



News Release

Brazos River Authority

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BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF DROUGHT PRECAUTIONS

June 8, 2011 -- The Brazos River Authority has informed customers accessing water from Lake Somerville that a Stage 1 Drought Watch has been declared for the reservoir. The drought watch is the result of prolonged dry weather conditions in the Lake Somerville watershed. Lake Somerville has dropped below the Stage 1 Drought Watch trigger elevation of 234.4 feet mean sea level. With a dry summer in the forecast and higher water use expected in the coming months, the Stage 1 Drought Watch is being instituted at this time.

The purpose of the Stage 1 Drought Watch is to alert the public of the current drought situation and promote *careful* use of water. The City of Brenham, Gulf Coast Water Authority, Dow Chemical and NRG received letters alerting them of drought conditions at Lake Somerville.

The Authority's Drought Contingency Plan provides for several lake level triggering criteria, based on three levels of potential drought conditions.

"In Stage I, we are alerting our customers and the general public that the current drought could worsen if weather conditions do not change," said Water Services Manager, Brad Brunett. "At this time, we are not asking our customers or the public to begin cutting back on water usage. We are simply alerting them that should current conditions continue into the spring and summer months, voluntary or possibly mandatory water restrictions may be necessary."

Should Stage II triggering criteria be met, both Authority customers and the general public will be asked to voluntarily reduce water consumption by three percent or more depending on conditions at that time. For information on water conservation, visit www.brazos.org/conservation.asp.

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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 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 owns and operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, and the cities of Hutto, Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), the City of Taylor and the City of Dime Box. A potable water treatment plant located in Leander is owned jointly by the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Brazos River Authority. The Authority also engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River Basin.

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