



3628 South 35th Street
Tacoma, Washington 98409-3192

TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

May 23, 2019

Dear Lake Cushman resident,

As you've probably heard, 2019 has been an unusually dry year. Average Cushman inflows between February and April were the lowest on record. Precipitation amounts have been well below normal for most of the year; if it remains this dry, May will set a new record. June precipitation is also projected to be below normal.

In the Cushman basin, snowpack is below 60% of normal and decreasing quickly due to warmer-than-normal temperatures.

Gov. Inslee recently expanded the drought emergency declaration to cover nearly half of Washington; Mason County and the Skokomish-Dosewallips watershed are included on the revised list. According to NOAA, the weather is expected to remain hot and dry throughout the summer, and federal water supply forecasters predict lower-available water supplies.

To help mitigate for this, the Cushman No. 2 Powerhouse has not generated since March. The Cushman No.1 Powerhouse has generated only to meet our minimum discharge requirements to maintain flow in the North Fork Skokomish River.

What are the impacts?

The reservoir will not reach our target 735 feet elevation by Memorial Day. This graph shows the projected range of elevation levels through this summer. Even in these conditions, Tacoma Power must maintain sufficient downstream flows in the North Fork Skokomish River to protect fish. Our federal obligations mean we will likely need to release more water downstream than will flow into the lake this summer.

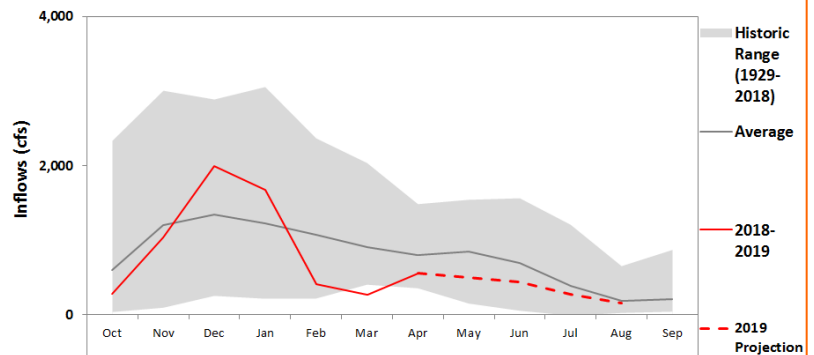
What's next?

We will stay in contact with you throughout the summer and post updates on MyTPU.org/Cushman. If you have questions, please email me at cushmanfeedback@cityoftacoma.org. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Keith Underwood
Natural Resources Manager

Cushman Inflows October 2018 - April 2019



2019 Lake Cushman Elevation Levels

