Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS)

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Texas Water Development Board Water Science and Conservation Innovative Water Technologies



State and regional water planning



Consider and evaluate all potentially feasible water management strategies

- Brackish groundwater desalination
 - Develop 175,000 acre-feet/year by 2060
 - 6 regions recommended strategy



BRACS Goals:

- Extend the TWDB statewide brackish groundwater study (2003):
 - map aquifers to 10,000 mg/L TDS
 - map key desalination parameters
 - estimate aquifer properties
 - estimate volumes of water
 - prepare data for numerical groundwater flow models
 - collect well logs (water, oil/gas) for interpretation
 - build datasets (database, GIS) of project information
- Assist regional water planning groups
- Collect and disseminate information to be used for site-specific brackish groundwater projects



- Convene a Technical Resource Panel
- Pilot Study: Pecos Valley Aquifer, West Texas
- Six-month studies:
 - Queen City Sparta Aquifer, Atascosa and McMullen Counties
 - Corpus Christi ASR District: Evaluate Evangeline Aquifer for ASR
- Contracts to support brackish groundwater analysis include:
 - Digital Geological Bibliography of Texas to focus on brackish portions of aquifers in Texas
 - Compile digital geophysical well logs across Texas for resistivity / stratigraphic analysis (goal: 1 log per 2.5 minute grid cell)
 - Assessment of Groundwater Modeling Approaches to Brackish Aquifers, using Variable Density Modeling

TWDB Relational Database Primary Tables

TWDB Groundwater Database

Well Data Remarks Water Levels Water Chemistry (2 tables) Casing

> New Tables

TWDB BRACS Database

Well Data (location, depth, owner, ...)

Water Levels Water Chemistry (2 tables) Casing

Foreign Keys (well ids) Well Geology (lithology\stratigraphy) Net Sand and Sand Percent Interpreted TDS from Geophysical W.L. Aquifer Determination Analysis Digital Water Well Reports Digital Geophysical Well Logs Geophysical Well Log Suites Aquifer Test Information

BRACS Supporting Well Databases



Well Attributes: location, source, log types, ...

	TWDB WSC IWT BRACS Geophysical Log Search Task	
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Digital Lithology from TDLR Submitted Driller Reports

Extract Well Lithology using Digital Parser

Close Form

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Geology Table

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Pecos Valley Aquifer Pilot Study Area



Pecos Valley Aquifer Pilot Study Area and Permian Structural Elements





Each "region" within the project area has a different stratigraphic relationship.

Mapping the Pecos Valley Alluvium and underlying formations in greater detail than what has been done in previous studies was imperative.

System	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7
Quaternary	Pecos Valley	Pecos Valley	Pecos Valley	Pecos Valley	Ogallala Formation		
Tertiary	<u>. 9</u> Alluvium 9	?Alluvium?	<u>,</u> Alluvium ,	<mark>ې Alluvium ې</mark>			
Cretaceous			Cretaceous Undivided	Cretaceous Undivided			Cretaceous Undivided
Jurassic							
Triassic	Dockum Group		Dockum Group		Dockum Group	Dockum Group	Dockum Group
	Dewey	Dewey	Dewey	Dewey	Dewey	Dewey	Dewey
	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake
	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation
	Rustler	Rustler	Rustler	Rustler	Rustler	Rustler	Rustler
	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation
Permian	Salado	Salado	Salado	Salado	Salado	Salado	Salado
	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation	Formation
	Capitan Peter Complex	Castile	Capitan Reef Complex	Castile	Capitan Reef Complex	Capitan Reef Complex	Capitan Reef Complex



Sources of Data for the Pecos Valley Study



3,131 wells in project

85% new data to TWDB

NM OSE Aquifer Test Information

- NM OSE Digital Water Well Reports
- TCEQ PWS Water Wells
- TWDB Geophysical Logs
- NM OSE Paper Water Well Reports
- DBSA Capitan Reef Study
- NM EMNRD Geophysical Logs
- ULUTS Digital Geophysical Logs
- TCEQ SC Q Paper/Digital Geophysical Logs
- RRC Digital Geophysical Logs
- TWDB Groundwater Database
- TCEQ Water Well Images
- TDLR Digital Water Well Reports
- BEG Paper/Digital Geophysical Logs
- TWDB Published Reports





West to east cross-section D – D' across both troughs







South to north cross-section B – B' Monument Draw Trough





Pecos Valley Alluvium
Cretaceous Undivided
Dockum Group (TRd) & Dewey Lake Formation (PdI)
Rustler Formation
Salado and Castile Formations
Capitan Reef Complex
Pre-Castile beds west of Capitan Reef Complex
& Pre-Salado beds east of Capitan Reef Complex
Vertical exaggeration = x20





X: not applicable

Desalination parameters of interest

Physical Parameters	Chemical Parameters						
	Cations (mg/L)	Anions (mg/L)	Other Chemical Parameters				
Conductivity (mS/cm)	As ³⁺	Cl-	Alkalinity (mg/L as CaCO ₃)				
рН	As ⁵⁺	F-	Boron (mg/L)				
Silt density index	Ba ²⁺	HCO ₃ -	Dissolved oxygen concentration (mg/L)				
Temperature (°C)	Ca ²⁺	NO_2^N	$H_2S (mg/L)$				
Turbidity (NTU)	Cu ²⁺	$NO_3^ N$	Hardness (mg/L as CaCO ₃)				
	Fe ₃ ⁺	SO ₄ ²⁻	Pesticides(mg/L)				
	K +		Radionuclides (pCi/L) Uranium (µg/L)				
	Mg ²⁺		Silica (mg/L)				
	Mn ²⁺		TDS (mg/L)				
	Na ⁺						
	NH ₄ ⁺ -N						
	Ni ²⁺						
	Zn ²⁺						



Silica

Iron





Determining resistivity values for calculating TDS



Calculation of TDS from geophysical well logs

Staff load method-specific log values and correction factors

and the analysis is performed by the software

-8	TWDB Water Science and Conservation	Innovative Water Technologies Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System	
•	Well Id 1376 GL Number 844 Depth Formation (Df): 530 Thickness Lithologic Unit: 30	BRACS Geophysical Log Analysis for TDS Calculations Blue Field: fill in Blue Field: Auto Loaded Gray Field: Calculated by CPU SP Method Alger - Harrison Ts 63 Dt 1015 Estepp	Load The New Data Close Form Initials: JEM V
	Consensus TDS Method SP Method	Tf 69.2660 Rmf 1.7 Tbh 75 Rmf Tf 1.546213 High sulfate water in the Pecos Valley Aquifer, Reeves County, Tx	
	TDS Method: SP Method Geophysical Log Used: SPONTANEOUS POTENT	Rwe 2.010062 Rw 2.211068 Rw75 2.042024 Cw 4897.101 TD5 3428 Initial	als: JEM 💌
	SP 8 Rxo 0 Ro 0 Rxo / Ro 0 m 0 Source m N/A Porosity: .0	Correction Factors 70.21238 K (Temperature): SP Method 1.1 Rwe Rw: Sp, Alger Harrison, and Rwa Minimum Methods Chart 1 Rmf: SP and Alger Harrison Methods Chart 0.7 ct: Many Methods Remarks: 99 Invasion Zone: Alger Harrison Method N/A 1 m correction factor: Estepp Method high anion waters	
Rec	Source Porosity: N/A	of 1	

BRACS Database well locations in WIID



WIID: Water Information Integration & Dissemination

Assessment of Groundwater Modeling Approaches for Brackish Aquifers

Final Report

Prepared by

Neil E. Deeds, Ph.D., P.E. Toya L. Jones, P.G.



Prepared for:

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November 2011

Guidance on selecting appropriate groundwater modeling codes for simulating brackish groundwater, including variable density effects.

Excel Software Selection Matrix

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3 Preferred GUI	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Source Code Available	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Programming Language	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Licensing	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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11 Iterative Solver	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Non-Linear Method	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 Aquifer Type	2	2 2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
14 Media Type	2	2 2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
15 Boundary Conditions	4	4 4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
16 Heterogeneity	2	2 2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
17 Structural Features	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Saturation	2	2 2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
19 GW SW Interaction	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Aquifers of Texas Bibliography to Support the Brackish Resources Aquifer **Characterization System (BRACS) Program**

Final Report



Prepared for:

Texas Water Development Board P.O. Box 13231, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711-3231



Over 7,800 references compiled from:

TWDB GAM program Theses Dissertations Journals Reports Abstracts **Conference proceedings** Scientific magazines Government reports

November 2011

Information provided in MS Access.

VBA code provided for export in Endnote format.

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Locate and Acquire Digital Geophysical Well Logs and Conduct Data Entry of Attributes

TRD-201003975

Prepared for:



BEG will provide over 27,000 digital geophysical well logs.

Logs represent over 12,000 2.5 minute grid cells across the state.



TWDB staff are using NeuraScanner equipment acquired through the BEG contract to scan paper geophysical well logs.

The TWDB has hundreds of paper logs in its files and the Railroad Commission of Texas has over 300,000 paper geophysical well logs in the Groundwater Advisory Unit collection.



Corpus Christi Aquifer Storage and Recovery Conservation District

Project objective is to:

Collect Data

Develop Database

Characterize Evangeline Aquifer within ASR District :

sand and clay sequences chemistry aquifer tests potential problems: hydrocarbons high gamma ray spikes







Generalized stratigraphic section for the Wilcox and Claiborne groups in Texas (after Ayers and Lewis, 1985; Hamlin, 1988; Kaiser, 1978; Ricoy and Brown, 1977; Guevara and Garcia, 1972; and Payne, 1968).





BRACS Sparta & Queen City Study Area

Project Objectives

- Delineate areas with brackish groundwater (1,000 – 9,999 mg/L TDS) within the Sparta and Queen City aquifers in the project area
- Estimate volume of brackish groundwater in sandy portions of the Sparta and Queen City aquifers in the project area
- Characterize groundwater chemistry within the Sparta and Queen City aquifers in the project area by showing spatial distribution of chloride, iron, silica, and sulfate concentrations.



10

20 Miles

SOURCE

- BAER Yegua Jackson Study
- BEG Digital Geophysical Well Logs
- Intera Gulf Coast Aquifer Study
- RRC Digital Geophysical Logs
- TCEQ Water Well Images
- TDLR Digital Water Well Reports
- TWDB Aquifer Test Information
- TWDB Geophysical Logs
- TWDB Groundwater Database

BRACS Sparta & Queen City Potential Data Sources

Consolidate and integrate multiple data sets to obtain best possible well control and expand BRACS database



0 5 10 20 Miles

TWDB Groundwater Database Total Dissolved Solids Values from Wells with Sparta Aquifer Code

- Wide range of sample ages
- Limited sample depth information
- Incorrect aquifer assignments



0 5 10 20 Miles

TWDB Groundwater Database Total Dissolved Solids Values for Wells with Queen City Aquifer Code

- Wide range of sample ages
- Limited sample depth information
- Incorrect aquifer assignments

Sparta and Queen City Stratigraphic Correlation Example Across Southern Atascosa County



Summary

- The 2003 Brackish Groundwater Manual indicated the estimated total volume of brackish groundwater in: Texas : > 2.7 billion acre-feet.
- Pecos Valley Aquifer: > 85 million acre-feet.
- 44 water treatment plants in Texas use Reverse Osmosis to treat brackish water.
- The Texas Innovative Water 2010 Seminar held in San Antonio in October, 2010, showed a tremendous interest in brackish groundwater resources.
- The TWDB, through the BRACS project and external contracts, is well-poised to provide the information Texas needs to continue development of this resource.
- Each aquifer is different and techniques of analysis will need to fit data available.
- The BRACS data is an intermediate data set between the statewide approaches used in the past and site-specific resource development drilling and evaluation.

Texas Water Development Board

Sustainable, affordable, quality water for Texans, our economy, and our environment.

Home Finar	ncial Assist	tance W	later Planning	Groundwater	Surface Water	Conservation	Innovative Water	Publications	
Introduction	ASR	BRACS	Desalination	Rainwater H	arvesting Water	r Reuse			
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Questions?

TWDB: (512) 463-7847

http://www.twdb.state.tx.us

Innovative Water Technologies

The mission of the Innovative Water Technologies is to educate the water community on the use of nontraditional water supplies. This mission is accomplished by participating in research needed to advance technology demonstration projects; developing publications and educational materials; making presentations to the public; and, actively participating in key water organizations.

To promote and advance the use of non-traditional water supply development and management technologies such as desalination; rainwater and stormwater harvesting; water reuse; and aquifer storage and recovery in Texas, Innovative Water Technologies:

- · funds and participates in research and demonstration projects; and,
- · disseminates information through outreach activities.

Innovative Water Technologies (IWT) is primarily involved in the areas of nontraditional water supply and management activities including: desalination, rainwater and stormwater harvesting, water reuse, and aquifer storage recovery.

Through our desalination program, we administer grants for brackish groundwater desalination projects and seawater desalination pilot studies. To date, TWDB has funded eight brackish groundwater desalination demonstration projects worth a total of about \$2.2 million, and two seawater desalination pilot plant studies worth approximately \$3.13 million.

We promote rainwater and stormwater harvesting and water reuse through grants for research and demonstration projects and outreach activities.

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