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State adopts plans for, against reservoir

But spokesman says no conflict in regional proposals

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The Texas Water Development Board voted unanimously to accept Northeast Texas' long-range regional water plan, which opposes the proposed Marvin Nichols reservoir in the Sulphur River basin. However, the board adopted a similar plan Tuesday submitted from the Dallas-Fort Worth area that includes the reservoir. The reservoir also was included in a regional plan accepted by the state board last month.

"It is simply mind-boggling that the Texas Water Development Board doesn't find it a conflict to adopt one plan recommending Marvin Nichols and another plan that opposes it," Janice Bezanson, executive director of the Texas Committee on Natural Resources, said in a news release. "Marvin Nichols isn't good for anyone. It will hurt ratepayers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and it will force hundreds of East Texas families off their land. In a state growing as rapidly as Texas, using water more efficiently is the only logical thing to do."

The state board is required to ensure that regional plans are not in conflict with each other.

Under its rules, there is a conflict between two regions only in cases in which two regions have identified the same supply, Carla Dews, a water development board spokesman, said in the Houston Chronicle on Sunday.

Board Chairman E.G. Rob Pittman voted against the North Texas plan last month, citing the need for greater cooperation between the regions, according to the Texas Committee on Natural Resources release.

James Parks, executive director of the North Texas Municipal Water District based in Wylie, said last month that the state must prepare for Texas' population, which he adds is expected to double by 2060.