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## **Lubbock's water plans stun Slaton**

**BY ELLIOTT BLACKBURN  
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A Lubbock County community was shocked to learn that long-term Lubbock water plans included a lake north of their town.

Slaton Mayor Laura Lynn Wilson said her city had never heard of two Lubbock reservoirs proposed for either side of Buffalo Springs Lake.

Lubbock officials said the project is still being studied and would not see construction for at least a decade. Two reservoirs, known as Yellowhouse Canyon lakes 7 and 8, would "capture, store and divert water" treated at a proposed water treatment facility west of Slaton or piped in from Lake Alan Henry.

The lakes would combine to hold more than 70,000 acre-feet of water, a standard unit of measurement for drinking supplies.

Lake Alan Henry, by comparison, holds more than 115,000 acre-feet of water at full capacity.

The lakes were included at the last minute in the region's enormous long-term water planning document approved in December. Wilson said she had never heard of them.

Slatonites began asking questions after Lubbock representatives spoke with landowners in the area about the project, she said.

"I wouldn't say that we were overly concerned, but we just hadn't heard anything about it," Wilson said.

The current plans put FM 400, a road linking Slaton Independent School District to schoolchildren to the north, underwater, Wilson said.

Lubbock Deputy City Manager Tom Adams said the lake projects are a long way from starting, and the city isn't even sure if they are feasible.

Because the projects are in their infancy, Lubbock had focused on talking to landowners who could be directly affected rather than the whole city, Adams said.

"If, at some point, the project seemed more feasible, then we would want to meet with them and talk with them because of the proximity," Adams said. "But at this point, it's just so preliminary, we just didn't want people to hear something and not know what's going on, for those that actually have property in the area."

The lakes were added in November to the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group document..

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