

Ellenburger-San Saba Aquifer

The Ellenburger-San Saba aquifer occurs in parts of 15 counties in the Llano Uplift area of Central Texas. Discontinuous outcrops of the aquifer encircle older rocks in the core of the uplift, and the remaining downdip portion extends to depths of approximately 3,000 feet below land surface. Regional block faulting has significantly compartmentalized the aquifer.

Three-fourths of the water pumped from the aquifer is used for municipal water supplies at Fredericksburg, Johnson City, Bertram, and Richland Springs. Also, a large portion of water flowing from San Saba Springs, which is the water supply for the city of San Saba, is believed to be from the Ellenburger-San Saba and Marble Falls aquifers.

The aquifer occurs in limestone and dolomite facies in the San Saba Member of the Wilberns Formation of late Cambrian age, and in the Honeycut, Gorman, and Tanyard formations of the Ellenburger Group of early Ordovician age. Water in the aquifer primarily occurs in solution cavities formed along faults and related fractures. The Ellenburger-San Saba aquifer in some areas may be hydrologically connected to the Marble Falls aquifer. Water produced from the aquifer is inherently hard and usually has less than 1,000 mg/l dissolved solids.

References

Bluntzer, R.L., 1992, Evaluation of the ground-water resources of the Paleozoic and Cretaceous aquifers in the Hill Country of Central Texas: TWDB Rept. 339, 139 p.