



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Houston Orders Decrease in Release from Lake Conroe

On Friday the City of Houston issued an official notice to the San Jacinto River Authority ordering that the amount of water being released from the City's two-thirds share of the water rights in Lake Conroe be decreased to 150 million gallons per day. The release rate to the City has been 165 million gallons per day since Saturday, October 15. The release was decreased to 150 million gallons per day on Sunday, November 20.

Engineering staff for the City of Houston indicated that the decrease takes into account recent rain events. The City's letter states that "The releases are for the purpose of most fully utilizing our 2011 San Jacinto water rights and best preparing for 2012 with continuing drought conditions expected." The amount of water released from Lake Conroe will be monitored daily and adjusted based on weather conditions and the City's storage requirements.

In terms of impact to the level of Lake Conroe, SJRA staff had previously estimated that the release rate of 150 MGD would result in approximately half an inch of drawdown per day, which when added to evaporation was expected to result in a decline of approximately 2 feet per month. The actual measured lake level drawdown for each of the past three months has been approximately 1.3 feet per month, which is slightly less than what was estimated with evaporation included. Assuming the City of Houston releases continue and no rainfall is received in the basin, SJRA staff estimate that the lake level will continue to decline at a rate of approximately 1 ¼ feet per month through the winter months.

Lakefront property owners with boat slips should monitor water levels and take appropriate action as needed to trailer their boats or store them in marinas until normal rainfall patterns return and lake levels begin to rise. There continues to be significant

recreational use of the lake, and boaters are encouraged to use caution and be alert for shallow areas and stumps.

For more details and a list of available boat ramps, please visit the SJRA's website at www.sjra.net. To receive updates via the internet or email, you can link to our Facebook page from our website or register your email address using the field in the lower right corner of our home page.

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