



**State Senator  
Kirk Watson  
District 14**

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**Sen. Kirk Watson issued the following statement regarding the LCRA Water Management Plan:**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality approved a new Water Management Plan for the Lower Colorado River Authority on Wednesday that will protect the water supply for Austin as well other communities and critical industries that rely on the Colorado River and Highland Lakes.

This new plan reflects the reality of protecting the interests of firm water customers, such as the City of Austin, even in times of severe drought. It is the culmination of a process that began in 2010 and has involved extensive negotiations with the varied interests throughout the Lower Colorado River basin.

The Water Management Plan is required as a condition of LCRA's oversight of the water permitted for storage in Lakes Travis and Buchanan, and it specifically sets out the conditions under which water may be provided to interruptible agricultural customers. Under the previous plan, LCRA released more than 464,000 acre-feet of water downstream to interruptible customers in 2011 in the midst of a severe drought. That release led to record low levels of combined storage in Lakes Travis and Buchanan, which have only recently begun to recover.