



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Highland Lakes are the primary water supply for Central Texas; and

WHEREAS, Cedar Park and Leander, having grown 59% and 123% respectively in the latest census from 2010 to 2020, derive 100% of their water from Lake Travis, as does the Austin part of Williamson County, and Round Rock receives 2.85% of their water so far in 2022 from Lake Travis; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that Central Texas could add up to one million new residents by 2030; and

WHEREAS, more arid weather conditions shifting eastward to include Texas have led the state climatologist to observe that sustained drought conditions could become permanent; and

WHEREAS, current water inflows, the estimated amount of water flowing into Lakes Buchanan and Travis from rivers and streams, continue to decline sharply with most monthly totals lower than the average for the historic drought of record; and

WHEREAS, the June average inflows from 1942 to 2007 was 160,646 acre feet, and the June average from 2008-2015 was 24,718 acre feet, and the June 2022 average was 4,364 acre feet; and

WHEREAS, the dividing line of increasing risk of periods of drought has moved from 100 degrees west to 98 degrees west longitude, which goes right through the middle of our neighbor to the west, Burnet County; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Lakes were created to manage floods, provide hydroelectric generation, and to ensure the region has a reliable water supply and not for the rice industry, which uses huge amounts of water while paying for it with deeply discounted rates; and

WHEREAS, the current LCRA Water Management Plan needs modernization to reflect the region's paradigm shift of increasing water needs and drier weather patterns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Williamson County Commissioners Court, do hereby request:

1. That the LCRA work with local leaders and stakeholders to accelerate the update of its Water Management Plan to implement a more protective

approach to managing the Highland Lakes in 2022 and into the future;

2. That updates to the Water Management Plan reflect-

- Current scientific research and data
- Acknowledgement of the significant decline in water flowing into the Highland Lakes
- Provisions that encourage conservation by all water users
- Preparation for greatly increased water demands in Central Texas; and

3. That the LCRA obtain information on the causes for, and consequences of, the dramatic declines in inflows to the Highland Lakes, to assure that this phenomenon is accounted for in the updated Water Management Plan;

5. That the LCRA facilitate smart water distribution and usage, including the implementation of modern and efficient water use practices in large irrigation settings suitable to an arid climate; and

6. That the LCRA expand its public outreach and input opportunities and establish advisory committees of local officials, business leaders, stakeholder organizations, and area residents to foster an increased opportunity for transparent open discussion and collaboration on issues that affect the water supply and economy for almost two million Central Texans.

Passed by Commissioners Court and Signed on this date: _____

Bill Gravell, County Judge

On behalf of the Williamson County Commissioners Court Members

