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**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF A
STAGE 2 - DROUGHT WARNING
FOR EAST WILLIAMSON COUNTY REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM AT LAKE GRANGER**

Waco, TX – August 24, 2023 – The Brazos River Authority (BRA) has informed customers accessing potable drinking water from the East Williamson County Regional Water System (EWCRRWS) that a **Stage 2 Drought Warning** has been declared. The declaration comes as a trigger set by the Brazos River Authority Drought Contingency Plan was met during the latter part of August 2023. The trigger point is a total daily water consumption of ninety percent (90%) of the EWCRRWS' production capacity for a period of 30 consecutive days.

BRA Customers receiving water from EWCRRWS include:

- The city of Taylor,
- Lone Star Regional Water Authority, and
- Jonah Water Special Utility District.

As a result of the ongoing drought conditions, the BRA has notified each customer that Stage 2 conservation measures *are required* to help reduce demand on the EWCRRWS. At the *Stage 2 Drought Warning*, BRA requires a ten percent (10%) reduction in water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures.

The Stage 2 Drought Warning is part of the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). This DCP, 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, for the EWCRRWS ranging from 1-4 in level of severity. Each stage is tied to a corresponding reservoir lake level, storage level, or treated water consumption amount. These are referred to as "trigger" levels.

The BRA implemented a *Stage 1 Drought Watch for the EWCRRWS on August 8, 2022, at which time* customers and the public were made aware of developing drought conditions. During Stage 1, there is a recommended *voluntary* five percent (5%) reduction in water use that would have occurred under normal conditions.

Should drought conditions continue beyond current measures, the BRA may declare a *Stage 3 Drought Emergency* under the BRA Drought Contingency Plan. At the *Drought Emergency* stage, BRA would *require* a water use reduction target of twenty percent (20%) or greater, depending on conditions at that time.

The BRA continually monitors the EWCRWS water production and demands as well as weather forecasts, streamflow and lake levels throughout the Brazos River basin. All reservoirs within the Brazos River Authority system are currently under some stage of the Drought Contingency Plan.

The BRA reminds everyone that these extreme conditions are impacting water supplies and urges everyone to do their part by implementing conservation measures as directed by their water provider.

A copy of the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan can be found at the following web address www.brazos.org/DCP or by contacting the BRA at (254) 761-3100.

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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 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.