

# PLTA NEWS

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Protect Lake Travis Association

June 2009 Volume 29, #1

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## PLTA ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JUNE 27, 2009

The Protect Lake Travis Association will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, June 27, 2009 in the Town Hall Room of the Travis County West Service Center at 4501 FM 620N just south of the Mansfield Dam. The meeting will start at 2:00 P.M.

The featured speakers will be:

John Wedig LCRA water quality studies supervisor, who will speak about the newly completed Modeling study and how Lake Travis water quality would be affected if wastewater discharge were permitted in the lake,  
and

Mark Jordan, LCRA's Manager, River Management Services, who will speak about anticipated lake levels and the status of available water for people in the Colorado River basin.

The public is invited.

## PLTA NEWS GOES ONLINE

The PLTA newsletter has changed to an email format. To continue receiving the newsletter, you may choose from the following 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. For more information, see our Web site at:

[www.protectlaketravis.org](http://www.protectlaketravis.org)

## **New Water Conservation Requirements**

**By Richard Eason, PLTA Board Member**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requires that certain water right holders and water suppliers update their water conservation and drought contingency plans. LCRA raw water customers must also submit updated plans to LCRA. All raw water customers must have plans on file with LCRA that meet all TCEQ and LCRA requirements.

These revised plans must meet LCRA requirements as well as TCEQ provisions. The full LCRA requirements may be found on LCRA's Web site at: [www.lcra.org/water/supply/contracts/](http://www.lcra.org/water/supply/contracts/).

Of special importance during a drought are those LCRA requirements that drought contingency plans have enforceable, mandatory water use restrictions that are triggered at certain stages to achieve water reduction goals under LCRA's Drought Management Plan. These include:

- the request by LCRA to implement aggressive water conservation measures when the combined storage of lakes Buchanan and Travis is less than 1.6 million acre-feet (AF);
- the request by LCRA to implement mandatory water use reduction measures when combined storage levels fall below 900,000 AF; and
- a mandatory pro rata curtailment of firm water supplies for each customer pursuant to Texas Water Code §11.039 when combined storage levels fall below 600,000 AF and other criteria in LCRA's Water Management Plan are met that correspond to a drought worse than the Drought of Record.

Please note that if there is a continuation in 2009 of the severe drought conditions that occurred in 2008, we could see the total combined storage of lakes Travis and Buchanan fall to the 900,000 acre-feet trigger level as early as September. In that case, LCRA will ask its firm raw water customers to implement their mandatory water use restrictions. Implementing these measures at this stage may delay or prevent more severe restrictions later by helping prevent lower trigger levels from being reached.

There is more related information on LCRA's Web site: [www.lcra.org/water/supply/contracts/](http://www.lcra.org/water/supply/contracts/).

## **PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR JUNE 30, 2009**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will hold a public meeting for comments on the application of the LCRA to increase the amount of water Leander will get for an inter-basin transfer from 6,400 AFY to 24,000 AFY. The public meeting will consist of two parts, an Informal Discussion Period and a Formal Comment Period.

During the Informal Discussion Period the public may ask questions of the applicant (LCRA) and the TCEQ staff and the preliminary decision of the Executive Director. However, the Commissioners will not consider the informal comments in making their final decision on the application.

During the Formal Comment Period the public may state their formal comments into the official record. A written response to all formal comments will be prepared by the Executive Director and considered by the Commissioners prior to reaching a decision on the permit. A copy of the response will be sent to each person who submits a formal comment or who requests to be on the mailing list for this application and provides a mailing address.

The Public meeting is to be held:

Tuesday, June 30, 2009, at 7:00 pm.  
Lakeway Activity Center  
105 Cross Creek  
Lakeway, TX 78734

### **Editor's Note**

This is likely to be a lively meeting. At a time when LCRA has pulled out of the SAWS agreement, fearing it would create a future water shortage in the Colorado River basin; at a time when there is a severe draught in Lake Travis; at a time when entire communities stand to be severely impacted by the construction of a mammoth pipeline project designed to supply water outside the Colorado River basin; at a time when the recreational activity of Lakes Travis and Buchanan is greatly impaired and further curtailment would be a certainty; at a time when the city of Austin opposes this increase in inter-basin transfers to Leander; at a time when a myriad of other questions remain unanswered, the LCRA is petitioning the TCEQ for a four-fold increase in the amount of water they can sell out of the Colorado River basin.

# Join The Protect Lake Travis Association

Please fill out the following form

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| <b>City</b>           | <input type="text"/> | <b>State</b>          | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>Phone #</b>        | <input type="text"/> | <b>Zip</b>            | <input type="text"/> |

**Annual dues are \$10. Membership runs from August 1 through July 31. Please mail your dues, along with any donations to:  
Protect Lake Travis Association  
12016 Carmel Park Lane  
Austin, TX 78727**

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**Privacy Statement: Your information will not be shared with third parties.**

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

**Address Correction Requested**

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

### **In This Issue:**

- **Annual Meeting Set**
- **New Web Page**
- **Progress on Floodplain**
- **Where is Our Lake Going**

**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.**

