

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 28, 2016



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## **Update on Status of Lake Conroe**

*At this time, Lake Conroe remains closed to motorized vessels due to the presence of submerged objects, floating debris, and other hazards that could put people's safety at risk. Non-motorized vessels such as canoes, kayaks, and rafts are permitted to use the reservoir. We recognize that this is Memorial Day weekend, and we will make every effort to fully reopen the reservoir as soon as conditions allow.*

As of 1:00 PM today, Lake Conroe had crested at a level of 204.5' above mean sea level and is beginning to recede. This is 3.5 feet above normal pool level. Releases from the dam peaked (and are currently holding) at a release rate of 22,245 cubic feet per second. See Figure 1 below for a graph showing the water level in Lake Conroe over the past several days.

At 204.5' MSL, this is the second highest level that Lake Conroe has ever reached. To put this in perspective, below are data points for major rainfall events on Lake Conroe:

Date	Peak Lake Level	Peak Release
October 1994	205.6' msl	33,300 cfs
May 2016	204.5' msl	22,200 cfs
November 1998	204.2' msl	27,400 cfs
November 2002	203.8' msl	21,700 cfs
June 2001	203.8' msl	9,800 cfs
March 2016	203.1' msl	7,600 cfs
April 2016 (Tax Day)	202.3' msl	7,000 cfs

This has been an extraordinary rainfall event. Over the past 48 hours, the Lake Conroe watershed experienced rainfall totals from five to nine inches. Gauges in southern Montgomery County registered 11 to 13 inches of rainfall. In addition, these totals were reached in a very short period of time resulting in dangerous road conditions and a rapid rise in the level of Lake Conroe.

For anyone interested in monitoring the current conditions of the reservoir, SJRA provides continuous data regarding lake level and release rate on its homepage ([www.sjra.net](http://www.sjra.net)). In addition, real time gauge data can be accessed by clicking the link labeled “Lake & River Conditions” (look for the link labeled San Jacinto Contrail Web).

For data regarding when the various rivers and streams in our area will reach their crest and begin to recede, visit the National Weather Service’s River Forecast Center at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=hgx>. Here you can click on a river or stream gauge and view a graph showing the historic and projected water level.

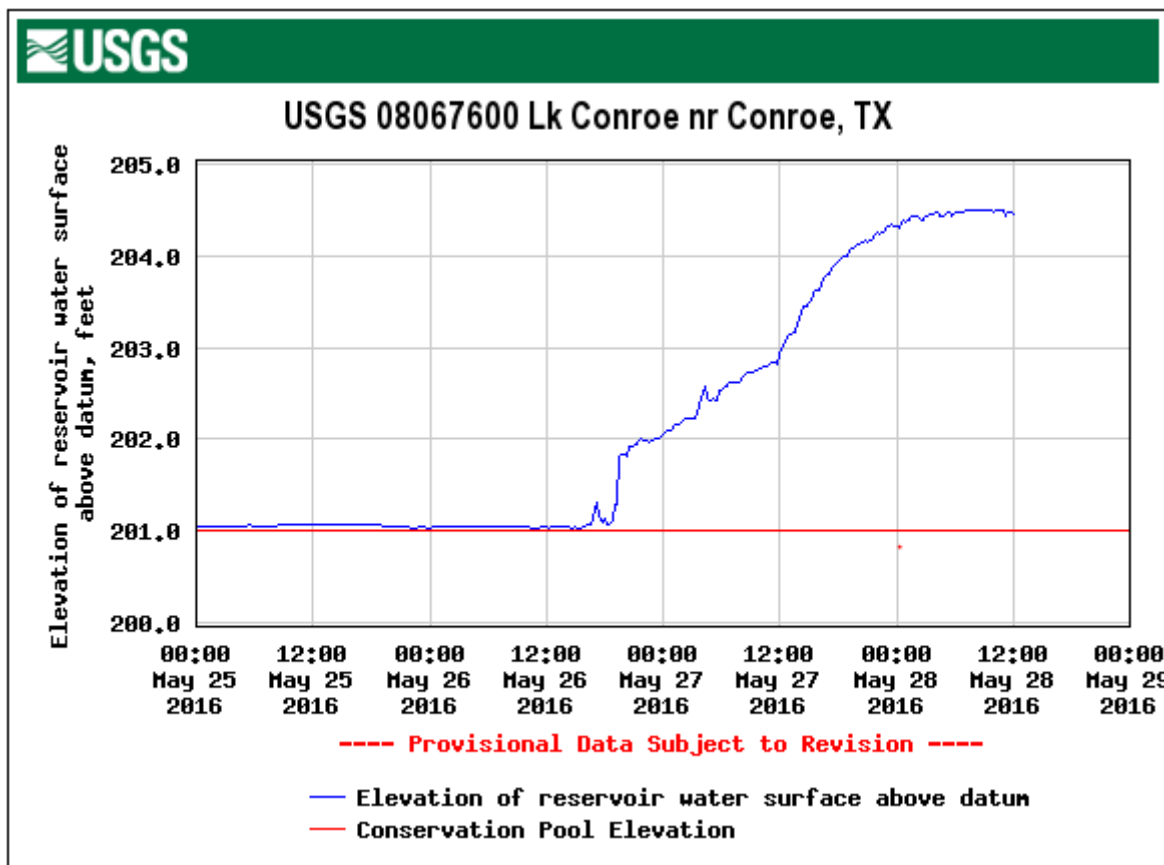


Figure 1. Graph showing water level of Lake Conroe over the past four days.

SJRA often receives questions about whether releases from Lake Conroe are contributing to flooding in other areas. Some of these areas are not located downstream of Lake Conroe but instead are actually located in other watersheds. The map below (Figure 2) is intended to clarify where the different streams in the San Jacinto basin are located and how much flow is occurring in each stream. This is just a snapshot of flows at 2:00 PM today. Many of these streams have not crested and will continue to rise.

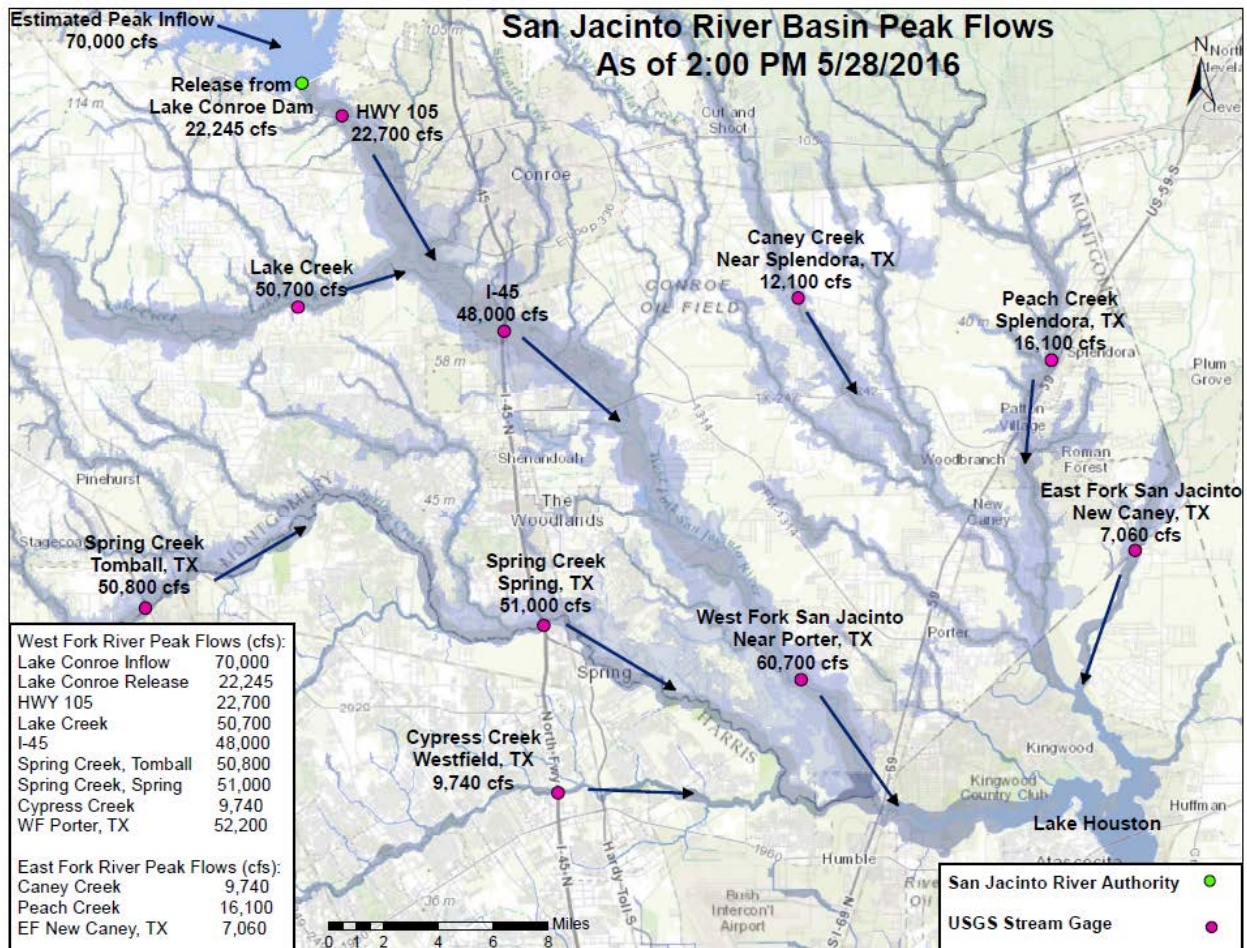


Figure 2. Snapshot of peak flows in the San Jacinto basin at mid-day on Saturday, May 28, 2016.