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BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY BOARD APPROVES FUNDING FOR NEXT PHASE OF PROPOSED ALLENS CREEK RESERVOIR

Waco, TX – March 25, 2025 – The Brazos River Authority Board of Directors has approved a contract for \$9.8 million to fund a portion of the permitting and design phase of Allens Creek Reservoir, a proposed pumped storage reservoir planned for the Lower Brazos River Basin. The contract with Gannett Fleming, Inc., an engineering consulting firm, will provide professional services, including extensive studies and analysis required for federal permitting.

Allens Creek Reservoir is a proposed pumped storage water supply reservoir to be located in Austin County near the confluence of Allens Creek with the Brazos River near the City of Wallis. Under the current plan, once the reservoir is constructed, water will be pumped from the Brazos River when river flows are adequate, with the water stored there available to supply the downstream needs of cities, industry, agricultural producers, and electric energy generators.

"We cannot be more excited to begin the process of building the newest reservoir for the State of Texas," said Cynthia Flores, presiding officer of the Brazos River Authority Board of Directors. "Water supply is critical to the growth of the state and to providing for the ever-growing population of the Brazos River Basin. The Board of Directors wholly supports this project that will supply water for more than 250,000 families living in the Brazos River Basin."

The reservoir project will be undertaken in multiple phases, including permitting, design, and construction. This phase, funded by the Board's actions, will include activities for the federal Clean Water Act 404 permitting required prior to construction as well as preliminary engineering. It is estimated that the permitting process could take between 5-10 years. The actual construction phase of the reservoir will commence after all applicable permits are issued. Construction activities could take an additional 4-7 years after permits are issued.

The permitting and design process will involve evaluation of all aspects of the project and any potential impacts that it will have on flooding, the environment, cultural and historical resources. Negative impacts that are identified through this process will be mitigated, or the project configuration will be adapted to avoid or minimize the impacts. Public involvement will be a part of the permitting process.

Water stored in Allens Creek Reservoir will be used to meet the current and anticipated growth in demand for surface water in the Lower Brazos basin due to projected population increases. The reservoir will also help satisfy regulatory requirements to reduce groundwater pumping, which contributes to land subsidence in the lower Brazos River Basin.

Allens Creek Reservoir is expected to provide about 99,650 acre-feet of water per year of firm water supply. The cost to build the reservoir is currently estimated at \$700 million. The tasks required for this phase of work are anticipated to be completed within 18 months at the negotiated fee not to exceed \$9,803,826.

For additional information on the proposed Allens Creek Reservoir, go to <https://brazos.org/allenscreek>

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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 BRA'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 America 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 U.S. Army 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 BRA 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 operates a

potable water treatment plant serving the city of Leander and owns and operates a regional system, the East Williamson County Regional Water System, for the City of Taylor.

The organization 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.