



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: April 10, 2012

Prepared By/Phone Number: Garry Brown 854-9333

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Commissioner Karen Huber

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Commissioner Karen Huber

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Consider and take appropriate action on a resolution in support of timely approval by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the Lower Colorado River Authority's 2012 Water Management Plan.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

**RESOLUTION OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT IN SUPPORT OF TIMELY
APPROVAL BY THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF THE LOWER
COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY'S
2012 WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Travis County Commissioners Court recognizes that maintaining Lakes Travis and Buchanan at optimal levels that reflect prudent decisions for a variety of stakeholders is critical in maintaining municipal water supplies as well as to the health, safety, economic, and recreational interests of the District's customers; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) currently has an emergency order in effect to maintain minimal lake levels because of the continuing extreme drought conditions and the lowest annual inflows to the Highland Lakes in history; and

WHEREAS, weather patterns and future models indicate that conditions in Central Texas will continue to be hotter and drier than normal; and

WHEREAS, the population of Texas is expected to grow by more than 20 million in the next 50 years while at the same time, water consumption is projected to increase 22 percent; and

WHEREAS, the most recent State Water Plan remains unfunded, leaving the LCRA Water Management Plan (WMP) the only current, implementable, long-term option for water management; and

WHEREAS, the LCRA organized a diverse committee of stakeholders to formulate a new WMP to address extreme drought conditions and the committee worked diligently for 18 months to present a plan which addressed all of the stakeholder interests; and

WHEREAS, the Court recognizes and applauds the LCRA for approving the new 2012 WMP and submitting it to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ); and

WHEREAS, Travis County and the Lake Travis Coalition sponsored the Lake Travis Economic Impact Report which showed more than \$8.4 billion in assessed lake area property values with hundreds of jobs and over \$200 million in annual tax revenue generated by the Lake Travis area alone, producing critical data supporting key components of the WMP; and

WHEREAS, it took seven years for the TCEQ to approve the last Water Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State Climatologist has predicted an increased chance of drought for the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the businesses and local governments, including Travis County, will see significant negative impact should the drought continue in the absence of an approved water plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROVE THE 2012 WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AS SUBMITTED BY THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY WITH AN URGENCY FITTING OUR DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS _____ DAY OF APRIL, 2012.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

SARAH ECKHARDT
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

KAREN L. HUBER
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4