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Water supply options are being evaluated by LCRA staff and an engineering consultant. The studies will look at availability, location, cost, permit requirements and other issues.

Conservation

Municipal, industrial, irrigation operations, power plants, landscapes, improved water delivery, coordination with LCRA Water Conservation Task Force

Desalination

Sea water, brackish groundwater for municipal and industrial/power plant uses

Wastewater reuse

Direct and indirect, for industrial/power plant uses, landscapes, golf courses and drinking water as is done in other parts of the country

Rainwater collection

For home and commercial use

On-channel reservoirs

Upstream of the Highland Lakes and below Austin, includes flood flow capture and low water dams

Off-channel reservoirs

Capturing floodwater, conjunctively used with groundwater, includes Fayette Power Plant second reservoir and off-channel storage facility

Groundwater

Includes aquifer storage and recovery, groundwater banking, using abandoned quarries for capture and recharge

System operations including downstream water rights

System management, reservoir operations, excess flows, water availability modeling

Dredge Highland Lakes

Removing sediment to increase storage volume

Inter-basin transfer to the Colorado River

Moving water into the basin from outside the basin

Rate structures to manage water use

Evaluate the effect of using cost to manage water use

Land use planning/development management

Evaluate brush management program, natural area preservation to promote recharge, partnerships to manage runoff

Cloud seeding

Evaluate potential benefits in the central Texas climate

Interaction with other water supply entities

Work to optimize water right management with other major water right holders including the City of Austin and South Texas Project. This will coordinate with the system operations strategy

Investigate purchase or use of existing water rights

Evaluate costs and benefits relative to other supply options

Divert Llano River floodwater to Lake Buchanan

Review previous study

Wastewater effluent near the Highland Lakes further used as a potential water supply

Evaluate potential water volume, review results of environmental modeling conducted by LCRA (known as Colorado River Environmental Modeling System) and other options including wastewater reuse