

House panel: We don't care about your stinkin' water

The House Natural Resources Committee gutted the Legislature's main water planning bill on Wednesday, and state Rep. Jodie Laubenberg, R-Parker, was one of the few to stand up to the slaying and vote against the several amendments that would make it impossible to build new reservoirs. From Dallas' perspective, the gutting was especially horrible. The amended bill no longer designates sites for the Marvin Nichols Reservoir and Lake Fastrill. If Speaker Tom Craddick cares about his legacy, he either should actively get the full House to undo the gutting, pass another reservoir bill or let this one die before coming to the House floor. If the House passes a bill that effectively eliminates future reservoirs, it will make it very difficult for the state to plan for long-term water needs. We're talking droughts, folks, big ones.