



# News Release

Brazos River Authority

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*For Immediate Release*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY RECOMMENDS WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS FOR LAKE GEORGETOWN**

Waco, TX – October 4, 2013 – With the ongoing drought throughout Texas, the Brazos River Authority (BRA) has issued a **Stage 2 Drought Warning declaration for Lake Georgetown**. The lake is the surface water supply for several water providers including the Cities of Georgetown and Round Rock, Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District, and the Chisholm Trail and Jonah Water Special Utility Districts.

The BRA has notified each of its Lake Georgetown customers that Stage 2 conservation efforts are in order to help make the water supply from the reservoir last longer in light of continuing drought conditions. At the *Drought Warning stage*, BRA requests a 10 percent reduction in water use that would have occurred under normal conditions.

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 DCP has four conditions, or stages, ranging from 1-4 in level of severity that are marked by trigger points. For Lake Georgetown, which receives additional water supply through the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line connecting the reservoir with Lake Stillhouse Hollow to the north, triggers are marked by the amount of water currently being pumped to maintain the reservoir's supply level.

When pumping requirements are required for one month or more, Stage 1 *Drought Watch* conditions are triggered. Under Stage 1, there is a recommended 5 percent reduction in water use that would have occurred under normal conditions. Lake Georgetown reached Stage 1 in November 2012.

Stage 2 trigger levels or *Drought Warning* conditions, are initiated following 12 months or more of sustained pumping or as deemed appropriate according to pumping requirements. Pumping needs to satisfy water supply requirements from Lake Georgetown were deemed necessary at the end of September.

Should dry conditions continue to the Stage 3 trigger level, a *Drought Emergency* condition would be initiated with a water use reduction target of 20 percent or greater depending on conditions that exist at that time. Lake Georgetown will reach Stage 3 following 24-months of pumping or as designated by the BRA GM/CEO.

Under Stage 4 Pro Rata Curtailment, customers would be required to reduce water use by 30 percent or more and is determined by BRA's GM/CEO as appropriate due to disruption of pumping in the Williamson County Regional Raw Water Line. The general process under which the BRA will make water available is in accordance with *Texas Water Code* §11.039.

There are many simple ways to conserve water at home. Most homes use a large amount of water in each of four areas, the bathrooms, the kitchen, the laundry room and outdoor use.

**Tips for outdoor use:**

- Do not over-water your lawn. Set sprinklers for times when it is the coolest to avoid evaporation.
- Cover pools and spas to help against evaporation in the summer.
- Choose your plants wisely! You live in Texas; don't expect your palm tree to do well in the 105-degree heat with no rain. Buy plants that are native and can take the heat waves.
- Don't cut your lawn too short. Longer grass absorbs water better than short grass.
- Use lots of mulch in your flower beds and around trees to help hold in moisture.
- If you wash your car at home, use a bucket of soapy water and a nozzle on the hose that you can turn on and off.

**Tips for the bathroom:**

- Replace showerheads with a more efficient model. This can save up to six gallons of water per minute.
- Place a plastic bag or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water per fill.
- If you have a leak, fix it! Replace worn washers and valves on sinks and pipes. A leaking faucet can waste more than 3,820 gallons of water a year.
- Take showers instead of baths.
- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving. (Fill the sink with hot water instead of running it continuously.)

**Tips for the kitchen:**

- Never run the dishwasher without a full load.
- Don't leave the water running while doing dishes; fill the sink with soapy water.
- Install faucet aerators, they cut the water use in half from the sink.
- It also saves water to steam your vegetables instead of boiling them in a full pot of water.

**Tips for the laundry room:**

- Wash only full loads and check to see if you have a high efficiency washer. Some of these washers use up to 40 percent less water and energy than a conventional washer.
- If possible, use a short wash cycle.

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,

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 Georgetown, 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.