





Historic Drought: A closer look



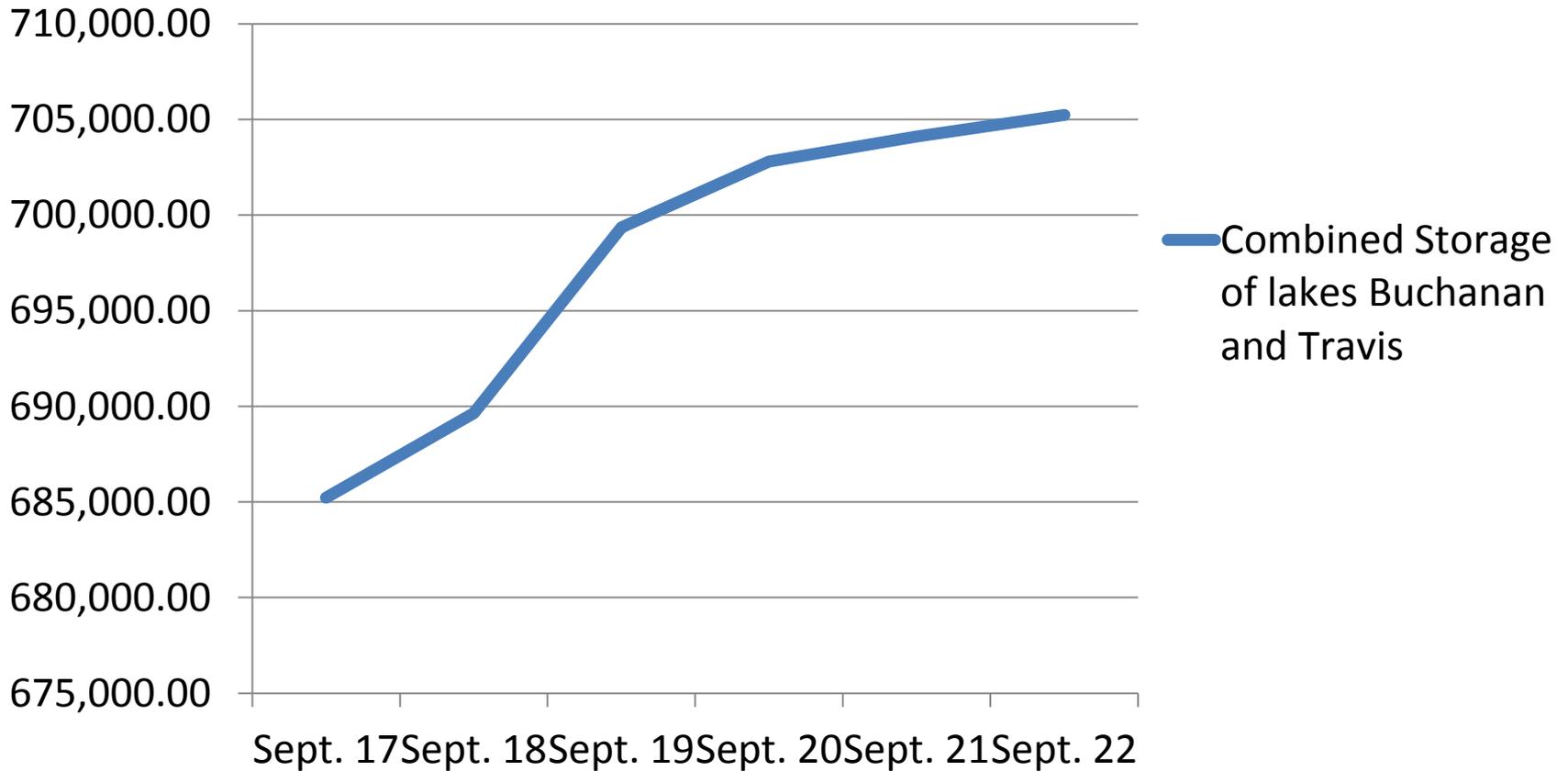
**35 percent
combined storage**



Lake Travis

Recent rain's effect on lakes

Combined Storage of lakes Buchanan and Travis



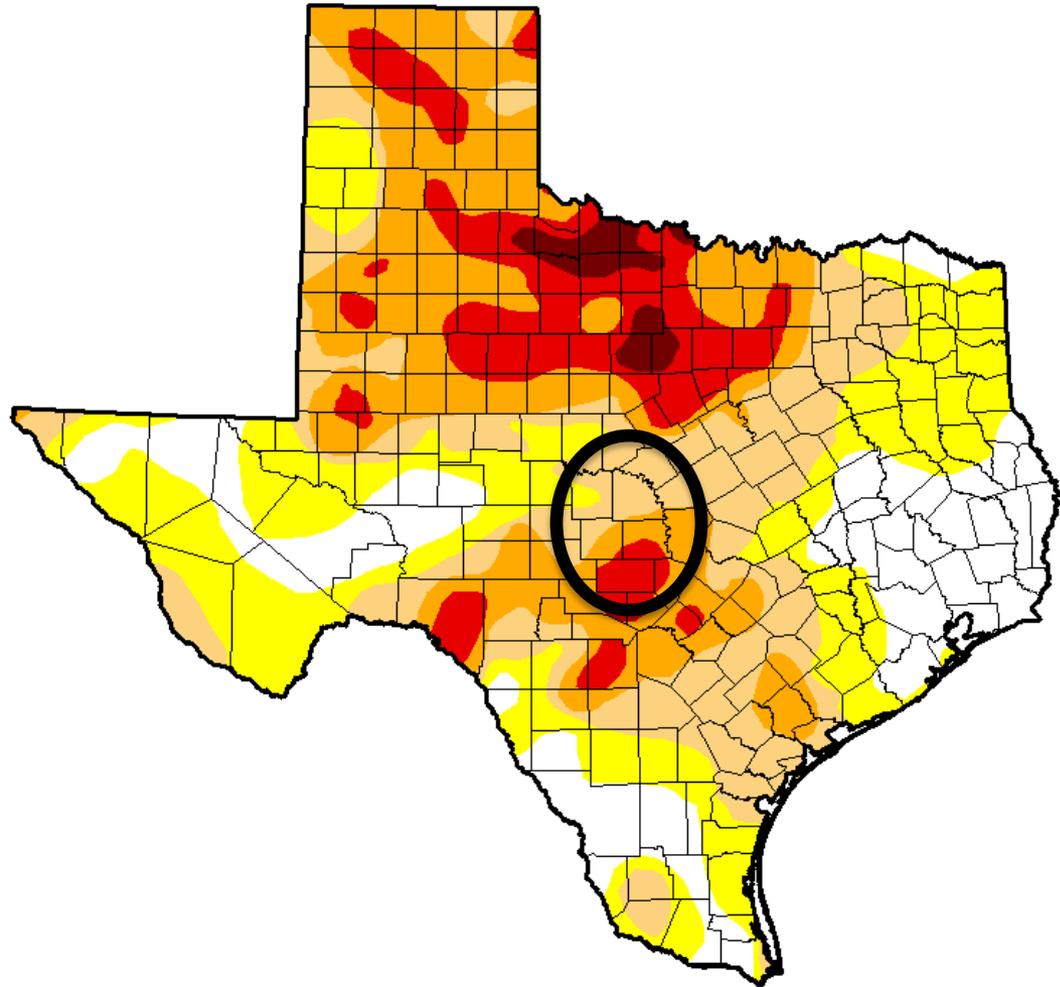
Definition of Drought

drought  *noun* \ˈdraʊt\

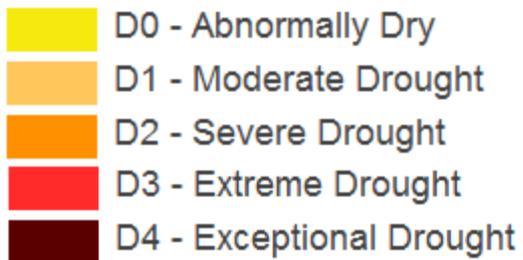
: a long period of time during which there is very little or no rain

Merriam Webster Dictionary

Drought across Texas



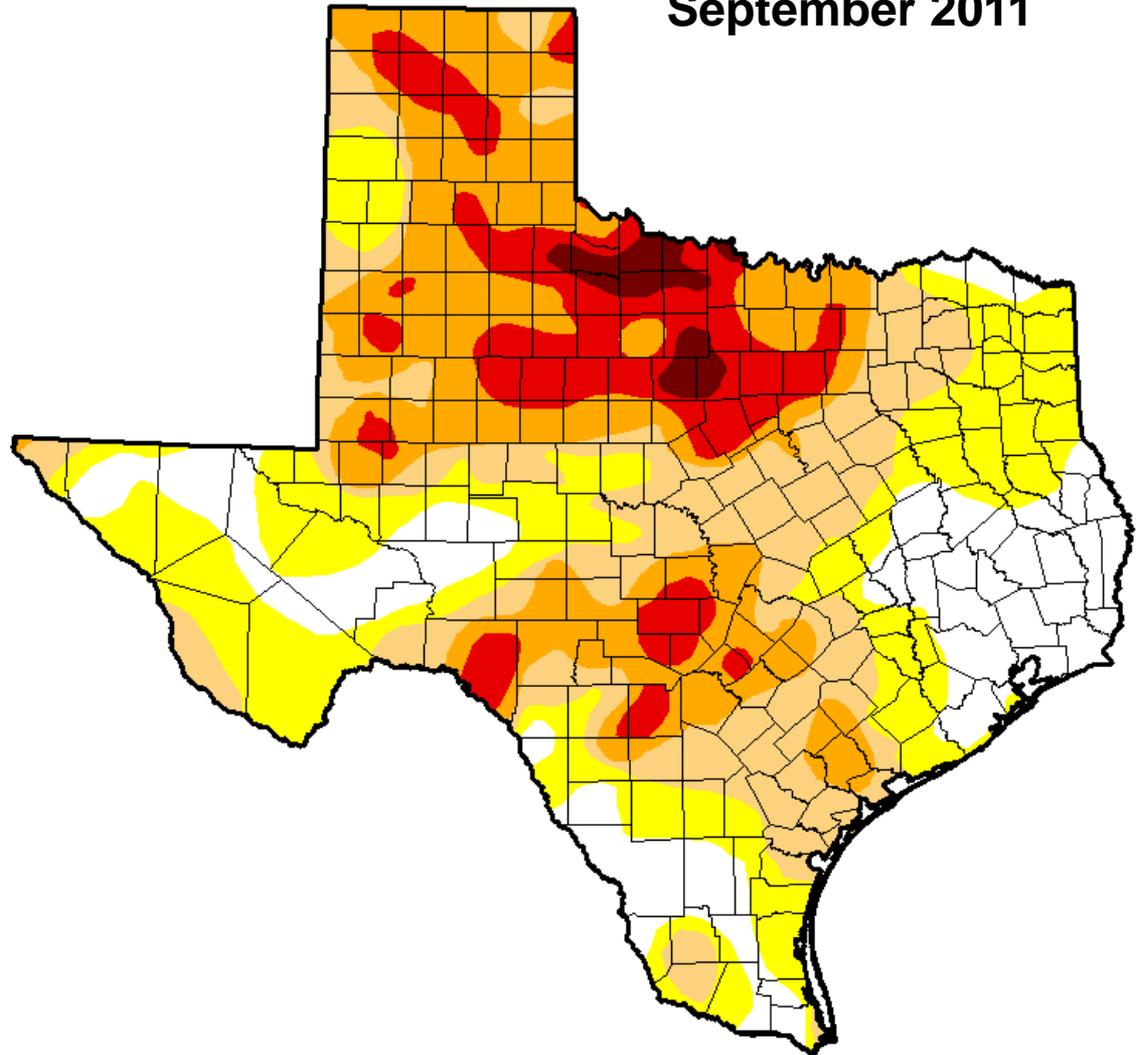
Intensity:



Drought across Texas

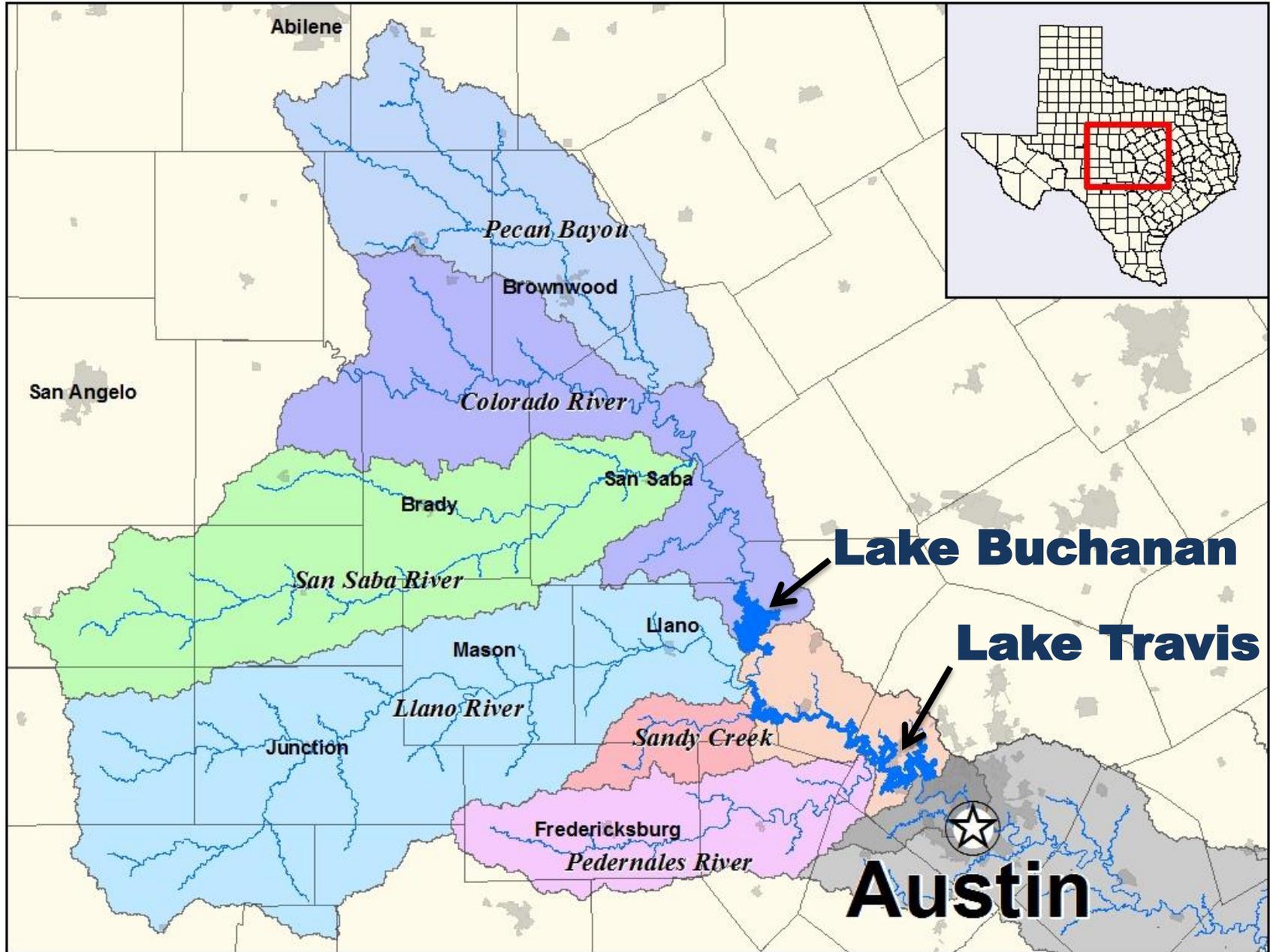
September 2014

September 2011



September 2013

Less water flowing but use continues



Highland Lakes' tributaries



Colorado River



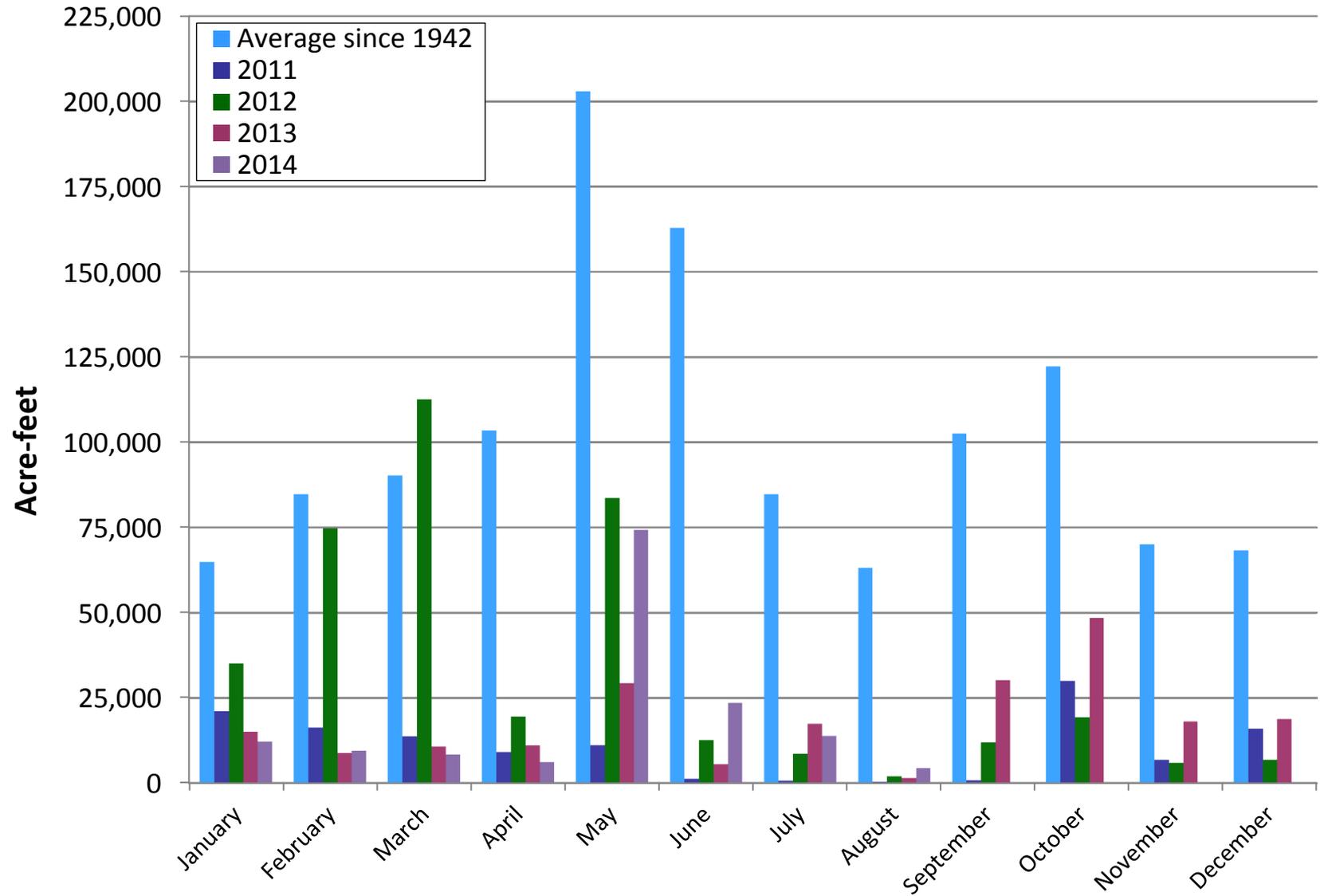
Brady Creek



Colorado River



Water flowing into the Highland Lakes

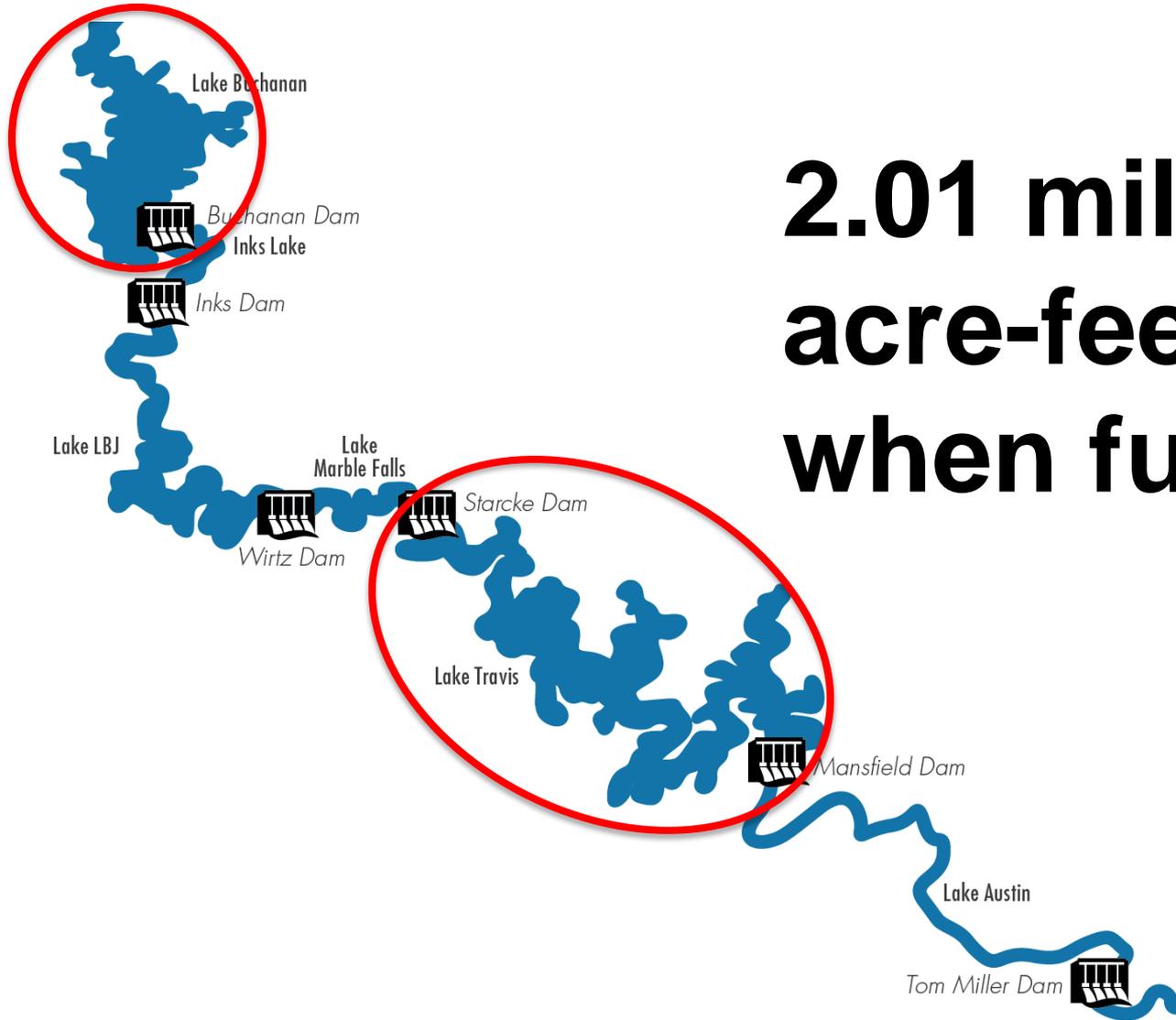


Record-low inflows

- 2011: lowest
- 2012: sixth lowest
- 2013: second lowest



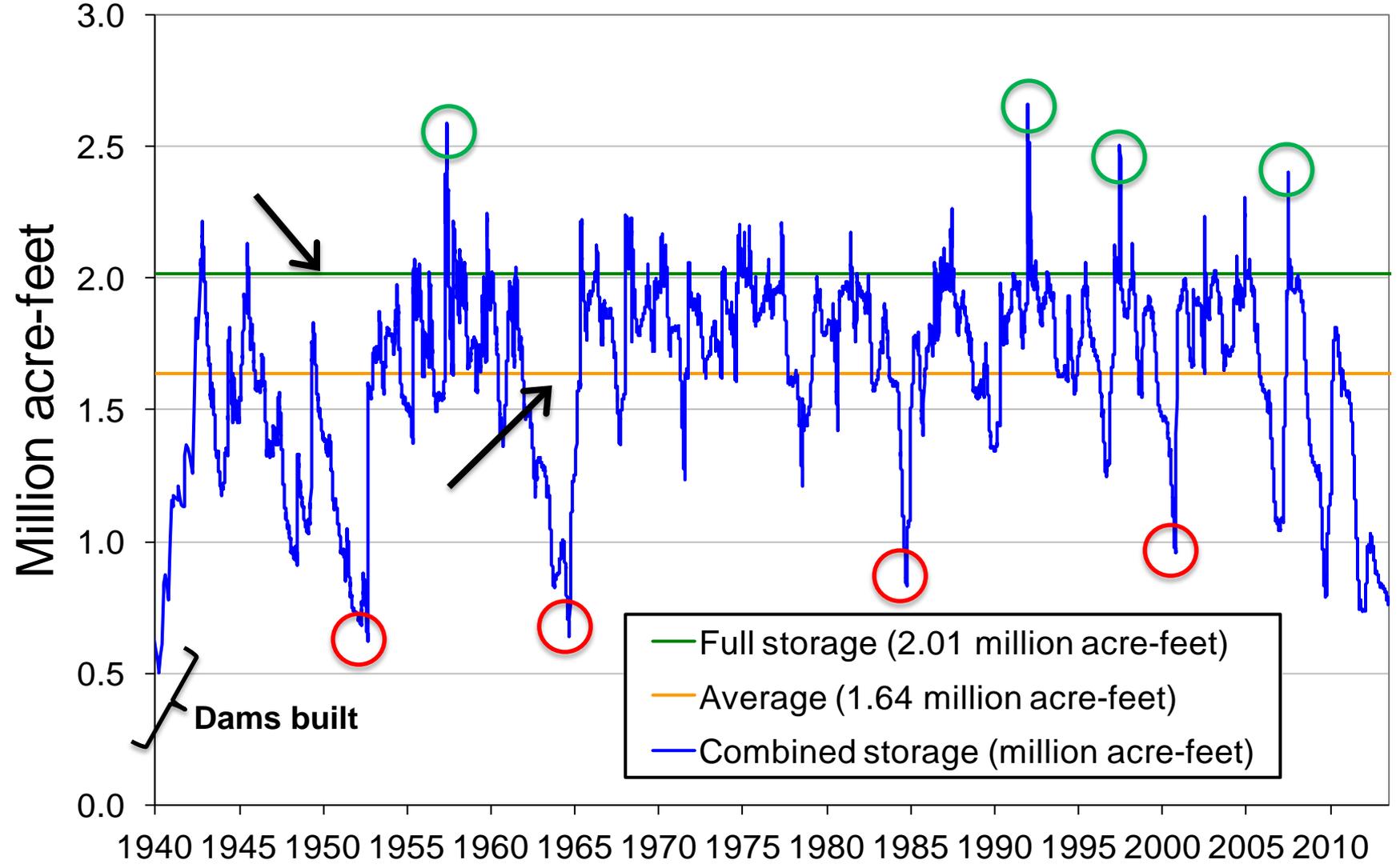
Inflows affect water storage



**2.01 million
acre-feet
when full**

This has happened before

Combined storage





Flows to Matagorda Bay

**Average: 1.8
million acre-feet
per year**



**2013: 570,000
acre-feet**

Why it matters

Lake Buchanan



Lake Buchanan



Lake Buchanan



Lake Travis



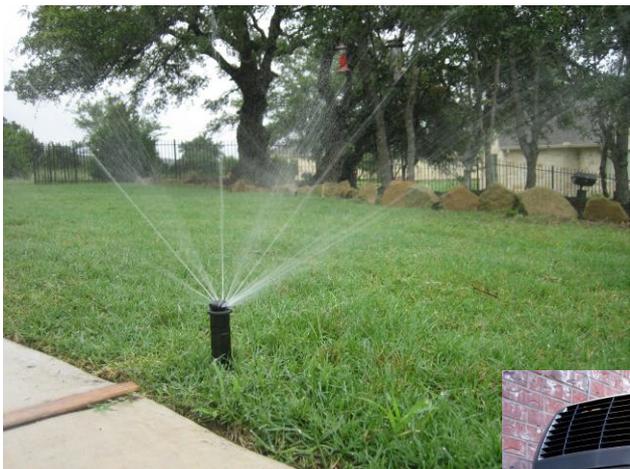
Lake Travis



Lake Travis



You depend on the Highland Lakes if:

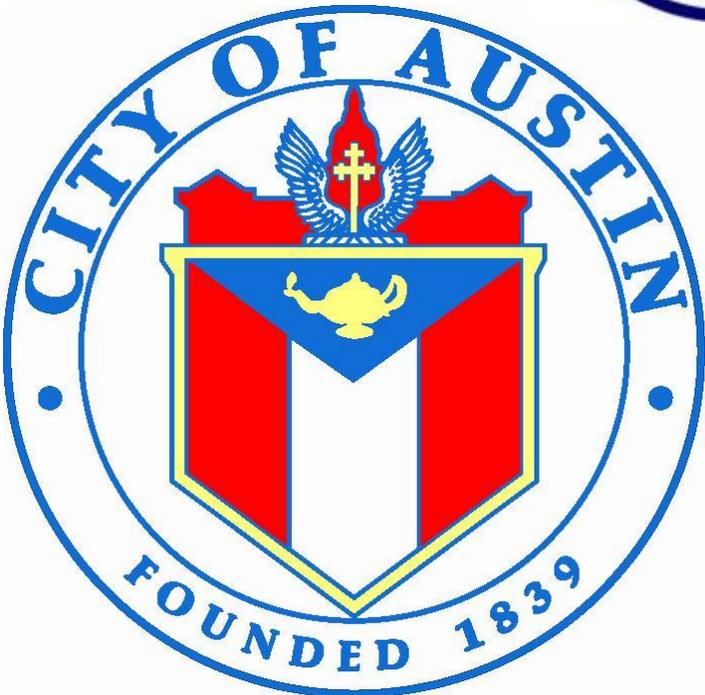




where quality meets life

PFLUGERVILLE
TEXAS

City of
Leander



CEDAR
PARK



A shared resource

The Highland Lakes provide water for:

- **More than 1 million people**
- **Seven power plants capable of providing power to more than 3 million homes**
- **Businesses and jobs**
- **The environment**
- **Agriculture**

**Some
water
just
vanishes**



Evaporation

- **Evaporation:**
average of
about 160,000
acre-feet per
year
- **City of Austin:**
uses about
150,000 acre-
feet per year



If things don't improve

Three criteria for DWDR declaration

- ✓ **24 months since lakes Travis and Buchanan full**
- ✓ **Prolonged inflow deficit exceeds Drought of Record**
- **Combined storage in lakes Travis and Buchanan reservoirs less than 600,000 acre-feet**

Drought Worse Than the Drought of Record

- **Follow your water provider's rules**
- **Each water provider will decide how to meet the 20 percent requirement**

**When will the
drought end?**

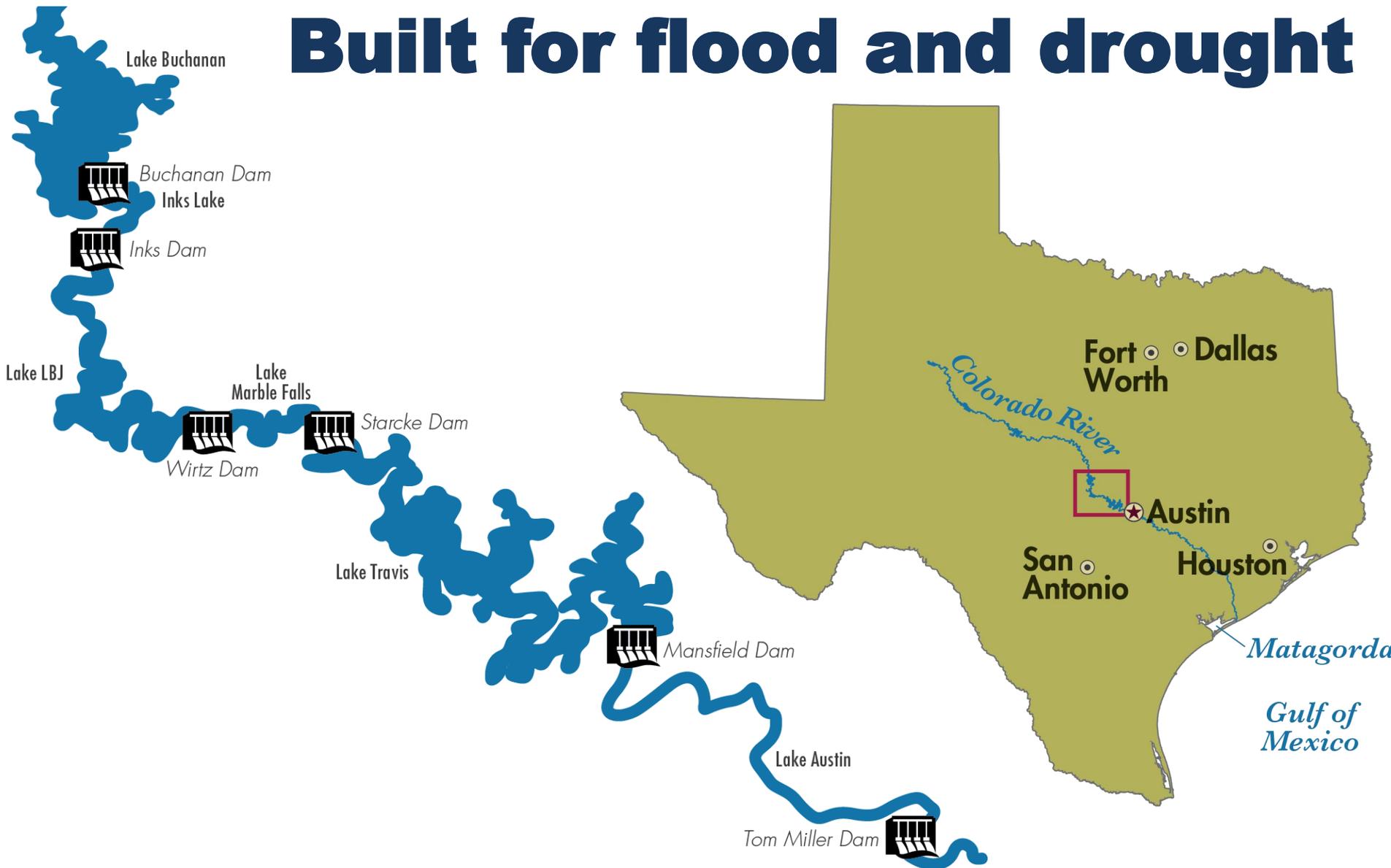


- **Nature caused this drought**
- **Nature will end it**
- **We need the right kind of rain in the right places**

Lake Austin in 1949



Built for flood and drought



1952 flood



More than 19 feet

1952 flood



57 feet in 14 hours

How are decisions made about who gets water?

Water Management Plan

- **Guides LCRA's operation of Highland Lakes reservoirs**
- **Determines how water is allocated**
- **State-approved document**

Updating the Water Management Plan

- LCRA is revising the 2012 application to amend the 2010 plan
- Latest proposal:
 - Maintains combined storage of lakes Travis and Buchanan above 600,000 acre-feet
 - Establishes three curtailment conditions

What LCRA is doing

Crackdown on illegal diversions

- Increased enforcement began Aug. 1
 - Domestic users along Highland Lakes
 - Diversions between Austin and Matagorda Bay
- If you know of a violation:
 - [lcra.org/domestic use](http://lcra.org/domestic-use)
 - 800-776-5272, Ext. 1535
 - domesticwateruse@lcra.org

Historic action

- **Cut off Highland Lakes water to most downstream agricultural irrigation three years in a row**
- **Require firm customers to limit homeowners and businesses to watering a maximum of once a week**

Historic action

- **Drilling groundwater wells in Bastrop**
 - **Lost Pines Power Park**
 - **Griffith League Scout Ranch**

Historic action

- Pursuing a new downstream reservoir

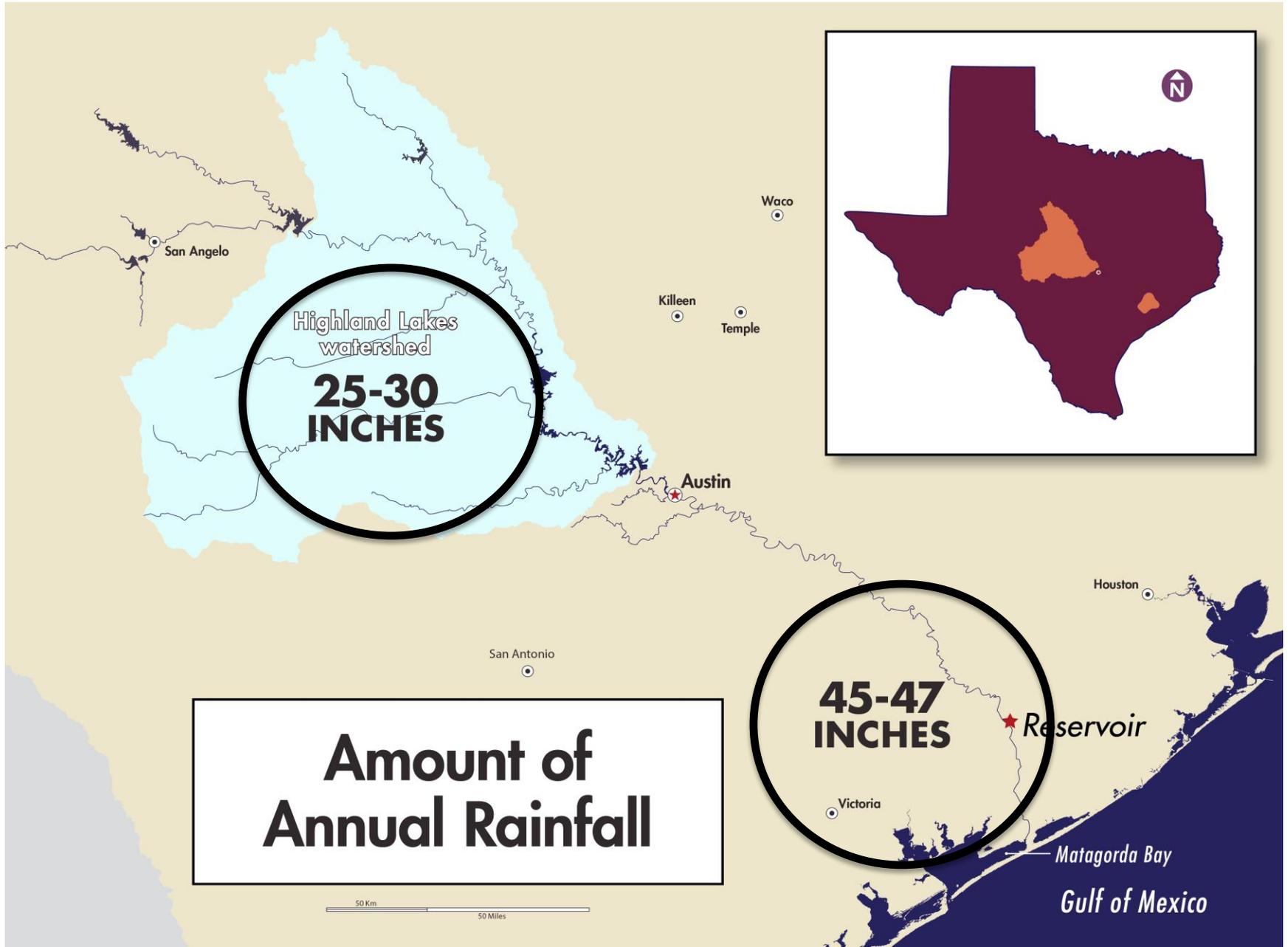
–Lane City Reservoir Project



October flooding



Downstream reservoir



Who benefits?

- Everyone in the basin

A shared resource

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- **Agriculture**

