



For Immediate Release

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DROUGHT STATUS REMOVED FROM LAKE SOMERVILLE

May 17, 2021 – Recent rainfall events in the Brazos River basin have resulted in significant improvement to drought conditions, allowing the Brazos River Authority to remove the Stage 1 drought status designation from Lake Somerville. With the reservoir currently storing water within the flood pool, it is anticipated that it will remain above the Stage 1 drought trigger defined in the BRA Drought Contingency Plan for an extended period.

The BRA declared the Stage 1 drought status for Lake Somerville in mid-March when the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI), published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, dropped below the -2.4 trigger level set for the Lake Somerville area. The trigger is one of the BRA Drought Contingency Plan criteria 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, water storage capacity, or other hydrologic conditions such as the PHDI that impact long-term drought conditions within the watershed, such as streamflow and departure from average rainfall.

Though drought declarations under the BRA's Drought Contingency Plan have been lifted for Lake Somerville, the BRA encourages all of its customers 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 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 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 regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton and Sugar Land. The BRA also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Clute-Richwood, and Hutto. The BRA owns and

operates a drinking water treatment plant, East Williamson County Regional Water System, for the City of Taylor and manages a potable water plant for the City of Leander.

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.