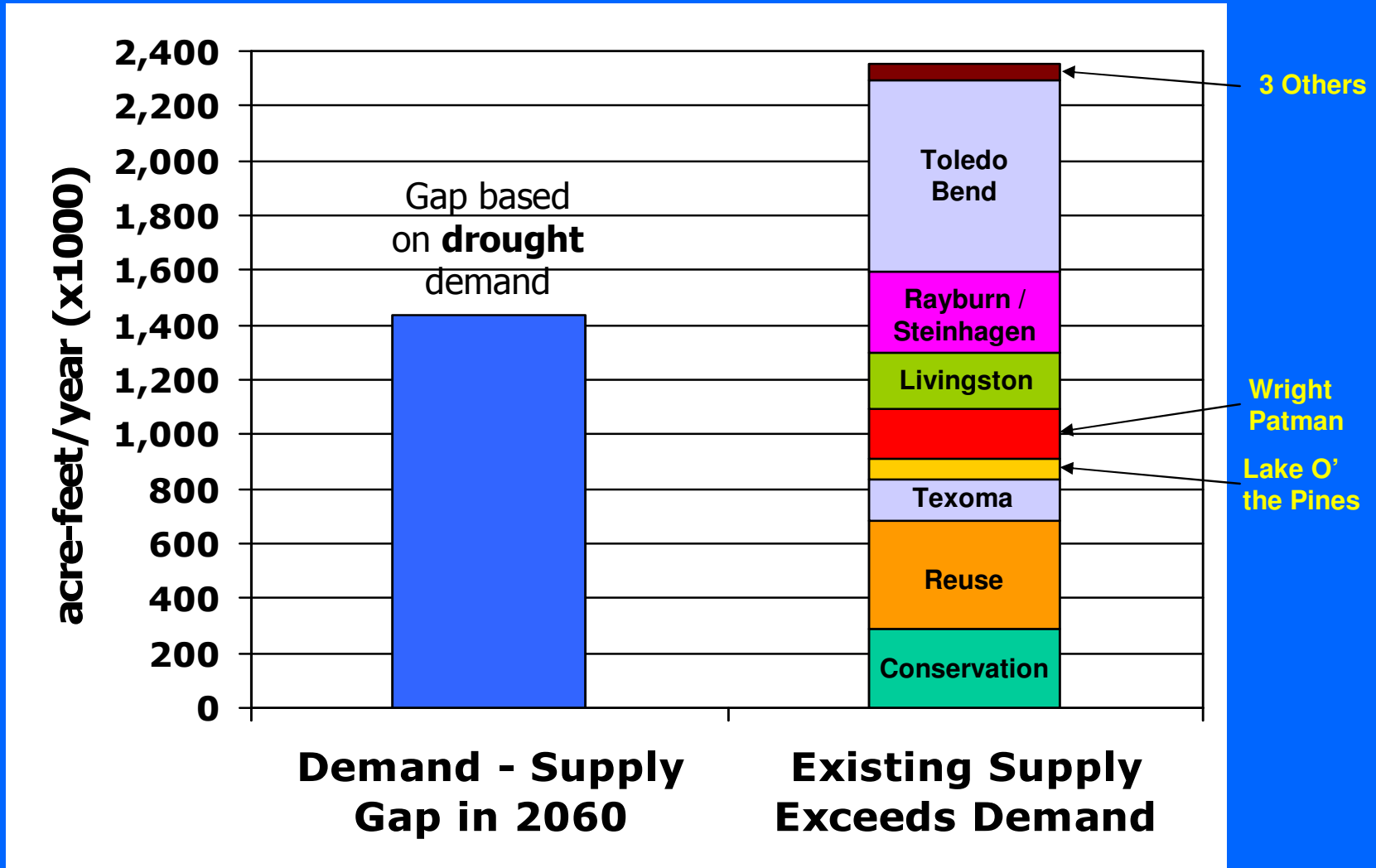


# Meeting Water Demands with No New Reservoirs

## Dallas City Council Briefing March 2, 2005

- Dallas Group of the Sierra Club
- Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club
- Northeast Texas Group of the Sierra Club
- Texas Committee on Natural Resources (TCNR)
- The Sulphur River Oversight Society

## Meeting Regional Water Demands with No New Reservoirs



Existing supplies being studied by Region C Water Planning Group, recommended as potentially feasible strategies for 2006 water plan (August 2004).

# Coalition Comments on CPY Review

## Summary of Environmental Impacts - Based on Literature Review



Strategy/Supply		Environmental Impact	Opposition Level
CPY Recommends Coalition Agrees	Conservation	Low	Low
	Reuse		
	Direct	Low	Low
	Indirect	Low	Low
	Connect Existing DWU Supplies		
	Lake Fork	Low	Low
	Lake Palestine	Low	Low
	Acquire & Connect to Other Existing Supplies		
	Wright-Patman – Texarkana Purchase	Low	Low
	Wright-Patman – Flood Pool Reallocation	Elevated	Low
Wright-Patman – System Operations	Low	Low	
CPY Recommends Coalition Opposes	<b>New Reservoirs</b>		
	Fastrill	High	Elevated
	George Parkhouse	High	Elevated
	Marvin Nichols	Higher	Higher
	Columbia (Eastex)	High	Elevated
	<b>Other Alternatives</b>		
	Acquire & Connect Other Existing Supplies		
	Lake-of-The-Pines	Low	Low
	Toledo Bend	Low	Low
	Sam Rayburn	Low	Low
Texoma	Elevated	Low	
Oklahoma Water	Low	Low	
Ground Water			
Mesa	Elevated	Low	

Permit difficulties  
Delays  
Escalating Cost  
Uncertainty

Note: More detailed information provided in the report.

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**EXCERPT FROM CPY'S SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR CPY'S  
RECOMMENDED NEW STRATEGIES  
WITH LAKE TEXOMA OPTION B ADDED  
(Note: Texoma Option B Was Prepared for CPY by HDR Engineering)**

<b>CPY's Recommended New Strategies <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Flow (mgd)</b>	<b>Capital Cost (Millions)</b>	<b>Cost Untreated Water (30 Yr) per 1000 gals.</b>	<b>Cost Treated Water (30 Yr) <sup>(3)</sup> per 1000 gals.</b>
<b>Lake Texoma Option B (desalination) <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>\$366.4</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$1.71</b>
<b><i>George Parkhouse</i></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$470.4</b>	<b>\$1.22</b>	<b>\$1.84</b>
<b><i>Lake Fastrill/Lake Palestine (incl. Reliant) <sup>(4)</sup></i></b>	<b>216</b>	<b>\$954.7</b>	<b>\$1.23</b>	<b>\$1.85</b>
<b><i>Marvin Nichols Reservoir (to Ray Roberts Lake)</i></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$588.9</b>	<b>\$1.53</b>	<b>\$2.15</b>
<b>Wright Patman (Flood Pool Reallocation)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$746.9</b>	<b>\$1.98</b>	<b>\$2.60</b>
<b>Wright Patman (Texarkana Purchase)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$626.8</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>\$2.62</b>
<b>Toledo Bend Lake</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>\$1,715.4</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>	<b>\$3.12</b>
<b>Wright Patman (System Operation)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$1,149.8</b>	<b>\$3.41</b>	<b>\$4.03</b>

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**EXCERPT FROM CPY'S SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR CPY'S  
RECOMMENDED NEW STRATEGIES  
WITH LAKE TEXOMA OPTION B ADDED**  
**(Note: Texoma Option B Was Prepared for CPY by HDR Engineering)**

- **Conclusions:** Texoma desalination (Option B)
  - is the least costly new source considered by CPY
  - is a reliable scenario prepared by HDR Engineering for CPY
  - is within DWU's water planning region and is thus given regional planning preference
  - is the closest large potential new source for Dallas
  - and is being pursued/used by other suppliers in the region
  
- Yet Texoma was not recommended by CPY for further studies or pursuit.

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**EXCERPT FROM CPY'S SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR CPY'S  
RECOMMENDED NEW STRATEGIES  
WITH LAKE TEXOMA OPTION B ADDED**  
**(Note: Texoma Option B Was Prepared for CPY by HDR Engineering)**

THE COOPERATIVE OPTION FOR MARVIN NICHOLS IS NOT COMPARABLE TO TEXOMA OPTION B BECAUSE OPTION B IS A STAND-ALONE COST. IF OPTION B WERE COOPERATIVE FOR PIPELINE AND/OR DESALINATION PLANT, ITS COST WOULD BE LOWER THAN \$1.71 FOR TREATED WATER.

CPY's Recommended New Strategy	Flow (mgd)	Capital Cost (Millions)	Cost Untreated Water (30 Yr) per 1000 gals.	Cost Treated Water (30 Yr) <sup>(3)</sup> per 1000 gals.
<i>Marvin Nichols (Cooperative – Dallas Portion)</i>	100	\$393.4	\$1.11	\$1.73

**Notes:**

CPY's cost estimates for a number of the options presented have varied widely during the public comment period, illustrating the importance of realizing that the cost estimates above are imprecise.

Italicized Strategies are proposed new reservoirs.

1. We have used CPY's cost figures for stand-alone projects above, as opposed to projects in cooperation with other water purveyors, since that is how HDR developed Texoma Option B.
2. Texoma Option B is a desalination option resulting in treated potable water delivered to the clearwell at Elm Fork Water Treatment Plant.
3. Treated water costs are calculated using guidelines in regional planning memos on cost assumptions, prepared by Freese and Nichols for Region C Water Planning Group
4. The 108" pipe assumed in CPY analysis is inadequate for CPY's 216 mgd assumed yield; a more realistic yield for this pipe size would be 190 mgd, which would raise estimated cost to approximately \$1.40 per 1000 gallons untreated, and \$2.02 treated.

# **Marvin Nichols cost estimates in DWU study generated by Freese and Nichols**

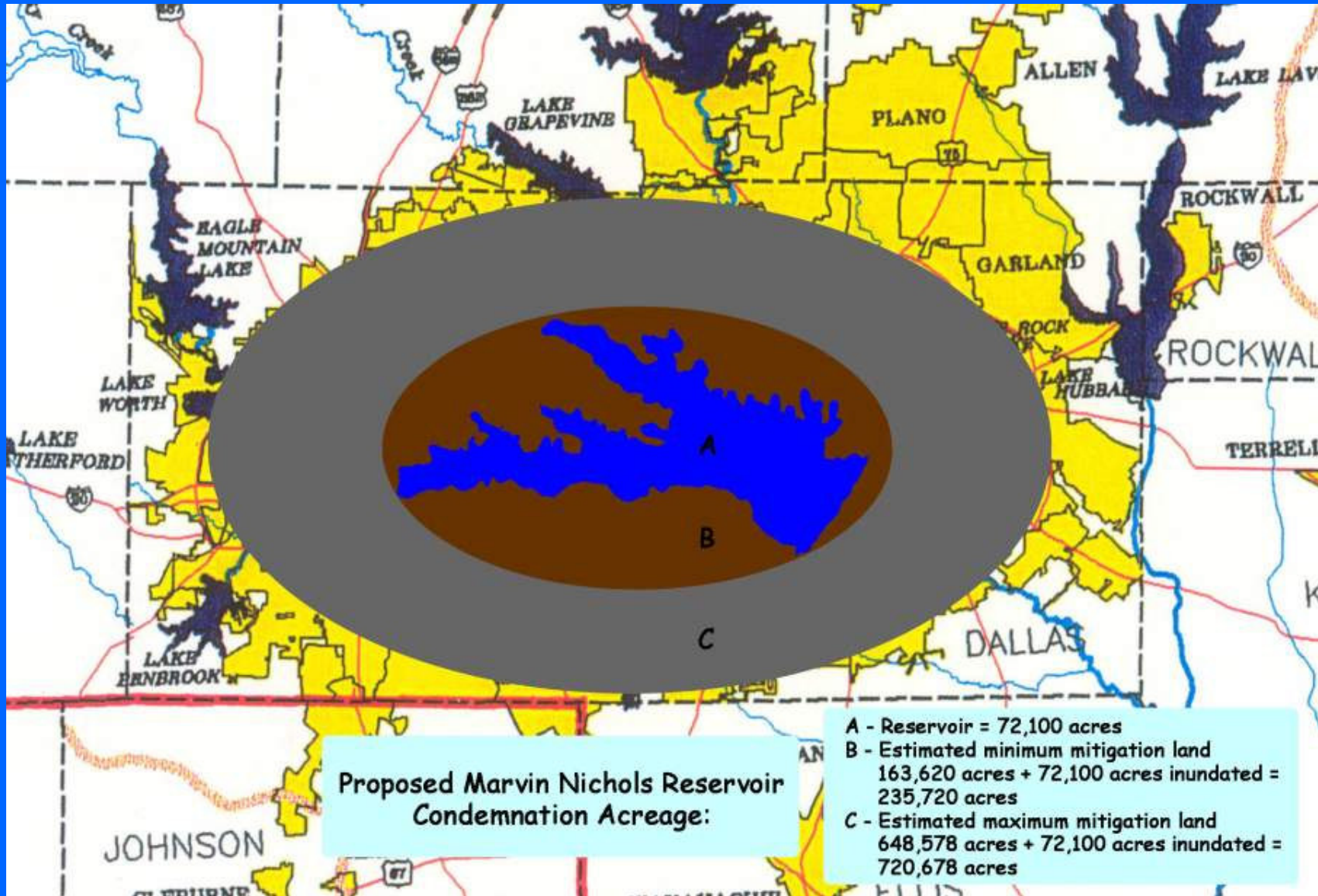
- F&N has publicly stated it will design MN Reservoir
- has current contract related to MN
- key components released for public scrutiny only at end of review period, after public/media inquiries--some still not provided
- dam site & reservoir changed at end of public review period, after public identified apparent understating of reservoir costs

## **Unneeded Marvin Nichols Reservoir:**

- Enormous environmental impact
  - inundates 72,000 acres, including 30,000 of rare bottomland hardwood forest
  - stunning loss of wildlife habitat
- Thousands of unwilling Texans forced to give up land



# Marvin Nichols Condemnation Acreage



## Unneeded Marvin Nichols Reservoir:

- “We are concerned that there is not enough additional high valued bottomland hardwood habitat...available in the Sulphur River Basin to compensate for the large amount of habitat that would be lost....”
  - U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
letter to Texas Water Development Board,  
Nov. 9, 2001
- “We recommend that other alternatives rather than reservoir construction be considered for the Dallas/Fort Worth area water supply.”

## **Unneeded Marvin Nichols Reservoir:**

- **“The forest industry and the local economy would incur significant losses....”**

Weihsuan Xu, Ph.D., Principal Economist  
Forest Resource Dept., Texas Forest Service  
College Station, TX, August, 2002

- \$87-\$275 million/year negative impact
- 400-1300 jobs lost

# Unneeded Marvin Nichols Reservoir:

- ranching, farming, hunting leases
  - losing land = losing livelihood
  - loss of hunting leases = significant source of income
- negative impact on tax rolls
  - Many taxing entities supported removing recommendation to build Marvin Nichols.

# Sulphur River Basin Feasibility Study:

- studying existing reservoirs is disingenuous—stated objective of obtaining 619,000 AFY can only be fulfilled with Marvin Nichols
- harms people and businesses by—
  - lowered property values
  - loss of tax base
  - business and personal uncertainty

## Phase III of “Sulphur River Basin Feasibility Study”:

- “Feasibility-Level Design and Feasibility Report for the Chosen Alternative”
- “EIS”
- “discussion of Local Sponsor’s ability to acquire lands...attitude of the landowner, a detailed schedule of land acquisition...”

## Unneeded Fastrill Reservoir would:

- inundate 27,000 acres of some of the best remaining bottomland hardwood forest land in Texas
- flood the area planned for the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge
- destroy habitat crucial for many kinds of wildlife, waterfowl, and songbirds
- negatively impact the Big Thicket National Preserve, which is heavily dependent on upstream seasonal flood flows to maintain habitat diversity

## Unneeded Fastrill Reservoir would:

- impede planned reintroduction of the endangered black bear in Texas
- reduce flows to two national forest wilderness areas and to other significant downstream natural areas
- impact the Texas State Historical Railroad
- flood more than 25 miles of the Upper Neches, proposed as a National Scenic River
- cover a portion of the debris field of the space shuttle *Columbia* being considered as a memorial

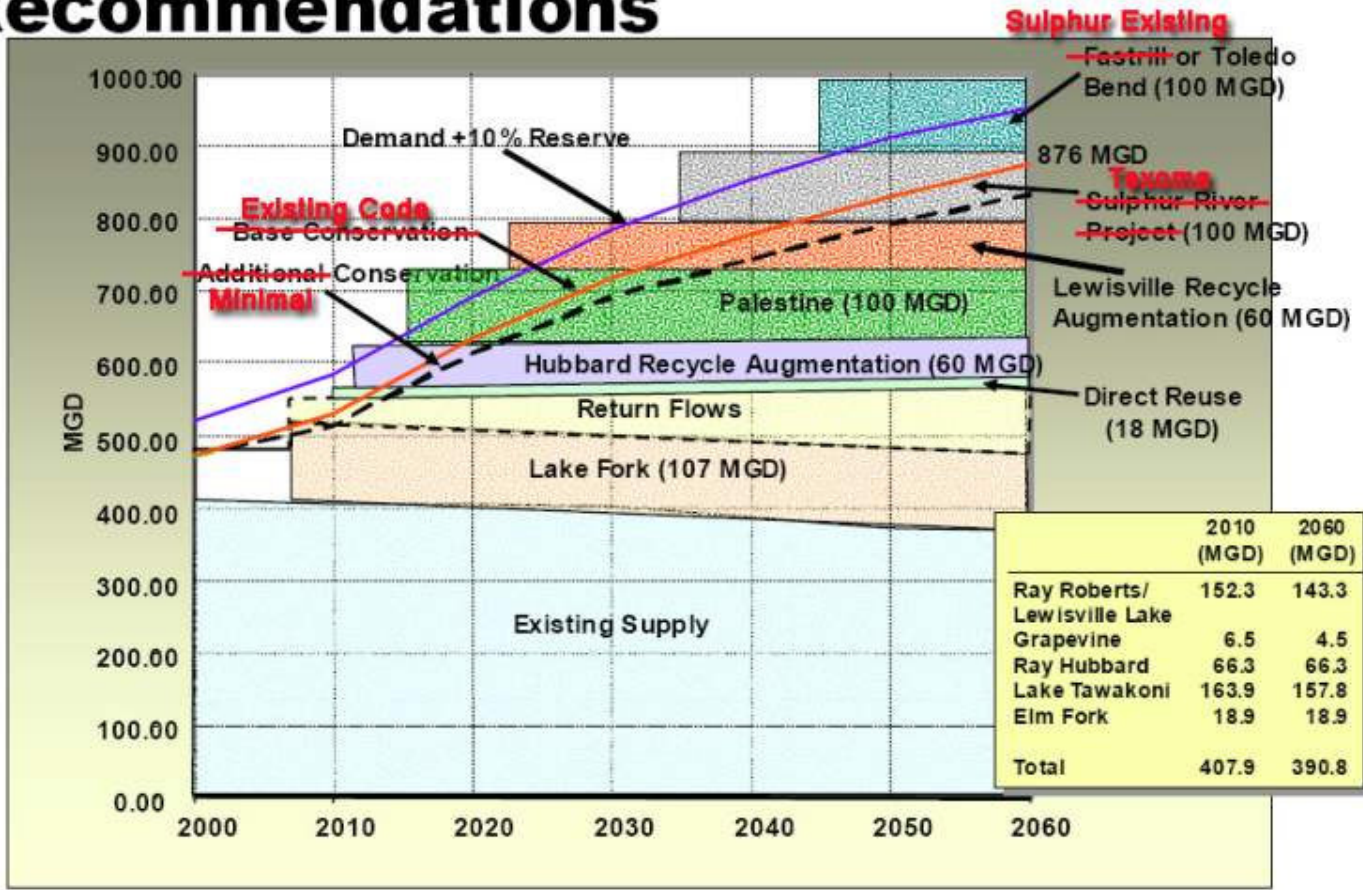


# Unneeded Fastrill Reservoir:

- has twice been voted down for consideration by the Region C Water Planning Group
- is not recommended by Region I Regional Planning Group, which has jurisdiction over the area
- has not been identified by any of the 16 regional water planning groups as needed to meet demand
- will generate intense opposition once Texans interested in protecting the Neches River and the Big Thicket National Preserve learn that Fastrill is being taken seriously.

# Coalition Comments on CPY Recommendations

## Summary of Recommendations



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# Summary

- Meet Dallas Water Utilities' and regional projected water demands.
- Low-impact, low-opposition existing supplies exceed demand beyond 2060:
  - Conservation, reuse, existing reservoirs
- Avoid large-scale land condemnation inherent with new reservoirs.
- Avoid permit difficulties, delays, cost overruns, and uncertainties of new reservoirs.

# Actions Requested

- Full-council vote on Long Range Water Supply Plan before it goes to Region C WPG
  - Adopt public policy decision to maximize our use of existing developed resources first, avoid new reservoirs until demonstrated need (beyond 2060).
  - Substitute Texoma for “Sulphur Basin Project”
  - Substitute “Sulphur Basin existing reservoirs” for “Fastrill”
- Sulphur Basin Study:
  - Oppose Sulphur Basin Study if includes new reservoirs.
  - Participate only if modified to revise volume objectives, exclude new reservoirs.

# Sulphur River

- Edited video excerpt from:  
*Texas – The State Of Water*  
*Finding a Balance*

Narrated by Walter Cronkite

Produced by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2005

# Opponents of Marvin Nichols Reservoir

- The Honorable Susan Combs, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture
- The Honorable Max Sandlin, former member, U.S. House of Representatives (Dist.1)
- The Honorable Kevin Eltife, Texas Senate (Dist. 1)
- The Honorable Terri Hodge, Texas House of Representatives (Dist. 100)
- The Honorable Lon Burnam, Texas House of Representatives (Dist. 90)
- The Honorable Mark Homer, Texas House of Representatives (Dist. 3)
- The Honorable Barry Telford, Texas House of Representatives (Dist. 1)
- The Honorable Jesse Oliver, Former Member, Texas House of Representatives
- The Honorable Bob Glaze, Former Member, Texas House of Representatives
- The Honorable Tom Ramsay, Former Member, Texas House of Representatives
- The Honorable Jerry Yost, Former Member, Texas House of Representatives
- The Honorable Laura Miller, Mayor of Dallas
- The Honorable John Loza, Mayor Pro Tem of Dallas
- The Honorable Mitchell Rasansky, Council Member, Dallas
- The Honorable James Fantroy, Council Member, Dallas
- The Citizens Journal of Atlanta, Texas
- Texarkana Gazette
- National Wildlife Federation
- Environmental Defense
- Sierra Club, Lone Star Chapter
- Texas Committee on Natural Resources
- Citizens for Safe Water
- Friends of the Sabine
- Friends United for Safe Environment
- Sulphur River Oversight Society

# Opponents of Marvin Nichols Reservoir

- Cass County Commissioners Court
- Morris County Commissioners Court
- Upshur County Commissioners Court
- City of Domino
- Douglassville City Council
- City of Redwater
- City Council of Texarkana
- Atlanta ISD
- Bloomburg ISD Board of Trustees
- Maud ISD Board of Trustees
- Queen City ISD Board/Trustees
- Texas Forestry Association
- Texas Farm Bureau
- Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
- Atlanta Economic Development Corporation
- Cass County Cattlemen's Association
- Linden Chamber of Commerce
- Clements Oil Corp.
- International Paper Co.
- Manasseh Timber Co.
- Misty Co. USA Oil Co. Union Pacific
- Ward Forest Products
- Ward Timber Co.
- Weston Oil Co., Inc.