

LCRA Water Use Summary 2024

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.

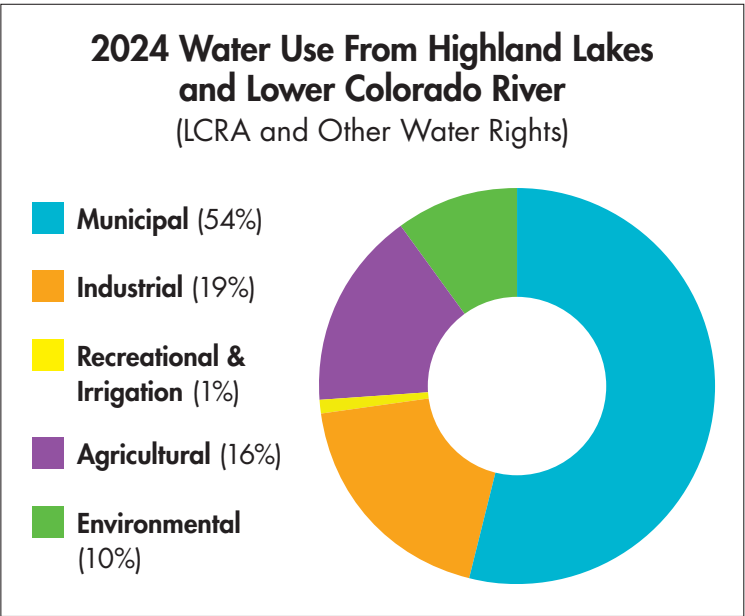


WATER USE BY SOURCE – LCRA uses two basic sources of water to meet customer and environmental needs: water stored in lakes Buchanan and Travis and water naturally flowing in the Colorado River. When the natural flow into the Highland Lakes is greater than customer needs and environmental obligations, 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	7,413	4,204	6,898	7,041	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	79,811	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.

† 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.

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

2024 Total Water Pumped by LCRA's Firm Water Customers	
Water supplied from the Highland Lakes	Volume (acre-feet)
City of Austin, municipal and parks	60,207
City of Cedar Park	16,168
City of Leander	12,780
Travis County WCID No.17	7,748
LCRA power plants	6,412
• Fayette Power Project (LCRA Share)	5,188
• Sim Gideon Power Plant*	0
• Lost Pines 1 Power Project*	0
• Thomas C. Ferguson Power Plant	1,224
West Travis County Public Utility Agency**	3,771
Domestic water users on the Highland Lakes	3,737
Brazos River Authority	3,174
Lakeway MUD	2,258
City of Horseshoe Bay	2,190
City of Pflugerville**	2,099
City of Marble Falls	1,992
Austin Energy (AE) Power Plants	1,732
• Fayette Power Project (AE share)	1,732
• Decker Power Plant	0
City of Lago Vista	1,599
Travis County MUD No. 4**	1,125
Bastrop Energy Center**	757
Underground Services Markham, LP	327
OQ Chemicals Corp.	155
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
Water supplied from other water rights	Volume (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
• LCRA other municipal use	3,351
• 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	0
Bastrop Energy Center	180
Subtotal from other water rights	199,695
Total from both sources	343,179

