

Item 4 ADDED BACKUP

Addressed to

The Travis County Commissioners Court and all people of central Texas are concerned with our dwindling water supply. It is freighting to see the drop of Lake Travis each week with virtually no inflow from rain into the lake system. The Lower Colorado River Authority has the responsibility of managing that water supply. The LCRA is in the process of updating its application to the TCEQ to amend the Water Management Plan. In August, the LCRA Board of Directors directed the staff to meet with interested parties and discuss potential changes that could be made within the approved framework of the Water Management Plan and the Travis County Commissioners Court supports that public and transparent process.

The Water Management Plan governs LCRA's operations of the Highland Lakes to meet the needs of major water users throughout the Colorado River Basin. The specific concern now being addressed is how the Management Plan prescribes the allocation of water during supply shortages. This challenge pits upstream, Highland Lakes, and municipal water user's verses the downstream and agricultural users of the water. The LCRA staff held three meetings that were well attended by interested parties from up and down the Colorado River. The LCRA listened to the concerns; answered questions asked and applied suggestions given by the water users where possible to the Management Plan. The proposed amendments to the Water Management Plan are intended to give the River Authority a higher degree of flexibility when responding to changing regional drought conditions.

The LCRA has demonstrated its regional leadership by being open and meeting with all interested stakeholders and user groups and has diligently met with our shared constituent base of Travis County. The LCRA has exercised a commitment to put forth the best Water Management Plan for the entire basin, from the Highland lakes to the Gulf Coast. The Commissioners Court certainly understands the difficulties in trying to satisfy the wants, needs, and opinions of divergent user groups.

The Travis County Commissioners Court supports the desire to put forth a Management Plan best for the citizens of Travis County and satisfy the needs of all stakeholders of the entire basin. The Court expresses its appreciation for the leadership provided by the LCRA Board of Directors and all those professionals of the LCRA who have worked so diligently on this difficult issue.

Signed by