

## Active Storm Management Protocols for Lake Conroe and Lake Houston - 2024

### **Protocol – Lake Conroe**

#### Spring

- Beginning April 1 through June 1, the City of Houston may request diversions to lower Lake Conroe from normal pool of 201' msl to create up to six inches of storage capacity for forecasted storm event inflows (to 200.5' msl). The decision of when, how, and whether to initiate diversions will be guided by climate conditions, weather patterns, and available water supply.
- Resume normal recapturing after each storm event that triggered any diversion between April 1 and June 1.
- In the event a major rainfall is forecasted to impact our region, active storm management protocols of the City of Houston could initiate a diversion to create up to an additional six inches of storage capacity for storm inflows (to 200.0' msl). It is acknowledged that under extraordinary weather circumstances, additional diversions to create capacity below 200.0' msl could occur.

#### Fall

- Beginning August 1 through October 1, the City of Houston may request diversions to lower Lake Conroe if actual lake levels are at normal pool of 201 msl to create up to six inches of storage capacity for storm inflows (to 200.5' msl). After Labor Day, storage capacity may be increased an additional six inches (to 200.0' msl). Diversion volumes requested to reach intended levels will be dependent on the actual lake levels. The decision of when, how, and whether to initiate diversions will be guided by climate conditions, weather patterns, and available water supply.
- Resume normal recapturing after each storm event that triggered any diversion between August 1 and October 1.
- If a named storm is predicted to impact our region, active storm management protocols of the City of Houston could initiate a diversion to create up to an additional six inches of storage capacity for storm inflows (to 199.5' msl). It is acknowledged that under extraordinary weather circumstances, additional diversions to create capacity below 199.5' msl could occur.

### **Protocol – Lake Houston**

#### Year Round

- City of Houston will initiate releases to lower Lake Houston prior to major rainfall events.
- Conservation Pool Elevation is 42.4' msl.
- Lake Houston level reduced to 41.4' msl if a 24-hour rainfall forecast of 3 inches or more is expected within the Lake Houston watershed.
- Under extraordinary weather circumstances, Lake Houston level may be reduced below 41.4'.

### **Duration**

- The Protocols above will extend to the end of 2024 but will be reviewed by the stakeholders in October/November of 2024. During the review, the stakeholders will discuss strategies that extend beyond 2024.

### **Advocacy and Education**

- All stakeholders will work to support flood mitigation projects and efforts across the upper watershed, including improvement of land use regulations to reduce runoff from new development in counties that contribute flow to Lake Houston.
- Because public education regarding completed and ongoing downstream mitigation efforts is critical to generating upstream support for continued active storm management at Lake Conroe, all stakeholders agree to educate their constituents regarding: active storm management protocols being implemented at Lake Houston, completed and ongoing sediment removal projects in the San Jacinto River basin and Lake Houston, and continued progress on the Lake Houston spillway modifications.

- Because of its impact on effective active storm management, all stakeholders will support City of Houston and SJRA efforts to amend the Certificate of Adjudication for Lake Conroe to increase the maximum diversion rate.
- All stakeholders agree to support efforts to limit further construction of habitable structures around Lake Conroe below elevation 207' msl.

**Important Notes**

- All water released from Lake Conroe as part of active storm management is being accounted for from the City of Houston's 2/3 share and reported to TCEQ by the City of Houston. Therefore, all final decisions on diversions are ultimately the City's and must be communicated to the SJRA in writing. This includes defining active storm management protocols.
- All flood mitigation protocols could be limited due to drought conditions.