



News Release

Brazos River Authority

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BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY RECOMMENDS WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS FOR THE POSSUM KINGDOM-GRANBURY-WHITNEY RESERVOIR SUBSYSTEM

Waco, TX – April 1, 2014 – With the ongoing drought throughout Texas, the Brazos River Authority (BRA) has issued a **Stage 2 Drought Warning declaration for the subsystem of reservoirs on the main stem of the Brazos River including Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury and Whitney**. The reservoirs are the surface water supply for numerous water users including municipalities, utility districts, agriculture, and industry including the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant at Glen Rose.

The Stage 2 Drought Warning is part of the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). This plan, which is required by the state, is intended to help preserve and extend water supplies during drought conditions and includes strategies for temporary supply and demand management.

The BRA has notified each of the Possum Kingdom-Granbury-Whitney subsystem customers that Stage 2 conservation efforts are in order to help make the water supply from the reservoirs last longer in light of continuing drought conditions. At the *Drought Warning stage*, the BRA requests that customers employ their own drought contingency plans by implementing a 10 percent reduction in water use that would have occurred under normal conditions.

The BRA's DCP has four stages, ranging from 1-4 in level of severity that are marked by trigger points. For the Possum Kingdom-Granbury-Whitney subsystem, the Stage 2 trigger levels or *Drought Warning* conditions are initiated when the total storage capacity of the reservoirs reaches 420,968 acre-feet (af) or about 60 percent of full capacity.

When the Stage 3 trigger level is reached, a *Drought Emergency* condition is initiated with a water use reduction target of 20 percent or greater depending on conditions that exist at that time. The Possum Kingdom-Granbury-Whitney subsystem will reach Stage 3 when the total capacity of the reservoirs reaches 280,645 af or about 40 percent of capacity.

Under Stage 4 Pro Rata Curtailment, customers must reduce water use by 30 percent or more. Stage 4 is triggered when the Possum Kingdom-Granbury-Whitney subsystem reaches 140,323 af of capacity or about 20 percent full. The general process under which the BRA will make water available in this circumstance is in accordance with *Texas Water Code* §11.039.

A copy of the Brazos River Authority's Drought Contingency Plan can be found at the following web address <http://www.brazos.org/DroughtContingency.asp> or by contacting the BRA at (254) 761-3100. For information on water conservation go to <http://www.brazos.org/conservation.asp>.

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 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 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 Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Dime Box, Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, Hutto and Liberty Hill.

The BRA owns and operates the East Williamson County Regional Water System for the City of Taylor. The BRA also operates potable water treatment plant for the cities of Dime Box and Leander.

The Authority 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 141 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.