

2024 Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plans Updates

Water Forward Task Force – April 15, 2024

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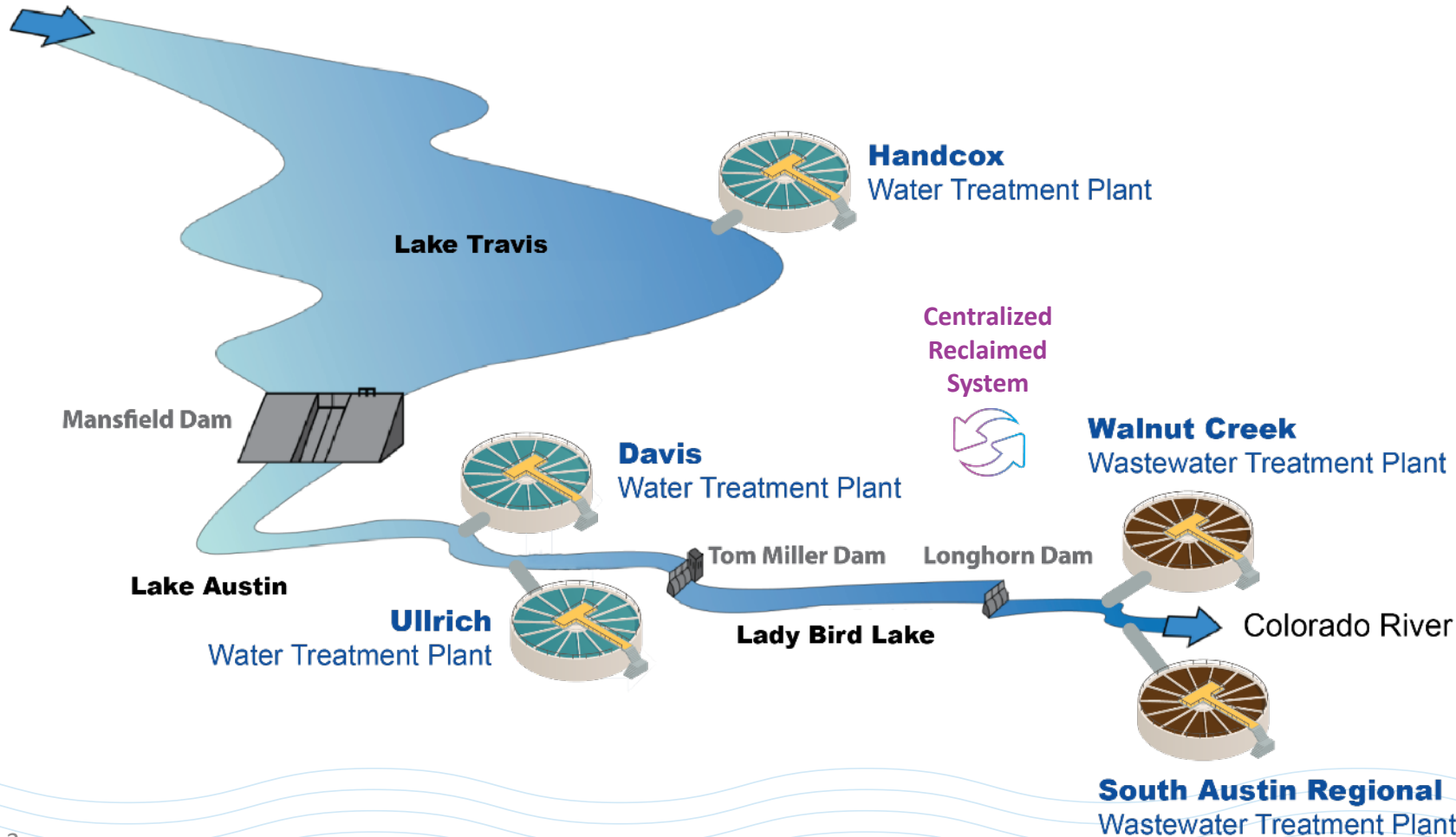
Agenda

- 💧 Water Supply
- 💧 Planning Overview
- 💧 Proposed Water Conservation Plan (WCP)
- 💧 Proposed Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)
- 💧 Next Steps

Austin's Water

Colorado River + Highland Lakes

Lake Buchanan



Colorado River

- Combination of State-granted water rights & long-term contract with LCRA
- Up to 325,000 acre-feet per year (afy)

LCRA reservation & use fees pre-paid in 1999

- Additional use payments trigger when average for 2 consecutive years exceeds 201,000 afy

What plans and why do we need them?

- 💧 Texas utilities must provide a Water Conservation Plan (WCP) and a Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)
- 💧 Required by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) every 5 years
- 💧 WCPs identify programmatic activities aimed at reducing overall water consumption and improve water use efficiency
- 💧 DCPs identify water supply triggers and related drought response activities

How are these plans different?

Water Conservation Plan (WCP)

- Plan for all weather conditions
- Describes
 - Utility and water use information
 - Conservation (rebates, education, enforcement)
 - Water loss reduction
 - Reuse activities
- Includes water consumption and water loss goals

Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)

- Focuses on drought conditions
- Describes
 - Drought Stages
 - Drought Triggers (demand and supply)
 - Drought Actions & Restrictions
- Must be consistent with the LCRA DCP
- Requires Chapter 6-4 changes

How does this work regionally with our water supply partner?

LCRAs Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)

- 💧 AWA's DCP aligns with LCRAs DCP
- 💧 LCRA recently updated its DCP on March 26, 2024
- 💧 LCRAs significant updates include:
 - Adjusting drought trigger levels (From 4 stages to 5 stages)
 - Adding LCRAs inflow trigger for Drought Stage 2
 - Adding specific drought condition water use restrictions

Austin's Water Conservation Plan (WCP)



- 💧 Public education & outreach
- 💧 Residential assistance
- 💧 Incentive programs
- 💧 Regulatory programs
- 💧 Water loss reduction
- 💧 Water reuse

2024 WCP Updates

- 💧 Updated program activity and water savings
- 💧 Increased integration with My ATX Water
- 💧 Updated Conservation Goals and Water Loss goals

2024 WCP Proposed Goals

- 💧 Based on a 5-year average and measure attainable achievements and updated targets for:
 - Total Population Gallons Per Capita per Day (GPCD) reduction of water use
 - Residential Gallons Per Capita per Day (GPCD) reduction of water use
 - Water Loss and Infrastructure Leak Index reduction
- 💧 Conservation and water loss goals correlate with utility industry best practices

Austin's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)

💧 Current sources & projections

💧 Drought stages/triggers

- Conservation Stage
- Drought Stage 1 - 5

💧 Actions by Stage

- Restrictions
- Utility actions

2024 DCP Updates by Drought Stage

💧 **Stage 1** (1.4 Million Acre Feet)

- Expanded enforcement in irrigation season
- Work with other City Depts to implement water conservation
- Increase incentives for reclaimed and conservation activities

💧 **Stage 2** (900,000 Acre Feet)

- Reduction in eligible time for irrigation
- Replace automatic exemption for athletic fields with an administrative variance process

2024 DCP Updates by Drought Stage

💧 **Stage 3** (750,000 Acre Feet)

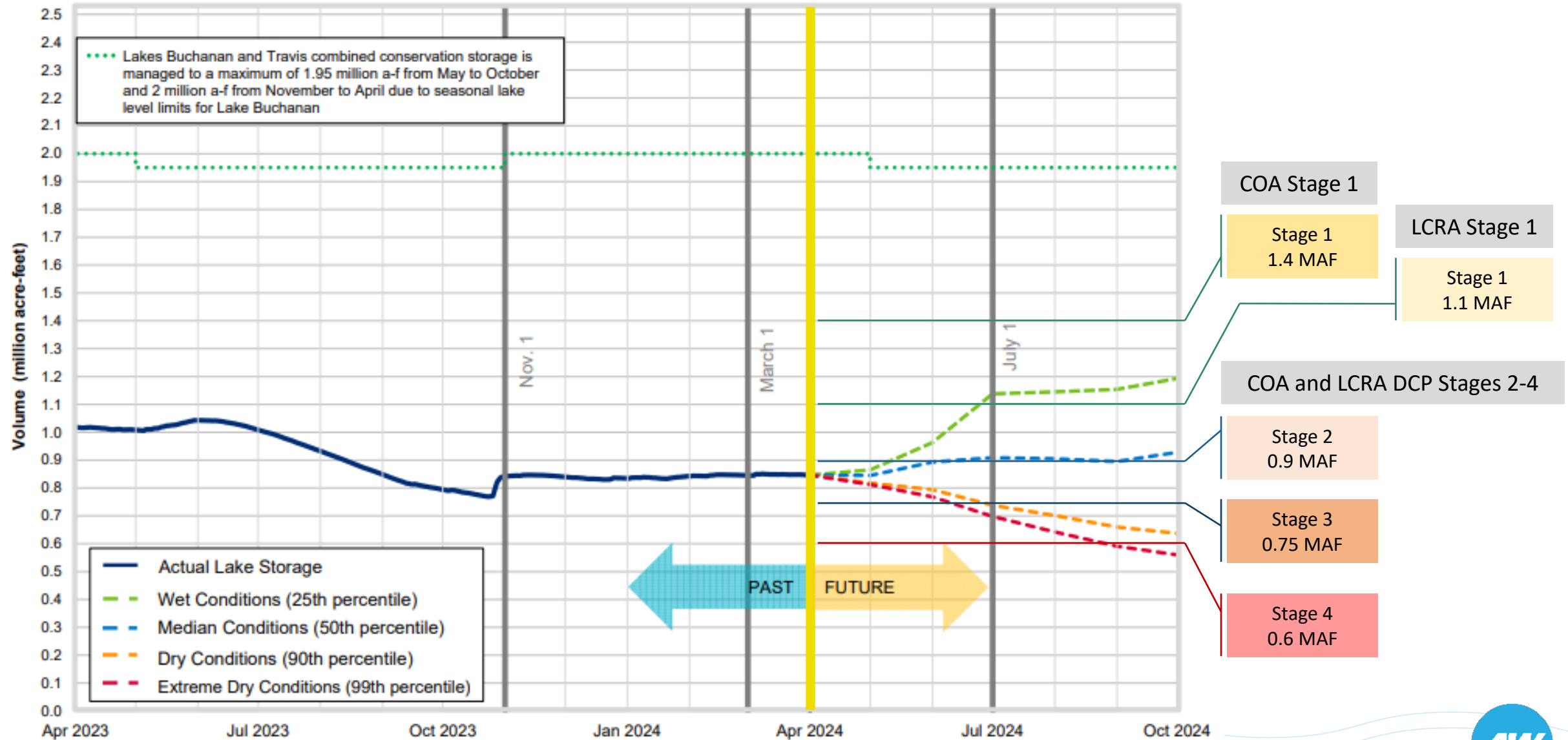
- Further reduction in eligible time for irrigation
- Voluntary water budgeting (My ATX Water)
- Irrigation citations without warnings, with offering of dismissals for irrigation and water conservation course completion

💧 **Stage 4** (600,000 Acre Feet)

- Moratorium on all new irrigation and pool permits
- No irrigation of turfgrass unless used for community purposes
- SpeakUp & Email survey responses indicated support of Stage 4 updates

💧 **Stage 5** (*Emergency Drought* authorized by City Manager's order)

Drought Stage Triggers and Storage



Date: April 1, 2024

Note: One acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons



Public Outreach for Proposed Updates

- 💧 November 2023: **SpeakUpAustin**
- 💧 December 2023: **Virtual Public Meeting**
- 💧 Survey of SpeakUpAustin visitors and AW Customers
 - 110 responses received
- 💧 Majority responses favored proposed additions to drought regulations

Key 2024 Activities

Advancing Conservation

- 💧 **May 2 Council** considers adoption of updated WCP, DCP and related code changes
- 💧 Continued focus throughout summer and fall on current climate and drought situation
- 💧 Planning underway for potential Drought Stage 3
 - Increased public notification, education and outreach
 - Increased collaboration with LCRA and other regional partners
 - Increased enforcement
- 💧 Preparation underway for potential Drought Stage 4
 - Pro Rata Curtailment



Questions?



Austin
WATER

