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BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY DECLARES A STAGE 4-DROUGHT PRO-RATA CURTAILMENT FOR LAKE PROCTOR

Waco, TX – August 16, 2023 – The Brazos River Authority today declared a **Stage 4 - Drought Pro-Rata Curtailment** for Lake Proctor. The reservoir dropped below its Stage 4 trigger level of 1,150.1 feet mean sea level on August 15, 2023. Lake Proctor is the surface water supply for Upper Leon River Municipal Water District, which is a wholesale municipal water provider. The lake also supplies water for several agricultural irrigators, which include Area 1 Water Company, LLC, North Leon River Irrigation Corporation, and the Lake Proctor Irrigation Authority. The Pro-Rata Curtailment designation results from continued drought conditions in the Lake Proctor watershed.

The BRA has notified each of its Lake Proctor customers that Stage 4 conservation efforts are necessary to help extend the use of water supply from the reservoir in light of the continuing drought conditions. At the *Drought Pro-Rata Curtailment stage*, BRA is requiring a 30 percent reduction in water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures, which may be adjusted as conditions change.

The Stage 4 Drought Pro-Rata Curtailment is part of the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). This plan, which is required by the state, is intended to help preserve and extend water supplies during drought conditions and includes strategies for temporary supply and demand management. The DCP has four conditions, or stages, ranging from 1 - 4 in level of severity. Each stage is tied to a corresponding reservoir level, called a "trigger" level.

When a reservoir drops below its Stage 1 trigger level, the BRA implements a Stage 1 *Drought Watch Condition* where customers and the public are made aware of potential drought problems. During Stage I, there is a request for a *recommended* 5 percent reduction in water use than would have occurred under normal conditions. Lake Proctor reached its Stage 1 trigger level on March 17, 2022.

At the Stage 2 trigger level, a *Drought Warning Condition* is initiated and *requires* a 10 percent reduction in water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures. Lake Proctor dropped below its Stage 2 trigger of 1155.7 feet mean sea level on August 8, 2022.

Stage 3 – *Drought Emergency* was declared on October 20, 2022, when the reservoir reached the trigger level of 1153.3 feet mean sea level. At that time, customers that draw water from Lake Proctor were notified that a 20 percent reduction was required.

Under Stage 4 - Pro Rata Curtailment, customers are *required* to reduce water consumption by 30 percent in water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures.

The general process under which the BRA will make water available is in accordance with *Texas Water Code* §11.039. Each contract holder has been notified as to the amount of water they are expected to curtail based on the 30 percent reduction from baseline annual water use.

The BRA continually monitors weather forecasts, streamflow and lake levels throughout the Brazos River basin. All reservoirs within the BRA system are under some level of Drought Contingency Plan implementation. The BRA System of reservoirs as a whole is under a Stage 1 Drought Watch. Lake Belton and the Lakes Stillhouse Hollow – Georgetown subsystem are under a Stage 2 Drought Warning.

In light of the drought severity, the BRA reminds everyone to implement conservation measures as directed by their water provider.

A copy of the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan can be found [here](#) or by contacting the BRA at (254) 761-3100.

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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.