



News Release

Brazos River Authority

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For Immediate Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF
STAGE 1 DROUGHT WATCH FOR LAKE AQUILLA**

November 19, 2012 -- The Brazos River Authority has informed customers accessing water from Lake Aquilla that a Stage 1 Drought Watch has been declared. The drought watch is the result of prolonged dry weather conditions in the upper portions of the Brazos basin and is a response to new drought trigger levels established by the BRA's updated Drought Contingency Plan. Lake Aquilla fell below the new Stage 1 Drought Watch trigger elevation of 533.6 feet mean sea level on November 13.

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 and to raise awareness of the developing drought situation.

The BRA has requested that customers who obtain their water supply from Lake Aquilla 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.

Customers affected by the Stage 1 Drought Watch include the Aquilla Water Supply District, Lake Whitney Water Company and the City of Cleburne.

The BRA's Drought Contingency Plan provides for several lake level triggering criteria, based on four levels of potential drought conditions. Should Stage II triggering criteria be met, both BRA customers and the general public will be notified, and customers will be asked to reduce water consumption by ten percent or more depending on conditions at that time. To view the full Drought Contingency Plan, click [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 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.