



# News Release

Brazos River Authority

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*For Immediate Release*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

November 23S, 2020 -- The Brazos River Authority has informed customers accessing water from Lake Georgetown that a Stage 1 Drought Watch has been declared for their area. 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.

As part of a regional subsystem designed to meet the water supply needs of the area, Lake Georgetown receives water transferred through the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line (WCRRWL) from Lake Stillhouse Hollow in Bell County. One of the trigger points for institution of drought contingency measures at Lake Georgetown is sustained pumping through the WCRRWL for a period of six months. The WCRRWL has been in operation since May 19, 2020, and on November 19, 2020, met this trigger criteria.

The goal of the Stage 1 Drought Watch is to implement a voluntary reduction of five percent of water use that would have occurred in the absence of any drought contingency measures and to raise awareness of the developing drought situation. Customers affected by the Stage 1 Drought Watch include the customers supplied from Cities of Georgetown and Round Rock and the Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District.

The BRA has also requested that customers who obtain their water supply from Lake Georgetown 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.

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](#).

***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 BRAs 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. 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.