



For Immediate Release

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BRA REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH POSSUM KINGDOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

WACO, TEXAS (DEC. 17, 2014) – The Brazos River Authority (BRA) and the Possum Kingdom Lake Association (PKLA) have entered into a settlement agreement concerning BRA’s application for a water use permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the appropriation of surface water in the Brazos River Basin. The 24-point written agreement establishes, among many details, the following important provisions:

- development of operating parameters and definitive policies and procedures to be established to back up the sale and use of non-firm surface water before BRA uses any stored water in its system of reservoirs for that purpose;
- the use of updated operational modeling and technical considerations for determining the dependable amount of firm and non-firm water available for sale under future Water Management Plan (WMP) updates;
- expanded technical studies to assist in determining the current firm yield of Possum Kingdom Lake due to ongoing drought conditions in the upper-basin;
- development of policies for limiting long-term firm water supply commitments to the combined supply dependably available, using the most current and accurate information;
- utilization of operating procedures that maximize the use of downstream flows, to the extent authorized by TCEQ permits, rather than releases from upstream storage;
- routine postings on the BRA website of firm, non-firm, and interruptible water availability determinations and detailed annual summaries of water use activities;
- advance notice of certain future actions; pursuit of previously authorized reservoir projects in the lower-basin; and other cooperative provisions.

BRA originally filed its application in 2004, and following an initial public hearing in 2011, the TCEQ deferred final action pending BRA’s submission of a detailed WMP. In 2013, PKLA, among others, intervened and was admitted as a protesting party in the WMP proceedings at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). Following a year of prehearing preparation and discovery, BRA and PKLA entered into extended negotiations and reached a settlement that will result in the withdrawal of PKLA’s protest and PKLA’s continuing participation in the SOAH

proceedings as a non-aligned, interested party. The SOAH proceedings will resume in February of 2015.

PKLA, originally formed in 1971, has over a thousand members committed to the environment and preservation of Possum Kingdom Lake. “This settlement agreement is a positive step in establishing a more productive and cooperative working relationship with BRA,” said Jim Lattimore, President of PKLA’s Board of Directors, “Most importantly, the agreement contains commitments and opportunities beyond the scope of the pending application and current litigation and will provide better assurance for the long term sustainability of Possum Kingdom Lake,” explained Lattimore.

“BRA was pleased to have a productive dialogue with PKLA.” said Phil Ford, General Manager and CEO of BRA, “We are committed to managing our water supply reservoirs, including Possum Kingdom Lake, based on sound hydrological and water supply principles.” BRA, with its headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, BRA’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. BRA built, owns and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury and Limestone) and contracts with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space in eight federal, multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs in the Brazos River Basin.

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