

# Water Management Plan Update

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Participant Meeting  
Aug. 26, 2025



# Agenda

- Review comments received after June 25 participant meeting
- Present additional WMP information
- Discussion and questions



# Response to Comments

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# **Individual Meetings Since June 25**

- **Agricultural interests**
- **City of Austin**
- **Environmental interests**
- **CTWC**
- **Highland Lakes Firm Water Customer Cooperative**

# Written Comments Received

- **Received from six commenters:**
  - City of Austin
  - CTWC
  - Tom Harrison
  - Highland Lakes Firm Water Customer Cooperative
  - City of Lakeway
  - Travis County WCID No. 17

# Comments Received – Minimum Combined Storage

- **City of Austin, Tom Harrison, Highland Lakes Firm Water Customer Cooperative, CTWC, City of Lakeway and Travis County WCID No. 17 comments**
  - Suggest increasing minimum combined storage
- **LCRA response**
  - *LCRA modeled a higher minimum combined storage and will share the results later in the meeting*

# Comments Received – Rate of Storage Depletion

- **CTWC comment**

- Requests that LCRA make a more significant effort to slow the rate of depletion of storage in the Highland Lakes

- **LCRA response**

- *The preliminary WMP update includes several measures intended to slow the rate of depletion of combined storage in the Highland Lakes, including:*
  - *Increasing the combined storage volume that triggers entering or exiting Less Severe Drought or Extraordinary Drought*
  - *Revising the curtailment curves for stored water provided for interruptible agriculture so that less stored water is provided at higher storage levels*
  - *Revising Matagorda Bay inflow storage triggers and percentage of storable inflows provided to the bay so that less stored water is provided at higher storage levels*

# Comments Received – Safe Yield

- **CTWC comment**
  - Requests that LCRA consider establishing a Safe Yield
- **LCRA response**
  - *LCRA will continue to use a Firm Yield for contracting*
  - *The WMP will continue to include a buffer of at least 600,000 acre-feet to provide a cushion for a potential drought worse than the Drought of Record per the TCEQ WMP framework*

# Comments Received – Changing Exit Criteria

- **Tom Harrison comment**

- Consider changing the criteria for entering and exiting drought to sustain and recover storage during a drought

- **LCRA response**

- *The preliminary WMP update includes changes to the Less Severe Drought and Extraordinary Drought entrance and exit criteria to continue maintaining storage above 600,000 acre-feet*
- *Changes include increases to storage trigger for both Less Severe Drought and Extraordinary Drought that allow those conditions to be entered at higher storage levels*
- *A detailed description of these changes can be found in the June participant meeting presentation at [lcra.org/watermanagementplan](http://lcra.org/watermanagementplan)*

# Comments Received – Population Growth/Demands

- **City of Lakeway comment**
  - Consider consulting with the state demographer to adjust for growth and demands
- **LCRA response**
  - *LCRA met with our largest customers to obtain population and demand projections through the year 2080 as part of the Water Supply Resource Report*
  - *The demands are based on significant projected population increases for the year 2032*
  - *Projected demands are available at [lcra.org/watermanagementplan](http://lcra.org/watermanagementplan)*

# Comments Received – Update Hydrology Through 2024

- **City of Lakeway, CTWC and Travis County WCID No. 17 comments**
  - Requested adding 2024 data to the model and plan
- **LCRA response**
  - *Data for 2024 hydrology is not currently available. LCRA will proceed with hydrology through 2023.*

# Comments Received – Exclude the DCP in Modeling

- **City of Lakeway, Highland Lakes Firm Water Customer Cooperative, CTWC and Travis County WCID No. 17 comments\***
  - Requested excluding the firm customer DCP demand reductions in the modeling
- **LCRA response**
  - *The preliminary WMP update does not include firm customer DCP demand reductions when achieving the TCEQ framework requirement of a minimum combined storage above 600,000 acre-feet*

\*Included Highland Lakes Firm Water Customer Cooperative after the Aug. 26 participant meeting.

# Comments Received – Modify Hydrologic Modeling

- **City of Lakeway, CTWC and Travis County WCID No. 17 comments**
  - Requested analysis of the “capture rate” and private ponds in the watershed
- **LCRA response**
  - *LCRA recently commissioned a study on the impacts of small ponds, which suggested that new ponds constructed between 2015 and 2023 (after the Drought of Record) have the potential to reduce the combined firm yield of lakes Buchanan and Travis*
  - *However, given the preliminary nature of the analyses and the numerous associated uncertainties surrounding the number and characteristics of ponds in the Highland Lakes watershed, LCRA determined that the estimated impacts should be understood as initial estimates, and thus, not be incorporated into the current WMP update*

# Questions?



# Modeling Summaries

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# WMP Information Requests (Agriculture)

- **Agricultural information requests**
  - What if the Less Severe Drought entrance criteria was reduced from 1.8 million acre-feet and set closer to 1.7 million acre-feet?
  - What if the storage for the anytime cutoff trigger was changed from 1.1 to 1.0 million acre-feet ?

# **WMP Recap on Preliminary Update (Agriculture)**

- **Combined storage triggers set at higher level for entering and leaving Less Severe and Extraordinary Drought**
- **Curtailment begins at higher levels for first and second crop**
- **Decrease in max stored water made available to first crop, under both Normal and Less Severe Drought conditions**
- **Anytime cutoff trigger was changed from 1.0 to 1.1. million acre-feet**

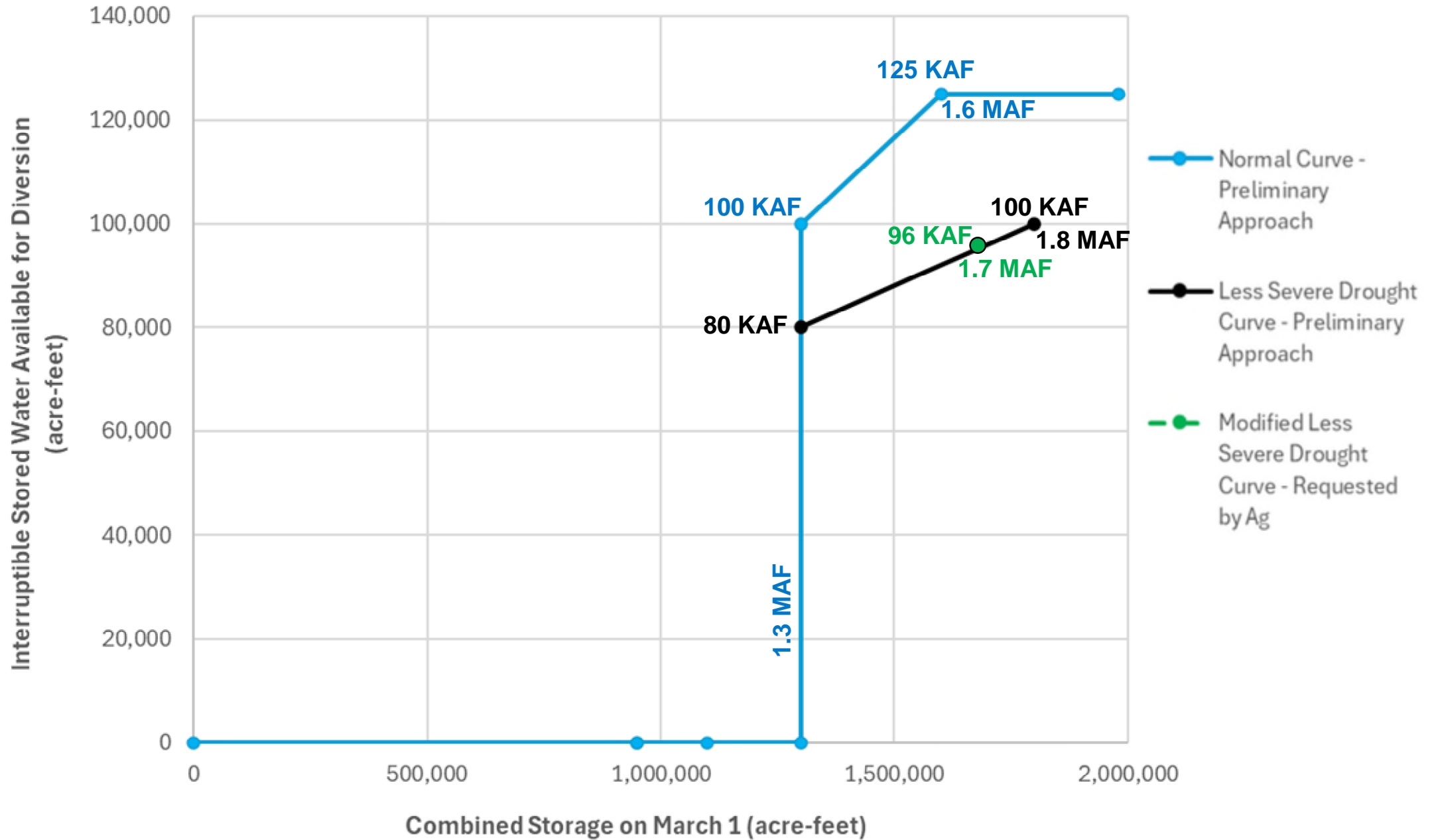
# Preliminary First Season Interruptible Stored Water for Agriculture Changes

First Season Interruptible Stored Water (First Crop)			
Normal Conditions*		Less Severe Drought Condition	
Combined storage on March 1 (million acre-feet)	Interruptible supply (acre-feet)**	Combined storage on March 1 (million acre-feet)	Interruptible supply (acre-feet)**
Above 1.6	125,000	Above or equal to <del>1.8</del> 1.7	125,000
1.3 to 1.6	100,000 to 125,000	1.3 to <del>1.799999</del> 1.699999	80,000 to 100,000
Below 1.3	0	Below 1.3	0

\*When combined storage is above ~~1.8~~ 1.7 million acre-feet, Normal conditions apply

\*\*Anytime cutoff if storage is at or below 1.1 million acre-feet

# Curtailment Curves - First Crop



# WMP Information Requests (Agriculture)

- **Agricultural information requests**
  - What if the Less Severe Drought entrance criteria was reduced from 1.8 million acre-feet and set closer to 1.7 million acre-feet?
- **Modeling**
  - Modeled Less Severe Drought trigger change from 1.8 to 1.725 million acre-feet
- **Answer:**
  - No impact on minimum combined storage
  - One partial curtailment year changed to full allocation year
  - One partial curtailment year changed to cut off year

# Preliminary First Season Interruptible Stored Water for Agriculture Changes

First Season Interruptible Stored Water (First Crop)			
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Above 1.6	125,000	Above or equal to 1.8	125,000
1.3 to 1.6	100,000 to 125,000	1.3 to 1.799999	80,000 to 100,000
Below 1.3	0	Below 1.3	0

\*When combined storage is above 1.8 million acre-feet, Normal conditions apply

\*\*Anytime cutoff if storage is at or below 1.1 1.0 million acre-feet

# WMP Information Requests (Agriculture)

- **Agricultural information requests**
  - What if the storage for the any time cutoff trigger was changed from 1.1 to 1.0 million acre-feet?
- **Answer:**
  - Unconstrained by the anytime cutoff trigger, interruptible stored water is never provided in model when storage is below 1.1 million acre-feet
  - The model (initial update to 2020 WMP) does not engage the anytime cutoff
  - Changing the trigger to 1.0 million acre-feet does not impact model results but also does not reflect any conditions under which interruptible stored water was provided

# WMP Information Requests

- **Consider increasing the minimum combined storage**
  - By increasing triggers
  - By incorporating the DCP

# WMP Information Requests (Increase Minimum Storage)

- **Regarding requests for higher minimum combined storage**
  - LCRA staff evaluated trigger changes needed to result in a minimum combined storage of about 700,000 acre-feet
- **Example:**
  - **Flash drought trigger:** change from **300,000** to **275,000** acre-feet
  - **Special Subsistence triggers:** change from **900,000** acre-feet (storable inflows) and **1.3 million** acre-feet (previously stored water) to **1.45 million** acre-feet for both
  - **Less Severe Drought first crop max:** change from **100,000** to **35,000** acre-feet
    - 35,000 limit was also applied to second crop

# **WMP Information Requests (Increase Minimum Storage)**

- **Regarding requests for higher minimum combined storage**
  - How much does minimum combined storage go up when firm customer drought contingency plan (DCP) savings are accounted for?
- **Answer:**
  - The initial approach to the WMP will meet the planning objectives set out by TCEQ without consideration of drought savings from firm customers
  - Modeling shows with including projected firm customer DCP savings would increase the minimum combined storage by about 50,000 acre-feet

# Preliminary WMP Update Recap

- **Initial preliminary approach presented in June**
- **Current approach is unchanged:**
  - Less Severe Drought trigger at 1.8 million acre-feet
  - Anytime cutoff at 1.1 million acre-feet
  - Minimum combined storage above 600,000 acre-feet
  - Firm customer DCP savings not included in the modeling

# Questions?

# Next Steps

- **Responses to comments from the previous meeting and any other technical information presented will be posted later this week**
- **Submit comments related to this meeting to [LCRAWMP@lcra.org](mailto:LCRAWMP@lcra.org) by Sept. 19**
- **Staff is available to meet upon request**
- **Fifth participant meeting: Sept. 23**
  - Discuss Drought Worse Than Drought of Record and Firm Yield

# Timeline

<b>March 27, 2025</b>	First participant meeting
<b>April 23, 2025</b>	Second participant meeting
<b>June 25, 2025</b>	Third participant meeting
<b>Aug. 26, 2025</b>	<b>Fourth participant meeting</b>
<b>Sept. 23, 2025</b>	Fifth participant meeting (DWDR and Firm Yield)
<b>Nov. 10, 2025</b>	Sixth participant meeting
<b>January 2026</b>	Present staff recommendation on WMP updates to LCRA Board
<b>Spring 2026</b>	Request LCRA Board approval
<b>Summer 2026</b>	Submit to TCEQ for approval



# LORA

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