



December 22, 2014

Richard Hyde, P.E.  
Executive Director  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087, MC-109  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Hyde:

For the past three years, in response to the worst one-year drought on record and continuing and severe drought conditions, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) sought and obtained from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) emergency relief to reduce the amount of interruptible stored water it was otherwise obligated to supply under its state-approved 2010 Water Management Plan (2010 WMP). LCRA also sought and obtained temporary amendments to several of its downstream water rights to use those rights to meet firm customer demands.

Unfortunately, notwithstanding the unprecedented actions taken by the Commission and LCRA, the water supply for over a million people in Central Texas has failed to recover in any significant manner and the lower Colorado River basin continues to suffer from a prolonged drought that poses virtually the same risks faced by LCRA and the communities it serves as when LCRA has sought prior relief.

On November 19, 2014, the LCRA Board of Directors directed staff to prepare and file the attached request for emergency relief from the 2010 WMP for the 2015 first crop irrigation season. The requested emergency relief, if granted, would help preserve the supply in lakes Buchanan and Travis for essential firm customer needs should drought conditions persist. LCRA recognizes that drought recovery is a goal to which all customers must contribute. To that end, LCRA has implemented aggressive drought measures among its firm customers, many of whom have already achieved significant water savings.

As you will note, to assist with review and expedite the processing of the application, LCRA has included in its application the information needed to support TCEQ's processing of this application under any or all of TCEQ's emergency authorities it may deem most appropriate, including Texas Water Code §§ 5.501, 11.138, 11.139, as well as the Governor's Emergency Disaster Proclamation related to drought. LCRA requests that TCEQ process this request under whatever authority it deems most appropriate in light of the exceptional drought. To the extent the Commission deems appropriate, and consistent with the Governor's Proclamation, LCRA requests that

Letter to R. Hyde  
December 22, 2014  
Page 2

procedural requirements associated with this request, or any portion thereof, be waived to expedite the processing of this request.

A check to cover the application and filing fees is included. Please advise if additional fees are required.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this LCRA application. To the extent that TCEQ has questions or concerns, we stand ready to promptly respond and are willing, of course, to meet with you and your staff to review the application materials and address any questions. For questions or a meeting, please contact David Wheelock, Manager of Water Supply and Conservation, at (512) 730-6822 and Lyn Clancy, Managing Associate General Counsel and Senior Water Policy Advisor at (512) 578-3378.

Sincerely,



Phil Wilson  
General Manager

cc: Kellye Rila, TCEQ