



San Jacinto River Authority Latest News for April 2024

SJRA Takes Home Multiple Awards at Texas Water Conference 2024



SJRA's Utility Enterprise Manager, Chris Meeks, receives the Sidney L. Allison award for making significant contributions to the operation and maintenance of wastewater collection and pumping stations.



SJRA Project Manager, Nabeel Khan, wins the Texas Section - AWWA Young Professionals Maverick Award and the AWWA Five Under 35 Award.



SJRA's Public Communications Department wins a Texas Watermark Award for excellence in Public Communications efforts in creating an educational one-pager.

SJRA's GRP Division places in the top three for the best tasting drinking water in Texas.

Active Storm Management Protocols

On April 25th, SJRA Board of Directors approved the 2024 Active Storm Management Protocols for Lake Conroe and Lake Houston. The updated protocols formalize SJRA and the City of Houston's shift from Seasonal Lake Lowering to Active Storm Management. Each weather event has its own set of circumstances and its own footprint. Active Storm Management allows for the flexibility needed to assess each event's potential impact to Lake Conroe. Lake Conroe is managed to a pool level of 201 mean sea level (msl).

A summary of the updated protocols can be found below:

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.

Flood Management Project Updates

Lake Conroe - Lake Houston Joint Reservoir Operations Study

The City of Houston is currently performing a project to add additional spillway gates to increase the controlled release capacity of the Lake Houston dam. This study is planned to develop a joint reservoir operations and communications strategy for both Lake Conroe and Lake Houston, with the goal of determining the most efficient and safe operation of the two reservoirs in series. The study is planned to include evaluation of synced operations protocols, joint notification protocols and public communication strategies, and pre-releases and related impacts on water supply, as well as development of a forecasting tool for Lake Houston. The cost of the study is estimated at \$1,000,000. City of Houston and City of Humble (the Partners) have each agreed to fund a portion of the fifty percent local match (\$500,000) required by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) grant SJRA has received for the study. SJRA will perform in-kind services in an effort to reduce the local match amount to be funded by the Partners. The remaining fifty percent (\$500,000) of the study cost will be funded by grant funds.



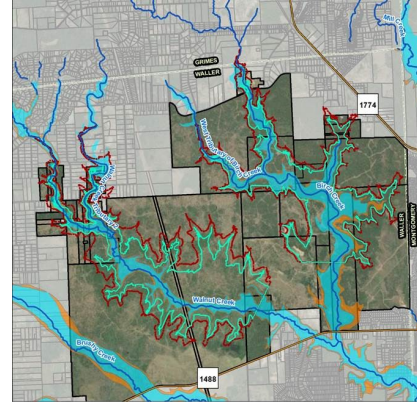
Sediment Removal and Sand Trap Study

House Bill 1824, approved by the 86th Texas Legislature, allows SJRA and Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) to remove material from the San Jacinto River and its tributaries to restore, maintain, or expand storm flow capacity without the need for state permitting or a royalty payment to the state. SJRA is working with HCFCD and City of Houston to plan, design, and construct one or more “sand traps” along the West Fork of the San Jacinto River to reduce future sedimentation accumulation with the goal of reducing the risk of flooding. A major component of the project is coordinating with Aggregate Production Operations (APOs) along the river in an attempt to establish a public/private partnership which would provide for operation and maintenance of the proposed sand trap(s). A conceptual design effort to select the most feasible site(s) for installation of sand trap(s) has been completed, and preliminary design is anticipated to begin in the near future.

Spring Creek Flood Control Dams Feasibility Study

This ongoing study is a continuation of the Spring Creek Siting Study, a sub-task of the San Jacinto Regional Watershed Master Drainage Plan project (SJMDP) led by Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) with SJRA as one of multiple partners. The Spring Creek Siting Study explored multiple

alternative projects and detention siting locations to provide flood mitigation benefits to the Spring Creek watershed. Two of the more cost-effective alternatives identified in the Spring Creek watershed – dams on Walnut Creek and Birch Creek – were recommended for implementation in the SJMDP. This study includes a conceptual-level design for each of the dams, as well as definition of benefits and costs for each dam and a combination of the two. The outcome of this study will allow project sponsors to determine the most feasible and economical alternative(s) for design and construction. The cost of the study is estimated at \$1,000,000. City of Humble, HCFCD, and five (5) Municipal Utility Districts (the Partners) have each agreed to fund a portion of the fifty percent local match (\$500,000) required by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) grant SJRA has received for the study. SJRA is performing in-kind services in an effort to reduce the local match amount to be funded by the Partners. The remaining fifty percent (\$500,000) of the study cost is being funded by grant funds.



Upper San Jacinto River Basin Regional Sedimentation Study

This ongoing study will provide an evaluation of sedimentation in the Upper San Jacinto River Basin, including identification of which sub-watersheds in the basin produce and store the most sediment, prioritization of individual watersheds/locations for improvements, and development of conceptual sedimentation solutions. Conceptual solutions could include future infrastructure projects or non-construction best management practices, with the ultimate goal of mitigating the loss of floodway conveyance in the basin. The cost of the study is estimated at \$750,000. City of Houston, City of Humble, and Harris County Flood Control District (the Partners) have each agreed to fund a portion of the fifty percent local match (\$375,000) required by the Texas Water Development Board grant SJRA has received for the study. SJRA is performing in-kind services in an effort to reduce the local match amount to be funded by the Partners. The remaining fifty percent (\$375,000) of the study cost is being funded by grant funds.

[#BestWaterInTexas](https://twitter.com/BestWaterInTexas)



Industrial customers in East Harris County depend on the SJRA to maintain 27 miles of canal that help push water to places that provide our region with energy, jobs and a vibrant economy! The Best Water in Texas helps keep the Texas energy industry strong!



June is the beginning of hurricane season, so now is the time to know how to be weather aware in case of a storm event. It is very important to pay attention to the forecast, become familiar with your location in the watershed, and know where to get quick but accurate information.

Be on the lookout for our SJRA Weather Aware Resource Guide article in [Dock Line Magazine](#).

SJRA is Recruiting!



Check out open positions [here](#).

SJRA.net QR Code

Scan the QR code to get information on Lake Conroe, all five operational divisions, and how We work for *your* Water!



SJRA Board of Directors Meeting
 1577 Dam Site Road
 Conroe, Texas



SJRA GRP Review Committee Meeting
 1577 Dam Site Road
 Conroe, Texas



Live Streaming Coverage of SJRA Meetings

If you are unable to attend the monthly SJRA Board of Director and GRP Review Committee Meetings, you can still stay up to date by watching the live streaming coverage on the SJRA website.

Click [HERE](#) to visit www.sjra.net to watch SJRA meetings live.

Scroll down to the embedded video box and click the appropriate tab and link.

To request a tour of any operational facility, visit [SJRA's Tour Request Form](#) page on sjra.net.



Tell Us How We're Doing!

SJRA values your opinions and thoughts.

We would love to hear from you on how we are doing. Please submit questions, concerns, or other feedback here.

[Contact Us](#)

The San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) receives no money from the state, nor does it collect any type of taxes.

SJRA's mission is to develop, conserve, and protect the water resources of the San Jacinto River basin. Covering all or part of seven counties, the organization's jurisdiction includes the entire San Jacinto River watershed, excluding Harris County. The SJRA is one of two dozen river authorities in the State of Texas, and like other river authorities, its primary purpose is to implement long-term, regional projects related to water supply and wastewater treatment.

If you would like to know more about SJRA, what we do, and how we work for the community, check out our website www.sjra.net and follow us on social media [@SanJacintoRiverAuthority](#), [@SJRA_1937](#), [@sanjacintoriverauthoritysjra](#), [@San Jacinto River Authority](#).



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