



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 SYSTEM-WIDE STAGE 1 DROUGHT PRECAUTIONS

Waco, TX – August 12, 2011 -- The Brazos River Authority has informed all customers accessing water from the Authority System of reservoirs that a *Stage 1 Drought Watch* has been declared for the reservoir system including lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, Whitney, Aquilla, Limestone, Belton, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, and Georgetown. Lakes Somerville and Proctor have advanced to Stage 2 – Drought Warning. This notice also applies to lakeside residential and commercial use water permit holders.

The Authority is required by the state to plan and implement a Drought Contingency Plan. This plan outlines steps to insure there is sufficient water available to meet all needs of those receiving water through the Authority. The drought contingency plan includes three stages: Drought Watch, Warning and Emergency. Each stage is marked by trigger points measured either by a lake level or by the water storage capacity.

In addition to individual reservoir trigger levels, the Authority's Drought Contingency Plan contains a trigger level for Stage 1 – Drought Watch for its System of water supply reservoirs as a whole. The System's Stage 1 is triggered when the combined storage capacity reaches 1,395,117 acre-feet (af) or 73 percent.

The purpose of the Stage 1 Drought Watch is to alert the public of the current drought situation and ***promote careful use*** of water. Should the current drought conditions continue, it is likely that a Stage 2-Drought Warning will be issued early in 2012. Stage 2 is triggered when the combined storage capacity reaches 1,046,995 acre-feet or 55 percent.

The Authority's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) provides for several lake level triggering criteria, based on three levels of potential drought conditions. Should the reservoir system reach Stage 2 triggering criteria, *Drought Warning Conditions* are initiated and a reduction in water use is recommended for both Authority customers and the general public.

The Authority continually monitors weather forecasts, streamflow and lake levels throughout the Brazos River basin. While not all reservoirs have reached trigger levels as laid out in the DCP, the

Authority asks that everyone keep in mind the extreme conditions are affecting the majority of the state and conservation is recommended for all areas. For information on water conservation, visit www.brazos.org/conservation.asp.

- 30 -

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.