**Barbara Robinson**

**From:** EXECDIR
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 1:06 PM
**To:** EXECDIR
**Subject:** FW: LCRA Emergency Order

Thank you for your email regarding the Lower Colorado River Authority's (LCRA) application for an Emergency Order to deviate from the 2010 Water Management Plan.

On December 10, 2013, LCRA submitted its application requesting emergency relief to deviate from the current Water Management Plan as it relates to the supply of interruptible stored water for the 2014 first crop irrigation season. After reviewing LCRA's request under Texas Water Code, Section 11.139, the Governor's Emergency Disaster Proclamation Related to Drought, and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) rules on Monday, January 27, 2014, I issued an emergency order. The Commission will likely decide whether to affirm, modify, or set aside the order at its Public Meeting (Agenda) on February 12, 2014.

The TCEQ is aware of the critical issues concerning water in this state. I appreciate your input regarding this application.

The order granting an emergency authorization to the LCRA to amend its 2010 Water Management Plan and additional information regarding the order can be found at http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/lcra-emergency-order.

Richard A. Hyde, P.E.
Executive Director
TCEQ

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
2014 JAN 30 PM 2:24
CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Sylvia Rucka - City Manager <citymanager@coeltx.net>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 4:24 PM
**To:** COMMISSR; Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson; Bryan Shaw; Toby Baker; Zak Covar
**Subject:** Resolution
**Attachments:** 20140129160216409.pdf

Please see attached Resolution as adopted by the City of Eagle Lake City Council.

Thank you,

Sylvia Rucka
City Manager
City of Eagle Lake
979 234-2640
979 234-3255 fax

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
2014 JAN 30 PM 2:24
CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

# CITY OF EAGLE LAKE

P.O. Box 38
Eagle Lake, Texas 77434

(979) 234-2640
Fax (979) 234-3255


**City of Eagle Lake, Colorado County**

## RESOLUTION

**Resolution Requesting Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to NOT approve the unnecessary and over stringent curtailment provisions recently adopted by LCRA Board of Directors**

WHEREAS, *Rice Farmers began using the waters of the Colorado River in the 19th Century, more than 40 years before the Highland Lakes were created,*

WHEREAS, *water Rights to the Colorado River were established over 100 years ago for beneficial use of rice farming in the lower basin,*

WHEREAS, *without the support of the downstream rice farmers, the Highland Lakes and the dams would never have been built. Rice farmers were among the strongest supporters of building the Highland Lakes and dams in the 1930's for the purpose of easing flooding and making water available for irrigation,*

WHEREAS, *for two consecutive years an Emergency Drought Order obtained by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) ceased water releases for irrigation,*

WHEREAS, *the results of the Emergency Drought Orders have had a devastating economic impact on the City of Eagle Lake, in Colorado County, with the closure of several agriculture related businesses as well as a financial institution,*

WHEREAS, *the City of Eagle Lake recognizes that drought conditions have caused low inflows to the Highland Lakes, but that the Lakes were constructed for the purpose of flood control as well as water supply, not to be constant level lakes,*

WHEREAS, *the conditions have not and are not forecasted to force the curtailment of "drinking water" to the residents of the Highland Lakes, there is no "imminent" threat to health and human safety,*

WHEREAS, *the new trigger level adopted by the LCRA Board of 1.1 million acre feet serves no purpose other than to create a non-consumptive "recreational" pool for lake side residents,*

**WHEREAS,** *during periods of drought, all water users should share in the sacrifice and pain caused by the conditions, not just the downstream communities. Rice farmers and landowners have spent millions of dollars on laser leveling, volumetric metering, and management techniques to conserve and reduce the amount of water needed to irrigate a crop, yet they are the primary interests bearing the burden and hardship of the actions of the LCRA Board,*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESEOLVED,** *that the City of Eagle Lake respectively requests that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality NOT adopt the overly stringent curtailment trigger of 1.1 million acre feet storage in the Highland Lakes, being put forth in the Lower Colorado River Authority Board's application for an Emergency Order for the year 2014.*

**APPROVED AND PASSED,** *at the regular City of Eagle Lake Council Meeting on this the 28th day of January, 2014.*

Mary Parr

**MARY PARR, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

Susan Hadley

**SUSAN HADLEY, CITY SECRETARY**

## Barbara Robinson

**From:** Mauro Lopez <Mauro.Lopez@cedarparktexas.gov>
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 8:46 AM
**To:** EXECDIR
**Subject:** Re: LCRA Application for Emergency Order dated December 10, 2013
**Attachments:** LCRA_Application_for_Emergency_Order.pdf

**From:** Mauro Lopez
**Sent:** Thursday, January 23, 2014 6:21 PM
**To:** 'execdir@tceq.texas.goc'
**Cc:** Katherine Woerner
**Subject:** Re: LCRA Application for Emergency Order dated December 10, 2013

Please see attached document.

Thank you,

**Mauro Lopez**
Management Intern
City of Cedar Park
450 Cypress Creek Road, Bldg 1
Cedar Park, Texas 78613
O: 512-401-5160

CEDAR PARK

January 23, 2014

VIA EMAIL TO: execdir@tceq.texas.gov
Mr. Richard Hyde, Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087 MC 109
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Re: LCRA Application for Emergency Order dated December 10, 2013

Dear Mr. Hyde:

As the fourth fastest-growing community in the nation, Cedar Park has gained a reputation as supporting an excellent quality of life and strong commitment to public safety. Myself, and other members of the Cedar Park City Council, pride ourselves on maintaining this lifestyle for our current and future residents. One of the most critical aspects of doing so is by ensuring the long-term sustainability of Lake Travis, our municipal water supply. In addition to my role on the Cedar Park City Council, I also serve as President of the Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (BCRUA), a regional water system serving three growing communities in Williamson County. Through my involvement with the City Council and BCRUA, I am keenly aware of the importance of managing and protecting our municipal water supply.

As one of the LCRA's largest customers, Cedar Park is committed to protecting the water supply in the Highland Lakes, specifically our lone water source, Lake Travis. We have voluntarily reduced water use by 20%, and continue to enforce once a week watering to limit the amount of water removed from the lake. However, as lake levels continue to decline, we have been forced to move our water intake facility to deeper water multiple times, and are prepared to do so again. This project has cost our ratepayers millions of dollars, but we have proceeded with the project as our residents depend on this water. It is crucial that we take measures to ensure that our community will not be without an adequate source of drinking water.

LCRA has not had an effective Water Management Plan in place since the drought began in 2008. From 2012 and continuing until the present, management of the Colorado River and the Highland Lakes has been governed by a series of emergency orders issued by the TCEQ. LCRA's most recent application for an emergency order is dated December 10, 2013 and requests authorization to completely withhold releases to interruptible customers if combined storage in the Highland Lakes is below 1.1 million acre-feet on March 1, 2014. The City of Cedar Park, along with other upstream firm water customers, supported an alternative LCRA staff proposal – to set the combined storage threshold to at least 1.4 million acre-feet. Downstream interruptible customers supported the status quo – to keep the combined storage threshold at 850,000 acre-feet. In a close and difficult vote the LCRA Board approved a middle-ground proposal and set the combined storage threshold at 1.1 million acre feet. We urge the TCEQ Commission to support the Emergency Order as proposed by LCRA, or with an even more protective minimum combined storage level of 1.4 million acre-feet.

450 Cypress Creek Rd. | Cedar Park, TX 78613 | Office (512) 401-5000 | Fax (512) 259-8602 | www.cedarparktexas.gov

The City of Cedar Park cannot support a combined threshold of 850,000 acre-feet for the following reasons:

If combined storage reaches 850,000 acre-feet and interruptible water releases resume, but the low inflows experienced over the past three years remain the same, combined storage is predicted to fall below 400,000 in just one year.

- Under those circumstances, LCRA would declare a Drought Worse than a Drought of Record, resulting in a mandatory curtailment of all firm customers by 20%.
- Current combined storage is approximately 764,000 acre-feet, so lake levels would be about half of what they are now.
- There is no indication that the drought has eased its grip.
- Low inflows are still predicted.
- Combined storage of only 400,000 acre-feet would seriously endanger municipal water supplies in the upper basin.

Combined storage is currently at historic lows due in large part to imprudent releases in 2011 from which the lakes have still not recovered – please do not allow a repeat of this scenario. Please do not further endanger our municipal water supplies.

We look forward to your consideration of these comments and to continuing discussion and consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

Mitch Fuller
Cedar Park City Councilmember
President, Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority

**Barbara Robinson**

**From:** Phil Brewer <Phil.Brewer@cedarparktexas.gov>
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 1:33 PM
**To:** EXECDIR
**Subject:** LCRA Application for Emergency Order dated December 10, 2013
**Attachments:** Mr. Richard Hyde, TCEQ 1-17-14.pdf

Dear Mr. Hyde,

Please find a letter supporting the Emergency Order as proposed by LCRA.

Thank you for your consideration.
Phil Brewer

Phil Brewer
Economic Development Director
City of Cedar Park
450 Cypress Creek, Bldg. #1
Cedar Park, TX 78613
512.401.5014
Phil.brewer@cedarparktexas.gov
www.cedarparktexas.gov

CEDAR PARK

January 17, 2014

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

Re: LCRA Application for Emergency Order dated December 10, 2013

Dear Mr. Hyde:

As the Director of Economic Development for the City of Cedar Park, Texas for the past nine (9) years, I have been part of the tremendous growth that Cedar Park has experienced. In the past few years, Cedar Park has successfully recruited twenty six (26) new economic development projects that have added more than $320 million in real and personal property to the tax rolls. Due to strong leadership, responsible planning, and dedication to a unified vision, our community has enjoyed growth and economic prosperity. Indisputably, having a reliable water source is a critical component to this success. Because water is a critical issue to the business community of Cedar Park, and to the future development of our city, I am writing to express my support for the proposed Emergency Order application submitted by LCRA on December 10, 2013.

As one of the LCRA's largest customers, Cedar Park is committed to protecting the water supply in the Highland Lakes, specifically our lone water source, Lake Travis. We have voluntarily reduced water use by 20%, and continue to enforce once a week watering to limit the amount of water removed from the lake. However, as lake levels continue to decline, we have been forced to move our water intake facility to deeper water multiple times, and are prepared to do so again. This project has cost our ratepayers millions of dollars, but we have proceeded with the project as our residents depend on this water. It is crucial that we take measures to ensure that our community will not be without an adequate source of drinking water.

LCRA has not had an effective Water Management Plan in place since the drought began in 2008. From 2012 and continuing until the present, management of the Colorado River and the Highland Lakes has been governed by a series of emergency orders issued by the TCEQ. LCRA's most recent application for an emergency order is dated December 10, 2013 and requests authorization to completely withhold releases to interruptible customers if combined storage in the Highland Lakes is below 1.1 million acre-feet on March 1, 2014. The City of Cedar Park, along with other upstream firm water customers, supported an alternative LCRA staff proposal – to set the combined storage threshold to at least 1.4 million acre-feet. Downstream interruptible customers supported the status quo – to keep the combined storage threshold at 850,000 acre-feet. In a close and difficult vote the LCRA Board approved a middle-ground proposal and set the combined storage threshold at 1.1 million acre-feet. **We urge the TCEQ Commission to support the Emergency Order as proposed by LCRA, or with an even more protective minimum combined storage level of 1.4 million acre-feet.**

450 Cypress Creek Rd. | Cedar Park TX 78613 | Office (512) 401-5000 | Fax (512) 260-8602 | www.cedarparktexas.gov

The City of Cedar Park cannot support a combined threshold of 850,000 acre-feet for the following reasons:

If combined storage reaches 850,000 acre-feet and interruptible water releases resume, but the low inflows experienced over the past three years remain the same, combined storage is predicted to fall below 400,000 in just one year.

- Under those circumstances, LCRA would declare a Drought Worse than a Drought of Record, resulting in a mandatory curtailment of all firm customers by 20%.
- Current combined storage is approximately 764,000 acre-feet, so lake levels would be about half of what they are now.
- There is no indication that the drought has eased its grip.
- Low inflows are still predicted.
- Combined storage of only 400,000 acre-feet would seriously endanger municipal water supplies in the upper basin.

Combined storage is currently at historic lows due in large part to imprudent releases in 2011 from which the lakes have still not recovered – please do not allow a repeat of this scenario. We seek stronger protection of our municipal water supplies.

We look forward to your consideration of these comments and to continuing discussion and consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

Phil Brewer
Director of Economic Development
City of Cedar Park

## Barbara Robinson

**From:** Katherine Woerner <Katherine.Woerner@cedarparktexas.gov>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2014 2:54 PM
**To:** EXECDIR
**Subject:** LCRA Emergency Order
**Attachments:** Executed Mayor Powell Letter.pdf

Please see attached letter from Mayor Powell

**Katherine Woerner**
Director of Community Affairs
City of Cedar Park
450 Cypress Creek Road, Bldg 1
Cedar Park, Texas 78613
O: 512-401-5032
C: 512-507-0449

CEDAR PARK

January 16, 2014

VIA EMAIL TO: execdir@tceq.texas.gov
Mr. Richard Hyde, Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087 MC 109
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Re: LCRA Application for Emergency Order dated December 10, 2013

Dear Mr. Hyde:

As Mayor of the City of Cedar Park, I am proud to lead a community that has been nationally recognized for having an excellent quality of life and strong commitment to public safety. These accolades include being ranked the fourth fastest-growing city in the country (U.S. Census Report, 2013), the fifth most desirable suburb in the country (Movoto, 2013), and one of the Ten Best Towns for Families (Family Circle Magazine, 2007). Given the exponential growth of our community, it is imperative to protect the health and safety of our residents by ensuring a long-term, reliable source of water.

As one of the LCRA's largest customers, Cedar Park is committed to protecting the water supply in the Highland Lakes, specifically our lone water source, Lake Travis. We have voluntarily reduced water use by 20%, and continue to enforce once a week watering to limit the amount of water removed from the lake. However, as lake levels continue to decline, we have been forced to move our water intake facility to deeper water multiple times, and are prepared to do so again. This project has cost our ratepayers millions of dollars, but we have proceeded with the project as our residents depend on this water. It is crucial that we take measures to ensure that our community will not be without an adequate source of drinking water.

LCRA has not had an effective Water Management Plan in place since the drought began in 2008. From 2012 and continuing until the present, management of the Colorado River and the Highland Lakes has been governed by a series of emergency orders issued by the TCEQ. LCRA's most recent application for an emergency order is dated December 10, 2013 and requests authorization to completely withhold releases to interruptible customers if combined storage in the Highland Lakes is below 1.1 million acre-feet on March 1, 2014. The City of Cedar Park, along with other upstream firm water customers, supported an alternative LCRA staff proposal – to set the combined storage threshold to at least 1.4 million acre-feet. Downstream interruptible customers supported the status quo – to keep the combined storage threshold at 850,000 acre-feet. In a close and difficult vote the LCRA Board approved a middle-ground proposal and set the combined storage threshold at 1.1 million acre-feet. **We urge the TCEQ Commission to support the Emergency Order as proposed by LCRA, or with an even more protective minimum combined storage level of 1.4 million acre-feet.**

The City of Cedar Park cannot support a combined threshold of 850,000 acre-feet for the following reasons:

If combined storage reaches 850,000 acre-feet and interruptible water releases resume, but the low inflows experienced over the past three years remain the same, combined storage is predicted to fall below 400,000 in just one year.

- Under those circumstances, LCRA would declare a Drought Worse than a Drought of Record, resulting in a mandatory curtailment of all firm customers by 20%.
- Current combined storage is approximately 764,000 acre-feet, so lake levels would be about half of what they are now.
- There is no indication that the drought has eased its grip.
- Low inflows are still predicted.
- Combined storage of only 400,000 acre-feet would seriously endanger municipal water supplies in the upper basin.

Combined storage is currently at historic lows due in large part to imprudent releases in 2011 from which the lakes have still not recovered – please do not allow a repeat of this scenario. We seek stronger protection of our municipal water supplies.

We look forward to your consideration of these comments and to continuing discussion and consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

Mayor Matthew Powell

## Barbara Robinson

**From:** Katherine Woerner <Katherine.Woerner@cedarparktexas.gov>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 8:49 AM
**To:** EXECDIR
**Subject:** Emergency Order Application from LCRA
**Attachments:** Lux Executed Letter.pdf

See attached letter. Thank you for your consideration.

**Katherine Woerner**
Director of Community Affairs
City of Cedar Park
450 Cypress Creek Road, Bldg 1
Cedar Park, Texas 78613
O: 512-401-5032
C: 512-507-0449

CEDAR PARK

January 13, 2014

VIA EMAIL TO: execdir@tceq.texas.gov
Mr. Richard Hyde, Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087 MC 109
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Re: LCRA Application for Emergency Order dated December 10, 2013

Dear Mr. Hyde:

As a member of the Cedar Park City Council and representative on the Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority board, I am proud to lead one of the fastest growing communities in the nation. Our reputation as a family-friendly community with an excellent quality of life and strong commitment to public safety has resulted in Cedar Park being ranked the Fourth Fastest-growing City in the Country by the U.S. Census Report in 2013. As such, myself, and other members of the Council, are committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of our community's drinking water through drought conservation measures aimed at protecting our only water source, Lake Travis.

As one of the LCRA's largest customers, Cedar Park is committed to protecting the water supply in the Highland Lakes, specifically our lone water source, Lake Travis. We have voluntarily reduced water use by 20%, and continue to enforce once a week watering to limit the amount of water removed from the lake. However, as lake levels continue to decline, we have been forced to move our water intake facility to deeper water multiple times, and are prepared to do so again. This project has cost our ratepayers millions of dollars, but we have proceeded with the project as our residents depend on this water. It is crucial that we take measures to ensure that our community will not be without an adequate source of drinking water.

LCRA has not had an effective Water Management Plan in place since the drought began in 2008. From 2012 and continuing until the present, management of the Colorado River and the Highland Lakes has been governed by a series of emergency orders issued by the TCEQ. LCRA's most recent application for an emergency order is dated December 10, 2013 and requests authorization to completely withhold releases to interruptible customers if combined storage in the Highland Lakes is below 1.1 million acre-feet on March 1, 2014. The City of Cedar Park, along with other upstream firm water customers, supported an alternative LCRA staff proposal – to set the combined storage threshold to at least 1.4 million acre-feet. Downstream interruptible customers supported the status quo – to keep the combined storage threshold at 850,000 acre-feet. In a close and difficult vote the LCRA Board approved a middle-ground proposal and set the combined storage threshold at 1.1 million acre feet. We urge the TCEQ Commission to support the Emergency Order as proposed by LCRA, or with an even more protective minimum combined storage level of 1.4 million acre-feet.

The City of Cedar Park cannot support a combined threshold of 850,000 acre-feet for the following reasons:

If combined storage reaches 850,000 acre-feet and interruptible water releases resume, but the low inflows experienced over the past three years remain the same, combined storage is predicted to fall below 400,000 in just one year.

- Under those circumstances, LCRA would declare a Drought Worse than a Drought of Record, resulting in a mandatory curtailment of all firm customers by 20%.
- Current combined storage is approximately 764,000 acre-feet, so lake levels would be about half of what they are now.
- There is no indication that the drought has eased its grip.
- Low inflows are still predicted.
- Combined storage of only 400,000 acre-feet would seriously endanger municipal water supplies in the upper basin.

Combined storage is currently at historic lows due in large part to imprudent releases in 2011 from which the lakes have still not recovered – please do not allow a repeat of this scenario. Please do not further endanger our municipal water supplies.

We look forward to your consideration of these comments and to continuing discussion and consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Jon Lux

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Dorothy Taylor <dorothy@tstar.net>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 8:52 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** re: the LCRA application for the 2014 Emergency Order
**Attachments:** 1.27.2014 Letter to TCEQ.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Executive Director Hyde

Attached is a letter from Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation re: the LCRA application for the 2014 Emergency Order.

The Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation encourages TCEQ to consider amending the LCRA application for the 2014 Emergency Order by increasing the trigger to a minimum of 1.4M AF and we request TCEQ's review of our comments in the letter attached.

Thanks

# Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation

424 Coventry Rd, Spicewood, Texas 78669

2014 Board of Directors:
Pat Mulligan, President
Dorothy Taylor, Secretary
Bill Earnest, Director
Mike Madden, Director
Scott Penner, Director

January 27, 2014

*Richard.Hyde@TCEQ.texas.gov*
*Cc: Lori.Wilson@TCEQ.texas.gov*

Re: LCRA application for a 2014 Emergency Order.

*Dear Executive Director, Richard Hyde,*

The Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation encourages TCEQ to consider amending the LCRA application for the 2014 Emergency Order by increasing the trigger to a minimum of 1.4M AF and we request TCEQ's review of our comments below.

Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation (WOWSC) is responsible for providing water for our 237 customers. WOWSC pumps water from Lake Travis under a FIRM water contract with LCRA. WOWSC offices are located at 424 Coventry Rd. in Spicewood, Texas 78669.

As a water supply corporation that draws raw water from the upper reaches of Lake Travis we are directly affected by low lake levels, which have a significant impact on the functioning of our intake structure.
Although we are thankful for some rain that occurred in the end of 2013, that rain created additional challenges, as well. Because the water level had been so low, some of the rains dumped so much water into the river that the flows had the effect of a small flood. If the lake level were anything near average for this time of year (above 650' MSL), the increased flow would have been barely noticeable. But, due to there being only five to ten feet of water in the river, these increased flows have roiled up the mud and silt from the river bottom and have clogged the raw water pumps and caused major maintenance problems. One rain episode dropped about five inches of rain in the Marble Falls area in one night, which completely clogged one of the pumps and caused it to burn up.
In the attempt to operate the plant faced with reduced flows being pumped to the treatment plant, and the water being particularly muddy, the automatic control system shut the plant down. We had to reprogram the system to restore normal operations. In the days following, both raw water pumps had to be replaced, and screens fabricated to attempt to keep excessive debris out of the pumps.
With historical low lake levels in Lake Travis, it becomes necessary for us to make adjustments to the location of our intake pump and we are concerned that we could be in jeopardy of losing the capability of providing drinking water to our community.

The fact that WOWSC, a firm water customer, has had to adopt watering restrictions while interruptible customers are still receiving water is a contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan.

We believe that in order for LCRA to fulfill their obligation to firm water customers, they must update their hydrological data and use multi-year planning for managing multi-year drought cycles.

As a result of extremely low inflows over the last few years into the lakes, record high temperatures and high evaporation rates the lower Colorado River basin continues to suffer from a prolonged drought. Even with the fact that interruptible stored water was cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions in 2012 and 2013, the lake levels have not recovered. The low inflow totals are symptomatic of the drought's severity and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan. The current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record and recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief.

We commend the LCRA for seeking emergency relief which is more protective than in the 2012 and 2013 Emergency Orders. However, we feel that the modeling and updated scientific data indicates that 1.1M AF is too risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF as a minimum in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten the health and safety of our community.

The Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation encourages TCEQ to consider amending the LCRA application for the 2014 Emergency Order by increasing the trigger to a minimum of 1.4M AF. We believe that without proper action our community could be at risk to be without a water supply.

Please protect the drinking water.
Thank you for your consideration of these important issues. Please let us know if you need any additional information.
Sincerely,
WOWSC Board of Directors
Contact Email: president@wowsc.org and secretarytreasurer@wowsc.org
Contact Phone Number: 512-422-5194

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Sherri Mock <snemecek@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 5:32 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Council Creek Village Property Owners' Resolution
**Attachments:** CCVPOA TCEQ Resolution .docx

Richard and Lori,

Attached is Council Creek Village Property Owners' Association's resolution for LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order Submitted to TCEQ.

Please let me know if you have any problems downloading this Resolution.

Thank you,

RESOLUTION for LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order submitted to TCEQ

We, the duly elected Board of Directors of the Council Creek Village Property Owners' Association, request that TCEQ take action based upon the hydrology and climatological data that shows this long-term drought to be worse than the drought of the 50's. Additionally, since it has been stated that this drought might continue for 5 to 15 years, we ask that you acknowledge that drinking water should take precedent over flooding rice fields. Lake Buchanan's economy has been devastated, low lake levels present health and safety issues for people and our environment such as stagnant ponds, fish kills, the inability of White Bass to spawn, and boating dangers.

Whereas, 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 (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, the drought conditions have created a circumstance where the reservoir lakes have been unable to recover in any significant manner, even with an Emergency cutoff of nearly all water supply for downstream irrigation in 2012 and 2013 (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, the Emergency Conditions present an imminent threat to the public health and safety (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, the drought has been unprecedented relative to the long-term climate record in a number of ways: record low precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires (Bob Rose, LCRA Chief Meteorologist); and

Whereas, the drought conditions include both meteorological drought (taking into account rainfall and temperature) and hydrologic drought (taking into account stream flow and evaporation) (Bob Rose, LCRA Chief Meteorologist); and

Whereas, as a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011, and in a very short time frame (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec. Manager); and

Whereas, in 2012 and through 2013, even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions, the lake levels have not recovered (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec. Manager); and

Whereas, this low inflow total is symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils

that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events, and that other significant rainfall had fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan. (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec. Manager); and

Whereas, the current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months (Ron Anderson, LCRA Chief Engineer); and

Whereas, at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record (Ron Anderson, LCRA Chief Engineer).

Whereas, LCRA has asked the firm customers to implement their mandatory drought measures with a goal of reducing water use by 10-20%, as required by LCRA's DCP (Nora Mullarkey Miller, LCRA Water Conservation Supervisor): and

Whereas, the 2009 TWDB Study "Drought Management in the Texas and Regional Water Process," estimates the measures required to reduce municipal providers' annual water demands of 15-20% would have some onerous effects on customers and would affect customers' quality of life and local economic conditions while projected water savings may be unrealistic and most are untested (Nora Mullarkey Miller, LCRA Water Conservation Supervisor); and

Whereas, firm customers have had to spend significant amounts of money to make adjustments in order to reach water at the lower lake levels and, if lake levels continue to fall, lower elevations might be reached at significant cost or require hauling water for essential drinking and sanitation purposes (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec. Manager); and

Whereas, firm customers are being required to adopt watering restrictions that limit irrigation to no more than once per week while interruptible customers are still receiving water in contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan;

Therefore, we, the Board of Directors at Council Creek Village POA on East Lake Buchanan commend the LCRA for seeking emergency relief in their application for a 2014 Emergency Order, which is more protective than in the 2012 and 2013 Emergency Orders. However, we feel that the modeling and updated scientific data indicates that 1.1M AF is too risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to <u>1.4M AF as a minimum</u> in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that municipal water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

Signed this 27th day of January in the year of 2014.

Sherri Nemecek
CCVPOA Secretary

## Lori Wilson

| | |
|---|---|
| **rom:** | Romero, Sylvia <sylvia.romero@peci.com> |
| **Sent:** | Monday, January 27, 2014 5:19 PM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Subject:** | TCEQ February 12 Meeting |
| **Attachments:** | 2014-01-21 Support for LCRA Emergency Drought Order - FINAL WITH REVISED STATEMENT.pdf |
| **Importance:** | High |

Dear Mr. Hyde,

Attached is a resolution along with a statement of support passed by the Pedernales Electric Cooperative Board on January 21, 2014, in support of the LCRA Emergency Drought Order. In addition to the submittal of this resolution and statement for the February 12 TCEQ meeting, our CEO, John D. Hewa would like to participate during the Comments Forum of this meeting. Could you assist us with the process in securing a placeholder for Mr. Hewa to speak during the Comments Forum? Your consideration and time in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sylvia A. Romero*
*Executive Assistant to CEO*
Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 1, Johnson City, TX 78636
Phone (830) 868-4919 | Cell (830) 992-5191
Email: sylvia.romero@peci.com

POWER OF COMMUNITY
PEDERNALES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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**Board of Directors**
PO Box 1
Johnson City, TX 78636

Meeting: 01/21/14 10:00 AM

Sponsors:

# RESOLUTION 2014-7

DOC ID: 2558

**Subject:** Support for LCRA Emergency Drought Order

**Submitted By:** Michael Racis

**Department:** Communications

## Background:

## Financial Impact:

Expenditure of Cooperative funds estimated in the amount of $0 included in the Cooperative's 2014 operating budget; expenditures of staff time estimated in amount of 0 hours (other than ordinary processing requirements).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Statement of Support of the Proposed LCRA Emergency Drought Plan 2013-01-16 revised (PDF)

**Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
**Regular Meeting**
**January 21, 2014**

# RESOLUTION 2014-7

## Support for LCRA Emergency Drought Order

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PEDERNALES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.** that the Statement in Support of the LCRA's proposed Emergency Drought Plan (the "Drought Support Statement") that is attached hereto is hereby adopted as the official statement of the Board of Directors in support of LCRA's request for approval of the submitted emergency drought plan by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors designates the Chief Executive Officer to deliver the Drought Support Statement to the Board of Directors of LCRA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

| | |
|---|---|
| **RESULT:** | **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]** |
| **MOVER:** | Cristi Clement, District 1 Director |
| **SECONDER:** | James Oakley, District 5 Director |
| **AYES:** | Clement, Boggs, Scanlon, Perry, Oakley, Landaker, Cox |

Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 1 Johnson City, Texas 78636-0001
(830) 868-7155 • 1-888-554-4732
www.pec.coop

To: The Board of Directors of the Lower Colorado River Authority
The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Re: **Statement of Pedernales Electric Cooperative in Support of the proposed LCRA Emergency Drought Plan**

In November 2013, the Board of Directors of the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) voted to ask the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to approve an emergency drought relief plan that would allow LCRA to curtail water delivery to most downstream interruptible customers in 2014. The curtailment would be triggered if the combined storage of lakes Travis and Buchanan is less than 1.1 million acre-feet, or about 55 percent of capacity, at 11:59 p.m. on March 1, 2014. The combined storage of the lakes is currently about 764,502 acre-feet, or 38 percent of capacity.

The Board of Directors of Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC), LCRA's largest wholesale electricity customer, supports the LCRA Board's emergency plan request to the TCEQ. Approval of the emergency plan request will help safeguard not only the drinking water supply for more than 1 million Central Texas residents, many of whom are PEC members, but will also help ensure that LCRA will have sufficient water to cool its power generation facilities. This will help maintain reliable electric power not only to PEC members, but to tens of thousands of other electric customers throughout Central Texas.

The proposed emergency trigger is higher than the 850,000 acre-feet amount used in similar emergency orders in 2012 and 2013, and was raised because both lakes have failed to significantly recover from their historic low levels. Water from the Highland Lakes was not delivered to downstream interruptible customers both those years, and the PEC Board recognizes the hardships caused to downstream customers from this drought relief plan if approved by the TCEQ for the third year in a row. The PEC Board also recognizes, however, the urgent need for LCRA to maintain its role as a caretaker of the entire Colorado River basin. The proposed emergency drought order helps LCRA satisfy that role.

Based on information from LCRA, drought conditions are expected to persist for the foreseeable future. It is our understanding that LCRA projections show the lakes between 700,000 and 670,000 acre-feet on March 1, falling to between 580,000 and 460,000 acre-feet by June 1. If these projections come to pass, the lakes will fall below the 1952 historical low of 620,000 acre-feet.

Even if the proposed emergency drought relief plan is approved by TCEQ, LCRA would require its firm water customers, such as cities, to limit homeowners and businesses to watering a maximum of once a week. As a result, everyone needs to practice conservation and make efforts to protect this essential resource.

The well-being of the water supply in Central Texas is fast reaching a critical condition. The PEC Board of Directors stands solidly in support of LCRA in its stewardship of the entire Colorado River basin during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patrick Cox
President, Board of Directors
Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **rom:** | Rudean Edwards <rudean_tony@hotmail.com> |
| **Sent:** | Monday, January 27, 2014 4:54 PM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Subject:** | LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order |

Dear Executive Director,

My wife and I are domestic firm water customers who live on the east side of Lake Buchanan. We use to have lake front property and for many years could use the lake for both recreational and personal use. The recreational use on the lakes have all but disappeared and we all are now just trying to survive. We have been chasing the water for our personal use for several years now. With every foot the lake drops, we have to extend out lines and add additional pumps to be able to draw any water. We lost that ability last summer and I fear that with the ongoing drought, we will not be able to reach the water this coming summer. Also, we have had to deepen our water well to be able to get water because of the low lake levels. Several of my neighbors have lost water completely from their wells. If the recent weather forecasts are accurate, we could be in imminent danger of losing all our water. Trigger points used to determine when and how much water to send down stream is the wrong way to allow a lake to recover. A better solution would be to set a level at which the lakes could not fall below. That way, we could be assured that the lakes will be able to supply water to all the people in Central Texas for years to come. In the meantime, please consider raising the suggested trigger to above the 1.1M AF. We no longer have water to play with; we are fighting for water to drink!!

Thank you,
James A. & Nancy R. Edwards
405 Bumpy Ridge Dr.
Burnet, TX 78611
rudean_tony@hotmail.com

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Shirley Anderson <anderson.tomshirley@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 3:57 PM
**Subject:** Raise the Water Level Release Trigger

Please save our lake water. We have no water to drink or maintain a home. The ultra low lake levels at Lake Buchanan have lowered the underground water table and our good wells are going dry. The water in our wells is directly dependent on the lake levels.
There is no public water systems in the Shaw Island area of Lake Buchanan. Everyone is dependent on private wells, which have been completely sufficient for years____ until the lake levels have dropped and stayed down for 5 plus years. We recently drilled 2 more wells, four times deeper than average, completely dry holes and very expensive. We are currently on a 5 week waiting list for another well. We have installed a rainwater system. The drought continues, not a drop of rainwater in January. We have installed 1000 gallon tank and hauled water in, which is very expensive.
Most of our neighbors have left___ no water. Good homes sit vacant. All lake businesses have left and sit vacant, very depressing sites. Low lake levels have created disastrous problems.
Please do whatever is possible to increase water in our lakes____ definitely do nothing to lower the lake level and increase our problems.
These are desperate times. Plesae be with us_____

Your friend
Tom Anderson
Shaw Island, Lake Buchanan

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Wayne Nehring <wwnehring@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:27 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Fwd: comment 2014 emergency drought order
**Attachments:** TCEQ comment plus lower basin publication.doc; TCEQ comment plus lower basin publication.2.doc

Typing error found and corrected. Please consider comment ending in .2

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Wayne Nehring** <wwnehring@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jan 24, 2014 at 1:57 PM
Subject: comment 2014 emergency drought order
To: Richard.Hyde@tceq.texas.gov, Lori.Wilson@tceq.texas.gov

Please see attachment for comment.

TCEQ—Comment—2014 Emergency Drought Order

Rice Farmers have a distorted view of Central Texas

I saw a recent publication from the lower basin area today. I am sure that TCEQ has received letters from the lower basin crying out the content of the publication. It discusses the cut off of irrigation water causing economic and social suffering and having a ripple effect through out the counties. I am sure this is a true statement, because the lack of water in the Highland lakes has had the same results in the upper basin, and especially true in the counties near the severely drained lakes. But, unlike the lower basin, this has been a part of life in the lakes area for decades, not just 2 years. What would normally be a thriving economic area is much deflated. This is due to the past favoritism towards the lower basin which has caused consistently unpredictable lake levels. All phases of business and industry in Central Texas realize a negative ripple effect when such and important drawing card to the Central Texas area is destroyed. Central Texas needs a dependable water supply to thrive.

The rice farmers have tunnel vision and believe that they must grow rice no matter what. They have, by their own admission, started the depletion of their local ground water supply. They suggest to local residents that the aquifer in that area will become undependable and everyone should join the fight for the water in the Highland Lakes. They have resorted to threats in order to gain support from local residents. The wording used suggests that they will drain the aquifer if everyone doesn't support rice farming's efforts to get the water from the Highland Lakes. Sounds like blackmail to me. I suspect that a lower basin residential "water user revolt" will sooner or later question the importance of rice farming. If the rice farmers do jeopardize their own aquifer, it will be additional proof that they do not care about water for human consumption. They will run their own neighbors out of water. How long will it take for that aquifer to recharge?

TCEQ must take a firm stand and help to change that tunnel vision. It is time for rice farmers to shift gears and concentrate on different crops that do not rely on water that does not exist. Rice is not the only food crop that can be grown.

Gertson proclaimed that the City of Austin and other water customers do not support the cut off of water for irrigation. He says that the fight is over having water in the lakes to run jet skis. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Austin paid $100,000,000 (one hundred million dollars) to guarantee their water supply. Today that water supply is not guaranteed due to the release of water through the years for irrigation in the lower basin. We are not just talking about the massive 2011 release of about 450,000 acre feet—it's all the years previous (in addition to 2011) that caused the shortfall. God gave us plenty of water in 2007. Flood gates were open for days. Most of that water went to irrigators and today Austin and other customers are panicked. LCRA knew about the drought before all that water was released. After adequate storage space for flood protection was achieved, all water releases for irrigation should have been cut off. If that had happened, today Austin and other firm water customers would have those paid for water reserves.

I suspect that those proclaiming that the water reserves are not necessary for firm water customers failed math in school. This may have become a political issue, but CTWC has used scientific information to determine its position. Considering the drought predictions of creditable weather forecasters (LCRA's own included), we are in store for many more years of drought (maybe 15 by some predictions). Those of us who did not fail math should use historic firm water use figures, add on for increased population, check the inflows during this drought, and then try to figure out how long the water will last. I have done the math and the picture is not pretty, even without ANY future releases for irrigation.

Gertson also proclaims that CTWC wants more water in the lakes so business can thrive, and this is causing the poor decisions to cut off irrigation water. How is this any different from rice farmers wanting water so their business can thrive? The lower basin economy has been favored in the history of LCRA forever and the upper basin has been ignored forever.

Having water in the lakes for tourism related business is only a byproduct of the most important issue. A dependable water supply during a drought of record for human consumption is the real issue. TCEQ can not afford to fall short of protecting the real issue. 1.1 million acre feet is a very low trigger point for the release of a massive amount of water for irrigation. If you do the math, you will see that a drought of record will deplete 1.1 million acre feet long before the drought is over. 1.1 million acre feet is a bare minimum to stop all releases not for irrigation. Please set the trigger point for releases at 1.4 million acre feet or higher and restrict the amount of water that can be released. In reality, the trigger for beginning release and stopping release should be set solely by consideration of projected flood control needs. The water supply is that important.

The more than a million firm water customers are plenty reason to protect the water supply, but Central Texas business, industry, all present and future residents of Central Texas, and millions of future visitors and tourists will be affected.

Please take all of my comments into consideration when you make your decision on the 2014 emergency drought order and again when you finally approve the next water management plan, because we shouldn't need repeated emergency orders to protect the water supply.

The water in the Highland Lakes is important to all of Central Texas and this should make it extremely important to TCEQ.

Thank you,
Wayne Nehring, Burnet, Texas

PS In all fairness, I have included a copy of that lower basin publication and a link at the end. See below.

Rice farmers still fighting for water

EL CAMPO — Although Wharton County has received rain in recent months, it's not enough to ease the drought, making water a hot topic on the agenda at last week's Western Rice Belt Rice Conference.

Colorado Water Issues Committee Chairman Ronald Gertson gave an update on the most recent measure approved by the Lower Colorado River Authority to increase the amount of water necessary in the upper lakes, before water can be distributed.

"We fear real economic and social suffering in our communities that have relied on rice farming for generations," Gertson said during last Wedneday's event at the El Campo Civic Center. "The water cutoff will have a ripple effect."

One of those rippling effects concerns agricultural support industries.

"Our infrastructure, those folks we count on for our seed, fertilizer, flying, storage, delivery, sales ... those folks are just barely hanging on," Gertson said. "And those of us who are still in the rice business need them to hang on. We need for them to thrive.

"It's important that every acre that we can ... we get in, in rice and give these folks the boost they need to continue being the lifeline for us that they are. That's why, even though some of you might not depend on Colorado River water, what's happening with Colorado River water is important to you because the acres that that water sustains is important to sustaining the infrastructure that we all need."

Another ripple affects current water resources.

"What the unavailability of service water has caused is a glut of new well drillings," Gertson said. "Particularly in Colorado and Wharton counties. We've added about 45 new irrigation wells, primarily in the lakeside irrigation district around Eagle Lake. That is now threatening to put too much pressure on the aquifer that many of you depend upon and have depended on for a long time."

In an effort to manage the dwindling water supply caused by the drought, the LCRA board issued an emergency order, ultimately cutting off water to most farmers downstream the last two years, and a third year of water curtailment is looming.

Claims in 2011 and 2012 were approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and a trigger was set at 850,000 acre feet necessary in highland lakes before water could be distributed downstream.

The LCRA once again issued an emergency order and approved to raise the trigger to 1.1 million acre feet at the November 2013 board meeting in an 8-7 vote.

Raising the trigger to 1.1 million acre feet is 54 percent of the total capacity of the system. Lakes Travis and Buchanan, the region's water supply reservoirs, are currently at 764,863 acre-feet of water or 38 percent.

"Unless we have at least 54 percent of the system full (by March 1), rice farmers, you don't get anything," Gertson said.

If approved by the TCEQ, water would be cut off to three of the four irrigation operations LCRA serves near the Texas coast – Pierce Ranch, the Lakeside Irrigation Division and the Gulf Coast Irrigation Division.

The TCEQ received the LCRA request on Dec. 10, 2013, according to its media department. The commission is expected to take it under consideration at its Feb. 12 meeting.

The CWIC is fighting that request.

"We're saying, loud and clear, that is not fair," Gertson said. "This is all about creating a recreation pool in those lakes because the folks that have been the loudest and who have worked the hardest to get this done, believe it or not, is not actually the city of Austin or even the water suppliers up there."

The Central Texas Water Coalition of Austin, however, is in opposition and feels that even 1.1 million acre feet is not enough.

"CTWC believes that 1.4 million acre feet should be the minimum," CTWC President Jo Karr Tedder said. "We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 acre feet because it and 1.1 million acre feet are too risky for all health and safety issues. CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data and remember that no risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water."

CWIC see things differently.

"They were the folks clamoring to make sure to it that more water was left in the lakes so that their businesses would thrive," Gertson said referring to the opposing coalition. "That's what's driving a lot of these poor decisions and we as the agricultural interest downstream are suffering from misguided decisions. Currently, we are trying to convince TCEQ of that very thing."

TCEQ has supported the LCRA recommendations the last two years, but Gertson said he thinks this year might be different.

"We are getting a little bit different signal from them this year," he said, adding he thinks it is because the change from 850,000 to 1.1 million is more politically than scientifically driven.

"It is actually a threat to agriculture across the state because if they are successful in creating, what is essentially a recreational pool on these lakes, they are taking water supply out of Texas' water supplies at a time when Texas is saying 'we need more water.' We can't afford to be taking water off of the shelf to water ski on when we need water for essential purposes like growing food."

http://www.journal-spectator.com/news/article_5571b9cc-83a9-11e3-895d-001a4bcf887a.html

## Lori Wilson

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Roger Wallis <rrwallis99@gmail.com> |
| **Sent:** | Sunday, January 26, 2014 5:26 PM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Subject:** | Letter to TCEQ Executive Director Richard Hatch regarding LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order |
| **Attachments:** | rw letter.docx |

Letter to TCEQ Executive Director Richard Hatch regarding LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order

27 January, 2014

Roger Wallis
100 CR 138-B
Burnet, Texas 78611

Dear Mr. Hyde:

I live on the east side of Lake Buchanan in Bonanza Beach. I have a firm contract with LCRA to use lake water at my home. Currently I have over a quarter mile of pipe and two pumps totaling 8.5 horsepower installed to bring water to my house in order to water my lawn and store it to water my garden. I pay taxes for the waterfront on which my house is located. I have a small boat/fishing pier on what used to be my waterfront. For the past several years friends who visit often ask, "why did you build a pier out into the desert?". The extremely low water level in Lake Buchanan seriously affects all who live, work or play on the lake. Our property values are seriously depressed, yet our waterfront taxes continue.

Please consider carefully the plight of the lakes area when you consider LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order. Specifically, I believe that the proposed 1.1M AF trigger for agricultural water releases is too low. In addition, I believe it is imperative that LCRA set water charges which are fair for all water users in the basin. I do not understand how rates which require upper basin users to subsidize agricultural users can be justified.

Sincerely,

Roger Wallis
rrwallis99@gmail.com

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Ty Prause <ty.prause@co.colorado.tx.us>
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 7:02 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Paul Pape; Nate McDonald; Judge Phillip Spenrath; Ed Janecka
**Subject:** LCRA petition for emergency relief 2014

Dear Director Hyde,

Thank you for allowing us the chance to present our positions and present the lower basins' points of view.

I empathize with you in the decision you face by the filing of the petition for emergency relief. It is very unfortunate that decisions were made and actions were taken that bring the parties to your desk for a decision, which could and should have been resolved by reasonable minds in a manner that honors the legacy of this great State and its' citizens we represent.

Although we called items we addressed talking points, the real consequences at stake are much more than mere talking points. Your decision will directly impact the fate of over a quarter million people in the five lower counties.

On behalf of the people we serve, I appeal to your sense of good judgment and fairness not to be swayed by speculation and hyperbole. Please base your decision on a literal application of the law to the true facts. Imminent is defined as, "impending, close at hand, near, or fast approaching". Neither the petition for emergency relief, nor reality, prove an *imminent threat to health and human safety* in order to justify the relief requested.

Thank you again for all of the courtesies extended and for your genuine concern for all of the people who depend on our precious resource, the Colorado River.

Sincerely,

Ty Prause
Colorado County Judge

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Mike Dohrse <mdohrse@tstar.net>
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 5:57 PM
**To:** Lori Wilson
**Cc:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Lake Level Trigger Point

Ms. Lori Wilson & Mr. Richard Hyde:

We live on Lake Buchanan and have seen it full and have suffered through the drought along with all Texans. I have witnessed LCRA giving the Rice Farmers water for 2 crops in a year, during the drought. This seems almost criminal when it jeopardizes people's drinking water in a number of cities. In an article of the Austin paper the author projected that if LCRA had instituted the reforms they have recently implemented, Lakes Buchanan and Travis would be 75%-80% rather than 39% full as they are now. I know that this is Monday Morning Quarterbacking, but we would be less than intelligent if we did not learn from ignorances of the past. I am writing to you to push for a much higher trigger point to release water for agricultural use. A 1.4 million acre foot trigger point for the combined stored water in Lakes Buchanan and Travis would seem to be a reasonable storage amount to keep us from making the ignorant mistakes of the past.

Mike and Norma Jean Dohrse, 312 Blue Sky Way, Buchanan Dam, TX. 78609

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Jered Stifter <jeredstifter@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 5:52 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA emergency relief request

Dear Mr. Hyde and Ms. Wilson,

I am a resident of Burnet County, living on the northern section of Lake Buchanan. I am writing to implore you to set, at a minimum, the trigger for water flows to interruptible customers at, at least, 1.4 million AF. I would ask you to consider the following:

* Incorporate in your decision-making the operative phrase "Plan for the worst; hope for the best". LCRA is responsible for providing drinkable water to all Austin area residents. While the reservoir that will completed in 2017 will help, what do we do if this drought lasts for 10 more years? Or 20 more years? Setting the trigger at 1.1 million AF is just too risky -- and is based on a lot of hope.

* The US exports 50% of our produced rice. Reduced rice production will not adversely affect the economic reputation of Austion -- but lack of water will. What happens to the Austin economy if we don't have enough water? How we we grow? Farmers have other options besides rice. There is no substitute for water.

* With healthy lakes, the Highland Lakes area has a wonderful opportunity for an economic growth engine -- tourism. There is a reason that communities, cities, states, and countries around the world do all they can to strengthen and increase their tourist industry. Not only does this industry provide jobs for our rural citizens who then spend money on housing, food, transportation, etc;, tourists also spend money on housing, food, transportation, etc. But we need healthy lakes -- a minimum of 1.4 million AF.

PLEASE consider these points in your decision. Our future is in your hands.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jered Stifter*
*900 Waterway Lane*
*Burnet, TX 78611*

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Ron Abshier <ron@vetmkt.com>
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2014 4:09 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson; 'BOYD MICHAEL'
**Subject:** Resolution
**Attachments:** LCRA TCEQ Resolution.docx

EMAIL TO: *Richard.Hyde@TCEQ.texas.gov and copy to Lori.Wilson@TCEQ.texas.gov*

*On your letter to TCEQ re: LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order:Please start your letter with a paragraph which identifies who you are, the impacts caused by the drought, including your specific concerns and if you have a domestic firm contract. Below are some facts you may choose to use in your letter. SEND YOUR LETTER ASAP. And have your friends write a letter to TCEQ also.*

*Dear Richard Hyde,*

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 even with 2012 and 2013 Emergency cutoffs of some water supplied for downstream irrigation.

Recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief and conditions present an imminent treat to the public health and safety.

The drought has been unprecedented relative to the long---term climate record in a number of ways: record low precipitation, extreme record---setting summer heat, and enormous wildfires.

The drought conditions include both meteorological drought (taking into account rainfall and temperature) and hydrologic drought (taking into account stream flow and evaporation).

As a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than

anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011 in a very short time frame. Even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions in 2012 & 2013, **the lake levels have not recovered.**

The low inflow totals are symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, so that recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events. Also other significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan.

The current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months. And at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record.

Firm customers have had to spend significant amounts of money to make adjustments in order to reach water at the lower lake levels and, if lake levels continue to fall, lower elevations might be reached at significant cost or require hauling water for essential drinking and sanitation purposes.

Firm customers are being required to adopt watering restrictions that limit irrigation to no more than once per week while interruptible customers are still receiving water in contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan. (The updated scientific data indicates 850K AF is extremely risky and 1.1M AF is very risky. Please consider increasing the trigger to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.Please protect the

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Jim <jimbmaury@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 23, 2014 3:08 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson

My name is Jim Maury and I live on the east shore of Lake Buchanan. I rely exclusively on a private water well at my residence for drinking etc. My well has become so sour as the direct result of current low water level in Lake Buchanan that I am facing a huge investment in a rain water collection system that I can't afford. My well can be recharged if the lakes are allowed to rise significantly but the current proposal by the LCRA for a 1.1 MM/AF Trigger point is inadequate. I fully support the proposal below by the Central Texas Water Coalition and plead with you to set a minimum lake level of 1.4 MM/AF. If we continue to lose our private water wells and we cannot capture rainwater, we will be forced to purchase water which exacerbates the problem, or heaven forbid, MOVE OUT OF THE COUNTY WHERE WILL NOT BE VICTIMS OF THE LCRA'S GROSS NEGLIBENCE.
THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. JBM

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
CTWC requests that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:
1) The water supply (Lakes Buchanan & Travis) for Central Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation)
2) Climate records: Record Low Precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires.
3) Meteorological drought (low rainfall and high temperatures) and Hydrologic drought (low stream flow and high evaporation)
4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports
5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans.
LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1M AF. CTWC and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4M AF should be the MINIMUM. We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 AF because it and 1.1M AF are too risky for all health and safety issues.

CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data and remember that **no risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water.**

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Charles Miller <crm46@millertexas.net>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 23, 2014 2:45 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Trigger Point for Buchanan & Travis

Mr. Hyde;

You don't need me to repeat the details regarding lake levels, inflows etc. which you know so well. I am writing to request that the trigger level be set not lower than 1.4 million acre feet (combined) for 2014.

Fortunately, the TECQ and the LCRA are paying much closer attention now to the reservoir capacity of the storage lakes. Unless and until the watersheds receive substantial replenishing rains, greater care must be taken with the conservation pool. I applaud the efforts of the LCRA to develop additional downriver reservoirs and the heightened attention given to consumer conservation. Living in the Highland Lakes area, I can testify that many people here still don't adequately equate their personal water use with the drought risk we face. More education of all users throughout the Colorado River basin is required.

Charles Miller
Kingsland, TX

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Jim Kuhn <jraykuhn7@yahoo.com> |
| **Sent:** | Wednesday, January 22, 2014 5:26 PM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Subject:** | Water threshold greater than 1.4 million acre-feet or greater |
| **Attachments:** | TCEQ Letter concerning water storage in lakes.docx |

Dear Mr. Hyde,

Attached is a word document expressing my concerns on release of water from Lake Buchanan and Lake Travis during a time of severe drought.

Respectfully,

Jim Kuhn

Dear Executive Director, Richard Hyde,

Sir,

My name is James Kuhn and I reside on Lake LBJ in the Twin Isles Property Owners Association located near Kingsland, Texas. I am retired from Halliburton Energy Services and have lived on the lake since 2012. As a property owner with lake access from our POA, I pay a yearly domestic contract with the LCRA for restricted water usage for irrigation limited to 1" per week from May to September and ½ inch in March, April and October.

Recently, I have become aware the TCEQ is reviewing how much water should be released to the rice farmers downstream during a time of severe drought conditions. This prompted me to research the impact of rice farming in Texas vs. the need for water by the million plus citizens that live downstream from the Highland Lakes.

According to 2013 USDA reporting of rice production in the United States, three states accounted for 83.21% of U.S. production (Arkansas 43.75%, California 22.73% and Louisiana 16.73%). Texas (5.83%) and two other states account for the remaining 16.79%. An article written by the Texas State Historical Association found on link www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/afr01 indicates the number of rice farms in the state are stable between 1200 and 1500 units of which 12% of these units generate 84% of production. The conclusion drawn is less than 180 farm units generate the majority of rice crop earnings. The USDA in an article found on www.usarice.com/doclib/188/219/3681.PDF indicates Texas produces this rice on 145,000 acres and generates $200 million of revenue. This means 12% of the top farm units generating 84% of production are earning $168 million for an average of $933,000 +/- yearly. Total U.S. rice production accounts for only 2% of world production.

From my perspective, it is difficult to understand how the TCEQ can in good conscience justify releasing water from the combined storage of Lake Buchanan and Lake Travis for rice farming. The production of rice is not essential to the Texas economy and benefits only a small number of individuals at the price of jeopardizing the water supply of one of the fastest growing areas in the country with an excess of 1,000,000 users today. Revenue from water recreation, tourism and increasing property tax base generate billions more than what is generated by the rice industry in Texas.

I strongly support the Central Texas Water Coalition recommendation urging the TCEQ to set a threshold level of 1.4 million acre feet or greater to provide that water commitments can be met in the next few years.

Your consideration to my concerns will be most appreciated.

Respectfully,

James R. Kuhn
631 CR 136A
Kingsland, TX 78639

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Michael Blackmond <mrbblk7@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 4:30 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Trigger

1.4 million acre feet should be trigger.
Michael Blackmond, resident WWS.

## Lori Wilson

**From:** robert gartman <malthog@wildblue.net>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 2:01 PM
**To:** Lori Wilson; Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Highland Lakes Trigger Levels

Living on the Highland Lakes I have a hard time understanding the rational for lowering the trigger level to support downstream interests. The lakes are at or near record level low volumes, businesses are suffering or closed, property values have been affected , wildlife has also been affected by the low water, and most of all people have had to go various stages of water rationing.

It is time to start thinking of the people who rely on the lakes for their water supply and not the wants of downstream interests who over the years have had a very good deal with the LCRA. Water at prices far below what communities are paying while never making an attempt to support themselves by building water storage facilities.

You must raise this levels to a point that will guarantee water for the communities the LCRA has signed up to support . It is also time that someone took a look at the population increase and start making plans to support it.

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Deborah Shepherd <Deborah.Shepherd@leanderisd.org>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 12:31 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Water concerns
**Attachments:** waterletter.docx

For your consideration

Deborah Shepherd
ICAP Teacher
Whitestone

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For more information please visit http://www.symanteccloud.com

*Dear Richard Hyde,*

I live off the water on Lake Buchanan. The drought has caused numerous trees to die on our lot as well as lots next to us creating a fire hazard. The possibility of a fire growing out of control is very likely due to the lack of water to fight such a fire. We also are experiencing salty well water (not previously experienced) due to the low lake levels. I love living at the lake but am concerned about having well water in the future for household needs! We are already are buying drinking water (new last year) and ice (new last year) for drinks. Please consider the needs of us with well water, who are living at Lake Buchanan, when determining water policies!!!!!!

- 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 even with 2012 and 2013 Emergency cutoffs of some water supplied for downstream irrigation.
- Recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief and conditions present an imminent treat to the public health and safety.
- The drought has been unprecedented relative to the long-term climate record in a number of ways: record low precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat, and enormous wildfires.
- The drought conditions include both meteorological drought (taking into account rainfall and temperature) and hydrologic drought (taking into account stream flow and evaporation).
- As a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011 in a very short time frame. Even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions in 2012 & 2013, **the lake levels have not recovered.**
- The low inflow totals are symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, so that recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events. Also other significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan.
- The current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months. And at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record.
- Firm customers have had to spend significant amounts of money to make adjustments in order to reach water at the lower lake levels and, if lake levels continue to fall, lower elevations might be reached at significant cost or require hauling water for essential drinking and sanitation purposes.
- Firm customers are being required to adopt watering restrictions that limit irrigation to no more than once per week while interruptible customers are still receiving water in contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan.

The updated scientific data indicates 850K AF is extremely risky and 1.1M AF is very risky. Please consider increasing the trigger to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
Please protect the drinking water for the people of Central Texas.

Thank You,
Deborah Anne Shepherd
210 Point Loop, Burnet Texas 78611
deborah.shepherd@leanderisd.org

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Deborah Shepherd <Deborah.Shepherd@leanderisd.org>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 12:28 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Water
**Attachments:** water letter.docx

For your consideration,

Deborah Shepherd
ICAP Teacher
Whitestone

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For more information please visit http://www.symanteccloud.com

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Re: LBCC Resolution for LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order
January 25, 2014.

To Executive Director

Richard Hyde,

Lake Buchanan Conservation Corp (LBCC) is a 501 C3 organization located in Buchanan Dam, TX with a 2013 membership of 101 individuals and 16 area businesses. The LBCC mission is; To maintain and improve the effectiveness of Lake Buchanan as a recreational area for all who wish to use it.

The LBCC works closely with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the LCRA to maintain the lakes population of Hybrid Striped Bass. Each year the LBCC purchases and stocks the lake with this species and has, to this date, stocked over 6M fingerlings and fry.

By having an ongoing, working relationship with the lake as a fishery, LBCC members are very much aware of variations in fish populations and general well-being as affected by changing environmental conditions such as those brought about by extended drought.

In 2013, Marcos De Jesus, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. District Supervisor with the Inland Fisheries division published his comprehensive study, "River-Reservoir Connectivity at Lake Buchanan". He reported findings from a White Bass angler survey conducted March 1, 2011 through May 31, 2011 that showed direct expenditures by all anglers was estimated to be $2.5M. Nearly another million dollars of added economic value was estimated in direct revenue during the three (3) month period.

The welfare of White Bass in Lake Buchanan is very important in maintaining the welfare of Lake Buchanan both economically and biologically.

According to Biologist DeJesus, the year-class strength of reproduction of White Bass is directly related to the spring inflows of water. To sustain quality populations of White Bass frequent (every 3 to 4 years) strong year-classes are required.

The majority of White Bass will migrate upstream from the main lake to spawn above the Colorado Bend area. Reduced inflow due to drought restricts and has, at times, even stopped this migration thus resulting in decreasing White Bass numbers.

The area where the inflow section of the river and the reservoir interface (RRI) is a transition zone for many fish species during different life stages. RRIs Provide migration passage, nursery habitat and seasonal refuge for many fish species. It is estimated that 80% of the fish species which inhabit the lake used the RRI in Lake Buchanan.

Management of the RRI is critical to overall sport-fish management. In Lake Buchanan, loss of RRI connectivity occurs at a water level of 1,001 ft msl and jeopardizes those fish species which are dependent on the RRI. The river-reservoir connectivity was lost in 2011 and has not been restored since that time.

Whereas, the Lake Buchanan Conservation Corporation is a nonprofit group with firsthand knowledge of fish populations in Lake Buchanan and,

Whereas, White Bass angler surveys indicate a three (3) month expenditure for fishing to be approximately $3.5M (Marcos DeJesus, TPWD, 2013) and,

Whereas, the White Bass population in Lake Buchanan is adversely affected by reduced stream inflow (Marcos DeJesus, TPWD, 2013) and,

Whereas, the river-reservoir interface (RRI) is critical to sport-fish management (Buckmeier et al, TPWD, 2013) and,

Whereas, loss of connectivity occurs at 1,000 ft msl in Lake Buchanan (Marcos DeJesus, TPWD, 2013);

Therefore, we, the Lake Buchanan Conservation Corporation commend the LCRA for seeking emergency relief in their 2014 Emergency Order, which is more protective than in the 2012 and 2013 Emergency Orders. However, we feel that the modeling and updated scientific data indicates that 1.1MAF is too risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4MAF as a minimum in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the

Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that established fish populations in Lake Buchanan and Lake Travis will survive extremely low reservoir levels.

Ron Abshier, Vice President

Lake Buchanan Conservation Corporation

Buchanan Dam, TX

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Wayne Nehring <wwnehring@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 1:57 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** comment 2014 emergency drought order
**Attachments:** TCEQ comment plus lower basin publication.doc

Please see attachment for comment.

TCEQ—Comment—2014 Emergency Drought Order

Rice Farmers have a distorted view of Central Texas

I saw a recent publication from the lower basin area today. I am sure that TCEQ has received letters from the lower basin crying out the content of the publication. It discusses the cut off of irrigation water causing economic and social suffering and having a ripple effect through out the counties. I am sure this is a true statement, because the lack of water in the Highland lakes has had the same results in the upper basin, and especially true in the counties near the severely drained lakes. But, unlike the lower basin, this has been a part of life in the lakes area for decades, not just 2 years. What would normally be a thriving economic area is much deflated. This is due to the past favoritism towards the lower basin which has caused consistently unpredictable lake levels. All phases of business and industry in Central Texas realize a negative ripple effect when such and important drawing card to the Central Texas area is destroyed. Central Texas needs a dependable water supply to thrive.

The rice farmers have tunnel vision and believe that they must grow rice no matter what. They have, by their own admission, started the depletion of their local ground water supply. They suggest to local residents that the aquifer in that area will become undependable and everyone should join the fight for the water in the Highland Lakes. They have resorted to threats in order to gain support from local residents. The wording used suggests that they will drain the aquifer if everyone doesn't support rice farming's efforts to get the water from the Highland Lakes. Sounds like blackmail to me. I suspect that a lower basin residential "water user revolt" will sooner or later question the importance of rice farming. If the rice farmers do jeopardize their own aquifer, it will be additional proof that they do not care about water for human consumption. They will run their own neighbors out of water. How long will it take for that aquifer to recharge?

TCEQ must take a firm stand and help to change that tunnel vision. It is time for rice farmers to shift gears and concentrate on different crops that do not rely on water that does not exist. Rice is not the only food crop that can be grown.

Gertson proclaimed that the City of Austin and other water customers do not support the cut off of water for irrigation. He says that the fight is over having water in the lakes to run jet skis. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Austin paid $100,000,000 (one hundred million dollars) to guarantee their water supply. Today that water supply is not guaranteed due to the release of water through the years for irrigation in the lower basin. We are not just talking about the massive 2011 release of about 450,000 acre feet—it's all the years previous (in addition to 2011) that caused the shortfall. God gave us plenty of water in 2007. Flood gates were open for days. Most of that water went to irrigators and today Austin and other customers are panicked. LCRA knew about the drought before all that water was released. After adequate storage space for flood protection was achieved, all water releases for irrigation should have been cut off. If that had happened, today Austin and other firm water customers would have those paid for water reserves.

I suspect that those proclaiming that the water reserves are not necessary for firm water customers failed math in school. This may have become a political issue, but CTWC has used scientific information to determine its position. Considering the drought predictions of creditable weather forecasters (LCRA's own included), we are in store for many more years of drought (maybe 15 by some predictions). Those of us who did not fail math should use historic firm water use figures, add on for increased population, check the inflows during this drought, and then try to figure out how long the water will last. I have done the math and the picture is not pretty, even without ANY future releases for irrigation.

Gertson also proclaims that CTWC wants more water in the lakes so business can thrive, and this is causing the poor decisions to cut off irrigation water. How is this any different from rice farmers wanting water so their business can thrive? The lower basin economy has been favored in the history of LCRA forever and the upper basin has been ignored forever.

Having water in the lakes for tourism related business is only a byproduct of the most important issue. A dependable water supply during a drought of record for human consumption is the real issue. TCEQ can not afford to fall short of protecting the real issue. 1.1 million acre feet is a very low trigger point for the release of a massive amount of water for irrigation. If you do the math, you will see that a drought of record will deplete 1.1 million acre feet long before the drought is over. 1.1 million acre feet is a bare minimum to stop all releases not for irrigation. Please set the trigger point for releases at 1.4 million acre feet or higher and restrict the amount of water that can be released. In reality, the trigger for beginning release and stopping release should be set solely by consideration of projected flood control needs. The water supply is that important.

The more than a million firm water customers are plenty reason to protect the water supply, but Central Texas business, industry, all present and future residents of Central Texas, and millions of future visitors and tourists will be affected.

Please take all of my comments into consideration when you make your decision on the 2014 emergency drought order and again when you finally approve the next water management plan, because we shouldn't need repeated emergency orders to protect the water supply.

The water in the Highland Lakes is important to all of Central Texas and this should make it extremely important to TCEQ.

Thank you,
Wayne Nehring, Burnet, Texas

PS In all fairness, I have included a copy of that lower basin publication and a link at the end. See below.

Rice farmers still fighting for water

EL CAMPO — Although Wharton County has received rain in recent months, it's not enough to ease the drought, making water a hot topic on the agenda at last week's Western Rice Belt Rice Conference.

Colorado Water Issues Committee Chairman Ronald Gertson gave an update on the most recent measure approved by the Lower Colorado River Authority to increase the amount of water necessary in the upper lakes, before water can be distributed.

"We fear real economic and social suffering in our communities that have relied on rice farming for generations," Gertson said during last Wedneday's event at the El Campo Civic Center. "The water cutoff will have a ripple effect."

One of those rippling effects concerns agricultural support industries.

"Our infrastructure, those folks we count on for our seed, fertilizer, flying, storage, delivery, sales ... those folks are just barely hanging on," Gertson said. "And those of us who are still in the rice business need them to hang on. We need for them to thrive.

"It's important that every acre that we can ... we get in, in rice and give these folks the boost they need to continue being the lifeline for us that they are. That's why, even though some of you might not depend on Colorado River water, what's happening with Colorado River water is important to you because the acres that that water sustains is important to sustaining the infrastructure that we all need."

Another ripple affects current water resources.

"What the unavailability of service water has caused is a glut of new well drillings," Gertson said. "Particularly in Colorado and Wharton counties. We've added about 45 new irrigation wells, primarily in the lakeside irrigation district around Eagle Lake. That is now threatening to put too much pressure on the aquifer that many of you depend upon and have depended on for a long time."

In an effort to manage the dwindling water supply caused by the drought, the LCRA board issued an emergency order, ultimately cutting off water to most farmers downstream the last two years, and a third year of water curtailment is looming.

Claims in 2011 and 2012 were approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and a trigger was set at 850,000 acre feet necessary in highland lakes before water could be distributed downstream. The LCRA once again issued an emergency order and approved to raise the trigger to 1.1 million acre feet at the November 2013 board meeting in an 8-7 vote.

Raising the trigger to 1.1 million acre feet is 54 percent of the total capacity of the system. Lakes Travis and Buchanan, the region's water supply reservoirs, are currently at 764,863 acre-feet of water or 38 percent.

"Unless we have at least 54 percent of the system full (by March 1), rice farmers, you don't get anything," Gertson said.

If approved by the TCEQ, water would be cut off to three of the four irrigation operations LCRA serves near the Texas coast – Pierce Ranch, the Lakeside Irrigation Division and the Gulf Coast Irrigation Division.

The TCEQ received the LCRA request on Dec. 10, 2013, according to its media department. The commission is expected to take it under consideration at its Feb. 12 meeting.

The CWIC is fighting that request.

"We're saying, loud and clear, that is not fair," Gertson said. "This is all about creating a recreation pool in those lakes because the folks that have been the loudest and who have worked the hardest to get this done, believe it or not, is not actually the city of Austin or even the water suppliers up there."

The Central Texas Water Coalition of Austin, however, is in opposition and feels that even 1.1 million acre feet is not enough.

"CTWC believes that 1.4 million acre feet should be the minimum," CTWC President Jo Karr Tedder said. "We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 acre feet because it and 1.1 million acre feet are too risky for all health and safety issues. CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data and remember that no risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water."

CWIC see things differently.

"They were the folks clamoring to make sure to it that more water was left in the lakes so that their businesses would thrive," Gertson said referring to the opposing coalition. "That's what's driving a lot of these poor decisions and we as the agricultural interest downstream are suffering from misguided decisions. Currently, we are trying to convince TCEQ of that very thing."

TCEQ has supported the LCRA recommendations the last two years, but Gertson said he thinks this year might be different.

"We are getting a little bit different signal from them this year," he said, adding he thinks it is because the change from 850,000 to 1.1 million is more politically than scientifically driven.

"It is actually a threat to agriculture across the state because if they are successful in creating, what is essentially a recreational pool on these lakes, they are taking water supply out of Texas' water supplies at a time when Texas is saying 'we need more water.' We can't afford to be taking water off of the shelf to water ski on when we need water for essential purposes like growing food."

http://www.journal-spectator.com/news/article_5571b9cc-83a9-11e3-895d-001a4bcf887a.html

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Hotmail <janieh25@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 12:00 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Wharton Journal Spectator

Dear Sir,
I have just read the article regarding the plight of the rice farmers need for water in the Wharton Journal Spectator.
I hope you have been to the Highland Lakes recently to see for yourself the devastation that has occurred due to the mismanagement of the water.
I strongly object to the statement that we are worried about water skiing. While it is true that many recreational businesses associated with the lake have closed (these were OUR supporting businesses) the main problem is wells running dry and our area becoming a ghost town.
Is any consideration being given to educating and helping the rice farmers grow a different, environmental friendly crop to sustain themselves and their supporting businesses?
Thank you for your time.
Janie Howell
Lake Buchanan resident

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | David Lindsay <davelindsay02@gmail.com> |
| **Sent:** | Friday, January 24, 2014 11:59 AM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Subject:** | Barton Creek Lakeside Property Owners Association (POA) Board Resolution |
| **Attachments:** | BCLS Resolutiion on 2014 E.O. to TCEQ.pdf |

To: Richard Hyde, Executive Director, TCEQ
cc: Lori Wilson

Dear Mr. Hyde,

I am attaching a Resolution from the Board of the Property Owners Association (POA) of Baton Creek Lakeside (BCLS) supporting the LCRA Emergency Order Request to TCEQ for 2014 that is more protective than the ones passed in 2012 and 2013. This resolution was unanimously passed and signed by the President of the Board on January 23, 2014. The resolution details significant health and safety consequences and risks to the BCLS community related to low water levels in Lake Travis and also respectfully requests consideration that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to a minimum of 1.4 M AF, as modeling and updated scientific data indicates that 1.1M AF is too risky.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Respectfully,
David M. Lindsay
Lake Issues Point of Contact, BCLS POA
713-854-9317
davelindsay02@gmail.com

## RESOLUTION for LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order submitted to TCEQ by Barton Creek Lakeside Property Owners Association (POA)

***Barton Creek Lakeside is a community of approximately 250 homes in western Travis and southern Burnet counties that utilizes self-contained water supplies for both potable and irrigation water. Both the potable well water system and the surface water based irrigation systems have been found to be very dependent on the water level in Lake Travis. For much of 2013, we have been subjected to numerous loss of water situations and associated boil water notices and subsequent Stage 3 water restrictions on the potable water by Aqua Texas, which also severely limits the community's fire fighting capability. In addition, our community irrigation system pump inlet was unable to provide water due to the very low Lake Travis levels experienced this past year. It is imperative for our community to have a reasonable life style, including mitigation of health and safety risks, into the future, predicated by the maintenance of reasonable water levels in Lake Travis that support our water supply. A level of 650' MSL is required for our community to avoid future water crises.***

Whereas, 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, and our Barton Creek Lakeside community continue to suffer from a prolonged drought (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, the drought conditions have created a circumstance where the reservoir lakes have been unable to recover in any significant manner, even with an Emergency cutoff of nearly all water supply for downstream irrigation in 2012 and 2013 (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, the Emergency Conditions present an imminent threat to the public health and safety (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, the drought has been unprecedented relative to the long-term climate record in a number of ways: record low precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires (Bob Rose, LCRA Chief Meteorologist); and

Whereas, the drought conditions include both meteorological drought (taking into account rainfall and temperature) and hydrologic drought (taking into account stream flow and evaporation) (Bob Rose, LCRA Chief Meteorologist); and

Whereas, as a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011, and in a very short time frame (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec. Manager); and

Whereas, in 2012 and through 2013, even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions, the lake levels have not recovered (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec.

Manager); and

Whereas, this low inflow total is symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events, and that other significant rainfall had fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan. (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec. Manager); and

Whereas, the current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months (Ron Anderson, LCRA Chief Engineer); and

Whereas, at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record (Ron Anderson, LCRA Chief Engineer).

Whereas, LCRA has asked the firm customers to implement their mandatory drought measures with a goal of reducing water use by 10-20%, as required by LCRA's DCP (Nora Mullarkey Miller, LCRA Water Conservation Supervisor): and

Whereas, the 2009 TWDB Study "Drought Management in the Texas and Regional Water Process," estimates the measures required to reduce municipal providers' annual water demands of 15-20% would have some onerous effects on customers and would affect customers' quality of life and local economic conditions while projected water savings may be unrealistic and most are untested (Nora Mullarkey Miller, LCRA Water Conservation Supervisor); and

Whereas, firm customers have had to spend significant amounts of money to make adjustments in order to reach water at the lower lake levels and, if lake levels continue to fall, lower elevations might be reached at significant cost or require hauling water for essential drinking and sanitation purposes (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec. Manager); and

Whereas, firm customers are being required to adopt watering restrictions that limit irrigation to no more than once per week while interruptible customers are still receiving water in contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan;

Therefore, we, the Board of the Barton Creek Lakeside POA, commend the LCRA for seeking emergency relief in their 2014 Emergency Order, which is more protective than in the 2012 and 2013 Emergency Orders. However, we feel that the modeling and updated scientific data indicates that 1.1M AF is too risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF as a minimum in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that municipal water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety of our community.

By: [signature] PRESIDENT

Signed this 23rd day of JANUARY in the year of 2014.

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Le Anne Worsham <leanneworsham@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 11:54 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Water Concerns

I live in The Coves on Lake Travis. We have a water front home on Schneider's cove. We are one of the few lucky ones on that cove whose dock is still in water.

If we had to sell our home now, I know our home would not be valued as much because of the lake levels.

Please do whatever you can to protect my property value.

We also love taking our guests to the restaurants on the lake. Johnny Finns has been out of business for several years. Cafe Blue-can't get to it my lake, Shades-docks were only in 8' of water at end of summer. Gnarly Gar and restaurant at Volente beach are still doable.

People are choosing not to buy property on the lake because of this.

Also, I have always been concerned about the drinking water availability. It seems in our area Spicewood Lake Travis area Developers are king- with no thought about water. Several times we have had 8-10 guests in our home over the past 3 years where we were on strict water usage from our community water district. Eating on paper plates, not using dishwasher, and restricting showers is not something I enjoy.

My husband and I do everything we can to save water.-use of paper plates, not flushing commodes until necessary, watering yard per schedule, etc.

Le Anne Worsham

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** hhcity <hhcity@tstar.net>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 9:18 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Protect Central Texas Water Supply

Mr. Hyde,

I urge you to protect the water supply of central Texas. Please approve the LCRA plan to conserve the water supply in the Colorado River lake chain. This water is necessary for drinking, public safety and personal needs, not for business reasons.

Please approve the Emergency Drought Order.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pete

Peter E. Freehill
Mayor
Highland Haven, Texas

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** KAYHERRING@aol.com
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 5:33 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Raise Water Trigger Level

Please raise the March 1st trigger level for downstream water release from 850k to 1.4 million acre feet. Thank you.

Kay

Kay Herring Peterson
306 CR 131
Marble Falls, TX 78654

830-598-5352 Cell: 206-499-6299

THANK YOU, in advance, for deleting my e-mail address or any other
e-mail addresses from this message if you plan to forward it.
And PLEASE use Bcc: for any "bulk" e-mailings instead of To: or Cc:.
This keeps our addresses private and we might cut down on spam and computer
identity theft.

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** ronrockb@gmail.com on behalf of hexagonsun2112@gmail.com
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 1:12 PM
**To:** Lori Wilson; Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Highland Lakes Water Level to 1.4M

Please protect the HUGE base of voters that reside in the Highland Lakes and the Firm water customers of Austin by requiring a level of 1.4M as the trigger point for water storage.

As a homeowner on Lake Travis I have seen the devastation that has been caused by the loss of water on the area and the impact it is having on the State of Texas when all the news continues to show these drought conditions.

Thank you.

Ron R. Browning
19406 Scenic Drive
Spicewood, Tx 78669

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Derris Murphy <derrismurphy@comcast.net>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 11:13 AM
**To:** Lori Wilson; Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Highland Trigger levels for March 1

Dear LCRA Executive Directors:

I am a property owner on Lake Travis, and have been unable to pump water or enjoy Lake Travis for over two years now with no relief in sight.

I grew up in Austin beginning in 1957 and have camped and boated on Lake Travis for over 40 years before purchasing property on the lake. While I am well aware of the normal fluctuations of the lake over the years, it has now become very apparent that conditions are no longer what they have ever been in my experience at Lake Travis.

It is very apparent that the lake can no longer support both the firm municipal customers and irrigation in South Texas. Now, more than ever, it is obvious that, as time goes on and the population and economy of Central Texas grow, subsidizing farming in South Texas with ridiculously cheap water will become more and more of an optional use of excess water, and less and less of a mandatory use of our extremely valuable water resources that are needed for the benefit of our state residents and economy.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to consider raising the trigger point on March 1 to at least 1.4 million acre-feet, and make that level permanent or at least until reservoirs downstream can be built to supply this needed water. Even with the higher levels, the price should be raised significantly to properly reflect the value of the water and encourage the development of alternative sources.

When evaluating your decision, please consider the following additional information:

- 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 even with 2012 and 2013 Emergency cutoffs of some water supplied for downstream irrigation.
- As a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011 in a very short time frame. Even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions in 2012 & 2013, **the lake levels have not recovered.**
- The low inflow totals are symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, so that recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events. Also other significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan.
- The current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months. And at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record.
- Firm customers have had to spend significant amounts of money to make adjustments in order to reach water at the lower lake levels and, if lake levels continue to fall, lower elevations might be reached at significant cost or require hauling water for essential drinking and sanitation purposes.
- Firm customers are being required to adopt watering restrictions that limit irrigation to no more than once per week while interruptible customers are still receiving water in contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan.

The updated scientific data indicates 850K AF is extremely risky and 1.1M AF is very risky. Please consider increasing the trigger to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

Please protect the drinking water for the people of Central Texas.

Thank You,

Derris Murphy
Ph.(281)351-2682
Fax(281)255-8527

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Kathy Reeves <kathy@scientificminds.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 10:32 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson; kenreeves@gt.rr.com
**Subject:** Water supply

Hi,

My husband and I are currently building a home in Spicewood near Lake Travis. Please consider the following as you work toward finding a way to ensure the availability of our water supply.

Thanks to the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
CTWC requests that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:

1) The water supply (Lakes Buchanan & Travis) for Central Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation)
2) Climate records: Record Low Precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires.
3) Meteorological drought (low rainfall and high temperatures) and Hydrologic drought (low stream flow and high evaporation)
4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports
5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans.
LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1M AF. CTWC and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4M AF should be the MINIMUM. We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 AF because it and 1.1M AF are too risky for all health and safety issues.

CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data and remember that **no risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water.**

Kathy Reeves

Scientific Minds, LLC
www.scientificminds.com
800-886-8145 Ext 101

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Nancy Harris <harrislanding@verizon.net>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 10:04 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Letter to TCEQ re: LCRA's 2014 EDO

Dear Executive Director, Richard Hyde,

As a stakeholder and property owner on Lake Buchanan for more than twenty years, I have witnessed rises and falls in the water levels on the lake. However, during the past three years the lack of water in the lake has resulted in business closings, private wells going dry, and property values decreasing.

The lakes are not being replenished due to lack of rain fall in the water shed, thus resulting in low inflows! The upper Colorado Basin did not receive the rain that Austin, and the Lower Basin received in October 2013.

I respectfully request TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

Please protect the drinking water for the people of Central Texas.

Thank you,

Buddy Harris
214 CR 219AA
Tow, TX
harrislanding@verizon.net

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Alan Wood <awood@sterlingappraisaltx.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 9:54 AM
**To:** Lori Wilson; Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Highland Lakes Trigger Point

I would like to take this opportunity to email you to voice my support for the increase in the trigger point from 850K acre feet to 1.4M acre feet. The trigger point is currently set too low based upon the continuing climatic conditions in the State of Texas and the importance of the Highland Lakes as a drinking water source for the entire Central Texas region. As a property owner on Lake Travis, I see the effects of the continuing drought on a daily basis, as I can walk across Lake Travis in front of my property without getting my knees wet. This valuable resource needs to be protected in the prolonged time of drought and we continue to pay for the release of water years ago that has never been replaced within the Highland Lakes chain.

Regards,

Alan K. Wood, MAI
President
awood@sterlingappraisaltx.com
Sterling Appraisal Services, LLC
www.sterlingappraisaltx.com
Offices in Austin and San Antonio
AUS - 512.635.6450 SAT - 210.201.5440

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Dennis Schafer <dendischafer@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 9:08 AM
**To:** Lori Wilson; Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Emergency Order on Downstream Releases

Ms Wilson and Mr. Hyde

I am writing to express my support of LCRA's request to TCEQ for the commission to seriously consider setting a 1.4-million acre-feet trigger point to initiate curtailing downstream water releases for interruptible customers such as agricultural users. The Lower Colorado River Authority applied to the TCEQ for an emergency order that would allow the agency to cut off downstream water releases if the combined acre-feet of storage in lakes Buchanan and Travis was below the trigger point.

This is a very serious issue and requires serious safety measures to be installed to protect our water resources in this extremely lengthy drought. Please express to the Commission my support of LCRA's request for an Emergency Order on downstream releases.

Thanks you!
Dennis Schafer

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Karen Blake <karenlblake@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2014 8:15 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Lake Travis

Please raise the trigger to 1.4 million in order to save what little water we have. We live near mile marker 52 and there is NO lake but instead a stream that is 12" deep. The lake is normally 300 yards across and 40'+ deep. We need to save the little water we have.
Karen Blake.

Sent from my iPhone

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Cindy Sterling <cjssterling@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 7:02 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** March 1st trigger point

Please make the March 1st trigger point 1.4 million acts ft. Anything less is highly risky and could be disastrous!

Cindy Sterling
"You do not FIND time for creativity, you MAKE time for creativity. "

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Joyce Smith <joycejonessmith@sbcglobal.net>
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 5:08 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA 2014 Emergency Dought Order

Dear Mr. Hyde,

I am writing this letter because of my concern regarding the issues in the above Emergency Drought Order sent to you. My husband and I live on Lake Buchanan and have renewed our domestic firm contract every year, although we do not take water out of the lake because the water is so low. I am also an Emergency Service District #5 Commissioner and have a tremendous concern that our volunteer fire department will not have access to water for putting out fires. The firemen already have a concern with the current water levels and it will only get worse if the lake is not protected.

Therefore, I advocate for the 1.4 M AF trigger. A more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to all firm customers. The current LCRA recommendation of 1.1 M AF is too risky given the forecasts of rain expected in the next few years.

While I advocate the higher 1.4 M AF trigger, I will support the compromise of a MINIMUM of 1.1 M AF to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten the health and safety of Central Texas, to avoid hitting the 600 M AF emergency threshold caused by releases of stored water to interruptible customers, and to protect the water supply for the people of Central Texas.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Respectfully,

Joyce Smith
2510 CR 137
Burnet, Texas 78611

E-mail: joycejonessmith@sbcglobal.net

Cell:512-799-7482

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Dan Brady <dan@jimberryranchsales.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 5:04 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Dear Executive Director Hyde;

I am a home owner, land owner and business owner in Burnet County, having lived here for 19 years. I am very concerned about my neighbors' homes and businesses on Lake Buchanan. Also concerning me is the importance of the lake water to the ground water supply and those served by water wells.

Please consider increasing the trigger - the updated scientific data indicates 850,000 acre feet is extremely risky and 1,100.000 acre feet is very risky.

The lake levels have not recovered and conditions present an imminent threat to the public health and safety. Recent weather forecasts do not include any signs of relief. As a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011 in a very short time frame. The low inflow totals are symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, so that recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events.

Please protect the drinking water for over a million people in Central Texas.

Thank You,

Dan Brady
PO Box 1033
Burnet, TX 78611
Bradyxx12@gmail.com

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Pat Mulligan <patrickjmulligan@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2014 2:24 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** The lakes and aquifers have to recharge before we can even consider downstream use again!

When the downstream interests angrily talk about not having water, what they mean is that they don't have cheap water to flood their fields. They have plenty of water to drink and use for hygiene purposes. We in the north end of Lake Travis however are worried that we will not have enough water period, we cannot dig wells in our community and the river is hardly running. Every morning I look out at the lake and worry that our community could run out of water soon. We do have the right to be angry because we watched the LCRA drain the lake in 2011 during the worst drought in the century to feed those downstream interests, but it's too late do do anything about that now. All we can do is wait for rain and pray that it happens before we lose our communities and when it does rain we need to stay aware and let mother nature recharge the lakes and aquifers before we flood the downstream interests with cheap water again.

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

Request that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:
(1) The current low water supplies (Lakes Buchanan and Travis) are an imminent threat to public health and safety for Central Texans, e.g. drinking water surface and groundwater wells going dry, extending water lines, fire hazard, intakes going dry, rainwater is our source of water.

(2) The lake levels have not recovered from the continued, extended drought (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation)

(3) There is no alternative to the Emergency Drought Order, e.g. finding additional sources are too expensive and will take years to develop.

(3) We are and have been conserving water, e.g. drought stages 2, 3 and 4 for 3 years in various parts of Central Texas.

(4) The Central Texas economy depends on water.

(5) 850K AF is very dangerous. 1.1M AF is very risky. Data shows if the climate continues as it has the past three years, lake levels will hit 400,000 AF and Drought Disaster will be declared.

(6) At least a 1.4M AF trigger or above is needed to be protective of the municipal drinking water supply for over ONE MILLION Central Texans.

( ) Down-basin has no threat to their drinking water; the risk is to the water supply/drinking water for Central Texans.

A more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to **ALL Firm Customers.**

The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so drinking water is protected for Central Texans. LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1M AF. Burnet County, CTWC and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. We believe that the 1.4M AF should be the MINIMUM. We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 AF because it and 1.1M AF are too risky for all health and safety issues.

TCEQ should base this decision on updated scientific data and remember that **no risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water.**

Best regards,

Pat Mulligan
President,
Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corp
President@WOWSC.org
512-573-0311

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Jim Gottardi <gottardi@austin.rr.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, January 19, 2014 9:55 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Upper basin

*Dear Richard,*

Please protect the drinking water for the people of Central Texas.

I believe the priorities need to be re-examined.

If you need help, please let me know.

Thank You,

Jim Gottardi

Austin, Texas

gottardi@austin.rr.com

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Bob Lueck <blueck@austin.rr.com>
**Sent:** Sunday, January 19, 2014 6:06 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Lake Travis & Lake Buchanan Lake Levels

I recognize that you/TCEQ are the experts in protecting water for the general population in this area. I am thankful you are in place to watch over the LCRA plans, as I believe that they are not adequately representing our needs (they are driven by $$). I live on Lake Travis and also enjoy the recreational benefits of being on the lake, but this is secondary to having drinking water. We barely missed an all time low level last year. We have had very minor increases in the lake level....no where close to what we need. As I watched the lake level fall, due to releases, usage and evaporation, the lake was going down about .2 foot per day (I recognize that during the Winter months it slows down). The 12 feet increase (616 to 628) represents about 60-90 days of water ahead of us, without additional/increased rainfalls.
Water is becoming a precious resource to this area (and many more).
I would like to see the trigger points to be based on protecting 1.4M AF as a minimum level. Of course, we are well below that level right now and we can only hope and pray that we get some additional rain and runoff in the watershed areas.
I am a member of the Central Texas Water Coalition and would like to go on record of supporting their proposition inputs to you.

By the way, LCRA's prior proposal was very irresponsible in not taking into account the more recent lake level inputs and uses. I appreciate you creating some checks and balances to this important plan.

Please let me know if you need anything further from me. I appreciate your efforts and valued perspective in looking after the users in this area. We must protect our Highland Lakes.

Sincerely,

Bob Lueck
14813 Arrowhead Dr.
Volente, TX 78641-6136

(512) 258-3157
blueck@austin.rr.com

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Tommi <Tommi@Larrison.us>
**Sent:** Saturday, January 18, 2014 5:51 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRAs 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Dear Richard Hyde,

In 2008, my husband and I were very excited about the proposition of purchasing waterfront property in Central Texas. Residents of Georgetown, Lake Buchanan was more "affordable" than the constant level lakes, so using the money from the sale of my home, we bought 2 lots totaling a half-acre on Lake Buchanan. We did all of our due diligence, researched LCRA historical lake levels and talked to many neighbors who all assured us that if the lake ever went down, it came right back up. When the water started to recede, we had confidence and did not worry. Now, 5 years later, we can't even see water from our lots, and the assessed value has dropped by $85,000 and continues to go down. While this may seem like a pittance to some, it was a significant part of my retirement money and it took two careers to accumulate. The lots have been on the market for several years and not a single bit of interest. On a recent visit to the north side of the lake, we were appalled by the lack of inflow. Scary, very scary.

I would also think that the reduction in property tax income would negatively impact both Llano and Burnet counties.

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 even with 2012 and 2013 Emergency cutoffs of some water supplied for downstream irrigation. Recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief and conditions present an imminent threat to the public health and safety. The drought has been unprecedented relative to the long-term climate record in a number of ways: record low precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat, and enormous wildfires.

As a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011 in a very short time frame. Even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions in 2012 & 2013, **the lake levels have not recovered.**

The low inflow totals are symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, so that recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events. Also other significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan.

The current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months. And at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record.

The updated scientific data indicates 850K AF is extremely risky and 1.1M AF is very risky. Please consider increasing the trigger to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
Please protect the drinking water for the people of Central Texas.

Thank You,

Tommi Young
Georgetown TX

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Larry Rosson <larryrosson@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Saturday, January 18, 2014 2:41 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Protecting Drinking Water For Central Texas

Dear Richard, I live at 814 Mariner in Lake and have been enjoying Lake Travis here on Mariner since 1985. The two releases to the rice farmers in 2011 ruined Lake Travis. Lake Travis has never recovered.

I am writing to you as I understand you will represent the simple common man who depends on Lake Travis for drinking water not to mention the economic impact on the value of my residence and those of my neighbors in Lakeway. We need your help. We need a representative, a voice.

We are not rich like the rice farmers who always seem to get their way. No one knows how long this drought will last. I have xeriscaped and use very little water but I do need water to drink. Please help us to allow Lake Travis to fill again before releasing any more water to the rice farmers. My understanding is that only half of the water released to them actually is used by them. The rest is lost to evaporation and simple leakage in the soil before reaching their fields. Why are they allowed to waste our precious water?

Anything you can do to help us would be most appreciated. Allowing the lake to recover is simply the right thing to do.

Thank you.

Larry Rosson

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Debbie Starnes <debbiestarnes1@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Saturday, January 18, 2014 1:50 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA Emergency Drought Order

I would like to add my voice to those who support amending LCRA's Water Management Plan to account for the continuing drought in Central Texas. It is my belief that releases to interruptible customers should be curtailed until the storage level of the Highland Lakes reaches at least 1.4 MM AF in order to protect drinking water supplies. While a trigger point of 1.1 MM AF is better and more protective than the 850,000 AF in last year's order, it is still too low and should be adjusted upwards to 1.4 MM AF to reflect the sustained nature of the drought and the forecast of continued drier-than-historical weather patterns.

Regards,

Debbie Starnes
2509 Sailpoint Dr.
Spicewood, TX 78669
830-693-1609

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Bob Webbon <bobwebbon@aol.com>
**Sent:** Saturday, January 18, 2014 12:32 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson; troy.fraser@senate.state.tx.us; kirk.watson@senate.state.tx.us; comcrt@burnetcountytexas.org
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Dear Mr. Hyde,

I am one of the millions of folks who live or hope to live in Central Texas. I truly love the Texas Hill Country. I've always wanted to retire and enjoy what is a great part of the US. But, like many, I'm stricken by this forbidding drought and the priorities of water along the Colorado River. Now that I clearly understand the situation that this area and the State of Texas finds it's self, considering the lack of water, I must say I'm much less enchanted with this part of Texas.

It has finally come to the point that people like you are going to have to make bold and urgent decisions that will shape the future of Texas for decades to comes. You and your organization will soon decide what central Texas will look like in the future. As it stands population will certainly have to decline in the area. Organizations who's sole purpose is to entice economic growth in the region will have to be curtailed. There will have to be an understanding of all officials that the area just cannot sustain growth. All of this will come to pass, either by decree or naturally, as more homes and business simply run out of water like mine. We have all seen the data and It's time we all prepare for what lies ahead.

There will be only one of two roads ahead. Either the State of Texas gets serious about meaningful management of drinking water in the Colorado River Basin or we continue to supply a tiny industry that consumes massive quantities of priceless water. The decisions are now coming to bear. Central Texas will either survive as a vibrant growing workplace for diversified industry or it will wither.

I hope that you and your organization will vote to protect Texas. I hope that you will strenuously support a minimum of **1.4 million AF** of water reserves for the Colorado River Basin.

Thank you for your time, God please bring rain.

Captain Robert G. Webbon
304 South Chapparal
Burnet, Texas

cc: The Honorable Judge D. Klaeger

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Shanel Fortney <shanelf5@icloud.com>
**Sent:** Saturday, January 18, 2014 11:03 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Emergency Drought order

Many local people are talking about the Governor's agenda for bringing more and more business to Austin and Texas, thousands of apartments and homes being built and what appears to be a goal of making the top 10 list of all the places in the country to live. This needs to be re-thought seriously. Where are we going to get the water? Until a new water reservoir is built in an area with much better rainfall (Bastrop for example) how will we keep up. Until there is a plan to compensate for all this new building, we need to put the brakes on new development.

Cecelia Fortney

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Barbara Rieger (TSTAR) <brieger@tstar.net>
**Sent:** Saturday, January 18, 2014 12:23 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Dear Richard Hyde:

As a citizen of Burnet County, I am very concerned with the diminishing supply of drinking water brought about by the drought. Please protect the drinking water for the people of Central Texas by approving the new Emergency Drought Order proposal submitted by LCRA. I understand that updated scientific data indicates 850K AF is extremely risky and LCRA's recommended 1.1M AF is also very risky. Please consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

Respectfully yours,
Barbara Rieger
brieger@tstar.net

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Wayne Newkumet <wnewkumet@gmail.com> |
| **Sent:** | Friday, January 17, 2014 9:39 PM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Subject:** | Highland Lakes Water-LCRA emergency application |

*Dear Mr. Hyde,*
*My name is Linda Newkumet. I live in Midland, Texas with property on Lake LBJ. My family has ranching operations and commercial real estate properties in a Llano County, Texas. My husband and I are very disturbed by the decisions in the past to release our precious water resource downstream to Rice Farmers. This is putting many many people at risk and detrimental to our business and residential interests. The Highland Lakes of the Texas Hill Country are such a draw for people and a wonderful environment. Such a shame that this is being put at significant risk by the continued irresponsible release of our precious water in these lakes. Please do what you can to retain much more water in our lakes. These farmers need to find a less water intense crop.*
*Please approve the LCRA application with a much higher threshold. Should you not agree, then these farmers should be required to pay what I pay for my water in all fairness and equity.*
*We are very concerned, please pay attention and respond appropriately. It's the right thing to do.*
*Please call or right me with your comments.*

*Linda Newkumet*
*Midland and Horseshoe Bay , Texas*
*432-288-3068*

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Penny Brydson <pennybrydson@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 7:34 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Water Supplies

As a firm water customer and a resident on Lake Buchanan, I strongly urge you to reconsider the 1.1 water release level. It is so important to the future of all the citizens of the Colorada River Basin to request the release level be changed to 1.4 million to better secure water in this area for the future. We have lived on the lake since 1998 and we have not had water behind out waterfront home in 5 1/2 years. We live with the fear of not having water in our wells every day. Our wells are based on the level of the lake water and we don't know at what level we will be out of water.This is a very important lesson for all of us to be learning and I am sorry it took something like this to wake us up. There is no better time than now to be proactive. Please help preserve the water work to implement the 1.4 million acre feet rule.

Thank you for your support on this important matter.

Penny Brydson
Lake Buchanan

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Edgar Dalke <edalke@thegateway.net>
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 6:30 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Release Trigger for Lakes

As a 20 year resident on Lake LBJ I am very familiar with the subject issue and the politics surrounding the issue. The uncertainty of weather predictions makes me very wary about gambling with the decision of whether people have access to drinking water versus watering rice fields and improving duck hunting conditions. Although LCRA is presenting their recommended trigger level of 1.1 million acre feet to allow release to down stream users, this remains a very questionable decision. I request you support the recommended trigger level of 1.4 million acre feet. The gamble between people's life and the welfare of rice farming is too great. The many writings make it known that other crops can make money just as well as rice.

Thank you for your help.

Ed Dalke
Burnet County resident on Lake LBJ
512-756-8194

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Brad Krall <bradkrall@verizon.net>
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 5:55 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Minimum Lake Levels

I strongly support the Texas Water Coalition request to set 1.4 M acre feet as a minimum for Lake Travis and Buchanan.
Given the ongoing draught and LCRA's obligation to continue to provide current and future needs to all firm water customers
this minimum level is essential.
Your consideration and action is appreciated.
Brad Krall

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Linda Rogers <rogersranch@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 4:57 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Drought

TCEQ,
Please consider the 1.4M AF proposed as we cannot let our families, friends, and neighbors run out of water.

Sent from my iPad
Linda Rogers
512-799-0609
rogersranch@hotmail.com

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Brad B. <shredman@earthlink.net>
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 4:25 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** We're not thursty yet.....

I believe a field trip might be in order for the individuals who discuss the water for our area, and it's current status. My family and I visit many State Parks around the area, and the sight of those two huge once-bodies of water(Lakes Travis and Buchanan) is physically sickening. My kids reminded me that the lake-floor and the growth of brush and small trees on it, reminded her of pictures she had seen of worldwide historic droughts, including America's Dustbowl. We also wonder what is the meaning of a drought. Does it reflect a certain amount of rainfall in certain location, over a period of time? What if that occurs, but in the wrong locations, and the reservoir levels continue to fall? Are we in a drought then?

I cannot understand why the reservoirs out there are not kept full. Everyone knows Texas is hot and dry. Now, include exponential population growth in the area, and we're looking for a disaster. Why don't we implement conservation methods for all Texans to always follow? Why do we have to be faced with eminent danger, before we act like we care, and then begin to act smartly and start conserving? Wasting the precious little water we have in Texas is never a good idea. And, betting that rains will come, to save us from our decisions, isn't reliable enough to gamble the drinking water for millions of Texans either.

My advice: Keep any water in the reservoirs that God may grace us with, and use it sparingly. It is a limited, valuable resource and it should be treated as such. Economically speaking, price determines how resources are consumed. Raise the trigger point, raise the amount LCRA charges for water. Every article I read, shows Austin as the place to move. We know the growth is coming. Let's plan for it. If we fail to plan, we should plan to fail.

Brad B.
Austin, Tx

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** LAB2004 <lab2004@sbcglobal.net>
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 3:35 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Emergency drought order comment

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety. Thank you for giving this matter your attention.

Sincerely,

Larry and Lois Burks
204 Palos Verdes Dr.
Lakeway, TX 78734
lab2004@sbcglobal.net

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** jims1@tstar.net
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 12:49 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Sir, my name is Jim Smitherman and I own a waterfront home on Lake Buchanan. My wife and I have owned home for about 20 years and we have never seen the water level in the lake so low. We had an LCRA Domestic Water Use Contract until we could no longer reach the water with a 1000 feet of pipe on our lake pump. We cannot sell our house for anywhere close to what it is appraised at as no one wants a waterfront home with no water!

So I am asking you today to please give your serious consideration to the 2014 Emergency Drought Order before you as we cannot accept any further risk to the future of our drinking water. I urge you to increase the trigger level to 1.4 M A/F to make sure that the drinking water supply of over one million people is adequately protected.

Sincerely,

Jim Smitherman

Sent from Windows Mail

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Owen Greenley <osgreenley@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 10:43 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA 2014 Emergency Order

I am writing you in support of the 2014 Emergency Order by the LCRA requesting that a new trigger point of 1.1 million acre feet be reached before any consideration is given to supply water to "interruptible" customers.

The Highland lakes are at 38% capacity with no significant rainfall even predicted until this fall. With the current volume of available water at 764000 acre ft. and a firm water need of 300-350000 acre ft., our lakes could easily fall to 15-20% capacity by September 1. With a trigger point of 1.1 million acre feet, releases could occur up to 700,000 acre feet, bringing us right back down to 20% capacity which is lower than we have currently. **That is why some organizations are lobbying for a trigger point of 1.4 million acre feet so that we could not ever have less capacity than we have at this moment, which is a critical point.** If inflows remain like they have for the past 3 years [averaging 200,000 acre ft. per year] our storage capacity will continue to decrease because firm water use is greater.

Please approve this emergency order and please consider raising the trigger point even higher to at least 1.4 million acre feet.

Sincerely,

Owen Greenley

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Ken Wiley <kenwiley5622@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 8:39 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Water storage

After trying to read all 35 pages of your report, I still do NOT see any prof that LCRA's figures of Actual storage is legitimate for Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan.
Ken Wiley
Sent from my iPad

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Garry Schnabel <garryschnabel@texasdata.net>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2014 8:42 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Urgent--the future of our water is in your hands

*Dear Executive Director, Richard Hyde,*

My wife and I have been here in Texas since 1987, and this is the worst we have ever seen our water situation. We need to have your help right now to make the right decision, to protect our only source of water in this area. The facts as presented below outline a crucial time in our history—we must act now to protect our water in order to assure we will have drinking water this year and next. Please understand the following:

- 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 even with 2012 and 2013 Emergency cutoffs of some water supplied for downstream irrigation.
- Recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief and conditions present an imminent threat to the public health and safety.
- The drought has been unprecedented relative to the long-term climate record in a number of ways: record low precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat, and enormous wildfires.
- The drought conditions include both meteorological drought (taking into account rainfall and temperature) and hydrologic drought (taking into account stream flow and evaporation).
- As a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011 in a very short time frame. Even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions in 2012 & 2013, **the lake levels have not recovered**.
- The low inflow totals are symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, so that recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events. Also other significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan.
- The current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months. And at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record.
- Firm customers have had to spend significant amounts of money to make adjustments in order to reach water at the lower lake levels and, if lake levels continue to fall, lower elevations might be reached at significant cost or require hauling water for essential drinking and sanitation purposes.
- Firm customers are being required to adopt watering restrictions that limit irrigation to no more than once per week while interruptible customers are still receiving water in contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan.

The updated scientific data indicates 850K AF is extremely risky and 1.1M AF is very risky. Please consider increasing the trigger to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
Please protect the drinking water for the people of Central Texas.

Thank You,

Garry (and Nancy) Schnabel
16308 Masters Parkway
Spicewood, TX 78669
garryschnabel@texasdata.net

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Thompson, Dale <dale.thompson@intel.com> |
| **Sent:** | Thursday, January 16, 2014 2:37 PM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Subject:** | LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order |
| **Attachments:** | Cow Creek in drought.jpg; Ranch view.JPG |

*Dear Executive Director, Richard Hyde,*

*My name is Dale Thompson and I own a B&B on the historic Cow Creek arm of Lake Travis. For over three years I have not seen water from anywhere on my property. What will normally have 40 feet at 681' elevation, has receded to the point of not being visible. This has significant economic impact on my business. My property values have continued to go up. The disturbing aspect is the trees growing in the center of the channel that have the potential to clog up the Cow Creek arm even if/when the lakes do recover. Attached is a picture from 2012 and one from 2006. While this is certainly concerning, I think the overall impact to Central Texas, and certainly to our drinking water supply is even more concerning. And adding insult to injury just this week I read that the LCRA is going to have to raise water prices to firm customers by over 20% to pay for additional storage reservoirs to help the downstream agricultural customers. Current firm rates would go from $151 acre per foot to an estimated $179+.*

*http://www.kvue.com/video/featured-videos/LCRA-considering-raising-water-rates-in-some-Central-Texas-communities-240076911.html*

- 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 even with 2012 and 2013 Emergency cutoffs of some water supplied for downstream irrigation.
- Recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief and conditions present an imminent treat to the public health and safety.
- The drought has been unprecedented relative to the long-term climate record in a number of ways: record low precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat, and enormous wildfires.
- The drought conditions include both meteorological drought (taking into account rainfall and temperature) and hydrologic drought (taking into account stream flow and evaporation).
- As a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011 in a very short time frame. Even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions in 2012 & 2013, **the lake levels have not recovered.**
- The low inflow totals are symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, so that recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events. Also other significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan.

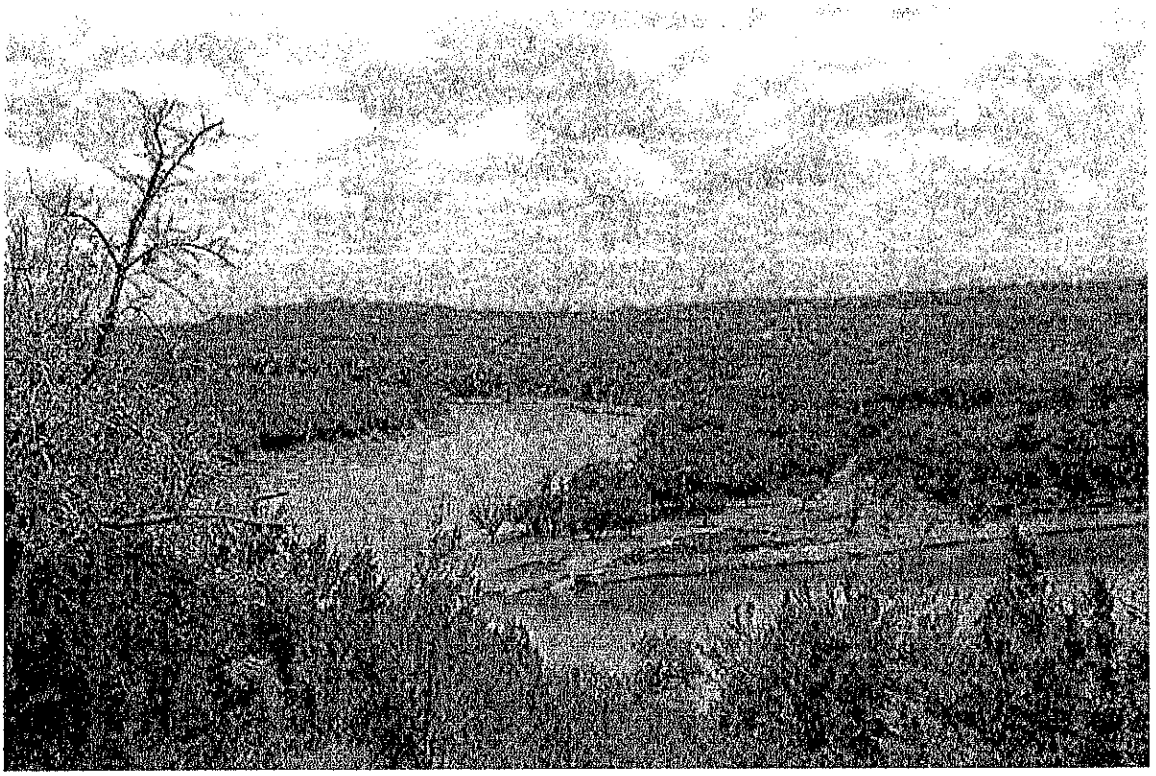
- The current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months. And at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record.
- Firm customers have had to spend significant amounts of money to make adjustments in order to reach water at the lower lake levels and, if lake levels continue to fall, lower elevations might be reached at significant cost or require hauling water for essential drinking and sanitation purposes.
- Firm customers are being required to adopt watering restrictions that limit irrigation to no more than once per week while interruptible customers are still receiving water in contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan.

The updated scientific data indicates 850K AF is extremely risky and 1.1M AF is very risky. Please consider increasing the trigger to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
Please protect the drinking water for the people of Central Texas.

Thank You,

Dale Thompson
24001 FM 1431
Marble Falls, TX 78654
Dale.thompson@intel.com

Cow Creek in drought.jpg



Ranch view.jpg

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Linda Raschke <linda.raschke@co.llano.tx.us>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2014 2:30 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Dear Mr. Hyde:

As Llano County Commissioner for Precinct 2 – which serves the western portion of Lake Buchanan, I request that you consider the 1.1 million acre feet as being too risky with regard to the trigger point for release of water downstream. In 2011, the combined storage was 1.4 million acre feet when LCRA decided to release almost 450,000 acre feet downstream. Because of that decision and because of the ongoing and paralyzing drought, we are at a combined storage today of 765,296 or 38% full.

With over 1 million people living in the upper basin, it seems that this request is fair and reasonable. The water supply is not recovering and there are no signs that the climate will change. With no inflows into the basin, we simply cannot risk a release below the 1.4 million trigger point. While we are not currently experiencing marked changes in the lake levels, it is imperative that we keep in mind that we are not suffering from the extreme evaporation that we experience during the long, hot, dry summer days.

The decision to release downstream in 2011, and the continuing drought, has devastated this part of Texas. We have watched business owners lose their businesses. Lose everything. The unfortunate truth is that these business owners do not have drought insurance. With no water, there is no business. Llano County is not privy to an aquifer, and that makes our situation even graver.

I urge you to consider the impact of the 1.1 million acre feet trigger point. Again, there are no significant inflows. What small amounts of rain are received is immediately absorbed in the extensively dry soil. There is also the necessity of the higher trigger point to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to provide current and future water needs to all firm customers.

I applaud LCRA for their commitment in addressing the water issues throughout the basin. It appears that this issue will be everlasting. With more and more people moving to this area, we simply cannot ignore the effects of no water for future generations. It is the obligation of each and every one of us to respect and conserve such a vital resource. Raising the trigger point to 1.4 million acre feet is a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Linda Raschke
Llano County Commissioner Pct. 2
8347 West Ranch Road 1431
Buchanan Dam, Texas 78609
512.793.6181 office/fax
linda.raschke@co.llano.tx.us

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Wayne Nehring <wwnehring@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2014 1:20 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** 2014 LCRA emergency order comments

To: TCEQ concerning the 2014 emergency order submitted by LCRA

It still remains to be seen if firm water customers will run out of water before this drought is over. The recommended 1.1 million acre feet trigger point in LCRA's recent submission to TCEQ is a definite step in the right direction and a big improvement over the previous 850,000 acre feet trigger. In view of the amount of run off entering the lakes, it is doubtful that the lakes will even reach the 850,000 trigger.

It has become a matter of principle at this point. The question is "How much water should be in the lakes at the beginning of the next drought"? I see first hand what the drought has done to the lakes and believe that 1.1 million acre feet are only a bare minimum and still very risky. I have inspected LCRA data and done the math. 1.1 million acre feet should be the absolute minimum amount of water left in the lakes at the beginning of the next drought. It should be an absolute trigger point to stop ALL RELEASES from the lakes that are not for human use. The lakes should retain (at all times) the maximum amount of water possible while allowing reasonable storage volume for flood control. Only God knows when this drought will end and when the next drought will begin. In a drought we can not take a gamble and lose, because well over a million people will suffer the consequences. The lakes may be serving closer to 2 million people when the next drought arrives.

When considering the new water management plan, provisions should be in place to absolutely (not maybe) guarantee the supply for firm water customers without emergency orders. Dealing with an emergency order annually is senseless and a waste of time and money. If the lakes get too low, it will always be an emergency, drought or no drought. Why keep putting on patches when it can be fixed for good?

Now is the time to put priorities in order and keep them there. Are we going to protect the health and safety of over a million people, or grow rice? Other crops can be planted.

I am asking TCEQ to approve an emergency order with a trigger for release no lower than 1.4 million acre feet and a cut off trigger of at least 1.1 million acre feet and incorporate these or more protective trigger points into the new water management plan.

Thank you,

Wayne Nehring

Burnet, Texas

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Barbara Wilson <city.admin@volentetexas.gov>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2014 1:14 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson; 'Village Of Volente'; 'Frederick Graber'
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order to TCEQ for approval from LCRA
**Attachments:** Letter to TCEQ about lake levels.doc

Richard and Lori

Please see attached. Thank you in advance for your consideration

Barbara Wilson
City Administrator
Village of Volente
16100 Wharf Cove
Volente, Texas 78641
512-250-2075

Please note our new email address: city.admin@volentetexas.gov

Please note that any correspondence, such as e-mail or letters, sent to City staff or City officials may become a public record and made available for Public/media review.

ATTENTION PUBLIC OFFICIALS!

A "Reply to All" of this e-mail could lead to violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act. Please reply only to the sender.

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January 15, 2013

*Reference LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order:*

Dear Executive Director, Richard Hyde,

We are the Village of Volente located in Northeast Travis County on Lake Travis. All of our residents and commercial residents depend on lake water or wells for their water needs. Severe lake levels have caused our residents to have to extend their water lines to the lake to ridiculous lengths. Several of our residents' wells have dried up. Due to the extreme low level of lake the water quality that our commercial and residential users receive is of a lower quality. We would like for TCEQ to consider the following:

VILLAGE OF
**VOLENTE**

Frederick Graber
MAYOR

Mark Scott
MAYOR PRO-TEM

Judy Graci
COUNCIL MEMBER

Christopher Wilder
COUNCIL MEMBER

Jan Yenawine
COUNCIL MEMBER

Ken Beck
COUNCILMAN

- 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 even with 2012 and 2013 Emergency cutoffs of some water supplied for downstream irrigation.

- Recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief and conditions present an imminent threat to the public health and safety.

- The drought has been unprecedented relative to the long-term climate record in a number of ways: record low precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat, and enormous wildfires.

- The drought conditions include both meteorological drought (taking into account rainfall and temperature) and hydrologic drought (taking into account stream flow and evaporation).

- As a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011 in a very short time frame. Even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions in 2012 & 2013, **the lake levels have not recovered**.

- The low inflow totals are symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, so that recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events. Also other significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan.

- The current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months. And at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record.

16100 Wharf Cove, Volente, TX 78641 • 512-250-2075 • email city.admin@volentetexas.gov

- Firm customers are being required to adopt watering restrictions that limit irrigation to no more than once per week while interruptible customers are still receiving water in contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan.

The updated scientific data indicates 850K AF is extremely risky and 1.1M AF is very risky. Please consider increasing the trigger to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

Please protect the drinking water for the people of Central Texas.

Thank You,

Barbara Wilson
City Administrator
On Behalf of the Village of Volente
16100 Wharf Cove
Volente, Texas 78641
512-250-2075

Cc: Mayor and Council of the Village of Volente

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Mike Rollins <Mrollins@austinchamber.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2014 1:02 PM
**To:** EXECDIR; Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Water Management Plan
**Attachments:** TCEQ Letter 01162014.pdf

Mr. Richard Hyde,

Attached please find a letter from the Executive Board members of the Austin Chamber of Commerce in support of TCEQ approval of the LCRA's request for emergency relief from its current Water Management Plan without amendment.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you have any further questions, please contact our VP, Federal & State Advocacy, Rebecca De La Garza at 512-322-5647 or rdelagarza@austinchamber.com.

Thanks,

**Michael W. Rollins, CCE | President**

**512.322.5615 | mrollins@austinchamber.com**

**Austin Chamber of Commerce**
535 East 5th Street, Austin, Texas 78701
**Fax: 512.478.9615 | austinchamber.com**

***CONNECT. IMPACT. PROSPER.***

**FACEBOOK:** facebook.com/austinchamber
**TWITTER:** twitter.com/austinchamber

*Date: 22 January 2014*

*Dear Richard Hyde,*

My name is Ron Smith and I am a City of Lago Vista Council Member.
The City of Lago Vista is a LRCA firm water customer and has been for decades.

Because of the low lake levels, the City of Lago Vista has been severely impacted in the following ways.

1. The city has been on once-a-week watering restrictions since 16 May 2013.
2. Our water sales have been dropping since May 2013. So last October we added a $10 per month per LUE drought fee to our citizen's water bill just to replace the existing water sales losses.
3. We are adding infrastructure. Our existing water intake barge capability was not designed for the low lake levels. We are near the physical limits of our water intake barge capability. Our water intake system is getting dangerous close to not functioning (600 msl). We have started $6 million water treatment plant on the east side of the city with a deeper intake barge system to 560 msl. We will have to sell bonds now. This new capability will not be operational until 4Q2014.
4. If the water triggers are not raised, then the City of Lago Vista may be in permanent state of water restrictions.

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel the updated scientific data indicates 1.1 Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

The City of Lago Vista request that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:

- 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 even with 2012 and 2013 Emergency cutoffs of some water supplied for downstream irrigation.
- Recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief and conditions present an imminent threat to the public health and safety.
- The drought has been unprecedented relative to the long-term climate record in a number of ways: record low precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat, and enormous wildfires.
- The drought conditions include both meteorological drought (taking into account rainfall and temperature) and hydrologic drought (taking into account stream flow and evaporation).
- As a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011 in a very short time frame. Even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions in 2012 & 2013, **the lake levels have not recovered.**
- The low inflow totals are symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, so that recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events. Also other significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan.
- The current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for

more than six months. And at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record.

- Firm customers have had to spend significant amounts of money to make adjustments in order to reach water at the lower lake levels and, if lake levels continue to fall, lower elevations might be reached at significant cost or require hauling water for essential drinking and sanitation purposes.
- Firm customers are being required to adopt watering restrictions that limit irrigation to no more than once per week while interruptible customers are still receiving water in contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan.

The updated scientific data indicates 850K AF is extremely risky and 1.1M AF is very risky. Please consider increasing the trigger to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
Please protect the drinking water for the citizens of Lago Vista and the people of Central Texas.

Thank You,

/s/ Ron Smith

Ron Smith
20609 Oak Ridge
Lago Vista, Texas 78645
email: councilplace4@lago-vista.org

drinking water for the people of Central Texas. (Thank You,
(Name Address City email

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Ron Wilson <ron.wilson@co.llano.tx.us>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 11:13 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Water Shortage

Dear Sirs and Madams, I am a Llano County Commissioner and Grandfather and am writing to express my sincere concerns regarding our water shortage for our future and the futures of our Grandchildren. Having grown up in Llano and playing and fishing on the Llano River, we had no thoughts or concerns about water or where it came from or where it went. I do lay awake at night worrying about what our Grandchildren will do without proper water supplies.
In short, the scientific information shows 850K acre feet is extremely risky at best and 1. 1M acre feet is very, very risky. Please consider our request to increase the trigger to avoid the danger of low reservoir levels which will threaten our health and safety. Please, please protect the drinking water for all the people of Central Texas.
Thank you. Ron Wilson

Ron Wilson
Llano County Commissioner, Pct. 3
P O Box 1631
Kingsland, Texas 78639
W. 325.388.3092
F. 325.388.0011
ron.wilson@co.llano.tx.us

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** John Osborne <josborne840@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 10:55 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Highland Lakes Water Level

Dear Mr. Hyde, I am writing you greatly concerned over the diminishing levels of water in our Highland Lakes. I encourage you, and your fellow board members, to consider establishing a level of at least 1.4 million acre feet before water can be released from impoundment. The dire predictions of continuing drought and low, or non-existent, inflows in the foresseable future makes this a prudent choice to assure the water needed for the million or so Texans who rely upon the Colorado River for our basic needs as opposed to commercial uses, Thank you for your consideration in this matter and for your service to Texas. Sincerely, John Osborne, Burnet

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Kerry Williams <kewillia12@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 10:42 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Highland Lakes water situation

Please do not approve a request from a handful of agricultural interests to lower the release water-level triggers on the Highland Lakes. As one of over a million people who depend on this water for consumption, I ask that the trigger be at 1.4 million acre ft. or above. We are at Stage 2 water restrictions here on the Highland Lakes. No one knows when this drought will be broken . Once the water is released, we cannot get it back. Thank you for your consideration of our water needs. Kerry Williams, 104 Fox Run Circle, Buchanan Dam, Texas. 78609

Sent from my iPhone

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Janie <janieh25@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 10:31 AM
**To:** Lori Wilson
**Cc:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Lake Buchanan Crisis

Good Morning,

I am writing to plead with you to consider a permanent water trigger point of 1.4 million acre-feet for Lakes Buchanan and Travis. So much damage has already been done by past actions and we can only hope and pray that we can regain some of our water if it rains in 2014 in the RIGHT place!

Literally, our futures are in your hands in this important issue.

Thank you,

Jane A. Howell
Buchanan Resident

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Jim Long <jimlonghsb@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 10:30 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Lake levels

It is critical to remember that if both Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan are full, they would have a combined 2,010,544 a/f of water.

By moving the trigger point from 850,000 to 1,100,000 only increases the release point to 55% of full. By then allowing the requested 450,000 downstream release ,we would reduce total storage to 650,000 a/f or only 32% of full versus the current 759,000 or 38%. And we are in trouble at the 38% level now in the ability to furnish drinking water to the Highland Lakes area.

I believe the 1,100,000 is clearly too low. To allow for any reasonable margin of error in rainfall forecasting (and history has shown that margin of error to be significant) we should set the 1,100,000 or 55% of full to be the minimum we must have on hand and any release must not drop us below that rate. That would push up the trigger point to 1,550,000 or 77% of being full.

It might also give all the waterfront business and property owners at least a chance to recover their now seriously devalued properties due to little or no lake access.

The TCEQ is apparently considering some significant capital expenditures to increase water available to the downstream customers and plan to pay these cost by raising water rates to Highland Lakes customers to further subsidize downstream interests. I hope you people remember that these downstream contracts are "interruptible" contracts that these customers signed on to in the first place. We should not be penalized in our rates so subsidize any availability to these customers since they knew the rules when the signed up.

Thank you for your consideration

Jim Long
830/598-1198

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Ron Smith <txrojo2005@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 10:03 AM
**To:** Lori Wilson; Ron Smith
**Cc:** Joseph Portugal; Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Re: TCEQ Letter for the LCRA Emergency Order
**Attachments:** TCEQ_Letter_Lago_Vista_2014-0122.pdf

Hi Lori,

See attached pdf file.
Let me know if this copy opens.

Ron Smith
512-267-9279
**From:** Lori Wilson <Lori.Wilson@tceq.texas.gov>
**To:** Ron Smith <councilplace4@lago-vista.org>
**Cc:** Joseph Portugal <JPortugal@lago-vista.org>; Richard Hyde <richard.hyde@tceq.texas.gov>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 9:55 AM
**Subject:** RE: TCEQ Letter for the LCRA Emergency Order

Ron,
Could you please resend the attachment? I cannot get it to open. Thanks.

Lori Wilson
Executive Office
TCEQ
512-239-1635

---

**From:** Ron Smith [mailto:councilplace4@lago-vista.org]
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2014 9:51 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson; Joseph Portugal
**Subject:** TCEQ Letter for the LCRA Emergency Order

Dear Richard,

Please consider attached City of Lago Vista Response Letter for the LCRA Emergency Order.

Thank you.

Ron Smith
Council Member, City of Lago Vista
20609 Oak Ridge
Lago Vista, Texas 78645
email: councilplace4@lago-vista.org

Sent from my iPad

*2014 Board of Directors*

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**Jeremy Self**
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*Administrative Assistant*

LAKE TRAVIS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# RESOLUTION for LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order submitted to TCEQ

The Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce encourages the TCEQ to adopt LCRA's proposal for an Emergency Drought Order.

WE BELIEVE the future economic health and prosperity of the Central Texas area is being severely threatened by insufficient water resources.

WE BELIEVE if action is not taken now our:
- real estate values will continue to decline
- more businesses will close
- more jobs will be lost
- more restaurants and entertainment facilities will become empty shells
- tourism & lake recreation will continue to decline
- drinking water will be at risk

Whereas, the Lake Travis Economic Impact Report and the Upper Highland Lakes Economic Report indicate that Lake Travis and Buchanan tourism, businesses and property values generates hundreds of millions of dollars for the local and state economy.

Whereas, 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 (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, the drought conditions have created a circumstance where the reservoir lakes have been unable to recover in any significant manner, even with an Emergency cutoff of nearly all water supply for downstream irrigation in 2012 and 2013 (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, the Emergency Conditions present an imminent threat to the public health and safety (LCRA 2014 EDO Application); and

Whereas, the drought has been unprecedented relative to the long-term climate record in a number of ways: record low precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires (Bob Rose, LCRA Chief

Mailing Address: PO Box 340034, Austin, Texas 78734
Physical Address: 1415 RR 620 South, Suite 202, Austin, Texas 78734
Phone: (512) 263-5833 Fax: (512) 263-1355
Email: info@LakeTravisChamber.com Web: www.LakeTravisChamber.com

Meteorologist); and

Whereas, the drought conditions include both meteorological drought (taking into account rainfall and temperature) and hydrologic drought (taking into account stream flow and evaporation) (Bob Rose, LCRA Chief Meteorologist); and

Whereas, as a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011, and in a very short time frame (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec. Manager); and

Whereas, in 2012 and through 2013, even with interruptible stored water cut off for Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation divisions, the lake levels have not recovered (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec. Manager); and

Whereas, this low inflow total is symptomatic of the drought's severity, which included dry soils that absorb most of the rainfall that does occur, recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events, and that other significant rainfall had fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan. (Ryan Rowney, LCRA Water Exec. Manager); and

Whereas, the current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months (Ron Anderson, LCRA Chief Engineer); and

Whereas, at times during the current drought, the inflow deficit has been as much as 90% more than the standard from the Drought of Record (Ron Anderson, LCRA Chief Engineer).

Therefore, we, the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce respectfully request that TCEQ approve the new Emergency Drought Order proposal submitted by LCRA. While we advocate for a 1.4M AF trigger, we will support the compromise of a minimum 1.1M AF trigger to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels as a result of hitting a DWDOR combined storage 600,000 AF threshold caused by releases of stored water to interruptible customers, which would threaten the health and prosperity of the Central Texas economy and endanger the supply of drinking water for the people of Central Texas.

Signed this 8th of January in the year of 2014.

Jeremy Self
Chairman of the Board
Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce

Laura Mitchell, IOM
President
Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce

Mailing Address: PO Box 340034, Austin, Texas 78734
Physical Address: 1415 RR 620 South, Suite 202, Austin, Texas 78734
Phone: (512) 263-5833 Fax: (512) 263-1355
Email: info@LakeTravisChamber.com Web: www.LakeTravisChamber.com

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** craig nehrkorn <craig_nehrkorn@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 11:04 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Public comments regarding LCRA water allotment

Rick,
Lori,

As a member of CTWC, the University of Texas, a 14 year resident of Travis County, and a participant in District K Water Planning, I'm writing the two of you to ask that you please help rebalance LCRA water allotment priorities to better protect the million residents of Central Texas in the face of continual lobbying by what is probably no more than a handful of wealthy farmers. The way I phrase it when talking to neighbors is "what sense does it make to jeopardize the drinking water resources of a million people so that a handful of wealthy rice farmers can continue to grow one of the world's most water intensive crops, rice, using desert water?"

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
CTWC requests that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:
1) The water supply (Lakes Buchanan & Travis) for Central Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation)
2) Climate records: Record Low Precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires.
3) Meteorological drought (low rainfall and high temperatures) and Hydrologic drought (low stream flow and high evaporation)
4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports
5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans.

LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1M AF. CTWC and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4M AF should be the MINIMUM. We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 AF because it and 1.1M AF are too risky for all health and safety issues.

CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data and remember thatno **risk is acceptable** when

**trying to protect the drinking water.**

Regards,

Craig Nehrkorn
512.740.3740

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Robert Harrison <jeweler@austin.rr.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 10:41 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Lake Travis

We need to have the the release of water point be at 1.4 M AF. The lakes are to low now, and no water coming in.
Thank you, Robert Harrison


***Robert Harrison, Certified Master Bench Jeweler***

***Harrison Jewelers***

**Owner, Operator**

2127 Lohmans Crossing, #300
Lakeway, TX 78734
United States

Texas Jewelers Association,
President, 2013 - 2015

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Sherry Smith <SheSmith@stewart.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 10:28 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Drinking water/Lake Travis

Dear Richard,
I would like you to protect the drinking water for Central Texans, please.

We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

I find it very sad what has been done to ruin Lake Travis. It was such a beautiful Lake.

*Sherry Smith*
VP Business Development

**STEWART TITLE of Montgomery County, Inc.**

24 Waterway Ave, Suite 250| The Woodlands, TX 77380
OFFICE: 281.367.5454 | CELL: 713.254.6569 | DIRECT: 832.482.1853
E-mail: sherry.smith@stewart.com | SureClose: www.stewart.com/montgomery-county

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Lally, Thomas <Thomas.Lally@scasurgery.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 10:23 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Dear Richard:

As a member of the Central Texas Water Coalition, and as a concerned citizen who relies on the LCRA to supply my drinking water, my aim is to protect the drinking water for all Central Texans.

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

CTWC requests that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:

1.) The water supply (Lakes Buchanan & Travis) for Central Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation)
2) Climate records: Record Low Precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires.
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4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports
5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans.

LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1M AF. CTWC and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4M AF should be the MINIMUM. We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 AF because it and 1.1M AF are too risky for all health and safety issues.

CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data and remember that no risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Thomas J. Lally
512-689-9381

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Jane Kielty Stott <jkieltys@me.com> |
| **Sent:** | Tuesday, January 14, 2014 10:13 AM |
| **To:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Cc:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Subject:** | Fwd: |

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jane Kielty Stott <jkieltys@me.com>
**Date:** January 14, 2014 10:11:39 AM CST
**To:** Richard.Hyde@TCEQ.texas.gov

The updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. I respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
I request TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers.

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Roland Adams <radams@suntexmarinas.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 9:44 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order
**Attachments:** Roland Adams.vcf

TCEQ,
I commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, I feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. I respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

The reasons I feel that way are:
**1) The water supply (Lakes Buchanan & Travis) for Central Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation)**
**2) Climate records: Record Low Precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires.**
**3) Meteorological drought (low rainfall and high temperatures) and Hydrologic drought (low stream flow and high evaporation)**
**4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports**
**5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.**

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

Please use the scientific data available and make your decisions based on the information. There is little to no room for error on the matter. All of Central Texas is counting on this water supply for health and public safety.

Best Regards,
Roland Adams
1416 Oak Hurst Rd.
Austin TX 78734

**Roland Adams**
Suntex
General Manager
Hurst Harbor Marina
(512) 266-1800 Work
(512) 656-2782 Mobile
radams@suntexmarinas.com
16405 Clara Van PO Box 340999
Texas

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Tim Taylor <tim@outboundsailing.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 9:11 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson; jokarrtedder@centraltexaswatercoalition.ccsend.com
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Dear Sir,

I'm writing in support of the Central Texas Water Coalition and their efforts to protect our lakes. I own a business on Lake Travis and quite frankly I'm on the edge of losing it all due to the continued low levels. As you know, the economic impact has devastated many businesses, including such iconic Austin fixtures as Carlos n Charlie's, and Johnny Fin's. Lake Travis used to be one of the jewels of Austin, like 6th Street or SxSW or Barton Springs. Now .....

Although the LCRA has taken some positive steps, there is still much more that can and must be done. As you consider the LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order, I ask that you increase the trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers from 1.1M acre feet to 1.4M acre feet.

Respectfully yours,

Tim Taylor

OUTBOUND SAILING

Tim Taylor
USCG Captain
ASA Sailing Instructor
512 968 8137
www.outboundsailing.com

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Mike Moerbe <mikemoerbe@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 8:58 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde; LoriWilson@TCEQ.texas.gov
**Subject:** Trigger

Please up the trigger from 1.1 mil to 1.4 million acre feet.

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Ken Wiley <kenwiley5622@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 8:12 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Acreage in Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan

I believe 1.4 million AF is the minimum we should consider. We have Never been told the actual amount that is really being stored. I know that in some areas of Lake Travis there is a least 30 feet of Silt and Trash. I understand LCRA knows approximately the actual being stored, but will not come forth with the figure.

Sent from my iPad

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Tom Doffing <tldoffing@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 7:22 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

CTWC requests that TCEQ increase the trigger beforewater could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:

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2) Climate records: Record Low Precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires.

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4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports

5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans.

LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1M AF. CTWC and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4M AF should be the MINIMUM. We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 AF because it and 1.1M AF are too risky for all health and safety issues.

CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data and remember that **no risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water.**

TCEQ needs to hear from you NOW!!

We know your comments will make a difference.

If you want to see LCRA's entire application to TCEQ:
http://www.lcra.org/library/media/public/docs/water/drought/2013-12-LCRAs-Application-for-Relief-filed-12-10-13.pdf

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** David Kilbourne <akilbourne@austin.rr.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 6:56 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Record Droughts and poor planning

**Importance:** High

1.14.2014

Hello Richard Hyde, TCEQ

I have lived in Texas for 54 years and on Lake Travis for the last 17. I have made presentations to the TWDB a couple of times.

Please consider what the water planners in Georgia allowed to happen to Lake Lanier a few years ago:

Their actions/inactions forced Atlanta, GA residents to ration water usage down to four hours of water per day.

Please also consider the fact that the State of Arizona gets by just fine without forcing non-native St. Augustine grass to grow!

**Fixing the problem:** St. Augustine grass! That's right—it does not make a lick of sense for Travis County Water Control District #17
(among others) to allow their residential customers to file an "exemption" from the water rationing rules---just so they can have 5"
thick St. Augustine turf in affluent neighborhoods all along Hwy 620 from Hwy 71 to 183.

**Paradigm Shift: As you full well know, no one can predict the weather. "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry"!**

**SOLUTION: INCREASE THE LCRA's requested 1.1Million Acre Feet trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.**

**Thank you taking the time to read this.**

**Sincerely,**

**David Kilbourne**
**5228 McCormick Mountain**
**Austin, TX 78734**
**(512) 266-3004**

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Fred Schroth <keeldude@icloud.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 2:01 AM
**To:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Drought and water

The dams were built and the LCRA formed to control floods and provide a reliable water supply for municipal and agricultural use.
For almost a century LCRA has done a near perfect job of accomplishing those tasks.
LCRA has management plans and policies even for disastrous floods that theoretically happen only once in any 25, 100, and even 500 years.
Recently, our supply of water from
the sky has been at its lowest since the dams were built.
Some say, "If this drought continues for another four years, we will run out of drinking water."
What if??
LCRA has staff expert hydrologists, meteorologists, geologists, and statisticians who are capable of describing not only the probability of the floods upon which water management plans are based but THEY CAN ESTABLISH REASONABLE PLANS FOR DROUGHT!!!
The safety of the millions who rely on the LCRA for water demands management plans for the 25, 100, and 500 year DROUGHT!!
Floods can be disastrous and impact hundreds or even thousands of people along the rivers and streams. The drought, especially with no prior planning, can be a disaster for millions.
What if the last four years were the wettest of the next 20.
They may have been.
We have no plan.
Public trust includes the responsibility to make plans for the worst case.
The fact is our reservoirs are insufficient in capacity to supply millions of us through twenty years like the last four.
Knowing that to be true, we MUST keep them as full as possible while maintaining a capacity to mitigate floods.
Spence and Ivey are empty. If the next big drought starts tomorrow the community is screwed.
We need a plan and it MUST cover the worst case.

Thanks for reading

Fred Schroth
Schrothfiberglass.com

Sent from the replacement Schroth Fiberglass newfangled IPhone I got when my first one died. Good thing I bought the insurance

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Fred Schroth <keeldude@icloud.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 1:58 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** LCRA water management

The dams were built and the LCRA formed to control floods and provide a reliable water supply for municipal and agricultural use.
For almost a century LCRA has done a near perfect job of accomplishing those tasks.
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Thanks for reading

Fred Schroth
Schrothfiberglass.com

Sent from the replacement Schroth Fiberglass newfangled IPhone I got when my first one died. Good thing I bought the insurance

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Wayne Newkumet <wnewkumet@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 6:25 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA Emergency Order Request

Dear Mr Hyde and Ms Wilson,
I am writing in connection with LCRAs request for emergency order to withhold water in the Highland Lakes. Please honor this request with the exception of increasing the minimum threshold to at least 1.5 mm AC ft. My family and I have residence in Midland and Horseshoe Bay, Texas and ranch in Llano County. We are are very concerned about the drought and the wasteful use of what little water we have on Rice Farming and the sale of this precious resource to them for a fraction of the price we pay for water. Rice farming is water intense and should not be undertaken with this precious little we have at give away subsidized prices. Our lake levels need to be established at a healthy high level if at all possible and never waste it in a few large farming corporations for a crop we don't need. The needs of hundreds of thousands should take precedence.
Thanks for your consideration.

Wayne Newkumet
Newkumet Exploration, Inc
PO Box 11330
Midland, Texas 79702
o 432-687-1101
c 432-288-3000

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** David Personal <drhndrsn@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 6:18 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order

I commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. I respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
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CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data and remember that **no risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

David Henderson
729 Wesley Ridge Drive
Spicewood, TX 78669
H: 830-798-1314

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** David Miller <dmiller841@austin.rr.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 6:16 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson; Larry Halford; Marshall Ford Marina; Gil Glastetter; papaduck54@gmail.com
**Subject:** Increase trigger to 1.4 mill acre feet

Dear Richard

Please consider TCEQ increase the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

Thank you.

--

David Miller

dmiller841@austin.rr.com

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** paul rolfe <paulr119@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 6:10 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Water release

Enough is enough!!!!!!! Cant you understand that lake Buchanan and Travis will continually dry up if we don't protect the release of water from these lakes.

We have **not had** any substantial rain fall where we need it to be to let the lakes rise.

SAY NO TO MORE RELEASE OF WATER DOWN STREAM. WE NEED TO SAVE THIS RESOURCE.

Paul Rolfe

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Allan Hitchcock <alhitch@sbcglobal.net>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 6:00 PM
**To:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** 1.4 AF as the trigger

Please approve the recommendation of Central Texas Water Coalition to set trigger level to release water to Agricultural Users downstream at
1.4 Acre Feet.

Thank you, Allan Hitchcock
605 Peterson Lane
LAKEWAY, TX78734

512-261-6986

alhitch@sbcglobal.net

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Allan Hitchcock <alhitch@sbcglobal.net>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 5:57 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** 1.4 Acre Feet Safety level

Please approve the recommendation from Central Texas Water Coalition to increase the trigger level to allow flows to downstream Agricultural Users.

Thank you, Allan Hitchcock
605 Peterson Lane
Lakeway, TX 78734

512-261-6986

alhitch@sbcglobal.net

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Jaclaff <jaclaff@aol.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 5:40 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Lcra trigger

The lira trigger is too low. Need 1.4 m
Sent from my iPad

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Olle Lorehn <olorehn@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 5:15 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan Water Levels

Dear Richard and Lori,

I live in the Coves on Lake Travis and have an excellent view of Lake Travis (or what there is left of it). I saw that the LCRA raised the minimum volume of water for releases to the rice farmers in Warton County to 1.1 million acre feet. Although this is much better than the 850,000 acre-feet of last year it is still far below what is needed to maintain the lakes at a level to guarantee the water reserve for the Central Texas area. There are three things that really concern me about lowering the lakes.

1. Sending water out of Mansfield Dam to the rice farmers is probably one of the biggest wastes of water in Texas. More than half the water releases is lost due to evaporation and soil absorption before the water gets to the farmers. What really needs to happen is either have the farmers build reservoirs near their fields or have the state subsidize this (if the state thinks this is proper.) I have also heard the rice farmers can produce ground water at $24.00 an acre foot or four times the current cost. It just doesn't make sense to move water from an area that doesn't have sufficient ground water to an area that has abundance.

2. The losses to the economy around the lake district are astounding. Carlos and Charlie's closed last year and the owner said he has closed five restaurants causing 660 people to loose their jobs. This is just one person's company, there are many more. There are no boat ramps open so no new boats, and certainly no weekend boaters, can access the lakes. Even the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas noted in their 2013 annual letter to the US Fed that the low levels of Lakes Travis and Buchanan are causing a weaker economy for the Central Texas Area. Another article stated we are starving a $55 Billion dollar economy to maintain a $100 million dollar economy.

3. Lastly, home values along the lakes have dropped by almost half in the last five years (if you can sell it.) Lake front properties in Barton Creek Lakeside dropped from $2,400 a linear foot to $1,200 linear foot. The losses in tax revenue are staggering! I doubt the rice farmers properties have dropped this much as they are still able to produce rice through pumping groundwater (although they hate to do it because they pay 4 times as much.) But, even at $24 an acre-foot they are still almost 50% cheaper than the Brazos Valley farmer who pay $45 an acre-foot for their water.

Lastly, never in the 31 years I have lived on Lake Travis have I heard the comment "If I knew that the lakes were going down so much as they have in the last 4 years I would not have bought on Lake Travis." However, this is becoming a very common phrase to be heard now.

Please do not let our precious lakes disappear. We must have lakes that remain a minimum of 90% full all the time or we are going to loose a lot of lake residents.

Thank you for listening,

Olle Lorehn, Jr.

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Jim Jenkins <jjenkins@huffinescommunities.com> |
| **Sent:** | Monday, January 13, 2014 5:14 PM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Subject:** | LCRA - 2014 Emergency Drought Order |

Hello Richard Hyde

I commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective; however, I feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1 Million Acre Feet is risky. I respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

I support the CTWC request that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:

1) The water supply (Lakes Buchanan & Travis) for Central Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation);
2) Climate records: Record Low Precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat, and enormous wildfires;
3) Meteorological drought (low rainfall and high temperatures) and Hydrologic drought (low stream flow and high evaporation);
4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports; and
5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to all FIRM Customers.

The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans. LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1M AF. CTWC and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4M AF should be the MINIMUM. We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 AF, because it and 1.1M AF are too risky for all health and safety issues.

CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data. No risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water of Firm customers.

Yours truly,

Jim Jenkins
Sr Vice President
**Huffines Enterprises**
8200 Douglas Ave, Suite 300
Dallas, TX 75225
972-860-3135 Direct
214-934-1288 Mobile
214-750-5900 Fax
jjenkins@huffinescommunities.com

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Marilyn Schaefer <marilynschaefer@johnsonsewell.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 5:12 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Lakes Buchanan and Travis

Mr. Hyde,
Ms. Wilson,

My family, 3 grown children and their children, and my husband and I, live off water but get our drinking water from Lake Buchanan. In keeping up with the drought situation, it seems quite apparent that the drinking supply of water must be protected. Our area in Burnet County continues to grow and therefore, the demand for drinking water continues to grow. Please consider the necessity for drinking water when reviewing the proposal from the LCRA. We had some rain this winter but not much on the watershed of Buchanan. Thank you for your time and we trust you will consider this most important issue with the well being of the many citizens in Burnet County in mind.

*Marilyn Schaefer*

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Linda S <lsan04@aol.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 5:08 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** SUPPORT FOR LCRA EMERGENCY ORDER APPLICATION
**Attachments:** 2014-0110-TCEQ.pdf

Attached is a letter from my husband and I supporting the very necessary approval of LCRA's 3rd Emergency Order.

Thank you,
Linda

Linda Sandlin
Board Member - Austin Area Coordinator
*Rexanna's Foundation for Fighting Lung Cancer*

lsan04@aol.com
www.RexannasFoundation.org

512 656 4023

January 10, 2014

Mr. Zak Covar, Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P O Box 13087 MC 109
Austin Texas 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Covar,

We write to request you approve the current application before you for another water emergency order from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). We are very much in support of this order.

Without approval of 1.1 million acre-feet combined storage in the Highland Lakes at time of measurement in March, the lake levels will NEVER stabilize and recover. Yes, this area is receiving rainfall but the extensive drought has had the entire region so dry for so long that no inflows have been established to feed and support lake levels.

Until lake levels and inflows recover, we humans must protect the precious drinking water that is available. Municipal uses far outweigh farming needs in Texas when growers can select a different crop from rice to continue their income and future. Municipal utilities have little to no control over water availability.

Yes, change is hard for everyone, but CHANGE is necessary now for interruptible customers. There has never been a guarantee that interruptible customers would continue to have water releases as populations and municipal demands grew. Well, it has now been proven that the time for CHANGE IS NOW. Water released can never be retracted. Tax payer money is being spent for hydrology studies and these studies must be taken seriously.

Thank in advance for approving a cut off point of 1.1 million acre-feet OR HIGHER measurement as requested by the LCRA. Please stop our water utility rates from continuing to climb upward, causing more hardship on paying customers.

Sincerely,

The Sandlins

Larry and Linda Sandlin
16206 Elm Drive
Austin Texas 78734

cc: Senator Troy Fraser
Senator Kirk Watson
Representative Paul Workman

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Kenny Lang <kenny.lang@knlenergy.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 5:00 PM
**To:** Lori Wilson; Richard Hyde
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Members of TCEQ,

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more responsive to the ongoing drought, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1 million acre-feet is inadequate. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4 million acre-feet in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

CTWC requests that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers as:
1) The water supply (Lakes Buchanan & Travis) for Central Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation)
2) Climate records: Record Low Precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires.
3) Meteorological drought (low rainfall and high temperatures) and Hydrologic drought (low stream flow and high evaporation)
4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports
5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans. LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1 million acre-feet. CTWC and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4 million acre-feet should be the MINIMUM. CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data and remember that no risk is acceptable when trying to protect our drinking water.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Lang
3501 Brasada Lane
Marble Falls, Tx 78654

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Chris Griesbach <cgriesbach@austin.rr.com>
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 4:59 PM
**To:** Lori Wilson; Richard Hyde
**Subject:** stop selling water for nothing

Please stop flooding fields in Texas for Rice and $90,000. If they want to flood fields charge them same price the City of Austin pays and only when we have the water to sell. Economic impact is costing Texans 10 to 20 million dollars by loss of real estate values and the economic impact on business around the lakes is over 3 million. My house is worth $250,000 less right now due to the low lake and I cannot sell it.

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.
CTWC requests that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:
1) The water supply (Lakes Buchanan & Travis) for Central Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation)
2) Climate records: Record Low Precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires.
3) Meteorological drought (low rainfall and high temperatures) and Hydrologic drought (low stream flow and high evaporation)
4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports
5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans.
LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1M AF. CTWC and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4M AF should be the MINIMUM. We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 AF because it and 1.1M AF are too risky for all health and safety issues.

CTWC wants TCEQ to base this decision on updated scientific data and remember that **no risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water.**

*Chris P. Griesbach, MAI*
**President/Broker**

Lone Star Appraisals & Realty, Inc.
1003 Adventure Lane
Cedar Park, Texas 78613

512-260-1221 or Cell 512-426-0087

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Dale Kohler |
| **Sent:** | Monday, January 13, 2014 12:01 PM |
| **To:** | Laura Mitchell; Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Buzz Watkins; Jeremy Self; Chamber Office; Lori Wilson; Dennise Braeutigam |
| **Subject:** | RE: Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce Supports LCRA's recommendation to TCEQ |

Thank you, Ms. Mitchell. As Zak Covar has recently been appointed to the TCEQ Commission, I am forwarding your email to the interim Executive Director, Richard Hyde.

Dale Kohler
Office of the Executive Director
(512) 239 6636

**From:** Laura Mitchell [mailto:laura@laketravischamber.com]
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2014 11:50 AM
**To:** Zak Covar; Dale Kohler
**Cc:** Buzz Watkins; Jeremy Self; Chamber Office
**Subject:** Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce Supports LCRA's recommendation to TCEQ

Good afternoon Mr. Covar and Kohler,

Please see attached resolution from the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,
Laura Mitchell

Laura Mitchell, IOM
President

*Wonder what "IOM" stands for? Click here to find out.*

Lake Travis SpringFest:
The biggest time in the smallest town
April 26, 2014
www.LakeTravisSpringFest.com

Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce
*Serving Business... Strengthening Community*
LakeTravisChamber.com

1415 RR 620 South, Suite 202, Austin, TX 78734
O: 512.263.5833 | F: 512.263.1355 | C: 512.680.7929

**JERRI LYNN WARD**

**6002 TRAVIS WOODS COVE**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78734**

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

Via Email

Dear Mr. Hyde:

I have been a resident of the Hudson Bend area since 1994, lived in the Austin area since 1983 and have long observed changes in the level of Lake Travis. I am writing to request that you approve the current application for a water emergency order as submitted by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).

I am strongly in support of this order as it is completely harmonious with your agency's mission to protect the water resources of the State of Texas. Without taking this action and acknowledging and acting upon the fact that interruptible sources are just that—interruptible—Lake Travis will not stabilize and recover any time soon, if ever.

The fact is that the rice farmers receive water subsidized by and, in fact, already paid for once by firm water customers who forgo use of paid water because of strict rationing. The water firm customers pay for and do not use is then sent to the rice farmers for pennies on the dollar. It is time for these agricultural conglomerates to reassess their economic position and rethink the viability of growing rice in an arid state, rather than some more suitable crop for the conditions.

Central Texas is a significant economic engine for the State of Texas and jeopardizing its access to adequate water jeopardizes the vibrant economy we have been able to maintain in the face of economic challenges presently faced by other states. The adjudicated order under which water allocation is to be governed clearly recognized that agriculture would eventually wane as the main driver of the Texas economy. The governmental entities of the State of Texas tasked with protecting our water sources should also acknowledge and act upon this fact.

I appreciate this opportunity to voice my opinion as a long-time resident of Central Texas. I anticipate that you will act in the best interest of Lake Travis and approve the

cut-off point of 1.1 million acre-feet or higher as requested by the LCRA. In fact, a higher rate would be more in keeping with your purpose.

Best wishes,

Jerri Lynn Ward

cc: Senator Troy Fraser
Representative Paul Workman

## Lori Wilson

**From:** James Beasley <jb.beasley@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2014 10:04 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** In Support of LCRA Request for 2014 Drought Relief

Mr. Hyde

The lower Colorado River basin continues to suffer from a prolonged drought. As LCRA points out, the inflows to Lake Buchanan and Travis in 2011 were the lowest recorded, 2012 the tenth lowest and 2013 is on tract to be the second lowest recorded. I respectfully ask that, as a minimum, you grant LCRAs request to raise the trigger point for release to interruptible users to 1.1 million acre-feet. The Texas Comptrollers office has released a report that states 87,196 Texans are at risk of running out of water in the next 180 days if the drought continues as forecast. There are people in the Colorado River basin that have already run out of water at the current lake levels. I also request that you consider raising the trigger point to 1.4 million acre-feet to ensure the water supply for the basin is more stable.

Respectfully

JB Beasley and Randa Toner
Burnet, Texas

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Ken Dorn <ken.dorn@zurichna.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2014 7:20 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Drought order

Please approve the drought order and save our lake water.

Regards,

Ken Dorn
Business Development Leader
2000 W. Sam Houston Parkway South #900
Houston, TX 77042
713-787-5987 Office
972-971-0453 Cell
ken.dorn@zurichna.com

Follow Zurich North America on Twitter@ZurichNAnews Find us on Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/company/zurich-north-america

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**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Ernestine Palmer <newernie@aol.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 8:55 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA

PLEASE require the LCRA to use 1.4 mm acre feet as the point before water can be released to the interruptible users. The Highland Lake region is growing rapidly and once again LCRA is disregarding the reality and severity of the drought as well as the future pressure on the system due to this area's growth. Thank you. Ernestine Palmer

Sent from my iPhone

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** TedJeaKelr@aol.com
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 5:33 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Must Approve LCRA submitted 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Enough is enough! Rules only make sense when they still pertain to the situation and environment for which they were originally intended. The central Texas area is no longer in the precipitation cycle for which the agreements in question were established.

The TCEQ Must Approve LCRA submitted 2014 Emergency Drought Order!

Ted W. Keller

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Ronald Hanson <honeypot1940@live.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 5:03 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** LCRA 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Richard: I am writing you to implore you and your peers on the TCEQ to seriously consider the trigger point on the water supply at Lakes Buchanan and Travis to the 1.4 Million Acre Feet level as requested by LCRA. Lake Travis is scarcely visible today, and impassable (impossible) at many locations making safe use of the lake for any purpose other than scant storage of water unthinkable. The citizens in and around Lakes Travis and Buchanan are in dire economic straits due to this diminished water level, and there is absolutely no sign of relief in sight! While it is true that through the years the Lakes have replinished to acceptable levels, no one can forecast with any certainty when that might occur, and for that reason, the security level at which the Lakes are maintained must be raised to a higher norm when such replinishment of the watersheds and the Lakes (hopefully) occurs. What we actually need, as dreaded as it may sound is a flood.

My wife and I live on Lake LBJ, and I am constantly in awe of the fact that "Ducks Unlimited" continues to support the downstream users of the watershed, acting as if there is no waterfowl on Lakes Buchanan, Inks, LBJ, Marble Falls, Travis, and Austin. As a matter of fact much of the downstream waterfowl also use the lakes, fowl such as Pelicans, Seagulls, Geese, and Duck are a common occurrence out my back door.

I thank you for reading my correspondence, and urge you to keep the water that falls above Austin for the needs of the populace there, inasmuch as those areas East and South of Austin that contribute to the Colorado watershed receive far more rain on an annual basis than those areas West and Northwest of Austin, the watershed areas for Lakes Buchanan and Travis.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Hanson.

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Bobbi Carr <bobbicarr1@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 4:29 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** Drinking Warer

Protect the drinking water for central Texans!!

Sent from my iPhone

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Sally Griffin <salg45@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 1:15 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA's 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Dear Mr. Hyde:

As a very worried citizen of Austin, I am optimistic that you will listen carefully to concerns being voiced about the LCRA's Emergency Drought Order. Personally, I have lost confidence in the LCRA to properly manage our water resources. I have lived in Austin since I was six years old, and I lived through the terrible drought of the 1950's and remember the dire conversations of the adults in my life at that time. Now at the very adult age of 68, I am having those same dire conversations.

The following points concerning the LCRA's drought order have been made by the Central Texas Water Coalition. I feel they are very valid points and hope you will take them into consideration in deliberating whether to increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers:

- 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 even with 2012 and 2013 emergency cutoffs of some water supplied for downstream irrigation.

- Recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of relief.

- The drought conditions include both meteorological drought and hydrologic drought.

- As a result of extremely low inflows into the lakes, record high temperatures, high evaporations rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes dropped significantly in 2011 in a very short time frame.

- Recent rainfalls yielded far less inflow to the lakes than previous historical events. Also, other significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan.

- The current inflow deficit has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record by at least 5% for more than six months.

- Firm customers have had to spend significant amounts of money to make adjustments to lower lake levels.

- Firm customers are being required to adopt watering restrictions that limit irrigation to no more than once per week while interruptible customers are still receiving water in contradiction to the LCRA lake permits for Travis and Buchanan.

Having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers. The idea to increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers would help to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels threatening health and safety. The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans.

The LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1M AF. Central Texas Water Coalition and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4M AF should be the MINIMUM. We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 AF because it and 1.1M AF are too risky for all health and safety issues.

Thank you for your consideration of these points.

Sincerely,

Sally Griffin

Austin, Texas

salg45@yahoo.com

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** rdhunt@suddenlink.net
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 12:24 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Protecting the Drinking Water Supply for Central Texas

Dear Mr. Hyde,

As a resident of central Texas I wanted to inform you that I fully agree and support the position of the Central Texas Water Coalition and ask that you consider their request as stated below. Please take appropriate action to protect the drinking water supply for central Texas. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Richard Hunt

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

CTWC requests that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:

1) The water supply (Lakes Buchanan & Travis) for Central Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation)

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3) Meteorological drought (low rainfall and high temperatures) and Hydrologic drought (low stream flow and high evaporation)

4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports

5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

The trigger point for water releases to interruptible customers needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans.

LCRA is requesting the trigger to be at 1.1M AF. CTWC and other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4M AF should be the MINIMUM. We can't go back to the previous year's trigger point number of 850,000 AF because it and 1.1M AF are too risky for all health and safety issues.

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Douglas <douglasborgman@att.net>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 12:01 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order

Mr. Hyde: Due to increasing population and weather events, water management in Texas is now an absolute priority to regulate by reason and science. During the recent severe drought this has not been done on the Highland lakes, creating the situation at hand. This water issue affects the whole state of Texas, not just central Texas. Management by past standards will not work in the future. The 2014 Emergency Drought plan Of 1.1 M acre-ft. as a cut off is not high enough to protect the water supply in the Highland Lake region, as this represents the whole lake system at half full. At best this is a dire minimum for the present era, so a policy that "prays for rain" is a dereliction of duty for LCRA and TCEQ, having the responsibility of water management in these matters. Only reason should regulate. Sincerely, Douglas Borgman DDS

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Aleshia Bonilla <aleshia.bonilla@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 11:59 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order

As a boat owner for almost 20 years, and a resident of Travis County for over 35 years, I have seen Lake Travis' lows and highs. What we have now is for lack of a better word is insane. This tiny order is a very needed Band-Aid. What is truly needed is to cut off large-scale downstream irrigation completely and permanently.

The concept that we are artificially supporting a low-yield crop that is readily available world-wide at the expense of all the businesses and residents upstream, is unreasonable. Factor in the fact that it only benefits a small group of farmers (relative to the number of business owners and residents effected upstream), it's crazy. All so that they can continue to grow that crop that their land doesn't naturally support with standard irrigation, it's insane.

When and if we can continue to safely supply that much water, those farmers should to be given a time frame to convert their fields to a crop that their land can support without the need for 'flooding'. The irony of allowing anyone in Texas to unnaturally 'flood' anything consider the state of our water supply is inconceivable.

The number of people depending on the Lake Travis reservoir, and all other LCR reservoirs, far exceeds the rice farmers of Southern Texas. Please do what is necessary to protect all of us, not just the special interests or those that complain the loudest.

Aleshia Bonilla
Travis County Resident since 1977

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Nancy Weiss <nswccb@aol.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 11:24 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** lori.wilson@TCEQ.texas.gon
**Subject:** Approval of LCRA Water Plan for Lake Travis

Dear Mr. Hyde,
I am writing to request that your agency not approve LCRA's current proposed 2014 Emergency Drought Order. As a resident of Lake Travis, I have concerns that the proposed 1.1 million acre feet level is too low to protect our drinking source and environment. Please approve a level of at least 1.4 million acre feet to protect the health and safety of our community.
Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

Nancy S. Weiss, PhD
5707 Median Road
Austin, TX 78734

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** David Miller <DMiller@msc-lawyer.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 10:12 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde

Mr. Hyde,

I am a land owner near Lake Travis as well as an owner on Villas of Lake Travis. I believe the 1,100,000 AF levels that have been proposed for the water level of Lake Travis should be raised to 1,400,000 AF as many have suggested including CTWC. I believe this higher level will be much safer for our drinking water needs and the surrounding wild life that counts on the Lake for its needs. It is unacceptable to go back to the prior year's trigger point of 850,000 AF.

David L. Miller
Miller, Scamardi, & Carrabba, P.C.
6525 Washington Avenue
Houston, Texas 77007
Tel: (713) 861-3595
Fax: (713) 861-3596

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**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Steve Allen <rivieramarina@austin.rr.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 8:49 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Pass the Drought Order

Richard,

The Highland Lakes need time to recover from this devastating drought. Please pass this Emergency Drought Order! I could go on for hours but I think others have already made the point. One thing I would recommend is that you raise the release point to 1.9 million acre feet as 1.1 will just be a band aid.

Thank you,
Steve Allen

President / VP
P (512) 250-8321 Riviera
P (512) 261-7511 Lakeway
rivieramarina@austin.rr.com
Lakeway Marina

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** westbeachmarina@gmail.com on behalf of Bob Leonard <bob@westbeachmarina.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 6:34 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA Emergency Drought Order

The Marina Association of Lake Travis supports the Central Texas Water Coalition's request the the trigger be raised from 1.1M AF to 1.4M AF.

Bob Leonard

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** westbeachmarina@gmail.com on behalf of Bob Leonard <lakewayleonards@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 6:17 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA Emergency Drought Order

TCEQ,

Please increase the LCRA trigger to 1.4M AF to better protect our drinking water supply.

Bob Leonard
105 Calypso
Lakeway, Texas 78734

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** nate bunge <natebunge@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 6:12 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson; todd Marshall Ford
**Subject:** lake travis/ buccanon

Richard,

Given our current and future weather forecast of drought.
I feel it would be better to have a larger buffer in our water management guidelines, In the event the drought gets worse .
We can always let more water go, we cant bring it back.

Respectfully,

Nate Bunge

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Harry Ransier <hdelosse@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 6:06 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** 2014 Emergency Drought Order

**Importance:** High

Harry Ransier
700 N Chaparral
Burnet, Texas 78611

January 13, 2014

Mr. Richard A. Hyde
Deputy Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Austin, Texas

Dear Director Hyde:

My name is Harry Ransier. I am the President of the Cassie Property Owner's Association. We are the largest residential community on the east shores of Lake Buchanan.

I am writing you to implore you to consider increasing the trigger point for releasing water from the Highland Lakes to 1.4 million acre feet in order to prevent even more disastrous loss of drinking water reserves for Central Texas in the near future. We have already experienced severe general economic and personal losses in Central Texas as a result of the mismanagement of our water supply by the LCRA in the face of our severe drought. The lakes have not recovered as expected and all indications are, from long range NOAA forecasts, that our drought will continue. We absolutely cannot be placed back in our current situation should the lakes rise enough from a single rain event to meet the current unrealistic trigger point.

We adamantly and unconditionally support the recommendations submitted to you by the Central Texas Water Coalition. It is absolutely critical that realistic limits be placed on our water resources. We respectfully request that you raise the trigger point to 1.4 million acre feet as they have recommended.

In future water management policy deliberations, I am asking you to please consider the following request directly related to the water release limits for the Highland Lakes

of Central Texas. Setting "trigger" release levels is the very worst possible water management policy ever devised. This policy was adopted at a time when there were few people living in Central Texas and agricultural interests had no opposition to this ludicrous policy. Trigger point release levels guarantee that we will run out of water by the very nature of the policy. I am respectfully asking you to change this policy to a "minimum level" policy. Set the level in Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan at which no further water releases can be made except for firm water customers, i.e. human consumption. Once this minimum level is reached, the water flow for ANY other reason must be cut off. This level must be set at a reasonable level to insure an adequate drinking water supply for the 1.5 million or so people who depend on the lakes for drinking water. In my opinion this level should be at least 1.1 million acre feet. This is based on current experience and the fact that our climate IS changing to a drier climate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Harry Ransier
700 N Chaparral
Burnet, Texas 78611
512-793-2027

CC: Ms. Lori Wilson, Executive Assistant

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**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Joseph & Claire Zygarlenski <joezyg@sbcglobal.net>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 5:42 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; lori.wilson@tceq.gov
**Subject:** Fw: CTWC ACTION ALERT- contact TCEQ NOW re: LCRA Emergency Drought Order


Joe & Claire Zygarlenski ☺
4109 Balcones Woods Drive
Austin, Texas 78759
512-970-8949 Joe cell
512-970-3985 Claire Cell
512-372-2211 Joe Office
512-342-2274 Home


CENTRALTEXAS WATERCOALITION

*ACTION ALERT!!*
*TCEQ needs to hear from you NOW.*
*LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD THIS WEEK.*

*ıp in Austinand used the lakes since the age of 9 and seing the growth that austin has now i thir*
*rowing and if it has gone so so rapid in the past what will happen when more people are drinkin*
*y designed to protect the people that use the water as a taxpayer who uses the water it would b*
*Zygarlenski*
*512-970-8949.*

*JOE*

A has submitted the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to TCEQ for approval and TCEQ needs to hear from you N
Tell TCEQ that you want them to protect the drinking water for Central Texans.

Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Ac
of Declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies v

c ! be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:
Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and
l-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires.
) and Hydrologic drought (low stream flow and high evaporation)

hat has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

isure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

needs to reflect the ongoing drought concerns so that drinking water is protected for Central Texans.
other Firm customers would like more protective measures. CTWC believes that the 1.4M AF should be the M
for all health and safety issues.

ic data and remember that **no risk is acceptable when trying to protect the drinking water.**

TCEQ needs to hear from you NOW!!

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)HwYelmDqfd6_8BmB8TCzk_b1gOYvj--
PA U4Vlp9tljekL1ZytGQ462uOFdNHxaN1nCOk5thLe2m7LxwdlXYqQT&c=w7wZFUOeBLIRGL1BrOoTukLKMvPtZ_m22Cr9gaMQDIK5Agv3qaX

· members. TCEQ needs to hear from each individual as well as from the group or organization.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CENTRAL TEXAS WATER COALITION

**P.O. Box 328 Spicewood, TX 78669**
**Office 830.798.5433**

http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001U3iqed1tcMRZ7jhQ0BQlrs1ixCAdsv5HNY8_iUvX80HwYelmDqfd6_8BmB8TCzk_b1gOYvj--
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Central Texas Water Coalition | P.O. Box 328 | Spicewood | TX | 78669

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Sheila Armitage <sheila@horsebling.net>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 5:31 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Agree With CTWC ACTION ALERT- contact TCEQ NOW re: LCRA Emergency Drought Order

YES to recommendations from CTWC, plus more restrictions on more **sensible water usage and preservation**, such as not using drinking water to water golf courses, rainwater catch, other best practices from Australia, Las Vegas, and steps to prepare for the greater demands a rising population is putting on scarcer water resources.

Sincerely,

Sheila
Sheila Armitage
Cell 512 293 4297
www.thewindhorsejourney.com
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**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Anna Bradford <afbradford@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 5:24 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** water levels

We commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1Million Acre Feet is risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

Thank you

Anna Fox Bradford

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Robert G. Welch <robert.welch@synergos-tech.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 2:56 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** LCRA Triggers

I join in with the CTWC and commend the LCRA for revising the 2014 Emergency Drought Order to be more protective, however, we feel that the updated scientific data indicates 1.1 Million Acre Feet is still too risky. We respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

CTWC requests that TCEQ increase the trigger before water could be sent downstream to interruptible customers because:

1) The water supply (Lakes Buchanan & Travis) for Central Texans has not recovered from the extended drought, (even with cutoff of nearly all water supplies in 2012 and 2013 for downstream irrigation)
2) Climate records: Record Low Precipitation, extreme record-setting summer heat and enormous wildfires.
3) Meteorological drought (low rainfall and high temperatures) and hydrologic drought (low stream flow and high evaporation)
4) No clear sign of relief in weather reports
5) Low inflows, because dry soil absorbs most of the rainfall that has occurred, and significant rainfall has fallen below the watersheds of Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Also having a more protective trigger point is necessary to ensure LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL Firm Customers.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Robert Welch

--

Robert G. Welch | President
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512.343.1963 | www.Synergos-Tech.com

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Debbie Starnes <debbiestarnes1@gmail.com> |
| **Sent:** | Tuesday, January 14, 2014 2:09 PM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Subject:** | Re: LCRA Emergency Drought Order |

Sorry, hit the wrong button before giving my full name and address:

Debbie Starnes
2509 Sailpoint Dr.
Spicewood, TX 78669

On Tue, Jan 14, 2014 at 2:07 PM, Debbie Starnes <debbiestarnes1@gmail.com> wrote:
I would like to add my voice to those who support amending LCRA's Water Management Plan to account for the continuing drought in Central Texas. It is my belief that releases to interruptible customers should be curtailed until the storage level of the Highland Lakes reaches at least 1.4 MM AF in order to protect drinking water supplies. While a trigger point of 1.1 MM AF is better and more protective than the 850,000 AF in last year's order, it is still too low and should be adjusted upwards to 1.4 MM AF to reflect the sustained nature of the drought and the forecast of continued dryer-than-historical weather patterns.

Regards,
Debbie

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Debbie Starnes <debbiestarnes1@gmail.com> |
| **Sent:** | Tuesday, January 14, 2014 2:08 PM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde |
| **Cc:** | Lori Wilson |
| **Subject:** | LCRA Emergency Drought Order |

I would like to add my voice to those who support amending LCRA's Water Management Plan to account for the continuing drought in Central Texas. It is my belief that releases to interruptible customers should be curtailed until the storage level of the Highland Lakes reaches at least 1.4 MM AF in order to protect drinking water supplies. While a trigger point of 1.1 MM AF is better and more protective than the 850,000 AF in last year's order, it is still too low and should be adjusted upwards to 1.4 MM AF to reflect the sustained nature of the drought and the forecast of continued dryer-than-historical weather patterns.

Regards,
Debbie

**Lori Wilson**

**From:** Linda Raun <lcraun@att.net>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 1:48 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Subject:** LCRA Water Management Plan

Mr. Hyde,

I am a former LCRA board member and I appreciate the pressure and difficult decision that is facing the TCEQ on the emergency order to the Water Management Plan.

I supported the emergency plan that was proposed 3 years ago due to the severe drought conditions we were in, but I had the fear at that time that it was a bad precedence to set for future boards. We are in a different situation today. I strongly support the Water Management Plan and the time and effort that stakeholders and LCRA put into developing it. It is in place for times like this, where science and data determine the decisions made by LCRA, not political pressure.

I urge you to decline the emergency order and to have LCRA make release decisions based on the Plan that is in place. I also urge you to review the pending plan and act on it as soon as possible. Having a current plan in place, and abiding by it, takes pressure off of everyone so that decisions are made logically and fairly and panic and political pressure are removed.

Thank you for your service and your consideration for a matter that is vitally important to all people in the LCRA basin.

Sincerely,

Linda

Linda C Raun

4 N. Washington

El Campo, TX 77437

979-543-4950

979-541-6845 cell

lcraun@att.net

**Lori Wilson**

---

**From:** paul breaux <pbreaux@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 1:43 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** 1.4M Trigger

Please set the trigger point at 1.4M AF for the water supply.
Paul Breaux
pbreaux@hotmail.com

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Ken Matwiczak <ken_matwiczak@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 1:07 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson
**Subject:** re: LCRA Emergency Drought Order

Dear Mr. Hyde:

We would like to petition TCEQ to consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF (at a minimum) to conserve water supplies, protect against the effects of prolonged drought and preserve reservoir levels for the future. As we have witnessed these past 3 years, once the water is released downstream there is no guarantee that lake levels will recover, and meteorological predictions indicate a strong possibility of extended drought throughout the Central Texas region for years to come. Much of the recent rain fell downstream, and was not able to be captured in the watershed for the Highland Lakes.

Austin is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the country and the increased future demand for fresh water is a critical consideration. Furthermore, increasing the trigger point to 1.4M AF is necessary to fulfill LCRA's legal obligation to continue to provide current and future water needs to ALL firm customers.

We respectfully request that TCEQ base this decision on updated scientific and meteorological data and take steps now to reduce the risk of losing this precious resource.

Respectfully,

Ken and Barbara Matwiczak
Cell: 512-589-4759
E-Mail: ken_matwiczak@hotmail.com

**Lori Wilson**

---

**From:** James Geister <jgeister@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 12:39 PM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson
**Subject:** Please increase water trigger to 1.4M AF

The water supply for central Texas is to important to not error on the side of caution. Please increase the trigger to 1.4M AF. Thank You.

**James Geister-Managing Partner**
**United Mgmt. Co.**
P.O. Box 2028
Austin, TX. 78768
(512)-415-1909

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Gene Ehler <eehler@aol.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 11:14 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde; Gene Ehler
**Subject:** LCRA

Please consider and increase the trigger point to 1.8 million acre feet before releasing any water for agriculture uses . This action would allow the lakes to at least recover some of their capacity. When one industry uses 70 percent of the water in the two lakes, something must change. You now have a great opportunity To improvements that will pay dividends for many years to come.

Thanking you in advance ,

Gene Ehler
308 S Chaparral
Burnet, Tx 78611
Eehler@aol.com

Sent from my iPad

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Jerri Ward <jward@garloward.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2014 11:11 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Lori Wilson; troy.fraser@senate.state.tx.us; paulworkman@austin.rr.com
**Subject:** Letter regarding LCRA emergency order
**Attachments:** ltrTCEQ.pdf

Please see the attached letter regarding the LCRA emergency order application

Jerri Lynn Ward

Austin Chamber

January 16, 2014

Richard Hyde
Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin, TX 78711

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 company members of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, we are writing to urge TCEQ approval of the LCRA's request for emergency relief from its current Water Management Plan without amendment. We understand the vital importance to protection of Central Texas' water supply during this persistent and historic drought.

By approving LCRA's emergency order request, you will ensure protection for the residents and businesses of Central Texas who depend on the Highland Lakes for water. We encourage you to uphold the LCRA's Board recommendation to hold the cut-off trigger level for stopping downstream agriculture to at least 1.1 million acre feet of storage. Dipping below this number puts Central Texas ability to access to an adequate water supply at extreme risk.

Austin is the 11th largest city in the United States and the 4th largest city in Texas.

- Over the last decade, the Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos MSA has increased local jobs by 30%, the best performance among the country's top 50 MSAs.
- Over the last decade, Metro Austin payroll has increased by more than $9 billion.
- Each year, Metro Austin is among the top 5 job creators in the country.
- Metro Austin generates significant revenue through taxation to contribute to state coffers.

Our region's ability to maintain this economic vitality, however, could be endangered by TCEQ reduction of water storage.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Chairman
Jack McDonald
Chairman
Silverback Enterprise Group
Chairman & CEO
Upland Software

Immediate Past Chair
Lew Little
Co-Founder
Harden Healthcare

Chair-Elect
Gene Austin
President
Bazaarvoice

Legal Counsel
Brad Knippa
Attorney
Jackson Walker LLP

Vice Chair Talent Development
Jeff Browning
Recruiting Partner
Austin Ventures

Vice Chair Economic Development
Pete Winstead
Attorney
Winstead PC

Vice Chair Finance
Dave Martin
Vice President & CFO
Dimensional Fund Advisors

Vice Chair Regional & Local Policy
Jesus Garza
President & CEO
Seton Healthcare Family

Vice Chair Membership Relations
Curtis Page
Managing Director
Higginbotham

Vice Chair Federal & State Policy
Eugene Sepulveda
CEO
Entrepreneurs Foundation

Vice Chair Small Business
Leon Chen
Co-Founder & CEO
Tiff's Treats

Vice Chair
Communications
Amy Villarreal
Vice President &
General Manager
CBS KEYE
TV/Telemundo Austin

Vice Chair Membership Development
Heather Ladage
Publisher
Austin Business Journal

Vice Chair Special Events & Partnerships
Dan Graham
Co-Founder & CEO
BuilASign.com

Vice Chair Innovation
Hugh Forrest
Director
SXSW Interactive Festival

Vice Chair Regional Mobility
John Garrett
Publisher & CEO
Community Impact Newspaper

Vice Chair Education
David Reiter
Senior Vice President & General Counsel
Luminex Corporation

Member at Large
John Holmes
Vice President, Legal
Freescale Semiconductor Inc.

**Lori Wilson**

| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Robert Weiss <robert@laketravisscuba.com> |
| **Sent:** | Thursday, January 16, 2014 11:47 AM |
| **To:** | Richard Hyde; Lori Wilson |
| **Cc:** | Robert Weiss |
| **Subject:** | Approve the drought order! Save our valuable resource! |

Greetings,

As owner and operator of Lake Travis Scuba, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects caused by the current drought and release of water downstream over the past several years. The lake is near record low levels since the construction of the dam in the early 1940's created this valuable Central Texas resource that has become vital to the growing population. Over the past several years our water resource has been mismanaged, putting at risk the very people this resource was created to support. Too often the lower basin of this resource has been serviced at the expense of the upper basin, it is time to reverse this trend by taking corrective action for the betterment and protection of our most valuable resource, our water.

In order to achieve this goal, I respectfully request that TCEQ consider increasing the trigger to 1.4M AF in order to reduce the risk of a declaration of Drought Worse than the Drought of Record, to provide better assurance that water supplies will be available, and to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety.

Please take care of the threatened water resources.

Robert Weiss
Lake Travis Scuba
www.LakeTravisScuba.com
512-784-5980

## Lori Wilson

**From:** Susan Nold <Susan.Nold@senate.state.tx.us>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2014 10:56 AM
**To:** Richard Hyde
**Cc:** Mark Harmon; Isaac Jackson
**Subject:** Letter from Senator Kirk Watson re. LCRA application
**Attachments:** Richard Hyde_1.16.14.pdf

Richard,

Congratulations on being named Executive Director. I look forward to working with you in your new capacity.

Attached is a letter from Senator Watson regarding LCRA's application for emergency relief for 2014. He asks that you consider his comments and that they be included in the official record of public comments on the application.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Susan Nold
General Counsel
Office of Senator Kirk Watson
463-0114
Susan.nold@senate.state.tx.us

KIRK WATSON
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 14

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION
BUSINESS & COMMERCE
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HIGHER EDUCATION - VICE-CHAIR
NOMINATIONS

CAPITOL ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 12068
ROOM E1.606
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
512/463-0114
FAX 512/463-5949

January 16, 2014

Richard Hyde
Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Hyde:

I respectfully request that you approve the Lower Colorado River Authority's application for emergency relief from the Water Management Plan ("the application"). The application is necessary for the protection of the public health and safety of nearly one million Texans.

The Highland Lakes provides the primary water supply for the people, industry and economy of Central Texas -- a regional economy that has helped launch Texas into the national and global spotlight as a place to live and work. Planning and preparation--through water rights permits and contracts securing the City of Austin's right to a firm, reliable water supply from the Highland Lakes--has been a key part of the economic prosperity enjoyed by the Central Texas region. No alternative supplies of sufficient volume are readily or feasibly available in the event that poor management and drought combine to threaten the Highland Lakes water supply. Approval of the application is critical to the proper and prudent management of this region's water supply through a drought of unknown intensity and duration. The value of proper management to the continued health, safety, and economic prosperity of Central Texas should not be underestimated.

Attached are two letters that Senator Troy Fraser and I submitted to the LCRA Board of Directors in recent months outlining the significant impact of its actions during this historic drought.

Senator Fraser and I sent the letter dated October 4, 2013, when the LCRA Board was considering declaring a drought worse than the drought of record ("the declaration") as is required by the current Water Management Plan. At that time -- less than four months ago -- the combined storage in lakes Travis and Buchanan was approaching the 600,000-acre feet threshold. The declaration would have resulted in the suspension of releases to interruptible customers and pro-rata curtailment of firm customers, likely obviating the need for the application pending your approval today. As you may know, a rain event provided some much needed inflow into the Highland Lakes and the declaration never occurred.

While the declaration has not yet occurred, the combined storage in the lakes remains at critically low levels. The drought continues. Senator Fraser and I delivered the second letter (dated November 18, 2013) to the LCRA Board prior to its vote to approve the application for emergency drought response. This letter explains that the application's 1.1 million acre feet trigger represents the absolute minimum combined storage volume that would be acceptable given the intensity of the drought in recent years, and presents reasons an even higher combined storage volume is needed if the inflow patterns of recent years continue.

I ask that both letters be entered into the record because they both underscore the importance of the emergency relief sought by LCRA and granted by TCEQ in 2012 and 2013, and again requested by LCRA for 2014.

Please know that I stand ready to assist as you take this critical action. Thank you for your service to the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Kirk Watson

Attachments (2)

October 4, 2013

Timothy Timmerman, Chairman
Members of the LCRA Board of Directors
LCRA
P. O. Box 220
Austin, TX 78767

Dear Chair Timmerman and Members of the LCRA Board of Directors:

When the combined storage of Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan drops to 600,000 acre feet, the current water management plan ("the plan") requires that the Board issue a declaration that the basin is in a drought worse than the drought of record ("the declaration"). According to the plan, the declaration impacts the basin's water users in several ways. For example, the declaration triggers the requirement that water for firm customers and environmental needs be cut back 20 percent and water for interruptible customers be cut off entirely.

The plan also requires that prior to issuing the declaration, the Board will evaluate and consider the conditions that must be present in order to signal the declaration's end. Stated differently, the Board must establish the factors that will need to exist before the basin will be considered to have come out of the drought worse than the drought of record. The plan contains a default provision that lakes Travis and Buchanan must fill to 1.4 million acre-feet of combined storage before the LCRA may resume normal management under the plan. Upon the end of the declaration, the plan dictates that firm water customers and the environment would no longer face pro rata curtailment and releases to interruptible customers could resume.

The status of the lakes creates the need for the LCRA to begin the process of determining these issues. As you approach the declaration, we urge you to carefully consider whether this default provision adequately protects firm customers. The current drought's intensity gives us reason for great concern that it may be insufficient. In order to preserve future water supplies necessary for critical human needs, we believe it is important for you to consider additional measures, including a higher amount of combined storage, to signal the declaration's end.

On March 1, 2011, the combined volume of stored water in lakes Travis and Buchanan was 1.53 million-acre feet. In just seven months, large releases and drought dropped the lakes to a combined storage below 750,000 acre-feet. Now, less than three-years later, despite modest gains in 2012, the lakes have dramatically and rapidly dropped to a combined storage volume of close to 600,000 acre-feet. Stakeholders have noted that but for emergency relief -- permission to deviate from the water management plan -- requested by LCRA and granted by TCEQ in 2012 and 2013 that resulted in the suspension of stored water releases to downstream interruptible customers, the lakes would be in a much more dire condition.

Given that we continue to live through a historic multi-year drought, a more protective, perhaps multifaceted measure for triggering the declaration's end may be necessary. Just as the plan requires the declaration to be made when three elements -- combined storage, duration, and inflow deficit -- occur simultaneously, we encourage you to consider factors other than combined reservoir storage that would signal that we are out of a multi-year drought prior to resuming stored water releases to interruptible customers. The 2011 release of stored water and the ongoing drought conditions have taught us that 1.4 million-acre feet of combined storage should not trigger massive releases of stored water during a time of drought.

Finally, proposed revisions to the water management plan LCRA submitted for TCEQ's review in 2012 rather amazingly propose that the declaration end with a combined storage volume of a mere 900,000 acre-feet. This proposal would be a significant step backward, since we now know that the current plan's criteria of 1.4 million-acre feet is inadequate. We will ask TCEQ to address this shortcoming in its review and evaluation of the proposed 2012 plan.

We know this drought has forced you to confront many difficult decisions regarding water availability in the LCRA basin. Difficult decisions and votes have become the norm. You are trucking water to the Spicewood community. Businesses dependent on the lakes have closed. Irrigators that depend on stored water have been cut off. Requests for new water have been carefully scrutinized and in some cases limited. While many of these difficult decisions have been issues of first impression for your agency, they could become the norm without taking the time to correct very real flaws in the plan. We have heard it said that none of you want to find our basin continually facing and revisiting the difficult dilemmas that have defined the recent past. We trust this is true. And we firmly believe that the only path is to correct the current plan and deficiencies in the proposed plan. It is vital to our future.

Thank you for your service to the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Senator Kirk Watson

Senator Troy Fraser

November 18, 2013

Timothy Timmerman, Chairman
Members of the LCRA Board of Directors
P. O. Box 220
Austin, TX 78767

Dear Chairman Timmerman and Members of the LCRA Board of Directors:

We cannot support staff's proposed recommendation for emergency relief for 2014. It does represent an improvement over previous emergency actions -- proposing cut offs through a higher combined storage volume, and limits on the amount of water that can be released for interruptible users. However, given the uncertainty and intensity of the current drought, the staff proposal simply doesn't do enough to protect the water supply. Your own models reveal that the proposed recommendation falls short of that fundamental and critical concern.

The proposal provides that if the combined storage of Lakes Travis and Buchanan climbs to over 1.1 million-acre feet, approximately 130,000 acre-feet of water would be released to interruptible customers, plus another 20 percent for transportation losses. If this occurred and the evaporation and inflow trends of 2011and 2013 were to repeat, you will have made no progress. According to your model of October 14, 2013, the lakes could be back to historically low levels in seven months. In just over a year, they could reach emergency levels below 600,000 acre-feet. We would again face the reality that short-sighted management decisions providing some water downstream would have escalated an ongoing critical water supply situation for over a million Central Texans. We would again face the concern that your agency may have failed to honor your legal and moral obligations to those whom you have guaranteed a firm supply of water.

We ask you to consider a higher combined storage volume threshold for releasing water to interruptible customers. To identify the appropriate combined storage volume, you should not consider 2014 to be a year in isolation. Rather, it must be considered as part of a multi-year drought of unknown duration. Therefore, determining the appropriate level of combined storage that would trigger a release of water to interruptible customers in 2014 must take into account what interruptible releases your agency might also provide in the future.

If the LCRA were able to guarantee that releases for interruptible customers would remain limited until an updated water management plan is in place, then allowing a limited release at a combined storage volume of no less than 1.4 million acre feet appears to be protective. However, if there is no certainty with respect to future releases for interruptible customers, then the modeling demonstrates the need for a higher 2014 threshold, possibly as high as 1.8 million acre feet, is necessary to allow for the lakes to regain the storage sufficient to sustain through this uncertain drought.

Therefore, we ask you to call for a combined storage volume of 1.4 million acre-feet on March 1, 2014, and to additionally seek assurance that limited releases would remain in place even after the expiration of TCEQ's emergency order. We believe this approach would bring clarity to the uncertainty of this time of drought and mitigate the shortcomings of an outdated water management plan.

Stated another way, because the LCRA cannot control the amount of inflow to the lakes, and because we have seen low inflows that have been unprecedented, you must maintain control over the amount of water released from the lakes. Until the drought has ended, and until we are sure that this drought represents an anomaly, your management decisions should anticipate and mitigate the significant vulnerabilities this drought has presented.

We simply cannot afford another year of large releases during a drought. As you know, 2011 was a year of both extreme drought and large releases. During that year, we saw the lakes go from a combined storage volume of over 1.5 million acre-feet on March 1, 2011, to less than 750,000 in just seven months. During 2012 and 2013, while extreme drought continued, we saw the lakes attain a combined storage high of 1.033 million acre-feet in May 2012, and drop to a low of 637,000 acre-feet in September 2013. This drop was not due to interruptible releases. Stored water releases for interruptible users were fully suspended, with the exception of Garwood, during both years. Rather this drop represented a steady decline over 16 months of nearly 400,000 acre-feet simply from a period of low inflows along with evaporation, firm water use, and releases for Garwood and the environment.

Recent years have taught us that our water supply from the Highland Lakes, if not properly managed, is not guaranteed. Proper management, in our view, does not require interruptible use to be cut off entirely until the drought ends, however, proper management does require that stored water released from the lakes to supply interruptible users during the time of drought of uncertain duration must be limited and managed to the extent necessary to allow the lakes to recover. The long-term water supply security of your firm water customers is not something that can be compromised. There is simply too much at stake.

Sincerely,

Senator Kirk Watson

Senator Troy Fraser