

Brackish Groundwater Production Zones

Amendment guidance stakeholder feedback meeting

June 22, 2022

Thank you for signing in early.

This meeting will be recorded.

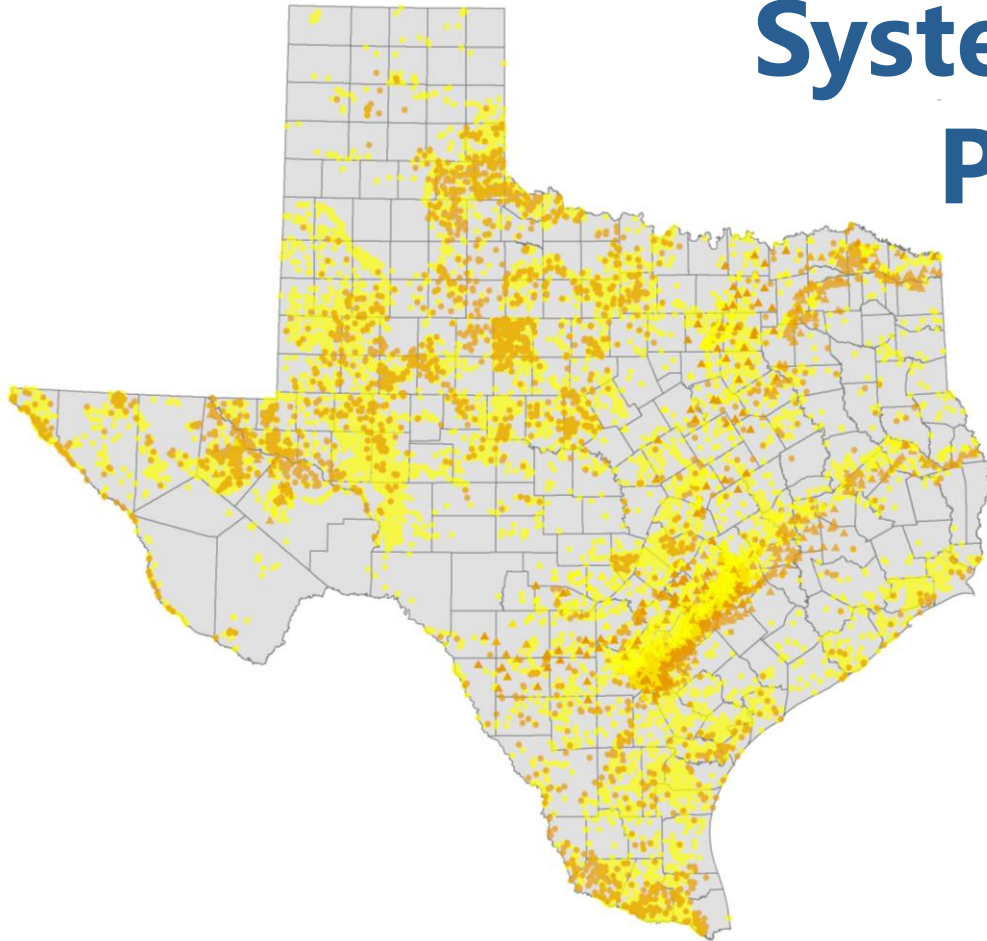
The meeting will begin at 10:00 am, Central Standard Time

Please stay muted during the meeting and use the chat box to submit questions. We will also use the polling function during this meeting.

Agenda

- Introduction to the Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS) program
- Brackish groundwater production zone (BGPZ) background
- BGPZ amendment guidance proposals
- Questions

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS) Program



Alysa Suydam (Manager)
BRACS Program
Texas Water Development Board

What is the Texas Water Development Board?



Non-regulatory agency unlike Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.



Science: Groundwater, surface water, innovative water technology, conservation, education, flooding.



Planning: Assist with regional planning and state planning (drought and flood plans)



Funding: Assist with implementing water projects with funding

BRACS Program



Aim: Map and estimate groundwater salinity and brackish aquifer storage volumes.



Purpose: Estimates provide stakeholders basic information about brackish groundwater resources.



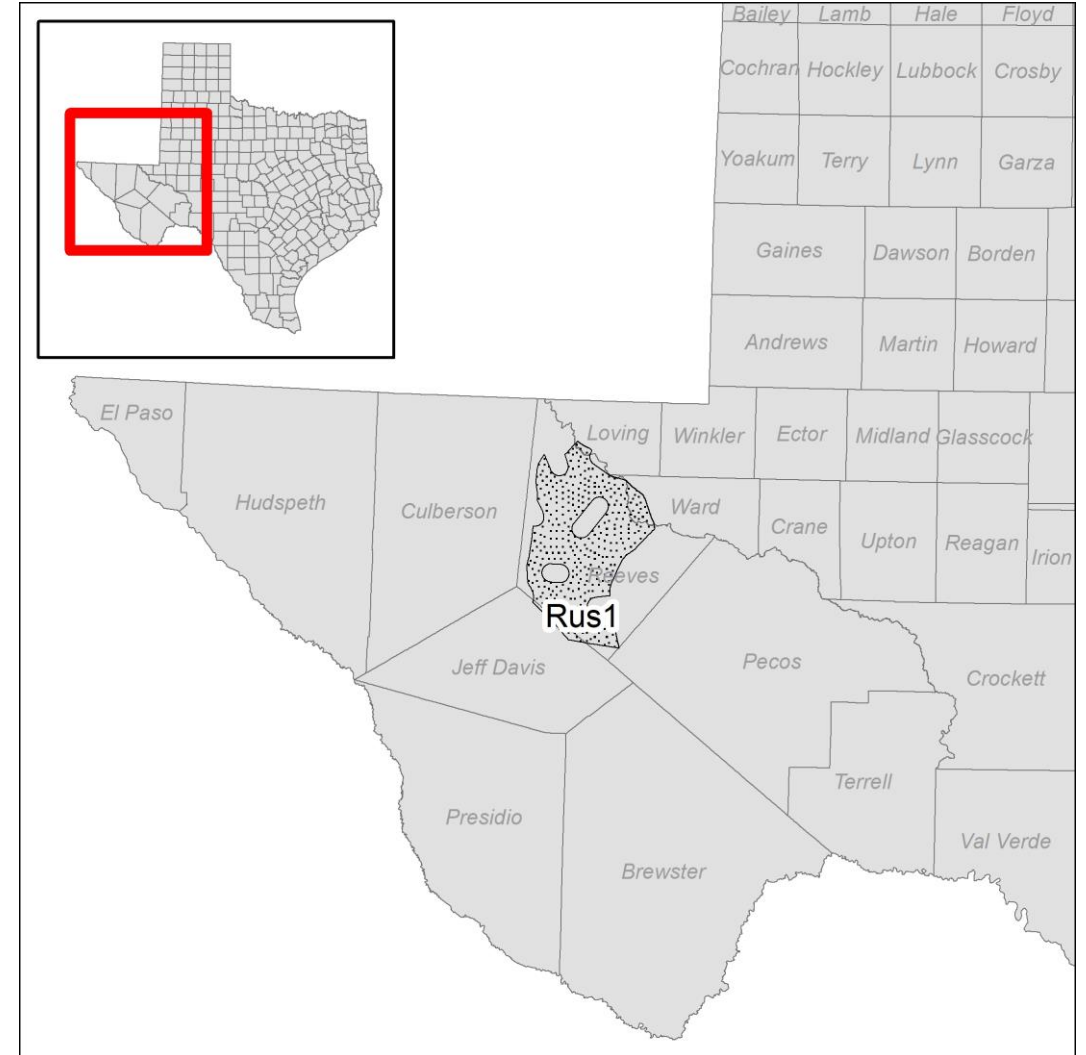
Public process: Solicit data from stakeholders for BRACS projects, and solicits input when proposing brackish groundwater production zones.



Mapping: Freely available and thoroughly documented. Reports, data, and BRACS database are available for download from TWDB.

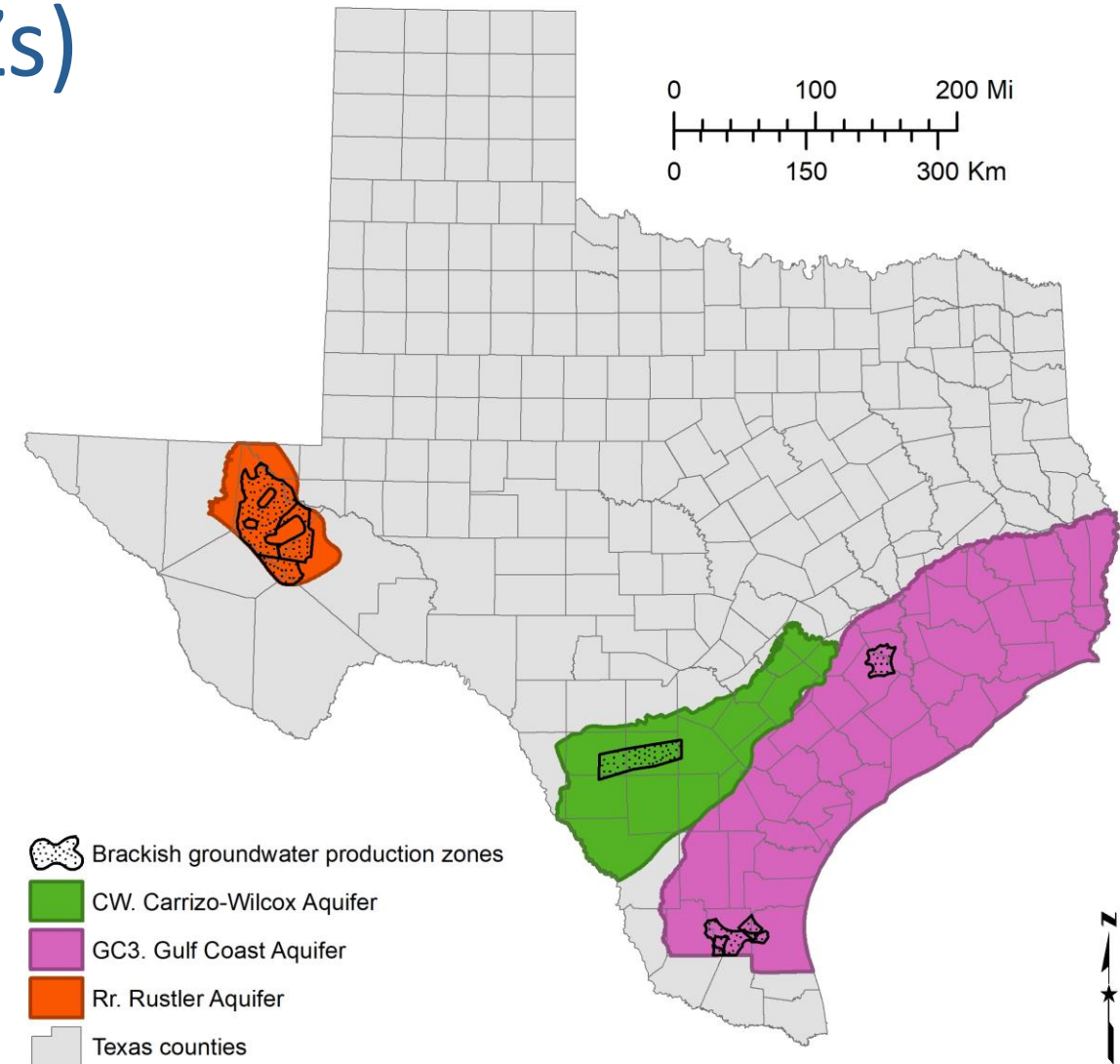
What is a BGPZ?

- Defined boundary
 - Footprint and depth
- Defined annual volume
- Example
 - Rus1
 - Magenta Dolomite, Culebra Dolomite, and the limestones of the Los Medaños members of the Rustler Aquifer within the footprint (shapefile with depths available)
 - 2,513 acre-feet per year



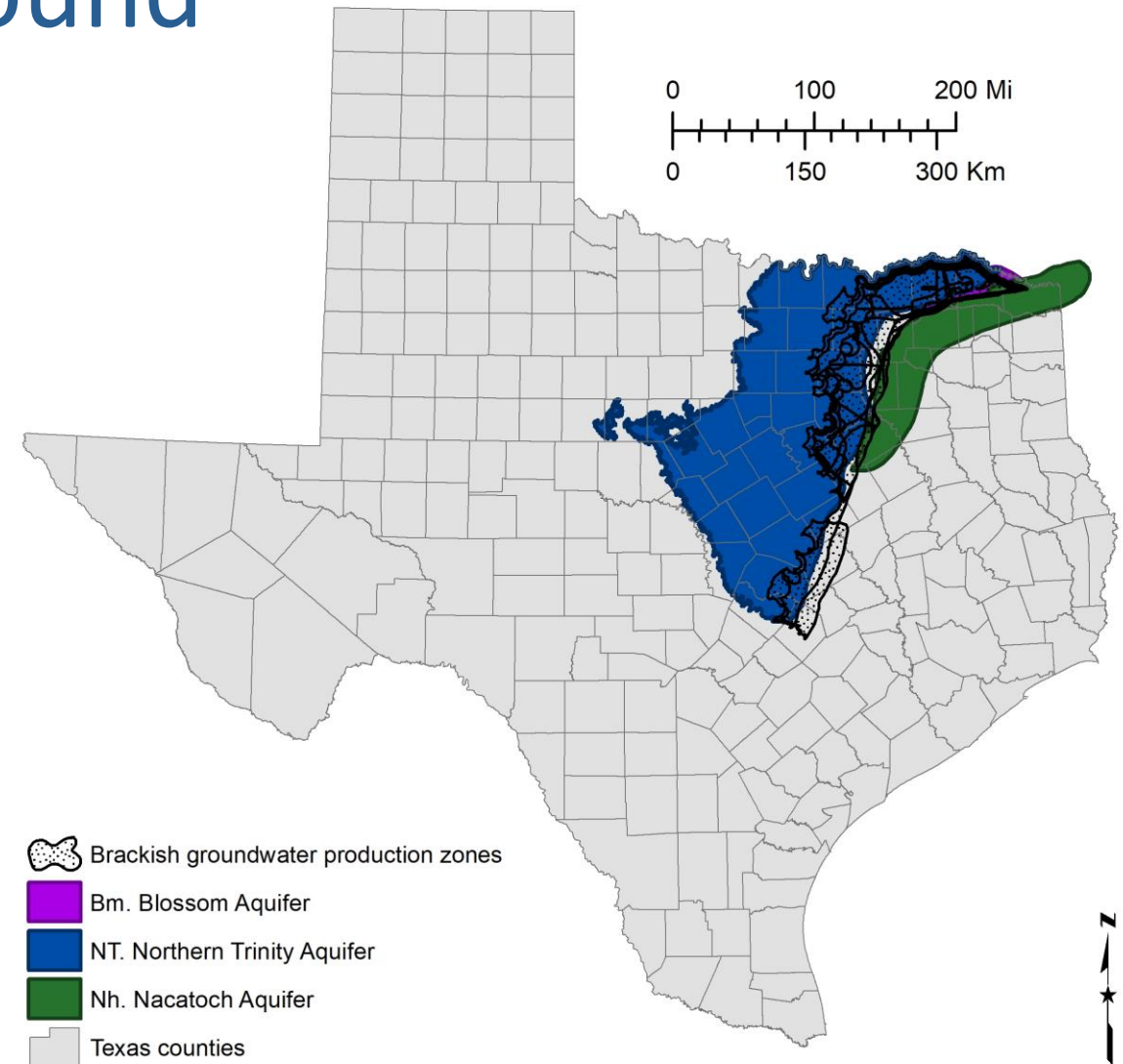
Background on brackish groundwater production zones (BGPZs)

- 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 30 (2015)
 - TWDB to identify and designate BGPZs
 - Statutory mapping criteria established
- 2016 8 BGPZs designated by the TWDB Board
 - in 3 aquifers (Carrizo-Wilcox (Lower), Gulf Coast (Lagarto), and the Rustler)



Background

- 2019 23 BGPZs designated by the TWDB Board
 - in 3 aquifers (Blossom, Nacatoch, and Northern Trinity (Upper, Middle and Lower))
- 86th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1041 and House Bill 722 (2019)
 - SB 1041: extended mapping deadline to December 1, 2032
 - HB 722: established GCD permitting framework for developing water supplies from BGPZs

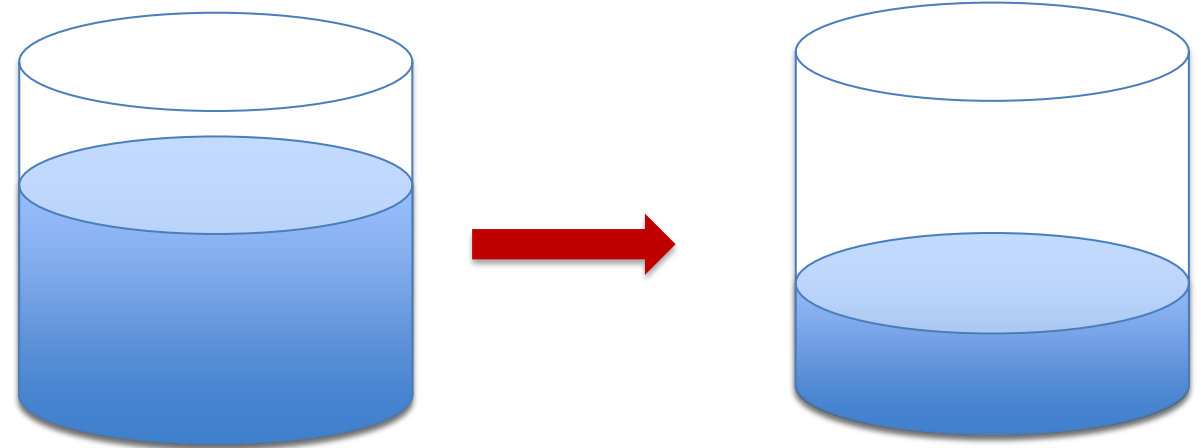
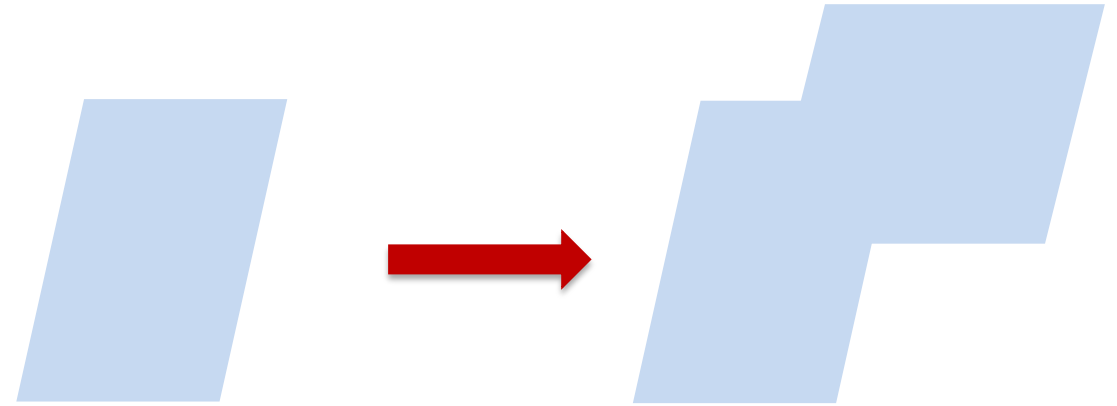


BGPZ amendments

- TWDB rules (31 TAC § 356.70(d))
 - allow the TWDB to initiate amendments to BGPZs with full disclosure of justification and outreach for stakeholder input
 - allows GCDs to request amendments to BGPZs which shall “include a justification and documentation supporting the requested amendment”
 - states that the Agency “will publish guidance discussing the timing for considering amendments”
- TWDB would like stakeholder input regarding the timing of the amendment process which is why we are having this meeting

What is a BGPZ amendment?

- Statutory criteria will be considered
- Changes to the boundary
 - footprint and/or depths
 - zone could become larger or smaller
- Changes to the annual production volume
 - annual volumes could become larger or smaller



Who may request a BGPZ amendment?

- A GCD
- A group of GCDs
- An individual, driller, or any other entity *working through a GCD*
- If a BGPZ spans multiple districts, we require documented consensus of the request from all GCDs that overlie the BGPZ

Reasons a BGPZ might need to be amended

- Newly available aquifer data
- Agricultural, domestic, or municipal wells not identified prior to the designation of the BGPZ
- Additional injection or disposal well data permitted under Texas Water Code Chapter 27
- Data showing insufficient hydrogeologic barrier to freshwater
- Improved models to estimate brackish groundwater production

Required documentation for a zone request

- Documentation must support reason for request
- Supporting documentation should be non-confidential

STATE OF TEXAS WELL REPORT for Tracking #110539			
Owner:	Dan McGough	Owner Well #:	No Data
Address:	1534 Shady Grove Road Weatherford, TX 76088	Grid #:	32-26-9
Well Location:	Corner of Little Road & Hickory Ct. Granbury, TX 76048	Latitude:	32° 31' 57" N
		Longitude:	097° 45' 58" W
Lithology: DESCRIPTION & COLOR OF FORMATION MATERIAL		Casing: BLANK PIPE & WELL SCREEN DATA	
<i>From (ft)</i>	<i>To (ft)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dia. (in.)</i>
			<i>New/Used</i>
			<i>Type</i>
			<i>Setting From/To (ft.)</i>
0-1		Top Soil	4 New Blank, PVC 0 239 Sch40
1-16		Yellow Clay Sandy Clay Shale	4 New 0.020" PVC Screen 239 279 Sch40
16-125		Gray Clay Shale and Limestone	
125-135		Gray Blue Sandy Clay and Clay	
135-141		Sand	
141-220		Gray Blue Sndy Clay Streak of Sndstone and Sand	
220-274		Sandy Tiny Gravel Coal and Pea Gravel	
274-279		Blue Sandy Tiny Gravel and Limestone	

Generic examples of documentation

- Well construction information
- Water quality analyses
- Groundwater models
- Geophysical logs
- Pump tests
- Water level measurements

Two proposed models to receive and review amendment requests

Option A: major/minor split

- Amendment requests categorized into “major” and “minor” revisions

Option B: structured timeframes

- Amendment requests are not categorized into “major” and “minor” revisions

Option A: Major and minor amendments

- GCDs may submit amendment requests at any time
- TWDB will have 60 days to determine if the amendment request is major or minor
- Minor amendments
 - a decision would be made 6 months after complete documentation is received (with notification)
- Major amendments
 - higher level of staff review and involvement
 - a decision would be made 2 years after complete documentation is received (with notification)

Option B: structured timeframes

- Amendment requests will be accepted in a window
 - GCDs may submit requests at any time
 - requests submitted before or during the window will be considered in the review cycle
- Review cycles will last 5 years
 - TWDB will focus on ensuring complete documentation has been received in the first 2 years
 - TWDB will analyze the amendment request
 - decisions regarding amendment requests will be announced (with notification) at the end of the amendment request cycle

How should amendment requests be finalized?

- Should they require TWDB Board Member action?
 - BGPZs initially designated by the TWDB Board
 - less flexible timelines
- Should they be decided by the Executive Administrator (EA)?
 - BGPZs not designated by the EA
 - likely more flexible timelines

Any questions for us at this point?

Questions we have for y'all!

- We will both use the polling feature in GoToWebinar and ask for emailed responses for open ended questions
- Please email responses to open ended questions to Public-Comment@twdb.texas.gov by July 22, 2022
- Please include “BGPZs” in the subject line!



- Are you a GCD that anticipates requesting an amendment or someone who works for a GCD that will request an amendment?
 - yes
 - no

- Do you want amendments to be decided by TWDB Board Member action?
 - yes
 - no

TWDB Board action

- BGPZs initially designated by the TWDB Board
- less flexible timelines

Executive Administrator action

- BGPZs not designated by the EA
- likely more flexible timelines

- Do you prefer Option A or Option B

Option A

- Major/minor amendments
- GCD may submit request at any time

Option B

- Structured timeframes
- No major/minor split
- 5-year cycle

Neither

- Please provide feedback!

Public-Comment@twdb.texas.gov

Do you like the proposed timeframes for Option A?

- Major/minor amendment distinction
- 6-months for a minor amendment request decision after complete data obtained
- 2-years for a major amendment request decision after complete data obtained
 - Yes
 - No, too long
 - No, too short
 - I do not like this option

Do you like the proposed timeframes for Option B?

- 5-year review cycle
- First two years focused on obtaining complete data
- Amendment decisions delivered at end of cycle
 - Yes
 - No, too long
 - No, too short
 - I do not like this option

- Why might a GCD request an amendment?
 - please email response to Public-Comment@twdb.texas.gov
 - please include “BGPZs” in the subject line

Next steps

- Please provide feedback and comments by July 22, 2022
- Public-Comment@twdb.texas.gov
 - please include “BGPZs” in the subject line
- We will consider feedback and draft a more complete guidance document for public feedback



Any additional questions?

Thank you for attending!

The draft guidance document is available to review here:
www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/bracs/HB30.asp

Please provide feedback and comments by July 22, 2022
Public-Comment@twdb.texas.gov
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BRACS Program