



News Release

Brazos River Authority

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For Immediate Release

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**CONTACT: Judi Pierce
Public Information Officer
(254) 761-3103**

**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF
STAGE 1 DROUGHT WATCH FOR LAKES POSSUM KINGDOM, GRANBURY AND WHITNEY**

June 25, 2018 -- The Brazos River Authority (BRA) has informed customers accessing water from lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury and Whitney that a Stage 1 Drought Watch has been declared for the reservoir system.

The drought watch is the result of the drier than normal conditions in this portion of the Brazos River basin and is a response to drought trigger levels established by the BRA's Drought Contingency Plan. One of the trigger points for these reservoirs, all located on the main stem of the Brazos River, is an index rating equal or less than -2 on the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI). The PHDI takes into consideration soil moisture, precipitation, reservoir and groundwater levels to rate the impact of long-term drought. The most recent monthly PHDI that was published in early June indicates that the three reservoirs reached the -2 trigger point.

The goal of the Stage 1 Drought Watch is a voluntary reduction of five percent of the water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measure, as well as to raise awareness of the developing drought situation.

The BRA has requested that customers who obtain their water supply from lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury and Whitney consider the following actions:

- Activate their individual Drought Contingency Plan,
- Increase public education efforts on ways to reduce water use,
- Notify customers of actions being taken, and
- Any other actions appropriate in their individual situation.

More than 80 customers receive water from these reservoirs, including the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant in Somervell County and municipalities including the City of Granbury, Possum Kingdom Water Supply Company, and Johnson County, Parker County and Stephens County Special Utility Districts.

The BRA's Drought Contingency Plan provides for several lake level triggering criteria, based on four stages of potential drought conditions. Should Stage II triggering criteria be met, both customers and the general public will be notified. Customers will be asked to reduce water consumption by 10

percent or more depending on conditions at that time. To view the full Drought Contingency Plan, click <http://www.brazos.org/About-Us/Water-Supply/Drought>. For more information on the Palmer Drought Index, go to <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/drought/docs/palmer.pdf>.

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 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 BRA also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, and Hutto. The BRA owns and operates the East Williamson County Regional Water System for the City of Taylor.

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.