

Highland Lakes Newspapers

The Highlander – Burnet Bulletin – Llano County Journal – Lake Country Life

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PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BURNET

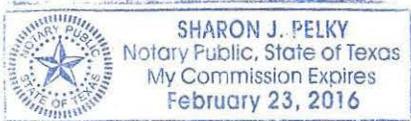
Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared

Cheryl Michel who being by me duly sworn, deposes and
(name) Burnet Bulletin, Highlander,
says that (s)he is a bona fide representative of the Llano County Journal
(name of newspaper)
that said newspaper is regularly published in Burnet County(ies)
and generally circulated in Burnet / Llano County(ies),
Texas, and that the attached public notice was published in said newspaper on the following
date(s), to wit: 2-17-15, 2-18-15
and that the attached is a true copy of said notice.

Cheryl Michel
Newspaper Representative's Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of March, 2014, to certify which witness
my hand and seal of office.

Sharon J Pelky
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



Sharon J Pelky
Print or Type Name of Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 2-23-2016

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICES

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**Notice of an Application from the Lower Colorado River Authority
For an Emergency Order Reducing Instream Flow Requirements for the
Blue Sucker under its Water Management Plan**

Permit No. 5838

On December 23, 2014, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) filed an application with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an emergency order under Tex. Water Code §§ 5.506, 11.139, or 11.148, and 30 Tex. Admin. Code (TAC) §§ 35.24, 35.25, 35.101, or 295.91, to amend its Water Management Plan (WMP) to reduce the requirement to maintain a minimum streamflow of 500 cubic feet per second (cfs) for six consecutive weeks between March and May from Bastrop to Eagle Lake for the Blue Sucker. LCRA's requested relief would reduce the requirement from 500 cfs to 300 cfs for this time period.

The TCEQ Executive Director will consider whether to grant this request and issue an emergency order on February 18, 2015. If the Executive Director issues an order, the Commission will hold a hearing to affirm, modify or set aside the order on March 4, 2015. See more information below.

Summary of LCRA's application:

LCRA has the right to divert and use up to 1.5 million acre feet (AF) from Lakes Buchanan and Travis under Certificates of Adjudication Nos. 14-5478 and 14-5482. By court order, LCRA has developed a Water Management Plan (WMP), currently dated 2010, which is part of these certificates and has its own number, Permit No. 5838.

LCRA's WMP describes how LCRA will manage and curtail supplies from the lakes during times of drought including through a repeat of the Drought of Record. The Certificates of Adjudication and the 2010 WMP govern LCRA's operation of lakes Buchanan and Travis and dictate how LCRA makes water available from these lakes to help meet "firm" water customer needs, downstream interruptible irrigation demands, and environmental flow needs of the lower Colorado River and Matagorda Bay. Environmental flow needs include instream flows for the river, and bay and estuary freshwater inflows.

LCRA states in its application that:

The inflow conditions experienced in the last several years present an extreme drought situation that was not contemplated when the special conditions related to instream flows were incorporated into the 2010 WMP. LCRA may be required to make a declaration of a Drought Worse than the Drought of Record (DWDR) as soon as March 2015. Two of the three criteria for a DWDR have been met, leaving only a lake storage level of 600,000 acre-feet as the remaining criteria to be met. When LCRA makes a DWDR declaration, firm water customers are curtailed and firm water for environmental requirements is subject to a pro rata reduction.

Under the 2010 WMP, LCRA is required to maintain critical instream flows, including maintaining a minimum continuous instream flow of 120 cfs from Bastrop to Eagle Lake at all times, and a minimum flow of 500 cfs for a continuous six week period between March and May from Bastrop to Eagle Lake to provide higher flows to support habitat for Blue Sucker spawning. If the river is not supplying this amount during a six week period from March to May, stored water must be released. In 2012, this instream flow requirement resulted in releases of about 22,991 AF and in 2013, this instream flow requirement resulted in releases of about 15,678 AF from the lakes. In 2014, LCRA was granted emergency relief from the 500 cfs requirement and operated under the 300 cfs requirement it requests again in this application. From January to November 2014, the amount released from the Highland lakes for instream flows was approximately 4,600 AF; approximately 17,000 AF of water was preserved in storage due to the 2014 Blue Sucker Emergency Order.