

CENTRALTEXAS

WATER COALITION

Pray for Rain, but Plan for Drought!

Lake Medina - 2015

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www.CentralTexasWaterCoalition.org

WHO WE ARE

- **Stakeholders on LCRA's Water Management Plan in 2010 as the "Lakes Interests" (Buchanan and Travis)**
- Other interest groups were Firm Customers (City of Austin), Rice Farmers, and Environmental reps.
- **In 2011, formed Central Texas Water Coalition, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization**
- **in 2012, formed Friends of CTWC, a 501(c)(3)....[tax deductible nonprofit organization]**
- **In June, 2014 formed a CTWC statewide committee dba WATER EQUALITY for TEXANS (WET).**

Improve Water Management Planning and Policies

- Education
- Conservation/Environment
- **Legislation**

ACHIEVEMENTS-WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED...

- Partnered with almost **4000** Firm customers including Austin, environmental groups, businesses, lake residents and legislators as the **UNIFIED VOICE** for **CENTRAL TEXAS**.
- For the first time in LCRA history (80 YRS), **SOME** Rice Farmers were curtailed from getting stored water from the Highland Lakes system:
 - **2012, 2013 and 2014 Emergency Drought Orders**
- Worked with TCEQ to include inflow data from 2009 to 2013 into LCRA's pending Water Management Plan.
- **Worked with Legislators and supported water legislative bills including TWDB Restructure.**

CURRENT ISSUES-WHERE WE NEED TO GO NEXT...

- **Proposed Water Management Plan is at TCEQ**
- **Equitable Water Rate Changes needed**
- **On-Going Emergency Drought Orders; LCRA & TCEQ**
- **Need Legislative Changes to consider economic impact, fair and equitable pricing and to assess river authority accountability-"transparency"**
- **WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THIS DROUGHT LASTS 10 YEARS? OR EVEN 5 MORE YEARS?**

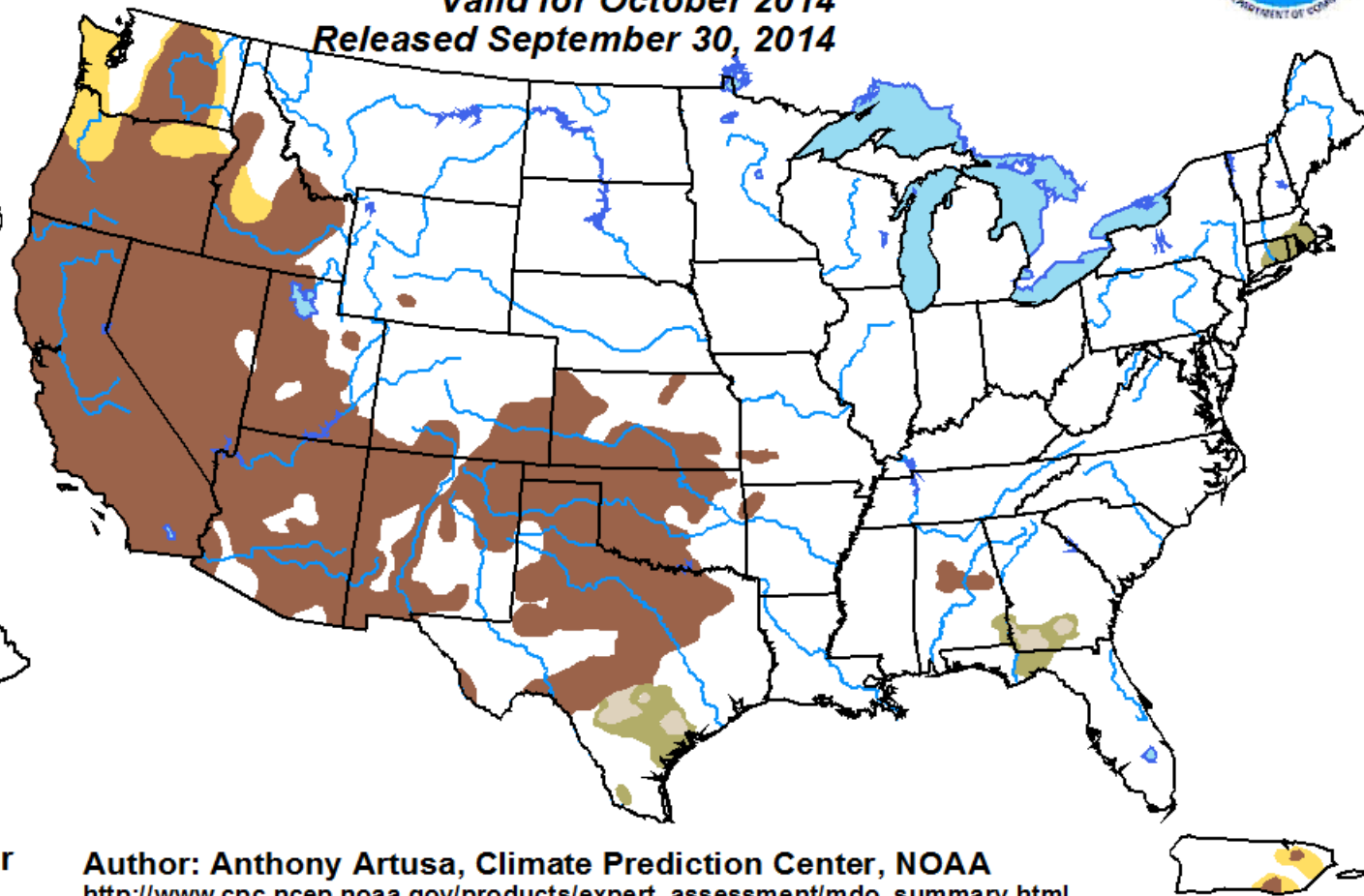


U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook





Drought Tendency During the Valid Period



Valid for October 2014
Released September 30, 2014



KEY:

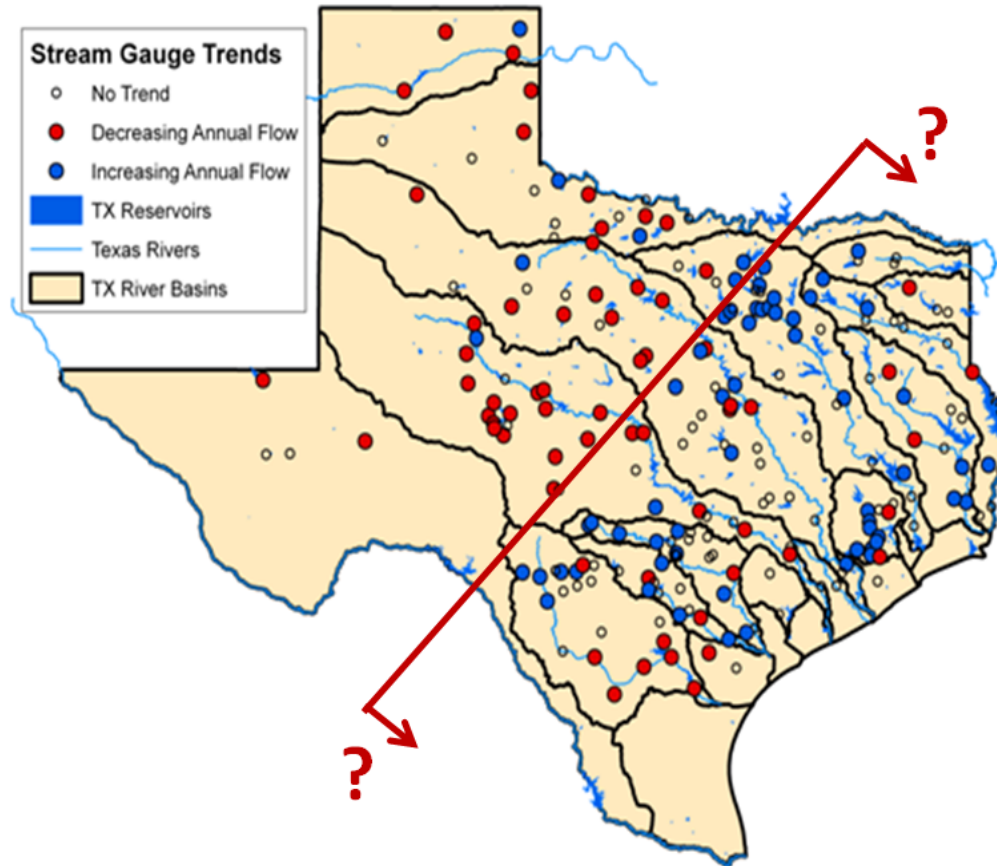
-  Drought persists or intensifies
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely

Author: Anthony Artusa, Climate Prediction Center, NOAA
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/mdo_summary.html

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor.

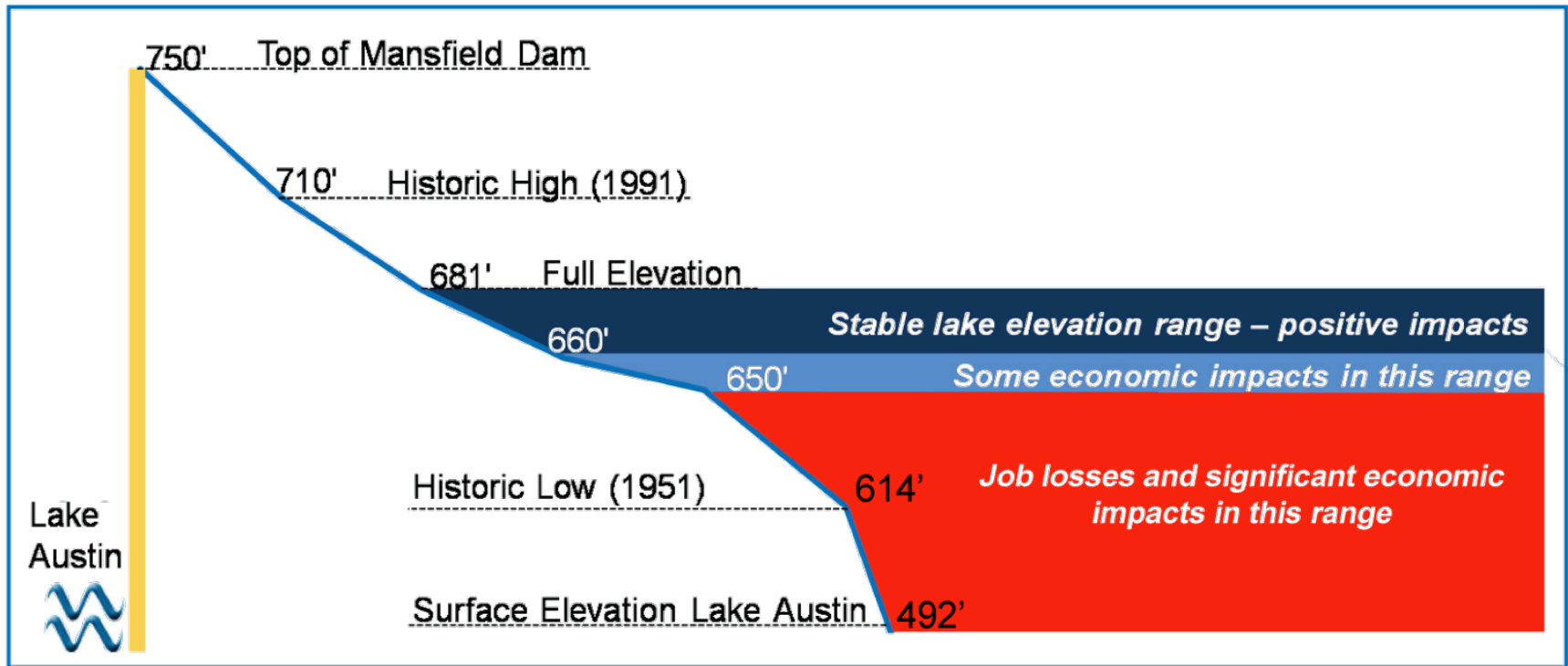
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none)

STREAM GAUGE RECORDS SHOW DRYING TREND*



*Intera Analysis, May 8, 2013

LOW LAKE LEVELS DIRECTLY IMPACT OUR ECONOMY & OUR HOME VALUES



Lake Travis Water Levels (Feet Above Sea Level)

CHANGING TIMES ...

Require changes in practice and policy.

- **Better planning**
- **Responsible management**
- **Equitable water pricing**
- **Greater conservation by all**
- **Legislative Changes**

The Time for Action is NOW!

www.WaterEqualityforTexans.org

WHAT IS **YOUR** WATER SITUATION ???

- **You stare at the lake every day and remember what it used to be like!**
- **Once thriving Medina Lake is now more or less a pond @ 3.2 % of capacity**
- **Like you, we are ALL approaching the new Drought Worse than the Drought of Record**
- **Where is all the water going?**
- **Your situation requires TEAMWORK!**
- **Going forward, working TOGETHER with a UNIFIED VOICE IS CRITICAL!**
- **How can WE help YOU?**

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WATER COALITION

WATER EQUALITY FOR TEXANS

Working Together to Save The Lakes

Garry Schnabel, Chairman
Water Equality for Texans
(WET)

January 15, 2015

YOUR LAKE WATER IS...

- Limited
- Precious
- Must Be Protected
- Water is our Most Valuable Resource

- *What Happens if We Run Out of Water?*
- *What Happens if You Turn on the Faucet and Nothing Comes Out?*
- *What do You do Then?*
- *Where do you go?*

OUR PURPOSE IS NO DIFFERENT THAN YOURS!

- ❑ Need to make sure those questions are not needed!
- ❑ To advocate for legislation & water management policies that resolve the problems and disparities with today's water management
- ❑ Texas water codes do not allow water planners to:
 - Consider economic effects on lake regions economic engines
 - Consider effects on your home values
 - Consider the impact loss of jobs and salaries

WET PROPOSES TO EFFECT CHANGE WITHIN THE STATE'S WATER POLICIES THROUGH...

- ❑ Policies that will consider economic & residential impact data
- ❑ Policies that utilize current & updated data that takes into account
 - today's changing demographics
 - current hydrologic data on a current & yearly basis
- ❑ Legislation that promotes fair & equitable pricing of water for all customers thus encouraging & promoting conservation
- ❑ Policies that ensure transparency and public access to river authorities & regional water planning groups and removes barriers to the public appeal process

THE SOLUTION REQUIRES UNITY OF VOICE & RESOURCES!

- Utilizing influential lobbying support
- Utilizing expert water legislative legal support
- Conducting awareness campaigns directed towards legislators, influential groups and associations and the public—you!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

- Protection of your drinking water
- Preservation of water supplies to allow business the economic stability to survive and the profit needed to maintain jobs, salaries and quality of life for all residents of the area
- Protection of your property values and local tax bases which provides for education and other services
- Protection of critical needs for fire fighting, safety and health

Just as our work is critical to these important quality of life issues, your work as a organized force is vital to your mission!

YOUR FIGHT TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE YOUR WATER DEPENDS ON YOU BEING "ONE"!

- ❑ We are all volunteers, working basically 24/7
- ❑ We receive no salary or financial reimbursement for expenses
- ❑ We are just an organized group of dedicated, concerned citizens that want to protect what we have in the Highland Lakes region, just like you do for Medina Lake!



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Water Equality for Texans (WET)

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www.WaterEqualityforTexans.org