



*For Immediate Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES STAGE1 DROUGHT STATUS  
FOR LAKE SOMERVILLE**

WACO, Texas (March 15, 2021) – The Brazos River Authority has announced that Stage 1 – Drought Watch has been implemented for Lake Somerville. The move is a result of the area near the reservoir meeting a trigger set in the Brazos River Authority Drought Contingency Plan associated with the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI).

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 lower Brazos River basin, the monthly PHDI has dropped below the -2.4 trigger for Lake Somerville.

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

Contract holders that obtain water supply from Lake Somerville include:

- BASF Corporation
- Blanchard Refining Company, LLC
- Dow Chemical Company
- Gulf Coast Water Authority
- Cities of Manvel, Richmond, Rosenberg, Sugar Land and Brenham
- NRG Texas Power, LLC, and
- Geosouthern II, LLC

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](#).

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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.