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**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY LIFTS SYSTEMWIDE DROUGHT STATUS
Drought conditions remain at three individual reservoirs**

WACO, Texas (March 6, 2012) – Rain events throughout the basin have prompted the Brazos River Authority to rescind most drought declarations for the Brazos basin system of reservoirs. Only Lakes Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow and Georgetown remain under individual drought designations.

The action comes after persistent rain events raised the levels of many reservoirs across the basin, refilling water storage capacity for the system as a whole. According to the Authority's Drought Contingency Plan, the Stage 1-Drought Watch for the System may be removed when the total capacity of the reservoirs rises above the trigger of 1,395,117 acre-feet or 73 percent of the System capacity. As of March 1, the System stands at 85 percent full.

At this time, three reservoirs remain in a stage of drought under the Authority's Drought Contingency Plan. Lake Somerville, currently 80 percent full, was moved from Stage 3-Drought Emergency to the less-severe Stage 1-Drought Watch. Lake Stillhouse Hollow, now at 65 percent of capacity, remains in Stage 1-Drought Watch and Lake Georgetown, at 60 percent of capacity, remains in Stage 2-Drought Warning.

While conditions are improving in many areas, we encourage all customers to continue to make wise use of water. For questions about specific water use reduction measures that may still be in place for your area, please contact your retail water provider. To see a chart with updated lake levels and as well as additional drought information, please go to www.brazos.org/DroughtStatus.asp.

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 Authority 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 and the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System for the City of Round Rock. The Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, Hutto and Liberty Hill.

The Authority owns and operates regional water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), and East Williamson County for the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates potable water treatment plant for the cities of Dime Box and Leander.

The Authority 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 141 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.