

**HOUSE BILL 30  
STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

**OCTOBER 26, 2015**

**Texas Water**   
**Development Board**

# AGENDA

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
10:00– 10:15 a.m.	Introductions	Robert Mace
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Presentation on House Bill 30	John Meyer
10:45 – 10:50 a.m.	Meeting Format	Robert Mace
10:50 – 11:50 a.m.	Open for public comment	Robert Mace
11:50 – 12:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Robert Mace
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

# House Bill 30, 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature

HB 30 directs TWDB to designate brackish groundwater production zones and to work together with groundwater conservation districts and stakeholders when identifying and designating brackish groundwater production zones.

TWDB will produce a report every two years and make recommendations regarding reasonable monitoring to observe the effects of brackish groundwater production within the designated zones.

Four aquifers will be included in the December 1, 2016 report to the Legislature:

- Gulf Coast
- Carrizo-Wilcox (between the Colorado River and the Rio Grande)
- Blaine
- Rustler

Remaining aquifers in the state will be completed by December 1, 2022.

# Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS)

## TWDB BRACS PROGRAM

- Began in 2009
- Objective is to map in sufficient detail the brackish groundwater resources of each major and minor aquifer
- Collect and load data into a relational BRACS Database and GIS datasets
- Maintain a collection of well reports and geophysical well logs
- All data is available from our website:  
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/index.asp>

# Groundwater Salinity Classification

Groundwater salinity classification	Salinity zone code	Total dissolved solids concentration (units: milligrams per liter)
Fresh	FR	0 to 1,000
Slightly saline	SS	1,000 to 3,000
Moderately saline	MS	3,000 to 10,000
Very saline	VS	10,000 to 35,000
Brine	BR	Greater than 35,000

} Brackish

U.S. Geological Survey, Winslow and Kister, 1956

# TWDB Approach

Initial stakeholder meeting

Map entire brackish groundwater resource for each aquifer

Propose potential production areas in each aquifer in a stakeholder meeting

TWDB staff prioritizes potential production areas

Perform impact analysis of 30 and 50 year pumping

Propose brackish groundwater production zones to TWDB Executive Administrator

Present Executive Administrator's recommendations to TWDB Board in public meeting

Present study findings in biennial seawater and brackish groundwater report to Legislature due December 1 of each even-numbered year



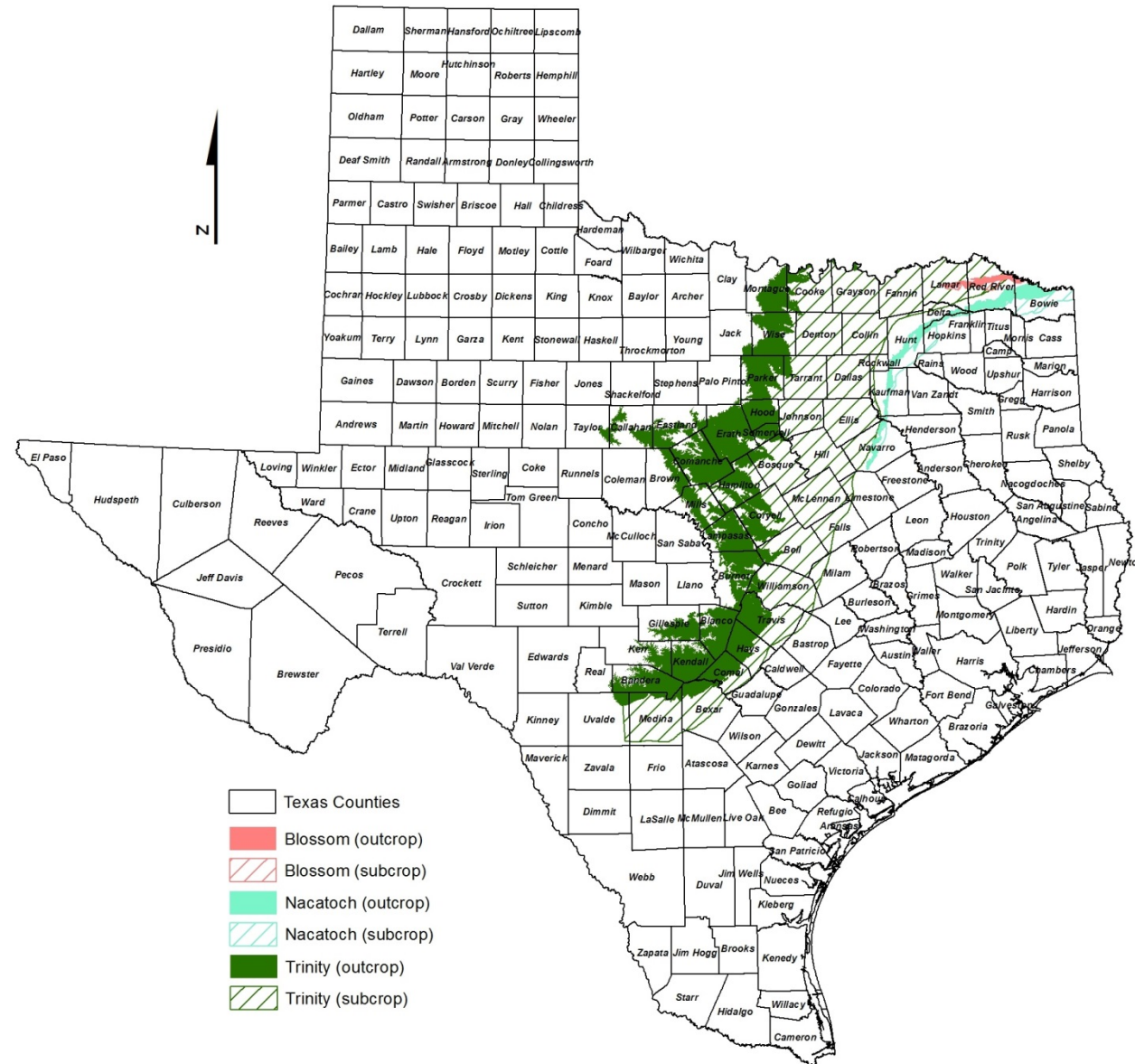
# Additional contracted studies due August 2017

2016-17 contracts:

Blossom

Nacatoch

Trinity

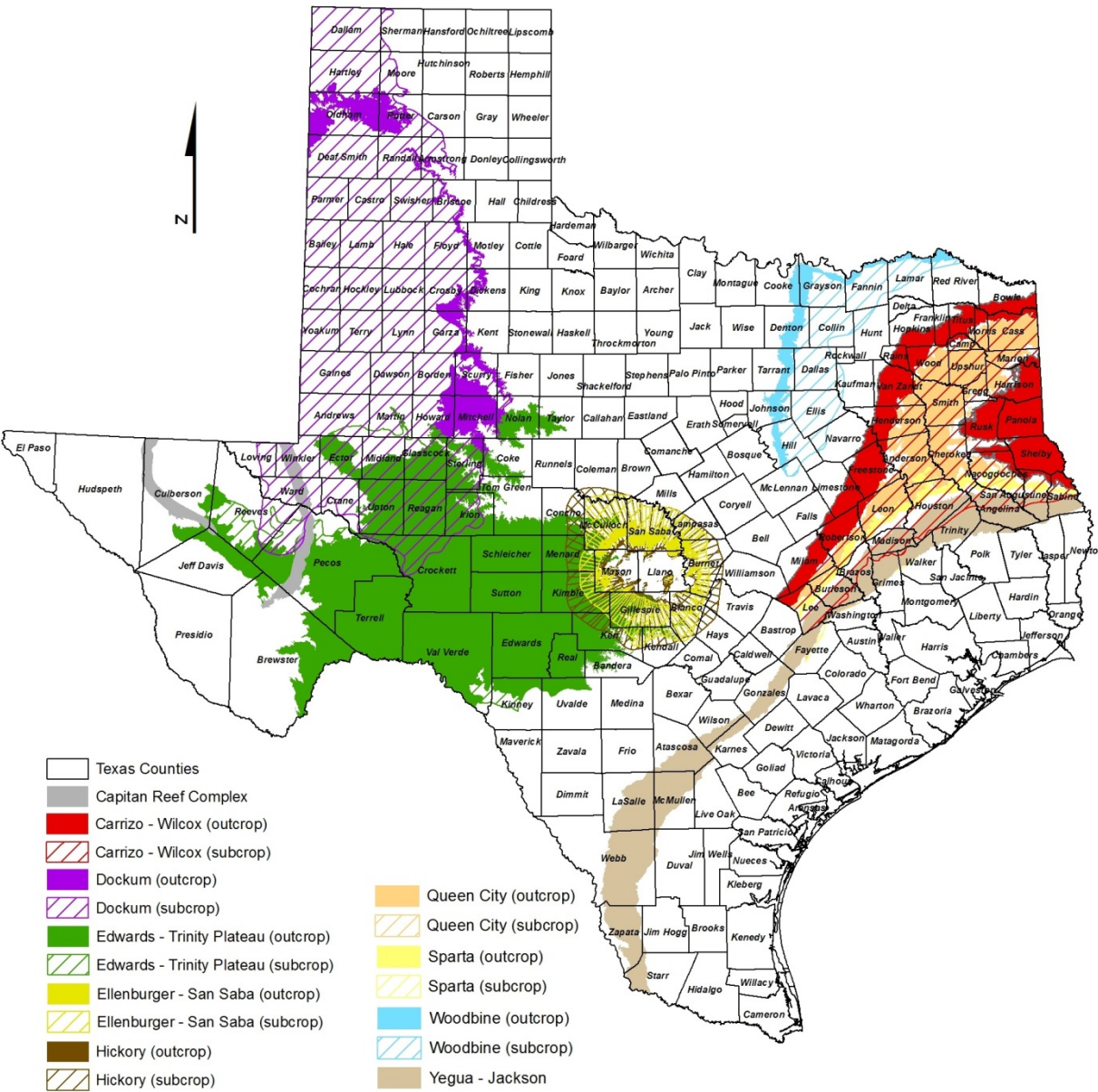




# Remaining aquifer studies by TWDB staff by 12/2022

These aquifer studies will be completed by TWDB by December 1, 2022\*.

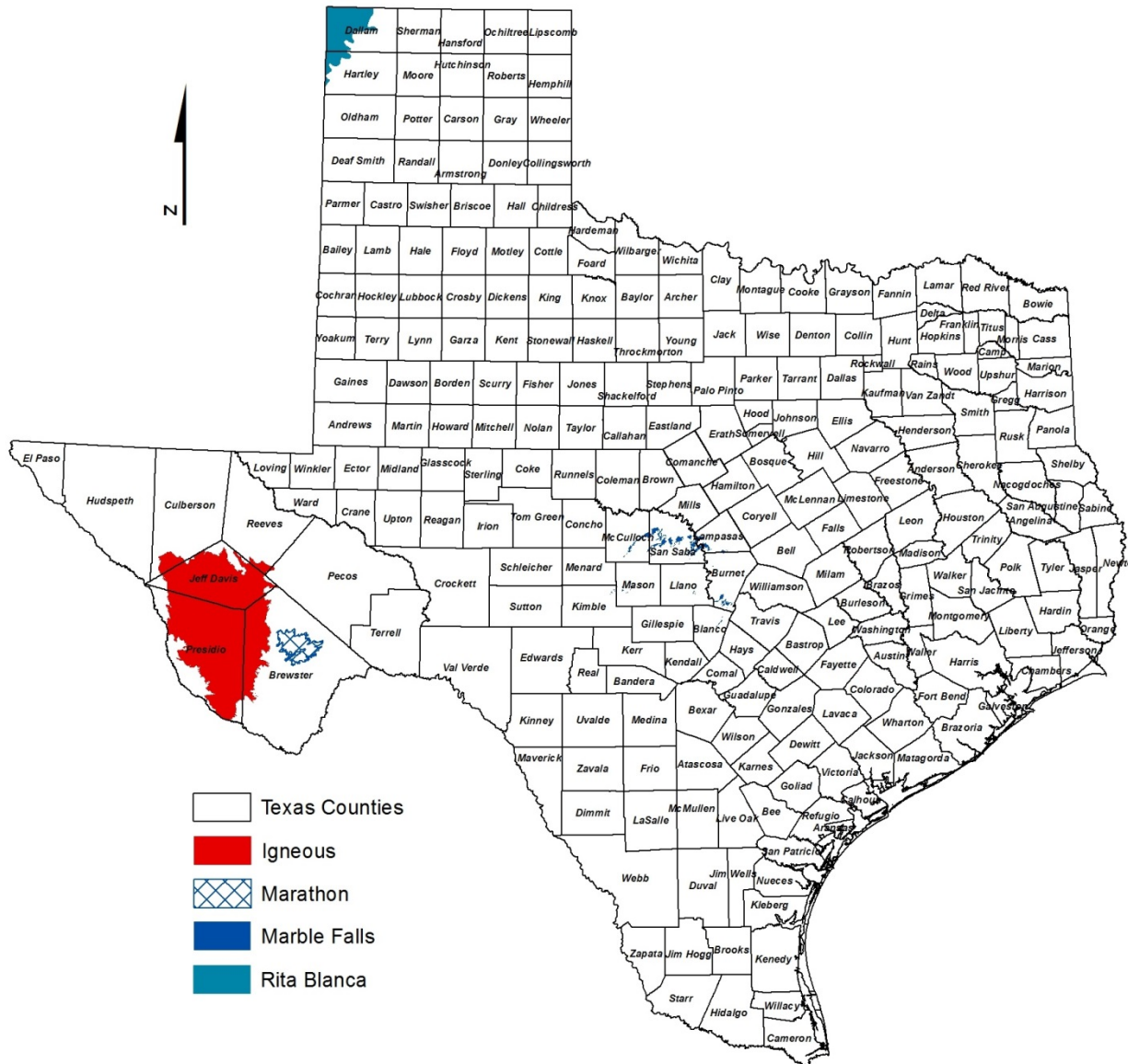
\* *subject to change*



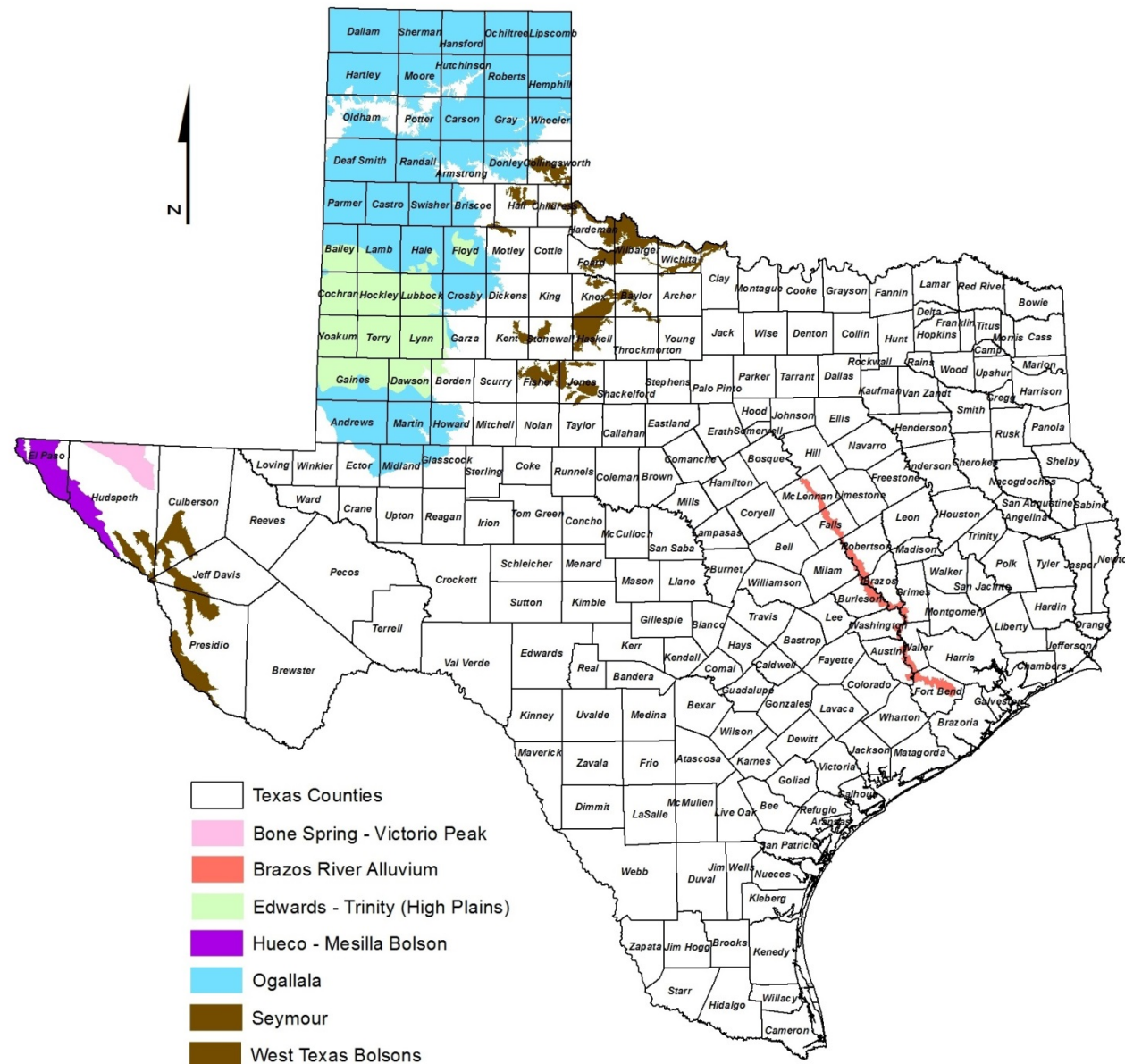
# Aquifers with no significant brackish groundwater

These aquifers will not be studied at this time.

Should information become available in the future, TWDB may study these aquifers.



# Aquifers with significant use of brackish groundwater for supply

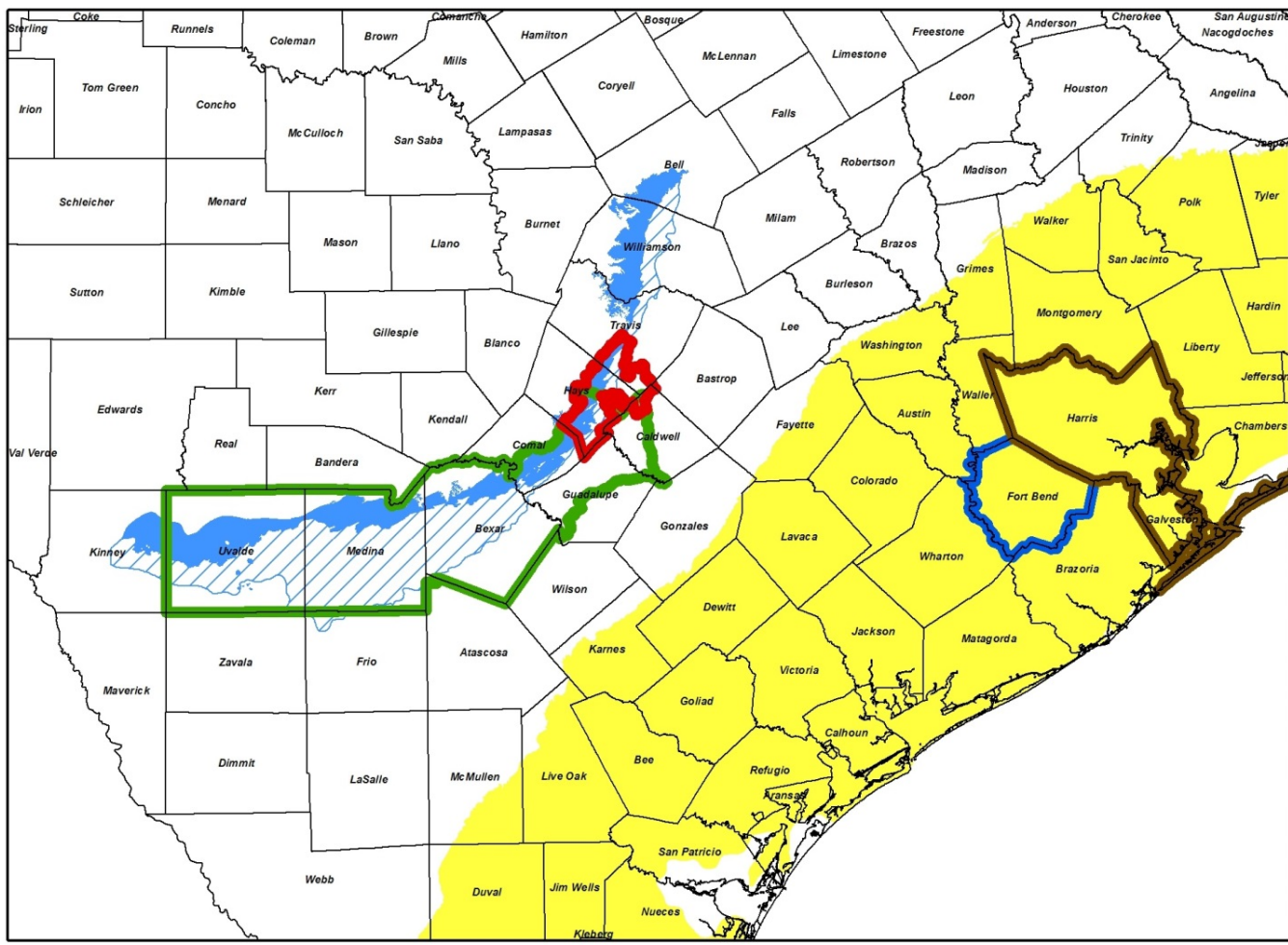


These aquifers contain, in areas, brackish groundwater used for municipal, domestic, or agricultural purposes.

HB 30 excludes these areas from brackish groundwater production zone designation.

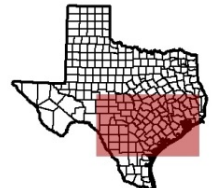
These aquifers may be studied as a brackish water resource after 2022.

# Brackish groundwater production zones cannot be designated in four groundwater districts



HB 30 states that brackish groundwater production zones cannot be designated in four districts. These districts are located in parts of the Edwards and Gulf Coast aquifers.

The Edwards Aquifer outside of a district could be studied.



- Texas Counties
- Edwards BFZ (outcrop)
- Edwards BFZ (subcrop)
- Gulf Coast
- BARTON SPRINGS/EDWARDS AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
- EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY
- FORT BEND SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT
- HARRIS-GALVESTON COASTAL SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT

# Questions

*HB 30: the board shall identify and designate local or regional brackish groundwater production zones in areas of the state with moderate to high availability and productivity of brackish groundwater that are separated by hydrogeologic barriers sufficient to prevent **significant impacts** to water availability or water quality in any area of the same or other aquifers that have an average total dissolved solids level of 1,000 milligrams per liter or less at the time of designation of the zones.*

How should we define “*significant impact*”?

# Questions

*HB 30: the board shall identify and designate local or regional brackish groundwater production zones in areas of the state with moderate to high availability and productivity of brackish groundwater that are separated by **hydrogeologic barriers sufficient to prevent significant impacts** to water availability or water quality in any area of the same or other aquifers that have an average total dissolved solids level of 1,000 milligrams per liter or less at the time of designation of the zones.*

How should we define “separated by **hydrogeologic barriers sufficient to prevent significant impacts**”?

Does there have to be a physical barrier, such as impermeable clay/shale or a fault?

Can separation also include distance, for example, where “**significant impacts**” are manageable?

# Questions

*HB 30 : Brackish groundwater production zones are not located in an aquifer that has an average total dissolved solids level of more than 1,000 milligrams per liter and is serving as a **significant source** of water supply for municipal, domestic, or agricultural purposes at the time of designation of the zones or an area of a geologic stratum that is designated or used for wastewater injection through the use of injection wells or disposal wells permitted under Chapter 27.*

How should we define “**significant source**” of water supply for municipal, domestic, or agricultural purposes?

Is there a distance from existing use that a brackish groundwater production zone could be designated?

# Summary

How should we define “*significant impact*”?

How should we define “separated by hydrogeologic barriers sufficient to prevent *significant impacts*”?

How should we define “*significant source*” of water supply for municipal, domestic, or agricultural purposes?



# Path forward

Written comments due October 30, 2015

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