

**Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Lower Colorado River Authority
Regarding Drought Management Actions Related to Environmental Flows
in Response to Current Drought Conditions**

Whereas, the Colorado River basin is experiencing a serious drought that has, at times, been more intense than the worst recorded drought this region has experienced, the Drought of Record that occurred from 1947 to 1957; and

Whereas, 2011, 2012 and 2013 have produced record low inflows to the Highland Lakes; and

Whereas, LCRA has sought and obtained emergency drought relief from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to reduce demands for interruptible stored water for agricultural purposes in 2012 and 2013 that have reduced demands on lakes Buchanan and Travis; and

Whereas, combined storage in lakes Buchanan and Travis on September 18 was 638,000 acre-feet, or 32 percent full; and

Whereas, the TCEQ has previously found that the conditions presented by the current drought pose an imminent threat to human health and safety because of the potential impacts on LCRA's firm customers, who face potential curtailment if storage in the lakes continues to drop; and

Whereas, the contributing watershed to the Highland Lakes is included in the Governor's emergency disaster proclamation related to drought; and

Whereas, under the provisions of the 2010 Water Management Plan (WMP) still in effect, LCRA has been obligated to help meet 'critical' freshwater inflow needs in Matagorda Bay of 14,260 acre-feet per month from the Colorado River Basin by releasing storable inflows to lakes Buchanan and Travis; and

Whereas, under the provisions of the 2010 WMP still in effect, releases of storable inflows to lakes Buchanan and Travis for purposes of meeting freshwater inflow needs are limited by annual and multi-year caps which include caps of 23,570 acre-feet over two consecutive years, and 23,680 acre-feet over three consecutive years; and

Whereas, in September 2013, LCRA released 8,682 acre-feet for the bay inflow requirement, such that the year-to-date release for 2013 now totals 14,686 acre-feet, in addition to a release of 3,050 acre-feet in 2012; and

Whereas, absent permission from TCEQ to depart from the requirement in the 2010 WMP related to freshwater inflows, LCRA could be required to make additional releases of as much as 5,834 acre-feet of storable inflows for such requirement by the end of this year; and for 2014, LCRA's required releases could be 110 acre-feet plus any of the remaining amount for 2013 that was not used; and

Whereas, LCRA's Board of Directors wants to take all necessary and prudent steps to manage the region's water supply to meet the essential needs of cities and industry through this severe drought;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LCRA Board of Directors hereby directs the General Manager or her designee to take the following actions:

Prepare and file an application to seek emergency relief from TCEQ under Texas Water Code § 11.148, and any other applicable law, to allow LCRA to suspend all releases of Highland Lakes inflows to meet its obligation for freshwater inflows into Matagorda Bay under the 2010 WMP, with such relief to become effective at such time that storable inflows to lakes Buchanan and Travis would otherwise be required to be released for a bay inflow deficit, and to continue for the maximum time allowed by law or until the combined storage in lakes Buchanan and Travis exceeds 900,000 acre-feet.

Approved this ____ day of September 2013