

## PUBLIC COMMENT

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Abilene

Once again I thank you for allowing me to make a few comments before you began your meeting.

First, I congratulate you on what you've accomplished thus far. But today key decisions about the larger pulse flows will need to be made in order to stay on schedule.

With that in mind, let me briefly repeat some critical points:

- The BBASC must consider the needs of man. That is a requirement of the Legislative charge. Ten new reservoirs are needed within the Brazos River Basin to satisfy future water demands according to the *2012 Water for Texas Plan*. This won't happen unless reservoir construction remains cost effective.
- Excessive releases reduce a reservoir's yield to where it is not cost effective. A 40+ percent reduction to a potential reservoir's yield would probably "kill" the project. Even a 10-15 percent reduction in yield would have a very significant financial impact to the reservoir developer that could threaten the project's viability.
- High Flow Pulse Release Requirements have the largest impact on reservoir yield. Large Pulse Flow requirements should be limited to one or two per season, dependent on ambient conditions.
- Be mindful of physical limitations. A dam is typically limited to release rates equal to a few hundred cubic feet per second unless the actual water level is high enough to pass through the primary spillway. Consider release exemptions if the reservoir is below 50% of its conservation level capacity.
- Keep the criteria simple and easy to understand. The more complicated the formulas the less likely reservoir owners will be to adhere to the requirements. Complicated formulas also are more difficult for regulators to enforce. Consider using only one seasonal High Flow Pulse requirement that is dependent on the ambient conditions (wet, average, or dry).