

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Chairman*
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Zak Covar, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

August 26, 2013

Re: Alert for Permitted State Surface Water Diversions in the San Saba River Watershed

Dear Water Right Holder:

By letter dated April 5, 2013, you were alerted that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) may have to suspend or adjust water rights on a priority basis due to drought conditions. The TCEQ has received multiple priority calls on surface water from domestic and livestock water users in the San Saba River watershed of the Colorado River Basin. In accordance with the Texas Water Code (TWC), §5.013(a)(1), the TCEQ is responsible for enforcing water rights, which requires protecting senior and superior surface water rights, and must take action in response to the priority call.

With no immediate relief forecasted, the TCEQ is now suspending or adjusting certain diversions in the San Saba River watershed. Suspended or adjusted water rights include water right permits with a priority date of January 1, 1900 and later and term water right permits in McCulloch, Menard, and Schleicher Counties. Temporary water right permits have also been suspended. Exempt domestic and livestock diversions are not subject to this suspension because they are superior in priority to permitted rights. This letter is being provided as an alert to all water right holders in the San Saba River watershed.

If your water right is subject to the suspension or adjustment you will receive additional correspondence. The TCEQ continues to monitor the situation closely. Please be aware that should senior needs not be fulfilled as a result of suspension or adjustment of these diversions, the TCEQ may take additional actions to protect the priority call. If conditions improve, we may be able to lift the suspensions. Please take appropriate conservation steps for efficient water use.

You may find additional drought information on TCEQ's drought web page at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/drought> or by contacting the TCEQ Drought Hotline at 1-800-447-2827. You may also contact your TCEQ Regional Office or Ms. Jaime Nolasco, Water Rights Liaison, at the TCEQ Central Office in Austin at 512-239-1503 should you have additional questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Hyde".

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