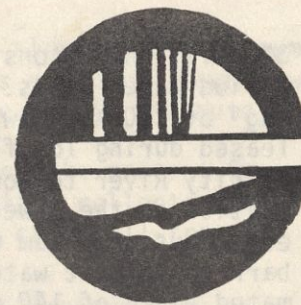


C.E.C. NEWSLEAF

JULY, 1987

EDITORS: GINGER HOBART
& MARIE HAWKINS



THE CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION'S PURPOSE IS TO INCREASE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS THROUGH EDUCATION AND COALITION ACTIVITIES. IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE TEXAS GULF COAST REGION IS OUR GOAL.

THE WALLISVILLE PROJECT

(The CEC is indebted to the Dept. of Public Works for supplying this article.)

The Wallisville Reservoir Project is a long-planned project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the local sponsors (the City of Houston, the Chambers-Liberty Counties Navigation District, and the Trinity River Authority) to provide future water supply and other benefits to the area. Congress authorized the project in 1962 to fulfill five purposes: salinity control, water supply, navigation, recreation, and wildlife enhancement. In 1966, Congress appropriated funds for the project, and construction of the dam and lake began. In 1973, a federal district court in Houston halted construction by injunction when the project was 72 percent complete. In 1974, the Fifth Circuit reversed and remanded the district court decision, but restrained the injunction pending further environmental study.

These further studies resulted in significant revisions to the project. The size of the reservoir was reduced from its original size of approximately 19,700 acres to 5,600 acres, avoiding inundation of valuable marine nursery areas on the west side of the Trinity River. Interim operating procedures to reduce adverse impacts on cypress swamps and other sensitive areas were also included. In 1985, the Corps and local sponsors filed motions to dissolve the 1973 injunction, but in early 1986 the district court denied those motions. Upon appeal to the Fifth Circuit, that court vacated the injunction, reversed the judgment of the District Court, and dismissed the case. Opponents of the

project have announced their intent to seek further review of this decision in the courts.

The Wallisville project is included in two of the three alternatives under study as part of the Houston Water Master Planning process, a two-year, \$3 million study being conducted for the City by Metcalf & Eddy, Inc. analyzing the City's water needs through the year 2030. In the "western water" alternative, the Wallisville project is required to supplement the resources from existing and proposed projects on the Brazos, San Jacinto, and Trinity Rivers, as well as available groundwater. If the "eastern water" approach is selected, the primary source of additional long-term supply will be the existing Toledo Bend reservoir on the Sabine River. In this case, Wallisville's potential role is as a near-term, approved project to allow additional time to implement and fund a Toledo Bend conveyance system. A third option under study is the immediate commitment to aggressively pursue the Toledo Bend conveyance system, reversing the City's previous support of the Wallisville project. The City's final evaluation of a plan will attempt to consider all factors -- cost, technical feasibility, legal considerations, institutional constraints, and environmental impacts. A "middle ground" approach involving an inflatable salt-water barrier has also attracted interest, and this project could be included in alternatives subjected to further study. Cooperation of the other project sponsors and the Corps in a salt-water barrier project cannot be assured at this time.

Construction of the Wallisville project would allow the City and Trinity River Authority the use of an additional

320 million gallons per day to meet peak period water needs. An estimated "saving" of 180 mgd now required to be released during low flow periods on the Trinity River to control salt water migration on the lower river would be achieved because the dam would form a physical barrier to salt water flows. An estimated yield of 140 mgd is attributed to the Wallisville impoundment itself and the benefits of "system operation" of Wallisville and Livingston. This type of operation is usually accomplished by keeping as much water as possible in the upstream reservoir and using the downstream sources of supply first.

An important aspect of the Wallisville project is that it is a currently authorized project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and would be financed under rules and regulations in effect at the time of initial project authorization. Under these rules, the local sponsors would pay a relatively small share of the project costs (approximately \$9 million), and these costs would be paid out over 50 years at an interest rate of 3.22 percent. Payments would not begin until construction was complete. Therefore, the local sponsors could obtain a significant source of water at virtually no "up front" cost. Other alternatives would likely require a considerably higher initial investment by the City, and financing

costs (whether by the City, State, or River Authority) would be much higher.
-Compiled by Michael S. Marcotte,
Department of Public Works, City of Houston

REYNOLDS ANNOUNCES MAJOR EXPANSION OF HOUSTON RECYCLING NETWORK

Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Company announced that it is expanding its consumer network by installing automatic can recycling machines at 30 strategic locations throughout Houston which will make it more convenient to recycle.

"The Reynolds Aluminum Can Recycling Machine will enable consumers here to recycle 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," said Charles W. Rayfield, vice president and general manager of the company. "It is the latest development in consumer recycling and marks our company's entrance into the reverse vending market in Houston," he added.

The recycling machines reverse the normal process of putting money into a machine and receiving a canned beverage in return. Now, local recyclers may recycle their used aluminum cans in the machine and receive cash back in about 90 seconds. "We will have 30 of these machines in operation by the end of this year," Rayfield said at a press conference Tuesday, June 22.

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Executive Director: Ginger Hobart
President: David Todd

Located on the parking lots of major shopping areas, each machine is 8 feet wide, 9 1/2 feet tall and 13 feet long and will hold about 50,000 beverage cans.

"Introduction of these machines adds a key dimension to our existing recycling network in the Houston area, and further reinforces Reynolds' commitment to consumer recycling," he commented. Since these machines make recycling more convenient than ever to a larger segment of the population, we hope to generate even greater interest in aluminum can recycling, resulting in a cleaner environment."

Reynolds has manned recycling centers in the Houston area, including a processing plant. Reynolds currently purchases approximately 7 1/2 million pounds of aluminum from Houston recyclers and pays them about \$1 3/4 million per year. This is the equivalent of more than 190 million beverage cans.

The company began recycling operations in Houston in July, 1970, and in the past 17 years has purchased almost 80 million pounds, or 2 billion cans, for which consumers here were paid some \$18 million. "Recycling and reclamation of aluminum have become increasingly vital to Reynolds basic metal supply because they reduce energy requirements and conserve natural resources. And, perhaps more importantly, they provide our company with a domestic source of raw material which accounts for a third of our metal supply requirements." Recycling saves 95 percent of the energy required to make aluminum from ore.

Reynolds pioneered the concept of consumer recycling in 1968, and today, operates the most extensive consumer recycling network in the world, purchasing aluminum through a network of about 1,500 buying locations.

While beverage cans make up the largest part of aluminum recycled, Reynolds also purchases other recyclable household aluminum items at its manned centers. All clean aluminum products including foil, frozen food and dinner trays, and dip, pudding and meat containers can be recycled.

Other items such as aluminum siding, gutters, storm door and window frames and lawn furniture tubing are purchased

in manageable sizes, along with aluminum castings such as pots and pans, lawn mower housings, barbecue grills and auto parts.

For the location of the nearest Reynolds Aluminum recycling collection point, consumers can call toll-free, 1-800-228-2525.

APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS HOUSTON SIGN ORDINANCE

The City of Houston won a major round in the battle over sign regulation as the 14th Court of Appeals upheld Houston's 1985 sign ordinance. In a strongly worded opinion handed down on May 7th, the appellate court overturned an injunction granted last October by State District Judge Louis Moore, and two subsequent injunctions, that prohibited the City from enforcing regulations governing the height, size, location, construction, and removal of billboards. In addition, the court upheld the authority of Houston to regulate signs in its ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction) and along federal highways within the City of Houston and its ETJ, both which had been voided by Judge Moore. The appellate court overturned Judge Moore's order that Houston pay over \$150,000 in attorneys' fees to the billboard companies.

Appeal to the Texas Supreme Court is likely, but the City is confident that its ordinance will be upheld.

If Houston wins the final appeal, a complicated set of rules, amortization schedules and compliance timetables will go into effect. Non-complying signs currently required to be removed will be amortized and stay in place until 1993, 1996, 1997 or 1999, depending upon their location and structure, at which time they must be removed. One half of any remaining signs which exceed certain height and size restrictions must be reduced by July 1, 1988. These rules affect only a minority of the city's billboards and a very small number of on-premise business signs, the remainder which are unaffected. Any signs required to be removed or reduced in size by City Council action in the future must be amortized for 17 years (wooden pole signs) or 21 1/2 years (metal pole signs).

-Billboards Limited Newsletter
May, 1987

TEXAS RIVERS CONSERVATION ACT

The Texas Rivers Conservation Act was passed out of both the Senate and House Natural Resources Committee during the closing days of the 70th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature but died for lack of action as the session ended. The Committees reported out different versions of the Act. The Senate version had numerous revisions made at the request of electric utilities and deleted pipelining as a regulated activity at the insistence of the Texas Mid-Continental Oil & Gas Association. The House version placed regulatory authority in the Texas Water Commission rather than the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Two members of the House Subcommittee that considered the bill were especially distrustful of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The lack of affirmative support for the Act by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and tepid responses by Department staff to inquiries by Legislators did not aid the cause.

Here are some suggestions for actions which could help the Rivers Act in the next session.

Write to thank the Sponsors (Sen. Tati Santiesteban, Sen. Ken Armbrister, Rep. Robert Saunders, Rep. Fred Agnich, and Rep. Lena Guerrero) and stalwart supporters (Sen. John Montford, Sen. Hector Uribe, Rep. Bill Hammond, Rep. Cliff Johnson, TX Parks & Wildl. Comm. Bob Armstrong, and TX Parks & Wildl. Comm. Chuck Nash)

JULY CALENDAR

- Thur 6 SIERRA CLUB GENERAL MEETING. 7:30pm Pine Ski Trekking by Tom Douglas. Central Presbyterian Church. 3788 Richmond.
- Fri 10 Roundtable Quarterly Luncheon. 12:00- Public Interest Groups share Information, advice, & resources. 1:30pm Sponsored by COMMON CAUSE. Tides II Motor Inn Restaurant, 6700 S. Main. FMI: 774-3923
- Fri 10 HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING. 7:30pm Review of 1987 Texas Archeological Society's Field School. University of St. Thomas, MD Anderson Hall.
- Tue 14 HOUSTON SPORTSMEN'S CLUB GENERAL MEETING. 7:30pm Top Guides for Bass on Lake Conroe, by Billy Mills. Boy Scout Bldg. 1800 Rutland.
- Wed 15 Deadline for CEC Newleaf. CEC accepts all appropriate environmental copy. Mail to: CEC 1413 Westheimer. 77006. FMI: 523-3431.
- Mon 20 CEC BOARD MEETING. Everyone Welcome. 7:30pm 1413 Westheimer.

THE CEC NEWSLEAF WILL PUBLISH ANY ARTICLE THAT REFLECTS LEGITIMATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS EFFECTING THE GULF COAST REGION. THE NEWSLEAF COPY DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERS OF THE COALITION.

CITIZENS' ENVIRONMENTAL
COALITION EDUCATION FUND INC



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JULY, 1987

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