



NEWS RELEASE

July 14, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Dean Sullivan, City Manager

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RE: STAGE II - DROUGHT CONTINGENCY WEEKLY UPDATE

The STAGE II Goal is a 25% reduction in consumption.

CURRENT LAKE LEVEL:

WATER LEVEL

859.49

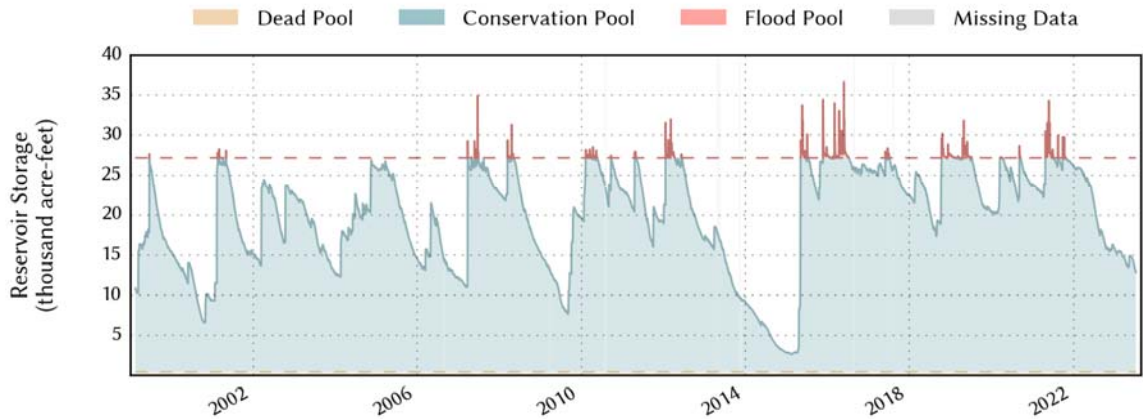
Feet MSL

Friday, July 7, 2023

at 4:15:00 AM

Level is **7.51 feet below** the conservation pool of 867.00 feet MSL

Lake Palo Pinto: 46.4% full as of 2023-07-14



Watershed area for Lake Palo Pinto remains in a **MODERATE DROUGHT**

CONSUMPTION DEMAND: Demand increased 15% this week. Factors of note included a major water main breach (SW 15th ST) due to fiber optic contractor negligence (~ 1.7MG loss) and four (4) additional minor water line intrusions (~ 110k gallons loss) from other fiber optic installation activities.

WEATHER FORECAST: The 7-day outlook shows a ridge of high-pressure has settled over the area and likely to remain in place for an extended period. Above average to extreme temperatures are probable with the chances of rain unlikely. The 90-day outlook models show unseasonably high temperatures and below average rainfall are expected in the watershed.

SITUATION REPORT: An updated Brazos River water blending plan was submitted, only to be rejected for a second time by TCEQ's Brazos Watermaster. That decision prevents the taking of water from the Brazos to help relieve some of the stress on Lake Palo Pinto. Blending is also required under Stage II of the City/District Drought Contingency Plan(s). Engineers and our legal counsel continue to work through this issue, but TCEQ has been unwavering thus far. Updated lake level projections now indicate the lake level may fall to the Stage III (857' MSL) level within the next 50 to 55 days (late August to early September).