

**Press Release.**

Lakehills, July 25, 2015. Save Medina Lake.

**MORE THAN 10,000 ACRE FEET OF WATER LOST FROM THE MEDINA LAKE WATER SYSTEM SINCE JUNE.**

Medina Lake was drained for water in 2013, and stayed empty until the lake regained 75% of the water in May and June this year.

BMA (Bexar Medina Atascosa Counties Water Control and Improvement District No. 1) who manages the gates in Medina Lake decided to reopen one of the gates in the dam of Medina Lake in June this year, and have released an unknown amount of water since the gate was opened.

Nobody, including BMA, has the knowledge of how much water has been released. BMA simply does not meter or keep track of the water they release from Medina Lake. Most of us take advantage of the technologies made available to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, however, the water released from Medina Lake is essentially managed the same way as it was 100 years ago.

No wonder they managed to drain the lake in 2013, and no wonder they already have wasted approximately 10,000 Acre Feet (3.25 Million gallons) of water since the gate was opened in June.

The water released from Medina Lake goes into a much smaller lake to the South of Medina Lake named Diversion Lake, before the water is released for irrigation or municipal purposes.

According to an URS Engineering study undertaken by BMA the ideal is to maintain the surface of Diversion Lake below 913.5 feet above sea level, and according to BMA their target is to keep Diversion Lake below this level. The reason for this is that the URS Engineering study shows that a significant amount of water is exponentially lost when Diversion is at higher levels.

Despite this knowledge and contrary to their own target, BMA has kept Diversion Lake at approximately 917 feet since the middle of June, which, in accordance with BMA's own numbers, means that they have wasted more than 10,000 Acre Feet (3.25 Million gallons) of water since the gate was opened. This water should have been kept in Medina Lake, to ensure we have water for irrigation and other use in the future. After several requests the gate in Medina Lake was finally closed this week, and the water level in Diversion Lake has been dropping.

We are sure BMA has an excuse for keeping Diversion Lake full and wasting all this water, but, in modern time we are seeking proper management with focus on water conservation and not excuses.

Save Medina Lake, encourages state and local politicians to apply pressure on BMA to ensure proper management of the water in Medina Lake by installing flow meters on Medina Lake and maintaining Diversion Lake below the targeted 913.5'.

For more information, visit our website and Facebook page.

<http://www.savemedinalake.com>

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