



# *75th Anniversary*

**San Jacinto River Authority 1937-2012**

The San Jacinto River Authority is a government agency whose mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin.





FIRE LANE NO PARKING

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Outside cover: Location of SJRA headquarters from 1973 to 2011.

Inside cover: Location of SJRA headquarters from 2011 to present.



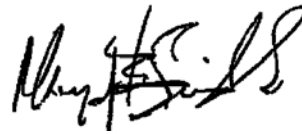
# Board President's Letter

Since 1937, the San Jacinto River Authority has been quietly and effectively accomplishing its mission of developing, conserving, and protecting the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Between record-breaking droughts and trend-busting population and economic growth, the demand for water throughout SJRA's service area, particularly in Montgomery County, has grown enormously – and that growth is expected to continue.

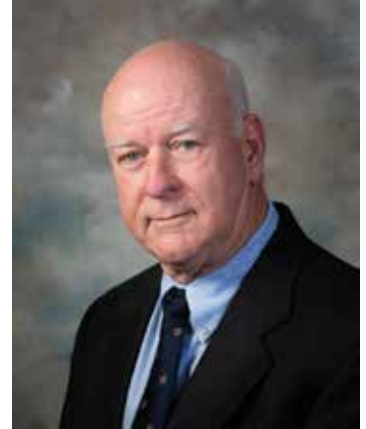
Ensuring that adequate water supplies are available when they're needed is a job that starts decades in advance of the need. As we celebrate SJRA's 75th anniversary, it is an appropriate time to commemorate some of the major accomplishments that have enabled SJRA to timely and cost effectively meet the needs for water in our basin and to remember some of the people that have helped make that happen.

The Board of Directors, management, and staff of SJRA are extremely proud of our organization's accomplishments, but we are equally excited about meeting the challenges that lay ahead. Over the next three years, SJRA, in partnership with over 80 other water suppliers in Montgomery County, will implement Phase 1 of a countywide water supply program that will add surface water from Lake Conroe to Montgomery County's water supply portfolio in order to supplement the County's current, dwindling groundwater supplies. While this is certainly a challenging undertaking, and a significant milestone for Montgomery County, it is not the end of the work that needs to be done. Instead, it represents a new beginning in our efforts to diversify

and increase water resources, to effectively conserve our supplies, and to ensure the availability of reliable water supplies for Montgomery County and the San Jacinto River basin for generations to come. Looking toward the future, SJRA's Board of Directors believes strongly in our mission to be a leader in water resource planning and water conservation for our region, and we are confident in the expertise and capabilities of our staff to guide these efforts with integrity and professionalism. Everyone in our organization is committed to the careful stewardship of our existing water supplies and to continuing SJRA's tradition of planning for the future.



**Lloyd Tisdale**  
SJRA Board President





# Message from the General Manager

The San Jacinto River Authority is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2012 and would like to share with you our pride, sense of accomplishment, and rich history, as well as our vision for the future.

SJRA has demonstrated leadership and innovation in water resource management throughout its history. Beginning in the 1920's when a local group of Montgomery County businessmen first saw the need to develop and utilize the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin, to 1937, when the Authority was created due to the efforts of local leaders and legislators, and finally, through seven and a half decades of dedicated and professional leadership, SJRA has quietly but diligently pursued its goals of planning for long-term water needs and implementing a wealth of water-related services.

An enormous number of people have contributed to SJRA's successes over the years. Many of those individuals are mentioned in the following pages. But on the occasion of this 75th anniversary, it is fitting to specifically acknowledge the Authority's previous management and note some of SJRA's major accomplishments during their tenure.

During SJRA's first two decades, the Board of Directors actively managed the affairs of the Authority and completed a master plan of improvements, which is reproduced, in part, on SJRA's website at [www.sjra.net](http://www.sjra.net) (under the About Us tab). The Master Plan Report is not only interesting historical reading, but it provides insight into the vision and leadership abilities of SJRA's initial, local leaders. In the 1940's, SJRA successfully navigated a complex series of transactions with the Federal Works Agency and the City of Houston to acquire a canal system for delivering raw water to its customers in the Houston Ship Channel area. In the 25-year period from 1950 through 1975, SJRA forged a joint venture agreement with the City of Houston for the financing, construction and operation of the Lake Conroe reservoir, accomplished the task of obtaining the requisite water right permits, and completed the

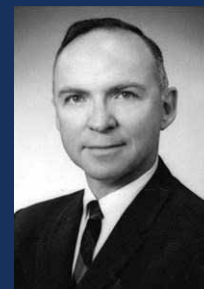
permitting and construction of the dam. The modern era of SJRA had begun and most of these difficult and complex projects took place during the tenure of Courtney W. Curry.



**Courtney W. Curry**

1947 to 1957 - Assistant Manager  
1957 to 1976 - General Manager

During the entire period that Mr. Curry was serving as General Manager, SJRA's primary legal counsel was Jack K. Ayer. Mr. Ayer became SJRA's General Manager in 1976, and when he retired in 1990, he had accumulated a combined 43 years of service. In addition to his involvement on the projects noted above, Mr. Ayer was instrumental in the negotiation of an agreement whereby SJRA became the wholesale water and wastewater service provider in The Woodlands. Since the 1970s, SJRA has partnered with the municipal utility districts in The Woodlands to finance, design, build, own, operate, and maintain the wholesale water and sewer utility systems for that area.



**Jack K. Ayer**

1947 to 1974 - General Counsel  
1974 to 1976 - Staff Attorney  
1976 to 1990 - General Manager



**James R. Adams, P.E.**

1989 to 1990 - Assistant General Manager  
1990 to 2006 - General Manager

When Mr. Ayer retired in 1990, SJRA hired James R. “Jim” Adams to take over as General Manager. With Lake Conroe completed and filled, raw water sales in the Houston Ship Channel area running smoothly, and utility operations in The Woodlands in a steady growth mode, Mr. Adams refocused SJRA on its primary goals of modernizing its water delivery facilities and planning for long-term water supplies. During his tenure from 1990 to 2006, SJRA acquired over 150,000 acre-feet of additional water supplies in the Trinity and San Jacinto river basins. These supplies were critical in freeing the water in Lake Conroe to meet potential water demands in Montgomery County.

Finally, in just the past five years, the Authority has planned, facilitated, and implemented a countywide surface water supply program for Montgomery County involving over 80 wholesale customer cities, districts, and utilities operating 135 separate water systems while simultaneously upgrading and modernizing almost all of its administrative and operational support structure in the process. This period perhaps more than any other in SJRA’s history, has involved tremendous growth and

change, not just in the number of personnel, but also in the Authority’s organizational structure, policies, and procedures. SJRA was led through this challenging period by Reed Eichelberger, who took over as General Manager in 2006 after serving almost 10 years on SJRA’s senior management team, and who recently retired.



**Michael G. Page**

1971 to 2012 - General Counsel

In addition to the leadership provided by SJRA’s four modern-era General Managers, along with its Deputy General Managers, Division Managers, and support staff, the Authority has also benefited greatly over this same time period from the advice and counsel of two individuals who served as SJRA’s primary legal advisors. Prior to becoming its second General Manager, Jack Ayer served as SJRA’s legal counsel for 29 years from 1947 to 1976. In 1971, Michael G. Page became associated with SJRA as its outside legal advisor and General Counsel. He has been the Authority’s primary legal counsel since that time – an impressive 41-year tenure. SJRA and its customers have benefited greatly not just from the wisdom and counsel of Mr. Ayer and Mr. Page, but also from the continuity, history, and experience that they were able to provide.



**H. Reed Eichelberger, P.E.**

1997 to 2000 - Manager of Surface Water Operations  
2000 to 2006 - Deputy General Manager  
2006 to 2012 - General Manager



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Despite the enormous successes outlined above, SJRA still has significant contributions to make and an important leadership role to play in the future of water resource management for this region and for the state. The achievements of SJRA are not an indication that we have arrived at our destination – they are evidence that we have laid a solid foundation for and have earned a position of leadership in planning for the water future of this region.

As we plan for that future, the leadership and staff of SJRA are committed to honoring the legacy of the men and women who established that successful foundation by continuing to diligently pursue SJRA's primary objective of developing and conserving the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin for the benefit of all who live and work here.

Sincerely,



Jace A. Houston  
General Manager



**Jace A. Houston**

2007 to 2012 - Deputy General  
Manager of Administration  
2012 - General Manager

### VISION

SJRA's vision is to provide reliable, cost-efficient, and sustainable water resource management that supports economic and industrial growth in the region and earns the trust and confidence of SJRA's customers.

### MISSION

SJRA's mission is to:

- plan for and develop adequate and reliable long-term water supplies
- treat and distribute safe drinking water
- provide regional wastewater treatment services
- deliver raw water for municipal, industrial and agricultural use
- monitor and protect source water quality
- ensure safe, dependable reservoir operations
- educate the public about water conservation and water resources

### PRINCIPLES

SJRA believes in the following principles as the foundation for performing its mission and pursuing its vision:

- Focus on our customers and stakeholders
- Treat each customer, employee, and vendor with dignity and respect
- Value each employee, their work, and their commitment
- Be truthful, trustworthy, and transparent
- Be knowledgeable and diligent in the performance of our duties
- Use financial resources efficiently and responsibly
- Be accountable for our performance
- Continuously improve our performance
- Ensure that our systems and strategies remain viable for future generations
- Be prepared for and respond effectively in emergencies
- Support responsible water resource development
- Support water conservation and environmental stewardship

# SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



## Introduction

Since 1937, the San Jacinto River Authority has played a key role in developing water resources and providing water-related services throughout the San Jacinto River basin. Like other river authorities in Texas, it has evolved throughout its 75-year history to meet the specific needs and challenges within its service area.

*Excerpt from SJRA Archives, 1950s Master Plan Report:*

*“The Authority is able to look ahead discerningly and project future plans. In years to come, the long range development of the San Jacinto River will proceed step by step, as rapidly as changing conditions permit, with increasing benefits to everyone living within the region.”*

## River Authorities in Texas

To put into perspective the role that SJRA has played in Montgomery County’s water history and the benefits and services that can be provided in the future, it is important to understand the origin and purposes of river authorities in Texas.

In the early 1900’s, Texas experienced a series of devastating floods and droughts. The Texas Legislature realized that its current legal and political framework was not adequate to meet the water challenges facing the state. On August 21, 1917, the citizens of Texas passed a constitutional amendment, referred to as the “Conservation Amendment,” authorizing the Legislature to create governmental entities with the authority to develop large-scale, regional projects, such as dams, reservoirs, and delivery systems, for the purpose of conserving and developing the State’s water resources, “including the control, storing, preservation, and distribution of its storm and flood waters, the water of its rivers and streams, for irrigation, power, and all other useful purposes . . . .” Tex. Const. Art. XVI, Sec. 59(a).

In passing the Conservation Amendment, the Legislature and the people of Texas recognized that:

- The water resources of our rivers must be developed, controlled, managed, and applied to beneficial public uses.
- This can only occur through an agency with boundaries that correspond to river basins – boundaries that are topographical, not political – that cut across arbitrary lines of counties and cities.
- The governing boards of these agencies must be: broadly representative of the river basin – not focused on narrow political boundaries or geographical areas; insulated from political pressures; encouraged to have a long-term vision; and given a broad mission to develop and apply the water resources in the river basin and the authority to perform their tasks.

This basic mission is common to almost all river authorities in Texas, including SJRA, and due to the nature of their mission, the boards of river authorities have historically been appointed by the Texas Water Development Board, or more recently, the Governor of Texas.

River authorities have no taxing power and receive no funding from the State of Texas. They must perform their mission to develop and beneficially apply water resources by using businesslike methods, not by relying upon taxpayer funding.

There are dozens of river authorities in Texas. A complete listing of these agencies can be found at [www.twdb.state.tx.us/mapping](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/mapping).

River authorities have been in existence and quietly performing their missions without taxpayer assistance for nearly 100 years. Most have developed substantial water rights in the rivers and streams of Texas. They are responsible for the construction and maintenance of the overwhelming majority of the lakes and reservoirs in Texas.



***Excerpt from SJRA Archives, 1950s Master Plan Report, Page 6:***

*“The idea for the creation of the Authority was originated by Mr. O. Etheridge of Conroe, who had first become acquainted with reclamation work in the Far West in the early days of the century. He moved to Conroe in 1910, and, after observing the profligate waste of soil and water in the San Jacinto valley, became convinced that some type of river authority was essential for the area.*

*“Mr. Etheridge spent several years compiling research and data on various forms of river authorities and conservation practices. He and a group of other prominent men in the area then pooled their ideas on the subject.*

*“Among those who pioneered in developing a plan for the control and development of the San Jacinto River were the late Walter Greenwood of Plantersville, Kirby S. Keeland of New Waverly, Charles S. Scott and his brother, J. Virgil Scott, of Dacus and Houston, the late J. W. Green of Longstreet, and Leo R. Paddock of Willis.”*

Many of these river authorities engage in large-scale water supply programs for cities, industries, agriculture, and irrigation all over Texas.

River authority leadership of and participation in developing and applying water resources for the benefit of the general public is the norm, not the exception in Texas. So it was for community leaders in Montgomery County in the 1930's who initiated the creation of the San Jacinto River Authority.

### **SJRA Past**

The San Jacinto River Authority was created by special act of the Texas Legislature in 1937. Its geographic boundaries cover the entire San Jacinto River basin, excluding (for political reasons) Harris County.



SJRA is a multi-county political subdivision and governmental agency of the State including all or parts of six counties, including Montgomery, Waller, Walker, Grimes, San Jacinto and Liberty counties, but Montgomery County is the heart of the Authority's service area and its home for 75 years. While SJRA's boundaries do not include Harris County, it is permitted to and has historically conducted extensive operations in Harris County east of the San Jacinto River via a service area agreement with the City of Houston, including substantial operations in southeast Harris County supplying raw water for industrial, municipal, and agricultural purposes.

Consistent with the historical purposes and structure of river authorities in Texas, SJRA's Board of Directors

***Excerpt from SJRA Archives, 1950s Master Plan Report, Page 6:***

*"The legislation creating the Authority was introduced when the State Legislature convened in January, 1937 by the late Honorable R. A. Powell, State Representative for the 27th Legislative District, comprising Montgomery and Grimes Counties. The bill had been prepared by Mr. Etheridge and Mr. James M Crane, a Conroe attorney, with the aid of Mr. Powell.*

*"The primary purposes of the bill were: (1) to protect the soil from erosion; (2) to provide flood control; (3) to aid and encourage reforestation; (4) to build a series of small dams along the San Jacinto tributaries and impound water which could be sold to municipalities, industries, and agriculture; and (5) to stock the streams and impounded waters with fish and adaptable forest areas with game for the preservation and conservation of wild life.*

*"The bill was passed by the 45th State Legislature in January of 1937."*

was appointed by the Texas Water Development Board until 2003, when the Board was expanded from six to seven members and is now appointed by the Governor. Historically, SJRA's Board of Directors has been geographically representative of the San Jacinto River basin, but in the last 20 years, it has been comprised predominantly of Montgomery County residents.

***Excerpt from SJRA Archives, 1950s Master Plan Report, Page 6-7:***

*"The first Board of Directors for the Authority were appointed by the State Board of Water Engineers. These were J. W. Green of Longstreet, Walter Greenwood of Plantersville, O. Etheridge of Conroe, K. S. Keeland of New Waverly, Charles R. Scott of Dacus, and Leo R. Paddock of Willis.*

*"The Board held its first election of officers on November 15, 1937. Those elected were O. Etheridge, president; J. W. Green, vice-president; and Charles R. Scott, secretary and treasurer. At this meeting Mr. James Crane was appointed the District's first counsel."*

The primary objective of SJRA throughout its history has been the conservation, reclamation, and utilization of the natural resources of the entire watershed of the San Jacinto River for all the purposes contemplated by the Conservation Amendment and SJRA's enabling statute. While the development of the river and its tributaries as sources of water supply has always been of primary concern, the conservation of soil and lands, as well as the control of run-off waters, have also been areas of great importance. The Board of Directors believed that soil conservation projects would not only increase the agricultural productivity of the lands, but would also aid in recharging the underlying aquifers by allowing run-off water to percolate into the soil.

In its early years from 1937 to 1941, in addition to beginning work on a master plan for water supply development in the San Jacinto River basin, SJRA initiated a long-range program of soil conservation and land reclamation. The program, intended to improve the agriculture of the area and prevent negative impacts to the watershed from soil erosion, was finally activated in 1946 when equipment became available after World War II. SJRA's Board of Directors entered into a joint program with the San Jacinto Soil Conservation District, which agreed to furnish engineering and planning for the reclamation measures undertaken within the area. The expense to the farmers was slightly less than the cost of labor and material and was paid as improvements were constructed.





**Excerpt from SJRA Archives, 1950s Master Plan Report, Page 10:**

*“The first soil conservation machinery was unloaded on the farm of Mr. Charles Cluxton in Montgomery County. This proved to be the beginning of a new day for farmers and ranchmen in the San Jacinto watershed. Many other farmers, like Mr. Cluxton, had fields so badly eroded and slushed with gulleys that they could not be profitably cultivated.”*

Despite initial successes in the area of soil conservation, SJRA’s primary focus has always been water supply development.

**Excerpt from SJRA Archives, 1950s Master Plan Report, Page 15:**

*“All plans and works provided by the Authority will continue to give primary regard to the necessary and potential needs for water in the area constituting the watershed of the San Jacinto and its tributaries.”*

For 75 years, SJRA has quietly and diligently pursued the planning and development of long-term water supplies. These projects typically have very long lead times, and like a game of Chess, good water supply planning requires seeing beyond the next move to the fourth or fifth move ahead. Since the 1940’s, SJRA has acquired a portfolio of water rights and compiled a plan of water management strategies to ensure plentiful, cost-effective water supplies for the future:

- In 1945, SJRA acquired a portion of the Federal Works Agency canal system serving ship channel industries, as well as water rights in the San Jacinto River, long before the construction of Lake Houston.
- By agreement with the City of Houston, SJRA acquired additional water rights in Lake Houston following its completion in 1954.
- Over more than 30 years, SJRA planned and developed Lake Conroe.
- In 1968, SJRA began construction of Lake Conroe with a 1/3-2/3 partnership with the City of Houston and with loan assistance from the Texas Water Development Board.



- In 1973, Lake Conroe was completed and filled with a dependable annual yield of up to 100,000 acre-feet of water supply. The final cost of the project was some \$30 million.
- In 1975, SJRA undertook the responsibility for owning and operating the wholesale water supply and wastewater treatment systems serving The Woodlands. The Woodlands water supply system has now grown to some 38 groundwater wells serving nearly 100,000 people and numerous commercial and other users. As a wholesale water supplier to The Woodlands, SJRA is a regulated user of groundwater subject to the groundwater reduction requirements of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD), just like approximately 200 other regulated users in Montgomery County.
- In 1995, SJRA began the acquisition of water rights in the Trinity River basin at a cost of some \$18 million to substitute for San Jacinto River water in serving its ship channel industrial customers, thereby freeing up SJRA's water in Lake Conroe for future local use in Montgomery County.
- In 1997, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1 establishing a new statewide water planning process driven by 16 regional water planning groups. SJRA's General Manager was appointed by the TWDB to serve on the Region H Water Planning Group, and since that time, SJRA has played a leadership role in the regional water planning process for the greater Houston area, including serving as chairman of the planning group, administering the group's grant and consulting contracts, and providing staff support and legal counsel.
- In 2001, SJRA purchased additional Trinity River water rights at a cost of nearly \$8 million.
- In 2005, SJRA began negotiations with the City of Houston to acquire the right to use Houston's stored water in Lake Conroe. Those negotiations were protracted and made more difficult by the competition for water from interests in Harris County.
- Since 2005, SJRA has secured additional water rights in Lake Houston by securing TCEQ permits for previously unidentified and unallocated water.

- In March, 2009, SJRA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Houston to purchase water from the City in Lake Conroe and to enable SJRA to timely complete a countywide Water Resources Assessment Plan, as required by the LSGCD. The MOU outlined the basic terms that would have to be developed into a final contract.
- In September, 2009, at the urging and with the support of our elected leadership in Montgomery County, SJRA completed the Houston water supply contract to secure all of the stored water in Lake Conroe for use in Montgomery County.

### **SJRA Present**

SJRA's present portfolio of permitted water rights and contract water supply rights, as well as the principal users of those rights is summarized here.



SJRA Water Supplies (acre-feet per year)	Principal Users
Lake Conroe 33,333 (Certificate of Adjudication 10-4963) 66,667 (City of Houston Water Supply Contract)	SJRA GRP Participants in Montgomery County, Entergy
Lake Houston 55,000 (Certificate of Adjudication 10-4964; run of river) 14,944 (Permit 5809; effluent from The Woodlands) 14,100 (Permit 5807; additional storage) 40,000 (Permit 5808; additional run of river)	Exxon Mobil, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, Newport MUD, Crosby MUD
Trinity River 56,000 (Permit 5271; Devers) 30,000 (Certificate of Adjudication 08-4279; CLCND)	Exxon Mobil, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, Newport MUD, Crosby MUD

Perhaps the longest, most beneficial and complex project undertaken by SJRA to date is currently in progress. All of the decades of planning, investment, and strategically located water rights acquisitions noted above positioned SJRA to offer Montgomery County a solution to its most serious water challenge to date – a severe and immediate

shortage of groundwater. The crisis can be summarized very simply:

- Cities and other water users in Montgomery County have historically relied 100 percent on underground aquifers for all of their municipal water supplies.



- Due to the tremendous economic and population growth over the past 40 years, the total demand for groundwater has significantly exceeded the amount the aquifers are recharged each year from rainfall.
- As a result, water levels in the County’s aquifers have declined steadily for decades, resulting in additional utility costs and even water well failures, and placing an unsustainable burden on a limited groundwater supply.

LSGCD was created in 2001 to investigate and manage the anticipated groundwater crisis in Montgomery County described above. After studying the groundwater problem, LSGCD adopted rules requiring each large volume groundwater user in the County to reduce its groundwater usage by at least 30% by January 1, 2016. This means that the 200-plus cities, districts, water utilities, and other large volume groundwater users (“LVGUs”) in the County were faced with the immediate need to develop new, alternative water supplies, either individually or on a large-scale, coordinated, regional basis.

**Excerpt from SJRA Archives, 1950s Master Plan Report, Page 5:**

*“Future water needs of this area present a challenge to individuals and to local governments. Any plan to supply these needs must be based upon the principle of the greatest good for the greatest number of people over the longest period of time. Every sub-division of government involved should stand ready to recognize the rights and equities of all other areas. Each has an essential place in the picture, and everyone within its general scope must be fairly served.”*

In response, SJRA spent almost three years and more than \$2 million to research, prepare, and offer a solution that was made available to every LVGU in the County on an equal and impartial basis. The goal was not only to develop the most cost-effective, long-term solution, but also to structure the program in a way that all participating LVGU’s would share equally in the cost, regardless of location within the County. As noted in the excerpt above, these guiding principles of long-term thinking and regional cooperation have been a foundation of SJRA’s activities throughout its entire history.

In August of 2010, SJRA’s proposed solution was accepted by more than 85 water utilities representing approximately 80 percent of the water usage by volume in Montgomery County. SJRA’s joint groundwater

reduction plan (“GRP”) is an excellent example of utilizing the structure, planning assets, and capabilities of a river authority to create an efficient, regional, cost-effective solution. SJRA was able to provide this turnkey solution by:

- Leveraging SJRA’s centrally-located source of surface water supply in Lake Conroe for Montgomery County and redeploying its portfolio of additional water supplies in the lower San Jacinto River basin;
- Having the necessary organizational structure and legal authority to implement a countywide plan;
- Having the necessary oversight and management with a proven record of performance and experience in developing water resources;
- Providing the necessary planning, technical, financial, and administrative resources;
- Minimizing administrative costs and staffing by leveraging an existing organization;
- Developing a focused distribution plan that takes advantage of economies of scale and gravity by distributing treated water only where it is most cost-effective in achieving over-conversion to surface water in highly-populated areas and avoiding the costs of pipelines throughout Montgomery County;



- Taking advantage of SJRA's eligibility for state and federal financial assistance;
- Administering a plan to pool the ratepayer base of all participating utilities in Montgomery County for maximum financing and operating efficiency and the lowest, uniform unit cost; and
- Coordinating, managing, achieving, and maintaining simultaneous compliance by all participating LVGU's with the LSGCD's groundwater reduction requirements.

The ultimate beneficiaries of the cooperative, regional GRP effort led by SJRA are the retail customers in Montgomery County, who will achieve timely and seamless compliance with LSGCD's requirements without interruption of Montgomery County's economic momentum and who will have a reliable, long-term supply of water in the future at the lowest possible cost.

### **SJRA Future**

Because of the existence of Lake Conroe and the development by SJRA of the numerous water supply sources and strategies mentioned above, Montgomery County has a feasible and affordable solution for its current and future water needs. By beginning to gradually utilize the surface water in Lake Conroe, Montgomery County can reduce the pressure on its groundwater supplies, stabilize water levels in its

aquifers, and move away from the precarious position of total reliance on a single source of supply to a safer position of conjunctively using both surface water and groundwater.

In addition to surface water from Lake Conroe, SJRA continues to work aggressively to develop additional water supply strategies for meeting Montgomery County's long-term water needs, including strategies such as research and development of other Gulf Coast Aquifers including the Catahoula Aquifer, advanced water conservation practices, aggressive drought contingency plans, reuse of treated wastewater effluent, and importation of water from other basins.

Like other river authorities in Texas, SJRA is specifically equipped to develop and implement large-scale, regional water solutions. For Montgomery County, this means bringing together SJRA's 75 years of water supply development and water planning experience to create the lowest cost, most timely, and most efficient solutions to the County's current and future water challenges.

In 2012, we celebrate SJRA's 75 years of quiet, efficient, and broad-scale achievement. As remarkable as its past and present has been, the future for SJRA holds even more and greater challenges and provides even greater opportunities for achievement and community benefit. The Board of Directors, management, and staff of SJRA look forward to the task. ■



# Highlands Division



Located in east Harris County, the Highlands Division delivers raw water from Lake Houston and the Trinity River through an extensive 27-mile system of canals and a 1,400-acre staging reservoir in order to provide water to customers such as Exxon Mobil, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, and a number of other industrial, municipal, and agricultural customers pursuant to long-term water supply contracts. The Highlands Division delivers more water each day than all of SJRA's other operating divisions combined and has been SJRA's principle enterprise for almost its entire 75-year history.

Location	East Harris County
Operation	Industrial, municipal, agricultural raw water supply
Average Volume Delivered	75 million gallons/day (MGD)
Major Infrastructure	1,400-acre reservoir, 27-mile canal system, 75 MGD pump station at Lake Houston, 10 MGD transfer pump station at Coastal Water Authority Canal, 42 siphons and water conveyance structures
Direct Staff (Allocated Support Staff)	7 (7)



# Woodlands Division



Located in southern Montgomery County, the Woodlands Division provides wholesale water supply and wastewater treatment services to the 100,000-plus population of The Woodlands through the financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of three regional wastewater treatment plants, a wastewater conveyance system with numerous lift stations, five water plants, 38 water wells, several elevated and ground storage tanks, and miles of wastewater collection and potable water distribution lines. Since 1975, the Woodlands Division has served as the wholesaler to the 12 municipal utility districts that provide retail services within The Woodlands.

Location	The Woodlands, Texas; Population ~ 100,000
Operation	Wholesale municipal water supply and wastewater conveyance and treatment
Average Volume of Water Delivered	18 million gallons/day (MGD)
Average Volume of Wastewater Treated	7.5 MGD
Major Water Infrastructure	38 water wells, 6 elevated storage tanks, 7 ground storage tanks, 5 water plants, 135 miles of water lines
Major Wastewater Infrastructure	3 regional wastewater treatment plants, 30 lift stations, 70 miles of wastewater collection lines
Direct Staff (Allocated Support Staff)	39 (24)



# Lake Conroe Division



Located at the Lake Conroe Dam, seven miles west of the City of Conroe, the Lake Conroe Division's primary function is the operation and maintenance of the dam, spillway structure, and service outlet at Lake Conroe. In addition, this Division handles inspection and enforcement functions related to water quality, including permitting and monitoring of on-site sewage systems around Lake Conroe. To maintain the safety of Lake Conroe for navigation and recreation, and to manage the construction of permanent structures on the lake, the Lake Conroe Division also administers boating safety and navigation hazard marking, removal, and enforcement programs, as well as permit programs for residential docks, piers, marinas, commercial operations, and marine sanitation facilities. Constructed by SJRA beginning in 1969, Lake Conroe was completed in 1973 as a water supply reservoir through a joint venture with the City of Houston, which owns two-thirds of the water rights in the reservoir.

Location	Conroe, Texas, at Lake Conroe Dam
Operation	Municipal and industrial raw water supply, reservoir operations, water quality and source water protection, invasive species management, navigational safety and regulation of structures on the reservoir
Average Volume Delivered	7 million gallons/day (31 million gallons/day beginning in 2016)
Permitted yield / storage volume	100,000 acre-feet per year / ~ 425,000 acre-feet
Water level at normal pool	201 feet above mean sea level
Permitted structures	4,500 residential docks and 2,000 septic systems
Marinas	Seven major marinas
Major Infrastructure	21,000-acre reservoir, 2.15-mile long earthen dam, 275-foot wide concrete spillway with 5 tainter gates, service outlet structure with 3 sluice gates
Direct Staff (Allocated Support Staff)	14 (6)





# GRP Division



Located at the Lake Conroe Dam, the Groundwater Reduction Plan Division is responsible for implementing a countywide program that will meet the requirements of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District to substantially reduce future groundwater usage from the Gulf Coast Aquifer by ensuring a reliable, long-term diversified portfolio of alternative water supply sources for all of Montgomery County. The GRP Division will utilize a number of alternative water strategies, including conservation, reuse of treated wastewater effluent, groundwater from all Gulf Coast Aquifers including the Catahoula Aquifer (and possibly other remote groundwater sources), and surface water from Lake Conroe (and possibly other surface water sources). Phase 1 of the GRP strategy will include the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and administration of a water treatment plant and transmission lines that will treat raw surface water to meet or exceed drinking water standards, and then deliver treated water to cities and utilities within Montgomery County in the most cost-effective manner.



Location	Conroe, Texas, at Lake Conroe Dam
Operation	Wholesale municipal water supply
Average Volume of Water Delivered	24 million gallons/day (MGD) starting 2016
Major Infrastructure (under construction)	30 MGD capacity surface water treatment plant, raw water intake structure, treated water pump station, 57 miles of water transmission lines to 17 receiving facilities
Direct Staff (Allocated Support Staff)	5 (27)





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**Ronald D. Kelling**  
Deputy General Manager



**Mitchell Page**  
General Counsel  
Current



**Michael G. Page**  
General Counsel  
1971 to 2012





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