

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKE PROCTOR DROUGHT STATUS DOWNGRADED TO STAGE 1

WACO, Texas (June 17, 2024) – Long-awaited rainfall in the Little River watershed has prompted the Brazos River Authority to downgrade the drought status designation for Lake Proctor from Stage 4 Pro Rate Curtailment to Stage 1 – Drought Watch. The downgrade of the drought designation allows those receiving water supply from Lake Proctor to move from a mandatory 30 percent reduction to a voluntary 5 percent reduction in water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures.

As of June 3, Lake Proctor has risen to an elevation of 1,160 feet mean sea level (ft-msl) or two feet below the reservoir's full pool elevation of 1,162 ft-msl due to runoff generated from the rainfall event that occurred during the last week of May. The lake is now 1.8 feet above the Stage 1 – Drought Watch trigger of 1,158.2 ft-msl.

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. The complete Drought Contingency Plan may be found at www.Brazos.org/Drought

Though drought designations have been relaxed, 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.