



## Travis County W.C.I.D. - Point Venture

18606 Venture Drive, Point Venture

Office - (512) 267-1641, After Hours 1-800-579-4500,

Emergency On-Call 281-398-8211

# August Newsletter

August 10, 2023

**ALERT! Current lake level of Lake Travis as of 8/08/2023 - 634.73 ft msl ALERT!**

Full Pool is 681 ft msl

Current combined levels for Lakes Buchanan & Travis are 908,306 acre feet

**Mandatory restrictions will go into effect once combined levels reach 900,000 acre feet.**

## More Sewer Line Blockages

In June, a sewer main blockage caused residential grinder pump systems to backup and alarm on Southwind Road and Summit Ridge Drive. Inframark crews began mitigation and troubleshooting efforts including vacuum truck hauls of sewage, internal camera-inspection of a sewer main, and installation of pressure recorders. In this case, the pressure recorders confirmed a blockage existed in a District sewer main. The main was subsequently dug up, revealing a severe restriction composed of dirt and roots. The restriction was cleared, and a sweep (pair of curved pipes) was installed to provide access for clearing the line rapidly if needed in the future.

The pressure recorders have proven to be valuable tools when diagnosing sewer main problems, so at the July meeting, the Board decided to purchase additional units. In addition to using them to rapidly investigate and resolve problems, the recorders can be left on sewer mains to detect impending problems before they affect residents. It is also quite possible that the pressure recorders will pay for themselves by reducing the District's costs dealing with sewer main issues.

## Bids for WWTP Opening August 24

On August 24, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. bids will be opened for WCID's highest priority project, the construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant in Point Venture. The construction schedule is estimated to be 2.5 to 3 years. Included in this

large project are the rehabilitation of two lift stations and several manholes. Bids are due by 2:00 p.m. that day at the District office. Bid opening will be held at the POA's Venture Room. The current projection for this WWTP/Lift stations project in the collections system is approximately \$9 million.

A \$14.5 million bond was passed by voters in the District in late 2019 for construction of a new plant as well as rehabilitation or replacement of numerous components throughout the District in both distribution (fresh water) and collections (effluent water). Then COVID hit, causing delays in every aspect of designing, planning and permitting of the proposed projects. With COVID and the increased inflation rate, the cost of goods and services began to rise causing the 2019 cost projections to become skewed.

The public is invited to attend the bid opening. Trihydro, the District's engineering firm, will review the bids and make a recommendation for award of the contract at a special Board meeting in early September.

The bid opening on August 24 will be followed by the District's regular monthly Board of Directors meeting which will also be held in the Venture Room. Residents and property owners are always encouraged to attend.

At the Board's August meeting the proposed budget for 2024 will be discussed and an Order setting the District's proposed tax Rate for 2023 will be approved. A public hearing for the 2023 tax rate will be held during the Board's regular meeting in September and the budget and tax rate will be adopted.

Residents can find information by exploring the District's website - <https://tcwcid-pv.org/>

**Inframark and the WCID Offices**

**Will Be Closed**

**Monday, Sept. 4 for Labor Day**

**Regular office hours will resume at 8 am the next day.**



## Everyone’s Mind Is On Lake Levels!

It’s not news to the people living around the Highland Lakes that the levels of water in the lakes are dropping daily and rapidly. The large growth of this area and the prolonged drought are the major contributors to this ongoing concern.

The combined total of Lakes Buchanan and Travis will most likely drop below the 900,000 acre-feet threshold in the next several days. That number triggers the next stage of water restrictions in the Point Venture water District’s Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

Customers will be sent a notice through the IRIS alert system to inform them of the new stricter guidelines for outdoor irrigation.

Customers can do their part by curtailing outside watering to the very minimum. Everyone loves a nice green yard, but a

wise person once said, “Only in America, do we use perfectly good drinking water on our lawns.”

Customers can expect more stringent watering restrictions if significant rainfall does not happen in the near future.

Customers can find the complete DCP on the District’s website. Watering schedules will be mandatory and customers found watering outside of their assigned dates and times are subject to first a warning, then fines if the problem is not rectified.

Below is a quick reference to remind all customers of their watering schedule. Thanks for doing your part to help assure more water is available to everyone for basic needs.



Cover up! Uncovered pools can lose up to 20,000 gallons of water a year. A #WaterSmart [rebate from LCRA](#) can pay for 50% of the cost of a new pool cover.



Healthy landscapes rarely need more than an inch of water a week during the summer. The Texas Water Development Board’s [Watering Guide for Texas Landscape](#) provides some easy watering tips, including how to use tuna cans in your watering plans.



Give your sprinkler system a checkup. An irrigation system evaluation will assess your sprinkler system’s needs, alert you to any necessary repairs, and potentially help lower water use by up to 30%. A #WaterSmart [rebate from LCRA](#) can help cover the cost.



Don’t flush water away! A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day. [Use your water meter to check for invisible leaks.](#)

### Outdoor Watering Schedule

#### Reference Guide (Mandatory)

##### RESIDENTIAL

\* Odd number addresses:

**Wednesdays & Saturdays**

\* Even number addresses:

**Thursdays and Sundays**

##### COMMERCIAL

**Tuesdays and Fridays**

**Watering Hours on your days:**

**Midnight to 10 am &**

**7 pm to midnight**

**No watering allowed between**

**10 am and 7 pm daily for anyone.**

**Visit <https://www.lcra.org/water/waterSMART/> for more watering tips and programs.**

Brochures may also be picked up in Point Venture at the water District’s office, 18606 Venture Drive, M-F, 8 am to Noon