



## DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

RICK PERRY  
Governor

5805 N. Lamar Blvd.  
P.O. Box 4087  
Austin, Texas 78773-0220  
Phone: (512) 424-2138  
Fax: (512) 424-2444

W. NIM KIDD  
Council Chairperson

**January 21, 2013**

**TO:** The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor, State of Texas  
The Honorable David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas  
Mr. John Steen, Secretary of State, State of Texas  
The Honorable Steve Ogden, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, State of Texas  
The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, State of Texas  
The Honorable Steve Ogden, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee, State of Texas  
The Honorable Troy Fraser, Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee, State of Texas  
The Honorable Tommy Williams, Chairman, Senate Committee on Transportation & Homeland Security, State of Texas  
The Honorable Jim Pitts, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, State of Texas  
The Honorable Allan Ritter, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, State of Texas  
The Honorable Rick Hardcastle, Chairman, House Agriculture & Livestock Committee, State of Texas  
The Honorable Pete Gallego, Chairman, House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, State of Texas  
Mr. Jeff Boyd, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Steven McCraw, Director, Texas Department of Public Safety

**FROM:** Assistant Director Nim Kidd, Texas Division of Emergency Management

**SUBJECT:** Statewide Drought Situation Report

Nim Kidd, Chairman  
Texas Division of Emergency Mgmt

Brenner Brown, Member  
Texas Water Development Board

Richard Egg, Member  
State Soil & Water Conservation Board

Lance Williams, Member  
Texas Department of Agriculture

Dr. Travis Miller, Member  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

David Bradsby, Member  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Gilbert Jordan, Member  
Texas Department of Transportation

David A. Van Dresar, Member  
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Suzanne Burnham, Member  
Texas Department of State Health Services

Chris Loft, Member  
Texas Commission on Environmental  
Quality

Tad Curtis, Member  
Office of the Governor  
Economic Development & Tourism

Dr. John W. Nielsen-Gammon, Member  
Office of the State Climatologist

Michael Dunivan, Member  
Texas Forest Service

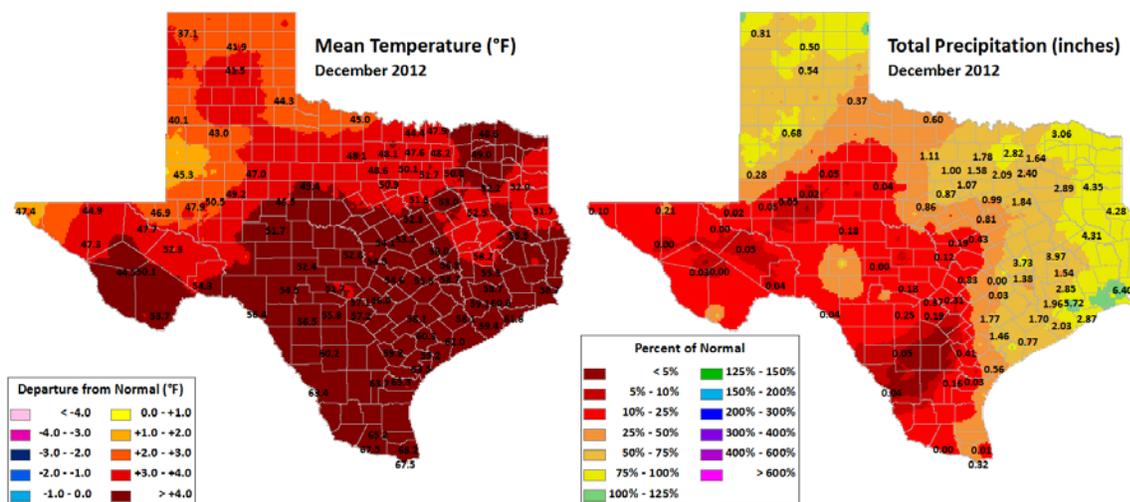
Marisa Callan, Member  
Texas Department of Housing and  
Community Affairs

# 1. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

February 14, 2013 at 2:00pm

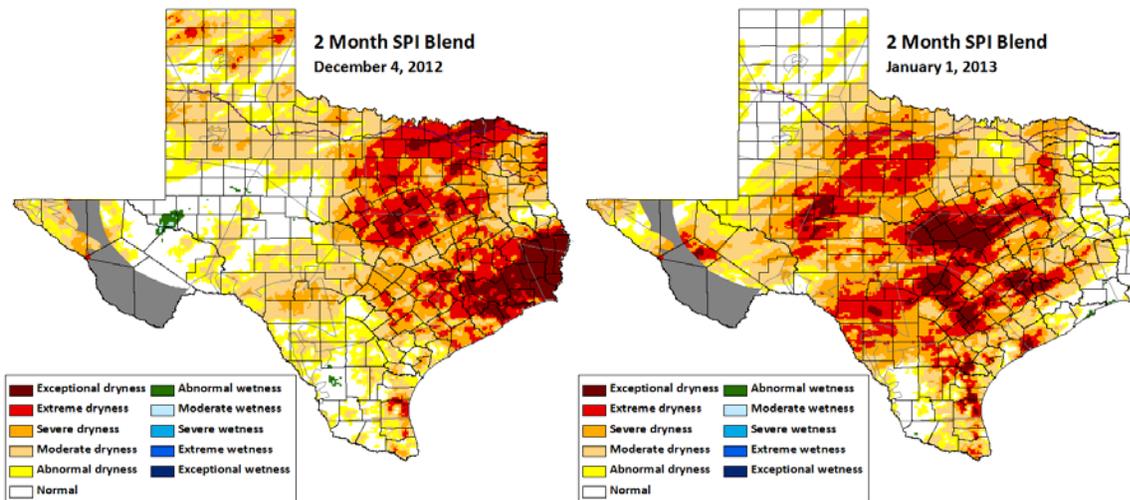
## 2. General Conditions

December ended with many changes to short-term conditions across the state. Temperatures were well above average, with the entire state having a mean temperature anomaly of at least 1 degree above normal. Precipitation was more of a mixed bag: while the majority of the state was below average, frontal passages were frequent enough to bring more substantial rainfall and snow to the eastern half of the state as well as the Panhandle. Preliminary estimates for temperature have 2012 as one of the top two warmest years on record, while precipitation estimates show the previous three months as the third-driest October-November-December on record and 2011-2012 as the fourth-driest two-year span on record.



The development of short-term drought conditions in central Texas has been the primary story for the recent few months. Much of central Texas is below 25% of its normal precipitation accumulations for the past 3 months, with some regions even further in the hole and some having seen no measurable precipitation at all; the short-term conditions in these regions are the worst across the entire state. Reservoir storage and soil moisture are not as poor as South or West Texas, however, but they are poor enough for the introduction of D4 to parts of Central Texas.

The Upper Coast received ample precipitation during December, wiping out much of the short-term deficits and improving streamflows and soil moisture. North Central Texas saw rain and snow, but the precipitation was not significant enough to have the improvements the Upper Coast saw. The Panhandle's accumulations were on par with normal, but agricultural conditions there are still poor and soil moisture estimates remain unperturbed. Otherwise, conditions are generally degrading. South Texas has not seen much rainfall at all, and short-term conditions there are degrading again as all drought indicators have worsened. The story is the same with West Texas, though with a stronger downswing than in South Texas.



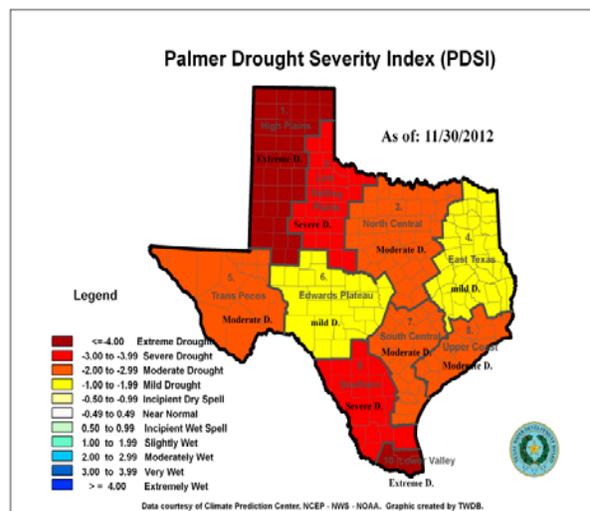
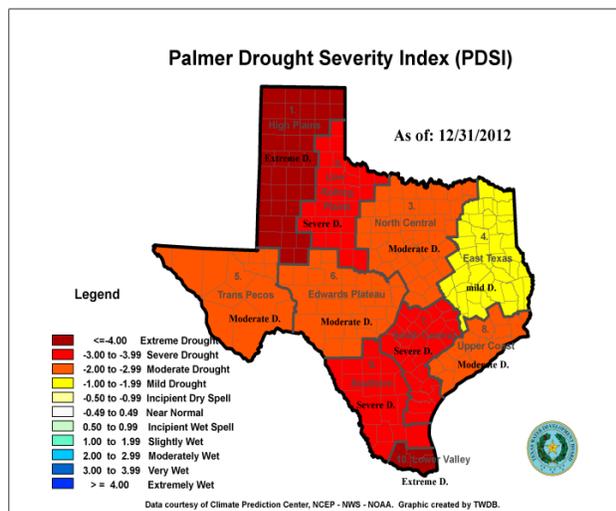
The outlook for the coming month is a mixed bag. While the CPC estimates greater than 33 percent chance of above-average rainfall for the southeastern half of the state, there is an equal chance of any three precipitation outcomes for the rest of the state. Additionally, there is greater than 40 percent chance of above average temperatures for almost the entire state, which could temper any improvements. As a result, most of the state is expected to see drought conditions persist or worsen, with only the easternmost reaches of the Upper Coast expected to see any improvement.

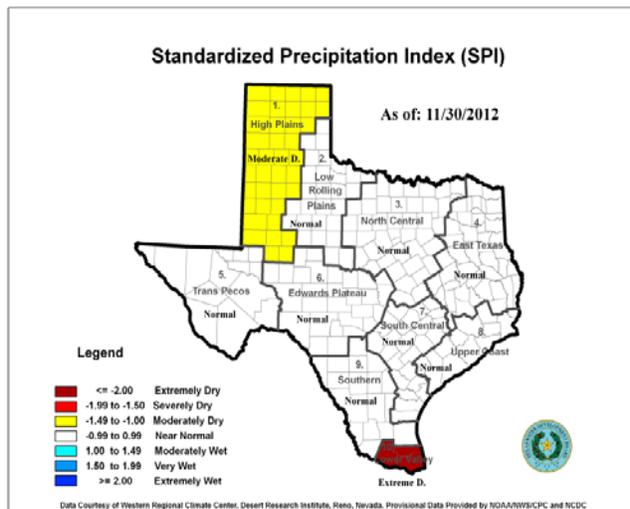
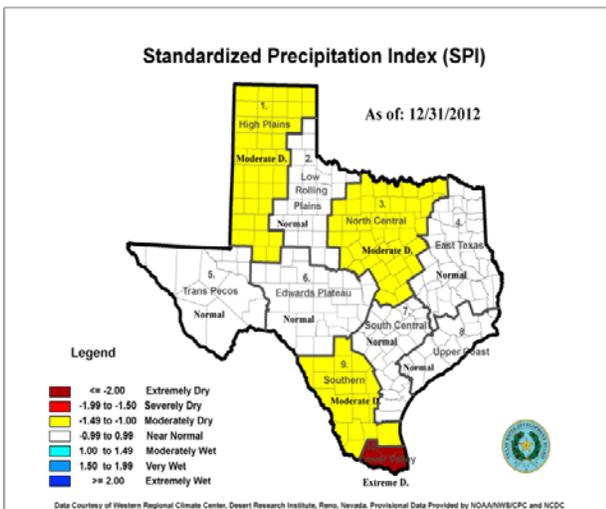
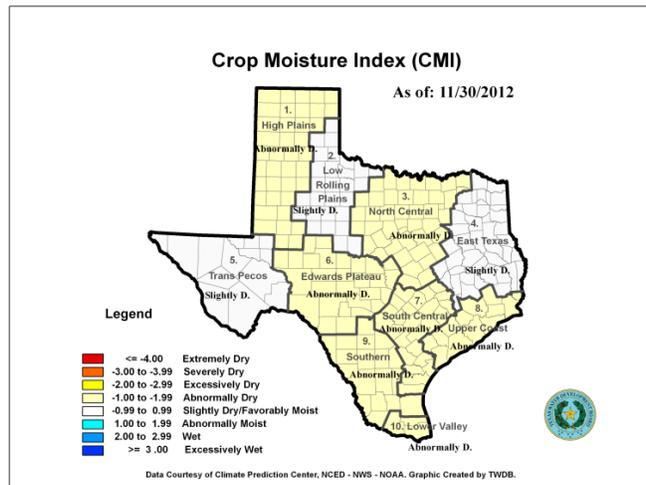
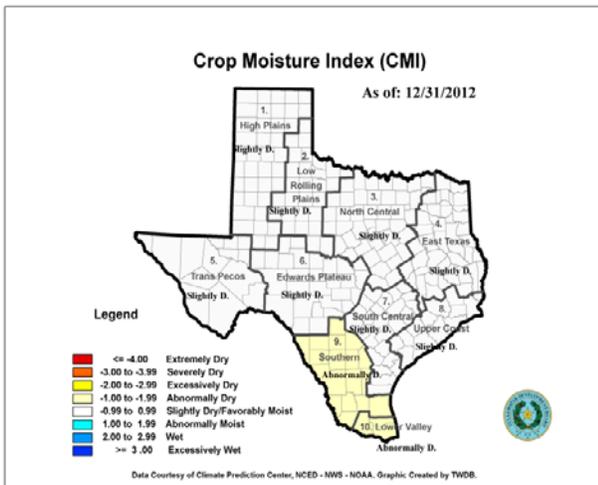
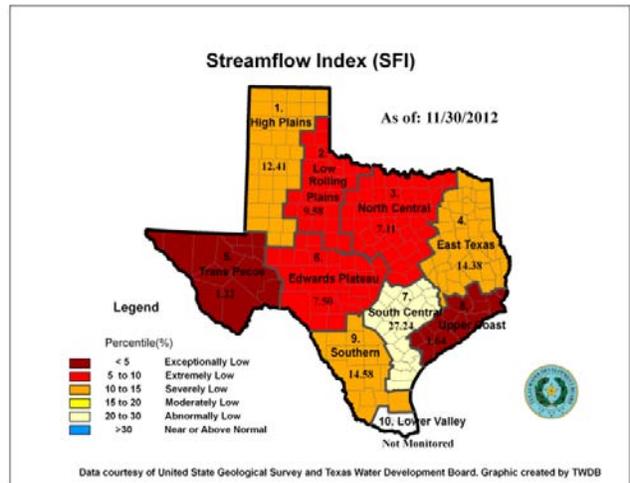
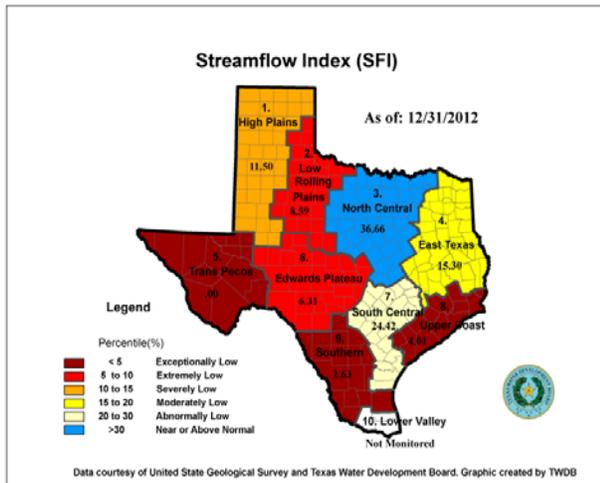
## 2. OVERALL STATEWIDE DROUGHT CONDITIONS

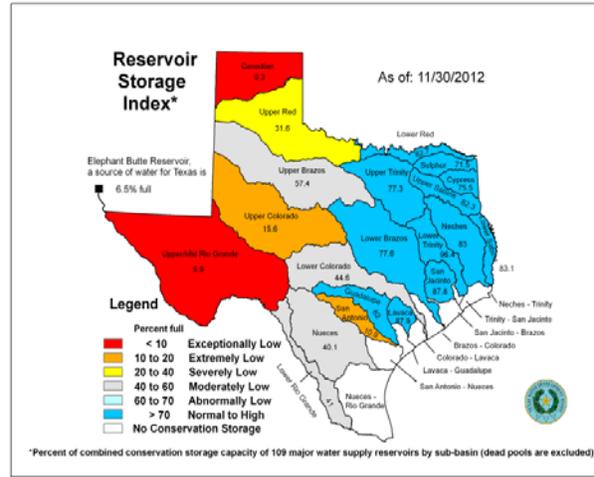
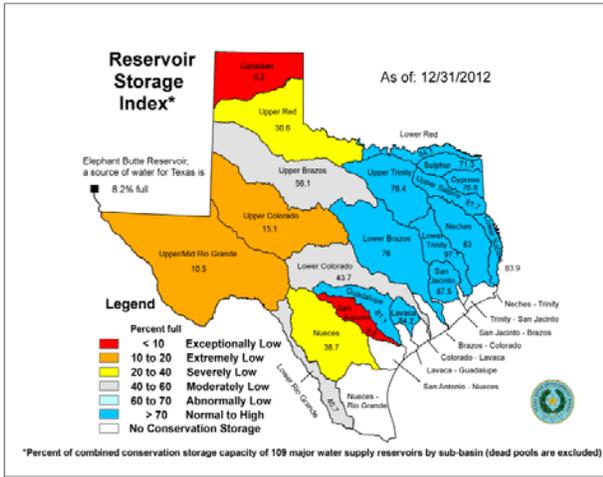
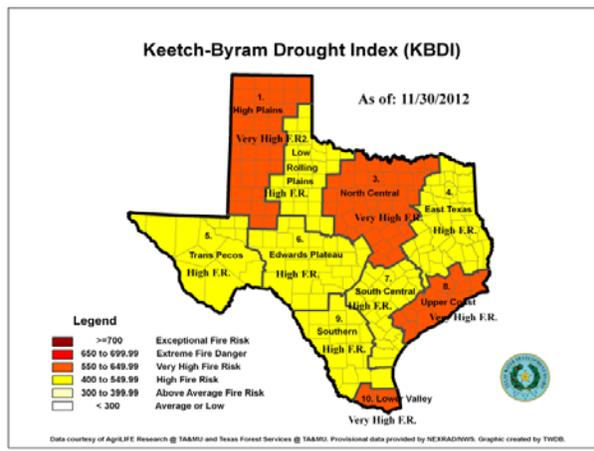
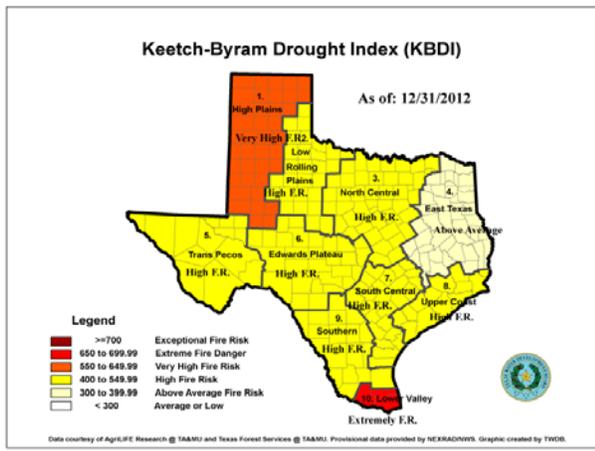
### Drought Status Summary

#### Statewide Drought Condition Update December 31, 2012

##### 1. Selected Drought Index Maps







## 2. Drought Summary Table

Drought has come back, indicated by all except SPI. The drought status is summarized below:

Number of Regions In Drought Category						
Drought Index	High Drought			Lower Drought		Not in Drought
	Exceptional Dry / Drought	Extreme Dry / Drought	Severe Dry / Drought	Moderate or Excessive Dry / Drought	Abnormal or Mild Dry / Drought	Near or Above Normal Condition
	----- Exceptional High Fire Risk	Extreme High Fire Risk	Very High Fire Risk	High Fire Risk	Above Average Fire Risk	
PDSI (10)	N/A	2	3	4	1	0
SFI (9)	3	2	1	1	1	1
SPI (10)	N/A	1	0	1	0	8
CMI (10)	N/A	0	0	0	2	8
KBDI (10)	0	1	1	7	1	0
RSI (9)	1	1	3	1	0	3
Number of River Basins / Sub-Basins In Drought Category						
RSI (21)	2	2	1	4	0	12

## 3. Drought Index Data

Region ID	Region Name	Crop Moisture Index	Palmer Drought Severity Index	Standardized Precipitation Index	Keetch-Byram Drought Index	Reservoir Storage Index	Streamflow Index
1	High Plains	-0.27	-4.73	-1.38	563.00	0.92	11.50
2	Low Rolling Plains	-0.35	-3.59	-0.49	474.00	26.59	8.59
3	North Central	-0.35	-3.00	-1.05	538.00	74.17	36.66
4	East Texas	0.71	-1.96	-0.35	327.00	85.47	15.30
5	Trans Pecos	-0.65	-2.98	-0.44	463.00	10.51	0.00
6	Edwards Plateau	-0.63	-2.37	-0.86	487.00	36.80	6.31
7	South Central	-0.61	-3.16	-0.94	501.00	47.62	24.42
8	Upper Coast	-0.06	-2.47	-0.49	433.00	89.22	4.01
9	Southern	-1.15	-3.59	-1.14	447.00	34.31	2.63
10	Lower Valley	-1.34	-4.35	-2.14	654.00	No Data	No Data

The comparison of index values with last month is summarized below:

Drought Index	Index Value Improved in # Regions (Bold in table above)	Index Value Deteriorated in # Regions (Italic in table above)	Index Value Unchanged in # Regions
PDSI (10)	1	9	0
SFI (9)	3	6	0
SPI (10)	2	8	0
CMI (10)	10	0	0
KBDI (10)	4	6	0
RSI (9)	2	7	0

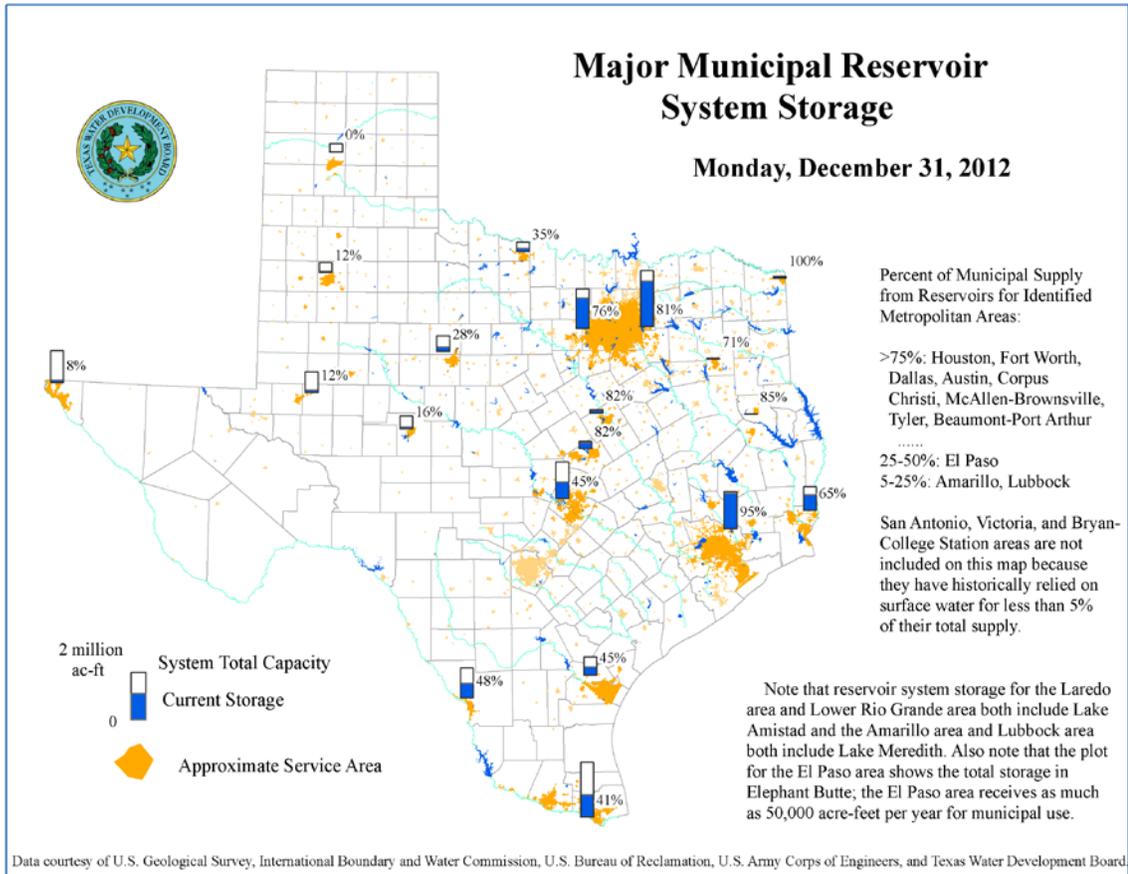
#### 4. Reservoir Storage Condition

Water storage conditions are summarized below by river basins for the 109 of Texas major reservoirs at the end of the month:

- The statewide combined storage was 65% full, 0.19 million acre-feet less than a month ago.
- By the river basins, storage was lower than normal in 9 basin or sub-basins but Near or Above Normal in all other 12 basin or sub-basins
- Exceptionally low in Canadian River basin and San Antonio sub-basins,
- Extremely low in Upper Colorado and Upper-Mid Rio Grande sub-basin basins,
- Severely low in Upper Red River sub-basin and Nueces river basin,
- Moderately low in Upper Brazos sub-basin, Lower Colorado, and Lower Rio Grande sub-basins,
- Near or above Normal in all other 12 basin or sub-basins.

Elephant Butte Reservoir was 8% full by the month's end.

## Reservoir Status for Major Metropolitan Centers



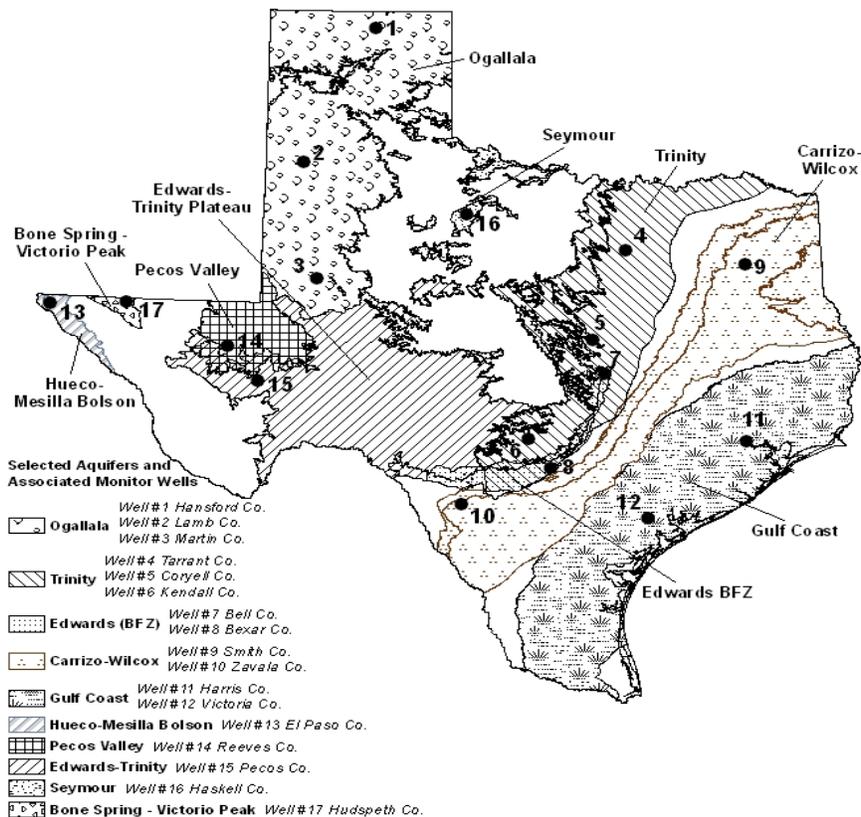
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## 5. GROUNDWATER CONDITION

- Water level measurements were available from all 17 key monitoring wells in the state.
- Water levels rose in six of the monitoring wells since the beginning of December, ranging from 0.33 feet in the Hansford County Ogallala Aquifer well (well #1) to 9.23 foot in the Pecos County Edwards Trinity Aquifer well (well #15).
- Water levels declined in ten monitoring wells, ranging from 0.08 feet in the Victoria County Gulf Coast Aquifer well (well #12) to 12.74 feet in the La Salle County Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer well (well #10).
- The J-17 well in San Antonio recorded a water level of 80.00 feet below land surface or 651 feet above mean sea level. This water level is 1.00 foot above the Stage II critical management level in that segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Stage II restrictions were declared by the EAA on September 18th when the ten-day average fell below 650-foot elevation or 81 feet below land surface.

Monitoring Well	Dec	Nov	Month Change	Year Change	Historical Change
(1) Hansford 0354301	153.67	154	0.33	-1.14	-83.55
(2) Lamb 1053602	142.49	142.35	-0.14	-2.01	-114.34
(3) Martin 2739903	140.75	139.79	-0.96	-0.49	-35.86
(4) Dallas 3319101	491.41	491.26	-0.15	-0.62	-269.41
(5) Coryell 4035404	505.84	504.2	-1.64	-13.07	-213.84
(6) Kendall 6802609	134.73	137.2	2.47	1.28	-74.73
(7) Bell 5804816	125.89	125.79	-0.10	-0.75	-2.76
(8) Bexar 6837203	80.00	82.79	2.79	-1.94	-33.36
(9) Smith 3430907	441.75	439.3	-2.45	-5.57	-75.75
(10) La Salle 7738103	461.24	448.5	-12.74	-72.21	-208.17
(11) Harris 6514409	203.71	202.56	-1.15	3.72	-68.21
(12) Victoria 8017502	37.02	36.94	-0.08	1.93	-3.02
(13) El Paso 4913301	292.93	NA	NA	-3.33	-61.03
(14) Reeves 4644501	147.79	148.63	0.84	-1.31	-55.70
(15) Pecos 5216802	202.26	211.49	9.23	-0.91	44.62
(16) Haskell 2135748	47.57	47.26	-0.31	-1.48	-6.24
(17) Hudspeth 4807516	136.91	140.52	3.61	-1.38	-32.99

**Groundwater Observation Wells Location Map**



## 6. WATER UTILITY STATUS

Overall, there are **1,028** water systems that are asking their customers to restrict water use, compared with **1,025** a month ago. Of these systems, **642** are asking customers to follow a mandatory watering schedule and **386** are asking customers to follow a voluntary watering schedule. There are currently **30** PWSs that have prohibited all outside watering by their customers. A total of **1,258** water systems have reported to the TCEQ regarding their status using the online form on the TCEQ public website. Recent rains in parts of the state have allowed some water systems to relax their water use restrictions. The seasonal forecasts show ongoing drought areas will continue to persist and intensify while new development is likely in other areas throughout the state.

## 7. WATER RIGHTS – STATEWIDE

New temporary water use permit applications are being reviewed on a site-specific basis and issued if there is sufficient surplus water at the requested source. The number of applications for new water use permits and amendments to existing permits was high for the month.

In December TCEQ provided additional guidance to those municipal, domestic and power generation water rights in the Brazos River Basin which are excluded from the priority call but required to complete and return a questionnaire regarding water conservation and efforts to obtain alternative sources.

The availability of unappropriated water for new water use permits continues to decrease in all river basins in the State, and the search for long-term, dependable alternate sources of water remains a high priority issue.

## 8. WATER RIGHTS – LOWER RIO GRANDE / RIO GRANDE WATERMASTER (RGWM)

**Current Conditions:** On December 29, 2012, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 40.03% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,357,939 acre-feet, down from 64.56% (2,189,728 AF) of normal conservation a year ago at this time. Overall the system is holding 35.61% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 2,108,657 acre-feet with Amistad at 43.98% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,440,632 acre-feet and Falcon at 25.24% of conservation capacity, impounding 668,025 acre-feet. Mexico has 29.67% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 750,717 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon

**Allocations:** As of printing of the November, 2012 ownership report, we have allocated 218,040.4539 acre-feet to Class A & B water rights, which include irrigation, mining and recreation.

**Storage & Loss Amistad vs. Falcon:** The U.S. is currently storing approximately 873 thousand acre-feet at Amistad (47.5%); and approximately 483 thousand acre-feet (31.2%) of normal conservation capacity at Falcon.

Evaporation and seepage losses at Amistad cycle, as of 12/29/12, are 17,258 acre-feet. For the same period, the U.S. has lost 19,424 acre-feet at Falcon.

**Releases to meet demands:** In 2012, (through 12/29/12), Mexico has released 862,854 acre-feet from Amistad and 1,046,097 acre-feet from Falcon Mexico needs. The U.S. has released 1,258,543 acre-feet from Falcon and 1,164,559 acre-feet from Amistad for U.S. needs. Combined with gains between Amistad and Falcon, U.S. inflows to Falcon have totaled

1,207,331 acre-feet. The U.S. demand in the lower Rio Grande has been met at a rate of 96% by direct Rio Grande inflows and Amistad releases this year.

**Upper Rio Grande (New Mexico):** Currently, Elephant Butte in New Mexico is currently storing 167,006 (8.25%) acre feet and Caballo Dam in New Mexico, downstream of Elephant Butte is storing 7,296 (3.21%) acre-feet. This water storage in part is used to meet water needs in the El Paso area.

**Outlook:** 71% of all accounts began 2012 with 100% of their usable balance and 29% of all accounts began 2012 less than 100% of their usable balance of water available. The National Weather Service continues to report that moderate to severe drought conditions are affecting much of South Texas counties.

## 9. RIVER BASIN REPORTS

Stream flow conditions vary widely across the state. When considering drought conditions, United State Geological Survey (USGS) streamflow data are commonly used as a metric for comparison. This report uses monthly mean river flows in cubic feet per second (cfs) to represent average monthly conditions within each river basin. The historical median flow value for the month (the discharge which is equaled or exceeded 50% of the time) is used to prevent the inclusion of high flow values that would skew the data.

### Red River Basin:

#### **Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	December mean (cfs)	December historical median (cfs)
Red River near Burkburnett	9	245
Red River near De Kalb	785	6,080

**Drought Condition:** As of January 3, 100% of the Red River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with, 15% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

### Sulphur River Basin:

#### **Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	December mean (cfs)	December historical median (cfs)
Sulphur River near Talco	16	127

**Drought Conditions:** As of January 3, 100% of the Sulphur River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

**Cypress Creek Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	December mean (cfs)	December historical median (cfs)
Little Cypress Creek near Jefferson	32	281

**Drought Conditions:** As of January 3, 63% of the Cypress Creek Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

**Sabine River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	December mean (cfs)	December historical median (cfs)
Sabine River near Beckville	246	1230
Sabine River near Ruliff	1,427	5,100

**Drought Conditions:** As of January 3, 55% of the Sabine River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

**Neches River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	December mean (cfs)	December historical median (cfs)
Angelina River near Alto	188	581
Neches River at Evadale	1,334	3,060

**Drought Conditions:** As of January 3, 41% of the Neches River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

**Trinity River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	December mean (cfs)	December historical median (cfs)
Trinity River at Dallas	591	404
Trinity River near Oakwood	1,051	1,610
Trinity River at Romayor	975	3,490

**Drought Conditions:** As of January 3, 94% of the Trinity River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

**Brazos River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	December mean (cfs)	December historical median (cfs)
Double Mountain Fork Brazos River near Aspermont	0	6
Brazos River near Glen Rose	26	196
Little River at Cameron	85	325
Navasota near Easterly	14	29
Brazos near Hempstead	454	2,360
Brazos near Rosharon	373	3,970

**Drought Conditions:** As of January 3, 100% of the Brazos River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 22% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights below Possum Kingdom with a priority date of February 15, 1942 or later have been suspended; however, water rights for municipal use, domestic use and power generation have not been suspended at this time. Water rights in this area that are senior to February 15, 1942 are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

**Colorado River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	December mean (cfs)	December historical median (cfs)
Colorado River at Ballinger	.04	12
San Saba River at San Saba	34	93

Llano River at Llano	55	169
Pedernales River near Johnson City	8	56
Colorado River at Columbus	245	891

**Drought Conditions:** As of January 3, 98% of the Colorado River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 2% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits however, the Concho Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed.

**Guadalupe River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	December mean (cfs)	December historical median (cfs)
Guadalupe River near Spring Branch	40	151
San Marcos River at Luling	153	202
Guadalupe River at Cuero	437	906
Guadalupe River at Victoria	342	942

**Drought Conditions:** As of January 3, 99% of the Guadalupe River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits however, some water rights in the upper Guadalupe River Basin can only divert on a limited schedule. The South Texas Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed. All temporary permits are being reviewed on a case by case basis.

**San Antonio River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	December mean (cfs)	December historical median (cfs)
San Antonio River at Falls City	194	277
Cibolo Creek at Falls City	31	31

**Drought Conditions:** As of January 3, 99% of the San Antonio River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits however, the South Texas Watermaster continues to monitor the

streamflows conditions and modify diversion requests as needed. All temporary permits are being reviewed on a case by case basis.

**Nueces River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

<b>Site</b>	<b>December mean (cfs)</b>	<b>December historical median (cfs)</b>
Nueces river at Tilden	.02	1
Frio River near Derby	0	9
Atascosa River at Whitsett	1	11

**Drought Conditions:** As of January 3, 94% of the Nueces River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 5% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits however, the South Texas Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed. All temporary permits have been suspended.

## Statewide Rainfall Totals

December 1 - 31, 2012

City/Station	Rainfall Totals (in)
<b>Brazos River Basin</b>	
Lubbock	.68
Abilene	.04
Waco	.81
College Station	2.85
<b>Colorado River Basin</b>	
Midland	.08
San Angelo	.18
Austin Mabry	.31
Austin Bergstrom	.83
<b>Neches River Basin</b>	
Tyler	2.89
Lufkin	4.31
<b>Sabine River Basin</b>	
Longview	4.35
<b>Trinity River Basin</b>	
Dallas/ Fort Worth	1.95

## 10. AGRICULTURE CONCERNS

Beneficial rain showers fell on parts of the High Plains, Central, North, Far West and East Texas in late December and early January, but amounts were not adequate to bring significant relief to drought conditions, with the exception of a small area along the Louisiana border. These showers were beneficial to the wheat crop. Much of the High Plains dry land crop was close to dying due to drought, and some green up occurred following the December rains. Producers indicated that the fate of the crop is still very questionable. Stands are thin and significantly more moisture will be needed to improve crop conditions. Many wheat producers in the Blacklands saw the first rain in nearly 3 months. Wheat stands are very erratic, with much of the crop just beginning to emerge.

Drought conditions are prevalent across much of the state and crop and pasture conditions were improving slightly in the areas receiving rain, but most pasture and rangelands in the state are continuing to decline. Winter wheat, oats, ryegrass and other winter pastures are particularly hard hit. Exceptional drought is widespread in the Rolling Plains, northern High Plains, Southwest and South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.

The agricultural community is hard hit in multiple facets: hay supplies are short and winter grazing, which is vital to extend hay supplies and supplement feed resources over the winter, is very short or nonexistent outside of irrigated fields and a few spots where isolated showers have brought relief. Wheat prices are currently high, and if stands are lost due to drought over the winter, Texas will have large economic losses to opportunity loss on wheat harvest. Wheat is much more vulnerable to winterkill when drought stressed putting wheat farmers at risk from sudden cold fronts. Extension reporters are once again indicating that stock tank levels are declining statewide. These stock tanks are important water resources which allow cow calf operators to keep stock on the ranch.

Corn and sorghum planting time is approaching in the Rio Grande Valley, South Texas and the Gulf Coast and farmers have inadequate soil moisture for planting. Shortages of water for irrigation in the Rio Grande Valley are posing serious problems for irrigated growers, who are making plans on how best to use the limited supply of water available.

**The Drought Preparedness Council is comprised of state agencies concerned with the effects of drought and fire on the citizens of the State of Texas.**

The attached information was compiled and provided by representatives listed below. Points of contact, telephone numbers, and web site addresses are also provided.

Nim Kidd, Texas Division of Emergency Management, (512) 424-2436, fax (512) 424-2444, website: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem>

Brenner Brown, Texas Water Development Board, (512) 475-1128, fax (512) 475-2053, website: <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us>

Chris Loft, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (512) 239-4715, fax (512) 239-4770, website: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us>

Richard Egg, Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board, (254) 773-2250, fax (254) 773-3311, website: <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us>

Lance Williams, Texas Department of Agriculture, (512) 463-3285, fax (800) 835-2981, website: <http://agr.state.tx.us>

Dr. Travis Miller, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, (979) 845-4808, fax (979) 845-0456, website: <http://texasextension.tamu.edu>

David Bradsby, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, (512) 912-7015, fax (512) 707-1358, website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

Gilbert Jordan, Texas Department of Transportation, (512) 416-3270, fax (512) 416-2941, website: <http://www.txdot.state.tx.us>

Michael Dunivan, Texas Forest Service, (830) 997-5426, website: <http://txforests.tamu.edu>

Suzanne Burnham, Texas Department of State Health Services, (512) 801-9816, fax (512) 458-7111, website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/>

Tad Curtis, Office of the Governor, Economic Development & Tourism, (512) 936-0047, website: <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/ecodev>

David A. Van Dresar, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, (979) 968-3135, fax (979) 968-3194, website: <http://www.texasgroundwater.org/>

Dr. John W. Nielsen-Gammon, Office of the State Climatologist, (979) 862-2248, fax (979) 862-4466, website: <http://www.met.tamu.edu/osc/>

Marisa Callan, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, (512) 475-3964, website: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us>

