

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Chairman*
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Mark R. Vickery, P.G., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

August 22, 2011

Re: Alert for Permitted State Surface Water Diversions in the Sabine River Basin

Dear Water Right Holder:

By letter dated April 11, 2011, you were alerted that diversions of state surface water may be suspended or curtailed due to drought conditions in the near future.

The TCEQ continues to monitor the ongoing drought situation closely. This includes efforts, within TCEQ's authority, to balance the administration of the state's obligations under the Sabine River Compact and the use of water by senior surface water right holders; while attempting to minimize the impact to junior water right holders. **In order to administrate Texas' obligations under the Sabine River Compact and senior surface water right permit holders, the TCEQ will need to curtail your diversion of water in the near future if stream flows conditions do not improve.**

The most senior water rights are served first during times of drought with domestic and livestock uses superior to any appropriated rights. Water rights are suspended or curtailed by priority date, with the most recently issued – or “junior” – priority users suspended before senior water rights in the area. If you have not implemented your drought contingency plans, the TCEQ strongly encourages systems to implement their plans now given that conditions may worsen. This will help extend the availability of a necessary precious resource.

You may find additional drought information on TCEQ's drought web page, located at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/drought.html> or by contacting the TCEQ Drought Hotline at 1-800-447-2827. You may also contact your TCEQ Regional Office or Ms. Amy Settemeyer, Water Rights Liaison, at the TCEQ Central Office in Austin at 512-239-2588 should you have additional questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zak Covar".

Zak Covar
Deputy Executive Director