

...Coke County water

(Continued from front page)
 From the time the pipeline became operational in 2012, Bronte has not charged Robert Lee an overage rate for exceeding the 6 million gallons per month (200,000 per day) usage. That will change on May 1, 2019.

The reason for the change is best stated by Bronte Mayor Paul “Buzz” Gohman. “Bronte has an aging water treatment plant which needs upgrading and repairs. We are now seeing peak loads of up to 94% of plant capacity. The impact of heavy treatment rates is accelerating the need for major repairs and upgrades. We are in the process of (a) plant upgrade.”

When questioned about the impact to citizens of Robert Lee, Gohman provided the following statement. “The maximum rate is 200 thousand gallons per day. In a 30-day month, Robert Lee could use up to 6 million gallons before the maximum rate would be exceeded for that month. The overage rate is applied only to the amount of water that exceeds the maximum in a month. In the past year, Robert Lee has exceeded the monthly maximum average rate three times. The often-referenced rate of 9 million gallons in September of 2018 was 51% over maximum. Applying the overage rate would have increased the billing for September by 18%. The other two months had overage rates of 7.5% and 8%. There would have been no increase for any of the other months.”

Questions have also been raised regarding the meter process between the two communities and discrepancies showing thousands of gallons of lost water. Mayor Gohman weighed in on this. “Bronte measures the water at the beginning of the pipeline. Robert Lee does not measure its water at the end of the pipeline, it measures the water after it has been in storage so daily measurement comparisons cannot be made. There were questions about the accuracy of the Bronte meter. The Bronte meter was replaced with a new meter in January to insure maximum accuracy.

By not charging Robert Lee an overage rate since the inception of the pipeline use, the City of Bronte has actually treated Robert Lee better than its own citizens. Bronte water customers do have a tiered rate water bill. The base rate is \$24 per month and that includes 3,000 gallons of water. If a customer goes over that 3,000 gallons, they are charged an additional \$2 per 1,000 gallons of water used up to 12,000 gallons. The City of Bronte tier rates are listed below. The \$ rate listed is per 1,000 gallons of water used over the 3,000 gallons. All bills, including the City of Robert Lee’s invoice, are calculated on monthly usage only.

25,001-40,000 gallons -	\$2.75
40,001-55,000 gallons -	\$3.30
55,001-75,000 gallons -	\$4.00
75,001-100,000 gallons -	\$5.00
100,001-125,000 gallons -	\$7.00
125,001-150,000 gallons -	\$11.00
150,001-250,000 gallons -	\$22.00
250,001 < gallons -	\$33.00

Currently, the City of Bronte is providing treated water to Bronte, Robert Lee and western rural Coke County through the Coke County Water Supply Corporation. In order to keep water flowing to the many customers of these entities, the City of Bronte’s water treatment plant must be kept in good working order and up to code.

...Ford Truck Contest

(Continued from front page)
 Entries must be received between January 2 and May 24, 2019. More information is available online at texasfarmbureau.org/fordtoughtales. For questions, email memberbenefits@txfb.org or call 254-399-5034. “Texas Farm Bureau

members can also take advantage of the Ford member benefit,” John Ross said. “They can receive \$1,000 bonus cash on the purchase or lease of an eligible 2018 and 2019 Ford vehicle or \$750 bonus cash on select Lincoln vehicles.”

For more information on Texas Farm Bureau member benefits, visit texasfarmbureau.org/membership/member-benefits.

Water Weekly

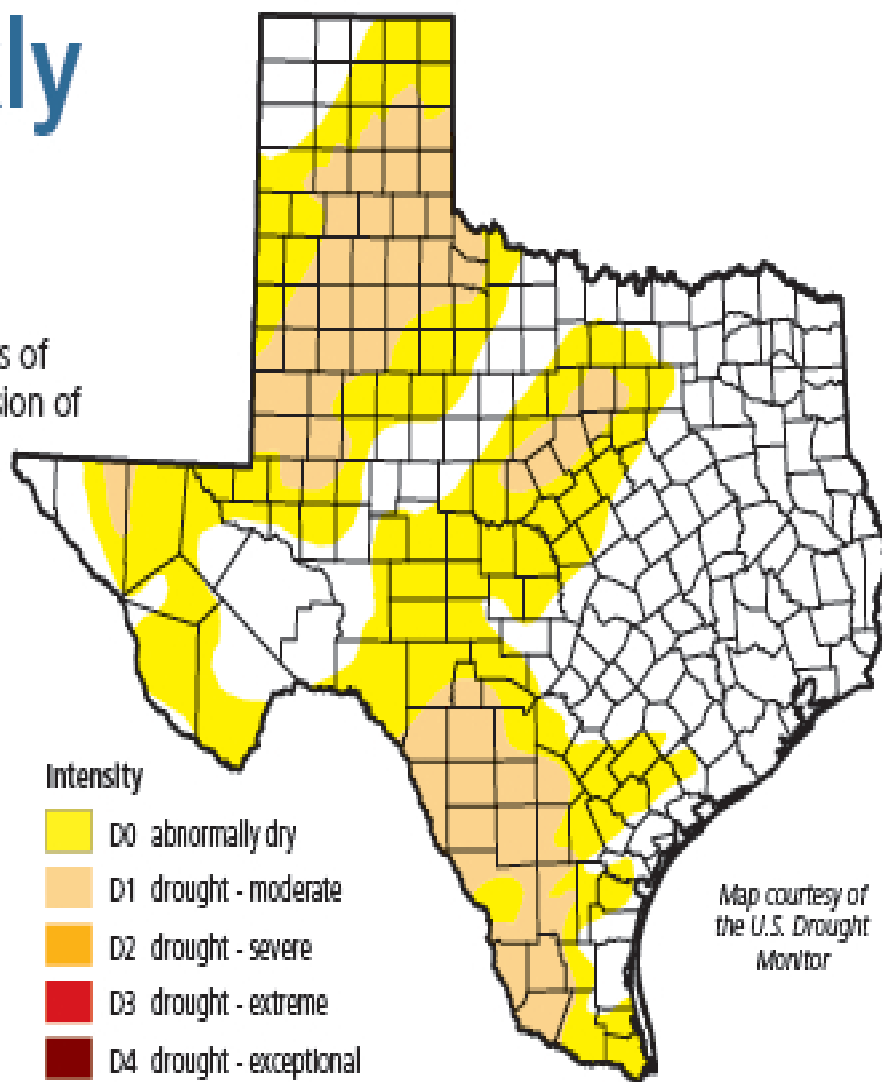
For the week of 03/11/19

Water conditions

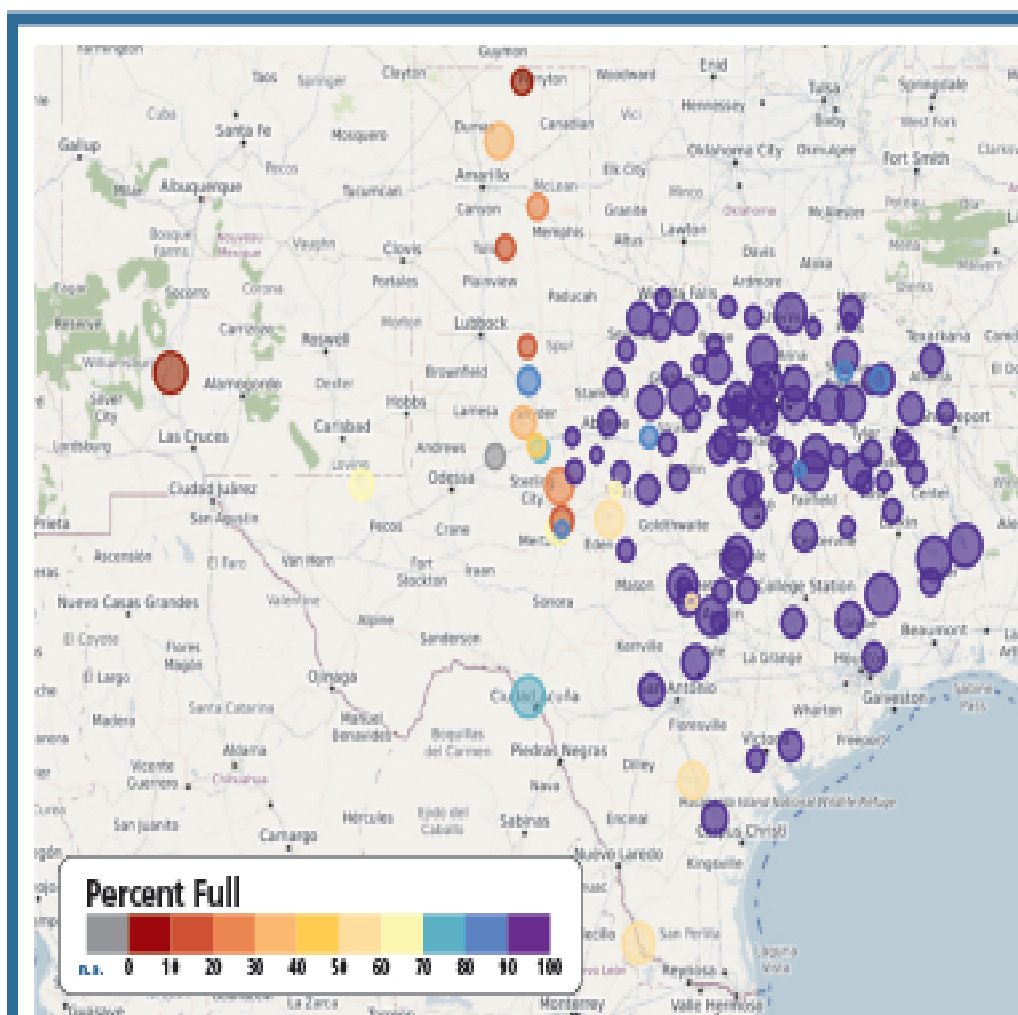
The latest drought map, for conditions as of March 5, 2019, shows continued expansion of drought. Moderate drought now covers 20 percent of the state. In coming weeks, beneficial rains should slow, and even reverse, drought expansion in the northern half of the state.

Drought conditions

- 20% now
- 16% a week ago
- 0.8% three months ago
- 54% a year ago



Map courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor



Water Data for Texas

Statewide reservoir storage

In early March 2019, total storage in our water supply reservoirs is 89.5 percent of statewide capacity. That’s more than 5 percentage points above normal for this time of year. Most reservoirs in the eastern half of the state are at or near water supply capacity.

TWDB Map

Written by Dr. Mark Wentzel — Dr. Mark Wentzel is a hydrologist in the TWDB’s Office of Water Science and Conservation.

Bryan McMath, Governmental Relations | bryan.mcmath@twdb.texas.gov | 512-463-7850
 Kimberly Leggett, Media Relations | kimberly.leggett@twdb.texas.gov | 512-463-5129

www.twdb.texas.gov

Stay connected:



3,001-12,000 gallons -	\$2.00
12,001-25,000 gallons -	\$2.25