

**CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS
RESOLUTION No. 2014 - 01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS, IN
SUPPORT OF A FAIR ALLOCATION OF COLORADO RIVER RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, the 600 mile stretch of the Colorado River managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) connects the communities of the region, providing the life-blood of over a million Texans and supporting an economy valued at well over a hundred billion dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, even though the LCRA was originally created to help ensure a steady and reliable source of water for energy and agricultural production, no reasonable person would deny that allocations of resources must constantly be readjusted to compensate for urban growth and water shortage conditions; and

WHEREAS, major Colorado River Basin stakeholders participated in an intensive process to reach consensus emergency plans to compensate for the record low inflows in 2011 and 2013 and prevent a threat to public health and safety throughout the entire Colorado River Basin; and

WHEREAS, thanks to this consensus approach to emergency river management, the Highland Lakes have retained sufficient water levels to adequately provide for the health and safety of firm customers, none of whom have gone so far as to publicly contemplate ending outdoor watering, for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, without due process or scientific logic, an eight to seven majority of LCRA's board of directors has now arbitrarily and misguidedly sought to increase thresholds for water release from the Highland Lakes that is far beyond previous emergency levels, even though those previous emergency levels have never been approached; and

WHEREAS, current reservoir levels are at approximately 765,000 acre feet and previous emergency rules have dictated that water would not be released for most agriculture unless the lakes held a minimum of 850,000 acre feet of storage by March 1st (before the rainy season); and

WHEREAS, the LCRA's approved request will raise the 850,000 threshold of the previous two years to 1.1 million acre feet., and

WHEREAS, the TCEQ's recent approval of the new emergency threshold will unfairly threaten the long term health and public safety of downstream communities, some of whom depend upon alluvial wells requiring sufficient river flow to provide water recharge quantity and quality; and

WHEREAS, the TCEQ's recent approval of the new emergency water release thresholds could also unjustifiably threaten the eco-system that supports the health of fish and wildlife, including endangered species that are integral to the economic viability of communities downstream from the Highland Lakes and the entire Texas Gulf Coastal Region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas, hereby incorporates the recitals above, as factual findings of the City Council.
2. The City Council of the City of Bastrop hereby memorializes its finding that it is in the best interest of the Citizens and taxpayers of the City of Bastrop to call upon the staff and Commissioners of the Texas Environmental Quality Commission to reconsider its prior approval and ultimately reject LCRA's plan to drastically, unfairly, and ill-advisedly raise the emergency threshold for water release above the levels that were widely agreed upon in 2012 and 2013 based upon logic, scientific data, and stakeholder participation.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED on this 28 day of January, 2014.

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BASTROP, TEXAS:


MAYOR TERRY ORR

ATTEST:


ELIZABETH LOPEZ, CITY SECRETARY