

From: [Kathy Alexander](#)
To: [Cari-Michel Lacaille](#); [Laurie Fleet](#); [Kim Nygren](#)
Subject: Lake Conroe
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 1:36:33 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) and City of Houston (City) own [Certificate of Adjudication No. 10-4963](#) which authorizes Lake Conroe and diversions from Lake Conroe. The Certificate authorizes diversion of 100,000 acre-feet of water which can be diverted from the lake or released from the lake for municipal, agricultural, industrial, and mining use at a maximum rate of 700 cfs.

In response to flooding events from Hurricane Harvey, SJRA initiated a seasonal strategy to temporarily lower Lake Conroe in 2018 to provide flood mitigation benefits downstream of the lake. At the same time, dredging activities were occurring downstream. While dredging activities were occurring, TCEQ exercised enforcement discretion if SJRA's lake lowering activities resulted in exceedance of the maximum annual amount or maximum diversion rate authorized in the water right.

The lake lowering activities continued for several years after dredging activities were completed. During that time, the City reported releases for seasonal lake lowering under the municipal use authorization in the Lake Conroe water right. The City owns downstream Lake Houston and has several water rights in Lake Houston; therefore, any water released from Lake Conroe and charged to municipal use could be beneficially used by the City downstream at Lake Houston.

TCEQ received several complaints about the lake lowering activities. TCEQ investigated the complaints and found that the lake lowering activities were not a violation of the terms of the Certificate and that the authorized annual amount of 100,000 acre-feet was not exceeded. However, in two instances, the maximum diversion rate was exceeded, and the violation was noted and resolved.

SJRA would like to meet with the water rights program to discuss a potential Emergency Order for SJRA and the City that would temporarily amend the certificate to allow the diversion rate to be exceeded. They would also like for TCEQ to affirm in the order that seasonal lake lowering is not a waste of water. SJRA also indicated that they are working with the City on a permanent amendment to the water right to allow for an increased diversion rate.

Kathy Alexander, PhD
Policy & Technical Analyst
Water Availability Division
512-239-0778