LCRA Water Use Summary 2024

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Drought conditions continued across the lower Colorado River basin for most of 2024, the hottest year on record for Texas. Rainfall was 6.5 to 7 inches below normal across the Hill Country and Central Texas, and slightly above normal across the coastal plains.

Inflows into lakes Buchanan and Travis were the highest since 2019, but still only half of the historical average. The basin saw two significant periods of rain in 2024. In May, storms in the upper basin caused inflows to be above the monthly average, and the combined storage of lakes Buchanan and Travis increased by about 275,000 acre-feet, or 14%. Inflows were also slightly higher than average in July. Inflows for all other months were well below average.

Total water use from the Highland Lakes and Colorado River decreased by 4% from 2023 to 2024. Overall water use from the Highland Lakes decreased by 25%, largely because more run-of-river water was available to meet demands downstream of Lake Travis. Diversions of streamflow from the Colorado River increased by 19% from 2023 to 2024. Because of the drought, no water from the Highland Lakes was available to most interruptible agricultural customers in Colorado, Matagorda and Wharton counties in 2024.

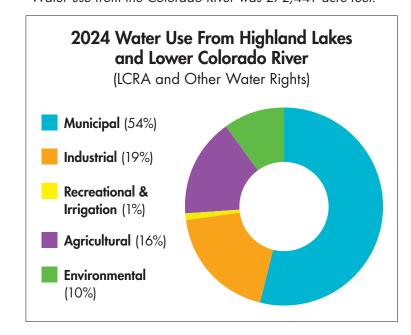
ENERGY • WATER • COMMUNITY SERVICES

WATER USE BY SOURCE – LCRA uses two basic sources of water to meet customer and environmental needs: water stored in lakes Buchanan and Travis and water naturally flowing in the Colorado River. When the natural flow into the Highland Lakes is greater than customer needs and environmental obligations, LCRA stores the excess in lakes Buchanan and Travis for later use.

- 1. Highland Lakes water use Contracts for water stored in lakes Buchanan and Travis can be for firm or interruptible supply. LCRA also supplies water from the Highland Lakes to help maintain environmental flows, as required by the state-approved Water Management Plan. In 2024, the Highland Lakes supplied 191,063 acre-feet of water for all uses.
 - Firm water contracts These contracts supply cities, businesses and industries that need a reliable long-term water supply. Firm supply is available through a repeat of the driest conditions the region has experienced. Firm customers used 144,238 acre-feet, or about 76% of all water used from the Highland Lakes, in 2024. This includes 7 acre-feet used in hydroelectric generation to meet emergency needs for electricity.
 - Interruptible water contracts These contracts supply agricultural customers. Interruptible water is subject to cutbacks during drought conditions, and its availability was curtailed in 2024 because of the drought. Interruptible customers used 529 acre-feet, less than 1% of all water used from the Highland Lakes, in 2024.
 - Environmental From time to time, LCRA releases water from the Highland Lakes to meet environmental flow requirements for the Colorado River downstream of Austin and for Matagorda Bay. In 2024, LCRA released 46,296 acre-feet, or about 24% of all water used from the Highland Lakes, for environmental flows.
- 2. Colorado River water use In addition to the rights to water from the Highland Lakes, LCRA owns and manages other rights to the natural flow of the Colorado River. In 2024, a total of 160,350 acre-feet of water was supplied from the Colorado River for agricultural, municipal, industrial, recreation and firm irrigation uses under these water rights.

Water Rights	2024 Use (in acre-feet)
LCRA Garwood*	92,392
LCRA and South Texas Project*	59,910
LCRA Lakeside*	0
LCRA Gulf Coast*	8,048
LCRA Pierce Ranch*	0
LCRA Lakes Buchanan and Travis	191,063
SUBTOTAL — LCRA	351,413
City of Austin Water Rights*	111,911
Bastrop Energy Center*	180
SUBTOTAL — Other	112,091
TOTAL	463,504

^{*}Water use from the Colorado River was 272,441 acre-feet.



HOW DOES 2024 COMPARE?

TYPE OF WATER USE*	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Municipal (firm customers)	251,970	249,011	266,848	277,648	250,238
Water from the Highland Lakes	144,531	118,821	198,971	187,868	130,092
Water from the Colorado River [†]	107,439	130,190	67,877	89,780	120,146
Industrial (firm customers)	50,343	113,594	51,790	77,140	87,705
Water from the Highland Lakes	18,593	12,390	22,722	15,974	10,231
Water from the Colorado River [†]	31,750	101,204	29,068	61,166	77,474
Recreational & Irrigation (firm customers)	7,568	4,204	6,898	7,041	5,990
Water from the Highland Lakes	<i>7</i> ,413	4,204	6,898	<i>7</i> ,041	3,915
Water from the Colorado River	155	0	0	0	2,075
Agricultural (interruptible customers)	247,573	171,900	258,704	88,890	73,275
Water from the Highland Lakes	84,472	45,109	160,213	9,079	529
Water from the Colorado River	163,101	126,791	98,491	<i>7</i> 9,811	72,746
Environmental [‡]	115,586	31,317	40,510	35,287	46,296
(from the Highland Lakes)					
TOTAL WATER USE	673,040	570,026	624,750	486,006	463,504

^{*} Water use is in acre-feet.

Learn more about the lower Colorado River at www.lcra.org.

[†] Reported use includes water available under water rights held by the City of Austin and Bastrop Energy Center, and held jointly by South Texas Project and LCRA.

[†] Environmental releases are made to meet environmental requirements set out in the LCRA Water Management Plan. Releases for downstream customers and runoff flowing into the river and bay also help satisfy environmental needs.

2024 Total Water Pumped by LCRA's **Firm Water Customers** Volume (acre-feet) Water supplied from the Highland Lakes City of Austin, municipal and parks City of Cedar Park 16,168 12,780 City of Leander Travis County WCID No.17 7,748 LCRA power plants 6,412 5,188 • Fayette Power Project (LCRA Share) Sim Gideon Power Plant* Lost Pines 1 Power Project* • Thomas C. Ferguson Power Plant 1,224 West Travis County Public Utility Agency** Domestic water users on the Highland Lakes 3,737 3,174 **Brazos River Authority** Lakeway MUD 2,258 City of Horseshoe Bay 2,190 City of Pflugerville** 2,099 City of Marble Falls 1,992 1,732 Austin Energy (AE) Power Plants 1.732 • Fayette Power Project (AE share) Decker Power Plant 1,599 City of Lago Vista 1.125 Travis County MUD No. 4** Bastrop Energy Center** 757 327 Underground Services Markham, LP 155 OQ Chemicals Corp. Other Firm Customers 15,253 • Diverted from Lake Buchanan 378 Diverted from Inks Lake 690 Diverted from Lake LBJ 3,170 Diverted from Lake Marble Falls 0 • Diverted from Lake Travis 6,118 Diverted from Lake Austin** 4,308 Diverted from downstream of Lake Austin** 589 Subtotal from Highland Lakes** 143,484 Volume Water supplied from other water rights (acre-feet) City of Austin, municipal and parks 108,492 LCRA/STP Nuclear Operating Company 59,910 LCRA use - Garwood amendment 19,646 City of Pflugerville 4,503 • Fayette Power Project (LCRA share) 3,734 • West Travis County Public Utility Agency 2,927 Bastrop Energy Center 1.416 • Travis County MUD No. 4 873 3,351 • LCRA other municipal use • LCRA other industrial, firm irrigation and recreation 2,842 LCRA Gulf Coast municipal and industrial use 8,048 • Underground Services Markham, LP 4,312 OQ Chemicals Corp. 3,736 Austin Energy (AE) power plants 3,419 • Fayette Power Project (AE share) 3,419 Decker Power Plant **Bastrop Energy Center** 180 Subtotal from other water rights 199,695 Total from both sources 343,179

Customer Water Use in 2024

Interruptible water released but not pumped by agricultural customers — LCRA estimates that no water was released from the Highland Lakes for agricultural customers but not pumped.

City of Austin

Brazos River

Authority

Bastrop Energy

Center

City of

Pflugerville

WILLIAMSON

City of

Cedar Park

City of

LAMPASAS

BURNET

City of Leander

Lakeway MUD ___

Travis County MUD No. 4

West Travis County PUA

HAYS

50 Miles

SAN SABA

LLANO

KENDALL

Legend

Colorado River

Agricultural Irrigation:

25

Use by Firm Water Customers:

Water from the Highland Lakes

Water from the Highland Lakes

25

50 Kilometers

Water from run of river

Water from run of river

Thomas C. Ferguson Power Plant (LČRA)

City of Horseshoe Bay

Travis County WCID No. 17

BLANCO

Emergency releases — On occasion, LCRA releases water through its hydroelectric generators to meet short-term, urgent power needs in the state. LCRA released about 7 acre-feet of water from the Highland Lakes solely due to emergency electrical power needs in 2024.

Fayette

Power Project

(LCRA and

Austin Energy

COLORADO

LEE

FAYETTE

Evaporation — In 2024, an estimated 136,681 acre-feet of

water evaporated from the six Highland Lakes - Buchanan,

Inks, LBJ, Marble Falls, Travis and Austin. This is roughly 4%

less than the amount that evaporated in 2023, and below

released from the Highland Lakes but not pumped by firm

into the banks of the river, or was not needed because of

changed conditions. When this amount is added to the

water pumped and the 7 acre-feet used in hydroelectric

generation to meet emergency electrical power needs, the

total water supplied from the Highland Lakes for LCRA's firm

customers because the water was lost to evaporation, seeped

the record 192,470 acre-feet that evaporated in 2011.

**Firm water released but not pumped by firm customers — LCRA estimates that 747 acre-feet were

customers in 2024 was 144,238 acre-feet

2024 Total Water Pumped for LCRA's **Interruptible Water Customers** (Agriculture)

Water supplied from the Highland Lakes	Volume (acre-feet)		
Garwood Agricultural Division	529		
Lakeside Agricultural Division	0		
Gulf Coast Agricultural Division	0		
Pierce Ranch Irrigation Company	0		
Subtotal from Highland Lakes	529		
Water supplied from downstream water rights	Volume (acre-feet)		
Garwood Agricultural Division	72,746		
Lakeside Agricultural Division	0		
Gulf Coast Agricultural Division	0		
Gulf Coast Agricultural Division Pierce Ranch Irrigation Company	0		

Environmental flows — In 2024, LCRA released 46,296 acre-feet of water from the Highland Lakes for environmental obligations. Of this amount, LCRA released 6,096 acre-feet of Highland Lakes inflows to help meet freshwater inflow needs, and 40,200 acre-feet to help meet instream flow criteria. About 813,305 acre-feet of fresh water flowed in the Colorado River past Bay City toward Matagorda Bay in 2024. This water came from rainfall and runoff occurring below Lake Travis and pass-through releases of a portion of the inflows to the Highland Lakes.

73,275

Gulf

Total from both sources

The City of Corpus Christi holds a senior water right in the lower Garwood Colorado River basin but is not an LCRA water customer. Corpus Christi began diverting water from the river in 2016. Corpus WHARTON Christi reported to LCRA that it diverted 10,065 acre-feet in 2024.

LCRA/STP Nuclear **Operating Company** (STPNOC)

Underground Services

Markham, LP OQ Chemicals Corp.

MATAGORDA

* Groundwater was used to meet demand. ** Needs from customers with diversions downstream of Lake Travis, other than the City of Austin, were partially met (about 52%) with water available through the Garwood amendment