

# 2024 Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plans Updates

Water and Wastewater Commission – April 17, 2024

Kevin Critendon, P.E., Assistant Director



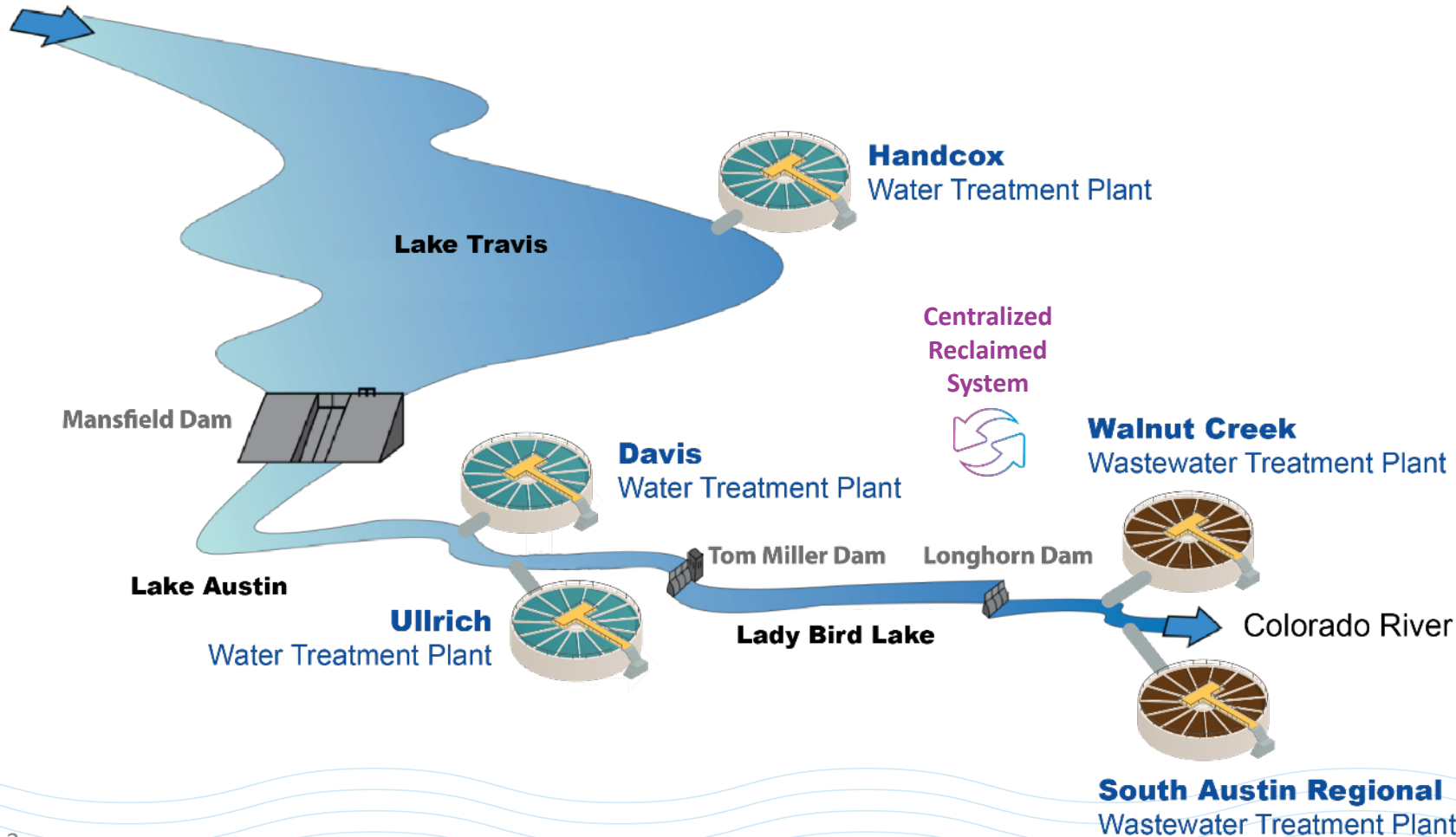
# Agenda

- 💧 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

# 2024 WCP Proposed Goals

	5-Year Ave	Baseline	2029 Goal	2034 Goal
Total GPCD	127	127	123	116
Residential GPCD	64	64	62	58
Water Loss GPCD	21	21	19	17
Infrastructure Leakage Index	4.07	4.07	3.57	3.31

# 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

# 2024 DCP Updates by Drought Stage

## 💧 **Stage 3** (750,000 Acre Feet)

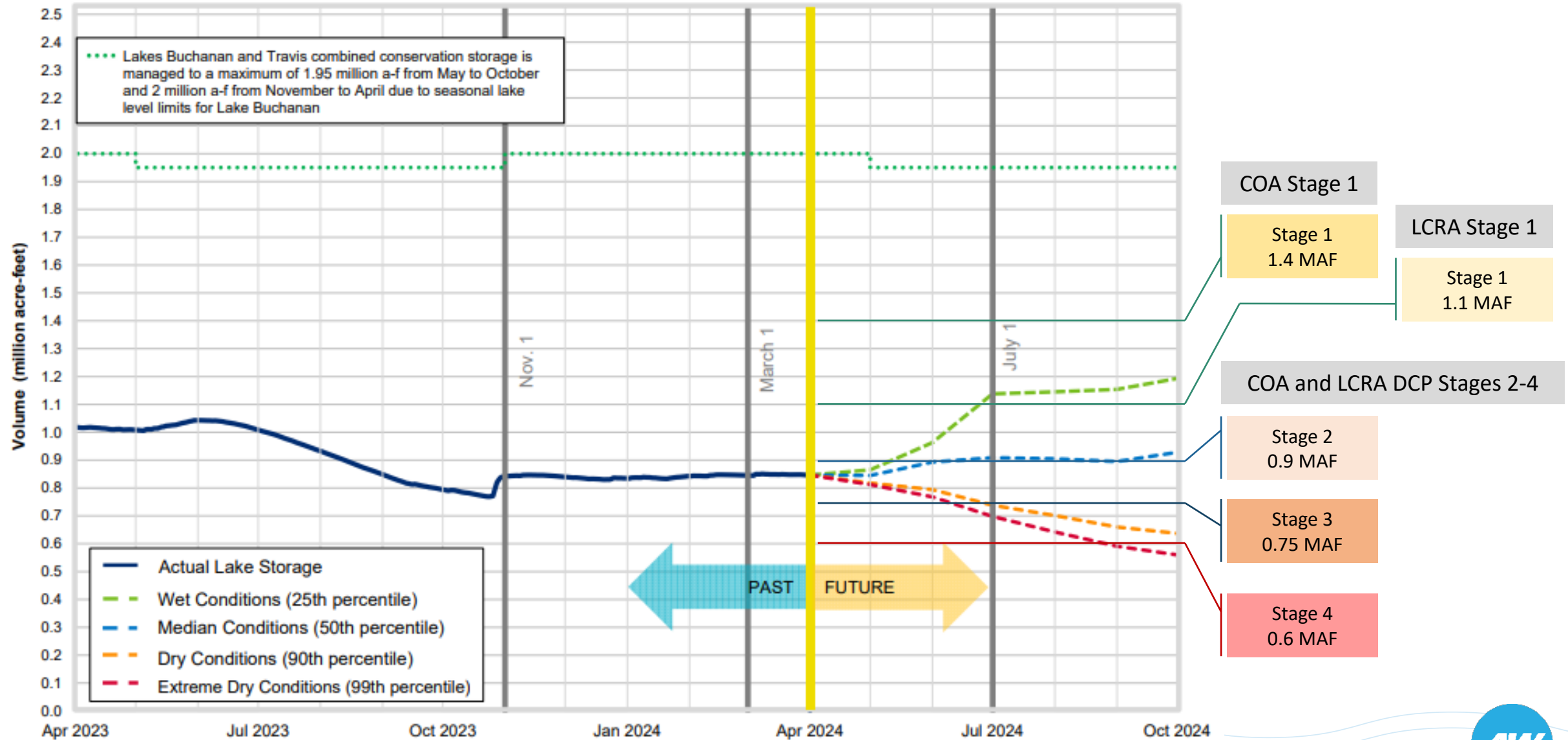
- Further reduction in eligible time for irrigation
- Voluntary water budgeting (My ATX Water)
- Replace automatic exemption for athletic fields with an administrative variance process
- Irrigation citations without warnings, with offering of dismissals for irrigation and water conservation course completion

## 💧 **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**

