



For Immediate Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY BEGINS CONJUNCTIVE USE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

With population projections for Central Texas soaring, the state water plan estimates a shortage of water for the area by 2050. In response, the Brazos River Authority is moving forward on a plan to locate potential groundwater supplies to augment surface water supplies from Lake Granger.

Following nearly a decade in planning, the Lake Granger Conjunctive Use Project will utilize surface water from Lake Granger during rainy periods and provide the ability to access groundwater from the Carrizo Wilcox aquifer during periods of drought.

The Authority was recently awarded a low-cost loan from the Texas Water Development Board in the amount of \$100 million to begin the first phase of the project.

“We have been reviewing options for the purchase of about 35,000 acres of land in Milam and Lee Counties,” said Phil Ford, General Manager/CEO of the Brazos River Authority.

One major issue related to the project is how the Authority will acquire property to access groundwater. “We anticipate working with willing sellers in the acquisition of property for the project. We do not have any intention of using the powers of eminent domain to obtain groundwater supplies.” said Mr. Ford.

“The availability of groundwater as a secondary source will meet the needs of the suburban cities north of Austin without placing a strain on either surface or groundwater supplies,” said Mr. Ford. “The option to conjunctively use both supplies alternately as weather conditions fluctuate allows both sources to recharge while the other is being utilized.”

Though the project is not expected to begin providing water supply until 2030, the process of accessing water from the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer will take many years. In addition to land acquisition, the project will require permitting from local groundwater districts, engineering, environmental, and archaeological studies as well as the construction of pipelines, well fields, and expanded storage and treatment facilities at the East Williamson County Regional Water System (EWCRWS).

The EWCRWS system on Lake Granger currently serves the City of Taylor and surrounding areas by providing an operational capacity of 12.8 million gallons of water each day (mgd). The System will be expanded to include additional facilities that will treat and store groundwater.

The Conjunctive Use Project will provide a potential yield of 46,000 acre-feet of water. Estimated cost of the entire project is projected to be \$530.6 million.

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 the cities of Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land. Through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Brazos River Authority operates wastewater treatment plants at Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, the city of Hutto and the city of Liberty Hill.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), and the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates a potable water treatment plant for the City of Dime Box. A water treatment plant for the City of Leander is operated by the Brazos River Authority through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The Authority also engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the Authority samples and tests water from 157 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.