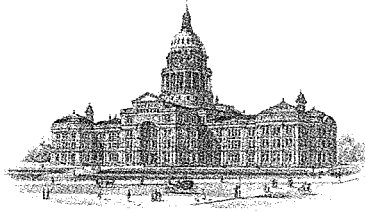


The Senate of The State of Texas



TROY FRASER

August 22, 2011

Mr. Timothy Timmerman
Lower Colorado River Authority, Chairman
P.O. Box 220
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Chairman Timmerman:

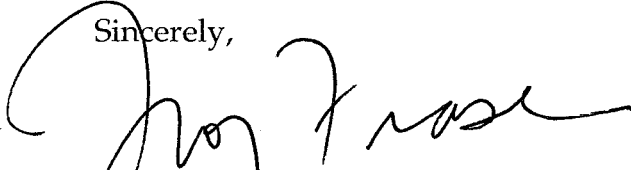
In October of 2009 the Lower Colorado River Authority(LCRA) staff recommended to the Board a temporary suspension of new contracts and a revision of the Water Management Plan to allow for increased cutbacks of interruptible customers. According to the LCRA website, the purpose of these recommendations was to "ensure that firm water customers like the City of Austin that have reserved adequate water can receive the water they planned to receive and that LCRA can fulfill its responsibilities toward these customers."

I have great concern looking at current lake levels today and the impact that a second release of water will have on meeting future firm water needs. The nine months from October 2010 through May 2011 have been the driest on record for that nine-month period in Texas since 1895. As a result of these extremely dry conditions, inflows in June were less than 1%. To compound the situation, evaporation on the lakes is at least 14% higher than in 2009. With the low inflows and evaporation, Lakes Travis and Buchanan are expected to continue to drop at a rate of one foot per week until October. Given this dry pattern and the continued predications for more dry weather, it seems irresponsible for the LCRA to release a second crop of water, endangering the water supply of firm customers. I have been told by the LCRA that the option to stop the release of a second crop this year is not available. Clearly in 2009 the LCRA contemplated asking for emergency measures from the TCEQ to temporarily revise their water management plant. The only reason these measures were not taken was because it rained and ended the drought. The current drought has already been named worse than the 2009 drought and many are comparing it to the drought of record.



I am asking the LCRA Board to consider another exception this year to ensure that firm water supply is available for future needs. This letter will serve as my formal request that the LCRA immediately suspend the release of water downstream to ensure your obligation to future firm water needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Fraser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "F".

Troy Fraser,
Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee

cc: Mark Vickery, Executive Director, TCEQ