



FAQs Regarding PROPOSED Temporary, Seasonal Lake Lowering Strategy for Lake Conroe

5:00 PM; May 16, 2018

1. What action did the SJRA board take at its April meeting? Is this the only approval needed?

- a. The SJRA Board voted to PROPOSE a temporary, seasonal lake lowering strategy for Lake Conroe as a means of mitigating downstream flooding while dredging is completed in the lower West Fork of the San Jacinto River. The actual strategy is outlined below. The board's action authorized the General Manager to deliver the proposal to the City of Houston for the City's further consideration.
- b. The SJRA board's action is not the final step. As the majority water-right holder in Lake Conroe, the City of Houston still has to approve the proposal. The City of Houston is still in the process of considering its options related to flood mitigation strategies for Lake Houston. This proposal only addresses Lake Conroe.
- c. In addition, SJRA and the City of Houston are still in discussions with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to determine how releases will be treated for purposes of water rights accounting.

2. What exactly is the temporary, seasonal lake lowering proposal?

- a. As a point of reference, the normal pool level of Lake Conroe is 201' msl.
- b. Spring season – April 1 through May 31.
 - i. Starting on April 1, gradually reduce to and maintain the level of Lake Conroe at 200' msl (one foot below normal pool).
 - ii. Starting on June 1, begin to capture flows to restore normal lake elevation.
- c. Fall season – August 1 through September 30.
 - i. Starting on August 1, gradually reduce the level of Lake Conroe with a goal of reaching 200' msl (one foot below normal pool) by August 15.
 - ii. After August 15, continue gradually lowering the level of Lake Conroe with a goal of reaching (and maintaining) 199' msl (two feet below normal pool) by August 31.
 - iii. Starting October 1, begin to capture flows to restore normal lake elevation.
- d. If the lake level has already dropped to the target elevation just due to evaporation, no releases would be made.
- e. If a storm enters the forecast while releases are being made to lower the lake level, releases would be stopped and the river allowed to drain out until rainfall is out of the forecast.

3. When would the lake lowering strategy end?

- a. The intent of the proposal is to provide a near-term, flood mitigation benefit for the next one to three years while dredging of the lower West Fork is being completed.
- b. The SJRA board's proposal stated that the lake lowering strategy would be reviewed annually at the February board meeting and must be renewed by a vote of the Board in order to extend it for another year.