Lake Conroe Association 2026 Townhall and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Kevin Lacy – LCA President

January 16, 2026

Agenda for Townhall 9-10:30 (approximately)

- **President's Update –**
- Introduction of Board and any Guests
    - **A brief history of the issues that have evolved since Hurricane Harvey**
    - **A full look at 2024 Active Storm Management (ASM) Failures**
    - **What has happened or did not happen in 2025 – our concerns.**
    - **Discussion of the possible paths forward – Q&A**
- **Adjourn Townhall - at approx 10 or 10:30 AM – 15 min coffee break**

Hurricane Harvey LC Level Comparisons

April May 2024 Storms Harvey level releases. 72,000 cfs Lake Height 204.8'msl 3rd highest

January 2024 Storm Lake Height 204.2'msl 5th highest

9" rain 19,000 cfs

Storm Event	Peak Lake Level*	Peak Release	Rainfall (rate & duration varies)
August 2017 (Harvey)	206.2' msl	79,141 cfs	Over 22" (13" on Sunday)
October 1994	205.6' msl	33,300 cfs	13-15"
May 1983	204.6' msl	8,500 cfs	8"
May 2016 (Memorial Day)	204.5' msl	22,200 cfs	9.5"
November 1998	204.2' msl	27,400 cfs	11"
November 2002	203.8' msl	21,700 cfs	6.5"
June 2001	203.8' msl	9,800 cfs	9.3"
March 2016	203.1' msl	7,600 cfs	7"
April 2016 (Tax Day)	202.3' msl	7,000 cfs	7.5"

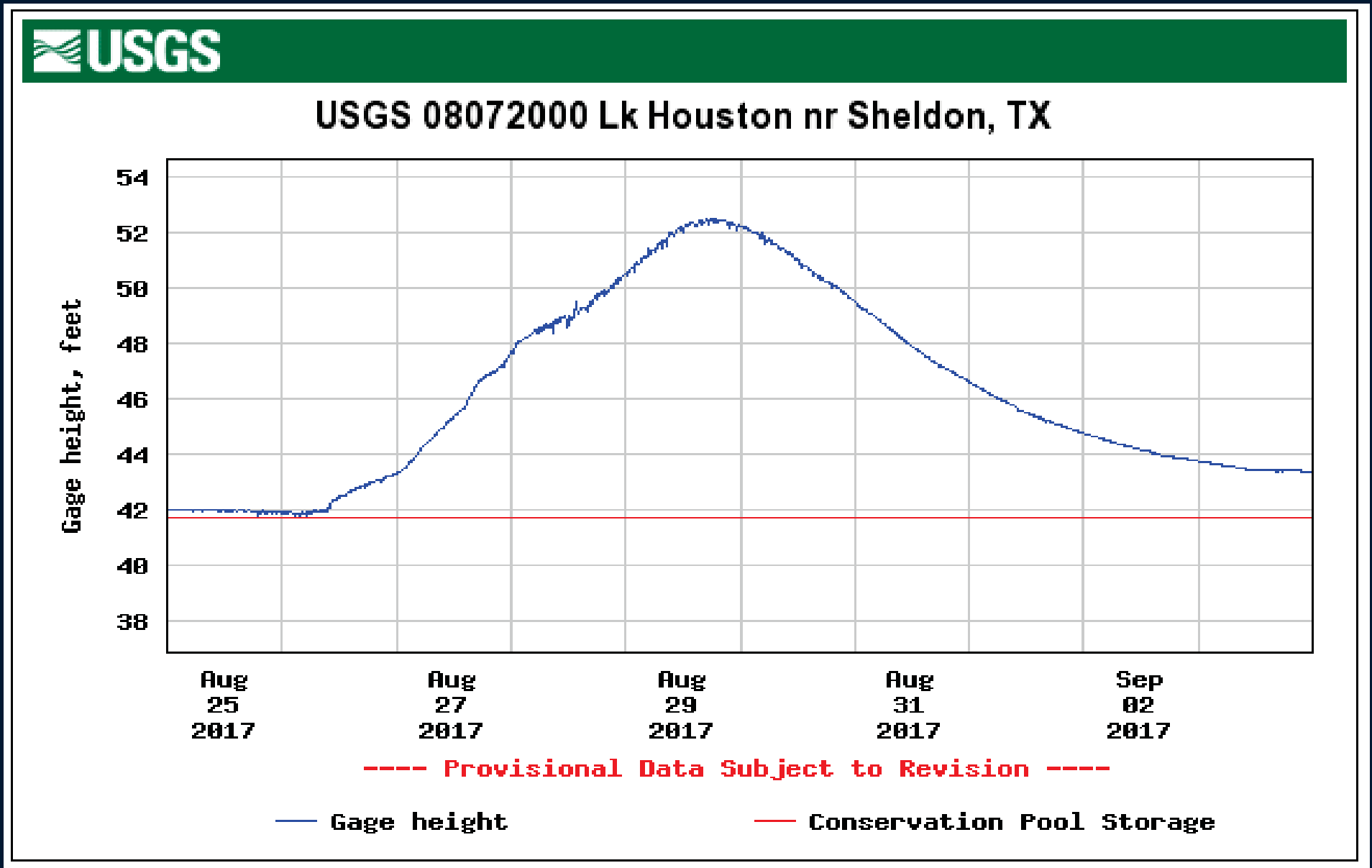
Lake Houston Hurricane Harvey Water Levels

Approximately a 10’ crest height.

No “ripple” as claimed due to Lake Conroe dam release arrivals.

Also, no prerelease of 1-3 feet as was possible and is now common practice.*

* “Release of 1 ft in the event of 3–6-inch rain forecast and more if higher rain forecasted”.



Context and Dates of the four different Lake Conroe Lowering Programs / Protocols

1. **Seasonal Lake Lowering Program (SLLP) Phase I-** Fall 2018 – 2019 - a temporary program authorized by the TCEQ for dredging of the West Fork. Dredging was completed in Sept. 2019.
2. **SLLP Phase II** – City of Houston (CoH) requested of the SJRA Board an extension of the temporary SLLP - same criteria as Phase I – Spring up to 1 foot lowering and Fall - up to 2 feet lowering). No TCEQ authorization was requested or given. **This Phase w*as approved to end by EoY 2022*** *when the Lake Houston Dam Spillway project was initially promised to be completed.*
3. **Compromise SLLP** - In late 2021 due to LCA complaints before the TCEQ and filed lawsuits the CoH and SJRA sought a compromise to allow additional needed time (2-3 years) as the Spillway project was significantly delayed. *New lowering protocol allowed for 6-12 inches below full pool in the Spring (April and May) and 12-18 inches in the Fall (August and September)There were* ***no calls for lowering for flood mitigation in 2022 and 2023*** *(two years)*.
4. **Active Storm Management** - In late 2023 CoH and SJRA proposed a 2024 program named Active Storm Management (ASM) – criteria was to be the same as 2023 Compromise SLLP but dependent on future TCEQ approvals and technical studies. LCA agreed that *if ASM was technically based and had TCEQ approvals (as it did not result in either waste or violations of water permit) they would support.*

Volumes Prereleased From Lake Conroe Since 2018 = 46 billion gallons

Period	Total Acre-Feet	Total Gallons	Billions of Gallons
2018 - Fall	18,277	5,955,703,969	6.0
2019 - Spring	48,271	15,729,152,241	15.7
2019 - Fall	17,073	5,563,267,025	5.6
2020 - Spring	25,580	8,335,344,043	8.3
2021 - Spring	16,241	5,292,228,149	5.3
2021 - Fall	7,478	2,436,578,905	2.4
2024 – Spring and June*	7,630	2,486,157,704	2.5
Total	**140,550**	**45,798,432,036**	**45.8**

*June 14-19, 2024
5.5” lowering – only .5” of rain – LCA Complaint breach of
2024 ASM terms and unnecessary waste of 2.4 billion gallons

Primary Objections to Prerelease Lowering of Lake Conroe for Downstream Flood Mitigation

- In 2018 Lowering was **promised to be temporary by the SJRA/ CoH** and documented as temporary in letters to the Governor, TCEQ ,and State Legislators.
- Lowering lake levels to avoid interference with West Fork dredging operations in 2018 and 2019 **were widely supported**. Dredging was completed in Sept. 2019.
- A highly debated extension of lowering with no supporting technical study was approved by the SJRA Board in **Feb 2020 for two years** to allow the Lake Houston dam spillway project to be finished. **Construction has not even started yet in 2026.**
- **Objections** were raised in 2020 and are still valid that **all technical studies** show lowering ,even by as much as 2 feet, provides **no material reduction in flooding.**
- **No TCEQ authorization** beyond dredging was ever issued for subsequent lowering programs. **Nor is flood mitigation allowed as a use in the Lake Conroe water permit.**
- Finally, it has been shown by public data that the lowering volumes diverted to Lake Houston from Lake Conroe **could not be used but instead are fully wasted.**

Lowering Objection #1 – no supporting technical studies - Six highly qualified entities or individuals concluded lake level lowering or prerelease at Lake Conroe was not effective for a "100 year" or greater storm and it could actually make "downstream flooding worse".

Dec 2020 RWMD Study

SAN JACINTO REGIONAL WATERSHED MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN

Apr 2018 – 2 studies for SJRA

FREESE AND NICHOLS

Sept 2019 SJRA Dockline Article Contradicted in Nov 2019 SJRA Press Release?

Apr 2017 TCEQ letter to SJRA

Footnote – Mar 2020 Letter from Governor Abbot's office –"It is our understanding that the plan set forth by SJRA and City of Houston to temporarily lower Lake Conroe is not a long-term solution , but a temporary measure."

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February 2020

Conclusion:

While there is a positive impact to the water surface elevations of West fork from US-59 to Lake Houston, it Is our professional opinion that these reductions, under the given storm characteristics, are still generally **not enough to be considered wholesale improvements to the flood hazards along the West Fork**.

Note that this study extended all the way down to the Lake Houston area, and concluded a **2-3 inch difference in flood height elevation (which is equal to 1%) as compared to an **average flood height of 15-20 feet** and that the SLLP therefore has no material impact.*

March 2024 - Bob Rehac – *"Upstream Watersheds' Relative Contributions to Lake Houston Area Flooding"*

"**2-million-acre** feet would drain into Lake Houston due to a 100-year storm."

"That volume would fill all of Lake Conroe 4.75 times."

Lowering Objection #2 - Since 2020 Prerelease lowering has no TCEQ authorization & violates the beneficial use requirements of the water permit.

The state of Texas owns all the rights to surface water and allocates those rights to various entities through the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) via water permits. **Each entity must report annually as to the use and purpose of any volumes utilized from its annual allocation via a Water Use Report (WUR).**

The San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) and City of Houston (CoH) are joint permittees under Certificate 10-4963 for impounding up to 430,260 acre-feet of state waters, and annual use of up to 100,000 acre-ft **for municipal, industrial, agricultural and mining purposes (beneficial uses)** , with an original maximum diversion rate of 700 cfs, and the use of all impounded water for recreational purposes. **The CoH has 2/3 and the SJRA has 1/3 of the annual allocation of 100,000-acre feet.**

Lowering Lake Conroe for downstream flood mitigation is not an authorized use per TCEQ permit #4963. The TCEQ did extend "temporary discretion" on enforcing any exceedance of water volumes diverted during dredging of the West Fork in 2018 and 2019. **That temporary discretion expired after dredging was completed in late 2019.**

An LCA Freedom of Information search request in 2025 of all relevant records from 2020 until end of 2025 of the TCEQ found **no authorization for using prerelease lowering for downstream flood mitigation has ever been requested by the CoH or SJRA nor issued by the TCEQ to date.**

Lowering Objection #3 - All water diverted from Lake Conroe for prerelease flood mitigation has been fully wasted and not used for any beneficial use.

- The following slides represent water flows into Lake Houston on a typical day and on a day when Lake Houston is being lowered usually by one foot ahead of a forecasted 3–6-inch rain event.
- On a typical day no water is leaving Lake Conroe for use by the City of Houston for water supplies or industrial use as it is not needed.
- Water from sources along the West Fork and East Fork provide adequate or even excess volumes in all cases. Excess water from any source flows over and out the Lake Houston spillway to the Gulf.
- During Lake Houston lowering prerelease the Lake Houston dam gates are opened to increase flows leaving Lake Houston to the Gulf.

Lake Houston daily normal inflows and typical volumes used as permitted.

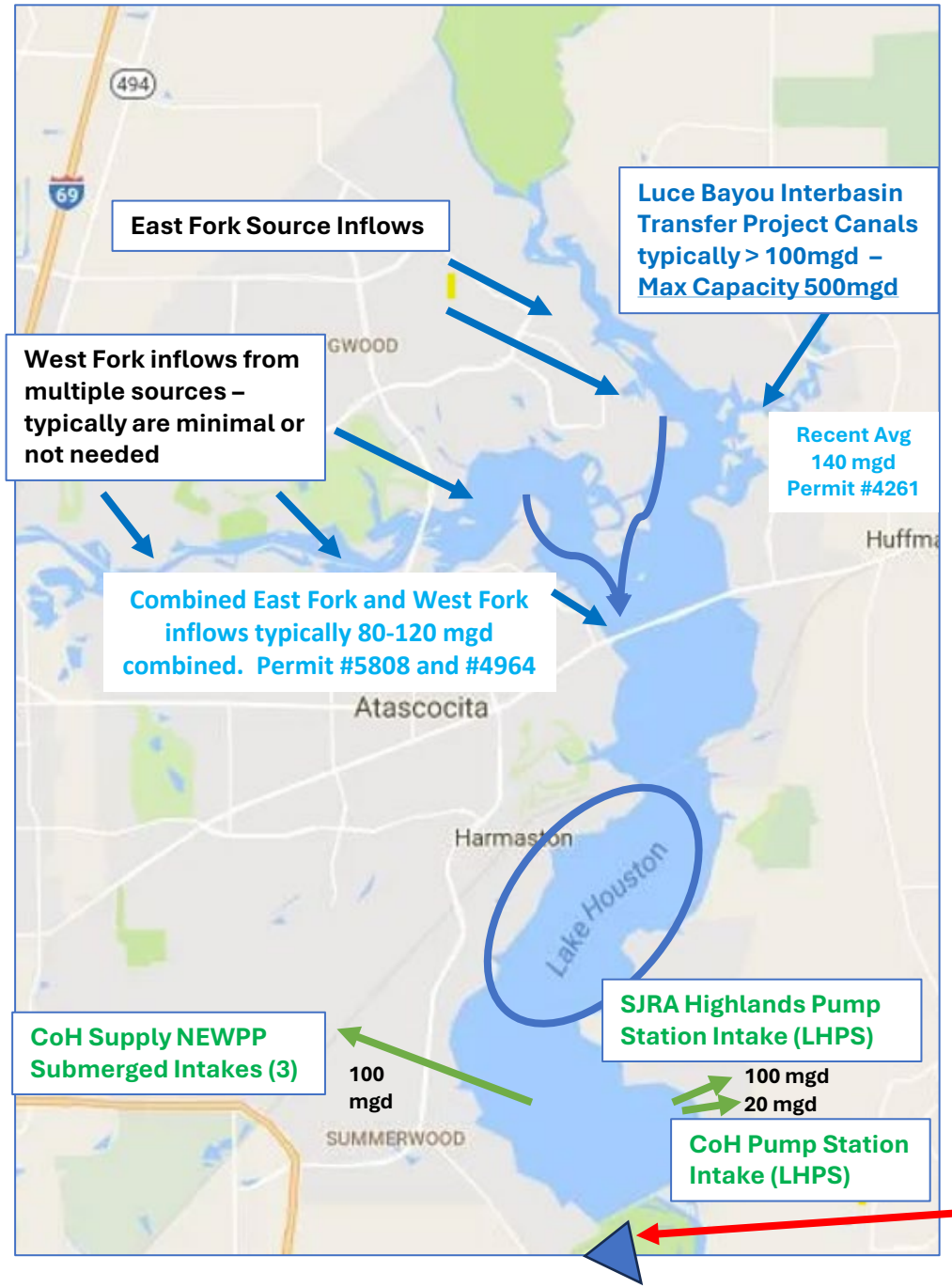
Lake Conroe water supply diverted to Lake Houston was intended as a supplemental water supply. Built in the 70's pre-Luce Bayou.

City of Houston has only called upon Lake Conroe once in 50 years for water supply due the 2011/2 drought.

Once the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project (LBITP) canals were opened it now provides needed daily water supplies and can fully satisfy any supplemental water supply needed by City of Houston.

Lake Conroe is no longer needed as a primary or back up water supply for the City of Houston.

Note that the "arrows" are not proportional to flow rates which are indicated by the numbers shown in mgd.



This slide represents a typical day (no water is being released or diverted from Lake Conroe Dam) into the West Fork River.

The average daily water intake by City of Houston NE Water Plant is **100 million** gallons per day (mgd). The CoH LHPS intake is **20 mgd** The SJRA Highlands Pump Station intake is **100 mgd.**

Total supply needs **are 220 mgd on average** and **provided by newly built Luce Bayou Project (>100 mgd) and 80-120 mgd** from other water sources flowing into the West and East Fork rivers.

The Luce Bayou Project can provide almost **3 times the daily intake needs** at Lake Houston. **The significant spare capacity from Luce Bayou eliminates the need for any back up water supplies from Lake Conroe.**

City of Houston Diversion (Prerelease) call on Lake Conroe water permit showing previous TCEQ permitted release rate..

CoH Call for water from Lake Conroe at 700 cfs for *beneficial* use - the previous max permitted diversion rate = 420 mgd

That diversion rate has been in place and sufficient since the dam started up.

The 700 cfs rate is sufficient to provide 4 times the CoH daily water supply needs and 2 times all the municipal and industrial water supply needs.

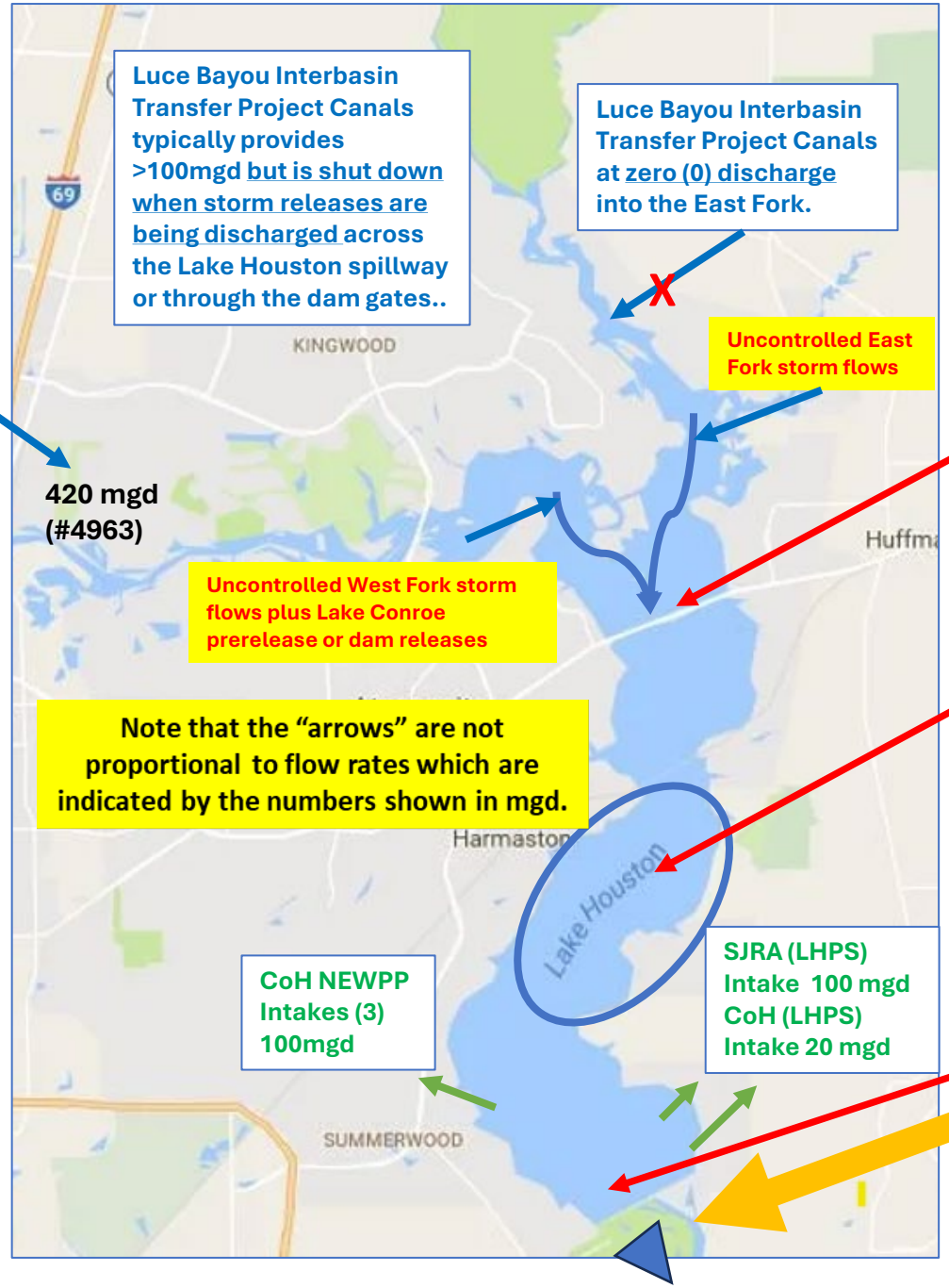
All excess has to flow to the Gulf.

Only once, in the drought of 2011/12, has CoH called for water diversions from Lake Conroe to meet municipal water needs.

TCEQ Permit #4963 does not authorize a rain event-based call /diversion from Lake Conroe to Lake Houston.

Any water diverted must be beneficially used.

This picture shows that is not possible for any of the Lake Conroe water to be used given the much higher volumes being discharged to the Gulf when the Lake Conroe water arrives.



LCA Lake Conroe Association

When there is lowering in progress there are no means **to segregate or divert the Lake Conroe volumes from other incoming volumes. These volumes are 2X to 12X times greater than the LC volumes arriving during storm release lowering at Lake Houston.**

With no means to segregate the Lake Conroe volumes it is physically impossible to use the LC water for any beneficial use as reported by CoH.

All excess water exits and is unused or wasted

via Lake Houston Spillway / Dam to Gulf.

Pre Storm and Storm Prerelease volumes across the spillway and through the dam gates range from 950-5400 mgd and go unused. Lake Conroe water fully wasted.

City of Houston Diversion (Prerelease) call on Lake Conroe water permit showing previous TCEQ permitted release rate..

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That diversion rate has been in place and sufficient since the dam started up. The 700 cfs rate is sufficient to provide 4 times the CoH daily water supply needs and 2 times [illegible] industrial wa[illegible]

All excess has to [illegible]

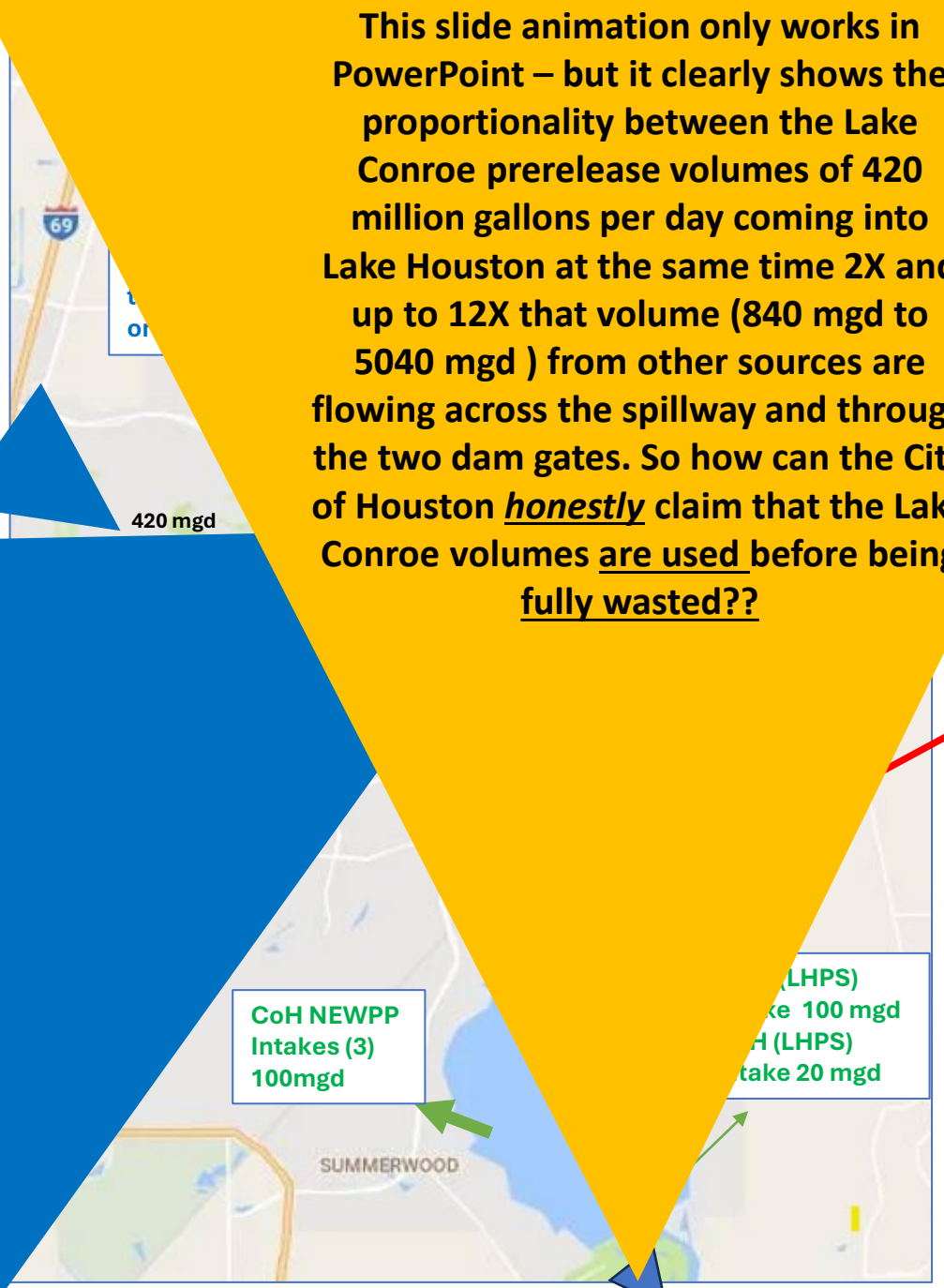
Only once, in the droug[illegible] CoH called for water dive[illegible] Conroe to meet municipa[illegible]

TCEQ Permit #4963 does not au[illegible] event-based call /diversion from[illegible] to Lake Houston.

Any water diverted must be beneficia[illegible]

This picture shows that is not possible f[illegible] of the Lake Conroe water to be used given[illegible] much higher volumes being discharged to[illegible] Gulf when the Lake Conroe water arrives.

This slide animation only works in PowerPoint – but it clearly shows the proportionality between the Lake Conroe prerelease volumes of 420 million gallons per day coming into Lake Houston at the same time 2X and up to 12X that volume (840 mgd to 5040 mgd) from other sources are flowing across the spillway and through the two dam gates. So how can the City of Houston *honestly* claim that the Lake Conroe volumes are used before being fully wasted??



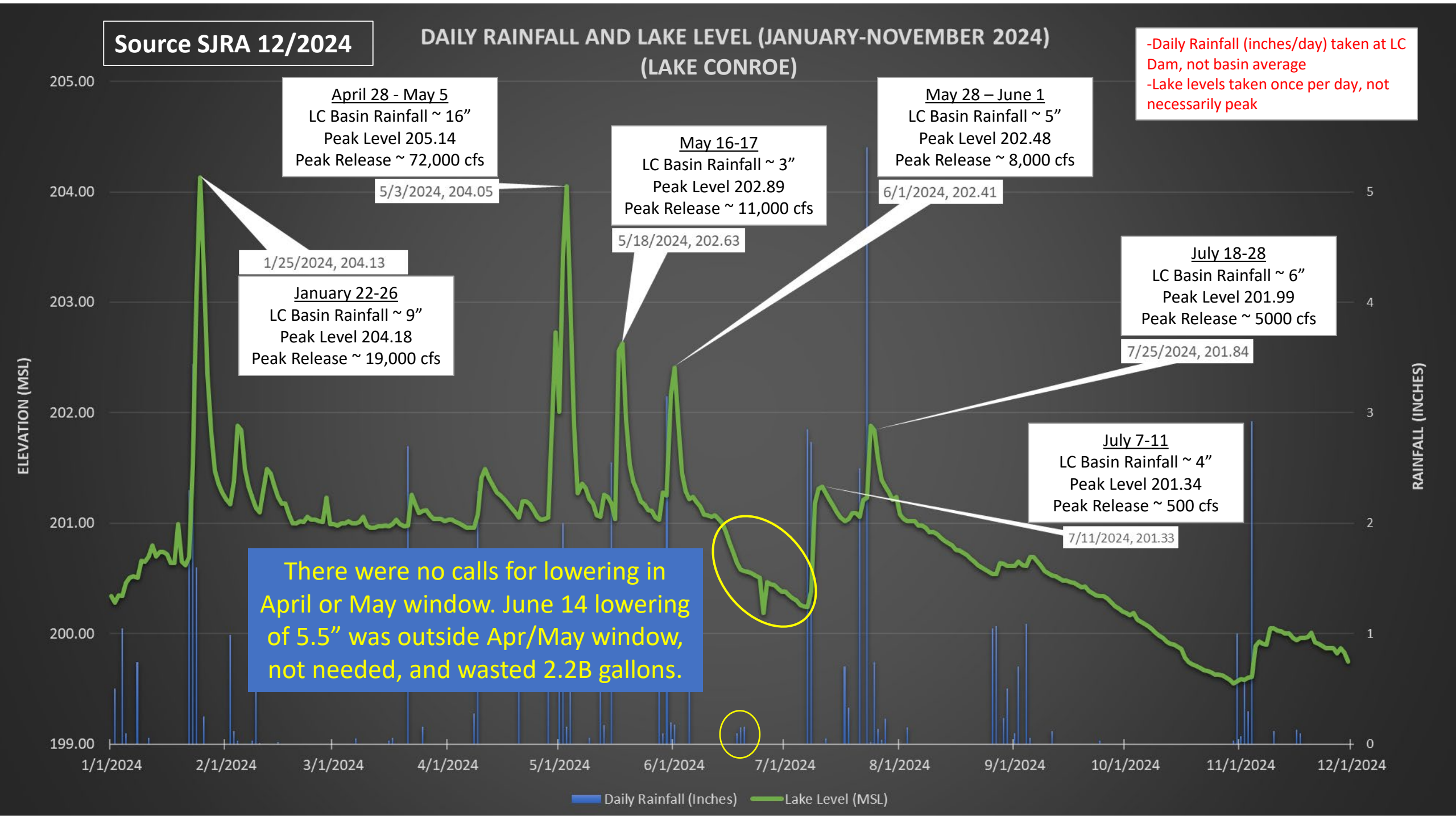
[illegible] the [illegible]volumes from other [illegible]coming volumes. These volumes are 2X to 12X times greater than the LC volumes arriving during storm release lowering at Lake Houston.

With no means to segregate the Lake Conroe volumes it is physically impossible to use the LC water for any beneficial use as reported by CoH.

All excess water exits and is unused or wasted

via Lake Houston Spillway / Dam to Gulf.

This graphic shows proportional Pre Storm and Storm release volumes into LH across the spillway and through the dam gates. Often during SLLP volumes as much as 12 times the Lake Conroe 420 mgd prerelease (5040 mgd) go fully unused with the Lake Conroe water also being fully unused / wasted.


Source SJRA 12/2024
DAILY RAINFALL AND LAKE LEVEL (JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2024)
(LAKE CONROE)
-Daily Rainfall (inches/day) taken at LC Dam, not basin average
-Lake levels taken once per day, not necessarily peak
April 28 - May 5
LC Basin Rainfall ~ 16”
Peak Level 205.14
Peak Release ~ 72,000 cfs
5/3/2024, 204.05
May 16-17
LC Basin Rainfall ~ 3”
Peak Level 202.89
Peak Release ~ 11,000 cfs
5/18/2024, 202.63
May 28 – June 1
LC Basin Rainfall ~ 5”
Peak Level 202.48
Peak Release ~ 8,000 cfs
6/1/2024, 202.41
1/25/2024, 204.13
January 22-26
LC Basin Rainfall ~ 9”
Peak Level 204.18
Peak Release ~ 19,000 cfs
July 18-28
LC Basin Rainfall ~ 6”
Peak Level 201.99
Peak Release ~ 5000 cfs
7/25/2024, 201.84
July 7-11
LC Basin Rainfall ~ 4”
Peak Level 201.34
Peak Release ~ 500 cfs
7/11/2024, 201.33
There were no calls for lowering in April or May window. June 14 lowering of 5.5” was outside Apr/May window, not needed, and wasted 2.2B gallons.
ELEVATION (MSL)
RAINFALL (INCHES)
205.00
204.00
203.00
202.00
201.00
200.00
199.00
5
4
3
2
1
0
1/1/2024
2/1/2024
3/1/2024
4/1/2024
5/1/2024
6/1/2024
7/1/2024
8/1/2024
9/1/2024
10/1/2024
11/1/2024
12/1/2024
Daily Rainfall (Inches)
Lake Level (MSL)

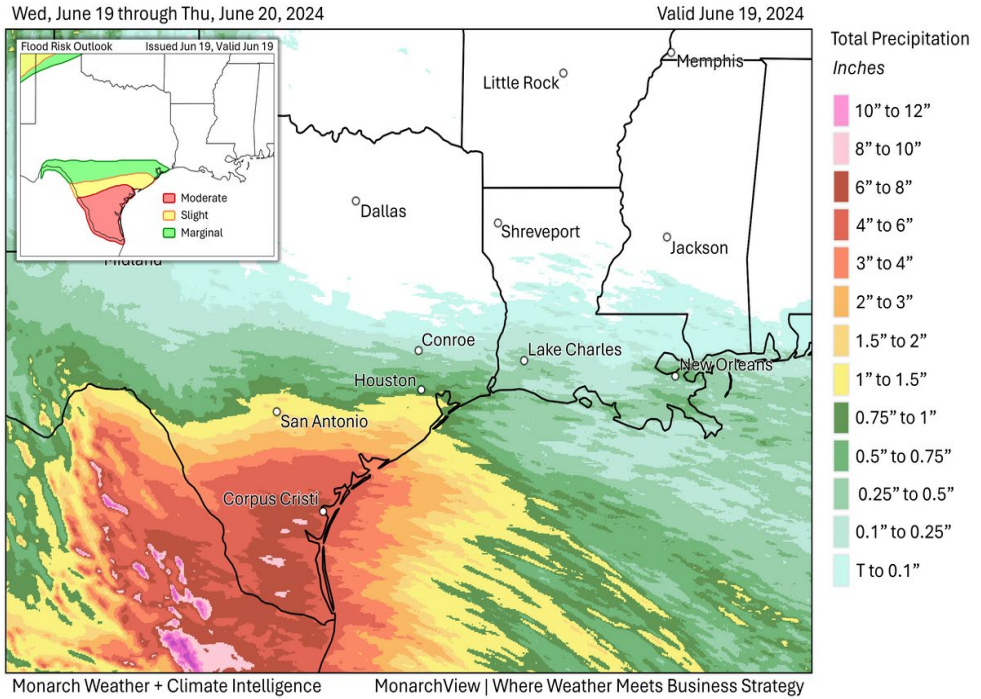
CoH / SJRA Active Storm Management ASM June 2024 Lowering

In mid-June of 2024, a mixed prediction of rainfall led to a non-essential lowering of the Lake Conroe level resulting in over **2.2 billion gallons of water wasted.**

The SJRA and CoH faced conflicting rainfall forecasts, with some outlets predicting a low probability of 3-6” of rainfall and others less than 1-2”.

Citing expected rain of 3-6” **CoH took an early, aggressive approach to** lowering. Coincidentally this was just after being “chewed out” by Gov Abbott about the April May storm flooding. The Lake Conroe water level was lowered **five days** in advance of the “expected” heavy rainfall, which did not materialize. **CoH / SJRA ignored multiple LCA calls to stop as the forecasts dropped daily.**

Observed rainfall during that event totaled just under a half an inch, and thus the lake level remained well below normal pool due to **5.5” of lowering.**



2024 Active Storm Management was random, poorly managed, and highly wasteful.
SJRA does not prerelease any of their 1/3 water allocations.
However, SJRA allows the CoH to call for water solely to lower Lake Conroe (“it’s their water” which is untrue) and therefore knowingly assists in violation of the water use permit.

Based upon 2024 ASM Diversions our concerns if ASM Continues

As can be seen by the high-water levels on Lake Conroe in January and April May 2024 the SJRA seems to be not be willing to use ASM to protect Lake Conroe and use any of "their water" for flood control.

June 2024 lowering started well before forecast probability was reliable, went on far too long as the forecast became more certain and much less intense, and resulted in avoidable and significant (2.2Bgal) water releases.

The LCA confronted the SJRA and CoH over a breach of the 2024 ASM by lowering outside the agreed date windows of April / May in June – windows that had been in writing and in place for seven years.

CoH replied and quoted a section of 2024 ASM that did not include the dates – stating no breach.

In December 2024 joint meetings an SJRA representative suggested that CoH could "call for water year-round for any purpose and with no written protocol or agreement". No joint meetings held since then as CoH "has not been available" to discuss a 2025 ASM or any protocol.

Texas, Montgomery County, and Conroe need more water now – any appreciable waste should end.

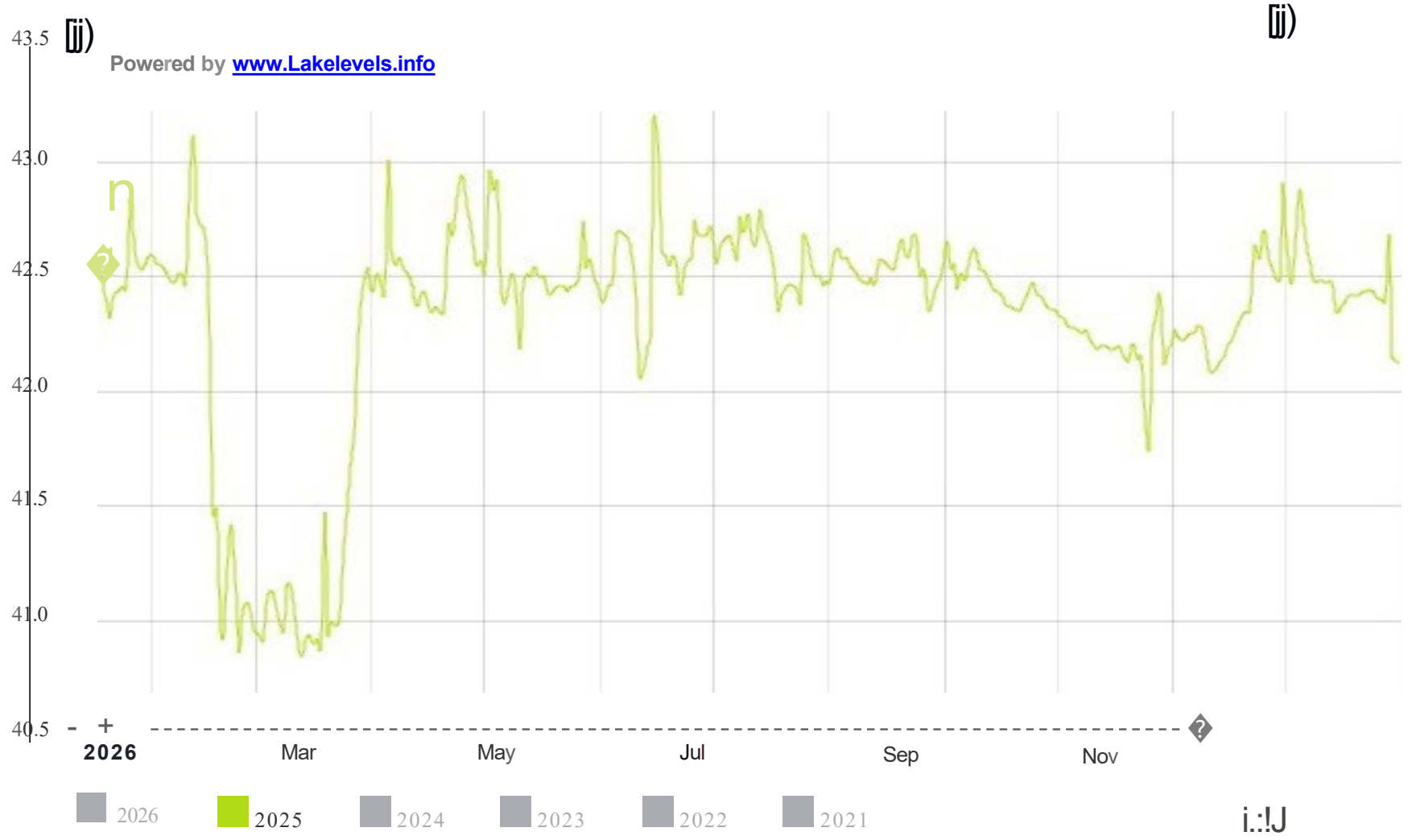
2025 Lake Houston Water Levels

WATER LEVEL

42.15

Feet MSL

Thursday, January 1, 2026
1:30:00 PM
Level is 0.25 feet
below full pool of 42.40



Level Base: MSL
Full Pool: 42.40 feet

Change Since Yesterday: t 0.03 Feet
Level Controlled by: City of Houston
Dam Name: Lake Houston Dam (CITY OF HOUSTON)

2025 Lake Conroe Water Levels

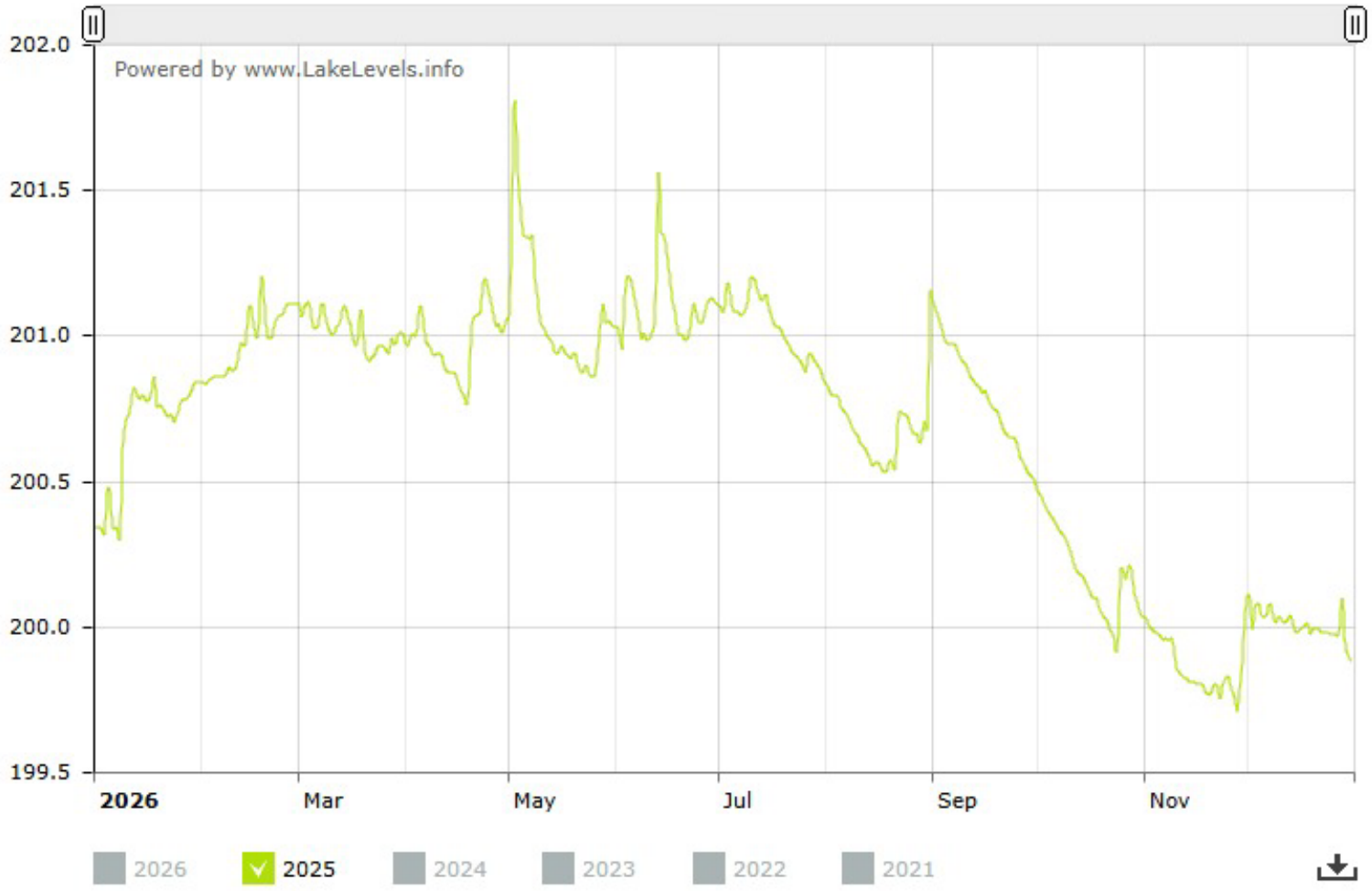
WATER LEVEL

199.89

Feet MSL

Thursday, January 1, 2026
1:00:00 PM
Level is 1.11 feet
below full pool of 201.00

On January 15 lake level is at 199.83 feet msl – rainfall not exceeding drawdown in January.



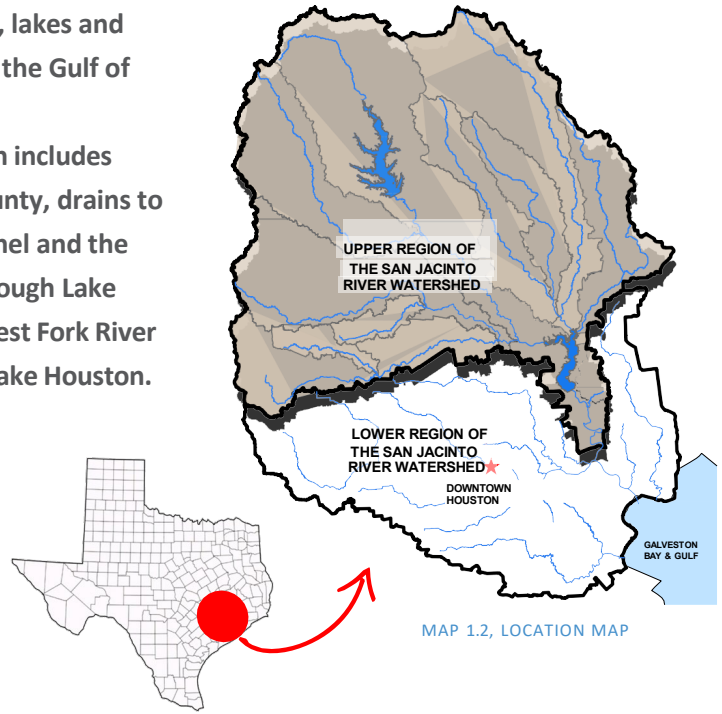
2025 - No lowering but lots of things happening outside of public knowledge / review

- In March the CoH / SJRA asked the TCEQ how they might be able to classify prerelease as a beneficial use and do that without public review
- CoH also asked TCEQ to confirm the prereleases were “not wasted”
- In April when the LCA met with the TCEQ they appeared surprised there was an ongoing conflict about continued lowering.
- The LCA formal complaint about 2024 ASM took months for the TCEQ to respond with a 2 page dismissal that said the June diversions “could be municipal use as Lake Houston in a municipal lake”!!!
- The LCA cannot rely on the SJRA Management to be transparent on plans or to put anything in writing.
- We have asked the SJRA Board to intervene on our behalf by February.
- If that doesn’t work……

OVERVIEW
SAN JACINTO WATERSHED

San Jacinto Watershed, Lake Conroe, and Lake Houston Facts

The San Jacinto River watershed encompasses more than 4,500 square miles of rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs that drain to the Gulf of America.
The lower region, which includes Houston and Harris County, drains to the Houston Ship Channel and the upper region drains through Lake Conroe and into the West Fork River and East Fork River to Lake Houston.



MAP 1.2, LOCATION MAP

THE UPPER SAN JACINTO RIVER WATERSHED HAS A DRAINAGE AREA OF 2,880 SQ. MI. AND IS DRAINED BY THE EAST AND WEST FORKS

THERE ARE 11 MAJOR WATERSHEDS INCLUDING THE WEST FORK SAN JACINTO RIVER, EAST FORK SAN JACINTO RIVER, LAKE CREEK, SPRING CREEK, CYPRESS CREEK, AND SEVERAL MAJOR TRIBUTARIES.

THIS AREA EXPERIENCES AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL OF 49 INCHES

WITH AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 1.9M, THERE IS AN ANNUAL MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF 77400

UPPER SAN JACINTO RIVER WATERSHED FACTS

THERE ARE 2 WATER RESERVOIRS, LAKE HOUSTON AND LAKE CONROE, WHICH PROVIDE WATER TO THE REGION

LAKE CONROE

- Completed in 1973 for water supply
- Drainage Area is 445 square miles
- Lake surface is 32 square miles
- Water supply capacity is 134 billion gallons
- Flow releases to Lake Houston are made through 5 gates

LAKE HOUSTON

- Completed in 1953 for water supply
- Drainage Area is 2,828 square miles
- Lake surface is 19 square miles
- Water supply capacity is 44 billion gallons.
- Releases are made through an uncontrolled spillway and 2 gates

Lake Conroe and Lake Houston are man-made lakes, located in the upper region of the San Jacinto River Watershed. Both lakes are water supply reservoirs, meaning that normal pool water levels are maintained at a consistent elevation as much as possible to ensure a constant supply of water in times of drought.

Lake Conroe was built in 1973 and is located about 43 miles northwest of downtown Houston. The lake and dam are maintained by the San Jacinto River Authority. The lake has a normal pool elevation of 201 feet above mean sea level. Excess water is released from Lake Conroe through five gates on the dam and discharged into the West Fork San Jacinto River. The City of Houston is allocated two-thirds of the water rights in the lake. The SJRA is allocated the other 1/3.

Built in 1953, Lake Houston is located about 15 miles northeast of downtown Houston. The lake is owned by the City of Houston and maintained by the Coastal Water Authority. The lake has a normal pool elevation of 42 feet above mean sea level. Excess water spills over an uncontrolled 3,000-foot-long spillway at the dam and travels down the San Jacinto River to Galveston Bay. The dam also has 2 gates which are occasionally used to make releases.
The City of Houston is allocated all the water rights in the lake. The lake is a primary source of water for the City of Houston.

Key points are both lakes have the same purpose - water supply, and the differences in drainage area (6.4X), and "recharge" time to recover from lowering.

Source – Regional Watershed Master Drainage Study –
No improvements of the two lakes, outfall structures, or operations were evaluated as part of that study.