

LCRA Water Conservation Plan Update

Water Operations Committee Meeting
Feb. 21, 2024



Water Conservation Plan Overview

- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requires a water conservation plan for:**
 - Municipal, industrial and non-irrigation water rights more than 1,000 acre-feet
 - Irrigation water rights more than 10,000 acre-feet
- **Goal**
 - Ongoing, long-term water conserving initiatives

2024 Water Conservation Plan – Estimated Savings Goals

Water use	2029 Five-year goal: Estimated annual savings (acre-feet)	2034 10-year goal: Estimated annual savings (acre-feet)
LCRA power plants	1,000*	1,100*
Municipal	12,000*	15,000*
Irrigation operations	18,000*	20,000*
Total	31,300*	36,300*

*Accumulated savings since 2012

2019 Water Conservation Plan – Goals and Actual Savings

- Savings exceeded all 2019 water conservation plan goals
- Staff intends to further increase savings in 2024 plan as part of required five-year update

Water use	2019 goal: Estimated annual savings (acre-feet)	2022 Actual savings (acre-feet)
LCRA power plants	700	1,300
Municipal	6,500	7,400
Irrigation operations	15,000	16,500
Total	22,200	25,200

Water Conservation Plan Strategies



Firm Water Conservation Incentives Program

- **Firm Water Conservation Cost-Share Program**
 - Current program:
 - Awarded more than \$700,000 since 2019
 - Total leveraged dollars equaled about \$13 million
 - Application deadlines in the spring and fall
 - Program potential:
 - 2,000 acre-feet savings by 2029
 - 4,000 acre-feet savings by 2034



Firm Water Conservation Incentives Program (Continued)

- **WaterSmart rebates**
 - Current program:
 - Awarded \$200,000 since 2019
 - Includes irrigation system evaluations, irrigation system equipment, pool and landscaping rebates
 - Program potential:
 - 500 acre-feet savings by 2029
 - 1,000 acre-feet savings by 2034



Municipal Conservation Strategies

- Promote maximum once-per-week watering schedule
- New incentive: Convert turf to native landscapes
- Increase promotion and marketing efforts to:
 - Enhance program awareness
 - Expand customer base, eligibility and participation in Cost Share Program
 - Increase participation of rebate programs
- Increase community's awareness of water and the importance of the Highland Lakes to this region



Agricultural Conservation Strategies

- **Surcharges to discourage high water use**
- **Automation and modernization of gates**
 - Gulf Coast and Garwood agricultural divisions complete
 - Lakeside pilot project
- **Precision land leveling**
 - Redesigned land leveling Cost Share Program launched in 2023
- **Canal lining evaluation**



2024 Water Conservation Plan Update

- **Plan changes**

- Update five- and 10-year conservation goals
- Evaluate/modify existing rules and strategies
- Increase promotion and marketing efforts
- Expand programs and customer participation

- **Next steps**

- March 2024: Post draft plan for public comment
- April 2024: Present plan for LCRA Board action
- May 1, 2024: Submit plan to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Texas Water Development Board



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