FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 11:30 am; March 30, 2018



## Lake Conroe Temporarily Closed Due to High Levels, Submerged Objects, and Floating Debris

Effective immediately, the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) is temporarily closing Lake Conroe due to high lake levels, the presence of submerged objects, floating debris, and other hazards that could put people's safety at risk.

We recognize that this is Easter weekend, and we will make every effort to fully reopen the reservoir as soon as conditions allow.

The lake level has risen to nearly 203' above mean sea level (msl), which is two feet over the lake's normal pool level of 201' msl.

At this level, many docks, bulkheads, small islands, and other structures are fully submerged and create a very dangerous situation for boaters. In addition, high winds and rapidlyflowing water from local streams have resulted in a large amount of floating debris on the reservoir. With bulkheads becoming submerged, lake area residents should also be cautious of electrical outlets and equipment coming into contact with water.

Over the last several days, the Lake Conroe watershed has experienced rainfall totals from five to eight inches. This has resulted in a rapid rise in lake level. SJRA is currently releasing water from the dam in accordance with its operating procedures for the reservoir. The rate of release is currently 6,526 cubic feet per second (cfs).

The estimated peak inflow into the lake during this event was nearly 30,000 cfs. This means that the operation of the dam reduced the peak flow that would otherwise have continued down the river.

The lake appears to have crested which should minimize how long the lake will remain closed.

Anyone interested in monitoring Lake Conroe levels, releases, rainfall totals, or stream flows can visit <u>https://sanjacinto.onerain.com/home.php</u>.

For additional information visit our website at <u>www.sjra.net</u>.