



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: February 11, 2014
Prepared By/Phone Number: Bob Moore, Executive Assistant
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Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Commissioner Daugherty
Precinct Three

Commissioners Court Sponsor:

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

APPROVE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY'S 2014 EMERGENCY DROUGHT ORDER TO THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Travis County Seal

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LCRA'S 2014 EMERGENCY DROUGHT ORDER (EDO) TO TCEQ

Whereas, the Colorado River Basin continues to suffer from a prolonged drought effecting over a million people in Central Texas; and

Whereas, the drought conditions have created a circumstance where the reservoir lakes have been unable to recover in any significant manner; and

Whereas, recent weather forecasts do not include any clear signs of future relief; and

Whereas, the Emergency Conditions present an imminent threat to the public health and safety of Central Texas residents; and

Whereas, the drought conditions include both meteorological drought, taking into account rainfall and temperature and hydrologic drought taking into account stream flow and evaporation; and

Whereas, as a result of extremely low inflow, record high temperatures, high evaporation rates, and higher than anticipated interruptible demands, the combined storage in the lakes have dropped significantly in a very short time frame; and

Whereas, the current low inflow has exceeded the inflow deficit of the Drought of Record and is symptomatic of the drought's severity; and

Therefore, Travis County Commissioner's Court respectfully requests that TCEQ approve the new Emergency Drought Order proposal submitted by the LCRA. While we advocate for a 1.4M AF trigger, we will support the compromise of a minimum 1.1M AF trigger to avoid dangerously low reservoir levels which threaten health and safety, to avoid hitting the 600,000 AF emergency threshold caused by releases of stored water to anticipated interruptible customers, and to protect the water supply for the people of Central Texas.

Approved this 11th day of February, 2014.

Sam Biscoe, Travis County Judge

Ron Davis, Pct. 1

Bruce Todd, Pct. C2

Gerald Daugherty, Pct. 3

Margaret Gomez, Pct. 4