



*For Immediate Release*

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**ALL BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY SYSTEM RESERVOIRS REMOVED  
FROM DROUGHT STATUS**

WACO, Texas (June 1, 2015) – Continued rain events throughout the Brazos River basin have allowed the Brazos River Authority to remove drought status designations from all reservoirs within the BRA System. The removal of drought designations allows BRA customers to change or remove restrictions they currently have in place for water supply use.

Following over four years of drought conditions, rain events from March through May raised the levels of all System reservoirs above drought trigger levels. On March 1, available water stored in the System held at 68 percent of capacity. As of May 27, the BRA storage in the System had risen to 99 percent full with many of the Corps of Engineers reservoirs well over 100 percent full and into their flood pools.

The entire BRA system of reservoirs had been under a Stage 1 Drought Watch since November, 2012, and individual reservoirs had received separate drought stage declarations ranging from Stage 1 – 4 in line with the BRA Drought Contingency Plan.

The BRA is required by the state to plan and implement a Drought Contingency Plan. This plan outlines steps to extend the supply and availability of water during times of drought. The Drought Contingency Plan includes four stages. Each stage is marked by trigger points measured either by a lake level or by the water storage capacity.

The Brazos River Authority continues to pass flood waters from reservoirs within the BRA system. All reservoirs are expected to be at their full elevations once flood operations cease. Drought declarations under the BRA's Drought Contingency Plan have been lifted, but the BRA encourages all of its customers to use water wisely and employ water conservation measures at all times.

***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 Brazos River Authority operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton and wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, and Hutto. The BRA owns and operates a regional water treatment system at East Williamson County 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 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.