LCRA Drought Contingency Plan for Firm Water Customers

• Required to update every five years and submit to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

• The plan requires customers to reduce water use as lakes Travis and Buchanan combined storage reaches defined levels

• Customers submit updated drought contingency plans every five years to TCEQ

• At minimum, customer drought contingency plans must be as protective as LCRA Drought Contingency Plan for Firm Water Customers

• LCRA provides an optional drought contingency plan template to assist customers in developing their plans
Proposed Drought Contingency Plan

• What’s new?
  – Mandatory drought response begins at 1.1 million acre-feet rather than at 900,000 acre-feet
  – Inflows trigger applied on March 1 and July 1 for Stage 2 to initiate water use reductions sooner in very dry conditions
  – New drought contingency plan stage added between 900,000 acre-feet and 600,000 acre-feet
  – Minimum measures at each stage to promote consistency across the region (e.g., maximum once-per-week watering schedule)
Messaging Outside of Defined Drought Contingency Plan Stages

- Conservation stage
  - Requires permanent watering schedule of no more than twice per week
  - LCRA drought messaging begins at 1.4 million acre-feet combined storage
Proposed Drought Contingency Plan

Stages

• Stage 1
  – Combined storage below 1.1 million acre-feet and interruptible stored water for non-Garwood operations is curtailed
  – Customers to implement mandatory measures with a water use reduction goal of 10%
  – Increase drought messaging
  – Criteria for exiting Stage 1 is 1.2 million acre-feet combined storage
Proposed Drought Contingency Plan

Stages (Continued)

• Stage 2
  – Combined storage below 900,000 acre-feet and interruptible stored water for non-Garwood operations is curtailed OR
  – Inflow trigger: Combined storage below 1.1 million acre-feet and preceding three-month average inflows are below 25th percentile on March 1 or July 1
  – Customers to implement mandatory measures with a water use reduction goal of 20%
  – Customers to implement maximum once-per-week watering schedule
  – Criteria for exiting Stage 2 is 1.1 million acre-feet combined storage
Proposed Drought Contingency Plan

Stages (Continued)

- **Stage 3**
  - Combined storage below 750,000 acre-feet
  - Customers to implement mandatory measures with a water use reduction goal of 25%
  - Customers continue implementing maximum once-per-week watering with no more than six hours per week of automatic irrigation
  - Criteria for exiting Stage 3 is 825,000 acre-feet combined storage
Proposed Drought Contingency Plan Stages (Continued)

• Stage 4
  - Combined storage below 600,000 acre-feet
  - LCRA Board declares “Drought Worse Than Drought of Record”
  - All interruptible stored water is cut off
  - Water use reduction goal of 30%
  - 20% mandatory pro rata curtailment for firm customers
  - Customers to prohibit irrigation of ornamental turf; customers may allow handheld hose watering of foundations, trees and vegetable gardens
  - LCRA Board sets criteria to exit Stage 4, or increase mandatory pro rata curtailment percentage if conditions worsen
Drought Contingency Plan Update Schedule

- November 2023 – Firm customer meeting
- January 2024 – Board Water Operations Committee presentation
- February 2024 – Post proposed plan for public comment
- March 2024 – Present plan to LCRA Board for action
- April 2024 – LCRA customers incorporate changes to their drought contingency plans
- May 1, 2024 – LCRA submits plan to TCEQ