



News Release

Brazos River Authority

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BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY DECLARES A STAGE 3-DROUGHT EMERGENCY FOR LAKE PROCTOR

Waco, TX – May 19, 2014 – The Brazos River Authority today declared a **Stage 3 Drought Emergency** for Lake Proctor. The reservoir is the surface water supply for several wholesale water providers including the Upper Leon River Municipal Water District., North Leon River Irrigation Corporation, and the Lake Proctor Irrigation Authority.

The BRA has notified each of its Lake Proctor customers that Stage 3 conservation efforts are in order to help make the water supply from the reservoir last longer in light of the continuing drought conditions. At the *Drought Emergency stage*, BRA requests a 20 percent reduction in water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures.

The Stage 3 Drought Emergency is part of the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). This plan, which is required by the state, is intended to help preserve and extend water supplies during drought conditions and includes strategies for temporary supply and demand management.

The DCP has four conditions, or stages, ranging from 1-4 in level of severity. Each stage is tied to a corresponding reservoir level, called a "trigger" level.

When a reservoir drops below its Stage 1 trigger level, the BRA implements a Stage 1 *Drought Watch Condition* where customers and the public are made aware of potential drought problems. During Stage I, there is a recommended 5 percent reduction in water use than would have occurred under normal conditions. Lake Proctor reached its Stage 1 trigger level on November 8, 2012.

At the Stage 2 trigger level, a *Drought Warning Condition* is initiated and a 10 percent reduction in water use is requested. Lake Proctor dropped below its Stage 2 trigger of 1155.7 feet mean sea level on August 19, 2013.

At Stage 3 trigger level of 1152.3 feet mean sea level, the *Drought Emergency* condition requests a water use reduction target of 20 percent or greater depending on conditions that exist at that time. At this point, other actions BRA may take include suspending use of water under interruptible agreements and limiting or restricting the temporary assignment of water by BRA customers to third parties. Lake Proctor dropped below the Stage 3 trigger on May 15, 2014.

Under Stage 4 Pro Rata Curtailment, customers would be required to reduce water use by 30 percent or more. The general process under which the BRA will make water available is in accordance with *Texas Water Code* §11.039.

The BRA continually monitors weather forecasts, streamflows and lake levels throughout the Brazos River basin. At this time, all reservoirs within the Authority system are under some level of the Drought Contingency Plan. The BRA System of reservoirs as a whole is under a Stage 1 Drought Watch. Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, Whitney and Georgetown are under a Stage 2 Drought Warning.

The BRA reminds everyone that these extreme conditions are very serious and urges all to begin implementing conservation measures as directed by their water provider.

A copy of the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan can be found at the following web address <http://www.brazos.org/DroughtContingency.asp> or by contacting the Authority at (254) 761-3100.

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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 Authority 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 Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land.

The BRA owns and operates a regional water treatment system in East Williamson County serving the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates a potable water treatment plant for the City of Dime Box.

The Authority also 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 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.