



News Release

Brazos River Authority

QUALITY • CONSERVATION • SERVICE

For Immediate Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF DROUGHT PRECAUTIONS

August 31, 2020 -- The Brazos River Authority has informed customers accessing water from Lake Proctor that a Stage 1 Drought Watch has been declared for this BRA System reservoir. The drought watch is the result of prolonged dry weather conditions in the Lake Proctor watershed. Lake Proctor reached the Stage 1 Drought Watch trigger elevation of 1158.2 feet mean sea level in late August.

The purpose of the Stage 1 Drought Watch is to alert the public of the current drought situation, to promote *careful* use of water and to achieve a voluntary five percent (5%) reduction of the water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures.

BRA contract holders that draw water from Lake Proctor include the North Leon River Irrigation Corporation, Lake Proctor Irrigation Authority, and the Upper Leon River Municipal Water District. Each received a letter alerting them of drought conditions at Lake Proctor and requesting the following additional measures:

- Activate their Drought Contingency Plan,
- Increase public education efforts on ways to reduce water use,
- Notify customers of actions being taken, and
- Any other actions deemed appropriate for their situation.

The BRAs Drought Contingency Plan provides for several lake level triggering criteria, based on four levels of potential drought conditions.

“The purpose of Stage I is to make our customers and the general public aware of developing drought conditions,” said Water Services Manager, Aaron Abel. Our goal with Stage 1 restrictions is to help preserve and extend water supplies during these dry conditions and delay the need to implement further restrictions until drought conditions ease.”

Should Stage II triggering criteria be met, both BRA customers and the general public will be asked to voluntarily reduce water consumption by a 10 percent reduction of the use that would have occurred in the absence of drought contingency measures.

- 30 -

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 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.