



**The Untold Story of the Lower Colorado River  
Authority (River Books, Sponsored by The  
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*John Williams*

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# **The Untold Story of the Lower Colorado River Authority (River Books, Sponsored by The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University)**

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Arguably, no other institution has transformed the heart of Texas like the Lower Colorado River Authority. Born in the Great Depression of the 1930s, LCRA built a chain of dams and brought predictability to the cycles of extreme droughts and floods that had long plagued Austin and other communities. It also brought hydroelectric power—and with that, modern-day civilization—to the hard-scrabble regions of Central and South Texas.

With those achievements, and the support of powerful political leaders like Lyndon Johnson, LCRA for years was touted as one of the state's major success stories. But LCRA has never been a stranger to controversy, and while it continues to provide much of the energy and water that fuels the economic engine of Austin and beyond, most people know very little about LCRA.

In this book, readers will learn about the forces of nature and politics that combined to create LCRA; the colorful personalities who operated, supported, or fought with the agency; its spectacular successes, periodic blunders, and occasional failures; and its evolution into one of the largest public power organizations in Texas.

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