

February 19, 2020

Office of the Chief Clerk  
MC 105, TCEQ  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) requests a contested case hearing on WRPERM 13404, the application by the City of Wichita Falls for a large water right, use of the bed and banks of the Little Wichita River, and the construction of the proposed Lake Ringgold.

TSCRA is a 143-year-old trade association and is the largest and oldest livestock organization based in Texas. TSCRA has more than 17,500 beef cattle operations, ranching families and businesses as members. These members represent approximately 55,000 individuals directly involved in ranching and beef production who manage 4 million head of cattle on 76 million acres of range and pastureland, primarily in Texas, Oklahoma and throughout the Southwest.

The proposed site of Lake Ringgold will primarily impact a part of Clay County that is mostly rural and heavily agrarian. According to the USDA Census of Agriculture, Clay County is home to more than 1,300 agricultural producers and more than 77,500 cattle.

The proposed project will have drastic impacts on our members and every agricultural producer living in the area. For generations, cattle producers and property owners have made their homes and living on land that is now slated for condemnation. Many of these properties will cease to exist, and much of the rangeland taken out of production.

This loss of rangeland will not only have devastating effects for these farmers and ranchers, but also for the numerous businesses that supply their agricultural operations, and for the many consumers who rely on their outputs. The land proposed for Lake Ringgold is also home to numerous wildlife species. Property owners and ranchers frequently derive much-needed supplemental income and enjoyment from wildlife activities on their property.

With the creation of this lake, 16,000 acres, including the pastures used to feed cattle and nurture wildlife, will be gone forever to the detriment of all Texans.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that TCEQ permit a contested case hearing so all sides of this issue may be evaluated. As Texas continues its meteoric growth, the challenges of balancing the water needs of urban areas with the livelihoods of rural agricultural producers will only grow.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of a hearing given the disproportionate ramifications this lake will have on the livelihood of our members in the area. If you have any questions regarding this letter or TSCRA's position, please contact Peyton Schumann at (512) 469-0171 or [pschumann@tscra.org](mailto:pschumann@tscra.org).

Sincerely,



Robert E. McKnight, Jr.  
President