



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES IMPLEMENTATION OF
STAGE 1 DROUGHT STATUS FOR NINE RESERVOIRS**

WACO, Texas - March 30, 2026 – The Brazos River Authority has announced that a *Stage 1 – Drought Watch* has been implemented for nine of the 11 reservoirs within the BRA water supply system. Reservoirs affected by the Stage 1 Drought Watch are Lakes Possum Kingdom, Whitney, Aquilla, Proctor, Belton, Limestone, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, and Georgetown.

The current Stage 1 – Drought Watch declaration was issued when areas near these reservoirs recently reached a trigger level associated with the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI). The PHDI, a product of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is an indicator of the level of wet or dry conditions within a particular area and is included as a drought trigger in the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan.

Due to the drier-than-normal conditions, the monthly PHDI has dropped below -2.4, triggering the condition for the affected reservoirs. In addition to this trigger, Lake Somerville has dropped below its Stage 1 – Drought Watch trigger elevation of 234.9 feet above mean sea level.

The goals of Stage 1 – Drought Watch are:

- to raise awareness of the developing drought situation and
- to achieve a voluntary 5% reduction of the water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures.

Contract holders that obtain water supply from any of the affected reservoirs are asked to:

1. Activate their individual Drought Contingency Plan.
2. Increase public education efforts on ways to reduce water use,
3. Notify their customers of actions being taken, and
4. Any other actions they deem appropriate for their situation.

Additional information on Stage 1 – Drought Watch implementation can be found on page 5 of the BRA Drought Contingency Plan [on the BRA website](#). Current drought information is also available in the [same section of the website](#).

The Brazos River Authority monitors water supply and drought conditions within the basin and will notify both contract holders and the public when changes under the plan are made or additional action is required. For additional information, please call 888-922-6272 or email information@brazos.org.

###

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 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 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 and additional 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, serving the City of Taylor and other area providers.

The BRA engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River 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.