

Stage 1 Drought Watch



For Immediate Release

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**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES STAGE 1 DROUGHT STATUS
FOR NUMEROUS AREAS WITHIN THE BRAZOS RIVER BASIN**

WACO, Texas (March 18, 2022) – The Brazos River Authority has announced that Stage 1 – Drought Watch has been implemented for several reservoirs and reservoir systems within the BRA water supply system. The declaration results from the areas near these reservoirs meeting triggers set in the Brazos River Authority Drought Contingency Plan associated with the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI).

Reservoirs affected by the Stage 1 Drought Watch are Lakes Proctor, Aquilla, Belton, and Limestone. The reservoir systems affected by the declaration include the Possum Kingdom-Granbury-Whitney Reservoir System and the Georgetown-Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir System.

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. Due to the drier than normal conditions in the Brazos River basin, the monthly PHDI has dropped below the -2.4 trigger.

The stated goals of Stage 1 – Drought Watch are to raise awareness of the developing drought situation 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.

Each water contract holder that obtains supply from any of the affected reservoirs or reservoir systems is asked to:

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

Additional information on Stage 1 – Drought Watch implementation can be found on pages 9 and 10 of the BRA Drought Contingency Plan [here](#). Current drought information is also available [here](#).

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.

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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 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 US 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 as well as wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, and Hutto.

The BRA owns and operates a regional water treatment system in East Williamson County, supplying water to the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates a potable water treatment 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 Authority 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.