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## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

June 15, 2023

Re: Alert for Permitted State Surface Water Right Holders Supported by the Amistad/Falcon System in the Rio Grande

Dear Water Right Holder:

The Rio Grande Watermaster Program continues to closely monitor drought conditions, forecasts, and water supply in the Amistad/Falcon reservoir system. Recent rains have suppressed demand and forecasts predict improvement in drought conditions in areas of the basin. However, water supply in the Amistad/Falcon reservoir system remains low and there are indicators that water shortages could develop:

- As of May 27, 2023, the United States combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 30.10% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,020,878 acre-feet (near to 1,013,011 acre-feet a year ago).
- As of May 27, 2023, Class A and B water right accounts balances stood at 716,032 acre-feet (near to the 708,865 acre-feet a year ago).
- Due to low inflows, the Rio Grande Watermaster has only been able to allocate water to Class A and B water right accounts twice in 2023 (April and May).
- In 2022, low inflows, low storage, and high demand resulted in no allocations to Class A and B water right accounts, followed by the use of Operational Reserves, and then the application of a negative allocation from Class A and B water right accounts in July. While the system experienced some recovery following these conditions, overall ownership and Class A and B account balances are only slightly higher in 2023 than they were in 2022. The use of operational reserves and the application of a negative allocation in 2023 are possible.

All water right holders are impacted by shortages. When experiencing these conditions, the Amistad-Falcon reservoir system relies on all water right holders to plan for and implement water conservation and drought contingency measures. The Rio Grande Watermaster Program strongly encourages water right holders to review, revise (as necessary), and implement measures that will moderate the impacts of shortages.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [Georgina.Bermea@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Georgina.Bermea@tceq.texas.gov) or 956-430-6056.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Georgina Bermea".

Georgina Bermea, Rio Grande Watermaster