

## Newsletter, Summer 2014

### State of Texas Permit System

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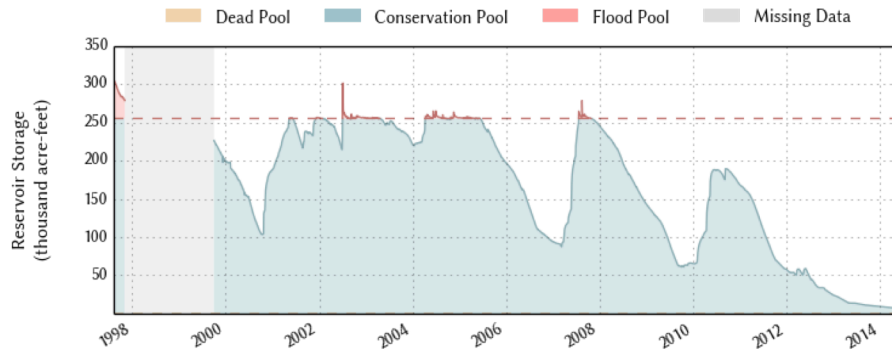
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### Medina Lake is 4.7% full as of 2014-06-28



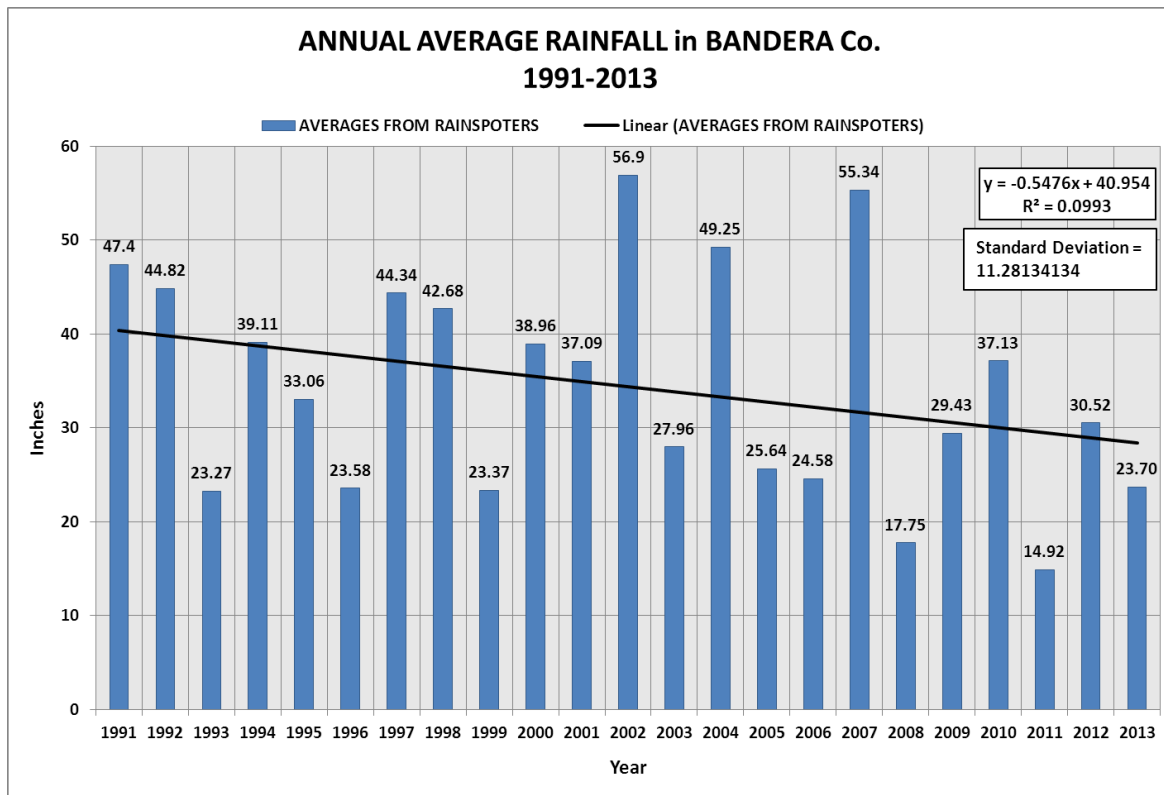
Date	Percent Full	Water Level (ft)	Height Above Conservation Pool (ft)	Reservoir Storage (acre-ft)	Conservation Storage (acre-ft)	Conservation Capacity (acre-ft)	Surface Area (acres)
2014-06-28	4.7	979.70	-84.50	12,061	12,061	254,823	798

The State of Texas considers surface water from rivers and lakes to be the property of the citizens of Texas. Surface water used from Lake Medina is permitted by the state through the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) which also monitors and records the data. These permits function on a calendar year of January 1 thru December 31 of each year.

The TCEQ permit for the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa Water Control Improvement District No. 1 (BMA) is approximately 46,000 acre feet per year and the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) permit is for 20,000 acre feet per year.

TCEQ monitored water usage data for the past 9 years is as follows:

Year	BMA Permit #2130-300	SAWS Permit #2130-301
2005	41,737 Acre Feet	10,235 Acre Feet
2006	45,686 Acre Feet	7,574 Acre Feet
2007	10,775 Acre Feet	0 Acre Feet
2008	32,806 Acre Feet	3,503 Acre Feet
2009	35,010 Acre Feet	9,298 Acre Feet
2010	17,103 Acre Feet	4,387 Acre Feet
2011	42,074 Acre Feet	9,892 Acre Feet
2012	16,301 Acre Feet	6,854 Acre Feet
2013	0 Acre Feet	1,630 Acre Feet
<b>Total</b>	<b>241,492 Acre Feet</b>	<b>51,743 Acre Feet</b>



### Update on Cause No. CV-12-209 198<sup>th</sup> District Court

On **10/14/13** District Judge Keith Williams signed a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment in which Item #3 contained the following statement: *“The disputed area is part of the land owned in fee by the Bexar Medina Atascosa Counties Water Control & Improvement District No. 1 (“BMA”), as successor to the Medina Valley Irrigation Company (“MVICO”), grantee under the warranty deed dated January 22, 1917, from grantors Theresa Spettle, et al. (recorded in Volume C 1, Page 315, of the Bandera County real property records), referred to herein as the Spettle Deed.”*

The land referenced was BMA claims of ownership of all land under elevation 1084 ft. After Bandera County intervened, the Judge signed the amended Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on **6/11/14** removing the above Item #3.

In this case the Plaintiffs sued the Defendants over property rights issues. BMA intervened in support of the Plaintiffs. There are hundreds of properties under elevation 1084 in Bandera County on which the property owners are paying property taxes. BMA pays no property taxes in Bandera County. Bandera County intervened to protect the property owners and the tax basis for the County.

### Save Medina Lake Committee

[SaveMedinaLake.com](http://SaveMedinaLake.com) has been working on ways to inform and educate the public on what can be done to protect Medina Lake.

One of the first issues of concern is that during what has become the most serious drought of our time there was no drought management plan enforced by the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on Medina Lake. While hill country lakes such as Travis and Buchanan on the Colorado River were protected by placing restrictions on irrigators in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 no such action protected Medina Lake. It was allowed to go almost dry before water quality issues caused suspension of its use.

The drought cannot be controlled but there are three key issues that should be addressed for protecting Medina Lake. The first is management of the lake system and dams which supply the irrigation canals. It is now clear that the Diversion Lake system was originally designed to be controlled by utilizing dam valves and wiers to control water flow to canals as required. It is apparent this has not been done.

Second, the 100 year old irrigation distribution system is totally inadequate. It's estimated only about 20% of the water thru the metering system actually gets to irrigators. The rest is lost due to leaks, unmetered releases (theft), and evaporation.

Third, one of the best ways to conserve water use is to increase the price so the irrigator has an incentive to use water efficiently. The present cost for irrigation water from Medina Lake is too low. Some parity with the cost of municipal water should be found.

[SaveMedinaLake.com](http://SaveMedinaLake.com) is working to get a hydrology study done to confirm the proper manner in which the system is supposed to be operated. If you would like to contribute to the cost of this study please indicate on the donation form below.

### TCEQ Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPS)

In May of 2013 the Lake Medina Conservation Society (LAMCOS) was asked by San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to assist and advise in locating areas around the lake which had drums and tires on the lake bottom. Subsequently, a report was produced with GPS data and photos. LAMCOS arranged for SAWS personnel to meet property owners at various locations. SAWS reports that the cleanup has been approved and should begin in the near future.

SEPS projects are funded by fines which are utilized for environmental purposes. TCEQ and its litigation division supervise the work to be certain it meets environmental protection standards.

### Medina River Protection Fund, Inc.

LAMCOS sponsored the Fourteenth annual Medina River Cleanup which was held on May 3, 2014 at the Bandera City Park. Participants from many parts of the state joined with Bandera County residents to clean 50 miles of the river above the Bandera City Park. All 209 volunteers were provided with a free t-shirt promoting the cleanup and food service from 9 am – 6 pm. Entertainment was provided by Josh Peek of Boerne and Brandon Nichols of Bandera. Free camping with hot showers was also available complements of Pioneer River

Resort. For details visit the Medina River Protection Fund, Inc. web site at [www.mednariver.net](http://www.mednariver.net).

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**It is time to renew your membership for 2014.**

If you have had any changes or are sending in your membership dues, please complete (PRINT) and mail to LAMCOS, P.O. BOX 390, Lakehills, TX 78063.

Dues are \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 per family. Any and all donations are appreciated.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 per person, \$15.00 per family

Donation \_\_\_\_\_