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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

April 15, 2024

Re: Alert for Permitted State Surface Water Right Holders Supported by the Amistad/Falcon System in the Rio Grande

Dear Water Right Holder:

The Rio Grande Watermaster Program continues to closely monitor water supplies in the Amistad/Falcon reservoir system, drought conditions, and weather forecasts.

- Texas' storage in the Amistad/Falcon reservoir system is at historically low spring season levels. As of March 30, 2024, the US combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 22.56% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 761,416 acre-feet, down from 27.16% (921,207 AF) of normal conservation a year ago.
- As of March 30, 2024, Class A and B water right accounts balances stood at 407,723 acre-feet (as compared to 621,309 acre-feet a year ago). Due to low inflows, the Rio Grande Watermaster has only been able to allocate water to Class A and B water right accounts twice in 2023 (April and May), and in February 2024. Many irrigation districts have account balances at or below 30% and have issued push water notices to their municipal water users.
- Drought conditions have persisted throughout the basin to varying degrees for some time.
- Forecasts predict that drought conditions in the Rio Grande basin will develop, persist, or intensify through the summer months.

Without significant reductions in demand through water conservation, critical water shortages could develop. Water right holders should plan for and implement water conservation and drought contingency measures. The Rio Grande Watermaster Program urges water right holders to review measures that will reduce demand and conserve water, update those measures to reflect the seriousness of current conditions, and expedite implementation in an effort to avoid critical shortages.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Georgina.Bermea@tceq.texas.gov or 956-430-6056.

Sincerely,

Georgina Bermea, Rio Grande Watermaster