



## **Joint Flood Mitigation Strategy Seasonal Lake Lowering at Lake Conroe Frequently Asked Questions**

- **Why does SJRA lower Lake Conroe during certain times of the year?**
  - The City of Houston (COH or Houston) and SJRA began this program in 2018 to provide flood mitigation benefits for downstream residents in both Montgomery and Harris counties by creating storage space in Lake Conroe to capture rainfall and storm water runoff. All water released as part of this program is a diversion of Houston's water rights in Lake Conroe.
  
- **When does lowering at Lake Conroe happen?**
  - The strategy of temporarily lowering Lake Conroe occurs during the spring rainy season in April and May and again during hurricane season in August and September of each year.
  
- **How is the seasonal lake lowering program implemented?**
  - Normal conservation pool level for Lake Conroe is 201 feet mean sea level (msl). For the spring season, beginning April 1, the COH may call for the release of water from Lake Conroe to lower the lake level to 200.5 feet msl, or six inches below normal pool. *If the lake is already at or below 200.5, then no water would be released.* After June 1, the lake is allowed to return to its normal level of 201' msl.
  
  - For the fall season, beginning August 1, the COH may call for the release of water from Lake Conroe to lower the lake level to 200.5 feet msl, and after September 1, the COH can call for an additional release to reach 200.0 feet msl. This means the target is six inches below normal pool in August and one foot in September. *If the lake is already at or below these targets, then no water would be released.* After October 1, the lake is allowed to return to its normal level of 201' msl.
  
  - During either the spring or fall lowering, if a major storm event is predicted to impact our region, the COH may initiate an additional release to create more storage capacity by notifying SJRA in writing.

- All water released as part of this program comes from the COH's 2/3 share of permitted water supply in Lake Conroe and must be requested by the COH. SJRA staff coordinate with COH staff on the details and timing of any releases. Coordination with COH involves ensuring that a Lake Conroe release considers releases from Lake Houston.
- **How was this latest compromise program developed?**
  - SJRA met with numerous stakeholders from impacted communities both upstream and downstream of the Lake Conroe dam, and then hosted a series of meetings so that both communities could express their positions and work together on a compromise.
  - The stakeholders included representatives from the Lake Conroe Association and Partnership Lake Houston.
- **How long will the seasonal lake lowering program be in effect?**
  - As part of the stakeholder compromise, the seasonal lake lowering program was extended by one year and is currently set to run through the end of 2023.
  - The stakeholders agreed to meet each year to discuss the status of the program and consider any future adjustments. It is possible that the policy could be extended, though ultimately the water released for seasonal lake lowering is owned and called for by COH, and the COH has the ability to call for water from its 2/3 share of Lake Conroe at any time.