



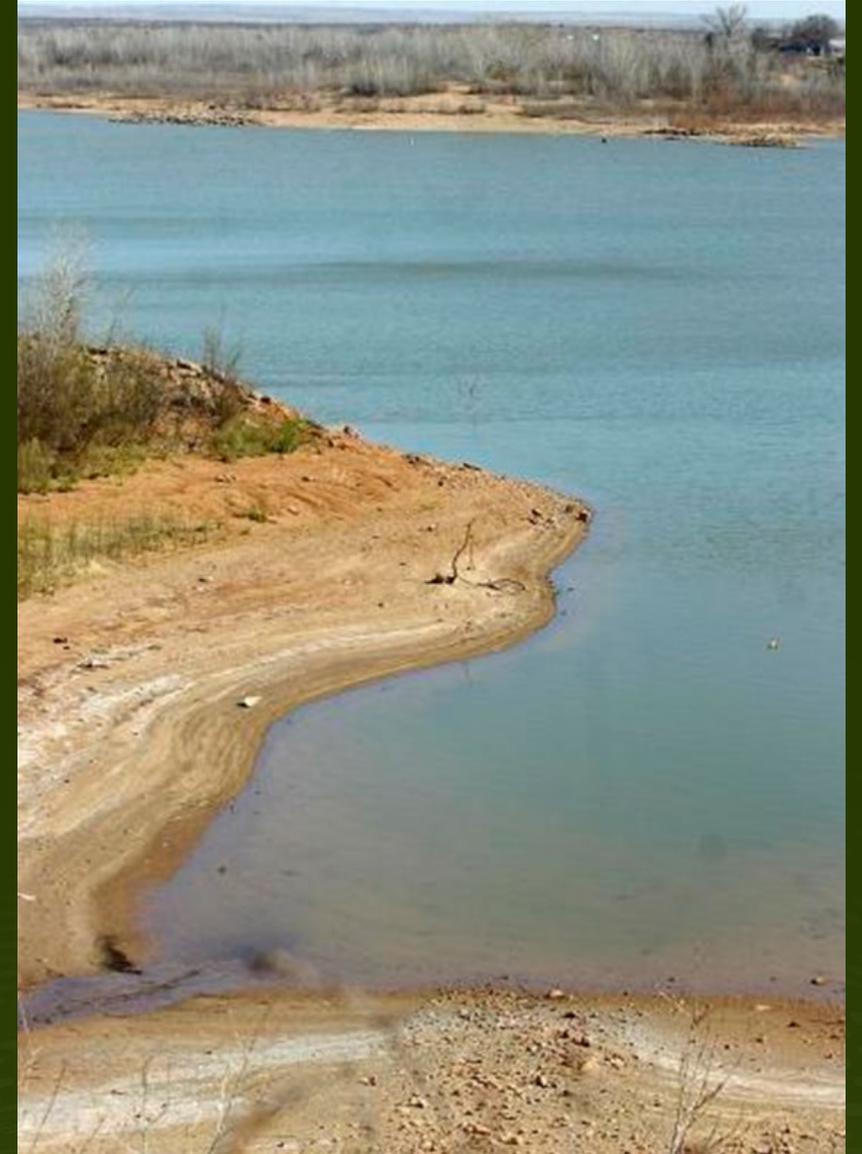
# **Drought in Texas and How the TCEQ Can Help Public Water Systems**

Adriana Thomas, TCEQ

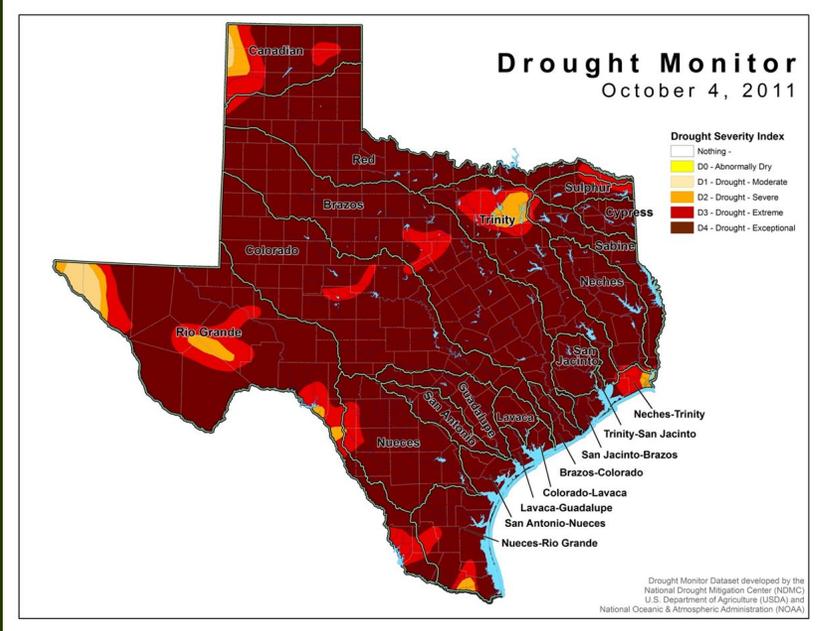
# Drought Resiliency

## Objectives

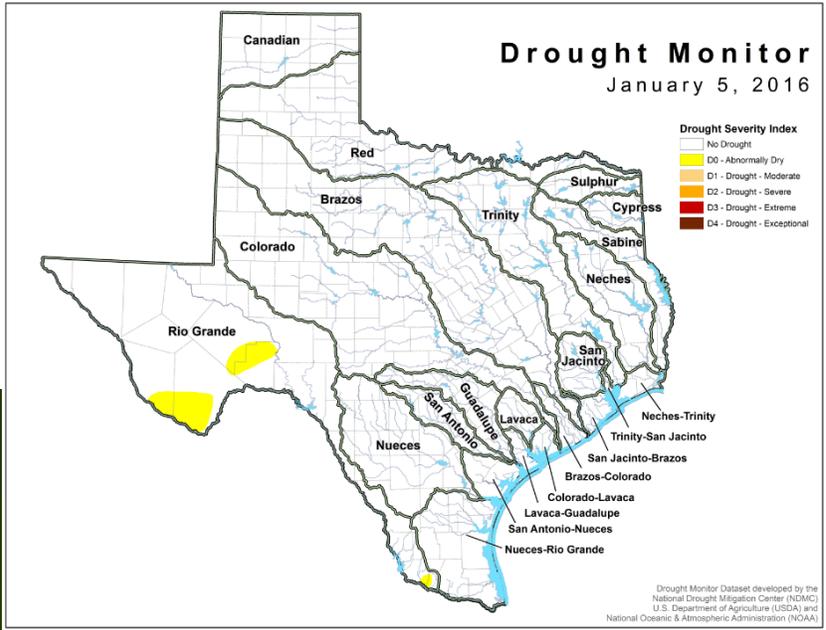
- Overview of Drought in Texas
- TCEQ Public Water System Drought Program
- Reporting requirements and how we use that information



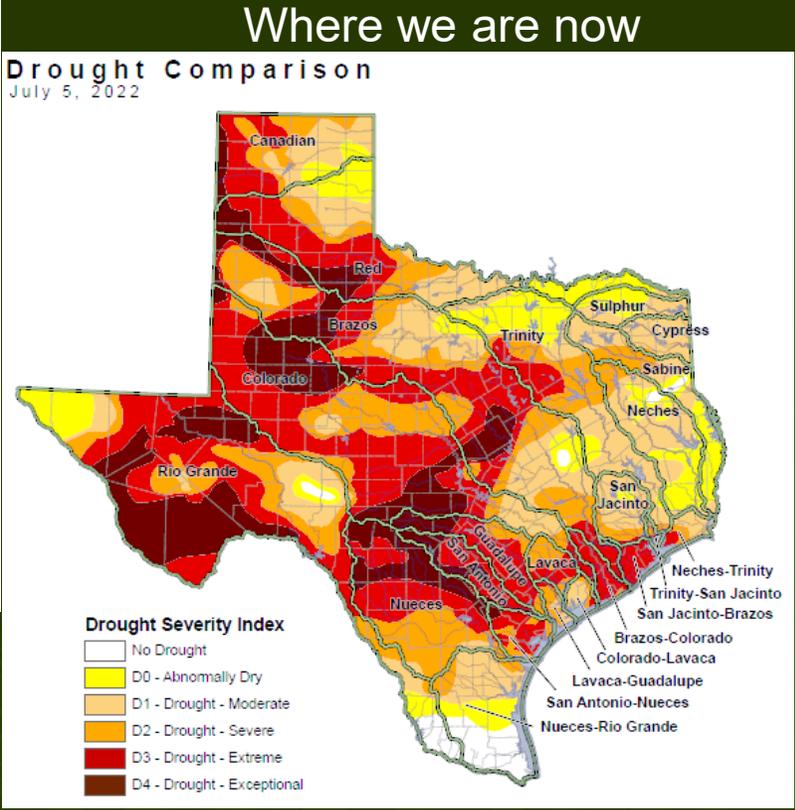
# Drought Monitor Maps



2011 Drought of Record



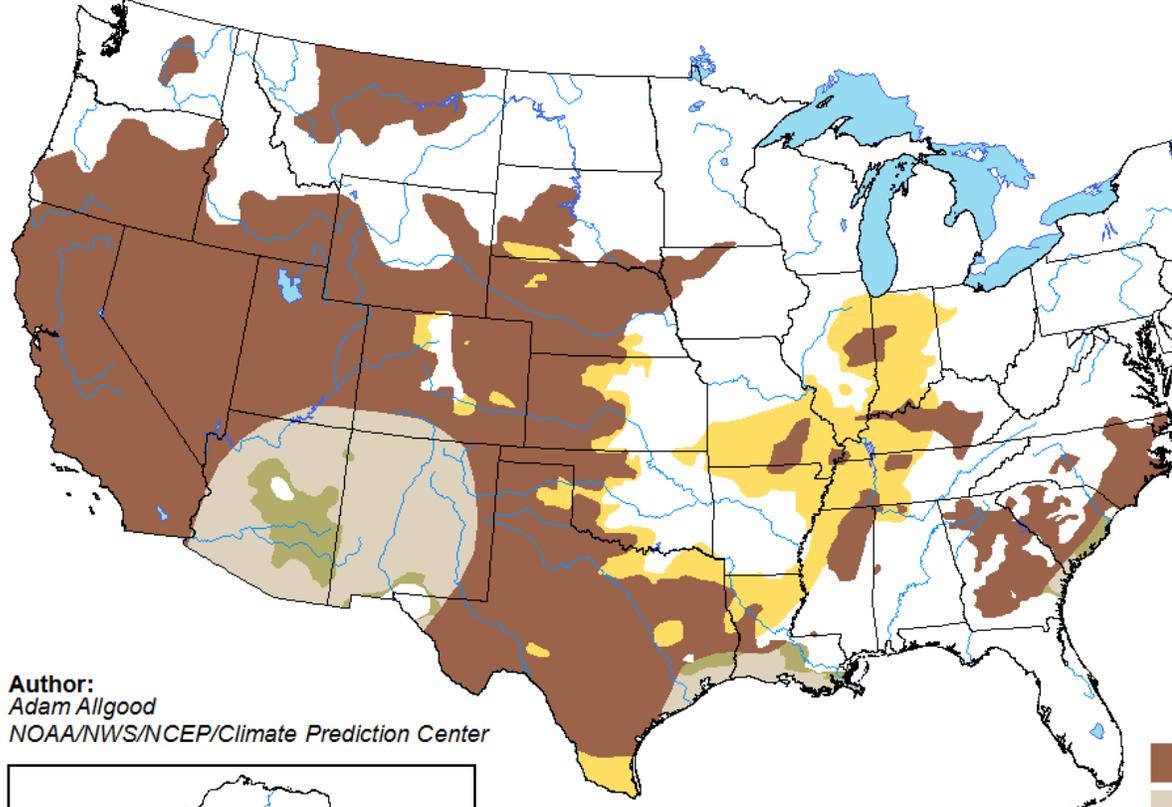
5 years later it was gone



# Current outlook

## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for July 2022  
Released June 30, 2022

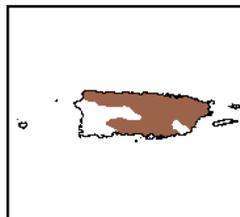
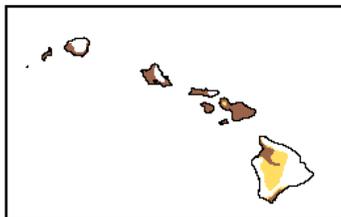
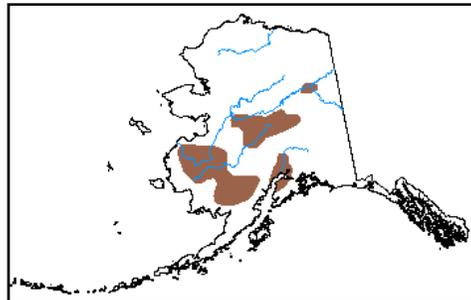


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:  
Adam Allgood  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

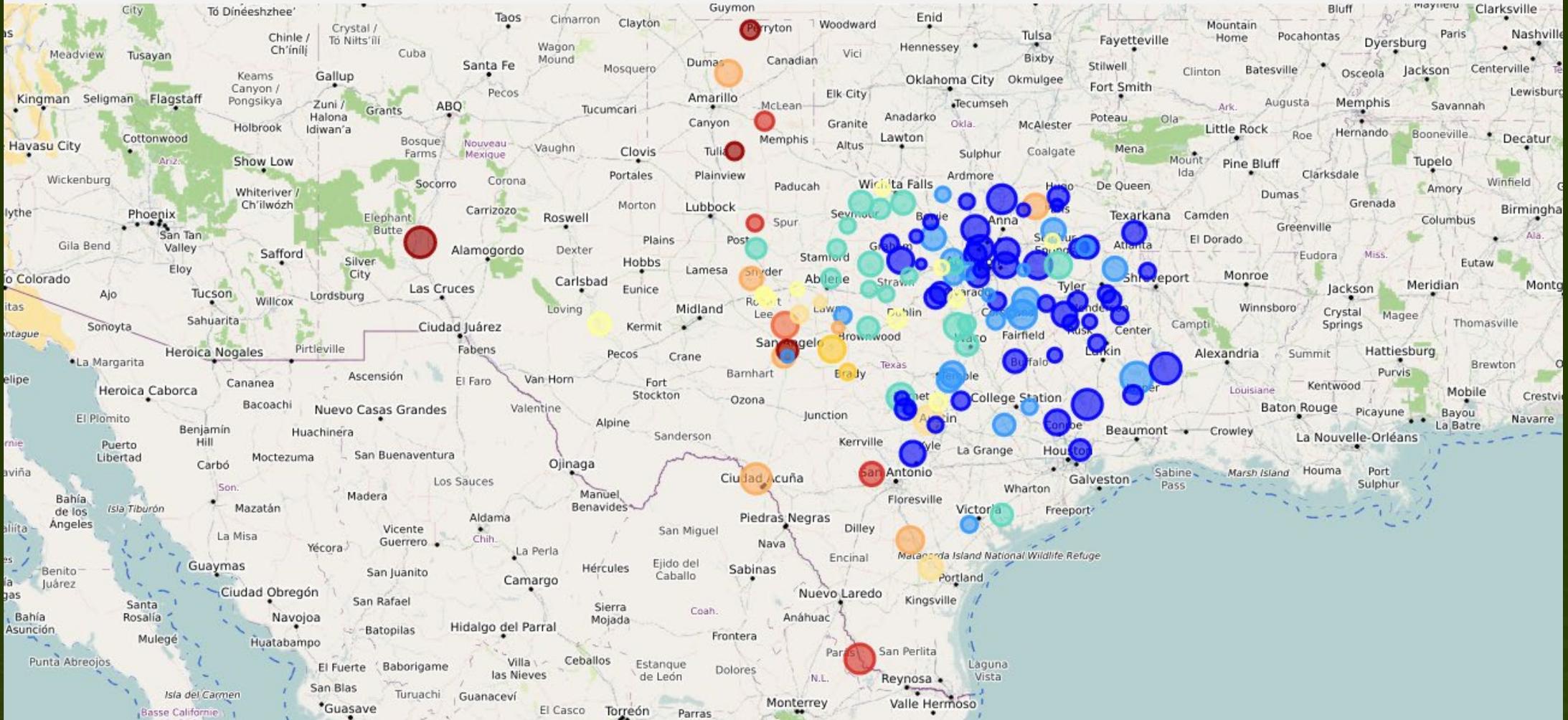
-  Drought persists
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>

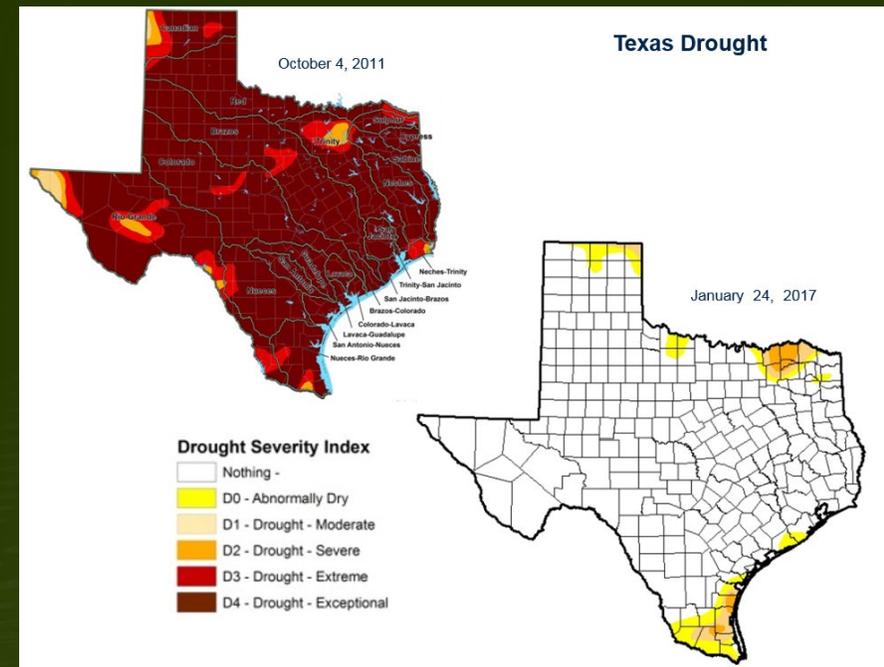
# Current outlook

Texas Reservoirs: Monitored Water Supply Reservoirs are 74.3% full on 2022-07-08



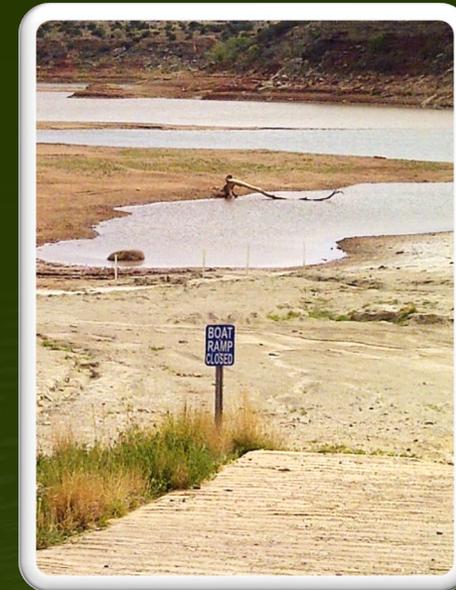
# TCEQ Public Water System Drought Program

- Weather patterns and demand on supplies vary dramatically across the state.
- TCEQ provides information to help water systems make better decisions about water use, including surface and groundwater regulations, and emergency procedures.
- The Drought Program monitors water systems that have reported to the TCEQ having water supply issues.
- The Program tracks systems that are either concerned they have less than 180 days of water or that they will soon.
- Track and provide assistance for Outages



# TCEQ Public Water System Drought Program

- We help facilitate various processes in the Water Supply Division working with the Plan Review and the Technical Review and Oversight Teams.
- We also coordinate with stakeholders in the Emergency Drinking Water Task Force.
- Coordinates with Texas Department of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board, and Other Stakeholders as Chair of the Emergency Drinking Water Taskforce



# Emergency Drinking Water Taskforce

The Taskforce is made up of the TCEQ, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Department of Emergency Management and other stakeholders that are needed to secure a systems water resources.



# Water Shortage Reporting

There are two rules that require systems to report to the TCEQ

## **The TCEQ Rule 291.200**

(a) A retail public utility as defined by Texas Water Code, §13.002(19) and each entity from which the utility is obtaining wholesale water service for the utility's retail system shall report to the executive director when the utility or entity is reasonably certain that the water supply will be available for less than 180 days.

## **The TCEQ Rule 288.20 (b)**

A wholesale or retail water supplier shall notify the executive director within five business days of the implementation of any mandatory provisions of the drought contingency plan.

# How to report

We have an easy-to-use online reporting form

[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/homeland\\_security/security\\_pws](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/homeland_security/security_pws)

Or

[www.droughtreport.org](http://www.droughtreport.org)



PWS Drought Contingency Plan  
Water Use Restrictions Reporting  
Form

# The Programs Track Record

- Currently **7** systems are reporting less than 180 days of water supply
- **3** systems remain on our Watch List
- TCEQ was tracking **99** systems on the 180 Day and Watch Lists in March of 2015
- There are now **138** systems on the Success / Resolved List
- **1,166** water systems are implementing water use restrictions
- Highest was November 20, 2013, with **1,236** systems reporting implementing a stage of their DCP
- Self-reported information

# Outreach and Assistance

- Systems who report in through the form are reviewed and those indicating emergent or potential emergent conditions will receive a call.
- The goal is to get the water system the assistance they most need.
- DO institute water restrictions when you first see stress on your system.
- DO NOT wait to report until the situation is an emergency is you can see it coming.

# Don't wait until it's too late.

Our message to our regulated community is...

- Let us know early when you are having a problem.
- Planning takes time
- Plans and specifications
- Funding agencies have rules too
- Use their Drought Contingency Plan
- Talk to the Local Emergency Manager
- Talk to their neighbors



Hoping for rain is not a plan

# QUESTIONS?

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