

Water Management Plan for lakes Travis and Buchanan

Frequently asked questions

What is the Water Management Plan? The Water Management Plan governs how LCRA operates lakes Travis and Buchanan, the region's water supply reservoirs. The plan determines how water is allocated from the lakes to LCRA's customers and for the environmental needs of the Colorado River and Matagorda Bay.

LCRA's Water Management Plan is the only one of its kind in the state. It was required by the 1989 court settlement that determined the water rights for the Highland Lakes. The state approved the first Water Management Plan in 1989. Updates were approved in 1992, 1999 and 2010.

What are the major changes in the new plan? There are many proposed changes to the new plan intended to make it more flexible and responsive to the basin's growing water demands. A summary of the major proposed changes can be found in the [plan's executive summary](#).

Who wrote the new plan? The plan was written by LCRA. Many of the proposed changes were recommended by an advisory committee made up of the diverse interests that rely on Highland Lakes water. The committee spent more than a year investigating and discussing how to best balance the diverse demands on the Highland Lakes.

What is the process for approving the plan? LCRA's Board of Directors must approve the plan. Once it does, it will forward the plan to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for final approval. Once TCEQ determines that the plan meets all its administrative requirements, it has a year to act on the plan.

When will the new plan go into effect? When the TCEQ approves the plan, it will state the effective date.

Will there be water available for rice farmers under the new plan? Yes, the proposed plan limits and reduces the amount of Highland Lakes water available for farmers in several ways. However, farmers may still receive water from the Highland Lakes under the proposed plan unless the area experiences a severe drought.

Why has it taken more than a year to write a new plan? The advisory committee that provided input on changes to the plan spent more than a year to investigate and discuss how to best balance the demands on the Highland Lakes. The committee came to a consensus and near consensus on many of the recommended changes. That committee included representatives from cities, industry, lake area businesses and residents, the environment and farmers. LCRA's Board of Directors approved the proposed recommended changes in concept and authorized staff to prepare an updated plan consistent with those changes. LCRA then took those concepts and did the necessary technical and engineering work to incorporate them into the plan that determines how the lakes are operated and how water is allocated from the lakes.

How can I offer my opinion on the plan? Please email your comments to wmp@LCRA.org by Feb. 9. The public will also have the opportunity to comment on the plan at two LCRA meetings. These are tentatively scheduled for the Feb. 21 Water Operations Committee meeting and the Feb. 22 regular Board of Directors meeting. The Board may consider the updated plan at its Feb. 22 meeting.

For more information on the Water Management Plan:
www.lcra.org/watermanagementplan