

# PLTA NEWS

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Protect Lake Travis Association

July 2008 Volume 28, #1

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## PLTA ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR AUGUST 16

### TOM MASON, LCRA GENERAL MANAGER, WILL BE SPEAKER

The Protect Lake Travis Association will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, August 16, 2008 in the Town Hall Room of the Travis County West Service Center (formerly the Travis County Precinct 2 Satellite Offices) at 4501 FM620 located just south of Mansfield Dam. The meeting will start at 2:00 P. M.

Our featured speaker will be Tom Mason, General Manager of the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). Mr. Mason will discuss ongoing water supply planning efforts for our region and his vision for LCRA's role as steward of the Lower Colorado River Basin.

## PLTA NEWS GOES ONLINE

The next PLTA newsletter will change to an email format. To continue receiving the newsletter, you may choose from three options;

- Option 1. Members may receive the email newsletter by submitting their email address in the enclosed envelope;  
or
- Option 2. Members may receive the newsletter by the U.S. Postal service by indicating that preference in the enclosed envelope. This option will result in a week or two delay in receiving the newsletter;  
or
- Option 3. You may download the newsletter from our new web site without charge.

Membership dues are \$10 per year. Members have voting privileges and the dues help support PLTA activities. We urge you to become a new member or renew an old membership.

## WHERE IS OUR LAKE GOING ?

By Connie Ripley, PLTA Board Member

Austin is one of the most desirable places on the planet. Rarely is something written about the Austin area without a focus on Lake Travis.

If you are reading this, chances are your single water supply is the drought/flood prone Highland Lakes System, especially Lake Travis. With our projected population explosion and all things planned for the lakes, it is foolhardy to assume that our next 50 years will resemble our last 50.

Here's a little of what's happening:

Two huge deep water intakes are planned for Lake Travis—one by the City of Austin and one by Cedar Park, Leander and Round Rock who have formed Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (BCRUA). The combined maximum capacity of these two intakes is about 442 million gallons **per day** (MGD).

Austin's intake will have a maximum capacity of 300 (MGD). It is planned for the very bottom of the Colorado River Channel just below the Oasis Restaurant. The pipeline will tunnel under Balcones Canyonlands Preserve flyover land to pump stations on Bullick Hollow. (Flyover land is the land birds must fly over to reach their nesting areas.) Another shaft and tunnel will go under Bullick Hollow to a water treatment plant (WTP#) planned on RR360. The Highland Lakes System is Austin's only source of water.

The BCRUA intake, planned for the Volente area, will have a maximum capacity of 142 MGD. BCRUA plans to open-cut a 10' x 12' trench all the way from Volente to a treatment plant in Cedar Park. The pipeline requires 70 feet of oak trees and other vegetation to be clear cut for the entire length of the project. (Tunneling is deemed too expensive by BCRUA.) Cedar Park and Leander get all their water from Lake Travis. Round Rock has 3 other sources. LCRA was created to sell raw water in its **service area**. Originally that meant the Lower Colorado River basin??

Little is being published about the enormity of these projects. The Austin project will have an initial 18,000 square foot pump station behind an 8 foot fence 8 feet off the Bullick Hollow right of way. This is one of 3 proposed. The planned water treatment plant will cover 42 of the 96 acres the city currently owns. Great view from 620! ***This is only the beginning...There's much, much more...***

# **NEW FLOODPLAIN MAPS FOR LAKE TRAVIS ADOPTED**

By Lonnie Moore, PLTA Board Member

Droughts and floods - it seems we are often dealing with one or the other. With the lake level down and falling further right now, it may be hard to think about floods and floodplains, but Lake Travis owners and residents need to take notice of recent changes. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) has formally approved the new floodplain maps for Travis County. The new maps raise the 100-year floodplain elevation along Lake Travis from the previous 716' MSL (mean sea level) to 722' MSL, an increase of 6 feet. The increase will have a significant impact on homebuilding and remodeling permits for lakefront and near-lakefront properties. It will also affect the need for, and the cost of, flood insurance for structures within the new floodplain.

Effective September 26, 2008, Travis County and other governments, including Lakeway, Lago Vista, Jonestown, Volente, etc., will begin using the new floodplain levels within their permitting processes. In fact, Travis County and all the cities we contacted for this article require a finished floor elevation (FFE) of one foot above the 100-year floodplain. This means that 723' MSL will be the lowest level to build around Lake Travis. This can have a profound effect on building costs, as new structures may have to be raised to meet the requirements. And, while existing structures below 723' will be grandfathered, any future remodeling or rebuilding permits where the rebuilding, addition or remodeling exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure will require that the structure be brought into compliance with the new floodplain requirements.

Any homeowner whose home falls between 716' and 722' should consider obtaining flood insurance by August 11, 2008, forty-five days before the new maps become effective, to receive a better rate both this year and in future years. For additional information concerning the effect of the new maps on insurance rates, please see [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). Mortgage companies generally require flood insurance on properties in the floodplain.

## **NEW PLTA WEB PAGE**

By the time you read this newsletter you should be able to get the first glimpse of our new web page at [www.protectlaketravis.org](http://www.protectlaketravis.org). We are still in the process of preparing content pages, so please be patient. The web page will provide us a means of sharing the current events affecting our members and friends. It will also give us the opportunity to provide newsletters more frequently.

For those who don't want to get involved with computers, the newsletters will still be available to members who wish to continue receiving the newsletters by USPS.

**Protect Lake Travis Association  
12016 Carmel Park Lane  
Austin, TX 78727**

**Address Correction Requested**

# **Lake Travis is Fun --- Let's Keep It That Way !**

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**The Purpose of the Protect Lake Travis Association is to protect Lake Travis and its watershed from any events and conditions which could affect the health and safety of area residents, recreational users of the lake, and wildlife, and to protect the aesthetic natural beauty and recreational quality of the area.**

