14:54:59
10 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Bornhorst. 14:55:01
11 Next speaker is Mr. James Gathings. 14:55:03
12 MR. JAMES GATHINGS: My name is James 14:55:06
13 Gathings and I reside in Euless, Texas. I come as a 14:55:12
14 private citizen to support this plan. 14:55:15
15 I think the main thing I would like to say 14:55:18
16 is that a plan is never cast in concrete, and I can see 14:55:21
17 this as being an ongoing process that will change as 14:55:28
18 time goes by. I do have one suggestion I would like to 14:55:31
19 convey to you people, and that is we need a better 14:55:35
20 public education program on water problems that occur in 14:55:39
21 this section. 14:55:45
22 I think you ought to form a speakers 14:55:46
23 bureau that goes out and talks to the various 14:55:51
24 organizations about the water problems here and talk 14:55:53
25 about the solutions that you have presented. 14:55:55

1 So that would be my primary interest right 14:56:01
2 now is to immediately start an education program on 14:56:04
3 conservation and reuse. 14:56:08

4 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Gathings. 14:56:15

5 Next speaker will be Robert Larson, and 14:56:19
6 then Carol Nash. 14:56:25

7 MR. ROBERT LARSON: I am Robert Larson 14:56:34
8 from Carrollton, Texas. Thank you for the opportunity 14:56:35
9 to speak today. 14:56:38

10 As Mr. Frost said better than I can, the 14:56:39
11 Region D Water Planning Group where Marvin Nichols 14:56:43
12 Reservoir would be relocated has found that building 14:56:47
13 that reservoir would be inconsistent with protecting 14:56:51
14 agricultural and natural resources of the region. 14:56:55

15 The people who know the area best are 14:56:57
16 opposed to Marvin Nichols and have asked that it not be 14:57:00
17 in any regional water plan. And as other people have 14:57:04
18 said about the number of acres and so on, and I won't 14:57:08
19 repeat, some of Texas' best remaining bottomland, 14:57:09
20 hardwood forest, and crucial wildlife habitat would be 14:57:13
21 lost forever, including the extremely high quality 14:57:15
22 proposed Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. 14:57:15

23 Building any one of these reservoirs is 14:57:24
24 going to be highly controversial. I'd just ask the 14:57:26
25 Board "Why are you choosing the most high risk plan?" 14:57:30

1 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Larson. 14:57:35

2 Carol Nash. 14:57:37

3 MS. CAROL NASH: Hello. I'm Carol Nash 14:57:39

4 and I am a teacher, a science teacher, for Dallas ISD at 14:57:40

5 their Environmental Education Center. I teach 14:57:45

6 prekindergarten through 12th grade, and there are 14:57:50

7 teachers about nature, from botany to zoology, and 14:57:53

8 sometimes that means I get 7th and 8th graders, and 14:57:55

9 bird-watching is not really on their agenda. 14:58:00

10 So I take a deep breath and I repeat my 14:58:02

11 mantra which is: that in the end we will conserve only 14:58:04

12 what we love, we will love only what we understand, and 14:58:07

13 we will understand what we have been taught. 14:58:11

14 So I can only attribute your failure to 14:58:12

15 understand the value of conserving our irreplaceable 14:58:14

16 natural resources to a failure of education; not that 14:58:19

17 you are uneducated, but perhaps when you got your MBA or 14:58:21

18 your engineering degree, or even the English majors 14:58:25

19 among us, you missed the seminar in biodiversity and 14:58:25

20 habitat loss. 14:58:25

21 These areas which you propose to drown are 14:58:35

22 irreplaceable. These are the centers of biodiversity in 14:58:37

23 our state. I recently went to a discussion about the 14:58:41

24 proposal to reintroduce the endangered Louisiana Black 14:58:41

25 Bear into East Texas. They analyzed the habitat 14:58:47

1 basically from east of I-35, from the Red River to the 14:58:51
2 coast, and the two top habit areas, one is the Neches 14:58:54
3 River proposed wildlife refuge, and the other was the 14:59:00
4 Sulphur River Basin. 14:59:00

5 These are two of the areas which you are 14:59:05
6 proposing to drown. These areas will never be replaced. 14:59:08
7 I could give you a lot of really interesting bear 14:59:09
8 biology that went along with this, but we'll skip that. 14:59:13

9 So in conclusion I really think that we 14:59:17
10 need to think about the future generations of Texas; not 14:59:20
11 just here in the Metroplex, but everywhere in our state, 14:59:23
12 and also the plants and animals that share our state. 14:59:28

13 I have a homework assignment for everyone. 14:59:33
14 One is to study Beth Johnson's tables a little bit 14:59:36
15 better; and the other is to find a copy of Dr. Seuss' 14:59:42
16 book, *The Lorax*, easily attainable, and read it to your 14:59:45
17 grandchildren, your children, or a neighborhood child, 14:59:48
18 and then discuss that book with them and try to rethink 14:59:50
19 your own actions in light of that book. 14:59:55

20 Another homework assignment is to go to 14:59:59
21 the saveourrivers.com website and look at some of the 15:00:02
22 information they have about the river systems that will 15:00:08
23 be destroyed if these dams are constructed -- 15:00:12
24 saveTexasrivers.com. Thank you. 15:00:17

25 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Nash. 15:00:19

1 In your plan you have the criteria for 15:02:26
2 making these decisions that includes the impacts, and 15:02:32
3 you're familiar with it; but somehow or another the one 15:02:37
4 down at the bottom just trumps all of the others, and 15:02:41
5 that is that the water providers -- that the consistency 15:02:45
6 with the water suppliers, it seems that that seems to 15:02:49
7 emerge as the trump card rather than all of these other 15:02:54
8 criteria because it just doesn't add up. 15:03:00

9 What I would like to see in your plan is a 15:03:04
10 justification, a clear discussion and explanation of why 15:03:10
11 these reservoirs are needed. Study the numbers, study 15:03:15
12 the conservation and reuse, and the existing reservoirs, 15:03:21
13 et cetera, et cetera. The numbers do not justify -- 15:03:26

14 THE TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Ms. Sanders. 15:03:31

15 MS. SANDERS: There is no conscionable 15:03:32
16 reason to leave the dangling imminent domain power over 15:03:35
17 the ranchers and farmers of East Texas and of the 15:03:40
18 wildlife of East Texas in order to carry out this plan. 15:03:44
19 It is really wrong. 15:03:49

20 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Sanders. 15:03:56

21 Molly Rooke, and I think the name on the 15:04:00
22 next speaker's card is Shelly Seymour. 15:04:02

23 MS. MOLLY ROOKE: Thank you. I am Molly 15:04:14
24 Rooke of Dallas, Texas. On behalf of the Dallas 15:04:16
25 regional group of the Sierra Club I would like to offer 15:04:19

1 the following observations and suggestions about the 15:04:22
2 degree to which the draft plan pursues water use 15:04:25
3 efficiency measures, otherwise known as conservation. 15:04:32
4 I wish to clarify that when we speak of 15:04:33
5 water use efficiency measures or conservation the Sierra 15:04:35
6 Club is not referring to reuse, sometimes called water 15:04:41
7 recycling. In our view reuse, while a very useful 15:04:44
8 strategy to maximize the use of existing water supplies, 15:04:48
9 is more akin to a supply mechanism rather than a means 15:04:50
10 to assure efficiency at the tap use of water. 15:04:55
11 If you choose to decline to -- if you 15:04:59
12 choose to decline using the suggestions that we offer, 15:05:03
13 we hereby request that in your responses to public 15:05:07
14 comments for the final regional plan you state your 15:05:12
15 rationale to declining our suggestions. 15:05:15
16 One, Region C should consider adopting an 15:05:19
17 approach similar to that of Region L in terms of overall 15:05:22
18 water conservation targets and goals for municipal water 15:05:27
19 suppliers over the 50-year planning period, at least a 15:05:30
20 one percent reduction per year in GPCD for all retail 15:05:34
21 water suppliers with a current GPCD of more than 140 and 15:05:39
22 a .25 percent -- that's one-fourth of one percent -- 15:05:47
23 reduction per year in GPCD for all retail water 15:05:51
24 suppliers with a current GPCD of more than 125, but no 15:05:57
25 more than 140. 15:06:03

1 Region C water planners often tout 15:06:05
2 proposals for what you call conservation by including 15:06:07
3 your proposed water reuse volumes; therefore, it is 15:06:11
4 extremely important to note that these figures I'm 15:06:14
5 giving for Region L do not include water reuse. 15:06:18
6 Thus if the current projections in the 15:06:22
7 Region C plan for water savings for municipal water 15:06:23
8 conservation do not reflect the volume that would be 15:06:27
9 saved through the current annual reductions proposed by 15:06:30
10 an approach similar to Region L, we urge that the 15:06:34
11 projections in the Region C plan for water savings from 15:06:40
12 municipal water conservation be adjusted to reflect 15:06:45
13 those annual reductions. 15:06:46
14 Two, Region C should be commended for 15:06:48
15 including a large range of conservation measures, BMPS, 15:06:51
16 and suggested water strategies for municipal water 15:06:56
17 users, including the implementation of Federal clothes 15:06:59
18 washer standards. 15:07:03
19 Region C should review the data on the 15:07:04
20 efficacy of such conservation measures as rain water 15:07:09
21 harvesting and gray water systems, and reconsider -- 15:07:13
22 THE TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Ms. Rooke. 15:07:16
23 MS. ROOKE: -- inclusion of those measures 15:07:17
24 in the proposed strategies. 15:07:20
25 Well, you have the full copy of my 15:07:23

1 comments, and I don't have time to go over the rest of 15:07:26
2 it. I wish I did. I just want to say the multidecade 15:07:30
3 regional plan ought to anticipate reductions in 15:07:35
4 industrial water use by a reasonable percentage. 15:07:38
5 Certainly something in the range of 5 to 10% would be a 15:07:40
6 minimum expectation for the long timeframe, and just 15:07:45
7 read my letter, and I have a copy of my letter for the 15:07:48
8 media as well. 15:07:51
9 Thank you very much. 15:07:52
10 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Rooke. Shelly 15:07:55
11 Seymore. Have I got -- Shelly was right? 15:07:55
12 MS. SHELLY SEYMOUR: Yes, thank you. In 15:08:02
13 spite of my poor handwriting you got my name right. 15:08:03
14 MR. PARKS: Okay. No, that's fine. It's 15:08:04
15 my poor reading. 15:08:06
16 MS. SHELLY SEYMOUR: My name is Shelly 15:08:06
17 Seymour, and I am a resident of Dallas. I am against 15:08:08
18 the new reservoirs proposed in the Region C Water Plan 15:08:10
19 because I feel that if North Texans begin to use water 15:08:14
20 more wisely we won't need these reservoirs. 15:08:18
21 I feel that Dallas citizens are not 15:08:21
22 conservation-minded enough in their uses of water, and 15:08:24
23 before we propose flooding land in East Texas for the 15:08:28
24 new reservoirs we need to educate North Texans about 15:08:30
25 conserving water. 15:08:35

1 I don't think North Texans realize they 15:08:36
2 use more water than people in other areas of the state, 15:08:37
3 even though we get higher percentage of rainfall. 15:08:40
4 I don't see enough enforcement of the 15:08:42
5 current water conservation measures in Dallas. I see 15:08:45
6 runoff; I see sprinklers going off in the middle of the 15:08:48
7 day. I think this leads back to education. I also did 15:08:51
8 not see mentioned in today's presentation of education 15:08:54
9 about wiser landscaping practices, and that's another 15:08:58
10 conservation measure that Dallas could work harder on. 15:09:02
11 Before I would support the new reservoirs 15:09:06
12 I would need to see North Texans working harder at 15:09:09
13 conserving water and there still be a need -- there will 15:09:13
14 still be a water shortage. 15:09:16
15 As many people have pointed out today, if 15:09:17
16 North Texans used water more wisely, we would not need 15:09:20
17 these reservoirs. Thank you. 15:09:24
18 MR. PARKS: Thank you. The next speaker 15:09:26
19 will be Gail Arbetter, and then Michael Boydston. 15:09:28
20 MS. GAIL ARBETTER: Hi. I'm Gail 15:09:28
21 Arbetter. I'm a resident of Dallas, and I am also an 15:09:38
22 active member of TCNR, the Texas Committee on Natural 15:09:40
23 Resources. I appreciate this opportunity to add my 15:09:45
24 comments. 15:09:49
25 One of the responsibilities of any water 15:09:50

1 planning group, including the Region C, is to plan 15:09:53
2 practically, avoiding high risk strategies for the 15:09:58
3 region's future; yet your draft plan is full of 15:10:01
4 controversial projects that stand a high chance of never 15:10:08
5 coming to fruition at all. 15:10:12

6 Marvin Nichols has unprecedented 15:10:15
7 opposition, as you are aware, from the people and 15:10:18
8 leaders of Northeast Texas. People from all arenas and 15:10:20
9 walks of life have banded together as never before to 15:10:25
10 express their heartfelt and very thoughtful strong 15:10:28
11 disapproval of this project. People who rarely agree on 15:10:33
12 anything all have banded together and -- to oppose the 15:10:36
13 new reservoir. 15:10:43

14 It is not that they don't see the 15:10:45
15 importance of having a source of water, but wasteful 15:10:48
16 water use and destruction of family property and habitat 15:10:51
17 is definitely the wrong decision for all of our futures. 15:10:56

18 Less timberland and plants means more air 15:11:00
19 pollution, and you all know, I am sure, the critical 15:11:04
20 status of air pollution around Texas already. We don't 15:11:08
21 need to further damage the air that we breathe. 15:11:11

22 Even though it has only been a few months 15:11:16
23 since everyone heard of Fastrill, already more than a 15:11:20
24 thousand letters have been sent to Senators and 15:11:24
25 Congressmen in opposition to -- in supporting the 15:11:30

1 wildlife refuge it would flood. 15:11:32

2 We all know the importance of maintaining 15:11:36

3 our quickly declining wild areas and corridors that 15:11:39

4 support our lifegiving plants and animals. The people 15:11:44

5 of Fannin County put so much pressure on their State 15:11:48

6 Senator, and State Rep, and County Judge that the 15:11:55

7 Senator removed a Bill to make Lower Bois d'Arc Creek a 15:11:58

8 unique reservoir site just hours before it was due for 15:12:03

9 final passage. 15:12:04

10 You are choosing high risk strategies when 15:12:05

11 the bird in the hand, efficient and cost effective 15:12:10

12 strategies, are available as alternatives. There are 15:12:13

13 viable alternatives which you have looked at, and those 15:12:17

14 will lead to a future that will maintain water 15:12:20

15 supplies -- 15:12:23

16 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds, Ms. Arbetter. 15:12:23

17 MS. ARBETTER: -- that will maintain 15:12:25

18 water supplies without destroying critical 15:12:27

19 life-supporting natural resources. 15:12:31

20 If you think it's because new reservoirs 15:12:32

21 cost less, think how much more reliable a prediction of 15:12:35

22 cost of water for an existing reservoir is than a 15:12:41

23 projection of what the cost will be 30 or even 60 years 15:12:42

24 in the future. 15:12:46

25 Please reconsider your current direction 15:12:49

1 and think more of the big picture of saving our 15:12:57
2 wonderful earth and resources for all of us to live a 15:12:59
3 wonderful life in the future. Thank you. 15:13:02

4 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Ms. Arbetter. 15:13:03
5 Michael Boydston, and next would be Albert 15:13:09
6 Holmes. 15:13:09

7 MR. MICHAEL BOYDSTON: Good afternoon. 15:13:15
8 My name is Michael Boydston. I'm a long-time resident 15:13:16
9 of Dallas, and I am here on behalf of myself and my 15:13:17
10 family. 15:13:21

11 I oppose the inclusion of any new 15:13:21
12 reservoirs in the plan. We don't need them and they are 15:13:23
13 too costly. It is apparent, as we look around the 15:13:25
14 state, that sensible conservation measures will do much 15:13:27
15 more than the plan anticipates to reduce our water 15:13:31
16 needs. 15:13:36

17 The best practices in water management 15:13:36
18 around the state are much lower than are included in the 15:13:38
19 plan. I welcome the plan's emphasis on conservation, 15:13:41
20 but it is not enough. I'm an optimist. I know we can 15:13:44
21 do better. Here's why: I looked at figures from the 15:13:48
22 Texas Water Development Board for 2001 year municipal 15:13:49
23 use in a number of cities. 15:13:54

24 These are gallons per day figures: 15:13:55
25 Houston, 160; El Paso, 165; San Antonio, 142; Austin, 15:14:01

1 132. 15:14:01

2 Now, let's look at some cities in Region 15:14:05

3 C: Dallas, 250; University Park, 251; Plano, 279; 15:14:06

4 Farmers Branch, 292; Highland Park, 356; Addison, 409. 15:14:12

5 We need to be sure that every city 15:14:21

6 achieves measures comparable to those achieved by the 15:14:24

7 cities with the best practices in Texas. We don't need 15:14:27

8 to shoot for those with close to the worst. 15:14:30

9 We need to surpass these levels in the 15:14:33

10 future as new technologies and new strategies develop. 15:14:34

11 We need carrots and sticks in the plan in much greater 15:14:34

12 quantity than are present currently. 15:14:34

13 I've lived in Dallas a long time. I have 15:14:41

14 seen the waste, the water running down the streets, the 15:14:43

15 overwatered lawns. We don't need to spend billions of 15:14:47

16 dollars; drown farmland, family cemeteries, ranchland, 15:14:52

17 forests, fields, hunting grounds and homes so that those 15:14:54

18 of us in Dallas and other well-off cities can keep 15:14:56

19 watering our streets and our sidewalks. 15:15:00

20 Now, studies including your own plan have 15:15:03

21 shown that conservation and reuse, and greater use of 15:15:06

22 existing sources, will let us live and grow without new 15:15:09

23 reservoirs. It is hot in Austin and they are still 15:15:13

24 growing there, and yet they use barely half the water 15:15:16

25 that we do in Dallas. We can do better. 15:15:19

1 Now, the plan and the reservoir proponent 15:15:22
2 strategy is essentially one of perpetual growth. Every 15:15:23
3 leader of every city will always tell you at any given 15:15:27
4 point in time "We plan to grow in the future." 15:15:30
5 I ask you to think: What are we going to 15:15:33
6 tell our children and our grandchildren in 2060 when 15:15:35
7 they say "we're still growing"? How many more 15:15:38
8 reservoirs are they going to build? Texas has 214 major 15:15:39
9 reservoirs today. 15:15:45
10 Instead of presenting that one more 15:15:46
11 boondoggle will solve our problems, we should work to 15:15:48
12 achieve a truly sustainable way of life while we still 15:15:48
13 have something left to save. Thank you. 15:15:53
14 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Boydston. 15:15:56
15 Next speaker is Albert Holmes. 15:15:59
16 MR. ALBERT HOLMES: Thank you, 15:16:03
17 Mr. Chairman Parks, members of the Region C, ladies and 15:16:05
18 gentlemen. I appreciate you all letting me talk. I am 15:16:08
19 Albert Holmes. I am president of the friends of the 15:16:11
20 Texas State Railroad. I live in Palestine, Texas, 15:16:14
21 Anderson County. 15:16:18
22 I would like to bring you greetings from 15:16:18
23 our mayor, Carolyn Salter. Dr. Carolyn Salter's 15:16:21
24 representative is Newell Cane in the green jacket. He 15:16:25
25 is really a Masters champion. 15:16:25

1 But I would like to ask you all if: Have 15:16:32
2 you, any of you, ridden the Texas State Railroad? Put 15:16:36
3 your right hand up. I appreciate that. We have -- that 15:16:39
4 is our best tourist attraction in Anderson County and 15:16:42
5 Cherokee County. 15:16:47
6 The Region C Water Planning Group needs to 15:16:47
7 know that the proposed Fastrill Reservoir is a bad idea. 15:16:50
8 It would destroy the Texas State Railroad. It goes over 15:16:55
9 the Neches River and it would just -- also a dam would 15:16:58
10 destroy the Big Thicket wetlands. 15:17:03
11 As you know, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison 15:17:05
12 just got three million six for the Big Thicket wetlands, 15:17:09
13 and you all would dry it up if you put in that dam. 15:17:11
14 It would take away a valuable tax revenue 15:17:15
15 from Anderson and Cherokee Counties. It would increase 15:17:19
16 the need for more law enforcement in the counties that 15:17:23
17 are already tight on budgets. It would flood a native 15:17:26
18 American burial ground along the Anderson County Neches 15:17:31
19 river side. I don't think any of us want to do that. 15:17:35
20 It's a situation that it endangers -- 15:17:37
21 endangered species on the river bottoms would be lost 15:17:43
22 forever along the lake below Lake Palestine. 15:17:47
23 We have 83,000 people that come in and 15:17:49
24 ride our train each year, and they are not the same 15:17:52
25 people. They are different people every year, so that 15:17:55

1 is a lot of folks. We could get a lot of letters to you 15:17:57
2 and I don't think you're going to want them, but we can 15:18:02
3 get them to you if you will let me know. 15:18:04
4 It would -- that train would cease to 15:18:06
5 exist if you all put in the Fastrill Reservoir. We 15:18:08
6 heard from our railroad official superintendent just the 15:18:13
7 week before last that it would be, at today's cost, 15:18:16
8 about a \$105,000,000 to replace just three miles of 15:18:19
9 track and trestle. 15:18:24
10 Now, that's too much money. I don't think 15:18:25
11 you all want to touch the Fastrill Reservoir. And if 15:18:26
12 you all have any further questions of me you can find 15:18:30
13 out where I am from the Texas Department of Wildlife, 15:18:33
14 and I appreciate your time. 15:18:36
15 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Holmes. 15:18:38
16 Brett Johnson. 15:18:58
17 MR. BRETT JOHNSON: Again, my name is 15:18:58
18 Brett Johnson. I am a wildlife biologist with the Texas 15:19:00
19 Parks and Wildlife, and I just want to remind everybody 15:19:04
20 a couple of things to keep in mind. 15:19:09
21 Reservoirs are an artificial system. We 15:19:11
22 do not fully know the impacts, the ecological impacts, 15:19:15
23 of reservoirs. We do know that with several of these 15:19:20
24 reservoirs if they are built it will take out bottomland 15:19:25
25 hardwoods. 15:19:25

1 Some other things I want you to keep in 15:19:28
2 mind, in building these dams that we've got to go up for 15:19:31
3 these reservoirs. It would change the flooding regimes 15:19:36
4 of these bottom lands. 15:19:39
5 So not only would you be directly 15:19:40
6 impacting those areas that would be flooded, you're also 15:19:42
7 impacting those areas that are downstream. Remember, in 15:19:45
8 stream dynamics two functions of your streams are to 15:19:48
9 carry sediment and to carry energy. 15:19:52
10 By damming up a stream or a river you 15:19:55
11 change those two dynamics. If you look at the history 15:19:59
12 of reservoirs in North America we are just now starting 15:20:05
13 to figure out some of the ecological impacts of those 15:20:09
14 reservoirs. 15:20:13
15 I would like -- I'd just ask that when -- 15:20:14
16 if you are -- if you seriously consider building the 15:20:16
17 reservoirs, keep in mind what some of these ecological 15:20:19
18 impacts are that currently are not known. It is just 15:20:23
19 something I want everybody to remember. Thank you. 15:20:27
20 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. 15:20:31
21 The final speaker card that I've got is 15:20:34
22 from Mr. Jim Siddal, and I'm not sure whether this is 15:20:38
23 just an indication of support. If Mr. Siddal is in the 15:20:44
24 room, do you want to speak to the group. 15:20:49
25 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I think he does. 15:20:58

1 MR. PARKS: Okay. Thank you. Have we 15:21:00
2 missed anybody here? 15:21:01
3 Okay, I've got two, and both of you filled 15:21:04
4 out speakers' cards? Mike, why don't you get them a 15:21:07
5 speaker's card to fill out. 15:21:17
6 Let me look here. 15:21:46
7 Give us your names real -- 15:21:46
8 MR. DAVID DUNNIGAN: David Dunnigan. 15:21:49
9 MR. PARKS: And the other gentleman? 15:21:49
10 MR. JAMES HENDERSON: James Henderson. 15:21:51
11 MR. PARKS: James Henderson? Okay. 15:22:08
12 Let me call then Mr. David Dunnigan to the 15:22:08
13 speaker's podium. 15:22:13
14 MR. DUNNIGAN: Thank you. My name is 15:22:19
15 David Dunnigan. I'm executive director of the Greater 15:22:20
16 Dallas Planning Council, which was organized in 1946 by 15:22:24
17 Dallas Mayor Woodall Rogers to advocate positive quality 15:22:27
18 planning and growth. 15:22:33
19 The Greater Dallas Planning Council Board 15:22:35
20 of Directors is in complete support of the Region C 15:22:37
21 Water Planning Group's efforts to secure a reliable and 15:22:40
22 sufficient water supply to meet the future needs. 15:22:43
23 We believe that increased emphasis must be 15:22:46
24 placed on water conservation measures to avoid waste or 15:22:49
25 undue use of our existing water resources; and 15:22:53

1 furthermore we support all logical environmentally sound 15:22:57
2 means of creating more water reuse programs. 15:23:04

3 At the same time we acknowledge that even 15:23:08
4 if effective and even if -- pardon me. 15:23:11

5 At the same time we acknowledge that even 15:23:17
6 if effective and maximum employment of conservation and 15:23:20
7 reuse techniques are effectuated, it is highly probable 15:23:24
8 that additional supply sources will be needed. It is, 15:23:28
9 therefore, imperative that the planning group continue 15:23:33
10 to propose the creation of new water resources from 15:23:36
11 among the best alternatives that have been developed, 15:23:40
12 including interstate transfers, so that this region and 15:23:43
13 the whole of the state of Texas are ensured of having 15:23:46
14 adequate water in the future. 15:23:50

15 We appreciate the work and thought you are 15:23:52
16 giving to this difficult matter, and be certain that our 15:23:55
17 citizens and those of new generations will benefit from 15:23:58
18 your efforts, the Planning Council Board of Directors. 15:24:03
19 Thank you very much. 15:24:06

20 MR. PARKS: Thank you Mr. Dunnigan. I 15:24:07
21 apologize for missing you here. 15:24:12

22 MR. DUNNINGAN. Oh, that's okay. 15:24:12
23 Mr. James Henderson? 15:24:14

24 MR. JAMES HENDERSON: I'm James Henderson. 15:24:16
25 I live in Dallas, Texas, and I am an independent 15:24:22

1 geologist, and I have been in the oil and gas business 15:24:27
2 for 35 years. 15:24:30

3 And one thing that I haven't heard today 15:24:31
4 is what is going to happen to the mineral estate 15:24:34
5 underneath these submerged lands. 15:24:37

6 I have been involved in, you know, oil and 15:24:40
7 gas resources under lakes, rivers, and that is just one 15:24:42
8 thing I wanted to point out for y'all to think about. 15:24:47

9 So that is all I have to say. Thank you. 15:24:50

10 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Mr. Henderson. 15:24:52

11 Has anyone else in the room been missed by 15:24:57
12 anything that we have done with the speakers' cards? 15:25:01

13 Okay. It appears that we have gotten 15:25:09
14 everybody that has wished to speak, or has signed up to 15:25:12
15 speak, taken care of. I would remind you that if you -- 15:25:16
16 again it was difficult to go completely through these 15:25:25
17 things as we went through the speakers' cards; but if 15:25:29
18 you indicated that you'd also like to leave us written 15:25:29
19 material, we got part of the written material today. 15:25:32

20 If there is anything else that you have 15:25:33
21 with you today that you would like to leave with us and 15:25:35
22 bring it up to me before you leave, and I'll be happy to 15:25:39
23 add that to my stack of information. 15:25:40

24 Likewise you can submit information to us 15:25:44
25 in written form through September the 9th. 15:25:48

1 Is that correct, Stephanie? 15:25:48

2 MS. STEPHANIE GRIFFIN: Yes. 15:25:56

3 MR. PARKS: So with that then, we've got 15:25:56

4 all of the speakers now having been heard, then it's 15:25:59

5 3:25 by the big clock on the back wall, I am going to 15:26:03

6 close the public hearing at this time. 15:26:07

7 ***** 15:26:07

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