



For Immediate Release

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DROUGHT STATUS REMOVED FROM LAKE GEORGETOWN

June 16, 2021 – Recent rainfall events in the Brazos River basin have significantly improved drought conditions. Over the past few weeks, the level of Lake Georgetown has risen more than six feet, allowing the Brazos River Authority to remove the Stage 1 drought status designation from the reservoir.

As part of the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line (WCRRWL), Lake Georgetown is linked via pipeline with Stillhouse Hollow Lake. Pumping of water occurs when a lack of rainfall and continued water use becomes necessary to meet local needs.

The BRA declared the Stage 1 drought status for Lake Georgetown in mid-November following six months of sustained pumping through the WCRRWL. The Brazos River Authority Drought Contingency Plan specifies that Stage 1 – Drought Watch Condition for Lake Georgetown is triggered when there are at least six months of sustained pumping through the WCRRWL. The trigger is one of the criteria set 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.

With the added water supply from recent rainfall, pumping via the WCRRWL was discontinued on June 3, 2021. Though drought declarations under the BRA's Drought Contingency Plan have been lifted for Lake Georgetown, 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.