Austin Water Utility Briefing on Drought

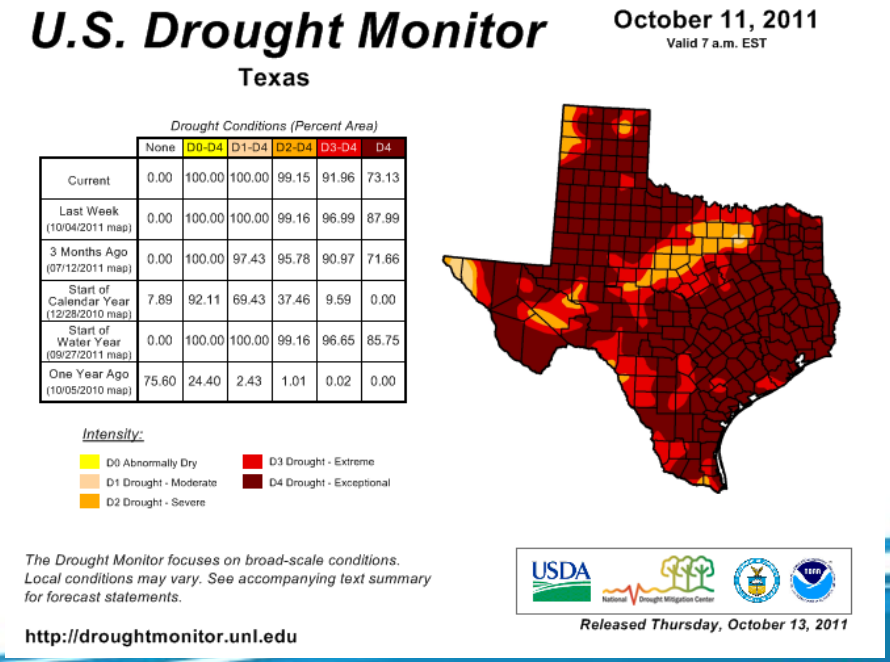
City Council Work Session

October 18, 2011

Greg Meszaros, AWU Director

Texas is in a Severe Drought

- Drought is historic in proportion
- 73% of state is in the highest level exceptional drought (according to U.S. Drought Monitor)
- Dry conditions projected to persist through fall and winter with continuation of La Nina
- May be in a long-term multi-year drought cycle

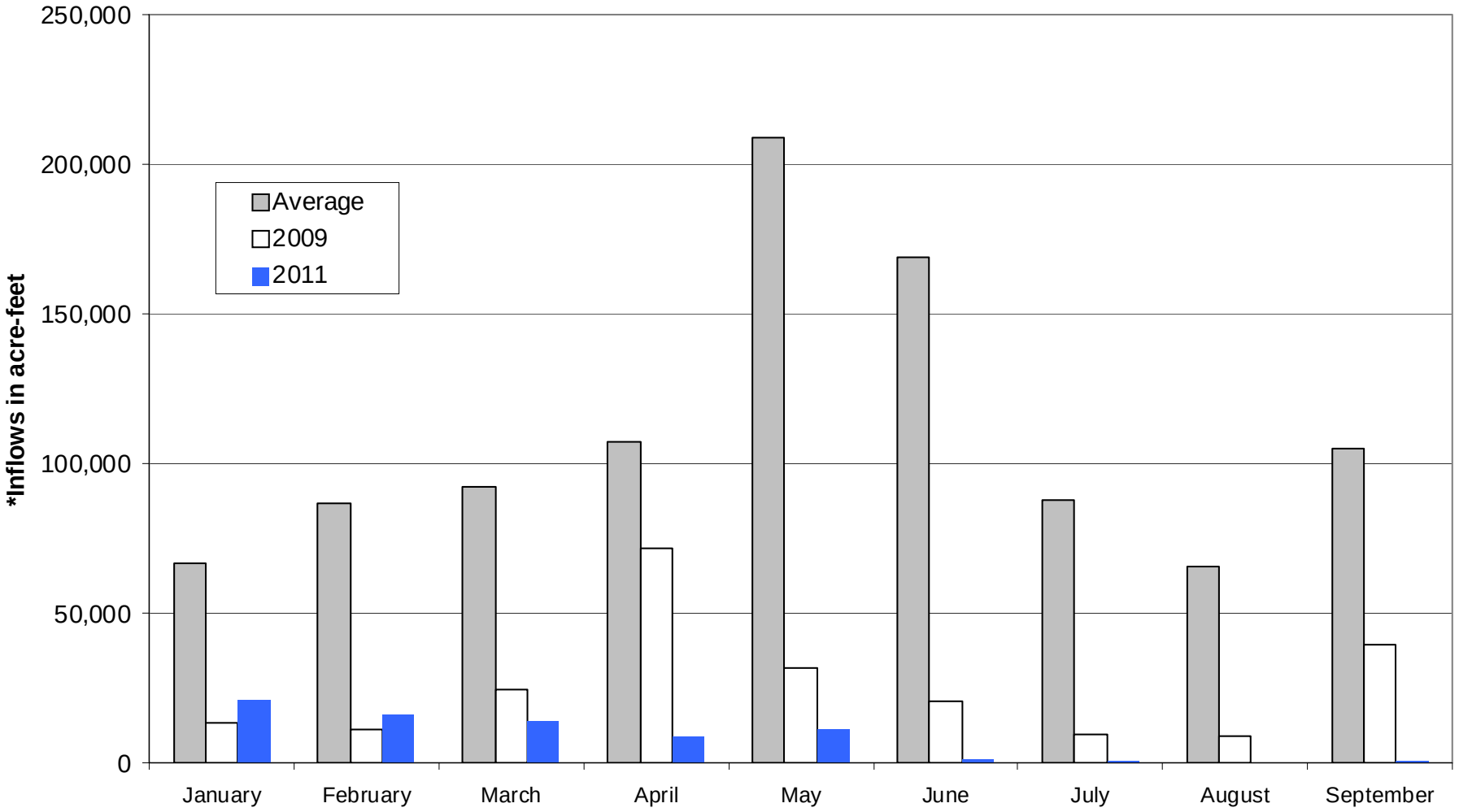


Lower Colorado Region

- Drought conditions have led to extremely low inflows to the Highland Lakes
- Combined storage of Lakes Travis and Buchanan:
  - 772,000 Acre-Feet (38% full), as of 10/17/2011
- Austin's Stage 2 restrictions in effect since early September:
  - Response to Combined Storage dropping below 900,000 AF
- If conditions stay dry, agricultural cutoff likely in 2012

Note: One acre-foot is 325,851 gallons

Water Flowing Into the Highland Lakes

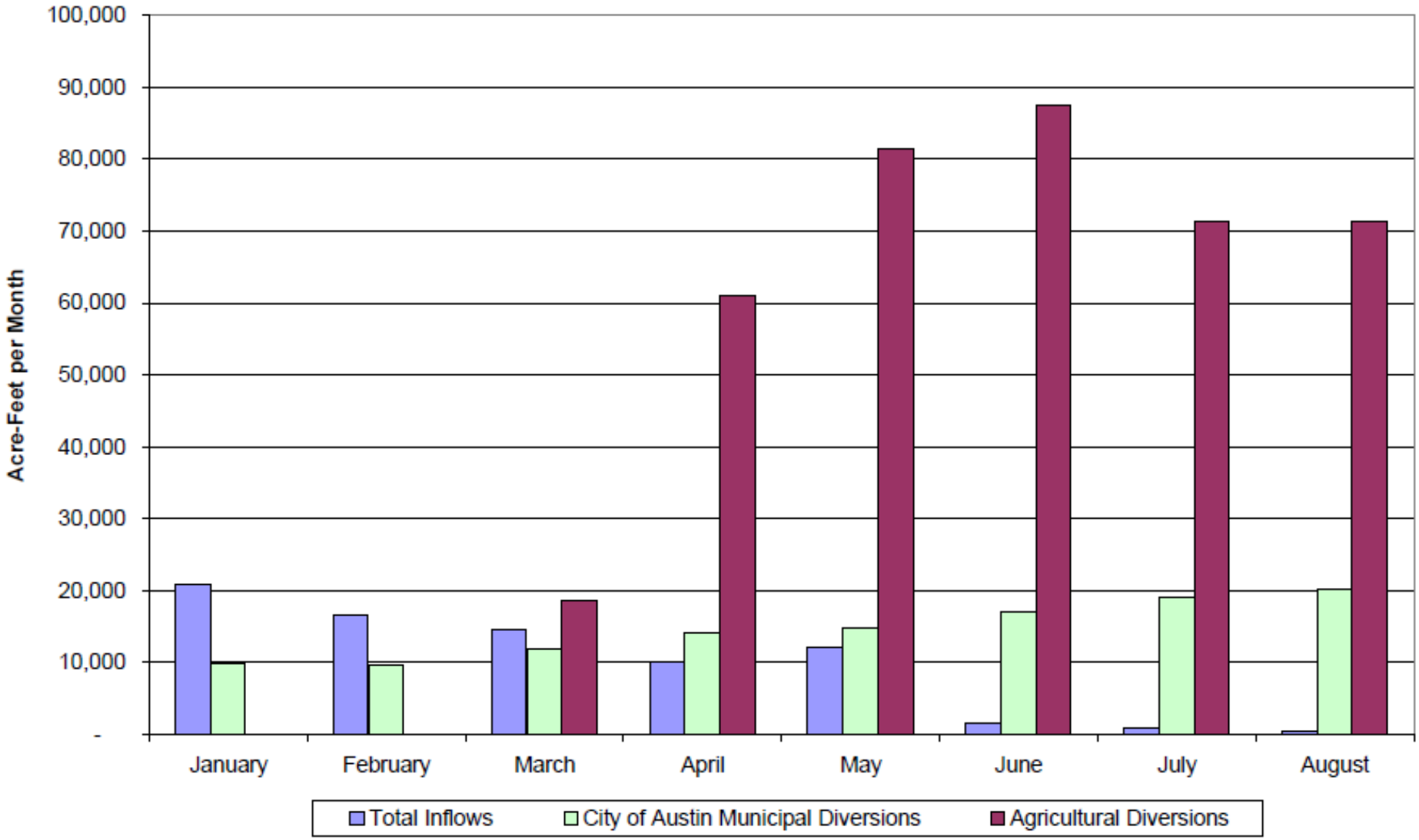


January - September totals
(in acre-feet)

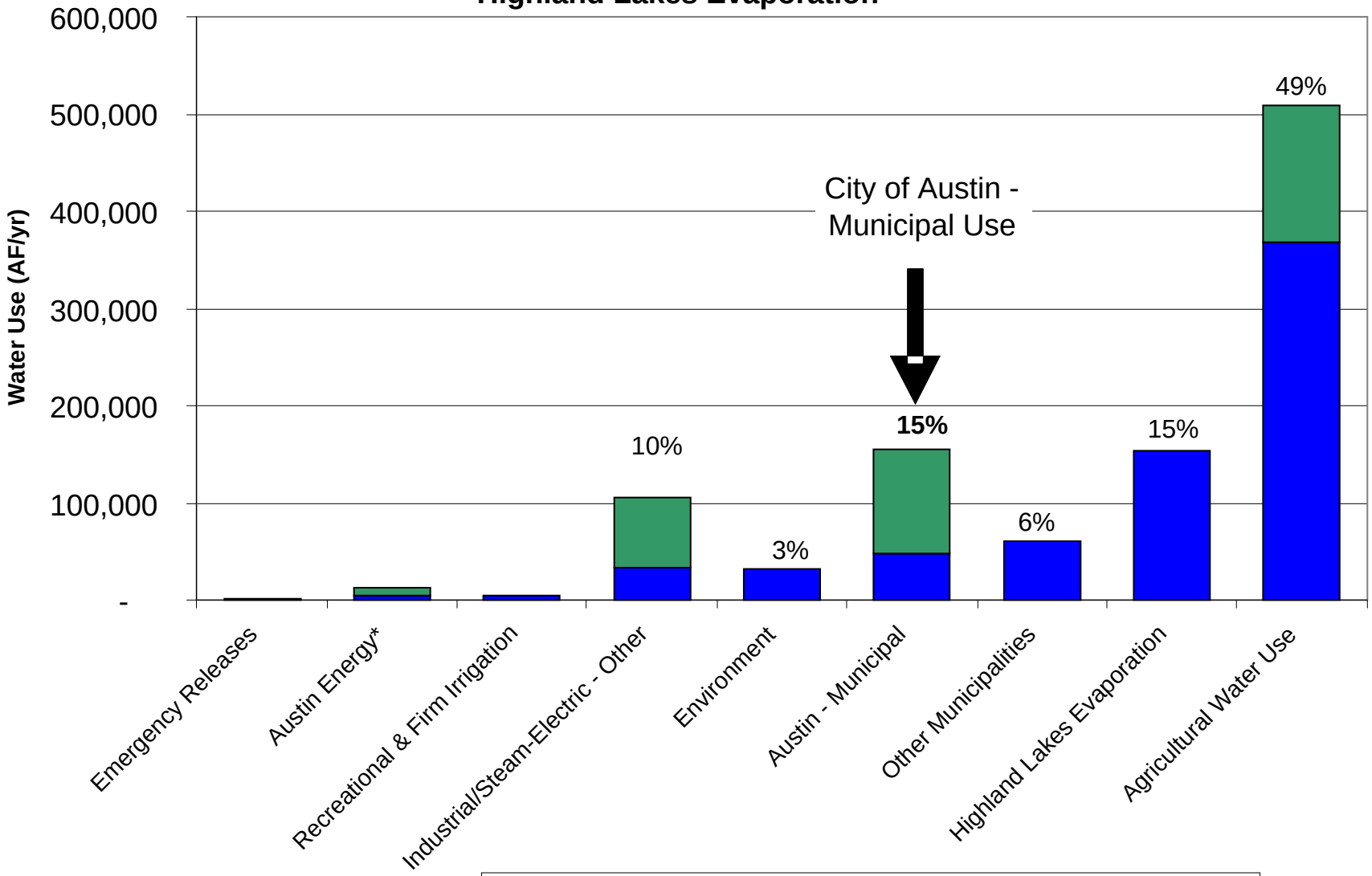
Average:	990,336 (since 1942)
2009:	231,920
2011:	74,718

* Inflows: the estimated amount of water flowing into the Highland Lakes from rivers and streams

Monthly 2011 Highland Lakes Inflows with City of Austin and Agricultural Diversions (lower three counties in basin)

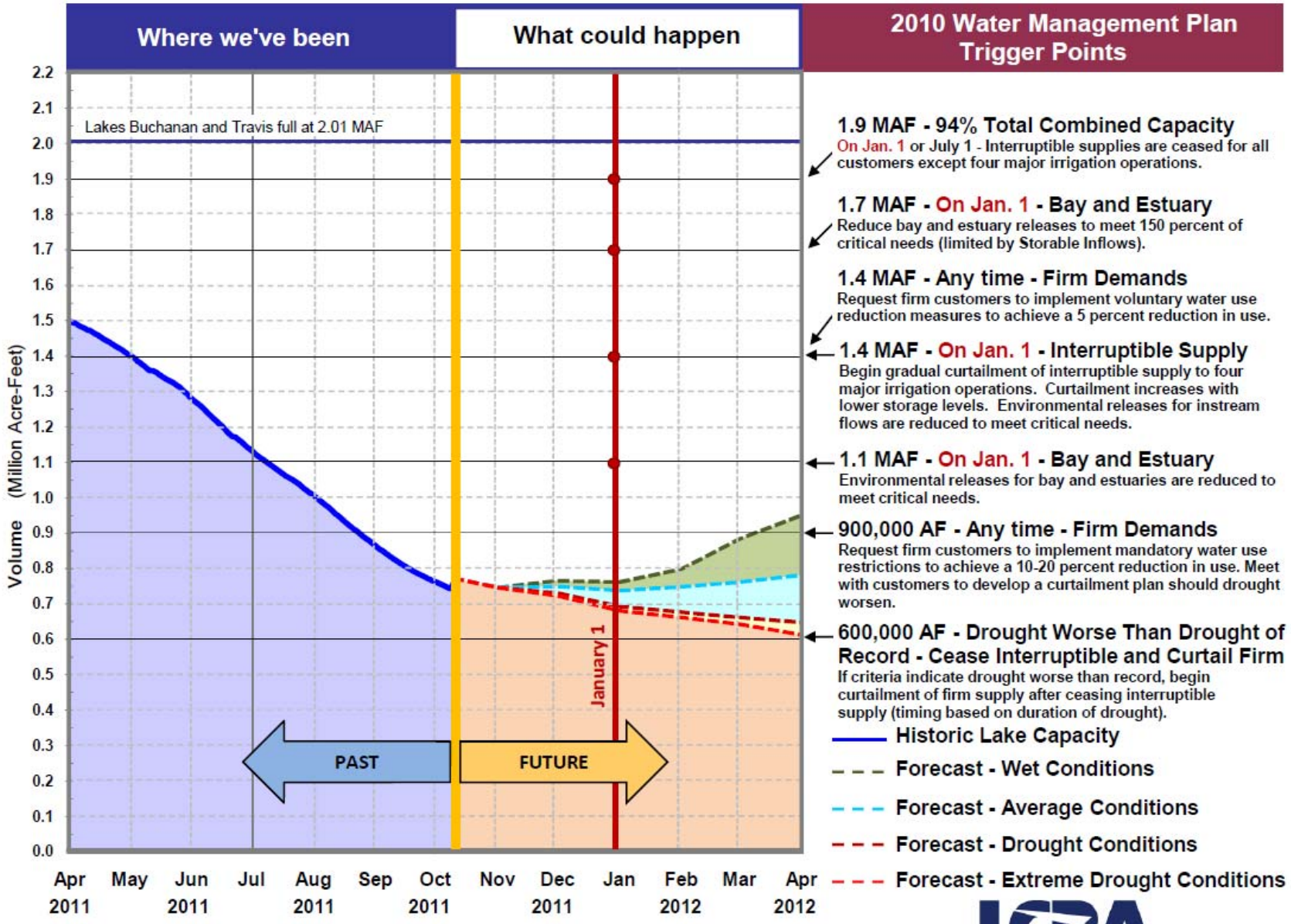


2009 Uses of Lower Colorado River Water Including Highland Lakes Evaporation



* STP water use included in Industrial/Steam-Electric-Other
** Total water use includes stored water & run-of-river water
*** Agricultural water use represents total water releases (includes 67,400 AF of losses transporting the water from the Highland Lakes to the downstream diversion points)
****Firm stored water figures for Austin Energy and Industrial/Steam-Electric-Other include 6,471 AF of transportation losses

Highland Lakes Storage



Note: MAF equals One Million Acre-Feet
One Acre-Foot (AF) equals 325,851 gallons.

Date: October 10, 2011

LCRA
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Near-term Highland Lakes Storage Projections

- If dry conditions persist, combined storage projected to reach 600,000 AF by Spring 2012
- “Drought Worse than the Drought of Record” declaration by LCRA Board
- Pro-rata curtailment of firm customers, including municipalities and power plants

Next Steps

- Continue to work closely with LCRA:
  - pro-rata curtailment requirements
  - water management plan matters
- Monitoring drought impact
- Further drought response

Code Revisions

- Current code written for short-term emergencies, not long-term drought
- Start code revision & stakeholder process
  - Incorporate some remaining 2007 Task Force items
  - Shift to administrative water waste fines
  - Realign drought stages to ease into restrictions, provide earlier awareness
  - Protect tree canopy, sustainable food production & business interests
- Anticipate completion prior to 600,000 AF

Questions?