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**BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY WINS
STATE'S TOP ENVIRONMENTAL HONOR**

The Brazos River Authority has been awarded the highest environmental achievement presented by the State of Texas -- the Texas Environmental Excellence Award. The authority is one of 10 winners statewide to be recognized with an award, presented by Governor Rick Perry and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Representatives from the BRA will receive the award on May 10 at the 2006 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards banquet in Austin.

Recognized in the Government category, the BRA earned the award for its achievements in water protection and conservation. Showing foresight, the authority's proactive, non-regulatory project to protect water resources while supporting economic development—Quality Water for the Brazos Community—lays out a multi-year management strategy of the Central Brazos, Navasota and Lower Brazos watersheds.

Throughout the project, six years of water quality data have been collected that do not demonstrate adverse impacts despite substantial growth in the region's poultry industry. The data provide a benchmark against which future measures can be compared to maintain consistent water quality in the project area.

The TCEQ annually presents the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards to environmental projects across the state that demonstrate excellence in resource conservation, waste reduction, and pollution prevention. The award-winning programs reflect the goals of the TCEQ itself: to protect Texas' human and natural resources and ensure clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste. For more information, or to submit an application for next year's awards, visit www.teea.org.

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.