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LAKE BELTON AND THE LAKE STILLHOUSE HOLLOW-LAKE GEORGETOWN WATER SUPPLY SUBSYSTEM ARE REMOVED FROM DROUGHT STATUS

WACO, Texas (May 14, 2024) – Historic rain events in the Brazos River basin have prompted the Brazos River Authority to remove drought status designations from Lake Belton and the Lake Stillhouse Hollow-Lake Georgetown water supply subsystem. The removal of drought designation allows the customer cities, industries and agriculture that receive water supply from these reservoirs to change or remove restrictions they currently have in place for water supply use.

At the beginning of April, both Lake Belton and the Lake Stillhouse Hollow-Lake Georgetown subsystem remained in Stage 2-Drought Warning, requiring contract holders receiving water from these reservoirs to cut back the amount of water they would have used at this time of year by 10%. Following rain events in mid-April, Lake Belton's reservoir level rose, allowing the reservoir to be downgraded to Stage 1-Drought Watch, a voluntary 5 percent reduction. However, the Lake Stillhouse Hollow-Lake Georgetown subsystem remained in Stage 2-Drought Warning.

After 6 days of record rainfall this month, the reservoirs have risen above their trigger levels and into their flood pools, allowing the drought designations for Lake Belton and the Stillhouse Hollow-Lake Georgetown subsystem to be entirely rescinded. All are expected to remain above Stage 1 drought triggers for an extended period.

The state requires the BRA to plan 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 associated with how wet or dry it is according to the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index and pumping duration of the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line specific to the Lake Georgetown-Stillhouse Hollow subsystem. The complete Drought Contingency Plan may be found at www.Brazos.org/Drought

Though drought designations have been lifted, the Brazos River Authority encourages everyone to continue to use water wisely and employ water conservation measures at all times.

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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.