

CTWC Presentation by Jo Karr Tedder

June 26, 2013 TCEQ Stakeholder Meeting

My name is Jo Karr Tedder, and I am the President and Co-Founder of the Central Texas Water Coalition.

We applaud the TCEQ's decision to conduct this additional evaluation of LCRA's proposed amendments to its Water Management Plan.

Given the magnitude of the issues raised in the recent comment period regarding the management of the water supply, we urge the TCEQ to perform this evaluation using ALL available data. This should include the perspective that this WMP HAS to protect our water supply and firm customers, even in the current long-term drought.

The reality is that all of LCRA WMP's were developed and put in place during times of ample and/or excessive rain. We now know that it HASN'T rained, and must accept that 'It will Rain' is both a risky plan and too much of a gamble with our drinking water.

We appreciate Chair Timmerman's statement that it was a mistake to release record amounts of stored water in 2011. We recognize that LCRA had the ability to release stored water based upon the current WMP approved by TCEQ, but common sense should have prevailed.

That record stored water release took away our reserve that should have been there to help us through this drought. Now, it IS the drought that is keeping the lakes/reservoirs from recovering. And, as a direct result of the LCRA decision, communities and individuals are now running out of drinking water.

We appreciate that LCRA requested and obtained Emergency Orders from the TCEQ to amend the terms of its Water Management Plan. However, putting the Emergency Drought Orders in place has also created an 'artificial environment' of water availability.

INTERA ran calculations using both the current and proposed WMP's, and without an emergency drought order, we would have ALREADY reached the DWDOR. In addition, at these lower inflow levels, calculations show that the current firm yield is no longer valid and MUST be revised.

Review of the inflow data from 2008 to the present shows three facts: 1) there is a "new normal;" 2) the hydrology of the basin has shifted significantly downward; and 3) it is no longer appropriate to utilize historical data on inflows to the lakes as a reliable predictor for the future. See the example below.

Average number of 100 degree days (Mark Murray, KVUE)

1900-2012 13.3 days

2000-2012 32.3 days

Which dataset makes the most sense for predictive planning? Not the average, because 2000-2012 is a NEW NORMAL.

Neither the current nor proposed WMP's would have provided sufficient drought protection for LCRA's firm customers during the 2012 - 2013 years of our long-term drought, which began in 2008. A new WMP must be developed that provides firm water protection without the need for continual emergency orders to be issued by TCEQ.

This MUST be done so we can focus on working together basin-wide on conservation and new water supplies.

CTWC and all of our research partners are available to help you in any way we can. Thank you.