

Marcus & Sharon Tomas
2303 CR 306
Edna, TX 77957

South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L)
c/o: Laura Raun, Public Relations
111 W. 8th Street
Austin, TX 78701

May 26, 2010

I hear a lot of talk as to why we need Stage II of the Palmetto Dam and the benefits it will bring to Jackson County. Unfortunately, most of what I hear is the same rhetoric that was ballyhooed many years ago before Stage I of Palmetto Dam was built. Some of the claims were a huge rise in population, burgeoning retail business growth, a broader tax base resulting in lower taxes per capita, lots of new jobs, a beautiful recreational area for both residents and tourists and development of a large industrial/manufacturing center.

Most of these pie-in-the-sky promises weren't true then and they still aren't true now. Our population barely grew, the jobs situation is still pretty stagnant, we have less retail businesses open now than before, taxes haven't been reduced, Formosa, etc. is actually located in Calhoun County and Lake Texana should have been named "Mud Lake."

The real question is: do we, the citizens of Jackson County want Stage II to happen? My opinion and the opinion of the majority of landowners/taxpayers is a resounding NO!!!

The Lavaca River is the last free-flowing river in Texas. The Navidad River was obliterated years ago by the same people who are pushing Stage II of Palmetto Dam now. They didn't care all those years ago about preserving the rich history, the wild beauty of the river and its surrounding fertile river bottom and they don't care about destroying the Lavaca now.

Jackson County doesn't need Stage II. We have enough water for our use now and in the foreseeable future. Stage II is about stealing our land, our livelihoods and our history in order to high-jack our water resources for use in other cities and counties. There must be other options available to develop water resources nearer these places that are looking to us for their water.

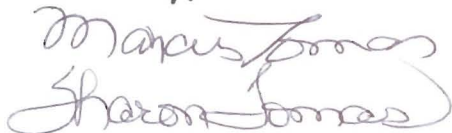
The citizens and taxpayers of Jackson County are concerned about losing the last free-flowing river in Texas, their homes, farms and ranches, and the destruction of family histories and the loss of many local historical sites. They worry about losing their livelihoods and the freedom to continue to live their lives where and in the manner they and their forebearers chose many, many years ago.

We speak out now against Stage II of Palmetto Dam and the loss and destruction that it will bring to Jackson County. We speak out against Stage II of Palmetto Dam because it is our right, our duty and our privilege to be involved in and protect the future of Jackson County. We speak out against Stage II of Palmetto Dam now because in less than four months the results of the feasibility study will be revealed and then it may be too late to speak out.

We hope that you will listen to us, take up our cause and speak out with us to "Save Our Lavaca" before it is too late for anything but regrets.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Marcus and Sharon Hamman Tomas. The signature for Marcus is written above the signature for Sharon.

Marcus & Sharon Hamman Tomas

*We Are Both Third-Generation Jackson County Residents.
We Live On the Banks of the Lavaca River.
We Appreciate It As It Was, As It Is and
As We Hope It Will Remain -Wild, Open and Free!*