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