



March 14, 2010

EMAIL LETTER

Ms. Natalie Edwards
US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District
Piedmont Branch
1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200
Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777

RE: Indian Creek Reservoir, USACE Project Number 200900042

Dear Ms. Edwards:

The Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners Association (HOBOS), Inc. appreciate the opportunity afforded stakeholders of the Tallapoosa River Basin to provide comments concerning the proposed Indian River Reservoir. We are an advocacy organization, representing approximately 2,000 members, dedicated to the preservation and proper management of Lake Martin and its watershed.

Please accept this letter as a supplement to our letter of February 12, 2010. Further investigation into this proposed project along with our attendance at the Carroll County Water Authority hearing recently has raised several areas of serious concern:

1. **Need for a reservoir** – The population projections for Carroll County through 2060 is out of line with other accepted projections. In fact, it seems the Brown & Caldwell projections are over double the projections of the Atlanta Regional Commission and a study by Woods & Poole. In addition, a daily consumption rate of 135 gal/per capita is well outside the consumption level recommended by legislation currently being considered by the Georgia Legislature at the direction of the Governor of Georgia.
2. **Projected Ground Water Availability** - It appears that adequate ground water is available in Carroll County, without the addition of a reservoir, to meet the needs of the realistic growth potential of the county for the next 40 years. It is difficult to ascertain the reasoning for the grossly exaggerated population projections; however, the Corps of Engineers should carefully examine the studies to correct the obvious overstatement of needs for this and future proposed projects.

*Post Office Box 1030
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3. **Downstream Effects** – The Little Tallapoosa River has been designated as a 303d stream in Georgia and there appears to be plans to place a 31 mile section of the river in Alabama under the same classification. With fecal bacteria contamination already a problem in the river, how could removing more water from the stream be permitted? The drought of 2006-2008 provided many lessons to be learned regarding stream flow and the resulting water quality problems. The Corps of Engineers should require the applicants to provide the necessary proof that such a project as proposed will cause no harm downstream during times of drought.
4. **Sense of Urgency** – This project should advance in phases, if at all. With the current litigation between Georgia/Corps of Engineers, Alabama, and Florida, this project should be placed on hold until a resolution is reached in the water wars litigation. Approvals for any additional water resources for this area of the state should be issued in phases with shorter term (10 year), realistic needs analysis required of the applicant.

The Lake Martin HOBOS recommend the Corps of Engineers conduct a public hearing on this matter, permitting live presentations of concerned citizens, groups, and governmental agencies with Corps decision makers in attendance. Approvals should not be issued without public hearings.

Please forward any communications to the address above or to jesse@lakemartin.org.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Sincerely,

Jesse M. Cunningham
President
Lake Martin HOBOS