

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF A *STAGE 2-DROUGHT WARNING* FOR THE LAKE STILLHOUSE HOLLOW - LAKE GEORGETOWN SUBSYSTEM

Waco, TX – August 4, 2023 – The Brazos River Authority has informed customers accessing water from the Lake Stillhouse Hollow - Lake Georgetown subsystem that due to declining water availability, a ***Stage 2 Drought Warning*** has been declared. The Lake Stillhouse Hollow - Lake Georgetown subsystem provides surface water to the following customers:

- The cities of Harker Heights, Lampasas, Georgetown, and Round Rock
- Bell County Water Control & Improvement District No. 1
- Central Texas, Kempner, Jarrell-Schwertner, High Gabriel, and Salado Water Supply Corporations
- Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District
- Several agricultural irrigators

As a result of the ongoing drought conditions, the BRA has notified each of its Lake Stillhouse Hollow - Lake Georgetown subsystem customers that Stage 2 conservation measures *are required* to help extend water supplies. At the *Stage 2 Drought Warning*, BRA requires a 10 percent reduction in water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures.

The Stage 2 Drought Warning is part of the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). This DCP, which is required by the state, is intended to help preserve and extend water supplies during drought conditions and includes strategies for temporary supply and demand management.

The DCP has four conditions, or stages, ranging from 1-4 in level of severity. Each stage is tied to a corresponding reservoir lake level, storage level, or Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI) level. These are referred to as "trigger" levels.

When a reservoir or subsystem drops below its Stage 1 trigger level, the BRA implements a *Stage 1 Drought Watch*, where customers and the public are made aware of developing drought conditions. During Stage 1, there is a recommended *voluntary* five percent reduction in water use that would have occurred under normal conditions.

A Stage 1 – Drought Watch was established for the Lake Stillhouse Hollow - Lake Georgetown subsystem on March 17, 2022. Since then, the Lake Stillhouse Hollow - Lake Georgetown subsystem has dropped below its combined storage Stage 2 Drought Warning trigger of 164,789 acre-feet.

Should drought conditions continue, the BRA will declare a *Stage 3 Drought Emergency* under the BRA Drought Contingency Plan if the combined storage of the Lake Stillhouse Hollow - Lake Georgetown subsystem drops below 107,180 acre-feet on August 3. At the *Drought Emergency* stage, BRA would require a water use reduction target of 20 percent or greater, depending on conditions at that time.

Should drought conditions continue, Under Stage 4 Pro Rata Curtailment, the general process under which the BRA will make water available is in accordance with *Texas Water Code* §11.039. BRA will meet with its customers to determine measures to be implemented to reduce water use and extend available supplies within the reservoir.

The BRA continually monitors weather forecasts, streamflow and lake levels throughout the Brazos River basin. All reservoirs within the Brazos River Authority system are under some level of the Drought Contingency Plan.

The BRA reminds everyone that these extreme conditions are impacting water supplies and urges everyone to do their part by implementing conservation measures as directed by their water provider.

A copy of the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan can be found at the following web address www.brazos.org/DCP or by contacting the BRA at (254) 761-3100.

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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 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 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. The BRA also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, and Hutto. The BRA owns and operates a potable water treatment system, the East Williamson County Regional Water System, 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 BRA 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.