

Jon Niermann, *Chairman*
Emily Lindley, *Commissioner*
Bobby Janecka, *Commissioner*
Toby Baker, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

May 27, 2022

Re: Alert for Permitted State Surface Water Diversions in the Rio Grande

Dear Water Right Holder:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is closely monitoring drought conditions and stream flows in the Rio Grande Basin. Reduced stream flow and low United States storage ownership in Amistad-Falcon reservoir system can cause shortages and impact water right holders. The TCEQ is responsible for protecting senior and superior water rights and ensuring water right holders divert water only as authorized.

Due to insufficient inflows within the Amistad/Falcon reservoir system and lack of precipitation in critical areas, the Rio Grande Watermaster Program has only been able to provide partial allocations to Class A and Class B accounts in recent years. In the Amistad/Falcon reservoir system municipal priority water rights have the highest priority and are entitled to water first over Class A or Class B priority water rights. Class A and B priority water rights could be operating with low water right account balances and/or subject to negative allocations, should the operational reserve go negative. Please refer to 30 Texas Administrative Code §303.22.

The Amistad-Falcon reservoir system relies heavily on inflows, precipitation, and climate patterns in general. It also relies on its water right holders and the responsible use of surface water through sound water right account planning, implementation of water conservation and drought contingency plans, and the prevention of waste by its users. Water right holders may also investigate alternative sources of water, particularly if the water right is the sole source of supply.

It is not possible to predict how severe drought conditions may become or how long they will persist. General information about the drought may be found on the TCEQ's website at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/drought>.

If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Stambaugh, Rio Grande Watermaster at Anthony.Stambaugh@tceq.texas.gov or 956-430-6056.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby Baker".

Toby Baker
Executive Director