



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Judi Pierce
Public Information Officer
(254) 761-3103

**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES STAGE1 DROUGHT STATUS
FOR LAKES SOMERVILLE, STILLHOUSE HOLLOW AND GEORGETOWN**

WACO, Texas – April 3, 2025 – The Brazos River Authority has announced that Stage 1 – Drought Watch has been implemented for several reservoirs within the BRA water supply system. Reservoirs affected by the Stage 1 Drought Watch are Lakes Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow and Georgetown.

The current Stage 1 – Drought Watch declaration occurred when areas near these reservoirs recently reached a trigger associated with the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI). The PHDI, a product of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is an indicator of the level of wet or dry conditions within a particular area and is included as a drought trigger in the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan.

Due to the drier-than-normal conditions, the monthly PHDI has dropped below -2.4, triggering the condition for the affected reservoirs. The stated goals of Stage 1 – Drought Watch are:

- to raise awareness of the developing drought situation and
- to achieve a voluntary five percent (5%) reduction of the water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures.

Customers obtaining water supply from any of the affected reservoirs are asked to:

1. Activate their Drought Contingency Plan;
2. Increase public education efforts on ways to reduce water use;
3. Notify customers of actions being taken; and
4. Any other actions they deem appropriate for your situation.

Additional information on Stage 1 – Drought Watch implementation can be found on page 5 of the BRA Drought Contingency Plan [here](#). Current drought information is also available [here](#).

The Brazos River Authority monitors water supply and drought conditions within the basin and will notify both contract holders and the public when changes under the plan are made or additional action is required. For additional information, please call 888-922-6272 or email information@brazos.org.

###

About the Brazos River Authority

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes

all or part of 70 counties, extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The BRA built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the BRA contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The BRA also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, and Hutto. The BRA owns and operates a potable water treatment system, the East Williamson County Regional Water System, for the City of Taylor.

The BRA engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the BRA samples and tests water from more than 100 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.