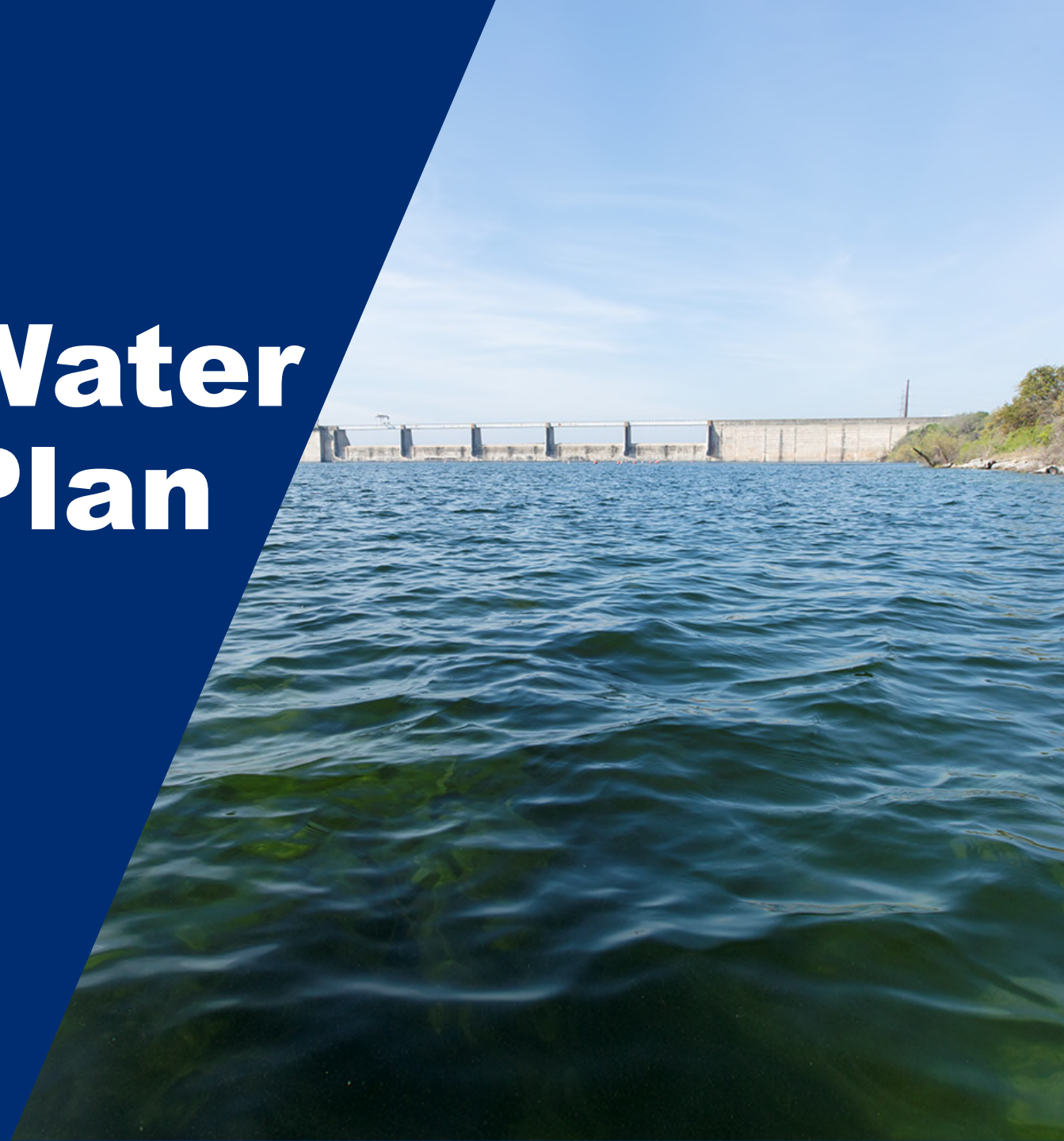
Updating the Water Management Plan

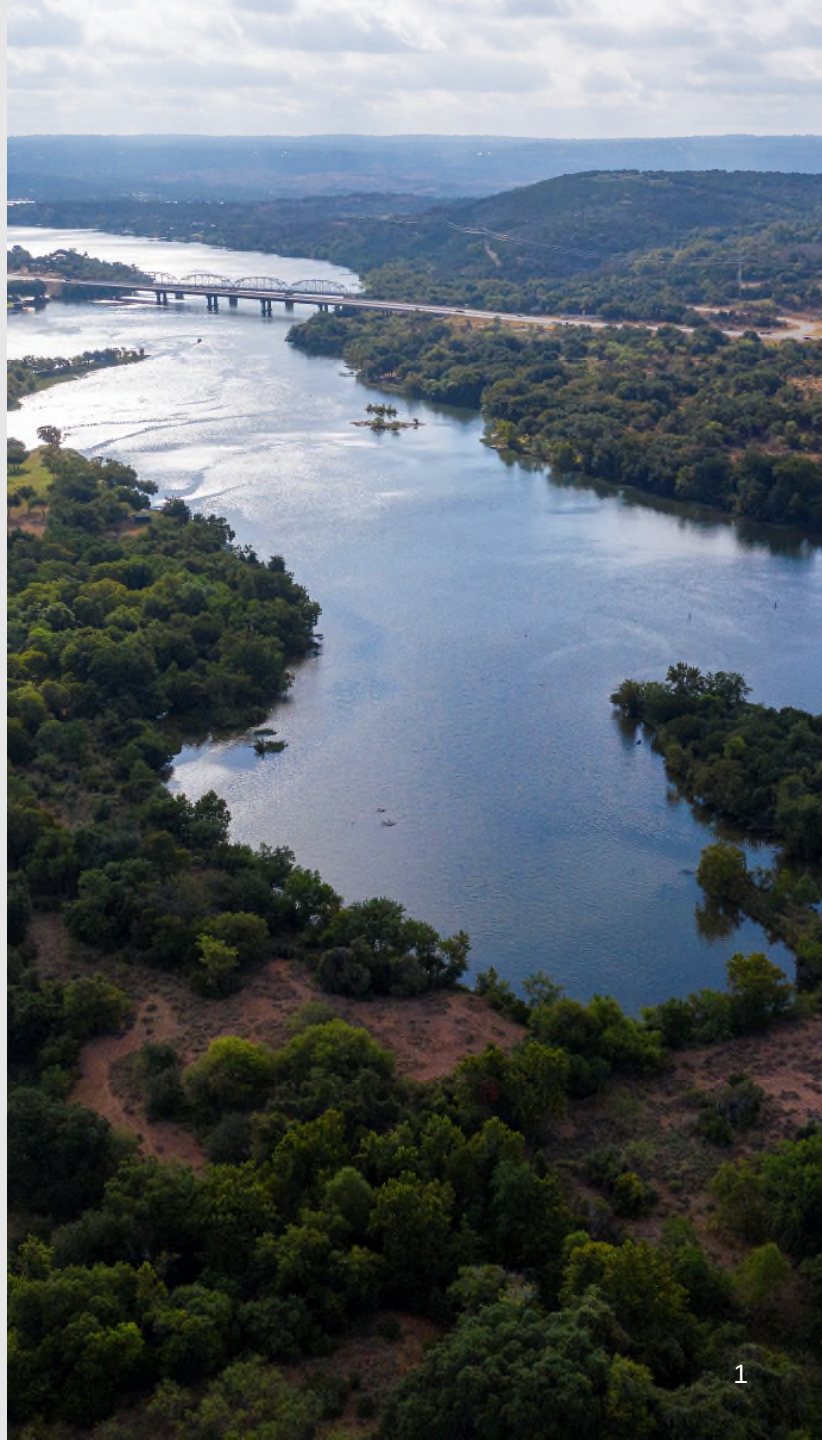
LCRA Water Operations Committee Meeting

June 18, 2025



LCRA's Water Management Plan

- State-required, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality-approved plan
- Governs LCRA's operation of lakes Buchanan and Travis to supply water to users throughout the lower Colorado River basin
- Allows for supply of interruptible water, provided we don't impair our ability to meet the needs of our firm customers
- Helps meet the environmental needs of the river basin and Matagorda Bay



Current Water Management Plan (2020)

- Approved by TCEQ in February 2020
- Used projected firm water demands through 2025
- Maintained minimum combined storage above 600,000 acre-feet through repeat of period of record (1940-2016)
- Made water available for interruptible agriculture and environmental flows based on water supply conditions

Updates Driving Changes to the Water Management Plan

- Firm water demands projected to 2032
- Hydrologic data – including streamflows and evaporation – extended through 2023

Preliminary Projected 2032 Firm Demands

Type of Use	Normal (acre-feet per year)	High (acre-feet per year)
Municipal/Manufacturing		
City of Austin	183,200	207,100
Other	159,000	182,600
Steam-Electric		
LCRA	14,500	19,700
City of Austin Power Plants	7,300	10,300
South Texas Project	39,400	39,400
Bastrop Energy Center	2,300	2,300
Total	405,500	461,400
Percent Increase From 2025 Projection	19%	8%

Updating Within TCEQ Framework

- TCEQ Framework
  - Interruptible supply based on combined storage and inflows into the Highland Lakes
  - Multiple levels of environmental flow criteria
  - Maintain combined storage above 600,000 acre-feet through a repeat of the period of record

Updating Within TCEQ Framework (Continued)

- Need to stay within the TCEQ framework
- Firm demands are increasing
- Offset firm demand increases with incremental adjustments to water made available for interruptible agriculture and environmental flows

Developing a New WMP

- Decrease interruptible agricultural stored water incrementally:
  - Decrease the maximum stored water available to agriculture
  - Curtailment begins at a higher combined storage level
  - Initiate Less Severe Drought and Extraordinary Drought supply conditions at higher combined storage levels
  - Initiate anytime cutoff at higher combined storage levels

Developing a New WMP (Continued)

- Decrease interruptible water for instream flows:
  - When interruptible agricultural supply is cut off, reduce instream flow criteria
    - Currently only applies at Wharton; would expand to include at Columbus
    - Would engage at higher combined storage levels
    - Criteria would continue to be no less than the minimum monthly subsistence value

Developing a New WMP (Continued)

- Decrease interruptible stored water for Matagorda Bay:
  - Decrease the maximum volume of storable inflows to the bay
  - Decrease the maximum percentage of storable inflows to the bay

Current Status of 2025 WMP Participant Meetings

- Held two meetings (March and April) with participants and shared the following:
  - Projected firm and agricultural demands
  - Naturalized flows
  - Use of Water Availability Model information to update the WMP

- Next meeting will be June 25
  - Present the staff-prepared initial revised model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