

# 2019 LCRA Raw Water Conservation Plan



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# **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Purpose and Policy**

The Lower Colorado River Authority serves customers and communities throughout Texas by managing the lower Colorado River; generating and transmitting electric power; providing a clean, reliable water supply; and offering access to nature at more than 40 parks, recreation areas and river access sites along the Texas Colorado River, from the Hill Country to the Gulf Coast. LCRA was created by the Texas Legislature in 1934.

LCRA developed this Water Conservation Plan for municipal, irrigation, recreation, industrial and agricultural water rights. This plan fulfills requirements of the Texas Administrative Code, Title 30, Chapter 288, Subchapter A, Water Conservation Plans, and Subchapter C, Required Submittals. This Water Conservation Plan supersedes the components of the LCRA Water Conservation Plan approved by the LCRA Board of Directors in 2014.

## **1.2 History of LCRA Water Conservation**

Water conservation is an important strategy for mitigating the effects of urban growth on the region's water resources, particularly in Travis County and surrounding areas. In addition to reducing future water demands, water conservation can make important contributions toward satisfying the water and wastewater service requirements of growing urban populations and economies. LCRA has been implementing water conservation measures since the late 1980s. More than 25 years ago, LCRA implemented a comprehensive water conservation program targeted at the two largest water use sectors within the water service area – irrigated agriculture and municipal – which together account for more than 70 percent of LCRA's total annual water use, even in drought years when irrigation agriculture is curtailed. Industrial use, mainly from LCRA's power plants, has become significantly more water efficient over time as older facilities have been replaced by more efficient facilities.

In 1989, prior to the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 288 rules, LCRA developed Rules for Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and required all new firm water customers applying for a new or modified contract to develop plans in accordance with these rules. At that time, LCRA also began providing conservation program planning support to its wholesale municipal water customers by offering technical assistance, coordinating plumbing retrofit programs and developing education efforts.

As the largest historical user of water in the lower Colorado River basin, irrigated agriculture has provided one of the best opportunities for LCRA to reduce overall water demand through conservation programs. Between 1989 and 1997, the introduction of volumetric pricing and canal rehabilitation is estimated to have saved approximately 13 percent a year, or about 41,500 acre-feet annually, of the projected water use that would have occurred without conservation practices in place. House Bill (HB) 1437 was passed in 1999, allowing up to 25,000 acre-feet of water to be transferred to Williamson County subject to a requirement that there be no net loss to the Colorado River basin. Most of the conservation strategies

implemented in the LCRA irrigation divisions since that time have been funded or partially funded by money collected from a surcharge on the water reserved or transferred.

### **1.3 2014 Water Conservation Plan Results**

LCRA has an ongoing process to expand conservation strategies with its customers to collect baseline data, conduct an extensive benchmarking effort of other successful water providers, and work with builders, landscape and environmental interests.

Since 2012, new conservation programs include a residential outdoor rebate program; a commercial, institutional and industrial (CII) water audit and rebate program; a firm water customer cost-share program; irrigation evaluation training; and an irrigation technology rebate program. All of these programs are available to water users that directly or indirectly receive water from LCRA. Municipal customer mandatory requirements such as irrigation standards and permanent landscape watering schedules account for nearly 70 percent of the savings. Since 2014, LCRA estimates approximately 4,500 acre-feet of water is saved annually from implementation of firm water conservation strategies. These savings do not include those associated with water restrictions that were in effect during the drought in 2014-2015.

LCRA also has implemented or completed key agricultural conservation projects. These conservation projects, which continue to provide annual savings, include the Garwood measurement project, the land leveling grant program, and completion of a gate rehabilitation project in the Gulf Coast Irrigation Division (see Section 4). As of 2017, LCRA estimates the three-year rolling average annual water savings in the irrigation divisions is 12,437 acre-feet. This averaging is used to provide a more consistent savings number during droughts, when curtailments can result in no savings in the Lakeside and Gulf Coast divisions. This methodology also is consistent with reporting requirements for HB 1437.

### **1.4 2019 Water Conservation Plan Development**

LCRA is building its 2019 Water Conservation Plan strategies largely on the 2014 plan. The plan is divided into chapters – a baseline chapter and chapters about firm water customers, LCRA irrigation divisions and LCRA power plants. Because the City of Austin has its own water rights, the Austin water utility is required to submit a water conservation plan directly to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Water conservation strategies for Austin are not been included in this plan.

## **2.0 BASELINE PROFILE AND WATER CONSERVATION GOALS**

### **2.1 Overview of LCRA Water Service Area**

LCRA provides water from its water rights in the Colorado River basin for municipal, industrial, recreation, irrigation, agricultural, domestic, environmental and other purposes. Surface water supplies are a combination of the natural flow of the Colorado River and stored water from the Highland Lakes, specifically lakes Buchanan and Travis.

As of April 2019, LCRA had firm water contracts with 68 municipal wholesale raw water customers, serving an estimated population of more than 350,000, not including Austin, which serves a population of more than 1 million. LCRA also has firm water contracts with 57 irrigation and recreation customers, including golf courses; seven industrial use customers including four LCRA power plants; two agricultural customers; 3,581 domestic use customers; and 68 temporary customers.

LCRA also provides water to farmers in the LCRA-owned Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Garwood irrigation divisions, as well as Pierce Ranch. Figure 2-1 illustrates the LCRA water service area as well as the locations of LCRA power plants, LCRA-owned irrigation divisions and large municipal water customers.

Water demands and water supply available within LCRA's water rights vary with weather conditions. Water use by type of use has varied substantially since 2014 due to extremely dry conditions, drought response measures and several flooding events. Table 2-1 provides a summary of the reported water use from 2014-2018.

The annual demand for the municipal contracts, exclusive of Austin, in 2018 was approximately 76,868 acre-feet. LCRA supplied 6,667 acre-feet of water to its firm irrigation and recreational water customers, mainly golf courses. The majority of LCRA industrial water use is for generating electricity. LCRA power plants used 12,647 acre-feet in 2018. The majority of water use at these facilities is evaporation from cooling reservoirs. Other industrial water uses customers, including manufacturing and steam electric generation, used 11,711 acre-feet in 2018.

In addition to the above-mentioned water use under firm water commitments, in 2018 the LCRA irrigation divisions and Pierce Ranch diverted and used 239,150 acre-feet of water. Water use in 2018 reflects partial curtailment of water in the irrigation divisions during the second irrigation season, and stage 1 drought measures for firm water customers for approximately two months due to reduced inflows and lower combined storage in lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Balancing the need for well-planned infrastructure, water quality protection and water conservation are important as LCRA works to extend the basin's natural resources to meet the needs of future generations. LCRA continues to work with its customers, regional interests, environmental interests, upstream water rights holders and adjoining regional planning groups to find sensible, equitable, beneficial and economical solutions to the water supply challenges that will face this growing region for years to come.

**Table 2-1 LCRA Reported Total Water Use (acre-feet)<sup>1</sup>**

	<b>2014<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Industrial	5,186	1,735	4,866	7,910	11,711
LCRA Power Plants	9,296	7,041	8,468	15,007	12,647
Municipal, City of Austin <sup>2</sup>	48,370	40,874	32,708	43,678	56,648
Municipal, Other	59,626	58,046	64,426	71,738	76,868
Irrigation and Recreation	5,599	5,346	4,870	7,225	6,667
Irrigation Operations	86,726	74,723	254,084	210,535	239,150
Environmental Flow <sup>3</sup>	4,582	0	54,641	67,762	55,924
<b>Total</b>	<b>219,386</b>	<b>187,765</b>	<b>424,063</b>	<b>423,855</b>	<b>459,615</b>

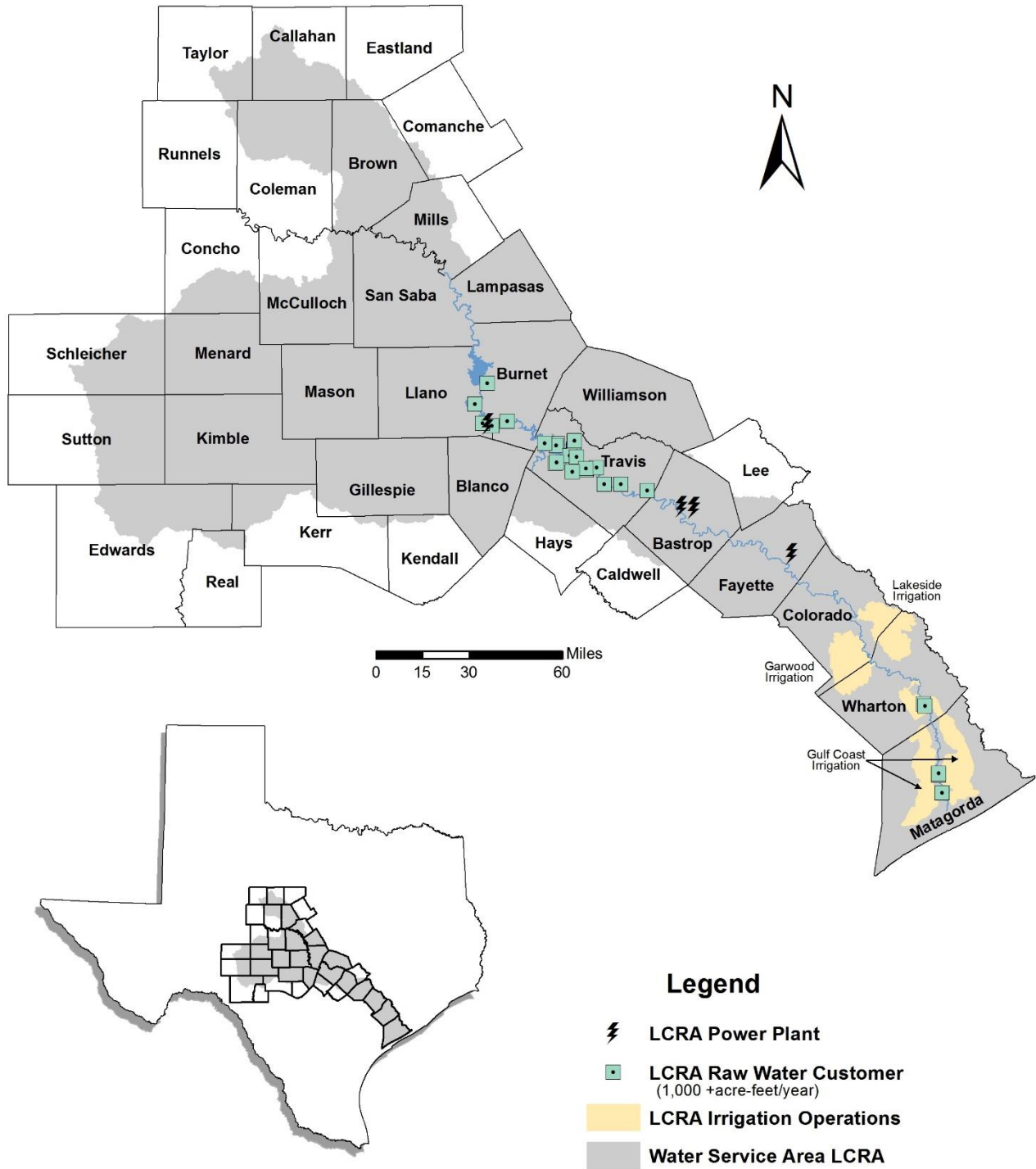
<sup>1</sup> Reported water use numbers obtained from LCRA annual Water Use Summary.

<sup>2</sup> The City of Austin used additional water for all years under its own water rights.

<sup>3</sup> Stored water released for the environment.

<sup>4</sup> Water use in 2014-2015 reflects curtailment of water in the irrigation divisions due to the drought.

**Figure 2-1: Map of LCRA Water Service Area, LCRA Irrigation Divisions, LCRA Power Plants and Large Municipal Water Customers**





## **2.2 Water Use**

### **2.2.1 Municipal Water Use**

In 2018, LCRA supplied water to more than 350,000 people through LCRA wholesale municipal water customers, not including Austin. These customers derive their water supplies from LCRA's water rights for lakes Buchanan and Travis. LCRA municipal customers are very diverse and include cities, water supply corporations, municipal utility districts, water control and improvement districts, and others, the majority of whom are located in the Highland Lakes and Travis County areas. Wholesale municipal customer metered water use for 2014-2018 is included in Appendix A.

Outside of Austin, only a few mid-sized customers have substantial commercial and multifamily use, with 92 percent of the connections reported in the service area in 2018 classified as single family. LCRA customer gallons per capita per day (GPCD) varies greatly, with several smaller rural systems near or less than 100 GPCD to systems serving mostly suburban single-family homes with large irrigated lots between 200 and 300 GPCD. This wide range also is reflected in the ratio of summer to winter use. LCRA municipal customers use about twice as much water in the summer than winter. The system-wide estimated GPCD for 2018 was 158.

### **2.2.2 Irrigation and Recreation Water Use**

In 2018, LCRA supplied 6,667 acre-feet to 57 irrigation (not including agricultural irrigation in the irrigation divisions) and recreational water customers. Irrigation and recreational contracts include contracts with golf courses, children's camps, hotels, school districts and others including for agricultural irrigation and landscape irrigation around subdivisions. The majority of these contracts are for golf courses located in the Highland Lakes area. In 2018, golf course water use accounted for more than 80 percent of the total water use by irrigation and recreation customers. In 2018, municipalities in LCRA's service area outside of Austin provided approximately 6,037 acre-feet of treated wastewater, mainly to golf courses and irrigation of common areas around subdivisions and roadways. Wholesale irrigation and recreation metered water use for 2014-2018 is included in Appendix A.

### **2.2.3 Industrial Water Use**

The majority of industrial water use in LCRA's service area goes toward power generation facilities, including LCRA's three wholesale power plants (Fayette Power Project, Ferguson Power Plant, and the Lost Pines Power Park), and Bastrop Energy Partners. STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) has a contract with LCRA, and jointly owns a water right with LCRA that provides run-of-river to the power plant. STPNOC has not used any backup water supply from lakes Buchanan and Travis in the last five years. In addition, LCRA provides water to customers with industrial facilities in the Gulf Coast Irrigation Division canal system. Other industrial customers include facilities that produce gravel and concrete. Wholesale industrial metered water use for 2014-2018 is included in Appendix A. Water conservation strategies for LCRA wholesale power generation is found in Chapter 5 and Appendix C.

## 2.2.4 Domestic and Temporary Water Use

In addition to firm municipal, industrial, irrigation and recreational contracts, LCRA also has several thousand domestic use contracts. Domestic use contracts are for individual or household domestic purposes. The water is diverted solely through the efforts of the end-user. As of April 2019, LCRA had 3,581 domestic use contracts. The contract quantity for domestic users is calculated based on LCRA's permanent twice weekly watering restrictions that encourage efficient landscape watering.

LCRA also sells water to a wide ranging customer base interested in relatively small amounts of water (less than 10 acre-feet) for a relatively short amount of time (three years or less). These temporary customers use water for purposes such as irrigation, business interests, construction activities, and recreational purposes. As of April 2019, LCRA had 68 temporary use contracts.

## 2.2.5 Agricultural Irrigation Water Use

LCRA owns the water rights associated with the Garwood, Gulf Coast, Lakeside and Pierce Ranch irrigation operations. Of these, LCRA operates the Garwood, Gulf Coast and Lakeside operations. LCRA provides water to Pierce Ranch under a long-term interruptible contract, and to numerous farmers in the Garwood, Gulf Coast and Lakeside divisions who obtain interruptible agricultural water contracts. Combined, LCRA's three irrigation divisions cover an area of 830 square miles. Gulf Coast has the largest area at almost 500 square miles, Lakeside is almost 200 square miles, and Garwood is 150 square miles. Crops include rice, turf grass, cotton, corn, milo, soybeans and hay. Land also is often flooded for wildlife management at the end of the irrigation season if water is available for supplemental use contracts. In a non-curtailed year, over 90 percent of the crops planted in Lakeside and Garwood is rice (about 80 percent in Gulf Coast). In addition to row crops, the Gulf Coast Irrigation Division has some turf grass farms and aquaculture.

**Table 2-3: LCRA Irrigation Operations Acreage and Water Use: 2014-2018**

<b>Irrigation Operations</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Gulf Coast</b>					
First Crop Rice Acres	0	0	13,714	8,545	11,728
Second Crop Rice Acres	0	0	10,861	5,537	7,547
Supplemental Acres <sup>1</sup>	0	1,820	1,881	2,739	2,119
Total Water Diverted <sup>2</sup> (a-f/yr)	0	13,004	91,754	67,006	71,519
Irrigation for Rice Crop (a-f/yr)	0	0	46,388	37,769	42,555
First Crop (a-f/acre)	0	0	2.57	3.13	2.98
Second Crop (a-f/acre)	0	0	1.03	1.99	1.00
Supplemental Water Use <sup>1</sup> (a-f/yr)	0	1,641	2,508	2,352	1,876
Supplemental Water Use a-f/acre	0	0.9	1.33	0.86	0.89
Total Water Used (a-f/yr)	10,462	13,004	56,149	48,095	54,830
Water Loss (a-f/yr)	0	0	35,604	18,911	16,689
Percent of Water Loss	- <sup>3</sup>	0.00%	38.80%	28.20%	23.34%
<b>Lakeside</b>					

First Crop Rice Acres	0	0	24,190	19,371	22,414
Second Crop Rice Acres	0	0	18,099	10,754	14,699
Supplemental Acres <sup>1</sup>	0	0	1,047	511	270
Total Water Diverted	0	0	88,142	67,212	72,174
Irrigation for Rice Crop (a-f/yr)	0	0	70,328	54,629	61,131
First Crop (a-f/acre)	0	0	2.00	2.11	2.18
Second Crop (a-f/acre)	0	0	1.22	1.28	0.83
Supplemental Water Use <sup>1</sup> (a-f/yr)	0	0	2,051	639	408
Supplemental Water Use a-f/acre	0	0	1.96	1.25	1.51
Total Water Used (a-f/yr)	0	0	72,379	55,268	61,539
Water Loss (a-f/yr)	0	0	15,763	11,944	10,635
Percent of Water Loss	0.0%	0.0%	17.9%	17.8%	14.74%
<b>Garwood</b>					
First Crop Rice Acres	18,750	18,353	19,290	16,146	19,572
Second Crop Rice Acres	16,263	14,141	14,238	12,819	14,842
Supplemental acres <sup>1</sup>	2,376	2,255	2,300	3,708	4,218
Total Water Diverted	82,114	66,548	68,325	67,488	77,444
Irrigation for Rice Crop (a-f/yr)	66,575	53,567	49,530	52,985	62,078
First Crop (a-f/acre)	2.36	1.83	1.77	2.26	2.46
Second Crop (a-f/acre)	1.38	1.41	1.09	1.28	0.94
Supplemental Water Use <sup>1</sup> (a-f/yr)	5,141	4,934	3,635	3,419	5,681
Supplemental Water Use a-f/acre	2.16	2.19	1.58	0.92	1.35
Total Water Used (a-f/yr)	71,715	58,501	53,165	56,404	67,759
Water Loss (a-f/yr)	10,398	8,047	15,160	11,085	9,685
Percent of Water Loss	12.7%	12.1%	22.2%	16.4%	12.5%
<b>Pierce Ranch</b>					
First Crop Rice Acres	733	584	2,482	2,895	2,468
Second Crop Rice Acres	243	88	2,068	2,706	2,468
Supplemental Acres	1,975	1,094	1,162	1,068	1,079
Total Water Diverted	4,613	6,508	13,118	16,803	18,012
First Crop Diversions (a-f/yr) <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Second Crop Diversions (a-f/yr) <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Water Diverted - all Divisions (a-f/year)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>97,188</b>	<b>84,392</b>	<b>261,337</b>	<b>218,510</b>	<b>239,148</b>

<sup>1</sup>Other water use includes water used for irrigating turf and row crops, and for wildlife management.

<sup>2</sup> Diversions include industrial uses for customers served through the canal system (Oxea and Underground Services Markham).

<sup>3</sup> Not able to calculate percentage loss within the canal system when industrial is the only use.

<sup>4</sup> LCRA does not have access to a first or second crop acreage or acre-feet dataset.

Various irrigation systems are used depending on the crop and irrigation structures in each division. Most fields are flood irrigated through a levee system. Within the canal systems, Lakeside Irrigation Division has approximately 2,000 structures, Gulf Coast Irrigation Division has approximately 2,400 structures and Garwood Irrigation Division has approximately 1,150

structures. These structures include bulkheads, water boxes, aluminum slide gates, and control or “check” structures such as aluminum flash board risers, pipes and valves, pipe headers, bridges, foot bridges, crossings, siphons, and under-drains.

Total agricultural water use in the downstream irrigation operations in 2018 was 239,150 acre-feet of water from the Colorado River. Water loss calculated for each of LCRA’s irrigation divisions represents the difference between the amount of water diverted from the river and the amount of water measured and billed to customers at the field. This figure is not available for Pierce Ranch since it is an LCRA wholesale customer.

## **2.3 2019 Water Conservation Goals**

In the next five to 10 years, the municipal population served by LCRA is expected to grow significantly. With expected significant population growth, the majority of municipal water conservation savings will come from landscape irrigation standards and permanent watering schedules implemented by customers, and infrastructure upgrades and reuse projects implemented through the water conservation incentives grant and rebates program.

LCRA goals for firm and interruptible water supply include:

Five-year goal:

- 700 acre-feet savings per year from firm water contracted industrial water use.
- 6,500 acre-feet savings per year from firm water contract use.
- 15,000 acre-feet savings per year from agricultural use in the irrigation divisions during years with no curtailment of interruptible water supply.

10-year goal:

- 700 acre-feet savings per year from firm water contracted industrial water use.
- 9,000 acre-feet savings per year from firm water contract use.
- 18,000 acre-feet savings per year from agricultural use in the irrigation divisions during years with no curtailment of interruptible water supply.

The five-year goals build on water saved from 2014-2018. The firm water savings will increase from 4,500 acre-feet in 2018 to 6,500 acre-feet in 2023 and are projected to come from expanding existing firm water programs and additional customer strategies. These goals do not reflect the conservation efforts from Austin Water’s program in Austin, LCRA’s largest municipal customer. Savings in the irrigation divisions will increase from 13,000 acre-feet in 2018 to 15,000 acre-feet in 2023, with projected savings coming from completion of the gate rehabilitation project in the Gulf Coast Irrigation Division, the beginning phase of gate automation in Lakeside and Garwood irrigation divisions, and continued savings from land leveled fields.

TCEQ also requires LCRA set 10-year goals. The 10-year goals were increased at the same yearly rate as the five-year goals.

## **3.0 FIRM WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**

### **3.1 Monitoring and Record Management System**

LCRA maintains records of water distribution and sales using Oracle-based software called Advanced Utility Systems for its water billing purposes. Advanced Utility Systems provides a central location for water billing information and an automated way to compile and present that information. A detailed description of the billing system is available upon request.

### **3.2 Monitoring and Measuring Water Use**

LCRA Water Contract Rules impose requirements on LCRA's raw water customers to properly measure water diversions. Measuring devices must be accurate within plus or minus 5 percent of the indicated flow over the possible flow range. Meters are generally read on a monthly basis. Customers are generally required to provide third-party verification of meter testing and calibration to LCRA staff each year, while smaller customers with contract quantities not exceeding 20 acre-feet per year provide the verification at least once every two years.

Residential property owners pumping water from the Highland Lakes for domestic use are required to obtain contracts from LCRA. LCRA estimates an average of about 5,000 acre-feet per year is being pumped from the Highland Lakes by lakeside residents, mostly for landscape watering. LCRA staff works with each customer to determine the size of the irrigated area, which determines the contract quantity. Domestic users must comply with a maximum twice-a-week permanent landscape watering schedule, except during extreme drought conditions or other emergencies, when water restrictions could be implemented in accordance with the LCRA Drought Contingency Plan.

### **3.3 Reservoir Systems Operations Plan**

LCRA manages the Highland Lakes according to a Water Management Plan (WMP) approved by TCEQ. The plan governs LCRA's operation of lakes Buchanan and Travis to meet the needs of major water users throughout the lower Colorado River basin. Under the WMP, LCRA uses unregulated inflows entering the river from drainage areas downstream of the Highland Lakes to the maximum extent possible before waters stored in the lakes are released to satisfy downstream water needs. The LCRA WMP is available at [www.lcra.org](http://www.lcra.org).

LCRA has improved its ability to manage water supply operations by 1) improving coordination with major customers to better quantify return flows and manage pumping operations below the Highland Lakes; 2) improving river modeling to better quantify run-of-river water in the Colorado River below the Highland Lakes; 3) improving decision support tools to more efficiently use stored water by using run-of-river water to meet demands as much as possible; and 4) improving control of releases from the Highland Lakes to more precisely match releases to downstream demands.

### **3.4 Firm Water Contract Requirements**

TCEQ rules mandate LCRA, as a water rights holder, require wholesale water customers with new or amended contracts to develop a water conservation plan. LCRA has developed Water Conservation Plan Rules for raw water customers. The rules extend existing surface water supplies through water conservation and help assure there is an adequate supply of water within LCRA's water service area. LCRA requires all customers designate a water conservation coordinator and provide annual plan implementation reports.

All firm raw water customers except domestic use and temporary contract customers are required to specify five- and 10-year conservation targets for water savings and adopt minimum conservation measures, such as leak detection and repair, conservation water rates, and education. LCRA encourages customers with new or revised contracts to adopt additional conservation strategies not required in the rules, such as irrigation evaluations, deed restrictions for new development, a permanent landscape watering schedule, and partnering with LCRA on rebate programs. The LCRA Water Contract Rules, including the Water Conservation Plan Rules, is available at [www.lcra.org/firmwateruse](http://www.lcra.org/firmwateruse).

### **3.5 Water Rates**

LCRA's firm water rates encourage water conservation by combining reservation and volumetric water rate structures. The 2019 water rate is \$145 per acre-foot per year of firm water used. The cost for any water used above the contracted amount increases to \$290 per acre-foot. The water rate is \$72.50 per acre-foot per year for firm water reserved for future use. Under LCRA's Water Conservation Plan Rules, all LCRA municipal wholesale customers must employ water rate structures that are not promotional, meaning the water rate structure must be cost-based and not encourage the excess use of water. LCRA's water rate structure does not charge different firm water rates for different types of firm water use.

### **3.6 Customer Cost-Share Program**

LCRA's Firm Water Conservation Cost-Share Program provides funding for water efficiency projects and programs established by LCRA's firm water customers. LCRA's firm water customers include cities, utilities, industries, and some irrigation and recreational water users. Cost-share funds are available to projects that result in measurable water savings. Since 2012, LCRA has awarded \$878,462 for 21 projects. LCRA provides funding equal to 50 percent of the project cost or an annualized cost of \$150 per acre-foot, whichever is less. Projects funded include converting irrigated areas from raw or potable use to recycled water; decreasing utility system water loss; and improving irrigation efficiency through irrigation technology upgrades or installation of soil moisture sensors. Applications are accepted twice yearly.

### **3.7 End-User Conservation Incentives**

The Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII) Rebate Program helps businesses, industries, schools, churches and other institutions that directly or indirectly receive water from LCRA adopt new water-saving equipment and practices. The program provides rebates

to replace inefficient plumbing, equipment or process change outs up to a fixed dollar amount or cost per acre-foot saved, based on recommendations from water audits. A facility can receive a rebate of up to \$100 for each toilet and/or urinal replaced with water efficient models and up to \$1,500 per acre-foot saved for other water-saving equipment and/or process changes.

In 2012, LCRA began offering landscape irrigation technology rebates that include pressure-reducing irrigation technology, soil moisture sensors and rain sensors. In 2017, staff expanded this program to include irrigation system evaluation, smart controllers, pool filters and covers, aeration, compost and mulch, and rainwater harvesting. Staff implemented an online rebate application tool at [www.WaterSmart.org](http://www.WaterSmart.org) for property owners to submit rebate requests.

### **3.8 Landscape Irrigation Evaluations**

LCRA offers irrigation evaluation training to wholesale customers' staff. As of 2017, seven LCRA municipal customers offered irrigation evaluations to their customers. In summer 2012, LCRA began offering evaluations to domestic users.

Since 2017, LCRA has offered reimbursements of up to \$85 for irrigation system evaluations for residential properties, and up to \$5,000 for an indoor and outdoor water audit for CII customers. LCRA will continue to partner with firm water customers on this program to increase participation.

### **3.9 Public Education and Awareness**

#### **Community Outreach**

LCRA staff regularly speaks to community groups such as homeowner associations, non-profit groups such as master gardeners and business groups. LCRA staff also presents at firm water customer meetings.

LCRA's water conservation website, [www.WaterSmart.org](http://www.WaterSmart.org), has educational materials and links to additional water conservation websites.

#### **WaterMyYard Program**

LCRA has partnered with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension on its WaterMyYard program which was developed to provide homeowners with scientific data to determine how much water they should use for their yards. The WaterMyYard.org website provides homeowners recommendations on how many minutes to run their irrigation system based on their utility's current recommended irrigation schedule and using precipitation rates of their sprinklers, the water holding capacity of their soil, and their location within the service area.

LCRA contributes local climate data to this website collected from eight LCRA Hydromet weather stations. WaterMyYard participants are notified weekly how long to run their irrigation system based on the climatic conditions such as rainfall, solar radiation, temperature and wind speeds that occurred during the past week. LCRA will continue to promote this program within the service area.

## **Regional Partnerships**

In 2010, LCRA helped develop the annual Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium, a daylong workshop for community leaders featuring water conservation experts from around Texas and the United States. This effort also is supported by the Texas Water Development Board, central Texas water utilities, local environmental groups and non-profit groups. This symposium consistently attracts about 150 attendees. This symposium is organized by the Central Texas Water Efficiency Network (CTWEN), a coalition of municipalities, water providers and water conservation advocates in the Central Texas region. Participants share information and promote water efficiency education, legislation, programs, technologies, and all other integral components of water conservation in order to have an impact regionally on water supplies and use. CTWEN meets bi-monthly throughout the year.

The Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association of America completed the Water Efficiency/Conservation BMP guide book in January 2014. LCRA is working with customers to implement suggested practices.

## **3.10 School Education**

### **LCRA Parks**

LCRA Parks operates two natural science centers that provide educational and recreational programming for youth and adults. The LCRA Parks mission is to protect natural resources; provide access to parks, lakes and tributaries of the lower Colorado River for public recreation; and to promote land and water stewardship through education and recreation programs and services. Natural science programs educate pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students and youth development groups about water quality, water conservation, wildlife, geology, and other science and natural history curriculums. Water quality and water conservation topics also are addressed during river rafting trips. LCRA Parks also participates in a Program Service Agreement with the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines. A water conservation message is delivered to almost 5,300 guests annually through the program.

### **Colorado River Alliance Programs**

The Colorado River Alliance (CRA) provides a Colorado River water education program, including information on water conservation, to third to fifth graders at LCRA's Redbud Center. The program raises student awareness of the Colorado River in Texas and increases conservation and stewardship of the river through hands-on, field-based learning. LCRA staff provides guidance and technical assistance to CRA staff on their programs at the Redbud Center. More information about CRA can be found on its website [www.coloradoriver.org](http://www.coloradoriver.org).

## **3.11 LCRA Facilities**

LCRA water conservation staff works closely with LCRA facilities staff to ensure the irrigation systems on LCRA grounds, particularly at the General Office Complex (GOC) and the Dalchau Service Center in Austin, are maintained to minimize leaks and ensure uniform distribution. Water conservation and facilities staff members have performed irrigation system audits of GOC grounds. Staff plan to continue annual irrigation evaluations of the irrigation systems on LCRA grounds.



Additionally, LCRA facilities and water conservation staff members work with CRA and local native plant experts to maintain the native plant flora at the Redbud Center, which is part of the water education curriculum CRA provides.

### **3.12 Municipal Customer Mandatory Requirements**

There are several types of regulatory requirements that have been adopted proactively by LCRA municipal customers or are required by the state for larger municipalities.

#### **Irrigation System Standards**

House Bill 1656, passed in 2007, requires all municipalities with a population of more than 20,000 to adopt landscape irrigation ordinances that follow TCEQ rules for irrigation design, require the installer of an irrigation system to be licensed, require a permit prior to installing an irrigation system, and include minimum standards for the design, installation and operation of irrigation systems. This applies to several large LCRA customers, and several additional customers have adopted these standards voluntarily. As of 2018, 11 LCRA customers had a permitting and inspection program to implement the TCEQ landscape irrigation standards for new irrigation systems.

#### **Permanent Mandatory Watering Schedules**

As of 2018, 10 LCRA municipal customers had adopted permanent mandatory summer landscape watering schedules that are unrelated to drought conditions, allowing irrigation no more than twice weekly. This measure, if enforced, not only saves a substantial amount of water, but lowers peak use during the summer, reducing pressure on water treatment plants and extending the period of time before a new plant is needed.

### **3.13 City of Austin/LCRA Water Partnership**

In 2008, LCRA and the City of Austin agreed to a cooperative structure known as the Water Partnership. The Water Partnership is in place to jointly evaluate, plan and implement approved strategies to optimize water supplies in the basin. Water conservation collaboration is key to this partnership. LCRA and Austin have held several joint staff meetings and have co-hosted workshops targeting commercial, industrial and institutional users, and yearly seminars for irrigation professionals. LCRA and Austin also have improved the efficiency with which water is released from the Highland Lakes for downstream uses by increasing coordination on daily diversions to Austin water treatment and power plants, return flows from Austin wastewater treatment plants, and Austin's operation of Longhorn Dam.

### **3.14 Conservation Research and Verification**

LCRA partners with customers and other research organizations to promote innovative measures and determine water savings.

LCRA compiles annual progress report surveys from its water customers to track progress on water conservation goals, develop its own program implementation reports to TWDB and plan future programs. LCRA will begin working with municipal customers to track GPCD using the state's GPCD reporting methodology.

LCRA monitors water savings using a conservation tracking tool developed by the Alliance for Water Efficiency. This tool was developed to be used at the retail level and is capable of providing a detailed cost benefit analysis of individual conservation strategies based on avoided utility costs for water and wastewater treatment, which are not applicable at the wholesale level. In 2018, TWDB released a municipal water conservation planning tool, based off of the AWE tool, and customized for Texas utilities. LCRA will work with its municipal customers to promote use of this tool as they update and implement their water conservation plans.

## **4.0 AGRICULTURAL WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**

Since 2014, major milestones have been reached in LCRA's irrigation divisions. The 2014 goal of saving 13,000 acre-feet per year would have been met or surpassed if the supply of water to customers in the Lakeside and Gulf Coast irrigation divisions had not been curtailed in 2012-2015. The conservation strategies implemented in the Garwood Irrigation Division, which was not curtailed substantially, were instrumental to retaining savings. As of 2018, the three-year rolling average annual water savings in the irrigation divisions was 12,437 acre-feet. In 2019, automation and rehabilitation of main gates along all main canal lines in the Gulf Coast Irrigation Division will be complete. LCRA plans to continue gate automation in the Lakeside and Garwood irrigation divisions with the goal of completing main gate structures within the next 10 years, depending on funding and LCRA's ability to secure additional grants. Automation of the Lakeside gates is in LCRA's 2018 five-year capital plan.

Precision leveling grants distributed between 2006 and 2013 continue to generate water savings whenever those fields are in production. The land leveled fields are coming to the end of their expected life cycle, and staff is looking to study fields over the next five years to determine effectiveness and needed upkeep for each property to maintain savings.

### **4.1 Monitoring and Records Management Strategy**

LCRA irrigation divisions are operated to maximize water efficiency under Canal Operating Procedures guidelines. Copies of the canal operating procedures for each division are available upon request. An irrigation coordinator manages the delivery of water to customer fields in each canal section. Water orders are placed with the irrigation coordinator, who then generally has up to six days to deliver water to the customer field. Canals are managed daily and water is adjusted based on system demand.

The irrigation coordinator collects daily, on-farm water measurements in the morning and checks the system for leaks, high canal levels and potential water waste throughout the day. Daily measurements are recorded by the irrigation coordinator and then entered into LCRA's volumetric billing system software (Water Application Management System or WAMS), which tracks volumetric water use for each field.

LCRA maintains irrigation water use and sales records through WAMS and contract information is stored in LCRA's contract repository. A map indicating the Texas land survey

number and outlined fields in production is attached to each irrigation contract at the local division office. The contract contains acreage for each land survey and is scanned and uploaded. Field location information is maintained in a GIS platform.

In 2017, LCRA upgraded its irrigation division billing system to include a customer portal and more flexibility to maintain contract information. Automated standard reports are generated through this system to keep track of total water demand, and the customer portal allows each farmer to access their field water usage at any time. The system generates an updated water use report for each field weekly.

## **4.2 Agricultural Water Rates**

LCRA's current rate structure applies per acre-foot of water delivered. Agricultural irrigation water rates vary for each irrigation division. Information about the rates for all three divisions is available upon request. Interruptible customers are subject to surcharges for use above certain established limits. These surcharges can increase the effective rate for the water delivered to up to 2.5 times the normal per acre-foot charge.

Customers are regularly provided with water use information so they are aware of the potential for high water use to result in surcharges.

Tiered rate pricing encourages conservation. In 2010, tiered rates were applied to Gulf Coast and Lakeside irrigation divisions. In 2013, tiered rates were applied to Garwood Irrigation Division. The pricing changes implemented since 2010 for the irrigation divisions have helped to changed high water use practices.

Volumetric measurement also is an important strategy to support the verification of savings for other conservation strategies such as precision land leveling. LCRA is conducting a study to quantify savings from conservation strategies in the Garwood Irrigation Division. LCRA will continue to monitor and measure water use to encourage efficient use of water in the irrigation divisions.

## **4.3 Automation and Modernization of Gates**

In 2019, LCRA will complete the Gulf Coast gate rehabilitation and control project, as planned for the 2014 Water Conservation Plan. This division had the highest water losses compared to the other irrigation divisions. In 2010, a \$257,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation helped LCRA develop the centralized control system for the automated main canal gates in the division and launch the initial project phase, which automated 11 check gate structures at the head of the eastern canal system. Since then, LCRA launched five separate project phases over nine years to automate 45 main canal structures along main lines of the eastern and western canal systems in Gulf Coast at a cost of \$1.88 million. LCRA received grants from TWDB totaling \$190,000 for two of those project phases.

## **4.4 Canal Lining**

In 2013, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension completed a canal seepage study. The study identified 27 miles of canals in the Gulf Coast Irrigation Division with the potential for significant seepage losses, with 10 miles having the highest priority. Curtailment of water deliveries to the Gulf Coast Irrigation Division postponed ponding tests originally planned within the scope of the study to quantify seepage in high priority areas. In 2017, LCRA completed a series of ponding tests in canal sections with automated gates across the majority of the eastern and western canal systems in Gulf Coast. LCRA plans to evaluate the cost effectiveness of different canal lining options in select segments with higher than average water loss in the next five years and to continue additional ponding tests to increase the accuracy of water loss estimates in these canal segments. If successful and proven to be cost effective, LCRA could explore implementing a larger lining project in the future, subject to availability of funding.

## **4.5 Precision Land Leveling**

The precision land leveling program began in 2006, funded by HB 1437, LCRA and the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). By leveling land, the average required field flood depth is reduced, increasing the efficiency of water used on individual fields. This program has been very successful, with more than 30,000 acres of farmland leveled through 2013. This program also has been very cost-effective for LCRA due to the EQIP cost share of 50-70 percent and a minimum landowner contribution of 20 percent.

NRCS defines the useful life of projects in the EQIP program. Per NRCS, the useful life of precision land-leveling projects is 15 years. At the end of the 15 years, NRCS allows farmers to re-sign for additional financial assistance with the condition that new work must move at least 100 cubic yards of dirt per acre. The useful life on land LCRA awarded cost-share grants will begin maturing in 2021, with the largest yearly acreage reaching its maturity in 2023-2024. Staff will develop a plan, starting in 2019, to verify the quality of existing land-leveled fields before LCRA-funded fields reach their 15-year life.

LCRA worked with the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs to complete a savings verification study of this program in 2012. This study quantified water savings from on-farm precision land leveling in the Lakeside Irrigation Division for five years using LCRA billing data and detailed farmer surveys. The study showed precision land leveling alone accounts for 0.30 acre-feet of water saved per acre for the first crop when compared to unlevelled fields. The study also identified a significant difference in water use between leveled and non-leveled fields for the second, or ratoon, crop. However, because of the small sample size for the ratoon crop, there is uncertainty associated with the water savings estimate for the ratoon crop. Most precision leveled fields included in the study were used for hybrid seed rice, which does not produce a ratoon crop. The original savings estimate was 0.75 acre-foot per acre for a two-crop season. LCRA has revised this estimate to 0.46 acre-feet per acre extrapolating water savings for second crop from the savings for first crop based on average water use.

Differences between the original savings estimate and the savings for precision leveling found in the study are likely attributable to differences in levee density (the number of levees in a field divided by the size of the field). Fields where levees were removed as part of the precision leveling process saved more water than fields that were simply land leveled. However, not all precision leveled fields had levees removed because this was not an EQIP requirement.

In 2017, the model for this study was updated and used for a similar survey and analysis on water use data in the Garwood Irrigation Division. An additional survey to incorporate more years of data may be needed to finalize the results of the study, as funding allows.

## **5.0 WHOLESALE POWER GENERATION**

### **5.1 Introduction**

Most of the water use characteristics of a power plant are fixed once the facility has been built. Modifications to make it more thermodynamically efficient can result in small reductions in water use, similar to the way new pollution abatement practices are designed. These small changes on a plant-by-plant basis are important to the water conservation potential for LCRA's electric generation system because energy conservation efforts can directly impact water use.

This chapter will provide information on LCRA power plants Fayette Power Project (FPP); Lost Pines Power Park, including Sim Gideon and Lost Pines 1 power plants; Winchester Power Park; Thomas C. Ferguson Power Plant; and how a new generation mix and conservation efforts impact water use.

Unless otherwise noted, all generating capacity and energy values in this section refer to gross generation in units of megawatt hours (MWh) or kilowatt hours (kWh). "Gross" power values represent the total production from a generator. "Net" power values represent the remaining power after plant power usage has been subtracted. Gross power better reflects the water used for power production. In addition, the capacity values in this section represent the output levels that the generating units can dependably produce in the summer.

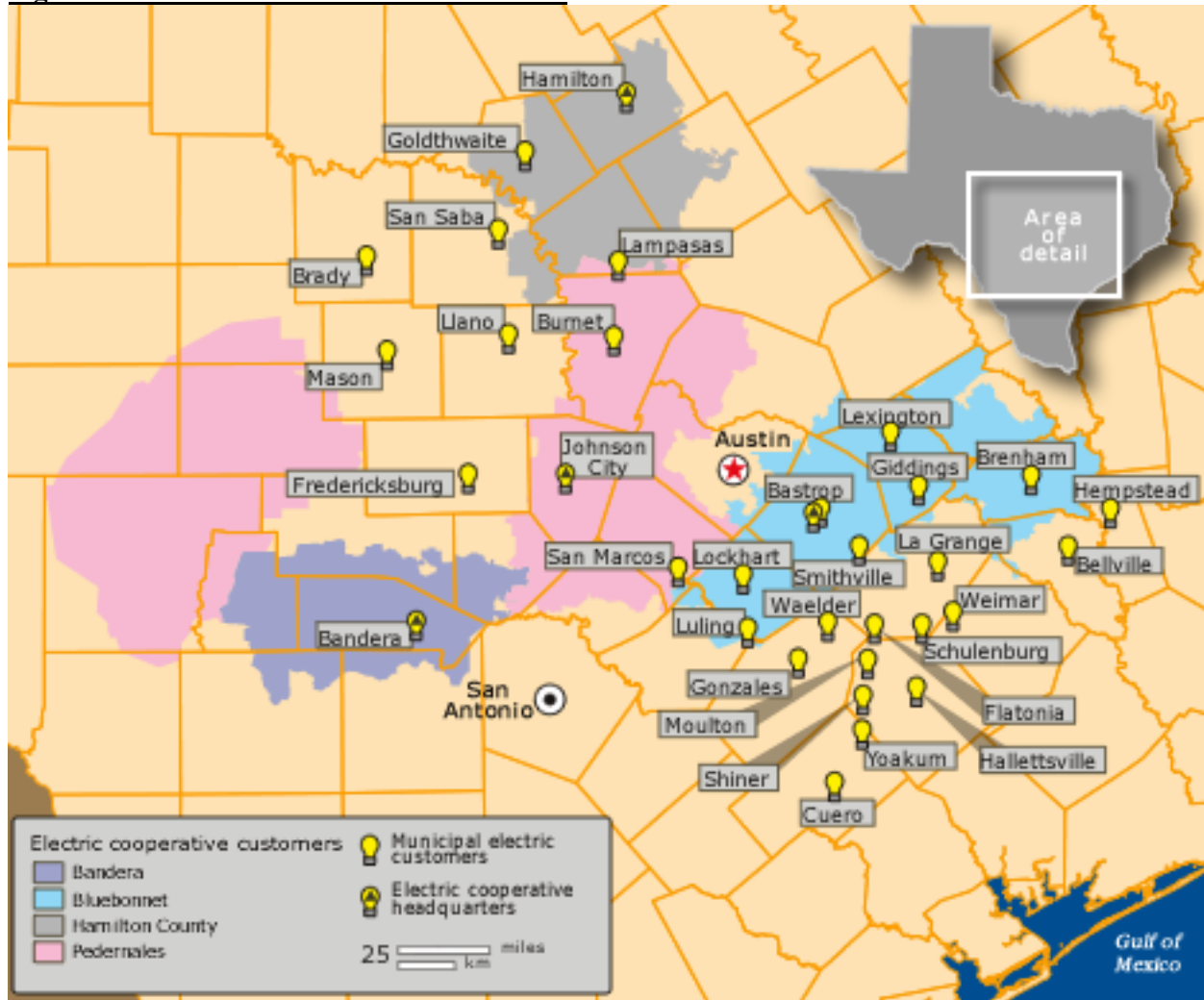
### **5.2 Baseline Profile**

As of 2018, LCRA provided wholesale electric power to 33 utilities in a 53-county service area, as seen in Figure 5-1.

LCRA operates one gas-fired steam powered generating facility, one coal-fired steam powered generating facility, two combined cycle combustion turbine facilities, and a combustion turbine peaking facility. FPP has three units, two of which are owned jointly with Austin Energy. The power plants LCRA currently operates have a total dependable gross capacity of 3,854 MW, as summarized in Table 5-1.

A small portion of LCRA’s electric generation is from renewable sources – hydroelectric and wind power. LCRA operates six dams along the Colorado River: Buchanan (forming Lake Buchanan); Inks (forming Inks Lake); Wirtz (forming Lake LBJ); Starcke (forming Lake Marble Falls); Mansfield (forming Lake Travis) and Tom Miller (forming Lake Austin). Together, the hydroelectric plants at the dams provide approximately 295 MW of capacity. Typically, hydroelectric generation only occurs during a water release intended for another purpose.

**Figure 5-1 LCRA Electric Power Service Area**



In 1995, LCRA invested in the first wind power project in Texas — the Texas Wind Power Project in Culberson County. However, because the project is located outside the Colorado River basin and the Region K planning area, it is not included in this plan.

LCRA owns 109 MW of the Sandy Creek Power Plant in McClennan County, along with LP Power and Brazos Electric Co-op. The Waco Metropolitan Area Regional Sewerage System (WMARSS) supplies 100 percent of the plant’s water from reclaimed water sources. Since the Sandy Creek Power Plant is not located in the Colorado River basin or the Region K planning area, it is not included in this plan.

**Table 5-1 Summary of the generating capacity operated by LCRA in the lower Colorado River basin (Region K)**

Power Plant	Location	Type of Plant	Mega watts	Year Begun
Lost Pines 1	Bastrop	Gas fired combined cycle	518	2001
Sim Gideon	Bastrop	Gas fired steam	626	1965
Fayette Power Project	Fayette County	Coal fired steam	1,708 <sup>1</sup>	1979
Hydroelectric Power	Various Locations	Hydroelectric turbine	295	1930s
Winchester Power Park	Winchester Texas	Gas fired combustion turbine	180	2010
Ferguson Power Plant	Horseshoe Bay	gas fired combined cycle	527	2014

<sup>1</sup> Austin Energy co-owns two FPP units. Austin Energy owns 624 MW and LCRA owns 1,084 MW.

### 5.2.1 Water Use

Once a power plant is built and put into operation, the opportunities to reduce its water use per kilowatt hour (kWh) are somewhat limited. However, beginning with Lost Pines 1 in 2001, and continuing with Winchester and the Ferguson Power Plant, all of LCRA's additional generation capacity has been designed to help conserve water and energy.

**Table 5-2 Water Usage Summary and Comparison**

Power Plant	Average Annual Water Usage 2015- 2017, (acre-feet per year)	Water Usage, (gallons per MWh)	Average Annual Savings Over Simple Cycle Steam Plant, (acre-feet per year)	Year Begun
Sim Gideon	473	439	N/A	1965
Fayette Power Project	13,262	400	N/A	1979
Lost Pines 1	1,034	135	2,103	2001
Winchester Power Park	1	7	55	2010
Ferguson Power Plant	1,820	159	2,759	2014
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,590</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>4,917</b>	

**Table 5-3 Water Reuse**

<b>Power Plant</b>	<b>Direct Reuse (acre-feet per year)</b>	<b>Indirect Reuse (acre-feet per year)</b>
FPP	696	396
Lost Pines Power Park		89
Ferguson Power Plant		58
<b>Total</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>543</b>

### **5.2.2 Natural Evaporation**

Natural evaporation occurs on any water surface. LCRA does not report natural evaporation as used or consumed water because it would occur whether the power plants existed or not. However, LCRA monitors evaporation and precipitation at the FPP weather station and also obtains data from the TWDB website:

<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/surfacewater/conditions/evaporation/index.asp>.

In Central Texas, the average annual gross evaporation from pond surfaces typically exceeds the average annual amount of precipitation that falls on pond surfaces. Lake Bastrop levels are maintained at approximately 449.3 feet above mean sea level (feet msl) elevation from October through March each year and is raised to 450 feet msl in the summer; thus, the surface area varies between 880 acres in the winter and 906 acres in the summer. By reducing the surface area in the winter, natural evaporation is reduced by a very small amount, but more storage capacity is made available to capture runoff, if it occurs. Based on precipitation and natural evaporation data available from TWDB for 2015-2017, the annual net evaporation for Lake Bastrop (natural evaporation minus precipitation) averaged 592 acre-feet per year.

The normal operating levels for Cedar Creek Reservoir are 388 to 391 feet msl. The resulting surface area of the reservoir is between 2,316 and 2,450 acres. The 2015-2017 average annual net evaporation for Cedar Creek Reservoir, based on the TWDB database, averaged 106 acre-feet per year.

Based on precipitation and natural evaporation data available from TWDB for 2015-2017, the annual net evaporation for Lake LBJ (natural evaporation minus precipitation) averaged 7,411 acre-feet per year.

### **5.3 Water Conservation Savings and Goals**

Estimated water savings as a result of Lost Pines 1 and Winchester Power Park generation, compared to equal generation from LCRA simple cycle steam generating units, equals to 4,917 acre-feet per year. This is an LCRA system-wide consumed water savings of 23 percent, Table 5-2 summarizes this water usage. Table 5-3 summarizes water reuse at LCRA power plants. The direct reuse total of 696 acre-feet per year and the conservation total of 3 acre-feet per year (see Appendix C Section 3) are incorporated into LCRA's water conservation goals listed in Section 2.3.



Energy and water efficiency programs save water at the point of use and reduce the energy needed to pump, treat, and distribute water and wastewater. This reduction in energy use can equal an estimated 2 to 4 kilowatt-hour per 1,000 end-use gallons of water saved.

LCRA looks for opportunities to save and reuse water at its power plants. LCRA also will continue to track water use per MW of generation at each of its power plants to help ensure efficient use of water. Further detail on the specific conservation strategies and associated water savings amounts are provided for each of LCRA's power plants in Appendices B-D.

## **5.4 System-wide Conservation Strategies**

### **5.4.1 LCRA POWERHOUSE™ Education Program**

LCRA's POWERHOUSE energy investigation program teaches middle school students and their families about the effects of energy use on natural resources and the environment. Utilities sponsor the program for schools within their service areas. POWERHOUSE also helps users estimate water usage and costs. In the last five years, POWERHOUSE has served more than 29,000 school children. Online energy conservation audits also are available at [www.lcra.org](http://www.lcra.org)

### **5.4.2 Metering and Leak Detection**

All water diverted from the Colorado River is measured using meters, pump curves and other methods approved by TCEQ for water diversions. The water measurement devices, per LCRA rules, are maintained within an accuracy of plus or minus 5 percent. The Cedar Creek dam at FPP is equipped with monitoring equipment. Leaks that may occur within the structure of the power plant are easily visible. Major flows of water such as the cooling water pumps are monitored at all plants.

## **5.5 Conservation Plans for LCRA Power Plants**

Water conservation plans for each LCRA power plant are found in Appendices B-D.

## APPENDIX A

### Municipal Firm Water Customer Contracted Use – 2014-2018

Customer Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
AQUA UTILITIES, INC D/B/A AQUA TEXAS (RIVERCREST)	337.6	400.5	356.0	410.8	365.5
AUSTIN YMBL SUNSHINE CAMPS	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2
AUSTIN, CITY OF	47,387.7				
AUSTIN, CITY OF - DAVIS AND ULRICH		17,792.7	794.9	12,413.5	26,242.8
AUSTIN, CITY OF - PARKS	163.6	82.1	366.3	456.0	411.9
AUSTIN, CITY OF - RIVERPLACE	31.6	154.0	26.8	53.4	0.0
AUSTIN, CITY OF - WTP#4		22,926.3	28,834.8	31,109.8	30,026.1
BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY	0.0	33.7	34.8	80.4	258.1
BRYANT, KATHIE	20.5	22.9	22.2	25.5	25.2
CAMP LONGHORN, LTD	40.8	53.3	53.1	63.5	63.7
CITY OF BURNET	396.2	601.5	317.8	441.1	457.4
CITY OF CEDAR PARK	12,600.0	14,303.9	14,240.7	14,850.5	15,167.4
CITY OF COTTONWOOD SHORES	156.7	177.4	153.5	178.4	153.3
CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS	0.0	0.0		83.3	70.6
CITY OF GRANITE SHOALS	454.3	429.5	390.0	419.1	434.5
CITY OF HORSESHOE BAY	1,722.2	2,185.4	1,933.2	1,970.7	1,935.9
CITY OF LAGO VISTA	1,646.5	1,776.3	1,260.2	1,667.4	1,411.9
CITY OF LEANDER	4,652.4	6,025.9	6,361.3	6,761.8	7,474.3
CITY OF MARBLE FALLS	1,594.8	1,518.9	1,516.0	1,601.3	1,448.8
CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE	2,264.0	3,010.2	4,628.3	4,405.5	5,312.5
DEER CREEK RANCH WATER CO., LLC	131.9	150.0	151.1	181.5	88.3
DRIPPING SPRINGS WSC	428.5	573.4	642.2	686.1	620.8
EANES ISD	15.5	21.2	16.5	16.8	16.3
HAYS COUNTY WCID #1	380.5	427.8	517.4	526.1	510.4
HAYS COUNTY WCID #2	220.6	283.3	233.5	285.4	344.9
HIDDEN VALLEY SUBDIVISION COOPERATIVE	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5
HURST CREEK MUD	896.6	1,076.2	993.9	1,154.3	1,003.2
INVERNESS UTILITY COMPANY, INC.	44.9	47.4	56.7	73.7	64.5
JONESTOWN WSC	538.6	613.9	615.4	633.6	652.9
KINGSLAND WSC	735.0	805.0	779.1	843.9	862.5
LAKE AUSTIN DOMESTIC WATER USE	945.6	672.7			
LAKE BUCHANAN DOMESTIC WATER USE	1,610.4	2,339.7	2,522.2	2,478.3	1,563.8
LAKE TRAVIS DOMESTIC WATER USE	2,025.6	639.7	1,376.6	1,450.1	2,666.6
LAKEWAY MUD #1	2,033.4	2,350.3	2,210.1	2,302.9	2,287.7

LAMPASAS COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AND WASTEWATER SYST	833.7	682.4	879.7	758.3	534.0
LAZY NINE MUD #1A	172.7	200.8	238.5	304.9	372.0
LEN D. JORDAN D/B/A SAIL HAVEN WATER SYSTEM	8.0	7.6	6.7	6.9	7.2
LLANO COUNTY MUD #1	47.6	55.5	58.7	63.7	64.3
LOOP 360 WSC	997.2	897.1	805.3	820.0	710.5
PARADISE POINT	8.2				
PECAN UTILITIES CO., INC.	26.4	32.0	27.3	29.2	32.3
PENINSULA BLUFFS, LP	21.0	13.8	16.0	13.5	12.4
PK/RE DEVELOPMENT CO. INC.	113.6	123.8	104.7	119.1	103.6
RESORT RANCH OF LAKE TRAVIS, INC.	3.0	4.2	2.5	2.7	4.4
REUNION RANCH WCID	74.2	88.9	140.6	191.2	208.5
RIDGE HARBOR	46.9				
RIVERPLACE MUD	588.6				
SANDY HARBOR DEVELOPMENT CO.	6.7				
SENNA HILLS MUD #1	256.2	257.9	240.1	224.9	207.7
SJWTX D/B/A CANYON LAKE WATER SERVICE					98.9
SMITHWICK MILLS	11.6				
TRAVIS COUNTY MUD #04	1,611.7	1,815.6	1,917.4	2,058.5	2,140.8
TRAVIS COUNTY MUD #10	60.2	64.0	61.9	74.0	74.2
TRAVIS COUNTY MUD #12	400.2	376.6	453.3	618.7	603.1
TRAVIS COUNTY MUD #18	10.1	57.4	113.6	166.0	161.1
TRAVIS COUNTY WCID #17	6,125.1	6,481.5	7,007.0	7,581.8	7,402.1
TRAVIS COUNTY WCID #18	788.1	883.7	811.2	778.0	761.5
TRAVIS COUNTY WCID #20	428.7	424.8	419.5	439.4	413.5
TRAVIS COUNTY WCID POINT VENTURE	204.5	225.4	199.3	196.4	235.9
UNDINE DEVELOPMENT LLC					8.1
UPPER HIGHLAND LAKES RWS	91.6				
VILLAGE OF BRIARCLIFF	189.5	211.8	219.3	243.0	272.9
WEST TRAVIS COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY AGENCY	4,885.2	5,473.0	5,463.4	5,660.4	5,335.7
WINDERMERE OAKS WSC	38.6	41.2	43.9	58.8	57.7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>101,525.8</b>	<b>99,914.3</b>	<b>90,634.9</b>	<b>108,034.7</b>	<b>121,764.7</b>

## Irrigation Firm Water Customer Contracted Use – 2014-2018

Customer Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
6D RANCH, LTD	12.2	15.5	12.6	29.5	28.0
APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.	0.0	0.0		55.8	64.0
AUSTIN AMERICAN - STATESMAN	4.7	3.0	7.0	4.8	4.1
AUSTIN COUNTRY CLUB	205.2	175.8	193.9	205.1	197.2
AUSTIN GOLF CLUB, INC.	190.4	83.5	185.7	173.5	170.9
BAE SYSTEMS INTEGRATED DEFENSE SOLUTIONS	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
BARTON CREEK LAKESIDE IRRIGATION CO, INC	102.3	109.2	130.1	151.1	138.0
BARTON CREEK RESORT & CLUBS, INC.	271.7	217.5	261.3	314.6	274.1
BASTROP RESORT PARTNERS, INC.	189.3				
BLUE LAKE GOLF CLUB, INC.	1.1	5.5	0.1	3.9	16.7
BLUEBONNET HILLS GOLF COURSE, LTD	126.0	128.6	125.6	148.5	118.4
BOOT RANCH HOLDINGS LLC					20.6
BOOT RANCH REAL ESTATE, LLC	0.0	29.3	86.8	69.7	
BULL CREEK MANAGEMENT LLC		43.1	26.4	48.1	38.2
C & D TURFGRASS, INC.	412.9	588.7	400.4	563.5	541.5
CAMP CHAMPIONS	0.5	1.6	0.9	0.2	2.4
CITY OF AUSTIN WALLER CREEK PROJECT		131.0	39.5	128.9	17.5
CITY OF MEADOWLAKES	0.0	51.7	1.5	29.7	0.0
CLUBCORP GOLF OF TEXAS LP	26.3	4.4	0.0	5.4	85.7
ESCONDIDO CLUB, INC.			259.6	308.7	310.1
ESCONDIDO PARTNERSHIP LTD	313.1	295.6			
GRAY WOLF GOLF, LLC	31.2	36.8	6.4	5.0	11.2
GREAT HILLS GOLF CLUB OF AUSTIN, INC. (DBA GREAT HILLS CC)	181.3	62.6	177.9	185.8	139.3
HORSESHOE BAY APPLEHEAD ISLAND POA INC.	2.7	3.0	3.3	8.3	9.8
HORSESHOE BAY POA	17.0	14.2	10.2	10.1	13.2
HORSESHOE BAY RESORT, LTD	1,105.1	1,075.6	926.0	861.6	877.6
HYATT REGENCY - AUSTIN	2.3	4.2	3.2	3.8	3.7
HYATT REGENCY LOST PINES RESORT		254.6	151.4	247.0	257.2
ISLAND ON LAKE TRAVIS COA, INC.	12.0	15.4	12.3	18.4	16.9
KENT REAL ESTATE II LP D/B/A LAKECLIFF COUNTRY CLUB	492.0	541.6	341.7	362.9	377.1
LA GRANGE ISD	8.9	7.7	13.1	22.2	16.2
LAKEWAY ROUGH HOLLOW SOUTH COMMUNITY, INC.	32.8	90.6	152.4	154.5	110.0
LCRA FACILITIES	10.4	6.1	7.9	1.2	1.7
MARINA CLUB HOA, INC.				5.1	6.6
PEDERNALES GOLF CLUB, INC.	45.3	40.2	39.9	43.9	35.8
POINT VENTURE POA, INC.	21.6	10.6	7.1	0.5	9.9

POTTS LAND COMPANY, LLC	11.1	9.4	10.4	13.2	13.6
RESERVE AT LAKE TRAVIS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, INC.	67.7	90.0	94.7	107.8	103.4
RIVER PLACE GOLF GROUP, LP	33.8	38.7	0.0	14.0	31.2
SPICEWOOD BEACH POA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL	54.8	44.9	40.3	48.1	44.3
STARK WATERFORD, LLC	5.7				
TIM MCCASKILL D/B/A RIO RANCHITO		7.4	6.9	11.6	16.2
TRAILS POA, INC.	44.5	34.9	13.4	19.2	30.3
TRAVIS COUNTY MUD #04	511.6	394.8	449.0	628.6	612.0
TRAVIS COUNTY WCID #17	75.4	111.7	67.3	71.5	46.4
TWIN CREEKS GOLF GROUP, LP	199.4	216.7	187.6	247.5	222.0
VOLENTE BEACH, INC.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.1
WATERS CONDOMINIUM ASSOC INC	3.4	5.0	6.7	0.0	
WEST TRAVIS COUNTY MUD #3	15.4	17.0	21.6	26.2	15.4
WEST TRAVIS COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITY AGENCY	152.2		18.9	236.5	217.8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,997.6</b>	<b>5,021.6</b>	<b>4,504.8</b>	<b>5,599.9</b>	<b>5,270.9</b>

## Industrial Firm Water Customer Contracted Use – 2014-2018

Customer Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
APAC TEXAS, INC.	46.9	0.0			
AUSTIN, CITY OF - DECKER POWER PLANT	900.4	14.6	208.3	0.0	0.0
BASTROP ENERGY PARTNERS, LP	942.1	1,326.1	1,995.7	1,644.1	1,629.1
FAYETTE PP - LCRA SHARE	6,468.9	5,293.5	5,440.1	11,049.4	11,168.7
GENTEX POWER CORPORATION (LOST PINES POWER PARK)	151.0				
LCRA BU FOR AUSTIN @ FPP	2,149.1	354.0	714.2	2,761.4	4,959.5
OXEA CORPORATION	15.7	0.0	79.3	883.2	1,124.2
SIM GIDEON POWER PLANT	58.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
T.C. FERGUSON POWER PLANT	906.4	1,747.7	1,535.5	1,826.6	0.0
TXI OPERATIONS, LP	72.9	43.6	31.1	54.2	53.3
UNDERGROUND SERVICES MARKHAM, LP	5.9	0.0	466.6	1,533.5	2,194.5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11,717.9</b>	<b>8,779.5</b>	<b>10,470.9</b>	<b>19,752.4</b>	<b>21,129.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes diversions under Gulf Coast water right

<sup>2</sup> Water use reflects only water supplied from Lakes Buchanan and Travis. The STP Nuclear Operating Company power plant is also supplied by a run-of-river water right.

## APPENDIX B

### LOST PINES POWER PLANT WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

#### 1.0 Lost Pines Power Park Description

Lost Pines Power Park in Bastrop County is comprised of the Sim Gideon Power Plant and the Lost Pines 1 Power Project, owned by GenTex Power Corporation, an LCRA affiliate. Lost Pines 1, in service since 2001, is a 518 MW natural gas-fired, combined-cycle power plant. Lost Pines 1 has two gas-fired combustion turbines and one steam turbine. The two combustion turbines work much like jet engines, with the waste heat from the two turbines used to generate steam in the heat recovery steam generator (HRSG). Because of this configuration, the plant is 30-40 percent more thermodynamically efficient than a conventional steam electric system.

The Sim Gideon units are conventional steam electric units and are the oldest gas-fired power plants in service in the LCRA system. The three units of Sim Gideon include:

- Unit 1, completed in 1965, with a capacity of 142 MW.
- Unit 2, completed in 1968, with a capacity of 142 MW.
- Unit 3, completed in 1971, with a capacity of 342 MW.

Winchester is a 176 MW “peaker” plant located about 20 miles north of La Grange in Fayette County. Although it is operated from Lost Pines 1, it is not technically part of Lost Pines 1. Winchester has no cooling reservoir and uses simple cycle combustion turbines that require relatively small amounts of water trucked in from Lost Pines, which helps reduce water consumption in the LCRA generating system.

Both Sim Gideon and Lost Pines 1 are located on Lake Bastrop. TCEQ Certificate of Adjudication No. 14-5473 authorizes LCRA to divert water from the Colorado River that was released from lakes Buchanan or Travis and impound it in Lake Bastrop for power plant operations. LCRA can impound up to 16,590 acre-feet when the reservoir is full. LCRA can also supply Colorado River water to power park under its amended Certificate of Adjudication 14-5434E. Further, LCRA holds groundwater rights issued by the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District that can be used for the power park.

Lake Bastrop acts as a large cooling pond for Sim Gideon and Lost Pines 1. Water is passed through the power plant condensers to condense steam back into water for reuse in the plant’s steam cycle. Warmed lake water is returned to circulate through the reservoir and cool before being used again. The cooling water from the plants is discharged into a lined discharge channel, which travels approximately 1 mile and enters the north side of Lake Bastrop. This separation of the discharge from the intake side of the lake prevents short-circuiting and ensures that the full cooling capacity of the lake surface is utilized. Water captured from the two creeks flowing into the lake and water pumped from the river keeps Lake Bastrop at a proper operating level. Water also can be released back into the river to

pass flood flows. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, groundwater use was 3,269 acre-feet; 1,258 acre-feet and 4,914 acre-feet, respectively.

During the years 2015-2017, LCRA diverted no water from the Colorado River into Lake Bastrop.

## **2.0 Lost Pines Power Park Water Use**

The primary water uses at Lost Pines Power Park are cooling pond forced evaporation from condenser cooling and other equipment cooling, boiler makeup water and employee sanitation.

### **2.1 Condenser Cooling**

Condenser cooling is the process by which water from a cooling pond is pumped through a condenser to remove waste heat and condense the steam after it passes through the steam turbine. At Lost Pines Power Park, the cooling pond (Lake Bastrop) water is heated approximately 10° F as it passes through the condenser. This warm water is then circulated back into and through the reservoir for cooling by the processes of evaporation, convection and radiant cooling.

In 2015, 2016 and 2017, Lost Pines 1 produced an average of 2,501,866 MWh each year - an average of 889,342 MWh per year from the steam turbine and 1,612,524 MWh per year from the two combustion turbines. The combustion turbines generate approximately 64 percent of the Lost Pines 1 power output and the steam turbine generates approximately 36 percent.

Because Lost Pines 1 combustion turbines do not reject heat to the cooling pond, Lost Pines 1 causes much less forced evaporation than an equivalent simple cycle steam unit. Assuming that the Lost Pines 1 steam turbine has a heat rejection characteristic comparable to the similarly loaded FPP units, and using the method developed by George Ward<sup>1</sup> as an improvement to the Harbeck diagram method, Lost Pines 1 forced evaporation calculates to a 2015-2017 annual average of 905 acre-feet per year.

The Sim Gideon units fire natural gas to generate steam for their turbine-generators. This design is less water-efficient than combined cycle units. In recent years, generation from the Sim Gideon units has decreased, resulting in decreased forced evaporation from Lake Bastrop. For example, during the years from 2009 to 2011, the Sim Gideon plant produced an annual average of 853,795 MWh, resulting in an average annual forced evaporation of 1,038 acre-feet. During the years from 2015 to 2017, the Sim Gideon plant produced an annual average of 351,144 MWh, resulting in an annual average forced evaporation of 455 acre-feet.

The total steam generation output for both Lost Pines 1 and Sim Gideon facilities averaged 1,240,486 MWh per year for the 2015-2017 time period. The Lost Pines 1 steam turbine produced an average of 72 percent of the steam power generated at Lost Pines Power Park and the Sim Gideon facilities produced the remaining 28 percent.

## 2.2 Boiler Makeup Water

Boiler makeup water is taken from Lake Bastrop. It is treated by filtration, reverse osmosis (RO) and ion exchange before being used in the boiler. The resulting water is extremely pure. High purity water also is used in the laboratory and for cooling of the gas turbines inlet air. Based on 2016 and 2017 operating data, the RO system pulls an annual average of 235 acre-feet from the lake for purification. The plants use 146 acre-feet per year and return the remaining 89 acre-feet per year to the cooling pond reservoir for reuse.

## 2.3 Employee Sanitation

Employee sanitation facilities use potable water purchased from the Aqua Water Supply Corporation. The two power plants at Lost Pines Power Park have 40 plant and office personnel. Lost Pines Power Park purchases approximately 2 acre-feet of potable water per year according to LCRA records and the water balance. A wastewater treatment plant at Lost Pines Power Park treats human wastewater and discharges the effluent into the cooling pond for reuse as cooling water. This report assumes one-half of the potable water is consumed, or 1 acre-foot per year.

Toilets at Lost Pines Power Park are generally older models which use 3.5 gallons per flush and 5.0 gallons per flush. Showerheads are primarily 2.5 gallons per minute per the Federal Energy Policy Act Standard, because most have been replaced since the act became effective in 1992. Urinals flush approximately 1.0 to 1.5 gallons per flush.

## 2.4 Landscape Irrigation

**Table 1 Summary of Estimated Water Use for the Lost Pines Power Park – 2015-2017**

Type of Use	Lost Pines 1 (acre-feet/year)	Sim Gideon (acre-feet/year)	Combined (acre-feet/year)
Forced Evaporation	905	455	1,360
Boiler Makeup	128	18	146
Employee Sanitation	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>1507</b>

Lost Pines 1 uses 68 percent of all consumed water and Sim Gideon uses 32 percent.

**Table 2 Summary of Estimated Water Use for Winchester Power Park – 2015-2017**

Type of Use	Acre-feet/year
Combustion and generation enhancement	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>



Based on an average generation for years 2015 - 2017 and the water use above, Lost Pines 1 uses 0.135 gallons per kWh or 135 gallons per MWh. The Sim Gideon Plant uses 0.439 gallons per kWh or 439 gallons per MWh. Winchester Power Park uses 0.007 gallons per kWh or 7 gallon per MWh.

### **3.0 Lost Pines Power Park Water Conservation Goals and Strategies**

The following are water conservation features for Lost Pines Power Park:

- Lost Pines 1 is a combined cycle power plant, the most significant conservation feature of Lost Pines Power Park. If this was a conventional steam electric power plant, water use would increase by at least 2,103 acre-feet per year. Lost Pines 1 savings are based on water usage rates of the similarly loaded FPP units, applied to the non-steam, combustion turbine generation of Lost Pines 1.
- Use of low-NOx burners and selective catalytic reduction technology instead of water injection. This controls nitrogen oxides during combustion. If Lost Pines 1 owners had not chosen this type of technology at the time of design and construction of Lost Pines 1 in 1999, Lost Pines1 would have had an additional water requirement of 503 acre-feet per year.
- Reuse of half of treated domestic wastewater saves 1 acre-foot per year. \*
- Water conservation discussions during monthly safety meetings.
- Aggressive repair of potable water leaks both within the plant and up to the water meter just outside of the plant boundaries.\*
- Aggressive repair of service water leaks within the plant.\*
- Indirect reuse due to boiler water production rejects and sanitation water processing totals 44 acre-feet per year.
- The use of groundwater for plant use has eliminated delivery losses for water released from lakes Buchanan and Travis by an average of 140 acre-feet per year.

\*These items save an estimated 1 acre-foot per year combined.

Future conservation strategies include:

- Maintaining zero water use for landscape with a savings goal of 1 acre-foot per year.
- Continuing existing water conservation strategies outlined above.

## APPENDIX C

### FAYETTE POWER PROJECT WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

#### 1.0 Fayette Power Project Description

FPP is a coal-fired steam electric power plant. Beginning operation in 1979, this three unit facility in the past used a mixture of western sub-bituminous coal and local lignite, but has used sub-bituminous coal exclusively for many years. The three units have a generating capacity of 1,708 MW. Some of the generating capacity is co-owned by LCRA and the City of Austin.

- Unit 1, completed in 1979, with a gross capacity of 624 MW (co-owned with Austin Energy).
- Unit 2, completed in 1980, with a gross capacity of 624 MW (co-owned with Austin Energy).
- Unit 3, completed in 1988, with a gross capacity of 460 MW.

FPP is in Fayette County on Cedar Creek Reservoir. Certificate of Adjudication 14-5474 authorizes LCRA to impound up to 71,400 acre-feet in the reservoir. LCRA is authorized to divert up to 73,759 acre-feet per year of water from the Colorado River to the reservoir for industrial purposes under Certificates of Adjudication Nos. 14-5478 and 14-5482. As part of 14-5474, LCRA is also authorized to impound inflows from the Cedar Creek Watershed. LCRA is authorized to divert, circulate and re-circulate from the Cedar Creek Reservoir for industrial purposes. The City of Austin has its own water right, no. 14-5471, for the diversion of up to 24,000 acre-feet per year from the Colorado River, plus a contract with LCRA for 7,500 acre-feet per year.

The surface water is pumped from the Colorado River through a pipeline to maintain lake levels. The metered diversions from the river for 2015, 2016 and 2017 measured 9,893 acre-feet per year, 8,581 acre-feet per year and 17,426 acre-feet per year, respectively, for an average of 11,967 acre-feet per year. These values include both LCRA and Austin Energy portions. Additional water is captured from the Cedar Creek watershed and impounded.

There are several smaller industrial waste ponds on site, including the Reclaim Pond, the Coal Pile Runoff Pond (CPRP), the Combustion By-products Landfill Pond (CBLP) and the Ash Silo Area Pond. Water from CPRP, CBLP and the Ash Silo Area Pond are capable of transferring water to the Reclaim Pond, along with other sources from the plant for reuse.

#### 2.0 Fayette Power Project Water Use

Water is currently used at FPP for the following:

- Cooling pond forced evaporation from condenser cooling and other equipment cooling.
- Stack gas scrubbers for air pollution control on Units 1, 2 and 3.
- Natural evaporation from the various industrial waste ponds.

- Boiler soot blowing and venting.
- Boiler seal systems and bottom ash removal systems.
- Plant wash-down systems and dust suppression.
- Potable water purchased for employee sanitation and landscape irrigation.

## **2.1 Condenser Cooling**

The water from the cooling pond at FPP is heated approximately 20° F as it passes through the condenser heat exchangers. This warm water is then circulated back into and through the reservoir to cool by the processes of evaporation, convection and radiant cooling. During 2015-2017, FPP generated a total of 32,388,575 MWh or an average of 10,796,192 MWh per year. Based on the previously mentioned method by George Ward, the forced evaporation for all three units due to condenser cooling calculates to an average of 10,517 acre-feet per year.

Water from Cedar Creek Reservoir also cools a variety of mechanical equipment. Based on historical test data, this cooling water stream rejects approximately 2 percent as much heat to the lake as the condenser cooling water. This results in another 210 acre-feet per year of forced evaporation.

## **2.2 Stack Gas Scrubbers**

Stack gas scrubbers are used to remove sulfur oxides from the power plant stack gas emissions. All three FPP units have flue gas desulfurization systems, and use scrubbers with a slurry of powdered limestone to capture the sulfur oxides. The heat content of the stack gas represents approximately 10 percent of the energy released through coal combustion at the power plant. Water in the slurry cools the gas to below the water boiling point through evaporation. This process results in approximately 1,952 acre-feet per year of water consumed through evaporation, based on water use testing and the 2015-2017 generating output levels. The resulting slurry from the scrubber process contains calcium sulfate and is a by-product sold to third parties for making wall board or as a concrete additive.

Much of the water used for the scrubber process can be obtained from the reclaim pond which collects water from the following sources:

- Rainwater, both direct and runoff.
- Boiler water treatment processes.
- Domestic wastewater treated effluent.
- Runoff from other sources.

This reclaim pond is an example of an industrial storm and rainwater reuse project.

## **2.3 Industrial Wastewater Pond Natural Evaporation**

The reclaim pond, CPRP, CBLP and the Ash Silo Area Pond exist to support plant operations. This report categorizes their net natural evaporation (natural evaporation minus rainfall) as used water. During 2015-2017, the ponds evaporated a combined average of 7

acre-feet of water per year. During that time period, natural evaporation and rainfall at the FPP location almost equaled each other.

## 2.4 Boiler Soot Blowing and Vents

The boilers use 324 acre-feet per year through soot blowing operations and a variety of ventings to atmosphere.

## 2.5 FPP Boiler Seal Systems and Bottom Ash Removal

The bottom ash and seal systems use 65 acre-feet per year. In 2010, FPP completed the installation of the Unit 1 and Unit 2 Submerged Scraper Conveyor projects. This allowed the completion of another project to close and backfill the Ash Silo Area Pond. Before the completion of these two projects, the Ash Silo Area Pond evaporated 40 acre-feet per year.

## 2.6 Plant Wash-Down Systems and Dust Suppression

FPP uses water to limit the generation, dispersion and accumulation of dust, including coal dust, throughout the plant site. According to a combination of measured flows and FPP Water Balance values, the plant uses 168 acre-feet per year to perform these health- and safety-related tasks.

## 2.7 Potable Water Purchases

FPP purchases potable water from the Fayette Water Supply Corporation (WSC) whose source is groundwater from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. The plant has about 185 personnel. Approximately 19 acre-feet of treated water are purchased annually, of which approximately 1 acre-foot is used for landscape irrigation purposes and 18 acre-feet for employee sanitation. Approximately 11 acre-feet per year of treated waste water is sent to the reclaim pond for reuse.

The plumbing fixtures at FPP are water-conserving based on the current federal standard.

**Table 1 Fayette Power Project Estimated Annual Water Use**

Type of Use	Acre- feet/year
Forced evaporation	10,727
Scrubbers	1,952
Boiler soot blowing and venting	324
Boiler sealing and bottom ash handling	65
Net natural evaporation from industrial waste ponds	7
Dust control and wash down	168

Employee consumption	18
Landscape irrigation	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,262</b>

Table 1 indicates more than 99 percent of the water use at FPP is for plant operations, while less than 1 percent is used for employee sanitation and irrigation purposes. Based on an average generation for 2015-2017 and the above water use, water use per kWh at FPP is 0.400 gallons per kWh or 400 gallons per MWh.

### 3.0 Fayette Power Project Water Conservation Features and Strategies

Water-saving features for FPP include:

- Water-saving plumbing fixtures for employees: (2 acre-feet per year).
- Minimal landscape watering: (1 acre-foot per year).
- **Total savings: 3 acre-feet per year.**

Direct reuse features for FPP involve using the reclaim pond water for:

- Stack gas scrubber makeup: (546 acre-feet per year).
- Various plant wash down locations: (37 acre-feet per year).
- Boiler sealing systems: (113 acre-feet per year).
- **Total direct reuse: 696 acre-feet per year.**

Indirect reuse features for FPP include:

- Recycling CPRP water back to the reservoir: (267 acre-feet per year).
- Sending boiler water production system (reverse osmosis system) process reject water to cooling pond for makeup purposes: (129 acre-feet per year).
- **Total indirect reuse: 396 acre-feet per year.**

## APPENDIX D

# FERGUSON POWER PLANT WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

## 1.0 Ferguson Power Plant Description

The Thomas C. Ferguson Power Plant, a 527 MW (Gross Dependable, Summer Capacity) natural gas-fired, is combined-cycle power plant in Horseshoe Bay. The Ferguson plant became commercially operational in 2014. Like Lost Pines 1, Ferguson employs two combustion turbine-generators and one steam-powered turbine-generator. As a result, Ferguson incorporates the same water-saving arrangement as Lost Pines 1, in which the two combustion turbines units do not reject heat to the cooling lake and do not cause any forced evaporation.

## 2.0 Ferguson Power Plant Water Use

The primary water uses at the Ferguson Power Plant are forced evaporation on Lake LBJ from condenser cooling and other equipment cooling, boiler makeup water and employee sanitation.

### 2.1 Condenser Cooling

Water from Lake LBJ is heated approximately 12°F as it passes through the condenser's heat exchange process. This warm water is then circulated back into and through the lake for cooling by the processes of evaporation, convection, and radiant cooling.

In 2015, 2016, and 2017, Ferguson produced an average of 3,728,219 MWh each year – an average of 1,365,684 MWh per year from the steam turbine and 2,362,535 MWh per year from the two combustion turbines. The combustion turbines generate approximately 63 percent of the power output, and the steam turbine generates approximately 37 percent. Like Lost Pines, the combustion turbines do not reject heat to the cooling lake, causing much less forced evaporation than an equivalent simple cycle steam unit. Ferguson forced evaporation calculates to a 2015-2017 annual average of 1683 acre-feet. LCRA has refined its method for calculating forced evaporation at Ferguson beginning with the October 2018 data. Using the new calculation method, the resulting evaporation rates are approximately 20 to 30 percent lower than the rates calculated under the prior method.

### 2.2 Boiler Makeup Water

Boiler makeup water also is taken from Lake LBJ. It is treated by filtration, reverse osmosis (RO) and ion exchange before being used in the boiler. The resulting water is extremely pure.

High purity water also is used in the laboratory and for cooling the gas turbines inlet air. In 2016-2017, Ferguson pulled an average of 194 acre-feet of water per year for this purpose,

using average of 136 acre-feet per year and returning an average of 58 acre-feet per year to Lake LBJ.

## 2.3 Employee Sanitation

Ferguson purchases approximately 1 acre-feet of water per year from the City of Horseshoe Bay for employee sanitation facilities.

## 2.4 Landscape Irrigation

Ferguson performs no landscape irrigation.

**Table 1 Ferguson Power Plant Estimated Annual Water Use**

Type of Use	Acre- feet/year
Forced evaporation	1,683
Boiler makeup	136
Employee consumption	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,820</b>

## 3.0 Ferguson Power Plant Water Conservation Goals and Strategies

The following are water conservation features for the Ferguson Power Plant:

- The Ferguson combined cycle design. If Ferguson was a conventional, simple cycle steam power plant, water use would increase by at least 2,759 acre-feet per year. Water savings at Ferguson are based on water usage rates of the similarly loaded FPP units, applied to the non-steam, combustion turbine generation of Ferguson.
- Indirect reuse due to boiler water production rejects and sanitation processing totals 58 acre-feet per year.
- Aggressive repair of water leaks within the plant.

## About LCRA

The Lower Colorado River Authority serves customers and communities throughout Texas by managing the lower Colorado River; generating and transmitting electric power; providing a clean, reliable water supply; and offering outdoor adventures at more than 40 parks along the Colorado River from the Texas Hill Country to the Gulf Coast. LCRA and its employees are committed to enhancing the lives of Texans through water stewardship, energy and community services. LCRA was created by the Texas Legislature in 1934. For more information, visit [lcra.org](http://lcra.org).



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