

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Charlie L. Shugart  
Assistant Public Information Officer  
(254) 761-3174

**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF  
STAGE 2 DROUGHT WARNING FOR BRA-LCRA WATER**

August 16, 2023 -- The Brazos River Authority (BRA) has informed customers accessing water through an agreement between the Brazos River Authority and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) that a *Stage 2 Drought Warning* has been declared. *LCRA Water* refers to 25,000 acre-feet of water available through a contract between the two river authorities that is delivered from the Colorado River Basin for use in Williamson County.

The drought warning results from the drier-than-normal conditions in the Brazos River and Lower Colorado River Basins and is a response to drought trigger levels established by the BRA's Drought Contingency Plan in accordance with the agreement with the LCRA.

One of the trigger points for the initiation of drought measures for *LCRA Water* is continued drought conditions within the Colorado River Basin that have resulted in the combined storage of Lakes Buchanan and Travis dropping below the Stage 2 drought trigger of 900,000 acre-feet. As a result, the BRA is implementing a Stage 2 – Drought Warning condition for customers accessing *LCRA Water*.

Customers affected by this Stage 2 - Drought Warning include those contracting for access to *LCRA Water*, including the cities of Round Rock, Georgetown and Liberty Hill.

The goal of Stage 2 – Drought Warning is a required reduction of 10 to 20 percent (10-20%) of the water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measure and to raise awareness of the developing drought situation.

The BRA has requested that customers who utilize *LCRA Water* consider the following actions to meet target reduction goals:

- Activate their individual Drought Contingency Plans,
- Increase public education efforts on ways to reduce water use,
- Notify customers of actions being taken,
- Any other actions appropriate in their individual situation.

The BRA's Drought Contingency Plan provides several lake-level triggering criteria based on four potential drought conditions. Should Stage 3 – Drought Emergency triggering criteria be met (combined storage of Lakes Buchanan and Travis drop below 600,000 acre-feet), the mandatory pro-rata curtailment percentage may be increased as determined by the LCRA Board of Directors. Both BRA customers and the general public will be notified at that time.

Under Stage 3 – Drought Emergency, the LCRA will implement a mandatory pro-rata curtailment of a minimum of 20 percent or more depending on conditions at that time, as indicated in LCRA's Drought Contingency 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 and manages the operations for potable water treatment for the city of Leander.

The BRA engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean Rivers 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.