

*May 5, 2007*

**Hi, Folks!**

The House Natural Resources Committee took both Fastrill and Marvin Nichols out of SB 3 before voting it out of committee Wednesday. This is great news, but Committee Chair Robert Puentes is predicting that there will be amendments on the floor to try and put Marvin Nichols and Fastrill back into the bill.

Lower Bois d'Arc Creek and Ralph Hall Lake and others are, unfortunately, still in the bill, proposing them as unique reservoir sites.

A number of compensations have been added to the bill for landowners in the sites that are designated.

The stand-alone bill to designate unique reservoir sites, HB 2187 by Hartnett, was defeated in committee by a 5 – 4 vote. This is very good news because it makes SB 3 the only bill moving that has unique reservoir language in it.

The language establishing a study commission to review alternatives to Marvin Nichols remains in the bill. The commission itself would be a positive thing, as it gives Region D an equal number of appointees to the commission as Region C, rather than the Texas Water Development Board's habit of favoring Region C over Region D. But it isn't worth having Marvin Nichols designated a unique reservoir site to get the Commission.

While we won't be declaring any victories till we see what the final bill looks like, the language changes are a clear indication that the water hustlers aren't having an easy path. Their push for unique reservoir site designation has greatly increased the scrutiny by rural legislators and property rights advocates of the reservoir proposals.

**What we need to do: KEEP THE PRESSURE ON.** Keep those calls, faxes, and emails going to all the members of the Texas House of Representatives. Their names and contact info can be found at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

So far most of our contacts have been to the members of the committee. The entire House will soon be voting on the issue. **Make as many contacts as you can!**

And while you're at it, thank Representative Mike "Tuffy" Hamilton, who introduced the amendment taking Fastrill and Marvin Nichols out of the bill, and Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, who introduced several amendments to add landowner compensations and protections for anyone with land in a area designated a unique reservoir site.

Thanks!

Janice

*Janice*

Janice Bezanson, Executive Director  
Texas Conservation Alliance  
Formerly Texas Committee on Natural Resources (TCONR)  
512-327-4119  
bezanson@texas.net  
tconr.org