



# News Release

Brazos River Authority

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*For Immediate Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY ADVISES CUSTOMERS OF  
STAGE 1 DROUGHT WATCH FOR LAKE BELTON**

July 23, 2018 -- The Brazos River Authority has informed customers accessing water from Lake Belton that a Stage 1 Drought Watch has been declared. The drought watch is the result of the drier than normal conditions in this portion of the Brazos River basin and is a response to drought trigger levels established by the BRA's Drought Contingency Plan.

One of the trigger points for Lake Belton is an index rating equal to or less than -2 on the Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (PHDI). The PHDI takes into consideration soil moisture, precipitation, reservoir and groundwater levels to rate the impact of long-term drought. The most recent monthly PHDI that was published early this month indicates that the reservoir reached the -2 trigger point.

The goal of the Stage 1 Drought Watch is a voluntary reduction of five percent of the water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measure and to raise awareness of the developing drought situation.

The BRA has requested that customers who obtain their water supply from Lake Belton consider the following actions:

- Activate their individual Drought Contingency Plan,
- Increase public education efforts on ways to reduce water use,
- Notify customers of actions being taken, and
- Any other actions appropriate in their individual situation.

Customers affected by the Stage 1 Drought Watch include the 439 Water Supply Corporation, Bell County Water Control and Improvement District, Blue Bonnet Water Supply Corporation, Coryell City Water Supply District, Fort Gates Water Supply Corporation, the cities of Gatesville and Temple, and the Grove Water Supply Corporation.

The BRA's Drought Contingency Plan provides for several lake level triggering criteria, based on four levels of potential drought conditions. Should Stage II triggering criteria be met, both BRA customers and the general public will be notified. Customers will be asked to reduce water consumption by ten percent or more depending on conditions at that time. To view the full Drought Contingency Plan, click [here](#). For more information on the Palmer Drought Index, go [here](#).

***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 and the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System for the City of Round Rock. The BRA also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, and Hutto. The BRA owns and operates 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.