



# News Release

Brazos River Authority

QUALITY • CONSERVATION • SERVICE

## *For Immediate Release*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

### **BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF DROUGHT PRECAUTIONS**

January 29, 2009 -- The Brazos River Authority has sent letters to customers in the upper and central portions of the Brazos basin advising them of Stage 1 Drought measures or a "Drought Watch." The move comes as a result of the basin's prolonged dry weather conditions.

The purpose of the Stage 1 Drought Watch is to make the public aware of the current drought situation and promote *careful* use of water. The Aquilla Water Supply District and the Upper Leon River Water District received letters alerting them to drought conditions in Lakes Aquilla and Proctor.

The Authority's Drought Contingency Plan provides for several lake level triggering criteria, based on three levels of potential drought conditions. Lake levels in the upper and central portions of the basin have reached the Stage 1 trigger, indicating a Drought Watch.

"In Stage I, we are alerting our customers and the general public that the current drought could worsen if weather conditions do not change," said Senior Engineer David Wheelock. "At this time, we are not asking our customers or the public to begin cutting back on water usage. We are simply alerting them that should current conditions continue into the spring and summer months, voluntary or possibly mandatory water restrictions may be necessary."

Should Stage II triggering criteria be met, both Authority customers and the general public will be asked to voluntarily reduce water consumption by approximately three percent.

#### ***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.