



For Immediate Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**ALL BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY SYSTEM RESERVOIRS
REMOVED FROM DROUGHT STATUS**

November 1, 2018 – Recent rain events throughout the Brazos River basin have allowed the Brazos River Authority to remove drought status designations from all reservoirs within the BRA System. The removal of drought designations allows BRA contract holders to change or remove restrictions they currently have in place for water supply use.

After months of dry weather, rain events at the end of September and throughout October raised the levels of all System reservoirs above drought trigger levels. As of October 30, water storage in the BRA System had risen to 99 percent full with both Possum Kingdom Lake and Lake Granbury continuing releases of run-off and all of the Corps of Engineers reservoirs well over 100 percent full with water being stored into their flood pools.

Lake Somerville was the only reservoir within the BRA system that had not entered into any form of drought restrictions. The remaining 10 reservoirs within the BRA system had been under drought restrictions, beginning with the first declarations of Stage 1 Drought Watch being made at the end of June for the Possum Kingdom Lake, Lake Granbury and Lake Whitney System, and the remaining reservoirs following suit in July and August under requirements of the BRA Drought Contingency Plan. Only Lake Proctor moved into Stage 2 Drought Warning.

The BRA is required by the state to plan and implement a Drought Contingency Plan. This plan outlines steps to extend the supply and availability of water during times of drought. The Drought Contingency Plan includes four stages. Each stage is marked by trigger points measured either by a lake level, water storage capacity, or other hydrologic conditions that impact long-term drought conditions within the watershed, such as streamflow and departure from normal rainfall.

The Brazos River Authority continues to pass flood waters from reservoirs within the BRA system. All reservoirs are expected to be at their full elevations once flood operations cease. Drought declarations under the BRA's Drought Contingency Plan have been lifted, but the BRA encourages all of its customers to use water wisely and employ water conservation measures at all times.

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 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.