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## 2021 Flood Control Major Projects Recap

As promised in our last newsletter, several of the District's 28 dams have had structural improvement projects begun or completed in 2021. Below we break down a few more details on each of the three projects that have kept PCCD staff busy this year.

**Site 23**, located just a few miles southeast of Lockhart, underwent a, "Repair," majority-funded by the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board, in the spring of 2021. The primary purpose of the project was to re-shape the plunge basin, line the basin with rip-rap, and additionally to remove the asbestos containing toe-drain pipes and replace.



**Site 10**, located within Buda Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, has the designation of a "Rehabilitation." Funding will come from the federal level and from the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board. Natural Resource Conservation Service will be providing the Project Inspector. This dam will become PCCD's second dam with a concrete spillway, but unlike Site 6's labyrinth weir, Site 10 will receive a Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) spillway.

**Site 2**, also known as "Lake Kyle," is undergoing a major overhaul. The scope of work will be similar to Site 10 (including an RCC spillway addition), but its technical designation is an "Upgrade." Though primarily state funded, a private company, AECOM, designed and will be inspecting the year-long project. Work is anticipated to begin in mid-November.

Both Site 10 and 2 will be retrofitted with RCC spillways; an example of which is shown here



## WATER CONSERVATION TIP:

### *Winterizing your water—An ounce of prevention is worth a gallon of cure*

"I survived the Great Texas Freeze of 2021!" If you are reading this, that means you did as well—although some of us did so with more consternation than others. Relevant to this newsletter, individuals' water supplies were disrupted during the freakishly cold storm. As I write this, in the first week of November, the temperatures are dipping into the low 40s—a good reminder that winter is not far off and that we cannot know if ol' Jack Frost has something similar in store for us this go-round.

During the Great Freeze, lots of folks dependent on municipal water supplies lost water pressure, perhaps completely, and upwards of a week. Certainly some domestic well owners were caught off guard, having failed to properly insulate their well's plumbing. On the other hand, a few people—thanks to frozen and burst pipes—actually experienced an abundance of unexpected but very much unwanted water in places such as their living room!

While there may not be much a person can do about a city's water plant going offline in a storm, there are preventative measures homeowners can take to help ensure they have water where they need it, namely coming from their faucets and not from their ceiling.

One of the first things homeowners can do as winter sets in is to close the cut-off valves to outdoors, faucets. Then you will want to open the faucet to drain the remaining water. Next, outdoor faucet covers should be applied. These covers come in Styrofoam as well as insulated fabric.

Similarly, any above-ground, water-transporting component associated with a well should be insulated. Pressure gauges are also particularly vulnerable to freezes. Insulating can be done with specifically designed products such as split-foam and aluminum tape or, more DIY materials like fiberglass attic insulation, tarps, duct tape; even blankets or towels.

As many of us learned last February, it gets a lot harder to maintain a functioning water supply without electricity. Thus, for well owners, installing a solar panel—at least as a backup power source for your pump—is an attractive idea. Having a pumphouse (preferably insulated) makes it much easier to keep components from freezing—particularly with the addition of a kerosene heater. For homeowners, having non-electric heating and/or power sources, including generators, may make the difference in ending up with busted pipes.

One other important way to prep ahead of time is to have emergency water supply on hand. Not all this water need be potable. For example a simple rain barrel could be used for tasks like washing clothes or dishes. However, since you never know the length of the emergency, the more potable water you can have, the better. Many options exist for potable water in emergency situations. Obviously, bottled water is easy to find and keep on hand. Survival gear companies also sell large bladders that can be filled before loss of water.

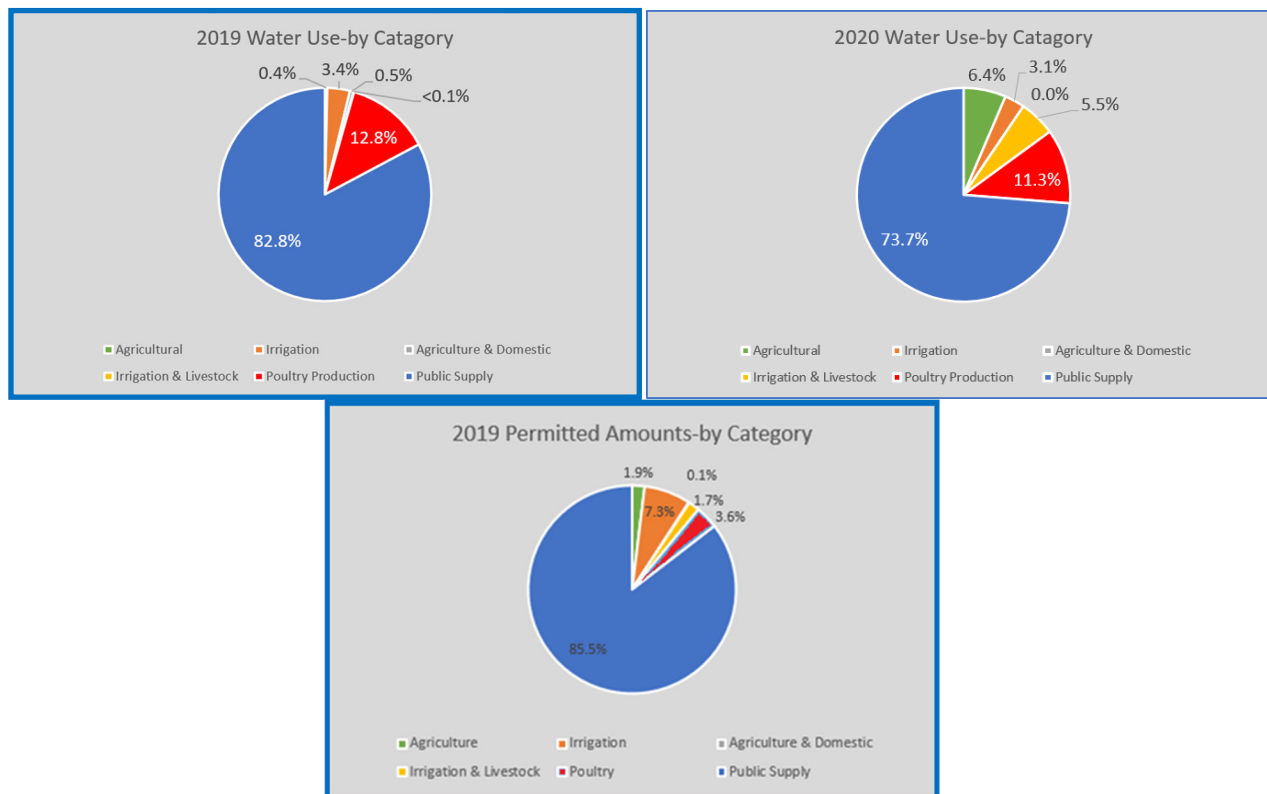
When a big cold-front finally hits, keeping your faucets running at a drip will keep lines from freezing. Make sure to run BOTH the hot and cold lines.

The Home Depot has an online article detailing 1) how to prevent frozen pipes 2) how to detect frozen pipes and 3) the proper way to thaw frozen pipes. Additionally, wellowner.org's, "Winterizing Your Well Southern style," elaborates beyond what this is allowed here. Both of these articles are linked on PCCD's homepage ([www.pccd.org](http://www.pccd.org)).



## 2020 PCCD GROUNDWATER USE

PCCD permittees reported using 1593.45 acre-feet of groundwater in 2020. This is 9.1% of the total permitted 17,504 acre-feet. (Several non-public supply permittees failed to report usage.) The first two graphs below compare water usage-by category in the last two years. The lower graph show the permitted water amounts-by category for 2019. The permitted amounts by category remain unchanged for 2020. For more information, request a copy of PCCD's *2020 Water Use Report*.



## 2021 WATER LEVELS

The table below shows water levels for 7 wells measured between January 1, 2021 and November 3, 2021, along with corresponding lowest recorded water level. If you are interested in finding out the water level in your well and how it compares to other wells in the area, contact us to schedule a time to measure your well. Complete water level data can be found on our website at [www.pccd.org](http://www.pccd.org)

Well	2020 Levels	2021 Levels	Lowest Recorded Level
Kosarek	-47.1	-47.5	- 50.8
Larsen	-20.2	-20.85	- 22.8
Lipscomb	-87.1	-88.55	- 93.9
Lockhart #8	-79.0	-75.95	- 108.0
McCormick #2	-66.4	-65.7	- 71.0
McCormick #1	-69.7	-69.9	- 71.8
Collier	-65.2	-65.65	- 70.6



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### **UPDATE ON BOARD MEMBER VACANCY:**

With last year's passing way of Mr. Ben Twidwell, a vacancy for the City of Luling representative board member became vacant. To date, Caldwell County Commissioners have not appointed a replacement.

PCCD's enabling legislation states that two board members reside in Hays County—one from within Kyle and one representing rural Hays. Four members come from Caldwell County—one each from the cities of Lockhart and Luling, and two rural Caldwell county representatives.

The Plum Creek Conservation District's Newsletter is available via email. If you or someone you know would like to receive our Newsletter via email rather than US Mail then contact our office at [info@pccd.org](mailto:info@pccd.org) or by calling (512) 398-2383.

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