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Toby Baker, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

July 26, 2022

Re: 2nd Alert for Permitted State Surface Water Diversions in the Rio Grande

Dear Water Right Holder:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continues to closely monitor drought conditions and United States storage ownership in the Amistad-Falcon reservoir system. As explained in my May 27, 2022 alert letter ([Rio Grande 1st Drought Alert Letter](#)), insufficient inflows and lack of precipitation have resulted in shortages that have impacted water rights in the Rio Grande. Unfortunately, the water shortage in the Rio Grande has intensified.

As of June 25, 2022, the United States storage ownership in the Amistad-Falcon reservoir system was at a low of 895,135 acre-feet (AF) or 26.39%, with the 75,000 AF operational reserve reduced to 20,091 AF. Without significant inflows and/or precipitation, the Rio Grande Watermaster projects that the operational reserve could be depleted as early as July 2022. If the operational reserve is depleted, the Watermaster will be required to debit Class A and B priority water right accounts up to the amount necessary to restore the operational reserve to 48,000 AF (see [30 Texas Administrative Code §303.22](#)). Class A and B priority account holders should prepare for these impacts.

Domestic, municipal, and industrial water right holders could also be indirectly impacted by negative allocations to Class A and B accounts. Water right holders that share delivery systems with Class A and B accounts may incur higher transportation/delivery losses because of the lack of irrigation water deliveries and use. This may result in the need to lease or purchase additional water to cover increased transportation losses. Water right holders should be in contact with their water delivery system, ensure they understand potential impacts, and begin making any necessary contingency plans now.

All water right holders should be implementing their Drought Contingency Plans, as applicable, in an effort to extend the limited water supplies in the Rio Grande. It is not possible to predict how severe drought conditions and the associated water shortages may become, or how long they will persist.

If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Stambaugh, Rio Grande Watermaster at Anthony.Stambaugh@tceq.texas.gov or 956-430-6056.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby Baker".

Toby Baker
Executive Director