

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

BELTON LAKE STAGE 2 DROUGHT WARNING DOWNGRADED

WACO, Texas (April 22, 2024) – Due to recent rainfall that has resulted in a rise of lake levels at Lake Belton, the Brazos River Authority announced a downgrade of the drought status for the reservoir from Stage 2 – Drought Warning to Stage 1 – Drought Watch. The downgrade allows contract holders accessing water from Belton Lake to move from a mandatory reduction of 10 percent to a voluntary reduction of 5 percent of the water that would have been used in the absence of drought declaration.

On April 19, the BRA notified contract holders accessing water from Lake Belton that water levels have risen above the trigger level of 578.7 feet mean sea level and are expected to remain above that level for an extended period. Stage 2 – Drought Warning was instituted in August 2023.

The reduction in the drought designation allows BRA customers that use water from Lake Belton to change restrictions they currently have in place for water supply use.

The state requires the BRA to develop and implement a Drought Contingency Plan. This plan outlines steps to extend the supply and availability of water during times of drought. The Drought Contingency Plan includes four stages. Each stage is marked by trigger points measured by a lake level or water storage capacity. The Drought Contingency Plan also includes triggers that are associated with how wet or dry it is, according to the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index.

Though the System Stage 2 – Drought Warning has been downgraded to Stage 1 – Drought Watch, which is voluntary, the Brazos River Authority urges contract holders to continue to make the public aware of the current drought situation and promote careful water use.

##

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.