

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** March 20, 2020 CONTACT: Heather Ramsey Cook <u>hcook@sjra.net</u>

## SJRA: Precautions Regarding COVID-19

The San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) is closely monitoring updates and recommendations regarding the COVID-19 virus issued by Montgomery County, the State of Texas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). As always, the water provided by SJRA to utilities, municipalities, and Municipal Utility Districts is safe and meets, or in many areas exceeds, stringent state and federal standards.

## Water Supply

According to the CDC, EPA, and TCEQ, the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinkingwater supplies. Conventional water treatment and disinfection methods such as those in most municipal drinking water systems should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19. <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html</u>

"As a wholesale water provider, the safety and health of the communities we serve is our top priority. The water professionals at SJRA have always worked 24/7 year-round to maintain our quality of service to the community and we will continue to do so through this COVID-19 event," said SJRA General Manager Jace Houston. "Our water and wastewater treatment systems remain safe. We have already made plans in the event that there are any impacts to our supply chain, such as chemical and material suppliers. We continue to plan for successfully meeting the current challenges."

## At SJRA Offices

In compliance with Montgomery County, Harris County, and State of Texas guidelines as well as for the protection and health of our employees and the community we serve, we are limiting inperson visits to appointment only. Visitors are urged to please call (936) 588-3111 before dropping by. Each SJRA division office throughout our service area is equipped with a receptacle outside the front door for deliveries.

## Lake Conroe

SJRA continues to welcome visitors to Lake Conroe. During this time of increased isolation, the lake can provide a wonderful opportunity to get out of the house. The community is strongly urged to observe federal, state, and local COVID-19 guidelines if visiting the lake.

CDC recommendations on social distancing and limiting groups to less than 10 people – whether on your boat or using public beach areas such as Ayers Island—should be followed. Hygiene recommendations should be practiced when visiting any common areas such as gas stations, marinas, or boat launches. Visitors should also review Montgomery County emergency proclamations for information related to visiting county parks, including the Lake Conroe Park off of SH 105 managed by Montgomery County. Our highest priority is for the health and well-being of our visitors and employees. We continue to monitor public health recommendations and work with the local and state government to reduce the expansion of the COVID-19 virus. SJRA will continue to monitor official sources and may enact additional restrictions if necessary.

One of the major river authorities in Texas, SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. For additional information on SJRA visit our website at <u>www.sjra.net</u>, like SJRA on Facebook <u>@SanJacintoRiverAuthority</u>, follow us on Twitter <u>@SJRA\_1937</u>, or find us on Instagram <u>@SanJacintoRiverAuthoritySJRA</u>.

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