



DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

RICK PERRY
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W. NIM KIDD
Council Chairperson

November 30 , 2012

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 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

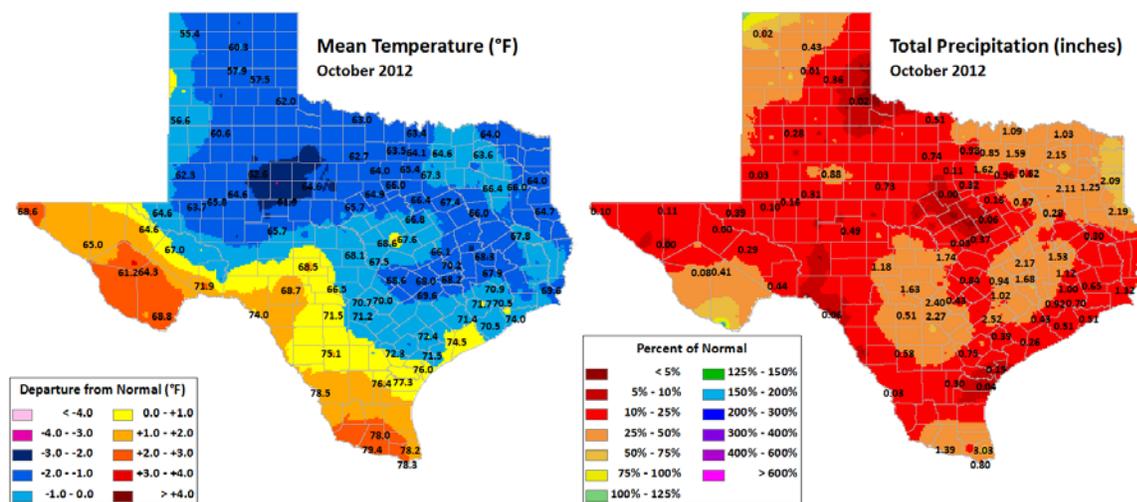
Marisa Callan, Member
Texas Department of Housing and
Community Affairs

1. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

December 13, 2012 at 2:00pm

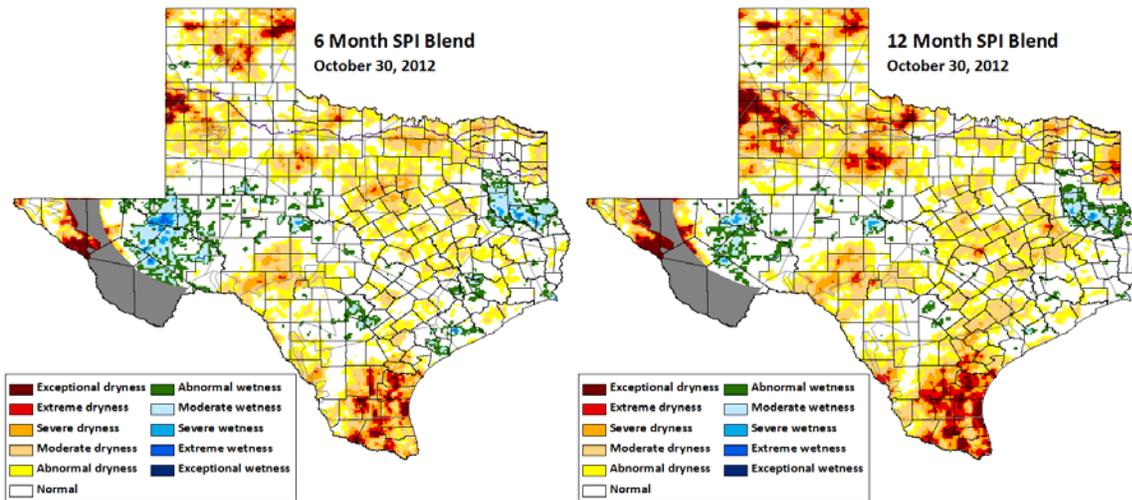
2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Immediately leading into October was a particularly heavy rainfall event that spread across much of Texas. Since then, however, rainfall has been sparse. Two significant frontal passages impacted the state between October 14-17 and October 25-27, though neither event produced large rainfall accumulations. Periodic, weaker frontal passages were common in the meantime and brought cooler temperatures and isolated rainfall. Temperatures were only above average in the Trans-Pecos region and in southwest Texas along the Rio Grande River, with average to below average temperatures everywhere else. Rainfall accumulations were average at best and far below average worst.



West Texas and far South Texas continue to experience the most severe drought conditions, as October brought these regions no relief. The former did see some precipitation, though not enough to improve drought conditions in any appreciable degree, though below average temperatures prevented drought conditions from worsening again. Aside from isolated Gulf moisture-driven storms, South Texas saw very little rainfall throughout the month. Unlike West Texas, however, temperatures in South Texas were anywhere between one to three degrees above normal, limiting what little improvements could be had from the precipitation events and leading to soils drying and reservoir levels continuing to fall.

For the rest of the state, conditions were highly variable. As most of the state was dry, short-term problems are beginning to develop in north central Texas and the Upper Coast; stream flows in these regions are in decline and soils are beginning to dry out, particularly along the Upper Coast where temperature anomalies were higher. The 6-month SPI blend values for these regions are significantly lower than September. The Trans-Pecos region, meanwhile, has seen more frequent precipitation and has seen improvement to all drought indices. Central Texas has been a bit of a mixed bag, with intermittent rainfall only having a noticeable positive effect near San Antonio and the Colorado River, regions whose drought conditions were already improving last month. Other regions nearby are precariously steady but will continue to decline if the lack of rainfall continues much longer.



Expectations for winter and beyond remain uncertain. Positive-phase ENSO is becoming progressively less likely, as SSTs along the eastern tropical Pacific have become anomalously cool while anomalies in the central tropical Pacific have merely stayed at September's levels. The current model estimates are for neutral ENSO conditions to continue well into next year, and so it seems as though the likelihood of a cooler and wetter via El Niño winter are low.

3. OVERALL STATEWIDE DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Drought Status Summary

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 ----- Exceptional High Fire Risk	Extreme Dry / Drought ----- Extreme High Fire Risk	Severe Dry / Drought ----- Very High Fire Risk	Moderate or Excessive Dry / Drought ----- High Fire Risk	Abnormal or Mild Dry / Drought ----- Above Average Fire Risk	Near or Above Normal Condition
PDSI (10)	N/A	2	1	2	3	2
SFI (9)	0	0	0	1	3	5
SPI (10)	N/A	0	1	0	0	9
CMI (10)	N/A	0	1	1	1	7
KBDI (10)	0	0	1	6	3	0
RSI (9)	2	0	2	2	0	3
Number of River Basins / Sub-Basins In Drought Category						
RSI (21)	2	2	1	4	0	12

Drought Index Data

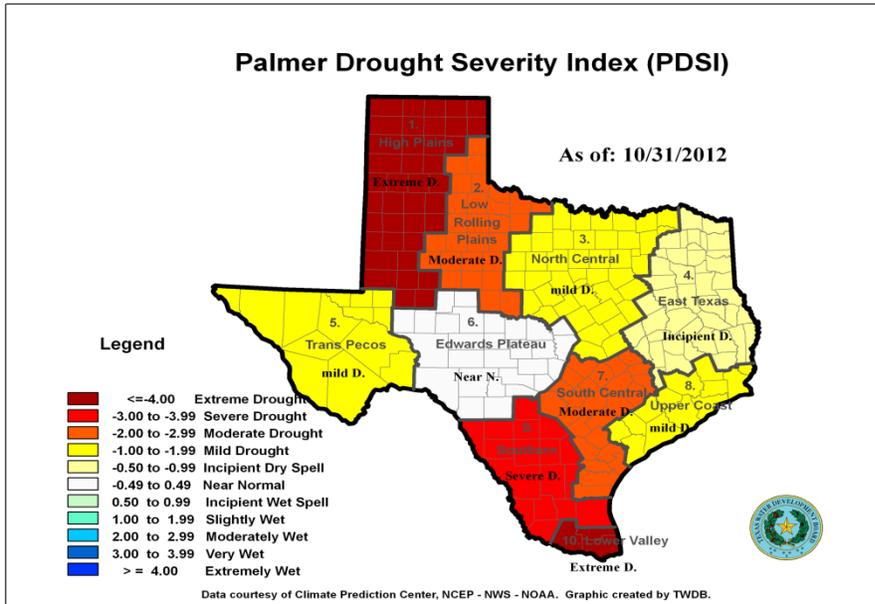
Region ID	Region Name	Crop Moisture Index	Palmer Drought Severity Index	Standardized Precipitation Index	Keetch-Byram Drought Index	Reservoir Storage Index	Streamflow Index
1	High Plains	-0.46	-4.32	-0.89	528.00	1.05	36.30
2	Low Rolling Plains	0.02	-2.19	-0.46	388.00	27.86	22.45
3	North Central	0.01	-1.66	<i>-0.77</i>	510.00	77.39	28.12
4	East Texas	0.25	-0.75	<i>0.27</i>	418.00	87.02	35.85
5	Trans Pecos	-0.80	-1.78	0.42	397.00	9.33	37.98
6	Edwards Plateau	<i>-0.12</i>	-0.40	-0.07	403.00	39.67	<i>18.10</i>
7	South Central	<i>-0.70</i>	-2.04	<i>-0.30</i>	415.00	50.02	40.29
8	Upper Coast	<i>-1.13</i>	<i>-1.91</i>	<i>0.31</i>	510.00	96.67	28.52
9	Southern	<i>-2.01</i>	-3.20	<i>-0.46</i>	399.00	35.12	50.37
10	Lower Valley	<i>-3.74</i>	<i>-4.30</i>	<i>-1.84</i>	610.00	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)	8	2	0
SFI (9)	5	4	0
SPI (10)	4	6	0
CMI (10)	4	6	0
KBDI (10)	1	9	0
RSI (9)	5	4	0

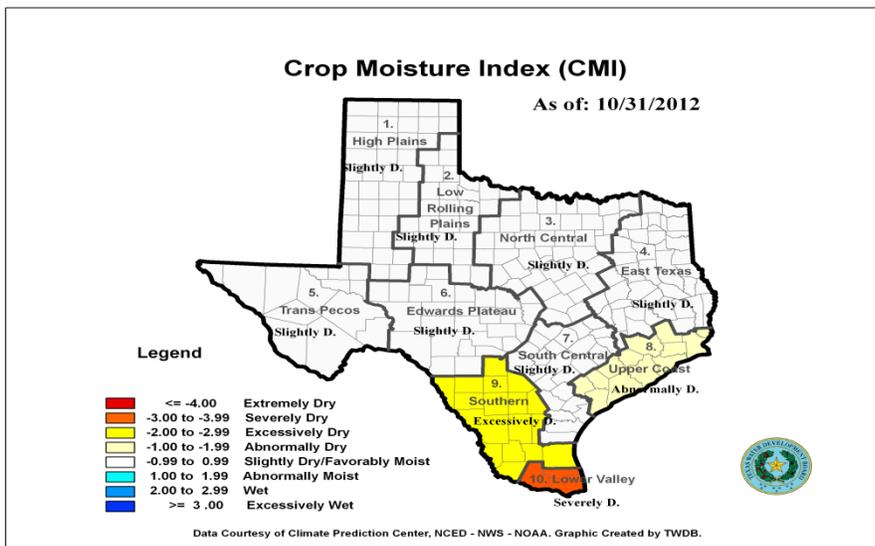
Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI):

Based on this index, entire state was back to drought except for the Edwards Plateau region: two regions are in Extreme Drought, one region in Severe Drought, two in Moderate Drought, and three in Mild Drought.



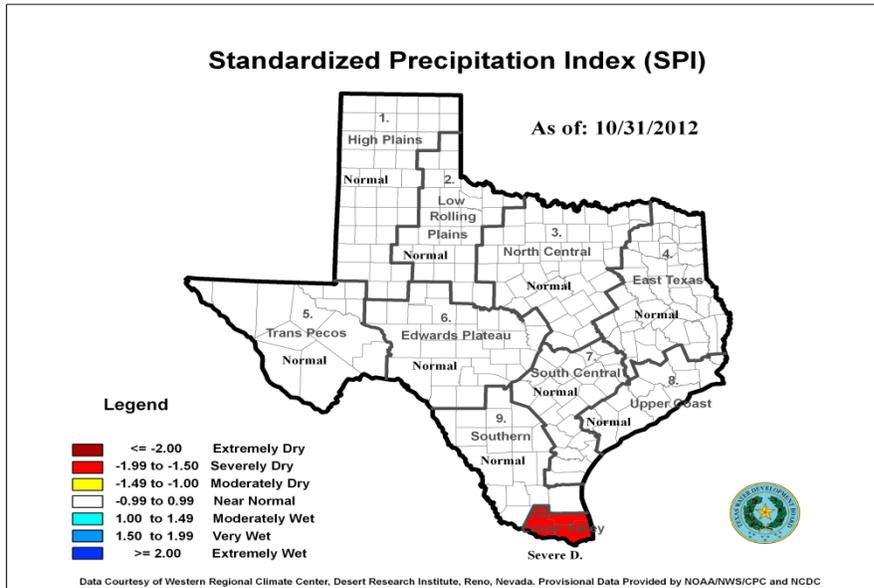
Crop Moisture Index (CMI):

Entire state saw some improvement by the end of the month. Seven regions were in Slightly Dry/Favorably Moist, One regions was in Abnormally Dry conditions, one region was in Excessively Dry, and one region saw Severely Dry conditions



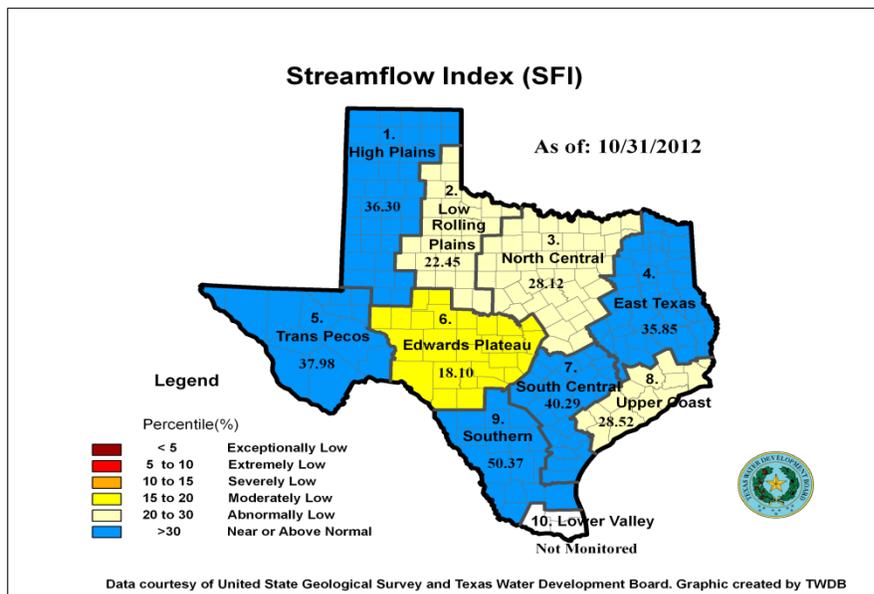
Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

Based on this index, the precipitation in past 6 months period, which saw nine regions at Near or Above Normal stream flows. The Lower Valley is in Severely Dry Conditions.



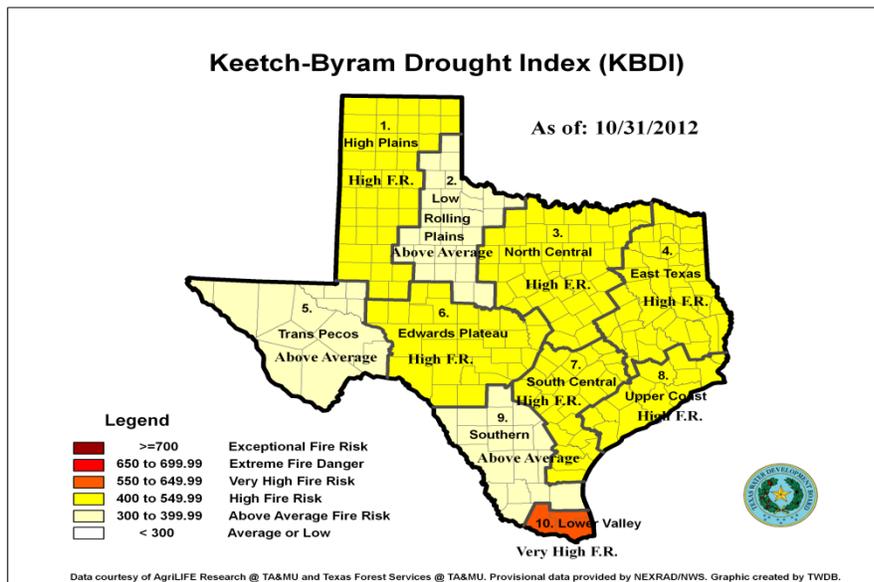
Stream Flow Index (SFI)

The stream flows were near normal in five regions; three regions were Abnormally Low. Edwards Plateau region saw Moderately Low flows. Flow in Lower Valley region was not monitored.



Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)

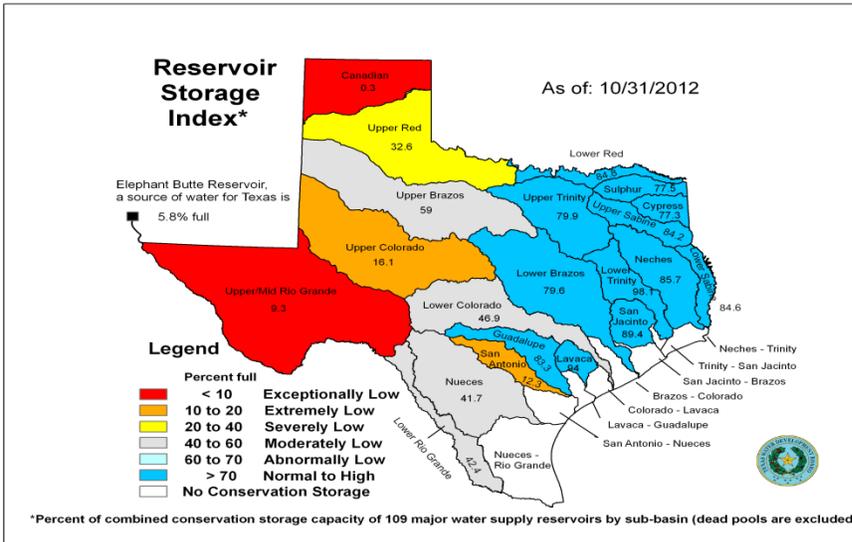
Entire state faced either Above Average or High fire risk and Very High Risk in the Lower Valley.



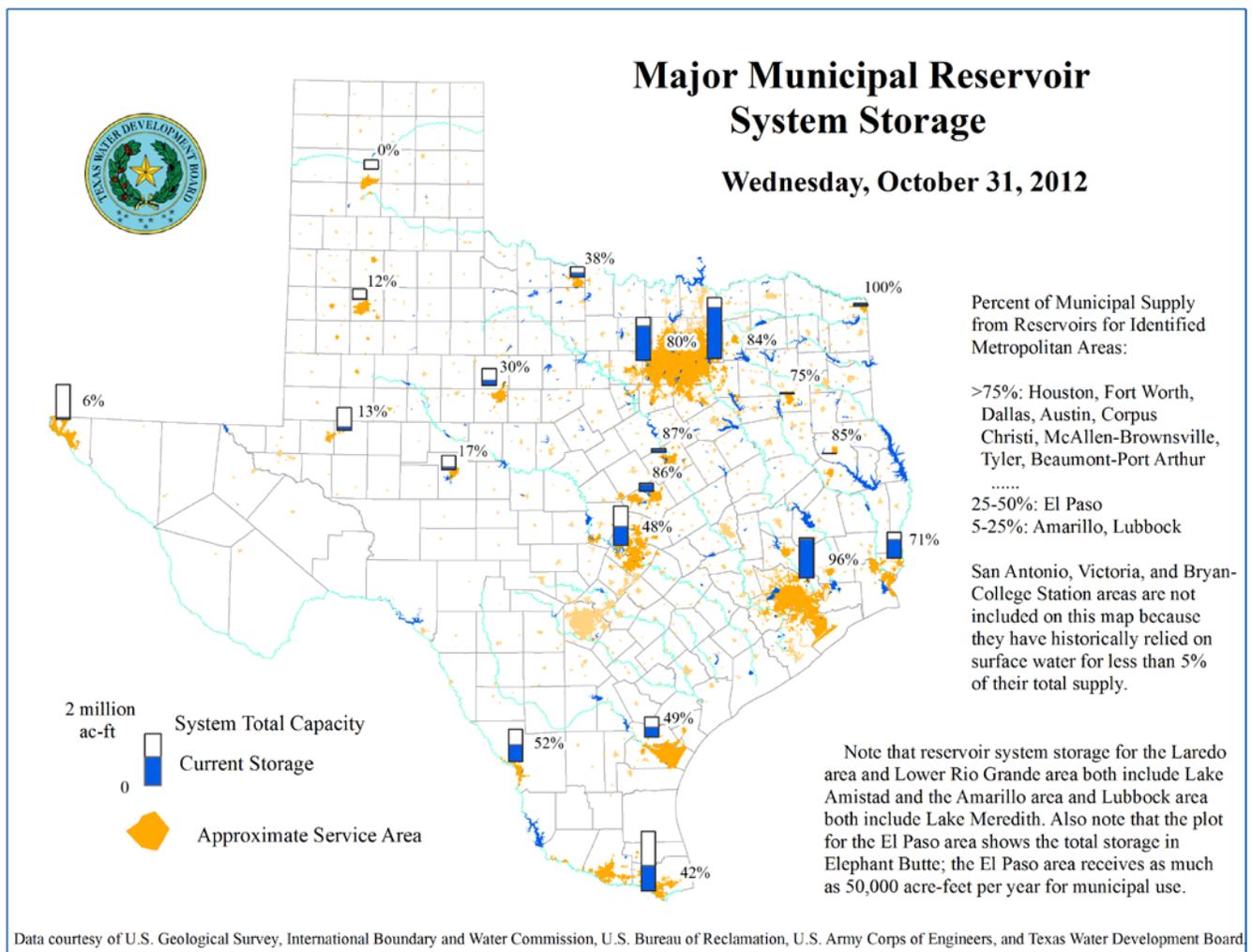
3. RESERVOIR STORAGE CONDITION

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

- The statewide combined storage was 67% full, 0.37 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 Up-Mid Rio Grande sub-basins,
- Extremely low in Upper Colorado sub-basins and San Antonio River basins,
- Severely low in Upper Red River sub-basin,
- Moderately low in Upper Brazos sub-basin, Lower Colorado, Lower Rio Grande, and Nueces river basin or sub-basins
- Near or above Normal in all other 12 basin or sub-basins
- Elephant Butte Reservoir had 5.8% full by the month end



4. MAJOR MUNICIPAL WATER STORAGE



5. GROUNDWATER CONDITION

- Water level measurements were available for all seventeen key monitoring wells in the state.
- Water levels rose in eight of the monitoring wells since the beginning of October, ranging from 0.01 feet in the Victoria County Gulf Coast Aquifer well (well #12) to 11.86 foot in the Pecos County Edwards Trinity Aquifer well (well #15).
- Water levels declined in eight monitoring wells, ranging from 0.02 feet in the Dallas County Trinity Aquifer well (well #4) to 8.24 feet in the Kendall County Trinity Aquifer well (well #6).
- The J-17 well in San Antonio recorded a water level of 84.1 feet below land surface or 646.9 feet above mean sea level. This water level is 3.1 feet below 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 the 650-foot elevation or 81 feet below land surface.

Monitoring Well	Oct	Sep 2012	Month Change	Year Change	Historical Change
(1) Hansford 0354301	154	154.00	0	-1.45	-83.88
(2) Lamb 1053602	142.15	141.78	-0.37	-2.3	-114
(3) Martin 2739903	139.89	140.46	0.57	0.01	-35.
(4) Dallas 3319101	489.72	489.7	-0.02	-7.93	-267.72
(5) Coryell 4035404	505.1	508.33	3.23	-9.19	-213.1
(6) Kendall 6802609	139.61	147.85	-8.24	11.41	-79.61
(7) Bell 5804816	125.49	125.25	-0.24	0.63	-2.36
(8) Bexar 6837203	84.1	79.9	-4.2	-1.39	-37.46
(9) Smith 3430907	435.77	437.85	2.08	2.93	-69.77
(10) La Salle 7738103	435.49	438.51	3.02	NA	-182.42
(11) Harris 6514409	201.53	201.4	-0.13	8.22	-66.03
(12) Victoria 8017502	37.16	37.17	0.01	3.46	-3.16
(13) El Paso 4913301	292.9	292.47	-0.43	-2.33	-61
(14) Reeves 4644501	151.81	149.9	-1.91	1.65	-59.72
(15) Pecos 5216802	221.55	233.41	11.86	9.01	25.33
(16) Haskell 2135748	47.47	47.78	0.31	-0.94	-6.14
(17) Hudspeth 4807516	145.34	150.8	5.46	-0.44	-41.42

6. WATER UTILITY STATUS

Overall, there are **1,023** water systems that are asking their customers to restrict water use, compared with **1,024** a month ago. Of these systems, **639** are asking customers to follow a mandatory watering schedule and **384** are asking customers to follow a voluntary watering schedule. There are currently **31** PWSs that have prohibited all outside watering by their customers. A total of **1,294** 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 are for the drought to improve in many areas of 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 normal for the month.

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 September 22, 2012, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 41.54% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,409,014 acre-feet, down from 70.27% (2,383,487 AF) of normal conservation a year ago at this time. Overall the system is holding 36.81% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 2,179,999 acre-feet with Amistad at 49.85% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,632,770 acre-feet and Falcon at 20.67% of conservation capacity, impounding 547,229 acre-feet. Mexico has 30.47% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 770,985 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

Allocations: As of printing of the April ownership report, we have allocated 119,256.2922 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 998 thousand acre-feet at Amistad (54.2%); and approximately 411 thousand acre-feet (26.5%) of normal conservation capacity at Falcon.

Evaporation and seepage losses at Amistad for the last 12 months, as of 09/22/12, are 201,042 acre-feet. For the same period, the U.S. has lost 164,680 acre-feet at Falcon.

Releases to meet demands: In 2012, (through 09/22/12), Mexico has released 745,848 acre-feet from Amistad and 955,411 acre-feet from Falcon Mexico needs. The U.S. has released 1,031,475 acre-feet from Falcon and 872,459 acre-feet from Amistad for U.S. needs. Combined with gains between Amistad and Falcon, U.S. inflows to Falcon have totaled 870,630 acre-feet. The U.S. demand in the lower Rio Grande has been met at a rate of 84% by direct Rio Grande inflows and Amistad releases this year.

Upper Rio Grande (New Mexico): Elephant Butte in New Mexico is currently storing 112,688 (5.57%) acre feet and Caballo Dam in New Mexico, downstream of Elephant Butte is storing 4,864 (2.14%) 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Red River near Burkburnett	12	245
Red River near De Kalb	829	3,350

Drought Condition: As of September 25, 100% of the Red River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 0.7% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Sulphur River near Talco	1.8	12

Drought Conditions: As of September 25, 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Little Cypress Creek near Jefferson	0.7	8

Drought Conditions: As of September 25, 62% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Sabine River near Beckville	122	156
Sabine River near Ruliff	925	1,770

Drought Conditions: As of September 25, 17% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Angelina River near Alto	58	80
Neches River at Evadale	1,818	1,230

Drought Conditions: As of September 25, 0% of the Neches River Basin is experiencing 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Trinity River at Dallas	572	314
Trinity River near Oakwood	738	775
Trinity River at Romayor	1,093	1,150

Drought Conditions: As of September 25, 72% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Double Mountain Fork Brazos River near Aspermont	4	14
Brazos River near Glen Rose	29	293
Little River at Cameron	129	199
Navasota near Easterly	14	9
Brazos near Hempstead	1,323	1,460
Brazos near Rosharon	855	1,870

Drought Conditions: As of September 25, 94% of the Brazos River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 9.5% 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.

Colorado River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Colorado River at Ballinger	258	16
San Saba River at San Saba	26	65
Llano River at Llano	53	127
Pedernales River near Johnson City	67	30
Colorado River at Columbus	425	1,490

Drought Conditions: As of September 25, 97% of the Colorado River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0.4% 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 Concho Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed.

Guadalupe River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Guadalupe River near Spring Branch	31	109
San Marcos River at Luling	171	183
Guadalupe River at Cuero	415	882
Guadalupe River at Victoria	408	826

Drought Conditions: As of September 25, 94% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
San Antonio River at Falls City	578	240
Cibolo Creek at Falls City	105	24

Drought Conditions: As of September 25, 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:

Site	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Nueces river at Tilden	0	27
Frio River near Derby	8	3
Atascosa River at Whitsett	40	8

Drought Conditions: As of September 25, 100% of the Nueces River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0.8% 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 streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed. All temporary permits are being reviewed on a case by case basis

Statewide Rainfall Totals

September 1 - 30, 2012

City/Station	Rainfall Totals (in)
Brazos River Basin	
Lubbock	2.04
Abilene	8.48
Waco	4.63
College Station	3.22
Colorado River Basin	
Midland	5.89
San Angelo	6.91
Austin Mabry	5.70
Austin Bergstrom	4.75
Neches River Basin	
Tyler	5.40
Lufkin	6.05
Sabine River Basin	
Longview	6.69
Trinity River Basin	
Dallas/ Fort Worth	1.75

10. AGRICULTURE CONCERNS

Drought conditions are prevalent across much of the state and crop and pasture conditions are continuing to decline. Winter wheat, oats, ryegrass and other winter forages are particularly hard hit. The rains over the last week of September were very beneficial, providing enough moisture for planting and germination, but exceeding dry conditions in October and November have brought growth to a halt and are jeopardizing the crops as a whole. This is impacting the agriculture community in two facets: hay supplies are short and winter grazing is vital to extend them and wheat prices are very high and if stands are lost due to drought over the winter, Texas will have very large economic losses to opportunity loss on wheat harvest. Wheat is much more vulnerable to winterkill when drought stressed.

The following are regional summaries from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service district reporters for the week ending November 17:

Central: Overall, conditions remained very dry. Pastures and small grains were beginning to show stress from lack of moisture. Winter wheat was really starting to suffer. Light frosts in the bottoms slowed summer pasture growth. Winter pastures were slow to respond to earlier rains. Stocker producers will have to delay turning out cattle to graze on wheat and oats.

Coastal Bend: Most areas reported below-normal temperatures with very little rain. Soils remained extremely dry, which discouraged farmers from applying fertilizer. The pecan harvest was ongoing, with good quality reported. Some areas reported ryegrass, wheat, oats and clover for grazing looked very good, and that hay supplies were sufficient. The ratoon rice harvest was winding down. Field preparations for next season's crops continued under favorable weather, but rain will be needed before planting in early 2013. In Wharton County, only 0.34 inch of rain was recorded so far for November, with only 0.43 inch in October.

East: There was little to no rainfall across most of the region, with cooler temperatures and morning frost. Hay harvesting ended, with fair to good supplies going into winter. Livestock producers continued weaning and selling market-ready calves and cull cows. Higher-than-normal winds dried soils. In some areas, winter pastures were slow to emerge and grow because of lack of moisture.

Far West: Without rain, the area was becoming droughty again. Temperatures were cooler, with lows in the lower 20s, the upper teens in the mountains, and highs in the lower 60s to 70s. There was a killing freeze. Winds picked up with the passage of cold fronts, increasing wildfire danger. A lack of rain and cooler temperatures continued to push grasses into dormancy. Without moisture, rangeland and pastures were rapidly yellowing and browning. Fall-planted onions were at the three-leaf stage. The last alfalfa cutting was taken, and the cotton harvest was going well. Pumpkins were harvested, pecans were rapidly maturing, and the hay and sorghum harvests were winding down. Wheat planting was about finished, with more than 90 percent of the already-planted crop emerged, but all needed rain for growth to begin. Cattle were on supplemental feed and consuming large amounts of mineral, and livestock producers were looking for alternatives. Most cattle remained in good shape.

North: Soils still remained very dry. Small grains and winter annual pastures needed rain. Most already-planted wheat had emerged and was looking good, but needed more rain to promote growth. The soybean and sorghum harvests were ongoing. In most counties, winter pasture was looking good. Some livestock producers began to turn weaned calves in to graze winter pastures. With no measurable runoff in the last 60 days in many places, livestock ponds were at critically low levels.

Panhandle: Temperatures were above average most of the week, with no moisture reported. Soil-moisture levels mostly were very short to short. The corn, cotton and grain sorghum harvests continued. Planting of winter wheat continued. Rangeland and pastures mostly were in very poor to poor condition. Cattle were in good condition with continued supplemental feeding.

Rolling Plains: While the region got scattered showers, most everyone still needed more rain. The cotton harvest was in full swing. Some irrigated fields were producing good yields, but others were seeing below-average yields. Wheat and oats needed rain; fields looked stressed with some areas having died out. Cattle were in fair condition. Livestock producers were working remaining cattle. Pastures looked better going into winter this year than last.

South: Dry and windy conditions were the rule for the entire region during most of the week, with 40 to 100 percent short to very short soil-moisture levels in all counties. A cool front moved across the northern counties early in the week, bringing light rains, but not enough to improve soil-moisture levels. In Atascosa and Frio counties, wheat and oats were in good to fair condition. All crops were planted, and nearly all emerged. In Maverick County, forage sorghum and coastal Bermuda grass hay harvesting continued. Zavala County cool-season vegetable growers were busy irrigating cabbage, carrots, spinach and onions. In Cameron County, producers were harvesting sugarcane and irrigating onions. Rangeland and pasture conditions continued to decline there because of cooler temperatures and low soil moisture. Summer perennial grasses were going into dormancy. The northern half of McMullen County had good pasture conditions, but forage supplies were expected to be short for the winter months in the southern half of the county as severe drought conditions continued there. Most Webb County stock tanks remained dry. Cattle body condition scores were fair.

South Plains: The region had much cooler temperatures, with the early morning lows in the 20s in many counties. With freezing temperatures in the southern counties, cotton not previously defoliated was expected to soon be ready for harvest. Only Lubbock County reported receiving any precipitation, with light rains on Nov. 18. The cotton harvest was winding down in most counties, giving time for producers who haven't yet planted winter wheat to do so. Wheat already planted and emerged needed rain. In Lubbock County, ginning was about 50 percent completed. Garza County yields ranged from a half bale to more than three bales per acre, depending on rain received during the growing season. Rangeland and pastures were mostly in fair condition. Cattle were mostly in good condition, with supplemental feeding already beginning in some areas. While conditions were improved over 2011, the region remained gripped by drought. It was unlikely much winter wheat will have enough growth to be grazed without significant rainfall soon.

Southeast: Scattered showers benefited cool-season pastures, but many areas needed more moisture to sustain winter-annual growth. Cooler temperatures halted Bermuda grass growth. San Jacinto and Burleson counties had their first frost Nov. 15, which completely shut down warm-season perennial grass production. Orange County received limited precipitation.

Southwest: Dry, windy and cooler conditions continued. Without rain, soils were drying up considerably. Rangeland and pastures continued to decline, with dormancy coming on. However, livestock remained in good condition as available grazing was still plentiful. The pecan harvest continued. Winter wheat planting was ongoing, and a good amount of hay was still being cut.

West Central: Mild daytime temperatures continued with cold nights. Very dry, windy conditions further dried soils. All areas needed rain. The cotton harvest was winding down. Fair to poor yields were reported on dryland cotton. Wheat planting neared completion, and though off to a

good start, the crop was showing signs of moisture stress. Rangeland and pastures were in fair to good condition but needed moisture soon. Winter grasses were emerging. Recent freezes sent warm-season grasses into dormancy. Livestock remained in fair to good condition, with supplemental feeding increasing. The pecan harvest was in full swing.

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 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>

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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>

