

LCA President's Letter April 1, 2021

By now most of you may have heard about the LCA's decision to file a petition in the Montgomery County courts seeking an injunction to stop the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) and the City of Houston (CoH) spring phase of the Seasonal Lake Lowering Program (SLLP). Our request for a fair, factual, and non-emotional hearing is a year overdue. It is one we sought first from the SJRA Board then subsequently we took our complaint to the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ). We have diligently and patiently followed the process set before us by the SJRA and then the TCEQ.

Each effort has been precluded from either presenting the comprehensive facts that the SLLP is not effective, wasteful, and damaging to many facets of Lake Conroe or not adequately investigated. The SJRA Board failed to agree to workshops where both sides could objectively present their arguments in a consultative and technically supported dialogue. In the case of the TCEQ our June 2020 complaint was not adequately reviewed, and the great majority of major issues were not even addressed. We then went back and spent months to document every gallon released via the SLLP as well as trace those same gallons which were reported by the CoH to be used for "municipal purposes". Our research proved these **37 billion gallons** from Lake Conroe **were completely discharged along with 2-12 times that volume** from other sources and could therefore not have been used for "municipal use" as was reported by the CoH to the TCEQ. This last complaint documents that the CoH has not only been in violation of their water rights permit they have submitted false reports. The TCEQ has had this information, fully documented, for over three months without a request from them to meet and review our complaint and as of late they even stopped responding to our emails on the status of the complaint.

Given this lack of a fair hearing by those who are supposed to serve the public the LCA Board recently endorsed several actions including the court injunction. For over eighteen months we have counseled our area residents to avoid class action legal actions or individual lawsuits as we have tried to follow the process that the SJRA and TCEQ has in place. It has become very obvious that the SJRA is in the difficult position of having to accept the CoH requests to use their water rights for the SLLP which are allowed by the TCEQ's temporary discretion letter stating a timeframe of of 2-3 years and issued in June 2018.

The TCEQ's lack of response for three months given we have submitted their own data and made it easy for them to analyze our complaint is hard to understand. We have run out of time for their conclusions.

If we did not act, then the SJRA at the CoH request **would now be releasing 7 billion gallons** from Lake Conroe and dropping the level 1 foot. This would be arbitrary as there is no major storm system in the forecast and all the water would be wasted as before. We suffered through 600 days of abnormally low water levels in 2019 and 2020. Lake Conroe reached full pool January 1, 2021 only three months ago.

What we currently see on the lake is normal and not wasted nor undervalued by any Lake Conroe resident or business owner. Please help take up the public messaging of our research and facts about the ineffectiveness and waste of the SLLP. Much is on our website and much more is coming. Also please donate to our efforts – we were only able to complete our technical studies and significant legal research through individual donations to our efforts, The next step is contentious and expensive so please help, join as a member, and keep checking the website for new updates.

Kevin Lacy