Proposed Changes to Rules and Terms of Firm Water Contracts, Drought Contingency Plans, Water Conservation Plans and Pro Rata Curtailments

Water Operations Committee Meeting

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Nov. 9, 2026

Introduction to Proposed Rule Changes

- Rules were last updated in 2022
- Proposing changes now to:
  - Improve processes
  - Help LCRA continue to be a good steward of the resource
- We are proposing numerous revisions; all will be posted online for public comment
- Presenting only the key proposed changes

Water Contract Rules and Standard Terms – Proposed Changes

Proposed Change	Purpose
Require application deposit from more applicants	Focus on applications more likely to move forward
Expand the reasons we charge additional fees for technical review	Better manage complex applications
Require preapplication meeting before application submittal	

Changing application requirements will help maintain an efficient process

Water Contract Rules and Standard Terms – Proposed Changes (Continued)

Proposed Change	Purpose
Limit new or expanded contracts for future developments to 150 gallons per capita per day	Plan for more water-efficient future developments and extend supplies
Allow LCRA the option to modify contract quantity if customer has not used at least 25% of that amount within 10 years or at least 50% within 20 years	Preserve LCRA's water inventory to meet future needs

Adding limits on contracted water will help extend water supplies for future needs

Water Conservation Plan Rules – Proposed Change

Proposed Change	Purpose
Limit watering for ornamental landscapes to no more than once per week by spring 2031 or earlier if combined storage of lakes Buchanan and Travis falls to 900,000 acre-feet	Improve water efficiency

Limiting landscape watering will encourage efficient water use and extend water supplies

Drought Contingency Plan Rules – Proposed Changes

Proposed Change	Purpose
Require maximum once-per-week watering schedule in earlier drought stage	Increase drought response during transition to permanent watering schedule change
Reduce landscape irrigation windows in drought stages 2 and 3	Better achieve water use reductions during drought
Prohibit turfgrass installation at golf courses in pro rata curtailment (drought stage 4)	

Reducing landscape irrigation preserves water supply during drought

Pro Rata Curtailment Rules – Proposed Change

Proposed Change	Purpose
Allow modifications or variances to reflect current demands	Account for growth when limiting supply on a pro rata basis

Accounting for recent growth allows for pro rata curtailment to be applied against current use

Timeline

August-November 2026	Informal customer input
November 2026	LCRA Board discussion
November-December 2026	Public comment period
February 2027	Request LCRA Board approval



Lake Buchanan