

LCRA Drought Contingency Plan for Firm Water Customers Update

Water Operations Committee Meeting
Jan. 23, 2024



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**

Drought Contingency Plan Stages

- **Stage 1**

- Combined storage below 1.4 million acre-feet and interruptible stored water for non-Garwood operations is curtailed
- LCRA requests customers implement voluntary measures with a water use reduction goal of 5%

- **Stage 2** 

- Combined storage below 900,000 acre-feet and interruptible stored water for non-Garwood operations is curtailed
- LCRA requests customers implement mandatory measures with a water use reduction goal of 10-20%

Drought Contingency Plan Stages

(Continued)

- **Stage 3**

- Combined storage below 600,000 acre-feet
- LCRA Board declares “Drought Worse Than Drought of Record”
- All interruptible stored water is cut off
- 20% pro rata curtailment for firm customers

- **Stage 4**

- May increase mandatory pro rata curtailment percentage

Potential Drought Contingency Plan Changes

- Evaluating drought stages and combined storage triggers
- Assessing low inflows as a potential trigger along with combined storage
- Considering minimum measures such as no more than once weekly watering at a specific drought stage
- We are coordinating with our customers to obtain input on potential alternatives

Drought Contingency Plan Update Schedule

- **November 2023 – Firm Water Customer Meeting**
 - Began discussions with the customers on potential changes
- **February 2024 – Water Operations Committee presentation**
 - Staff presents recommended updates to LCRA’s DCP
 - Pro rata curtailment planning discussion
- **February 2024 – Post draft plan for public comment**
- **March 2024 – Present plan to LCRA Board for action**
- **May 2024 – Submit plan to TCEQ**

