

# Drought & LCRA Water Partnership Update Briefing

# Austin City Council Meeting October 3, 2013



### Water Supply Status



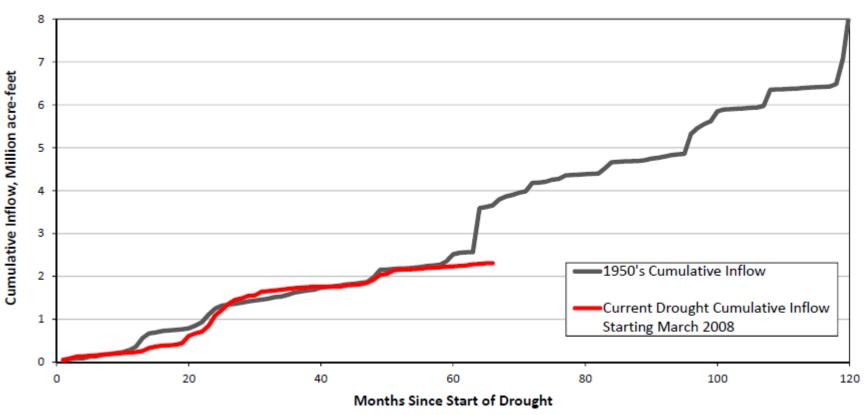
2013 likely to be 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest inflow year

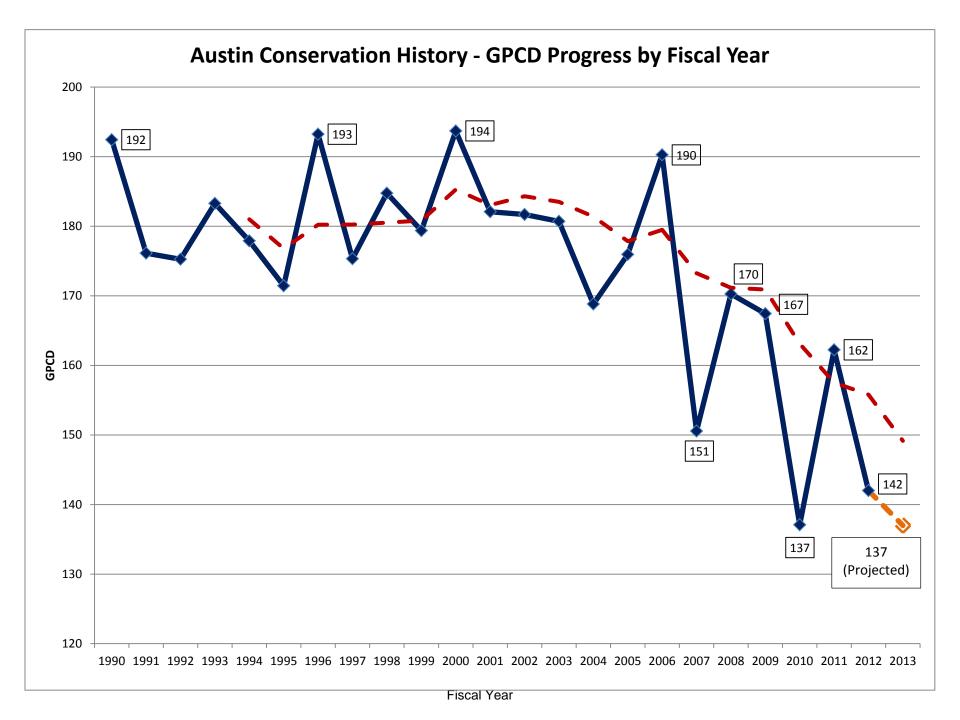
## 10 Lowest Annual Inflows on Record

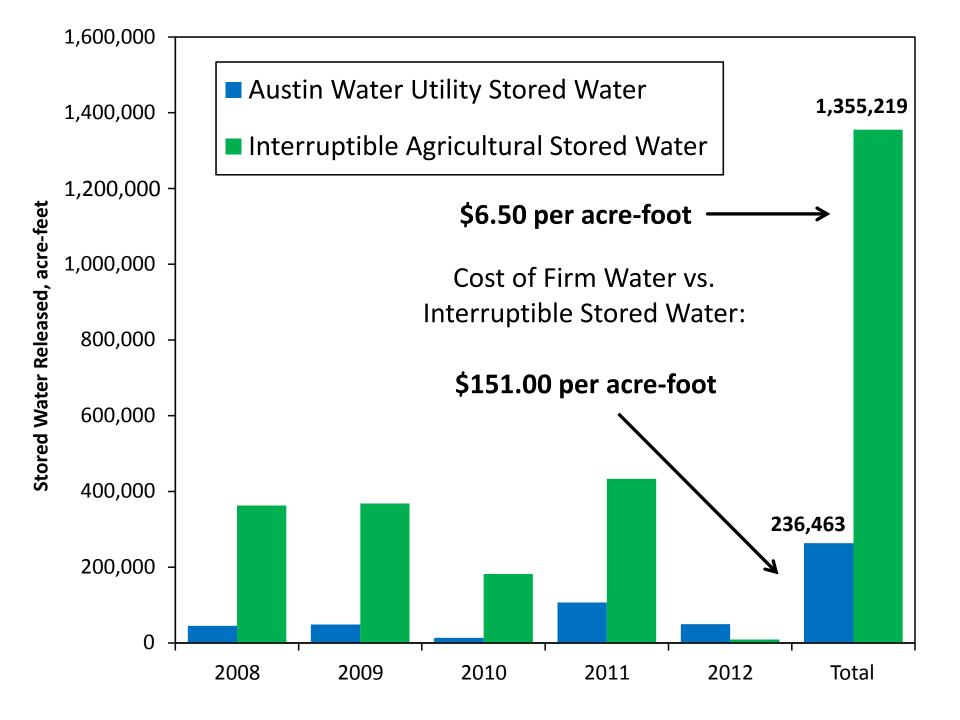
Rank	Year	Annual Total (in acre-feet)
1	2011	127,802
2	2008	284,462
3	2006	285,229
4	1963	392,589
5	2012	393,426
6	1983	433,312
7	1999	448,162
8	2009	499,732
9	1950	501,926
10	1967	503,572
Average	1942 - 2012	1,244,586

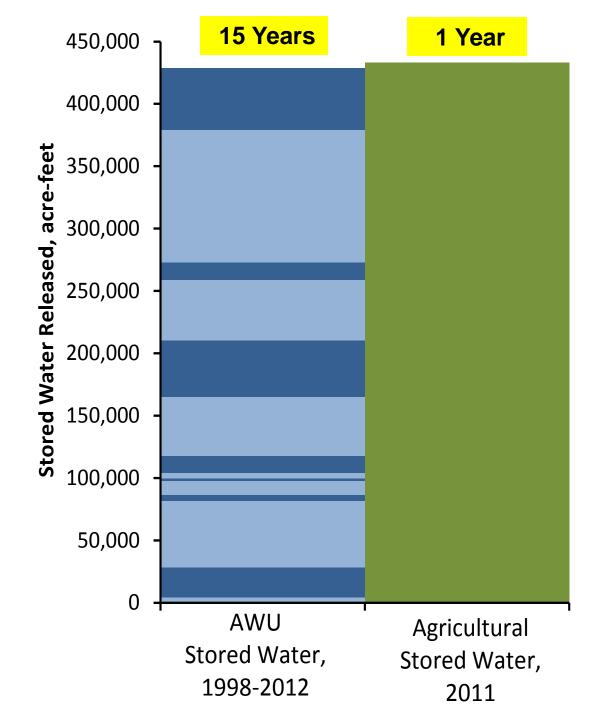


#### **Cumulative Inflow to Lakes Buchanan and Travis**





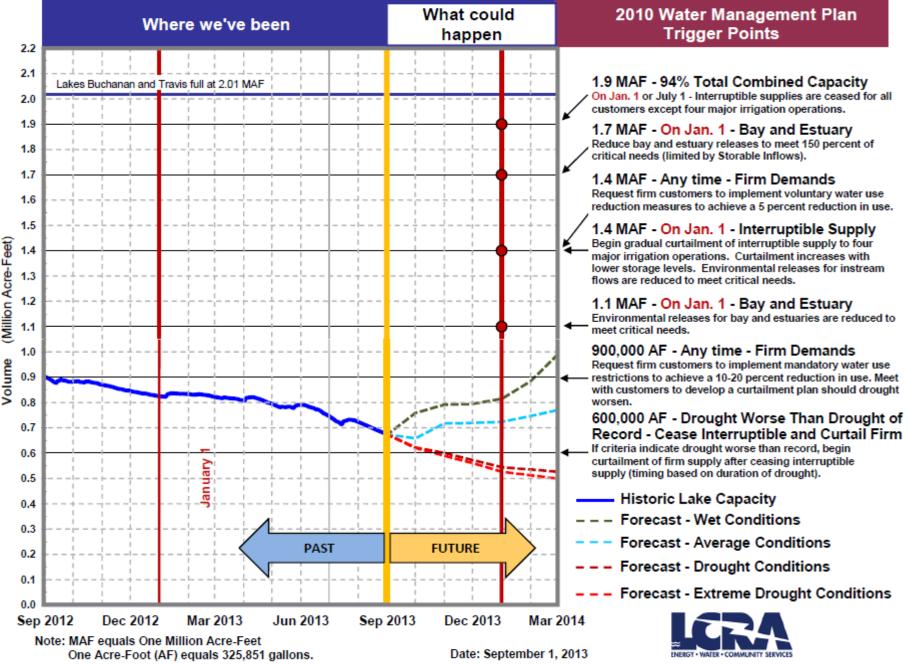




15 YEARS of stored water released for Austin Municipal: 428,841 acre-feet

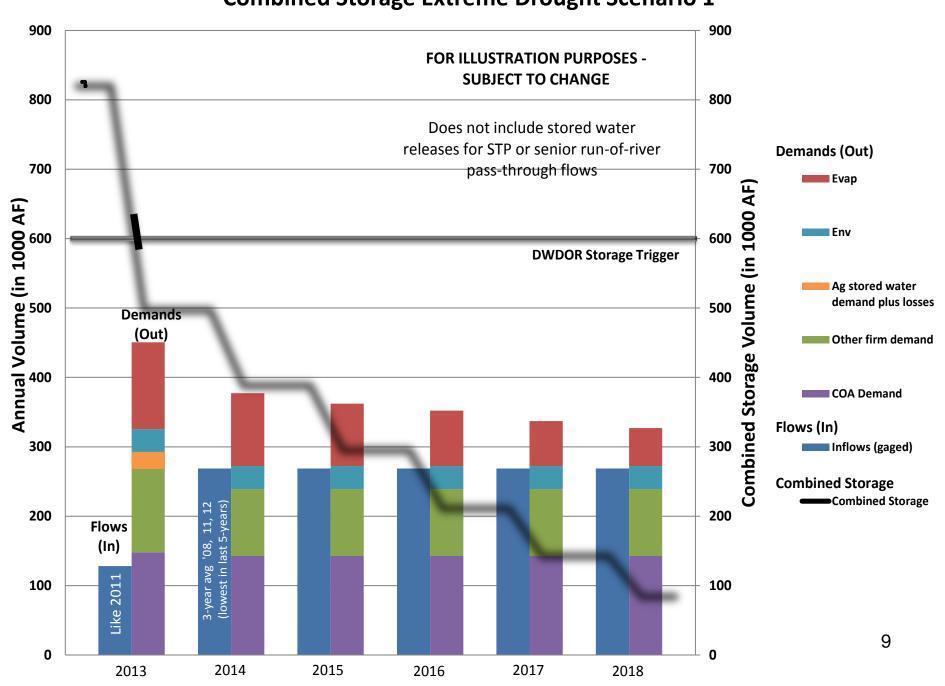
1 YEAR of stored water released for Downstream Agriculture: 433,251 acre-feet

#### Highland Lakes Storage \*

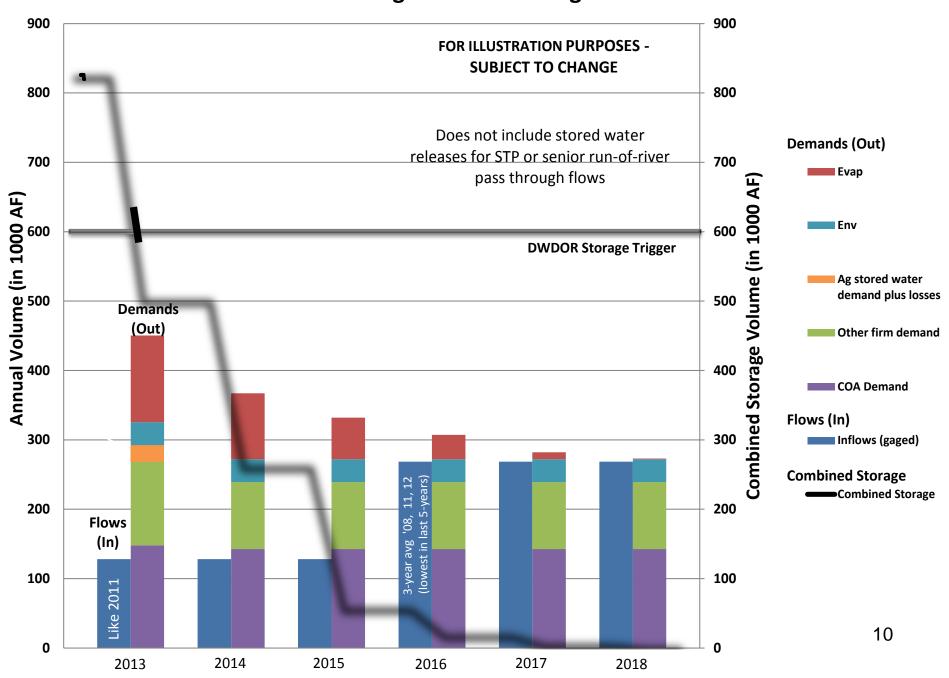


<sup>\*</sup> Projections take into account emergency drought relief measures affirmed by TCEQ on February 13, 2013.

### **Combined Storage Extreme Drought Scenario 1**



### **Combined Storage Extreme Drought Scenario 2**





### Drought Response Strategies



## **Drought Response**

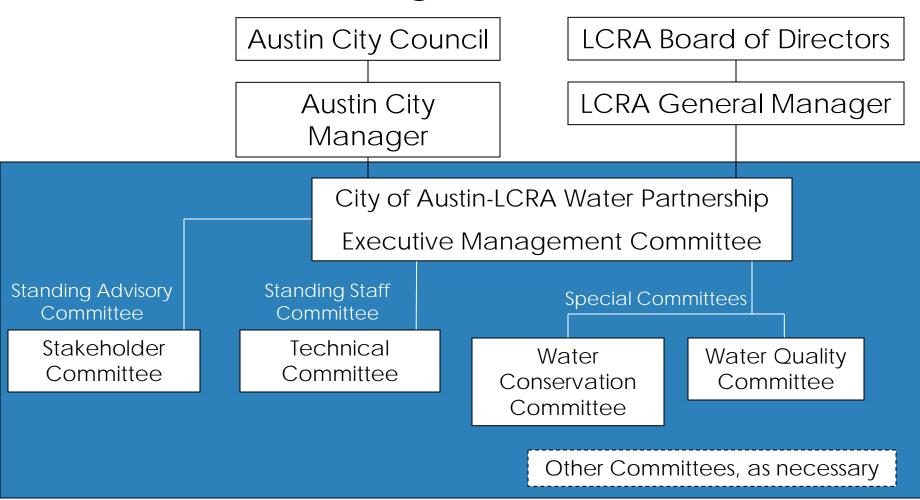
- Strategy 1: Austin Demand-Side Management
  - Required 20% Pro-rata curtailment at 600K acre/feet of combined storage
    - Austin already meets 20% goal but will implement Stage 3 restrictions when storage falls below 600K
    - AE has approved pro-rata curtailment plans for Decker Power Station and Fayette Power Project
  - > Plan for additional water restrictions beyond Stage 3
    - Enhanced Stage 3 (example only outdoor hand watering)
    - Stage 4 (No outdoor watering)



## **Drought Response**

- Strategy 2: Protect Colorado River System Firm Water Interests
  - ➤ Emergency Orders to continue cut offs of interruptible (rice farming) water throughout the duration of the drought
  - Long term revisions to LCRA's Water Management Plan (WMP) to reduce firm water risks
  - ➤ Drought response is a key focus of COA/LCRA Water Partnership for 2012 and 2013

# City of Austin and LCRA Water Partnership Organization











Austin

## **Drought Response**

- Strategy 3: Investigate, evaluate and prioritize demands that can be met with alternative water sources:
  - Groundwater
  - Reclaimed water
  - Other sources



### **Drought Communication Plan**

#### Marketing/Advertising

- Direct Mailer
- Austin Water Conservation Drought website
- Willie Nelson radio and TV ads
- Other advertising: Print, buses. . .
- Business & Restaurant outreach

#### **Media Relations**

- Meet with Media Managers
- Social Media

#### **Public Involvement/Education**

- Continue providing information about the drought and the move to Stage 3 through various community and business outlets
- City of Austin employee education: Drought and water conservation information to all employees. Emails to the workforce, City Source, internal departmental newsletters.



### Conclusion

- Current drought is on a path to be worse that the 1950s drought of record
- Spring of 2014 key decision making point
  - Need for additional restrictions beyond Stage 3
  - Drought rate strategy
- Next Council Update First Quarter 2014
  - Utility planning for regular Board & Commission updates



### Questions?