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**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY FORMALLY RENAMES MAIN OFFICES
FOR FORMER GM/CEO LT. GEN. PHILLIP J. FORD**

July 31, 2023 – Waco, TX -- A ceremony officially renaming the Brazos River Authority's Waco Central Office to the Lt. Gen. Phillip J. Ford Central Office Facilities was held Monday, July 31. As part of the BRA's bi-monthly Board of Directors meeting, the renaming honors the BRA's longtime former chief executive officer and general manager, who served from 2001 - 2018. Ford died in 2021 at age 77.

The BRA Board of Directors, members of Ford's family, and BRA staff gathered for the naming celebration, sharing memories and thoughts.

Ford was the seventh general manager of the BRA since its establishment by the Texas Legislature in 1929.

"He was a powerful mentor who, after more than 30 years in the Air Force, dedicated his life to making Texas a better place to live," said David Collinsworth, who worked under Ford's direction for 17 years and succeeded him in the top role.

A Fort Worth native, Ford developed his leadership skills during a 35-year career with the Air Force. He rose to prominence as a top official at several air bases, then became deputy commander of the U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt AFB before his retirement.

During his tenure, Ford directed the construction of the Central Office building in 2001-2002. The 40,000-square-foot space serves as the third headquarters for the BRA. The organization was first housed in temporary facilities in Temple's Kyle Hotel from 1929 - 1940 and Mineral Wells' Baker Hotel until 1960. In 1960, the organization relocated to Waco, moving into permanent offices at 4400 Cobbs Drive and moving next door in 2002 with the completion of the new building. The facility holds more than 70 offices, a central file library, an environmental laboratory, a board room, and multiple meeting facilities.

As general manager, he was responsible for more than 275 employees in multiple locations throughout the Brazos River basin, which stretches from the Texas-New Mexico border all the way down to the Gulf. Under the direction of the 21-member Board of Directors, Ford oversaw the management of the BRA's water supply, water and wastewater treatment plants, water quality initiatives, reservoirs, and dams. He served on numerous boards, including the Brazos Region G State Water Planning Committee and as president of the Texas Water Conservation Association.

Ford oversaw multiple important projects at the BRA, including the construction of the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line, the divestiture of Possum Kingdom Lake property, the decommissioning of the Morris Sheppard Dam hydropower project, the System Operations Permit and the Water Management Plan.

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.