



For Immediate Release

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

BACTERIA LEVELS RETURN TO NORMAL IN MOST PARTS OF THE BASIN

July 26, 2007 - Heavy rains and flooding normally bring elevated levels of bacteria to surface water. The runoff from pastures, yards and oversaturated septic systems bring all sorts of unwanted bugs that can make you sick.

Following recent flooding in the Brazos River basin, the Brazos River Authority found elevated levels of E. coli throughout the basin. However, it looks as if the majority of problems with bacteria have now passed.

Recent testing in open waters at Possum Kingdom Lake, Lakes Granbury and Limestone and on the Brazos River all show that bacteria levels have fallen to levels considered acceptable by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Areas of the lakes and rivers that do not receive regular water or wind circulation, such as coves, may continue to have higher than acceptable bacteria levels.

The E. coli bacterium that is harmful to humans is a short-lived organism. The Brazos River Authority cautions swimmers and boaters to avoid the water for a week following a large rain event to allow the bacteria levels time to return to acceptable levels.

Bacteria levels in the remainder of the basin also continue to return to normal. However, any additional rain events could cause bacteria levels to become elevated. The Brazos River Authority recommends swimmers take precautions and avoid surface water after rain events.

Your safety depends on your actions. Be cautious, stay safe.

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 the cities of Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land. Through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Brazos River Authority operates wastewater treatment plants at Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, the city of Hutto and the city of Liberty Hill.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), and the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates a potable water treatment plant for the City of Dime Box. A water treatment plant for the City of Leander is operated by the Brazos River Authority through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The Authority also 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 157 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

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