



March 3, 2010

Dear Resident:

I am writing to remind lakeside residents that the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has a program for residents who want to draw water directly from the Highland Lakes for domestic use, including watering lawns and gardens. State law requires that you have a contract with LCRA if you take water from the lakes. If you do not take water, or if you already have a contract, then no action is needed.

It is a common misconception that lakeside residents have an automatic right to take and use water from the lakes. However, residents are required to have a contract from LCRA to take water that is stored in the Highland Lakes. No water right, permit exemption, or other mechanism entitles a resident to water stored in a reservoir such as the Highland Lakes. We want to make it easy for you to obtain the right to use that water by entering into a contract with LCRA. We have simplified the process so that it should take you only a few quick steps. Also, you can apply online using the information below.

LCRA is planning for long-term water needs and wants to include your needs for domestic water use. Accounting for water use through the domestic use contracts helps ensure that a sufficient water supply will be available for existing and future water needs, including yours. Water rates, including revenues from domestic use contracts, pay LCRA's costs of managing the lakes, protecting water quality, maintaining water conservation programs and providing flood response.

Thank you for your efforts to help manage and wisely use our region's limited water supplies. An application for a domestic use contract and related information are enclosed. The application and information are also available on LCRA's Web site at <http://www.lcra.org/water/domestic>.

If you have any questions, please call LCRA's Domestic Use Contract Hotline at 1-800-776-5272, ext. 1535.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Mason", is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

Thomas G. Mason
General Manager



Highland Lakes Domestic Use Contract Program

Domestic use:

Use by an individual or single household for drinking, washing, cooking, lawn irrigation, a small family garden, orchard or for use by domestic animals.

For more information contact:

Water Services
1-800-776-5272,
Ext. 1535

LCRA's Web site
www.lcra.org
(Search for
domestic use packet)

What is the Highland Lakes Domestic Use Contract Program?

A program for lakeside residents to get a contract from LCRA to pump water from the Highland Lakes.

Why is LCRA managing this program?

The Highland Lakes, including lakes Buchanan, Inks, LBJ, Marble Falls, Travis and Austin, are an important source of water for cities, industry, agriculture and the environment throughout the basin. As steward of this valuable but finite resource, LCRA has the responsibility to carefully conserve, manage and account for the use of water from the lakes. This becomes increasingly important during drought. Lakeside residents wishing to take water from the lakes must first have a contract with LCRA or have other legal authorization to take water from the lakes under state law.

How much does water cost under an LCRA domestic use contract?

The current annual rate for domestic water is \$138 per acre-foot of water (325,851 gallons.) The contracts are from one to three years. A minimum amount of 0.75 acre-feet per year and a charge of \$103.50 a year is required. The average amount for most customers is less than one acre-foot.

Isn't the amount of water being used for domestic use insignificant compared to the amount used for other purposes?

LCRA estimates that an average of 5,000 acre-feet per year is being pumped from the Highland Lakes by lakeside residents – most of it for lawn watering. Based on population and development projections, this use is expected to increase to more than 10,000 acre-feet per year by 2050. That is enough water to supply some types of power plants.

How do I know whether I have an existing right to take water from the lakes under state law without a need for a contract with LCRA?

No one has the right to take water that has been stored in the Highland Lakes without a contract with LCRA. Only a person with an old "riparian" water right could possibly take water from the Colorado River, absent a contract with LCRA, a domestic and livestock exemption or a water right issued by the state of Texas.

I have been pumping water for years for free. Why should I have to pay?

It is only fair that all water customers pay their share of the costs for maintaining the dams, water quality and water conservation programs, and water supply planning.

What happens if I do not sign a contract with LCRA?

LCRA will do everything it can to help inform and work with lake residents who would like to pump water. Ultimately, unauthorized pumping is illegal and those responsible are subject to civil and criminal penalties through enforcement by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and court action by the state, LCRA, and others.



**Domestic Use Water Sale Agreement
Application**

Name _____ Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Physical Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

Diversion Point _____ in _____ County
(Name of Lake, River, Creek)

Term to begin _____ (month) _____ (year). Duration: 1 year; 2 years; or 3 years

A customer may request that their address and phone number be kept confidential, unless required or mandated by law.
 Yes (request for confidentiality) No (do not request confidentiality)

Please complete the information below which LCRA will use to estimate your annual water use in accordance with LCRA's Outdoor Watering Schedule:

From whom do you receive your potable water? _____

Lot size per the Appraisal District (in acres; 1 acre equals 43,560 square feet):

- less than ½ acre – annual use of 0.75 acre-feet *
- ½ acre to 1 acre – annual use of 1.75 acre-feet
- 1 acre to 1 ½ acres – annual use of 2.75 acre-feet
- 1 ½ acres to 2 acres – annual use of 3.75 acre-feet
- if over 2 acres please complete the following information:

(1) What is the total square footage of your lot?	square feet
(2) What is the total <i>ground-floor</i> square footage of your house and garage?	square feet
(3) SUBTRACT Line 2 from Line 1. This is the potential irrigated area.	square feet
(4) Are there any other areas of your lot that are not irrigated? _____ If yes, what is the estimated additional NON-IRRIGATED area of your lot?	square feet
(5) SUBTRACT Line 4 from Line 3. This is your TOTAL IRRIGATED AREA	square feet
(6) Annual irrigation water use: (Line 5)+43,560 X 3.6 acre-feet per irrigated acre = Line 6	acre-feet per year*

* One acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons; the minimum contract quantity is 0.75 acre-feet per year.
 LCRA's current raw water rate is \$138 per acre-foot (approximately \$0.42 per 1,000 gallons)

LCRA Outdoor Watering Schedule	
Addresses ending in odd numbers:	Wednesdays and Saturdays
Addresses ending in even numbers:	Thursdays and Sundays
Maximum amount of water to apply:	1 inch per week (or ½ inch twice a week)
Watering times:	Midnight to 10:00 AM; 7:00 PM to Midnight
Watering months:	March through October
<i>Please turn off automatic sprinkler systems from November through February (During these months, irrigation should only occur on an as needed basis, i.e. once or twice a month in the absence of normal rainfall.)</i>	

To the best of my knowledge, the information I have provided is true and I agree to follow the LCRA Outdoor Watering Schedule:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return your completed application and a map identifying your diversion point to:

LCRA
 ATTN: Anissa Menefee
 PO Box 220 – R325
 Austin, Texas 78767-0220
 In Austin, (512) 473-3231 or 1-800-776-5272 ext. 1535
 (512) 473-3551 fax