



DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

RICK PERRY
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NIM KIDD
Council Chairperson

June 15, 2010

TO: The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor, State of Texas
The Honorable David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas
Ms. Esperanza Andrade, Secretary of State, State of Texas
The Honorable Robert Duncan, 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 Kip Averitt, Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee, State of Texas
The Honorable John Carona, 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 Yvonne Gonzalez-Tourelles, Chairman, House Agriculture & Livestock Committee, State of Texas
The Honorable Pete Gallego, Chairman, House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, State of Texas
Mr. Ray Sullivan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Mr. Josh Havens, Texas Governor's Office of Homeland Security

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

SUBJECT: Statewide Drought Situation Report

Nim Kidd, Chairman
Texas Division of Emergency Mgmt

Lance Williams, Member
Texas Department of Agriculture

Carla Baze, Member
Texas Department of Transportation

Chris Loft, Member
Texas Commission on Environmental
Quality

Michael Dunivan, Member
Texas Forest Service

John Sutton, Member
Texas Water Development Board

Dr. Travis Miller, Member
Texas Cooperative Extension

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

Thomas Walker, Member
Office of the Governor
Economic Development & Tourism

Gus Garcia, Member
Texas Department of Rural Affairs

Richard Egg, Member
State Soil & Water Conservation Board

Cindy Loeffler, Member
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Suzanne Burnham, Member
Texas Department of State Health Services

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

Marisa Callan
Texas Department of Housing and
Community Affairs

1. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

August 12, 2010 at 2:00 p.m., Audit & Inspection Conference Room, Texas Department of Public Safety Headquarters, Building A, 5805 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

May 2010 was drier than normal across most of Texas, particularly in Central and East Texas where rainfall for the month was much below normal. May is historically one of the wettest months in the Eastern half of Texas, so the lack of precipitation was particularly troublesome, considering the approaching drier summer months. Compounding the dryness in Central and East Texas is the increase in water consumption and soil evaporation that occurs heading into summer. The dryness in May, combined with temperatures much warmer than normal, led to the development of moderate drought conditions in much of East Texas according to the United States Drought Monitor (USDM).

Monthly precipitation totals in Central and East Texas were generally less than 50% of normal May amounts. At the core of the dryness is Tyler, which received only a combined 1.21 inches of precipitation during April and May (15% of normal). Other areas receiving only a fraction of the precipitation expected during the month of May included Corpus Christi (9%), Port Arthur (16%), Waco (20%), Dallas/Fort Worth (21%), Austin (37%), and College Station (40%). With a lack of rainfall and overall cloud cover, temperatures were 3-4 degrees F above normal across most of the eastern half of Texas. College Station had its second warmest May ever (4.1 degrees F above normal) and Houston had its 3rd warmest May (3.6 degrees F above normal).

Parts of Texas received significant precipitation in May, due primarily to isolated, single storms that dumped excessive rainfall. Del Rio set a new 24-hour May record after receiving 7.12 inches of rainfall on the 24th. During the 14th-15th, Victoria received 6.02 inches of rainfall (85% of its monthly total) and Galveston received 3.65 inches (99%). Radar estimates indicate that an area between San Antonio and Hondo picked up more than 10 inches of rainfall during the same time period.

The moderate drought (D0) area on the June 1st USDM depiction includes most of East Texas, extending as far west as Milam County in Central Texas. The drought, which increases in intensity to "Severe Drought" (D2) just across the Louisiana border, is classified as "Agricultural Drought" due to dryness over the past 3-6 months. This is not connected to the devastating 2009 drought. El Paso received only 0.01 inches during May (3% of normal), but drought concerns are minimal after a wet and snowy winter and early spring.

Conditions across the equatorial Pacific Ocean are favorable for a transition from ENSO-neutral conditions to La Nina conditions (50% chance of La Nina, 50% chance of ENSO-neutral) during the summer months according to the Climate Prediction Center (CPC). The current one-month forecast calls for equal chances of above-normal, below-normal, and near-normal precipitation across all of Texas. The three-month forecast by the CPC, which is valid for June through August 2010, calls for equal chances of above-normal, below-normal, and near-normal precipitation across all of Texas, with the exception of the immediate Upper Gulf Coast where there is a 33-40% chance of above-normal precipitation. This is likely connected to the forecast of an active Atlantic Basin hurricane season. Over most of East Texas the current drought conditions are expected to persist or intensify, with possible improvement south of a line from College Station to Jasper.

3. OVERALL STATEWIDE DROUGHT CONDITIONS

During the month of May, the drought indicators showed a slightly drier condition state-wide, although the general conditions were still described as "Wet" or "Normal." The Southern and

Lower Valley regions were the wettest areas in the state during the month. Details are presented below.

Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI):

The East Texas and Upper Coast regions were in “Moderate Drought” and “Incipient Dry” conditions respectively. All other regions were in “Wet” or “Normal,” with two regions reporting “Extremely Wet” conditions.

Crop Moisture Index (CMI)

The Southern and Lower Valley regions were in “Abnormal Moist” condition. All others reported “Slightly Dry” conditions.

Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

East Texas was depicted as “Moderate Dry,” while all others were in “Wet” or “Normal” conditions. The Southern and Lower Valley regions were in “Extremely Wet” and “Very Wet” conditions respectively.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)

Fire risks were high in East Texas and the Trans-Pecos regions, but remained low or average in most of the other regions.

Stream Flow Index (SFI)

Stream Flows were at “Near Normal” or “High” levels in all areas except the Trans-Pecos Region.

4. WATER UTILITY STATUS

June 2010 began with 174 public water systems on the drought list. Of this total, 117 have removed all watering restrictions and returned to normal operations for the year. Of the water systems still implementing restrictions, 36 are asking that customers follow a mandatory watering schedule based on address and day of the week, and 21 are asking for voluntary reductions in outside usage.

Rainfall decreased in many areas of the state during May. As a result, water systems will see an increase in usage resulting from outside watering. This will result in additional public water systems placing customers on voluntary or mandatory watering restrictions in accordance with their Drought Contingency Plans.

5. WATER RIGHTS – STATEWIDE

New temporary water use permit applications are being reviewed on a site-specific basis, and issued only if there is sufficient surplus water at the requested source. Applications for new water use permits and amendments to existing permits remained normal for the month. Owners of water rights with restrictions are reminded to call the “Hale Clause Hotline” on a weekly basis to determine if diversion of water is allowed. The availability of non-appropriated 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.

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

Current Conditions: As of May 15, 2010, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 82.86% of conservation capacity, impounding 2,810,732 acre-feet, down from 86.08% of conservation capacity, impounding 3,139,069 acre-feet a year ago at this time. Overall, the system is holding at 82.38%, impounding 4,879,663 acre-feet of conservation capacity, with Amistad at 96.39% of conservation capacity, impounding 3,157,715 acre-feet. Falcon is at 65.05% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,721,948 acre-feet. Mexico has 81.74% (2,068,932 acre-feet) of the water available for storage at Amistad/Falcon.

Allocations: At the time of printing of the April ownership report, the U.S. had allocated 399,763.567 acre-feet to Class A & B water rights, which include irrigation, mining and recreation uses. Additionally, the U.S. has an amount in excess of 71,279 acre-feet for future allocations in 2010.

Storage & Loss: The U.S. is currently storing approximately 1.77 million acre-feet at Amistad (96.4%) and approximately 1.05 million acre-feet at Falcon (67.9%).

The evaporation and seepage losses at Amistad year-to-date amount to 41,958* acre-feet. For the same period, the U.S. lost 45,165* acre-feet at Falcon.
(*missing data from the week of 4/17/2010)

Releases to meet demands: In 2010, Mexico has released 123,617 acre-feet from Amistad and 374,747 acre-feet from Falcon for Mexico's needs. The U.S. has released 304,269 acre-feet from Falcon and 289,217 acre-feet from Amistad for U.S. needs. Combined with gains between Amistad and Falcon, U.S. inflows to Falcon have totaled 390,783 acre-feet. The U.S. demand in the lower Rio Grande has been met at a rate of 128% by direct Rio Grande inflows and Amistad releases this year.

Upper Rio Grande (New Mexico): Currently, Elephant Butte reservoir in New Mexico is at 29.29% of capacity, storing 529,628 acre-feet, and Caballo Dam in New Mexico, downstream of Elephant Butte, is at 25.36% of capacity, storing 57,560 acre-feet. This water storage, in part, is used to meet water needs in the El Paso area.

Outlook: The irrigation accounts still have 79.9% of the water available for use this year. To help alleviate losses in Falcon, the U.S. will continue to monitor ownership and elevation levels in both Falcon and Amistad so that U.S. transfers of water from Amistad to Falcon can be most efficient. The Rio Grande Basin in Texas is not experiencing drought conditions at this time. During the past month, however, the region did not receive much rain. The minimal rain that has fallen has resulted in less of a demand for water in the Rio Grande Valley.

7. SOUTH TEXAS WATERMASTER – GUADALUPE / LAVACA / SAN ANTONIO / NUECES REGION

The month of May brought widespread rain showers throughout most of the South Texas and the Concho Watermaster areas. Most of the flow conditions for area rivers have held steady, however, stream flows are slowly beginning to drop below their historical mean flows. The rain forecast through the first week of June looks favorable.

Area Counties: Bee, Goliad, Victoria, Calhoun, Refugio, Aransas, San Patricio, Nueces, Kleberg, Jim Wells, Duval, Live Oak, Kenedy, Willacy, Brooks, and Jim Hogg

Rainfall and Area Conditions: This area received some rainfall during the month of May. Some areas received only scattered rain showers while other areas received several inches. Even though the area has experienced some rainfall events, most of the major and intermittent streams are showing below-normal stream flows for this time of the year. The U.S. Drought Monitor indicates the counties in this area are currently not experiencing any drought conditions at this time. Most of the surface water diversions in this area continue to be for municipal and industrial uses with little irrigation use being noted.

Approximate Stream flow Conditions:

Site	May Beginning flows CFS	May Ending Flows CFS *	May Historical Mean CFS
South Texas Watermaster			
Guadalupe River near Victoria	1,910.0	1,650.0	2,460.0
San Antonio River near Goliad	726.0	884.0	1,030.0
San Antonio River at McFaddin below Goliad	643.0	762.0	463.0
Guadalupe River near Tivoli	2,840.0	2,480.0	1,710.0
Mission River near Refugio	12.0	2.6	159.0
Nueces River at Calallen Dam	0.0	448.0	241.0
Aransas River near Skidmore	7.7	6.1	26.0

* USGS Gauge values obtained on 05/28/2010

Stream flows of the Guadalupe River continue to flow over the “saltwater barrier” near Tivoli, Texas.

Corpus Christi Reservoir System: The Corpus Christi Reservoir System continued to receive inflows for the month of May and the level of the reservoir system has continued to rise. On May 28, 2010, the Corpus Christi Reservoir System was at 90.2% of capacity, impounding 859,432 acre-feet, compared to 68.5% of capacity, impounding 652,070 acre-feet, at this time last year.

The level of Choke Canyon Reservoir has risen to 89.2% of capacity, impounding 619,881 acre-feet, compared to 75.7% of capacity, impounding 526,663 acre-feet, at this time last year. Lake Corpus Christi has risen to 93.1% of capacity, impounding 239,551 acre-feet, compared to 48.7% of capacity, impounding 125,407 acre-feet, at this time last year. The City of Corpus Christi continues to divert much of its monthly water supply needs from Lake Texana.

Drought Restrictions: There are no permits being restricted due to drought conditions in this area.

Area Counties: Atascosa, Karnes, Gonzales, Wilson, McMullen, Dewitt, Guadalupe, Lavaca, Fayette, Colorado, Wharton, and Jackson

Rainfall and Area Conditions: The southernmost portions of this area received 1.25 to 8.5 inches of rainfall for the month of May, while the eastern portions of the area, including the Lavaca area, received 2.5 to 8.5 inches. Corn and hay crops are doing very well in this area at this time. Irrigation activity is minimal, but will likely increase without adequate rainfall in the month of June. Lake Texana was at 97% of capacity, 43.79 ft. above mean sea level. In May of last year, Lake Texana was at 72% of capacity. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, this area is experiencing no drought conditions at this time.

Stream flow Conditions:

Site	May Beginning flows CFS	May Ending flows CFS*	May Historical Mean CFS
<i>South Texas Watermaster</i>			
San Antonio River near Falls City	488.0	573.0	298.0
Cibolo Creek near Falls City	63.0	68.0	39.0
Guadalupe River near Gonzales	2,190.0	1,760.0	1,120.0
The Lavaca River at Edna	83.0	101.0	100.0
Navidad River near Hallettsville	34.0	9.7	21.0
Atascosa River near Whitsett	39.0	14.0	15.0
Frio River near Tilden	35.0	31.0	12.0
Nueces River near Tilden	135.0	156.0	70.0

* USGS Gage Values Obtained 05/28/2010

Drought Restrictions: There are no permits being restricted due to drought conditions in this area.

Area Counties: Bandera, Blanco, Comal, Kendall and Kerr Counties

Rainfall and Area Conditions: This area received scattered rain, ranging in totals from 2.5 to 4.0 inches for the month of May. The Texas Crop Moisture Index indicates this area of the hill country is classified as "Slightly Dry" to "Favorably Moist." Most of the surface water diversions in this area are for municipal and industrial uses, with a few surface water permit holders irrigating hay and sod fields. The U.S. Drought Monitor indicates this area is currently experiencing no drought conditions.

Stream flow Conditions:

Site	May Beginning flows CFS	May Ending flows CFS*	May Historical Mean CFS
<i>South Texas Watermaster</i>			
Guadalupe River at Kerrville	198	144	128
Guadalupe River at Comfort	360	266	470
Medina River at Bandera	309	184	192

*USGS Gauge value of 05/27/10

With this month's rains, most of the major streams and their tributaries are currently holding at or slightly above their historical averages, while the Guadalupe River at the Comfort gauge shows a decrease in flows this month.

Drought Restrictions: There are currently no permits being restricted in this area. Temporary water rights issued in the San Antonio River Basin (above Lake Medina) and the Guadalupe River Basin (above Canyon Lake) are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Area Counties: Edwards, Real, Kinney, Uvalde, Zavala, Dimmit, La Salle, and Webb

Rainfall and Area Conditions: There was continued, widespread rain across the South West Texas Area throughout the month of May. The range of rainfall totals in the area was 2 to 4 inches. Most diversions of surface water were for irrigation uses, with lesser amounts for industrial uses. Crops being irrigated in the area are corn, wheat, hay grazers, and pecans. Soil conditions are good due to the rainfall, and the U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that this area is experiencing no drought conditions.

Stream flow Conditions:

Site	May Beginning flows CFS	May Ending flows CFS*	May Historical Mean CFS
<i>South Texas Watermaster</i>			
Nueces River at Laguna	203.00	137.00	244.00
Nueces River near Brackettville	1.20	.48	5.90
Nueces River below Uvalde	10.00	16.00	94.00
Frio River at Concan	159.00	104.00	191.00
Sabinal River at Sabinal	14.00	2.00	32.00
Leona River near Uvalde	1.70	3.40	31.00

* USGS Gage Values Obtained 05/28/2010

Drought Restrictions: Currently, one permit with stream flow restrictions has been restricted. Permits that haven't met their stream flow restrictions are being regulated. The Zavala/Dimmit Water District has restricted all diversions to ensure adequate water for Domestic and Livestock use. Also, Temporary Permits have been restricted on the Leona River.

Area Counties: Bastrop, Bexar, Blanco, Caldwell, Comal, Fayette, Frio, Guadalupe, Hays, and Medina

Rainfall and Area Conditions: Widespread rain fell across the San Antonio Regional Area only during the middle of May. Month-to-date rainfall measured at the San Antonio International Airport was 3.23 inches. The average precipitation for May is 4.72 inches. The total year-to-date rainfall is 18.97 inches. The U.S. Drought Monitor, dated May 25, 2010, indicates the San Antonio Regional Area is experiencing no drought conditions at this time. Ground moisture is described as "Fair" to "Good," however, with warming temperatures and longer days, additional rainfall will be needed. Early harvest of hay grazers, yellow squash, white squash, zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, white onions, and garlic have been reported.

Stream flow Conditions: The Guadalupe, San Marcos, and Blanco Rivers are beginning to gradually drop below their historical mean stream flows for May. Also, small creeks and perennial creeks are beginning to cease flowing. Municipal use has increased due to residential lawn irrigation; industrial use remains constant.

Site	May Starting flows CFS	May Ending flows CFS*	May Historical Mean CFS
<i>South Texas Watermaster</i>			
Guadalupe River at Spring Branch	597	432	503
San Marcos River at Luling	369	439	529
Blanco River at Wimberley	128	147	212

**USGS Gage Value for 05/28/2010*

As of May 28, 2010, Canyon Lake Reservoir was at 909.95 feet elevation and 100.00% of capacity, impounding 378,781 acre-feet. Lake Medina Reservoir was at 72.43 % of capacity, impounding 184,563 acre-feet. On May 28, 2010, the Edwards Aquifer level at the J17 well in Bexar County was at 681.8 feet. The historical monthly average for the J17 well in May is 666.4 feet. On May 27, 2010, the San Marcos Springs were flowing at 227 cubic feet per second CFS. The historical monthly average for the San Marcos Springs in May is 181.8 CFS. On May 27, 2010, the Comal Springs were flowing at 350.0 CFS. The historical monthly average for the Comal Springs in May is 298.3 CFS.

Drought Restrictions: There are no permits being restricted due to drought conditions in this area.

Area Counties: Sterling, Tom Green, Irion, Concho, Coke, Glasscock, Runnels, Reagan, Schleicher.

Rainfall and Area Conditions: Rainfall in San Angelo for the month was 1.42 inches. Areas surrounding San Angelo received slightly higher rainfall amounts. The average rainfall amount for the month of May is 3.23 inches. The total amount of rainfall for the year is 9.91 inches. In 2009, the area received .25 inches of rain for the month of May. Area reservoirs are showing a slight increase in the amount of storage from the previous month's amounts. The Texas Crop Moisture Index indicates the area is experiencing "Slightly Dry" to "Favorably Moist" soil conditions. Corn and maize have been planted and established, and cotton is currently being planted. There are adequate supplies of surface water in the area at this time.

The Concho River Valley received below-average amounts of rainfall for the month of May. The State Drought Monitor Index indicates the Concho Valley is experiencing no drought conditions.

Stream flow Conditions: Lake Nasworthy is at 81% of capacity, impounding 8,288 acre-feet; O. C. Fisher is at 3% of capacity, impounding 3,639 acre-feet; and Twin Buttes Lake is at 27% of capacity, impounding 49,474 acre-feet.

Site	May Beginning Flows CFS	May Ending Flows CFS*	Historical Mean Flows
Concho Watermaster			
Spring Creek above Twin Buttes Reservoir	11.00	2.50	8.87
Concho River at San Angelo and Bell St.	15.00	15.00	167.42
South Concho at Christoval	16.00	8.10	38.77

* USGS Gage Values Obtained 05/28/2010

Drought Restrictions: There are no permits being restricted due to drought conditions in this area.

8. UPPER COLORADO (Concho River watershed not included)

The upper Colorado River area received less-than-normal precipitation during May. The National Weather Service in San Angelo reported monthly precipitation of 1.42 inches, 1.67 inches below normal. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, there are no drought conditions indicated in the area. USGS gauges indicate there is predominately less-than-normal flow in the upper reaches of the Colorado River above Lake J.B. Thomas down to Ballinger. The San Saba River is flowing higher than the USGS long-term median in the upper reach in Menard, TX, flowing less in the middle reach near Brady, TX, and flowing higher again in the lower reach of the river in San Saba, TX. The North Llano River above Junction, TX to the Llano River below Mason, TX is flowing significantly higher than the USGS long-term median. The pool level of E.V. Spence increased slightly, while the pool level of O.H. Ivie Reservoir decreased slightly, and the pool levels are 5.1% and 42.1% of capacity respectively.

9. TEXAS PANHANDLE AND SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS

Amarillo Area: The National Weather Service in Amarillo reported a total rainfall in May of 2.19 inches and a year-to-date total of 9.31 inches, 3.17 inches above the average through May. Lake Meredith began the month of May at 46.26 feet and ended at 45.61 feet. Lake MacKenzie began the month of May at 75.24 feet and ended at 75.36 feet. Lake Greenbelt began the month of May at 53.74 feet and ended at 54.31 feet

Lubbock Area: Lubbock received 1.14 inches of precipitation for the month of May. The average rainfall for May is 2.31 inches. Similar amounts were recorded throughout the South Plains area. In 2010, Lubbock has received a total of 11.83 inches of precipitation, 6.26 inches above normal. The long-term drought situation has not changed. All communities previously noted as being on mandatory water restrictions remained on those restrictions. No new communities were added to the water restrictions list during May and none were removed.

The City of Lubbock and City of Amherst remained on mandatory drought restriction status. The Cities of Ralls, Crosbyton, Spur, Post, the White River MWD, and Valley WSC in the South Plains area remained on voluntary drought restriction status.

White River Lake: The lake is at 14.58% of capacity, the same level that existed at the end of April 2010.

Lake Alan Henry: The lake is at 100% of capacity.

10. WILDLIFE CONCERNS

No information was received by the time of this report.

11. AGRICULTURE CONCERNS

Throughout the majority of the state, moisture is good to excellent for crops and forages. Rains over the last week have made significant improvement in the South Central and Upper Coast regions. Moderate drought extends over much of East Texas and into Louisiana, stressing crops and limiting forage growth. Hay production in this region is far less than normal due to a cool spring and dry conditions as temperatures moderated.

Unusually high temperatures over the last week of May hastened the dry-down of winter wheat, and the harvest is progressing rapidly. Growers are reporting significant docks on wheat price due to low protein associated with a wet winter.

The following summaries were compiled and released by AgriLife Extension regional reporters on agricultural conditions for the week on June 2.

CENTRAL: Extremely hot and dry conditions took a toll on row crops. Corn and sorghum showed signs of moisture stress. Pecans were still in good condition, but the crop needs moisture. Oat yields were very good, and the wheat harvest was expected to begin shortly.

COASTAL BEND: Conditions remained favorable for crop and forage growth. However, sorghum was in seed-set to late-bloom stage and needs rain. Cotton began to bloom and had fairly high insect pressure. Some wheat harvesting was delayed due to wet conditions. Livestock were in good condition. The hay harvest was ongoing. Pastures were in good condition, but most are choked with annual weeds due to reduced grass stands in pastures as a result of two years of drought and a cold winter.

EAST: With the exception of a few light showers, the region remained dry. Temperatures have been above average. Soil-moisture levels were rapidly declining. Hay production, which has had low yields so far, fell further behind. Producers were already worried about having enough hay for winter. Burn bans were implemented in some areas. Livestock were in fair to good condition.

FAR WEST: There were isolated showers with reports of accumulations of 0.2 to 7 inches of rain. Conditions in most of the region were dry, windy and hot and with high fire danger. Cotton planting was well under way and was expected to be finished within a week. Some early planted cotton will have to be replanted due to damage by wind, hard rain and hail. Pecos County reported that hail and wind stripped all corn of leaves but the stalks were still standing. Most Pecos County wheat was severely damaged, and farmers were considering plowing it under or baling it. Almost half of the onion crop was heavily damaged. Cantaloupes and watermelons experienced some damage, but the extent was yet to be determined. Cotton and chilies had just started to emerge and they were not expected to have any lasting damage. Pecan trees were not damaged by the storm and were progressing as expected. Growers sprayed for the first generation of pecan nut casebearer. Alfalfa growers began their second cutting.

NORTH: Soil moisture ranged from short to adequate, and days became hot and dry. A few areas received scattered rain showers. With the warmer temperatures, bermudagrass began to grow. Forages and crops responded well. Row crops were planted, and the yield potential looked good. Wheat headed, and the harvest was expected to begin soon. Early speculation

was that yields and quality will be below average as most wheat was planted very late due to a wet fall. Though also planted late, corn, grain sorghum and soybeans were doing well. Rice and peanuts were in fair to good condition. The oat harvest was under way. Cotton was in fair to good condition. Producers were cutting and baling early season grass hay, and tentative reports indicated yields will be about 30% to 40% percent of normal. Most likely, according to AgriLife Extension personnel, yields were off due to cool nighttime temperatures and lack of moisture. Peaches and strawberries looked very good. Livestock were in good condition.

PANHANDLE: Crops in some areas were damaged by hail. Producers were busy planting, fertilizing, applying herbicides and irrigating. The corn crop, which was off to a great start with early plantings, was at the four-to-five leaf stage. Dairies were still harvesting winter forage crops and preparing to plant summer forages such as sorghum-Sudan. The winter wheat crop was in fair condition, with drought and some disease issues affecting potential yields. The wheat harvest could begin in some fields within a week. The status of cotton varied with some very early plantings just now emerging. Some cotton acreage remained to be planted; some will be replanted because of heavy rains or hail. Peanut growers neared finishing planting. Only a few dryland fields were left to plant. Rangeland and pastures greened up and continued to improve. Cattle were in excellent condition.

ROLLING PLAINS: Hot, dry weather set in across the region. The wheat harvest began, and early reports were very favorable, particularly in terms of test weights. Cotton planting was ongoing, and producers reported stands were emerging in five to seven days after planting and looking good. Some cotton was at the two-leaf stage. Sudan for hay was being planted under good soil-moisture conditions, which was good news as most producers fed all their hay this past winter. Cotton, milo and peanuts all made good progress. Pastures greened up, and warm-season grasses were growing. Livestock were in good condition. Cattle on pasture were doing great as abundant rain and warm weather caused summer grasses to flourish. The peach crop looked good.

SOUTH: Temperatures were mild to warm with scattered showers. Overall, soil moisture levels were adequate. The exceptions were Zavala County and Cameron County, where levels were described as “Surplus” and “Short” respectively. In the northern part of the region, the potato and wheat harvests were ongoing; grain sorghum headed out; corn looked good and had tasseled; and peanut planting was in full swing. In the eastern part of the region, cotton and small grains showed good growth, and some pest activity was reported in grain sorghum. In the western part of the region, wheat harvesting was hampered for a while due to rainfall but resumed, along with cabbage harvesting, by the end of the reporting period. Onion, cotton and corn showed good progress, and insect pressure was being monitored on cabbage, cotton and watermelons. In the southern part of the region, row crops were progressing well, and the melon harvesting was expected to begin soon. Rangeland and pastures were in good to excellent condition. Producers throughout the region suspended supplemental feeding of livestock due to the availability of good forage. Stock tank water levels were good to fair.

SOUTH PLAINS: The weather was favorable for planting, and soil-moisture levels were generally adequate. Some areas received spotty showers, however, hot, dry winds, with gusts up to 50 mph, caused excessive drying of some recently planted crops. Corn was in fair to good condition. Cotton planting neared completion; the crop that had already emerged was in fair to excellent condition. Growers continued planting peanuts, sunflowers and sorghum. Wheat was in fair to good condition, entering the dough stage and turning color. Pastures and rangeland were in fair to good condition with warm season grasses

doing well due to good rainfall during the last month. Livestock were in good to excellent condition.

SOUTHEAST: Dry conditions were severely limiting forage production. Pastures were beginning to suffer as they did earlier in the spring. A small percentage of the rice, planted in fields that were flooded by the Hurricane Ike storm surge, was showing signs of being adversely affected by saline conditions.

SOUTHWEST: Crops, pastures and rangeland continued to make excellent progress due to rain and mild temperatures. Growers were harvesting corn for the fresh market, and were seeing top-notch yields and quality. Feed corn and sorghum were in the soft-dough stage. The wheat, spring onion and cabbage harvests were ongoing. Forage availability was above average for this time of the year. Corn, sorghum, cotton, watermelons, cantaloupes, sunflowers, potatoes and peanuts made superb progress.

WEST CENTRAL: Conditions were very hot and dry in most areas, though Mason County had severe flooding that destroyed harvest-ready crops, newly planted peanuts and hay grazers. Losses also included wildflower seed-production fields, commercial vegetables and melons. There were no reports of livestock losses at the time of this report. Cotton planting was in full swing. Growers were harvesting wheat and expecting above-average yields. Sorghum plantings were doing well and producers were cutting and baling small grains. Rangeland and pastures remained in good condition. Livestock were in fair to good condition. Pecans looked promising, with growers spraying for pecan nut casebearer where needed.

12. WILDFIRE CONCERNS

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) is used to help determine the potential for fire risk. It is a numerical index where each number is an estimate of the amount of precipitation, in 100ths of an inch, needed to bring the soil back to saturation. The index ranges from 0 to 800, with 0 representing a saturated soil, and 800 a completely dry soil. The relationship of the KBDI to fire danger is, as the index increases, the vegetation is subjected to increased moisture stress. KBDI levels and their relationship to expected fire potential are reflected in the following:

KBDI = 0 – 200: Soil moisture and large class fuel moistures are high and do not contribute much to fire intensity. This is typical of the spring dormant season following winter precipitation.

KBDI = 201 – 400: Typical of late spring and early growing season. Lower litter and duff layers are drying and beginning to contribute to fire intensity.

KBDI = 401 – 600: Typical of late summer and early fall. Lower litter and duff layers contribute to fire intensity and will burn actively.

KBDI = 601 – 800: Often associated with more severe drought and increased wildfire occurrence. Intense, deep-burning fires with significant downwind spotting can be expected. Live fuels can also be expected to burn actively at these levels.

As of May 31, 2010, there were 57 counties (illustrated in Attachment 2) with KBDI values in excess of 400. The values indicate areas within these counties are beginning to experience or sustain dry conditions which could result in an increased fire risk potential.

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, web site: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem>

John Sutton, Texas Water Development Board, (512) 463-7988, fax (512) 463-9893, web site: <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us>

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

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

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

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

Cindy Loeffler, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, (512) 912-7015, fax (512) 707-1358, web site: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

Carla Baze, Texas Department of Transportation, (512) 416-3270, fax (512) 416-2941, web site: <http://www.txdot.state.tx.us>

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

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

Thomas Walker, Office of the Governor, Economic Development & Tourism, (512) 936-0169, fax (512) 936-0141, web site: <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/ecodev>

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

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

Gus Garcia, Texas Department of Rural Affairs, (512) 936-7876, fax (512) 936-6776, web site: <http://www.tdra.state.tx.us>

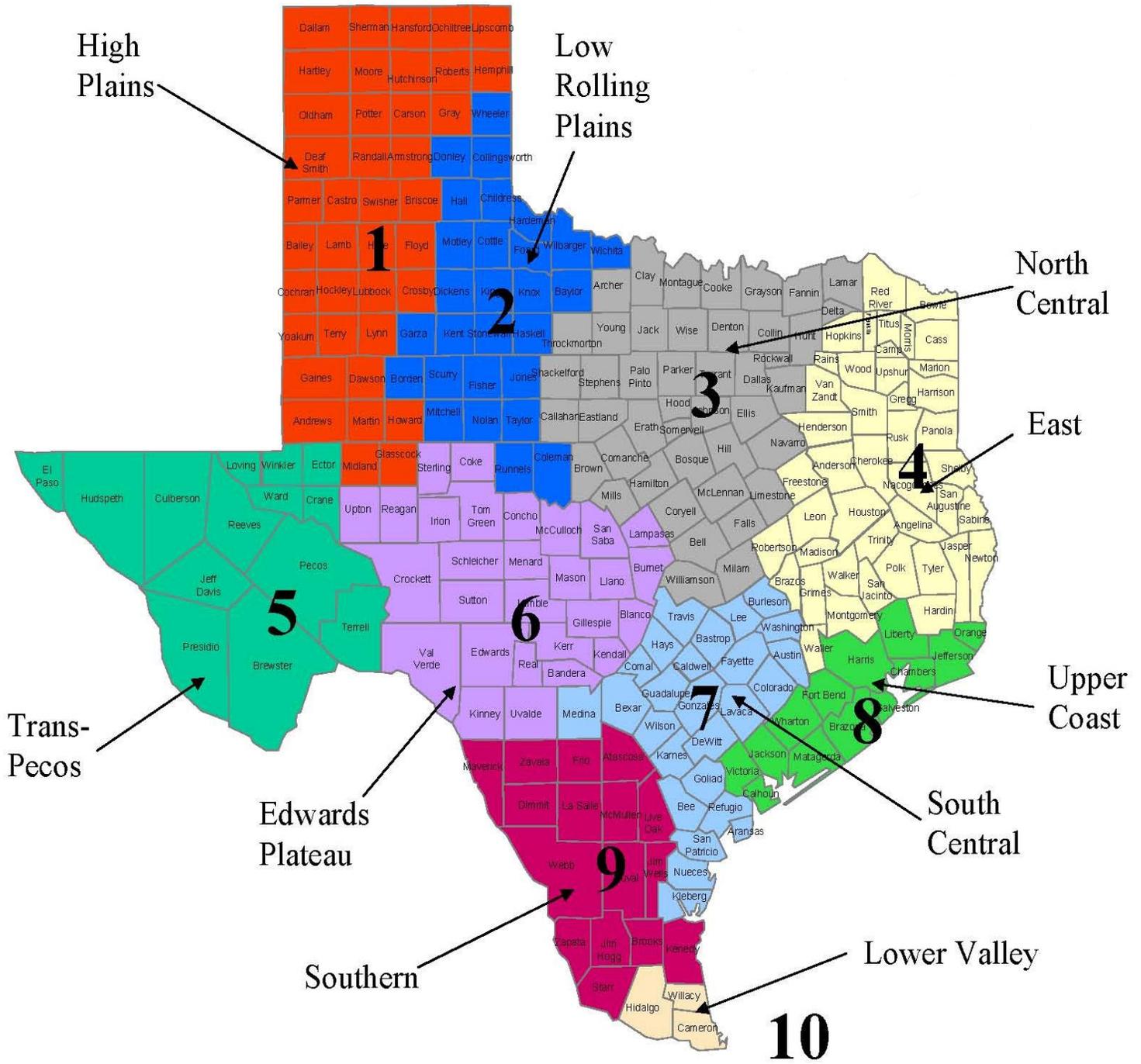
Marisa Callan, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, (512) 475-3964, website: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us>

cc:

Amy Jeter, Committee Clerk, Senate Finance Committee
Sarah Hicks, Committee Director, Senate Finance Committee
Teddy Carter, Committee Clerk, Senate Natural Resources Committee
Amy Peterson, Committee Clerk, House Appropriations
Elizabeth Fazio, Committee Clerk, House Natural Resources Committee
Jim Terrell, Committee Clerk, House Agriculture and Livestock Committee
Andrew Cates, Committee Clerk, House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee

Zak Covar, Policy Advisor for TCEQ Issues, Governor's Policy Office
Auburn Mitchell, Policy Advisor for Agriculture/TDA, Governor's Policy Office
Carmen Cernosek, Lt. Governor's Natural Resources Policy Analyst
Shane Linkous, Deputy Division Chief, Intergovernmental Relations, Attorney
General's Office
Allan B. Polunsky, Chairman, Public Safety Commission
C. Tom Clowe, Jr., Member, Public Safety Commission
Ada Brown, Member, Public Safety Commission
John Steen, Member, Public Safety Commission
Carin Marcy Barth, Member, Public Safety Commission
Steven McCraw, Director, Department of Public Safety
Lt. Colonel Lamar Beckworth, Deputy Director, Department of Public Safety
Lori Gabbert,, Budget Analyst, Legislative Budget Board (LBB-DPS)
Tom Lambert, Budget Analyst, Legislative Budget Board (LBB-TCEQ)
Ed Perez, Executive Director, Texas Office of State-Federal Relations,
Washington, DC
Brandon Steinmann, Director, Texas Office of State-Federal Relations, Austin,
Texas

Attachment 1 Climatic Regions



Attachment 2 Counties with Extreme to High Fire Danger

