

WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Water Quality Advisory Committee

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The Highland Lakes



A Shared Resource

The Highland Lakes provide water for:

- More than a million people
- Seven power plants capable of providing power to more than 3 million homes
- Businesses and jobs
- Agriculture
- The environment

98 percent combined storage

Lake Travis



Water Management Plan

Governs LCRA's operation of the Highland Lakes to supply water to users throughout the lower Colorado River basin

Water Management Plan Background

- Required by 1988 court order
- First plan approved in 1989
- Updates approved in 1991, 1992, 1999, 2010 and 2015

Water Management Plan

- Key elements:
 - Applies only to lakes Buchanan and Travis
 - Allows for supply of interruptible water
 - Cannot impair ability to meet firm customer demands
 - Helps meet the environmental needs of the river and bay

2015 Water Management Plan

- More responsive to changing conditions
- Ends “open supply” of interruptible water
- Considers storage, inflow conditions and a look-ahead test to determine interruptible stored water separately for first and second crop

2015 Water Management Plan

- Includes hydrology through 2013
- Maintains combined storage above 600,000 acre-feet through a repeat of historic hydrology

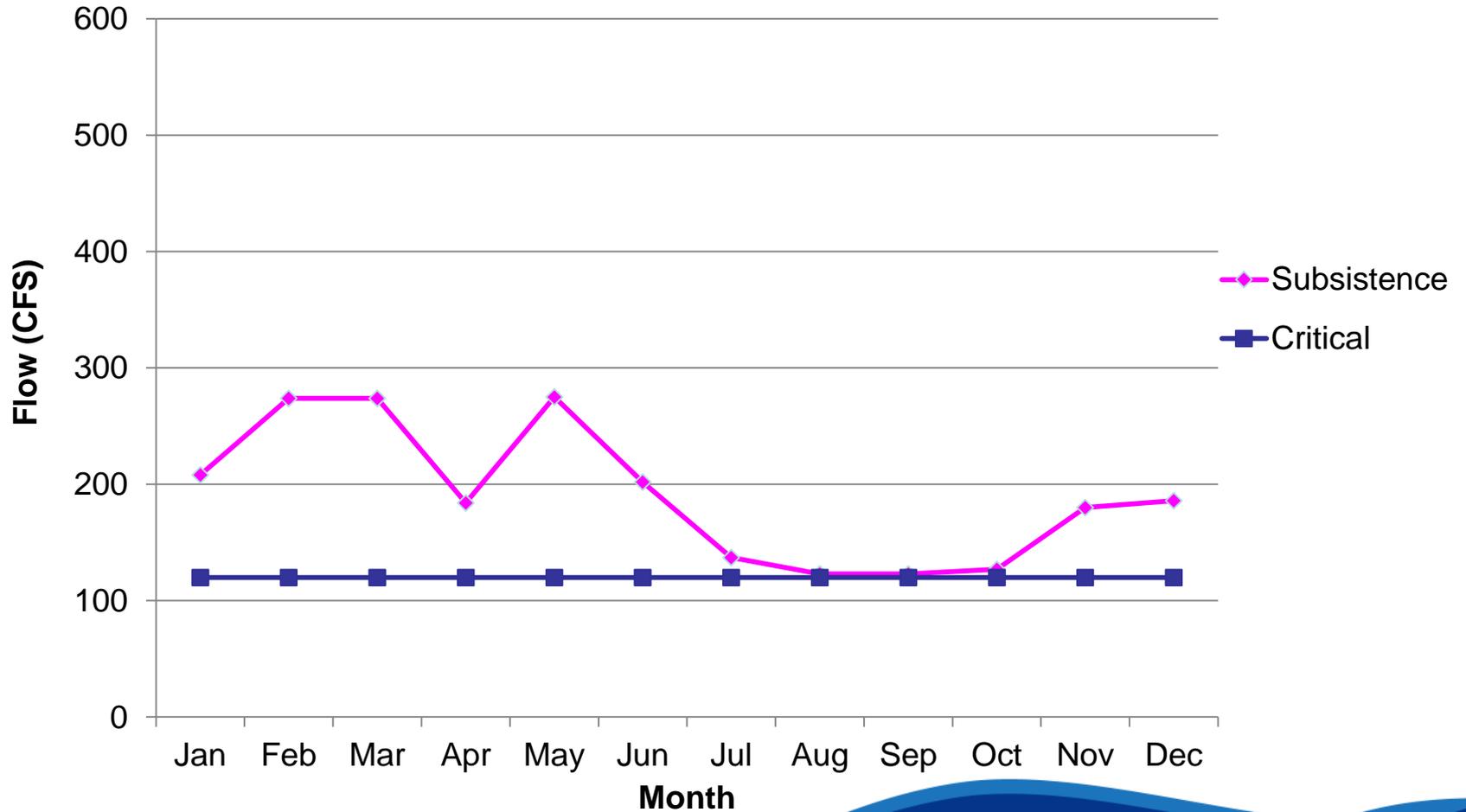
2015 Water Management Plan

- Incorporates recent scientific studies consistent with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality standards
- Determines environmental flow criteria on two dates for different periods of the year
- Includes environmental flows levels depending on water supply conditions

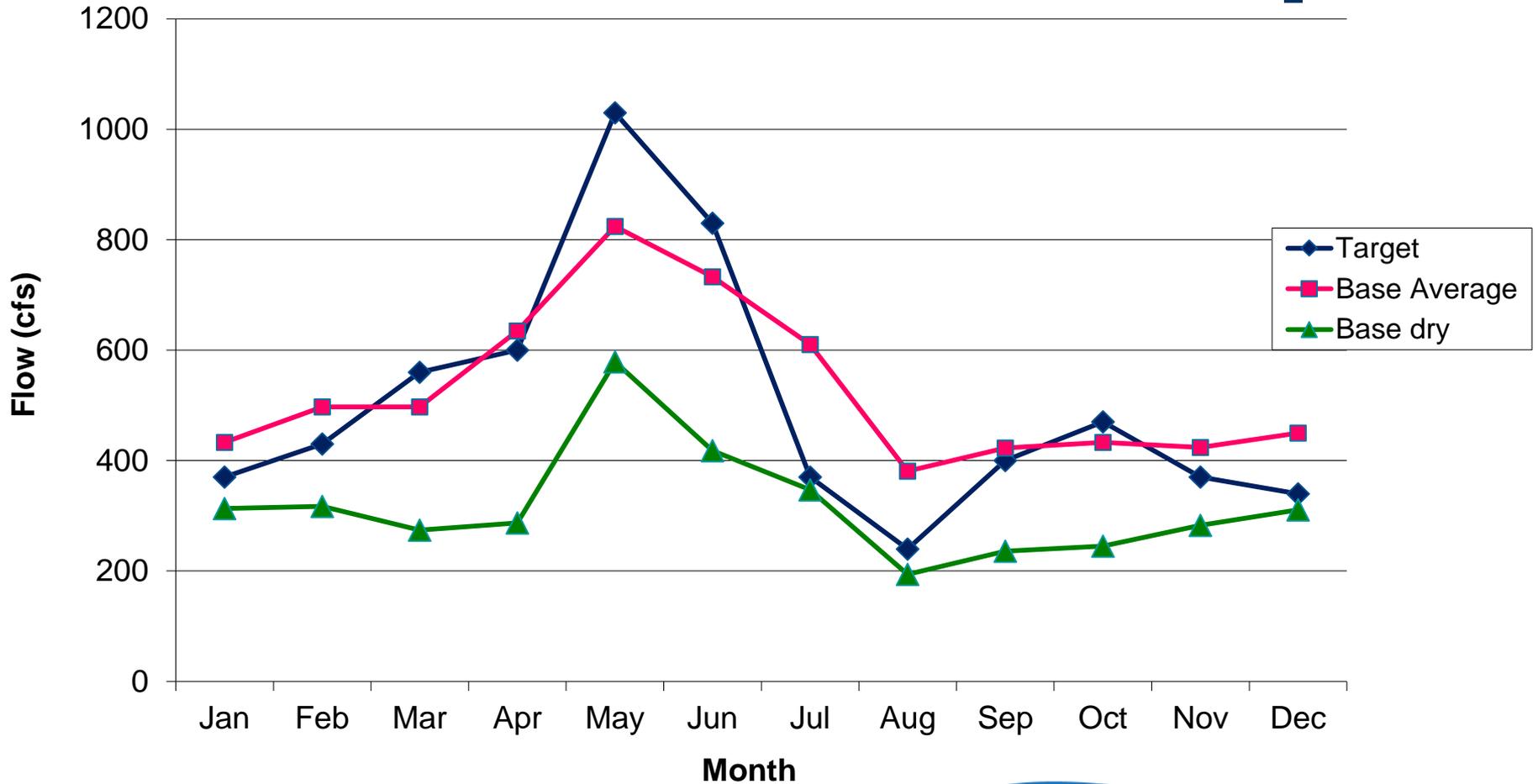
Instream Flows Comparison

- Previous water management plans contained two levels
 - Target
 - Critical
- 2015 Water Management Plan has three levels
 - Subsistence
 - Base-Dry
 - Base-Average

Colorado River at Bastrop



Colorado River at Bastrop



Freshwater Inflows Comparison

- Previous water management plans had 3 levels
 - Target
 - Intermediate
 - Critical
- 2015 Water Management Plan has five levels
 - MBHE 4
 - MBHE 3
 - MBHE 2
 - MHBE 1
 - Threshold

Questions?

Backup Slides

Combined Storage in Lakes Buchanan and Travis Since Jan. 1, 2008

Acre-Feet



Changes to Interruptible Stored Water Availability

- Considers storage, inflow conditions and a look-ahead test to decide whether we are in “normal,” “less severe” or “extraordinary drought” conditions
- These conditions determine available interruptible stored water separately for first and second crop
- Ends “open supply” of interruptible water