



Resolution requesting Texas Commission on Environmental Quality oppose the unnecessary and over stringent curtailment provisions recently adopted by LCRA Board of Directors

- WHEREAS,** *farmers began using the waters of the Colorado River in the 19th Century and water rights to the Colorado River were established over 100 years ago for beneficial use of farming in the lower basin,*
- WHEREAS,** *for two consecutive years an Emergency Drought Order obtained by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) ceased most water releases for irrigation,*
- WHEREAS,** *the curtailment of water releases for irrigation have caused a marked increase in the drilling of water wells for the purpose of irrigation,*
- WHEREAS,** *existing and projected future irrigation wells drilled as a result of surface water curtailment could put an increasingly high stress on the aquifer serving Colorado County,*
- WHEREAS,** *the Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District is dedicated to the conservation of our aquifer system to the foremost benefit of the present and future generations of residents of Colorado County,*
- WHEREAS,** *approval of the newly stringent emergency threshold would unjustifiably harm the ecosystem that supports the health of fish and wildlife;*
- WHEREAS,** *Lake Buchanan and Lake Travis were not constructed to be constant level lakes, but rather were constructed for the purpose of flood control and water supply,*
- WHEREAS,** *the conditions have not and are not forecasted to force the curtailment of "drinking water" to the residents of the highland lakes and there is no "imminent" threat to health and human safety,*
- WHEREAS,** *during periods of drought, all water users should share in the sacrifice and pain caused by the conditions, not just the downstream communities,*
- WHEREAS,** *farmers and landowners have spent millions of dollars on laser leveling, volumetric metering, and management techniques to conserve water and reduce the amount of water needed for crop irrigation, yet continue to bear the primary burden and hardship of the actions of the LCRA Board;*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESEOLVED, that the Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District respectfully requests that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality NOT adopt the overly stringent curtailment trigger of 1.1 million acre feet storage in the highland lakes as put forth in the Lower Colorado River Authority Board's application for an Emergency Order for the year 2014.

APPROVED AND PASSED, at the Board of Directors meeting on this 4th day of February, 2014.



Tom Kelley, President



Whyman D. Psencik, Secretary