



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

NIM KIDD
Council Chairperson

July 8, 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 AgriLife Extension Service

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. via teleconference.

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Monthly precipitation totals across most of the state were below normal in June 2010, and in East Texas and North Central Texas there were regions of severe drought (D2) by month's end. In addition to the rainfall deficits in most of the state, average temperatures for the month were far above normal and served to accelerate the normally high June evaporation rates. The main areas of concern going into July are three distinct regions of severe drought: an area to the northeast of Dallas, extending just south of the Red River; Central Texas, southwest of Fort Worth; and East Texas, to the east of Tyler/Longview.

Drought conditions in North Central and East Texas pale in comparison to the exceptional drought conditions that engulfed much of South Texas at the end of June 2009. The current areas experiencing moderate (D0) and severe drought in Texas received above-normal precipitation through much of the summer and fall of 2009. The current United States Drought Monitor (USDM) depiction of D0 (10% of the state) and D1 (4% of the state) in Texas is reflective of a shorter-term agricultural drought rather than a hydrological drought, such as the one that plagued the state last summer.

Overall, June precipitation totals in Texas were below normal, though deficits were not substantial and most areas had at least one significant rain event. Del Rio received only 0.71 inches of rainfall during June (30% of normal), but this provided some relief after the city had its rainiest May on record (10.45 inches). Amarillo also received only 30% of its normal precipitation, but is in a region that picked up above-normal winter and early spring precipitation. However, there was concern about Lake Meredith, a major water source in the Panhandle, as it dropped to a record low level during the month. Areas of Central Texas and Northeast Texas, with average May and June precipitation totals of about 10 inches, received only 3-5 inches during this period, leading to the designation of D1 and D2 drought conditions by the USDM.

A swath of the state, from South Central Texas to the Red River in Northeast Texas, saw a quick elimination of drought conditions after a storm system produced several inches of rain on the 9th and 10th of June. Tyler received 8.14 inches and College Station 4.27 inches of precipitation in 24 hours. This storm system caused extensive flooding of the Guadalupe and Comal Rivers in Central Texas and produced more than 10 inches of rain in Hill and Navarro Counties. The month ended with Hurricane Alex making landfall in northern Mexico on the 30th, and excessive rainfall from the storm helped set 24-hour rainfall records for the month of June in McAllen (6.66 inches) and Brownsville (5.86 inches). Moisture from the system was expected to have a positive impact on D0 drought conditions in Southeast Texas over the first week of July.

La Nina conditions are likely to develop across the equatorial Pacific Ocean in July or August and are expected to continue through early 2011, according to the Climate Prediction Center (CPC). Over the next three months, rainfall is expected to improve the drought situation in East Texas and Central Texas, with some improvement possible in the area of drought northeast of Dallas.

3. OVERALL STATEWIDE DROUGHT CONDITIONS

During the month of June, according to the drought indicators, the moisture condition was shifting from "Wet" or "Near Normal" to "Dry" in large portions of the state. Many of the 10 climate regions are drier than a month ago, and the number of regions that are now labeled "Dry" by at least one drought index has increased. Overall, the moisture condition is still

typical of Texas summers. The High Plains, Low Rolling Plain, and Southern regions are still in wet conditions.

Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI):

The North Central, Upper Coast, and East Texas regions were in mild to moderate drought; all other regions were listed as “Wet” or “Normal,” with two regions in “Very Wet” conditions.

Crop Moisture Index (CMI)

All regions were in a dry spell, with North Central and Edwards in “Excessively Dry” condition.

Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

East Texas was listed as “Moderate Dry,” but all others were in “Wet” or “Normal” conditions. The High Plains, Southern, and Lower Valley regions were in “Very Wet” conditions.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)

Fire risks were high in North Central, East Texas, Trans-Pecos, and Upper Coast regions, and only remain low or average in 3 regions.

Stream Flow Index (SFI)

Flows were either near normal or at high levels in all except the Trans-Pecos Region.

4. WATER UTILITY STATUS

July 2010 began with 177 public water systems on the drought list. Of this total, 117 have removed all watering restrictions and returned to normal operations. Of the remaining water systems with restrictions, 38 are asking that customers follow a mandatory watering schedule based on address and day of the week, and 22 are asking for voluntary reductions in outside usage.

Rain events occurred in June in some areas of the state. As a result, water systems saw a decrease in usage for outside watering. However, based on future forecasts and hot weather, water systems will continue to review their Drought Contingency Plans. This may 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, both short-term and long-term, are being reviewed on a site-specific basis, and issued if there is sufficient surplus water at the requested source. Applications for new water use permits and amendments to existing permits remained constant for the month. Curtailment of pumping was not required in areas of the Brazos River Basin that contain “Hale Clause” restrictions. Owners of water rights with these restrictions are reminded to call the “Hale Clause Hotline” on a weekly basis to determine if diversion of water is allowed for the following week. 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.

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

Current Conditions: As of June 19, 2010, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 83.01% of conservation capacity, impounding 2,815,596 acre-feet, down from 90.73% of conservation capacity, impounding 3,077,455 acre-feet a year ago at this time. Overall, the system is holding 81.04% of conservation capacity, impounding 4,800,214 acre-feet, with Amistad at 95.30% of conservation capacity, impounding 3,122,044 acre-feet and Falcon at 63.40% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,678,170 acre-feet. Mexico has 78.41% (1,984,618 acre-feet) of the water available for storage at Amistad/Falcon.

Allocations: At the time of printing the May 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. No allocations were made during the month of June. Additionally, the U.S. has an amount in excess of 171,725 acre feet for future allocations in 2010.

Storage & Loss - Amistad vs. Falcon: The U.S. is currently storing approximately 1.77 million acre-feet at Amistad (96.3%), and approximately 1.01 million acre-feet at Falcon (65.3%).

Evaporation and seepage losses at Amistad year-to-date are 70,890* acre-feet. For the same period, the U.S. has lost 81,708* acre-feet at Falcon.

**Missing data from the week of 4/17/2010*

Releases to meet demands: To date in 2010, Mexico has released 217,422 acre-feet from Amistad and 481,372 acre-feet from Falcon for Mexico's needs. The U.S. has released 443,478 acre-feet from Falcon and 367,734 acre-feet from Amistad for U.S. needs. Combined with gains between Amistad and Falcon, U.S. inflows to Falcon have totaled 526,611 acre-feet. The U.S. demand in the lower Rio Grande has been met at a rate of 143.2% by direct Rio Grande inflows and Amistad releases this year.

Upper Rio Grande (New Mexico): Currently, Elephant Butte in New Mexico is at 26.0% of capacity, storing 526,150 acre-feet, and Caballo Dam in New Mexico, downstream of Elephant Butte, is at 23.57% of capacity, storing 53,507 acre-feet. This water storage, in part, is used to meet water needs in the El Paso area.

Outlook: To help alleviate losses in Falcon, the U.S. will continue to monitor ownership and elevations levels in both Falcon and Amistad so that U.S. transfers of water from Amistad to Falcon can be most efficient. The rest of the Rio Grande Basin is not experiencing any drought conditions.

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

The month of June was abnormally dry, with rainfall and stream flows well below historical averages. Tropical Storm Alex has the potential to bring much-needed rainfall to the South Texas and Concho Watermaster Areas.

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 June. 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 some counties in the area along the coast are currently experiencing “Abnormally Dry” conditions at this time. Most of the surface water diversions in this area continue to be for municipal and industrial use, with little irrigation use being noted.

Approximate Stream flow Conditions:

Site	June Beginning flows CFS	June Ending Flows CFS *	June Historical Mean CFS
<i>South Texas Watermaster</i>			
Guadalupe River near Victoria	1,160.00	1,200.00	2,250.00
San Antonio River near Goliad	686.00	356.00	1,110.00
San Antonio River at McFaddin below Goliad	808.00	619.00	436.00
Guadalupe River near Tivoli	2,760.00	2,430.00	1,280.00
Mission River near Refugio	1.50	.22	84.00
Nueces River at Calallen Dam	456.00	309.00	588.00
Aransas River near Skidmore	5.70	5.00	18.00

* USGS Gauge values obtained on 06/28/10

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 June, but the level of the reservoir system began to decline. On June 28, 2010, the Corpus Christi Reservoir System was at 87.4% of capacity, impounding 832,264 acre-feet, compared to 65.4% of capacity, impounding 622,929 acre-feet, at this time last year.

The level of Choke Canyon Reservoir has declined and was at 87.8% of capacity, impounding 610,411 acre-feet, compared to 73.7% of capacity, impounding 512,071 acre-feet, at this time last year. Lake Corpus Christi has also declined to 86.2% of capacity, impounding 221,853 acre-feet, compared to 43.1% of capacity, impounding 110,858 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 0.25 to 1.5 inches of rainfall for the month of June. The eastern portions of the area, including the Lavaca area, received 0.5 to 2.5 inches. Corn, milo and hay crops are doing well in this area at this time. Irrigation activity is increasing due to low rainfall totals and high temperatures during the month of June. Lake Texana was at 94% of capacity, 42.92 ft. above mean sea level.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the southern portions of this area are experiencing “No Drought” conditions, and the eastern portions of this area are experiencing “No Drought” to “Abnormally Dry” conditions at this time.

Stream flow Conditions:

Site	June Beginning flows CFS	June Ending flows CFS*	June Historical Mean CFS
<i>South Texas Watermaster</i>			
San Antonio River near Falls City	573.0	259.0	247.0
Cibolo Creek near Falls City	68.0	50.0	30.0
Guadalupe River near Gonzales	1,760.0	1,470.0	868.0
The Lavaca River at Edna	101.0	52.0	58.0
Navidad River near Hallettsville	9.7	18.0	18.0
Atascosa River near Whitsett	14.0	4.9	9.4
Frio River near Tilden	66.0	1.3	38.0
Nueces River near Tilden	511.0	0.0	13.0

* USGS Gauge Values Obtained 06/28/2010

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

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

Rainfall and Area Conditions: This area received scattered rain during the month of June, with totals ranging from 1 to 3 inches. The Texas Crop Moisture Index indicates this area of the hill country is classified as “Slightly Dry” to “Near Normal.” 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 that this area is currently experiencing “Abnormally Dry” conditions.

Stream flow Condition:

Site	June Beginning flows CFS	June Ending flows CFS*	June Historical Mean CFS
<i>South Texas Watermaster</i>			
Guadalupe River at Kerrville	116	62	137
Guadalupe River at Comfort	197	110	197
Medina River at Bandera	131	61	171

* USGS Gauge value of 06/28/10

Major streams and their tributaries are all below their historical averages.

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 being 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 little relief from the drought across the South West Texas Regional Area throughout the month of June. The range of rainfall in the area was 0.10 to 0.50 inches. Most diversions of surface water were for irrigation and municipal uses with lesser amounts for industrial use. Currently, crops being irrigated in the area include corn, milo, hay grazers, and pecans. Soil conditions are dry due to the lack of rainfall for this area and for this time of year. The U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that this area is experiencing “Normal” to “Abnormally Dry” conditions.

Stream flow Conditions:

Site	June Beginning flows CFS	June Ending flows CFS	June Historical Mean CFS
<i>South Texas Watermaster</i>			
Nueces River at Laguna	117.00	52.00	157.00
Nueces River near Brackettville	1.00	.16	100.00
Nueces River below Uvalde	16.00	12.00	160.00
Frio River at Concan	87.00	50.00	132.00
Sabinal River at Sabinal	2.00	1.50	54.00
Leona River near Uvalde	1.70	0.00	29.00

Drought Restrictions: Currently, one permit with stream flow restrictions is restricted. Permits that have not met their stream flow restrictions are being regulated. The Zavala/Dimmit Water District has implemented a pumping schedule for 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: Below-average rainfall was recorded for the San Antonio Regional Area during the month of June. Month-to-date rainfall measured at the San Antonio International Airport was 0.72 inches. The year-to-date total rainfall is 20.81 inches. The U.S. Drought Monitor, dated June 24, 2010, indicates the San Antonio Regional Area is experiencing “No Drought” conditions at this time. Ground moisture is only “Fair” due to the lack of rainfall and hot, sunny days. Good harvests of hay grazers, yellow and white squash, zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, white onions, watermelons, cantaloupes, blackberries, and garlic have been reported.

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

Site	June Starting flows CFS	June Ending flows CFS*	June Historical Mean CFS
South Texas Watermaster			
Guadalupe River at Spring Branch	358	151	563
San Marcos River at Luling	379	335	600
Blanco River at Wimberley	115	71	227

*USGS Gauge Value for 06/28/2010

As of June 28, 2010, Canyon Lake Reservoir was at 909.72 feet elevation and 100.00% of capacity, impounding 378,781 acre-feet. Lake Medina Reservoir was at 73.40 % of capacity, impounding 187,031 acre-feet. On June 28, 2010, the Edwards Aquifer level at the J17 well in Bexar County was 671.6 feet. The historical monthly average for the J17 well in June is 663.3 feet. On June 27, 2010, the San Marcos Springs were flowing at 190 CFS. The historical monthly average for the San Marcos Springs in June is 190.6 CFS. On June 27, 2010, the Comal Springs were flowing at 384.0 CFS. The historical monthly average for the Comal Springs in June is 291.8 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 totaled 3.39 inches. Areas surrounding San Angelo received slightly higher rainfall amounts. The average rainfall amount for the month of June is 2.88 inches. The total amount of rainfall for the year is 13.30 inches. In 2009, the area received 1.72 inches of rain for the month of June.

Area reservoirs are showing a decrease in the amount of storage from the previous month's amounts. The Texas Crop Moisture Index indicates the area as having "Slightly Dry" to "Favorably Moist" soil conditions. There are diminishing supplies of surface water in the area at this time, despite the recent rain event.

The Concho River Valley received above-average rainfall for the month of June. The State Drought Monitor Index indicates the Concho Valley as having "Abnormally Dry" conditions.

Stream flow Conditions: Lake Nasworthy is at 84% of capacity, impounding 8,518 acre-feet. O. C. Fisher Reservoir is at 3% of capacity, impounding 3,299 acre-feet. Twin Buttes Lake is at 25% of capacity, impounding 45,753 acre-feet.

Site	June Beginning Flows CFS	June Ending Flows CFS	Historical Mean Flows
Concho Watermaster			
Spring Creek above Twin Buttes Reservoir	2.50	0.00	7.00
Concho River at San Angelo and Bell St.	15.00	80.00	77.76
South Concho at Christoval	8.10	6.90	25.63

Drought Restrictions: Due to the recent rain event, 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 June. The National Weather Service in San Angelo reported monthly precipitation of 1.96 inches, 0.56 inches below normal. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the drought conditions in Kimble and Mason Counties were in the “Abnormally Dry” range, while the other counties in the region had no drought conditions. USGS gauges indicated higher flows than the USGS long-term median in the upper reaches of the Colorado River, above Lake J.B. Thomas, down to E.V. Spence Reservoir, and decreased flows below the long-term median between the Cities of Robert Lee and Ballinger. The San Saba River was flowing higher than the USGS long-term median in the upper reach in Menard, TX to the lower reach of the river in San Saba, TX. The North Llano River, above Junction, TX to the Llano River below Mason, TX, was flowing higher than the USGS long-term median. The pool levels of E.V. Spence Reservoir and O.H. Ivie Reservoir both decreased slightly. The pool levels are 4.6% and 40.2% of capacity, respectively.

9. TEXAS PANHANDLE AND SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS

Amarillo Area: The National Weather Service (NWS) in Amarillo reported a total rainfall in June of 1.0 inch, 2.28 inches below the June normal. Year-to-date, the NWS has reported a total of 10.30 inches of rain, 0.88 inches above the yearly average. Lake Meredith is currently at 44.16 feet, 1.36 feet lower than the beginning of June. Lake Greenbelt is currently at 53.74 feet, 0.57 feet lower than the beginning of June. Lake MacKenzie is currently at 74.71 feet, 0.61 feet lower than the beginning of June. During a single event, Palo Duro Reservoir in Sherman County rose over 40 feet.

Lubbock Area: Lubbock received 2.55 inches of precipitation for the month of June. The average rainfall for June is 2.98 inches. Similar amounts were recorded throughout the South Plains area. To date in 2010, Lubbock has received 14.38 inches of precipitation, 5.83 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 June, and none were removed.

The cities of Lubbock and Amherst remained on mandatory drought restriction status. The cities of Ralls, Crosbyton, Spur, Post, as well as 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 13.11% of capacity.

Lake Alan Henry: This Lake is at 100% of capacity.

10. WILDLIFE CONCERNS

No information was received by the time of this report.

11. AGRICULTURE CONCERNS

Much of East and North Texas was dry during May and June. Hay production was low and corn was heavily stressed from the dry conditions. The rains in early July brought relief to this region, although annual average rainfall is not back to normal and the corn crop was, for the most part, too advanced to benefit from the rain. Heavy tropical rains caused a great deal of flood damage in the Rio Grande Valley. The flooding caused extensive damage to the sorghum crop along the Gulf Coast, primarily due to harvest-ready seed germination before the crop could be harvested, as well as some crop lodging, particularly in fields treated with a harvest aid before the storm. The Southern High Plains received flooding rainfall, but this should be of great benefit to the cotton and grain crops in the field. Rainfall interfered with the wheat harvest, which was largely complete by this reporting date. Many farmers received steep discounts for low protein content on June-harvested wheat. Low protein is associated with high yields and wet conditions during grain fill.

Overall, the state is in good to excellent condition with respect to moisture for crops and livestock.

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries for the week ending July 10:

CENTRAL: Rainfall amounts varied across the region and hay production remained steady. Grain sorghum benefited greatly from rains brought by Hurricane Alex. Much corn was harvested for silage the week before the storm. Aflatoxin levels were expected to increase. Wheat yields were excellent, but price cuts due to low protein content hit farmers very hard. Livestock were in good condition.

COASTAL BEND: Rainfall totals, associated with Hurricane Alex and ranging from 1 to 12 inches, greatly raised soil moisture levels. Corn was maturing and was in good condition. Cotton was setting bolls and doing well. Heavy rain damaged some grain sorghum, with 1% to 5% sprouting in heads, and some early maturing grain was knocked over. In the hardest-hit areas, harvested grain had as much as 36% damage. Also, some wind damage to sorghum was reported. Hay producers were working on second and third cuttings, with some hay that was cut prior to the rain being lost.

EAST: Much of the region received rain, but many areas remained below average for the year. Cooler temperatures followed the rain and helped to improve crop conditions. Hay harvesting was slowed due to the rain. Overall, livestock were in good condition, with some producers providing supplemental feed because of limited grazing.

FAR WEST: From 0.2 inch to 7 inches of rain was reported as a result of Hurricane Alex. Fields were too wet to work following the storm, bringing the onion harvest to a standstill. Producers were pleased with the rain, but were anxious about falling behind in harvesting and fieldwork. Alfalfa growers completed their third cutting. Pecan nut development started, and growers were monitoring for the second generation of pecan nut casebearer. The rains washed away large populations of aphids, thereby allowing beneficial insect numbers to

increase. Cotton was squaring and showing little sign of insect pressure. Due to the surplus moisture, there was some concern about fungus on cantaloupes and other crops. Pastures and grazing were expected to improve.

NORTH: Soil moisture conditions ranged from short to adequate. Sporadic rain helped alleviate dry conditions, but much more was needed going into July. The rains were too late for the corn crop, which was damaged by a very dry May, but were beneficial to grain sorghum, soybeans, hay and pastures. Much of the corn was drought-stressed, and many producers were considering cutting and harvesting it for hay. Hay supplies were short and new production slow, with yields reported to be half of normal levels. The rain was beneficial to forage and cattle producers. Livestock were in fair to good condition. Oats and winter wheat harvests were complete. Cotton was planted and in poor to fair condition. Rice and peanuts were in very poor condition. Insect populations were very large. Rangeland and pastures were in poor to good condition.

PANHANDLE: With the exception of the south central part of the region, cooler temperatures and lighter winds reduced stress in crops and forages in most areas. Producers continued harvesting wheat in areas where it did not rain. The harvest was expected to continue until mid July, depending on the weather. Corn was in good condition. Cotton, soybeans and sorghum were all in fair to good condition. Insect activity was slow to moderate on most crops. Rangeland was drying out in some locations but was in far better shape than this time last year. Cattle continued to make good gains, but horn and heel flies remained a problem.

ROLLING PLAINS: Much-needed showers moved through the region during June. The rains greatly improved the outlook for a good second harvest on Bermuda grass hay. The cotton crop across the district was in good condition. Cotton that had emerged and was growing benefited greatly from the moisture. Some producers were spraying weeds. The peanut crop was also in good shape, and the wheat harvest was winding down. Pastures looked good and livestock were in good condition. Grasshoppers migrated into hay fields and caused major damage where there were no chemical controls.

SOUTH PLAINS: Heavy, widespread rains came to the region July 1-4, with accumulations ranging from 3 to 15 inches. Most crops were entering their peak water-use period and the rains were very timely. Damages from the heavy rains were still being assessed. Flooding washed out fences and cut deep channels in gullies. There was also flooding of low-lying areas, but the storm's benefits far outweighed the damage. Soil moisture was adequate to surplus. Corn was in good condition. Cotton was in fair to good condition with many fields blooming or near bloom. Grain sorghum was in fair to good condition and nearing the heading stage. Pastures and rangeland were in excellent condition. Livestock were in excellent condition. Some cattle had to be moved due to flooded pastures.

SOUTH: Soil moisture was adequate to surplus throughout the region as a result of rain associated with Hurricane Alex. The northern and eastern parts of the region received from 3 to 10 inches, while the western and southern parts received from 4 to 12 inches. Rangeland and pastures were greatly benefited, and the constant rain filled many stock tanks. Except for some lodging of sorghum, little damage to crops was reported, though fieldwork was on hold due to wet soils. Corn was progressing well, and the grain-sorghum harvesting was expected to begin soon. Peanut planting was finished in the eastern parts of the region before the storm. Cotton and sorghum both benefited from the moisture.

SOUTHEAST: Recent rains -- up to 12 inches in some cases -- pulled many of the region's counties out of near-drought conditions. There was some crop damage, however. Crops were reported flooded in the Damon area. Cotton was flowering and grain sorghum was coloring. The San Bernard River was 7 feet above flood stage.

SOUTHWEST: Hurricane Alex brought from 2 to 4 inches of much-needed rainfall to the region after two months of almost completely dry weather. The rains interrupted the harvest of fresh sweet corn, watermelons and cantaloupe. Cotton, peanuts, pecans, pastures and rangeland were expected to get a boost from the rain. Corn and sorghum were maturing and continuing to dry down. The increased moisture delayed the harvest, but it was expected to restart soon. The spring onion harvest was almost complete. Forage availability remained above average for this time of the year. There was some lodging of corn and sorghum in the lower Rio Grande Valley.

WEST CENTRAL: Much-needed rain was reported in all areas, and days were hot and humid. The moisture improved the outlook for recently planted crops but brought field activity to a virtual standstill. Some producers fertilized hay fields. Most cotton and sorghum planting was complete. Rangeland and pasture conditions were expected to improve. Stock-tank levels rose as a result of rain runoff. Livestock were in fair to good condition. Pecan trees were in very good condition.

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 June 30, 2010, there were 117 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, website: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem>

John Sutton, Texas Water Development Board, (512) 463-7988, fax (512) 463-9893, 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 AgriLife Extension Service, (979) 845-4808, fax (979) 845-0456, website: <http://texasextension.tamu.edu>

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

Carla Baze, 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/>

Thomas Walker, Office of the Governor, Economic Development & Tourism, (512) 936-0169, fax (512) 936-0141, 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/>

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

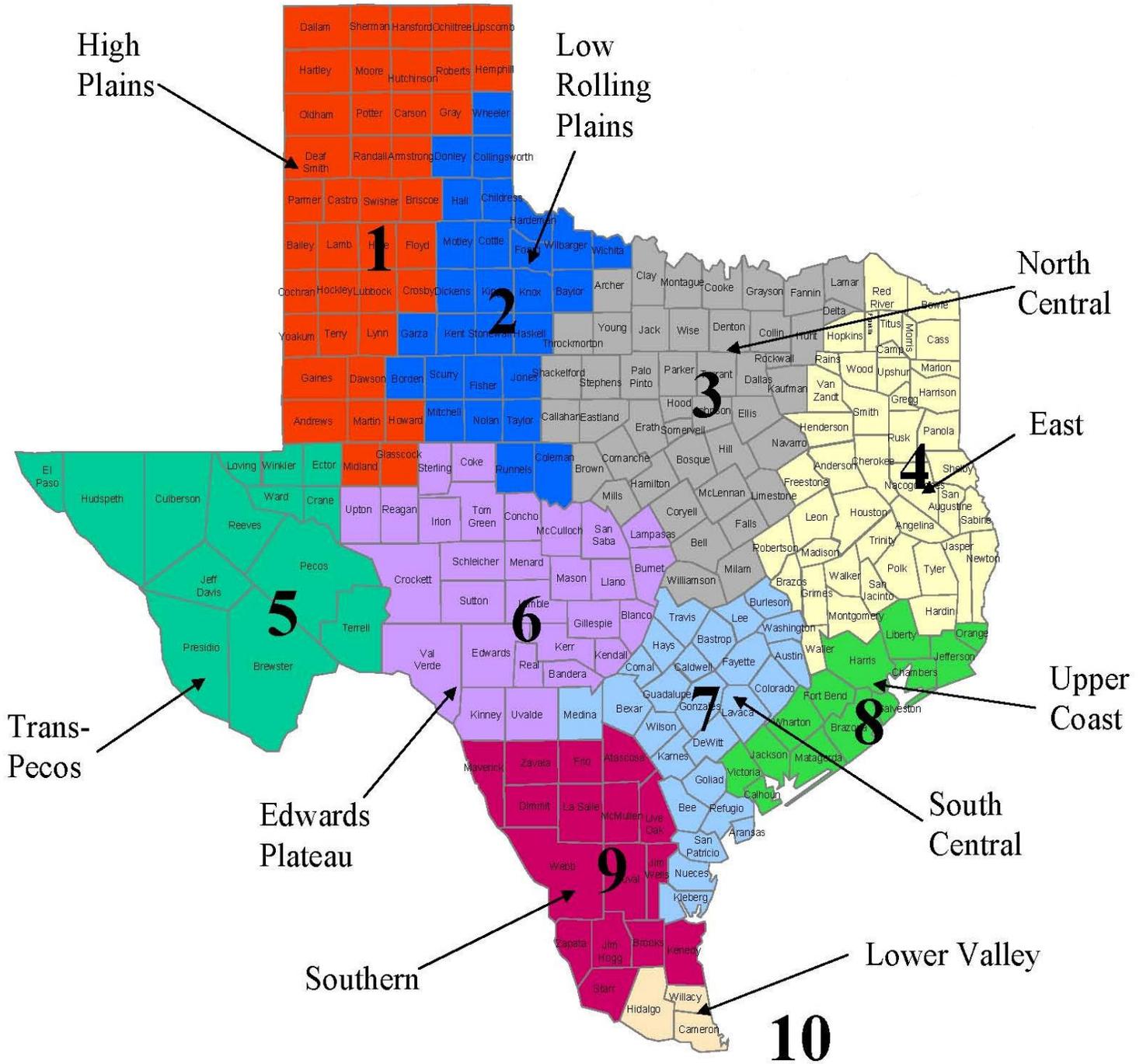
Marisa Callan, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, (512) 475-3964, website: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us>

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

