

# TCEQ Drought Update

## CIESS Water Forum II

October 22-23, 2012



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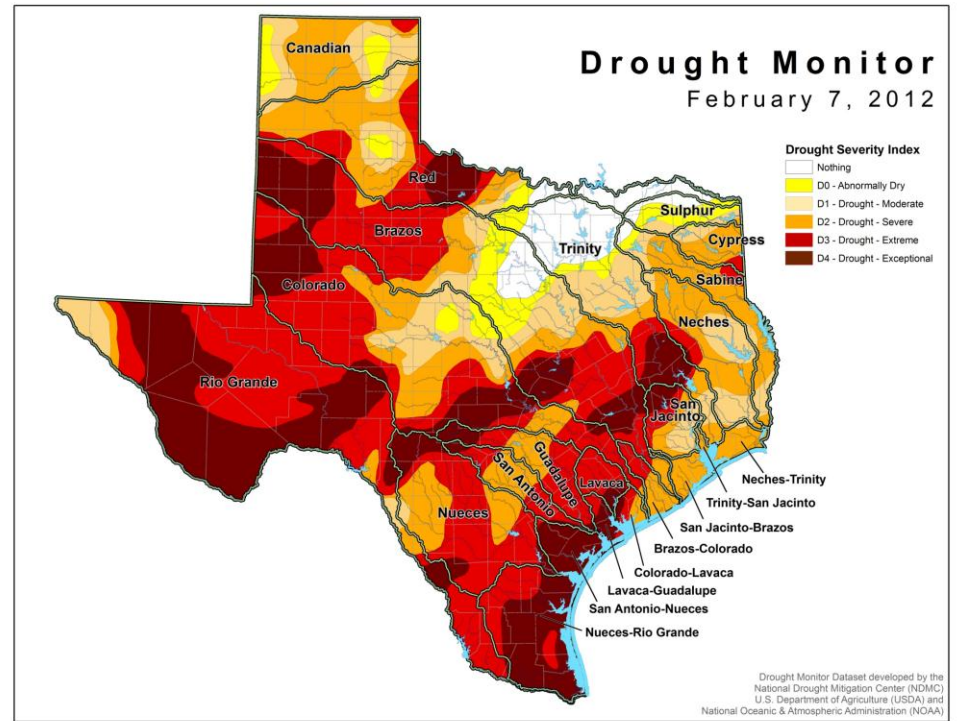
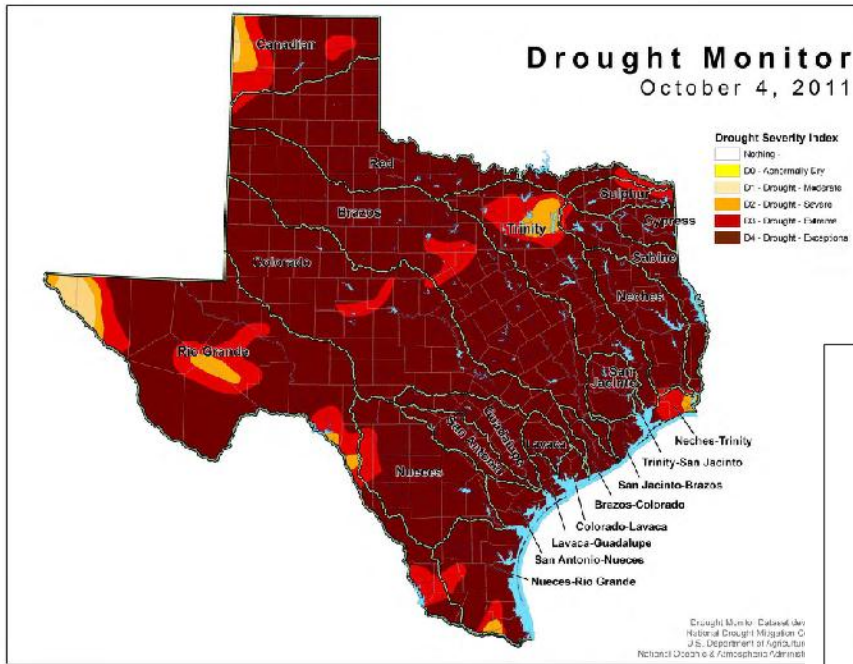


# Drought



- Texas experienced extreme drought conditions during 2011.
- At the beginning of October 2011, 97% of the state, including all or part of every county, was experiencing extreme or exceptional drought.

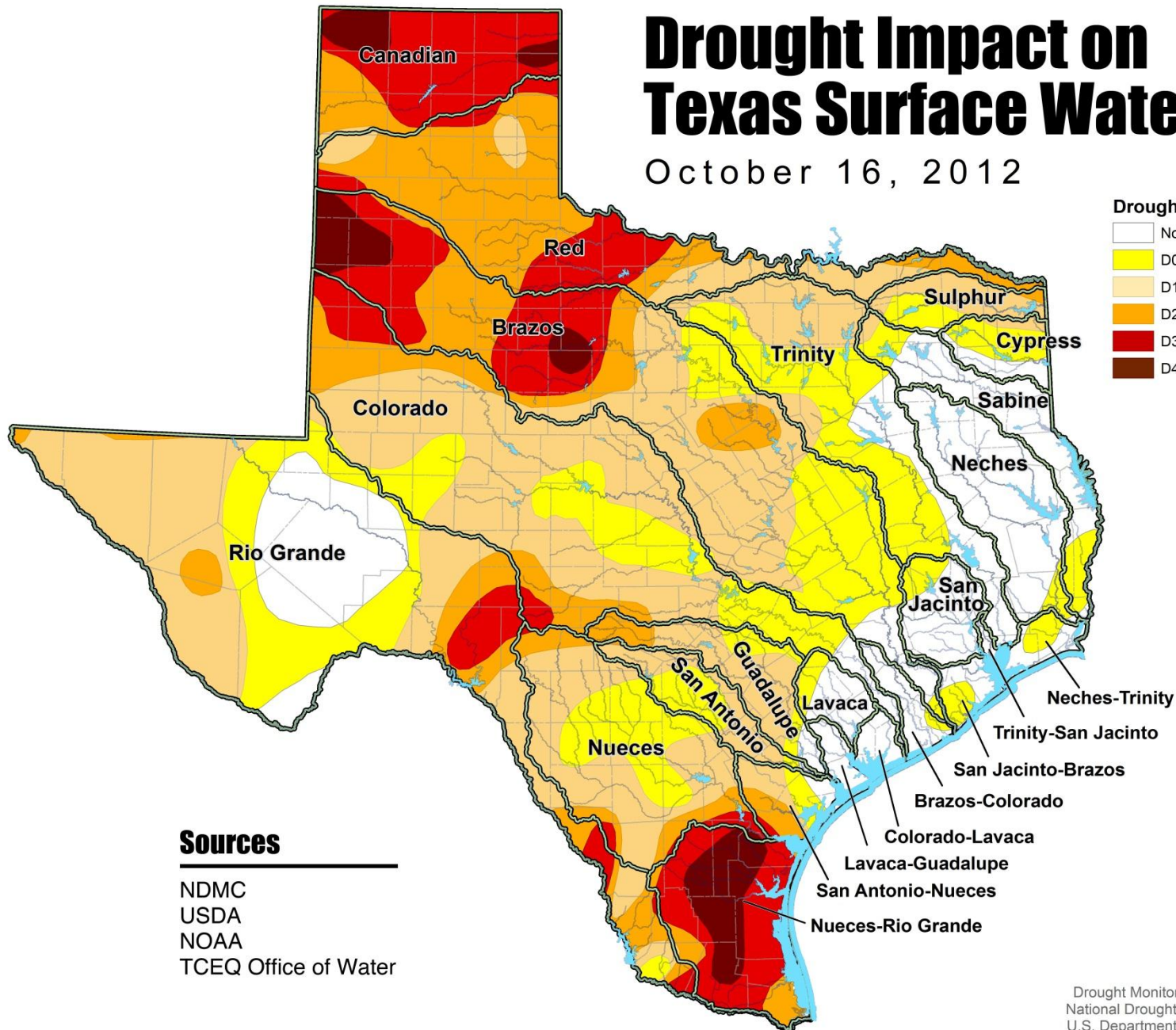
# Drought Map



# Drought Impact on Texas Surface Water

October 16, 2012

## Drought Severity Index



## Sources

NDMC  
USDA  
NOAA  
TCEQ Office of Water

Drought Monitor Dataset developed by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

# Drought - Actions



- Formed TCEQ Drought Team – multidisciplinary staff from TCEQ as well as other state agency partners
- Established Drought Information Webpage – includes guidance for public water systems, water rights information, and emergency procedures.



# Drought – Water Rights



- Guided by priority doctrine
  - Domestic and livestock users have superior rights to any permitted surface water right holders
  - Between permitted water right holders, first in time is first in right.

# Drought – Senior Calls



- If a water right holder is not getting water they are entitled to, they can call upon the TCEQ to take action to enforce the priority doctrine – a senior call.
- In responding to senior calls in 2011, approximately 1,200 water right permits were completely or partially suspended during the drought.
- All calls were rescinded by April 2012

# Curtailment Rule



Sunset Bill - HB 2694 (82R) - added Section 11.053 to the Texas Water Code, effective September 1, 2011.

- Rule to allow suspension and adjustments of water rights by the TCEQ Executive Director, during a time of drought or emergency shortage of water.
  - Adopted rule on April 11, 2012, effective on May 3, 2012.



# Implementation and Next Steps of Curtailment Rule



- Held a stakeholder meeting on July 20, 2012 to discuss the process for implementing the rule
- Developing draft FAQ to go on website after the first stakeholder meeting
  - Will accept comments on the FAQ and suggestions on how to refine the rule



# Questions?



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