



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

U.S. Drought Monitor

October 11, 2011

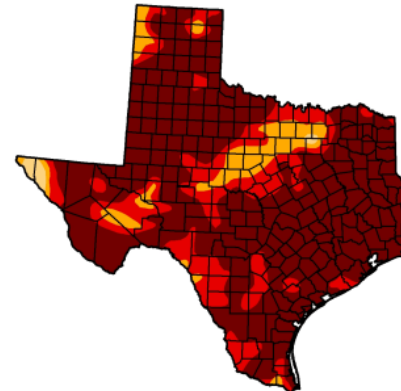
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Texas

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.15	91.96	73.13
Last Week (10/04/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.99	87.99
3 Months Ago (07/12/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	97.43	95.78	90.97	71.66
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	7.89	92.11	69.43	37.46	9.59	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.65	85.75
One Year Ago (10/05/2010 map)	75.60	24.40	2.43	1.01	0.02	0.00

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Drought - Extreme
D1 Drought - Moderate	D4 Drought - Exceptional
D2 Drought - Severe	



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary
for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



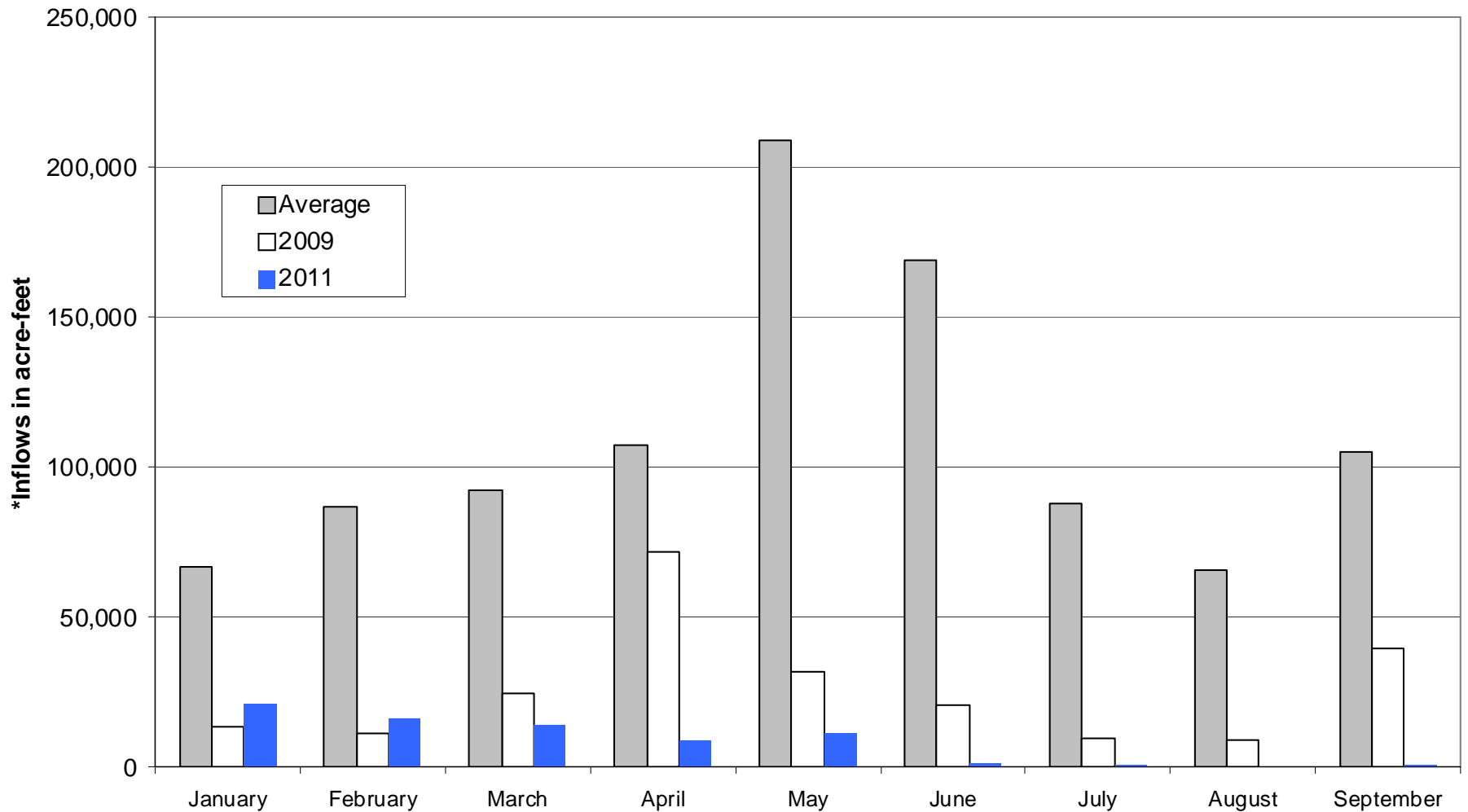
Released Thursday, October 13, 2011

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

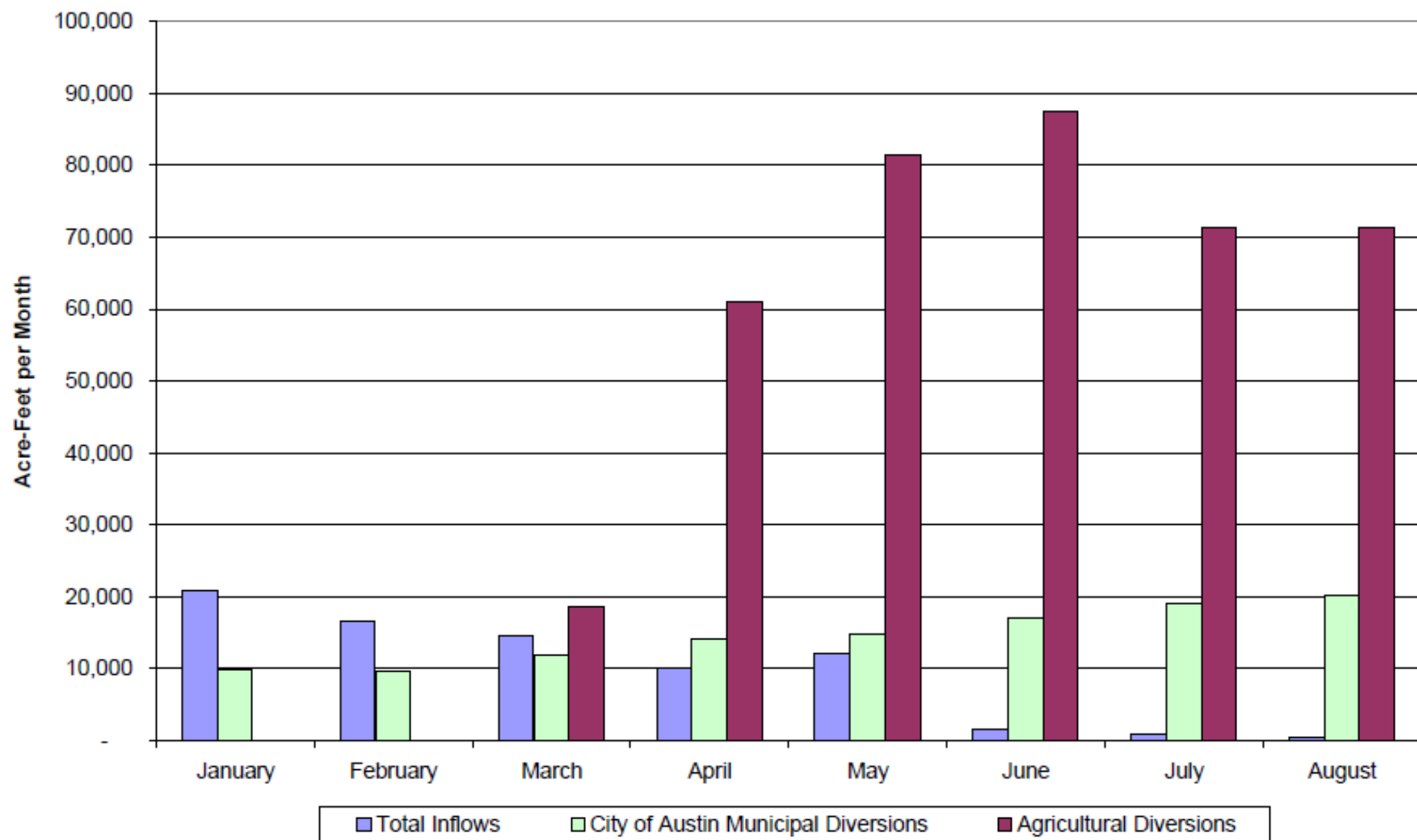


* Inflows: the estimated amount of water flowing into the Highland Lakes from rivers and streams

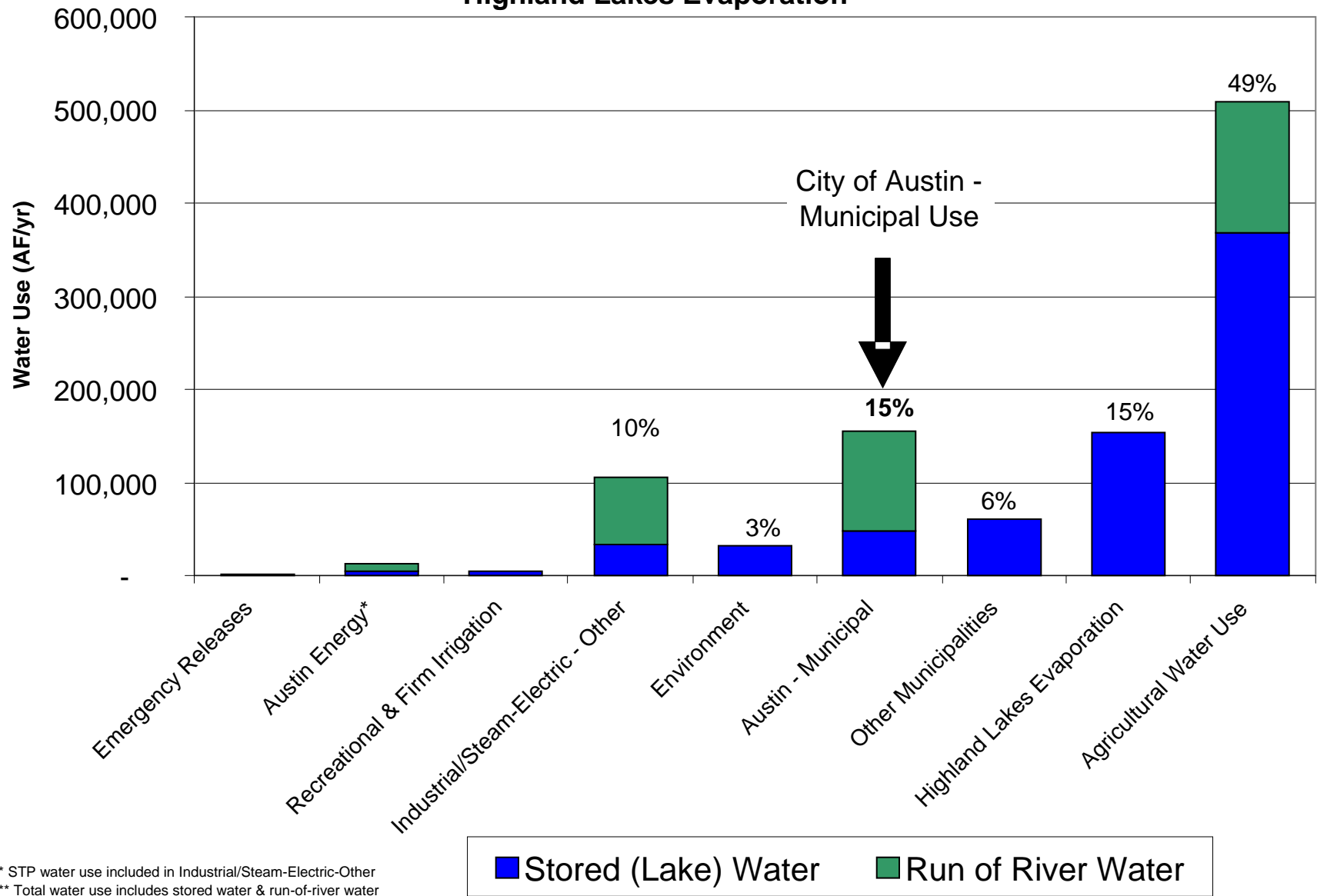
January - September totals
(in acre-feet)

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

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



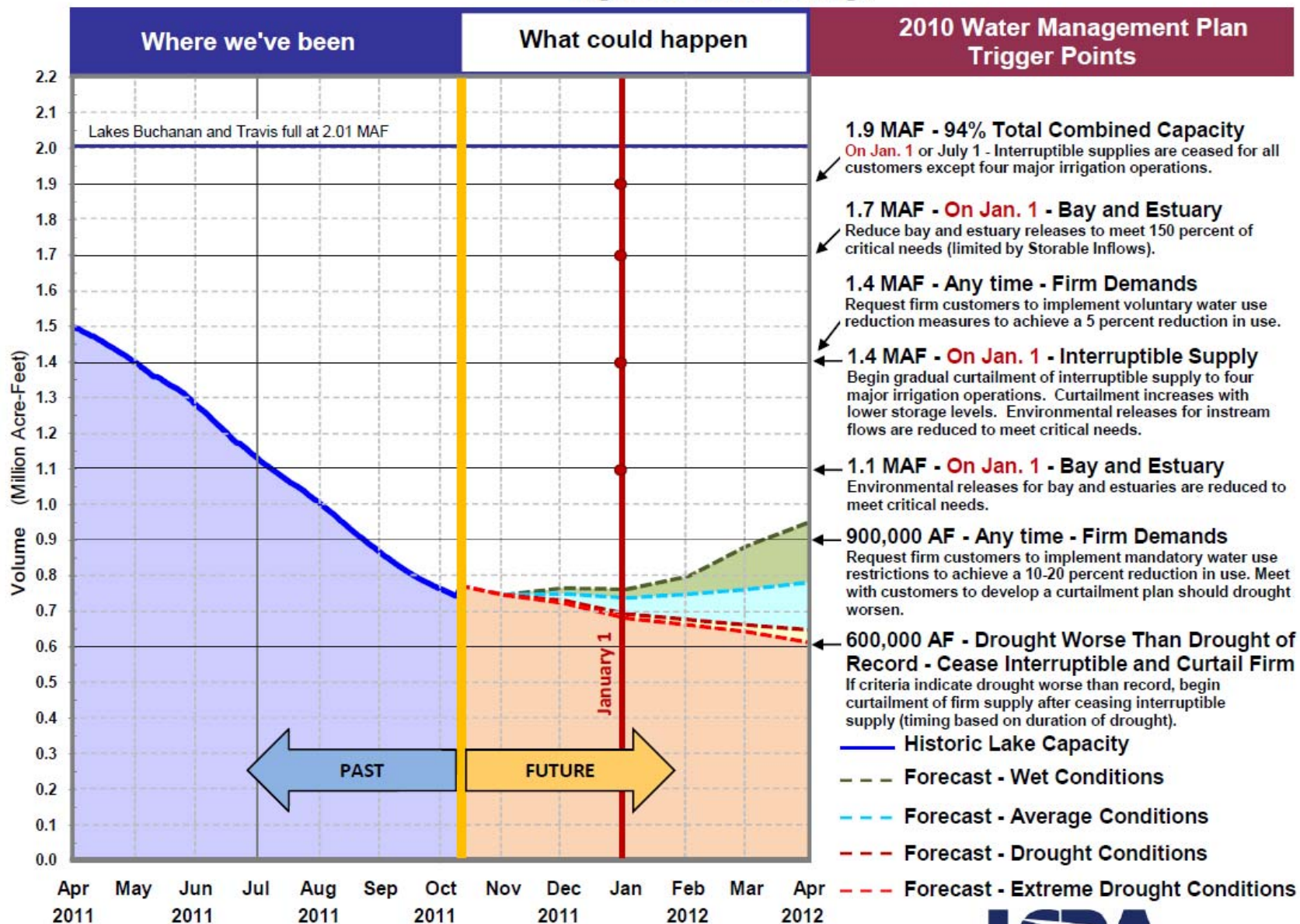
* STP water use included in Industrial/Steam-Electric-Other

** 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



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?