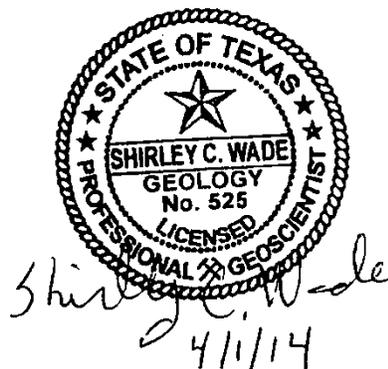

GAM RUN 14-006: LOWER TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PLAN

by Shirley C. Wade, Ph.D., P.G.
Texas Water Development Board
Groundwater Resources Division
Groundwater Availability Modeling Section
(512) 936-0883
April 1, 2014



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Texas State Water Code, Section 36.1071, Subsection (h) (Texas Water Code, 2011), states that, in developing its groundwater management plan, a groundwater conservation district shall use groundwater availability modeling information provided by the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in conjunction with any available site-specific information provided by the district for review and comment to the executive administrator. Information derived from groundwater availability models that shall be included in the groundwater management plan includes:

- the annual amount of recharge from precipitation to the groundwater resources within the district, if any;
- for each aquifer within the district, the annual volume of water that discharges from the aquifer to springs and any surface water bodies, including lakes, streams, and rivers; and
- the annual volume of flow into and out of the district within each aquifer and between aquifers in the district.

This report—Part 2 of a two-part package of information from the TWDB to the Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District—fulfills the requirements noted above. Part 1 of the two-part package is the Historical Water Use/State Water Plan data report. The District will receive this data report from the TWDB Groundwater Technical Assistance Section. Questions about the data report can be directed to Mr. Stephen Allen, stephen.allen@twdb.texas.gov, (512) 463-7317.

The groundwater management plan for the Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District should be adopted by the district on or before October 13, 2014 and submitted to the executive administrator of the TWDB on or before November 12, 2014. The current management plan for the Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District expires on January 11, 2015.

This report discusses the methods, assumptions, and results from a model run using the newly updated groundwater availability model for the northern portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System (Kasmarek, 2013). This model run replaces the results of GAM Run 08-58 (Chowdhury, 2008). GAM Run 14-006 meets current standards set after the release of GAM Run 08-58. Tables 1 and 2 summarize the groundwater availability model data required by statute, and Figures 1 and 2 show the area of the model from which the values in the table were extracted. If after review of the figures, the Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District determines that the district boundaries used in the assessment do not reflect current conditions, please notify the TWDB immediately.

METHODS:

In accordance with the provisions of the Texas State Water Code, Section 36.1071, Subsection (h), the groundwater availability model for the northern portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System Version 3.01 was run for this analysis. Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District water budgets were extracted for the historical model period (1980 through 2009) using ZONEBUDGET Version 3.01 (Harbaugh, 2009). The average annual water budget values for recharge, surface water outflow, inflow to the district, outflow from the district, net inter-aquifer flow (upper), and net inter-aquifer flow (lower) for the portion of the aquifer located within the district is summarized in this report.

PARAMETERS AND ASSUMPTIONS:

Yegua-Jackson Aquifer

- We used version 1.01 of the groundwater availability model for the Yegua-Jackson Aquifer. See Deeds and others (2010) for assumptions and limitations of the groundwater availability model.
- This groundwater availability model includes five layers which represent the outcrop of the Yegua-Jackson Aquifer and younger overlying units—the Catahoula Formation (Layer 1), the upper portion of the Jackson Group (Layer 2), the lower portion of the Jackson Group (Layer 3), the upper

portion of the Yegua Group (Layer 4), and the lower portion of the Yegua Group (Layer 5).

- An overall water budget for the district was determined for the Yegua-Jackson Aquifer (Layer 1 through Layer 5, collectively, for the portions of the model that represent the Yegua-Jackson Aquifer). In separate water budget calculations we calculated groundwater flow between the Catahoula Formation and the underlying Yegua-Jackson Aquifer.
- The model was run with MODFLOW-2000 (Harbaugh and others, 2000).

Gulf Coast Aquifer System

- We used version 3.01 of the groundwater availability model for the northern portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System for this analysis. See Kasmarek (2013) for assumptions and limitations of the model.
- The model has four layers which represent the Chicot Aquifer (Layer 1), the Evangeline Aquifer (Layer 2), the Burkeville Confining Unit (Layer 3), and the Jasper Aquifer and parts of the Catahoula Formation in direct hydrologic communication with the Jasper Aquifer (Layer 4).
- Water budgets for the district were determined for the Gulf Coast Aquifer System (Layers 1 through 4).
- The model was run with MODFLOW-2000 (Harbaugh and others, 2000).

RESULTS:

A groundwater budget summarizes the amount of water entering and leaving the aquifer according to the groundwater availability model. Selected groundwater budget components listed below were extracted from the model results for the aquifers located within the district and averaged over the duration of the calibration and verification portion of the model run in the district, as shown in Tables 1 and 2.

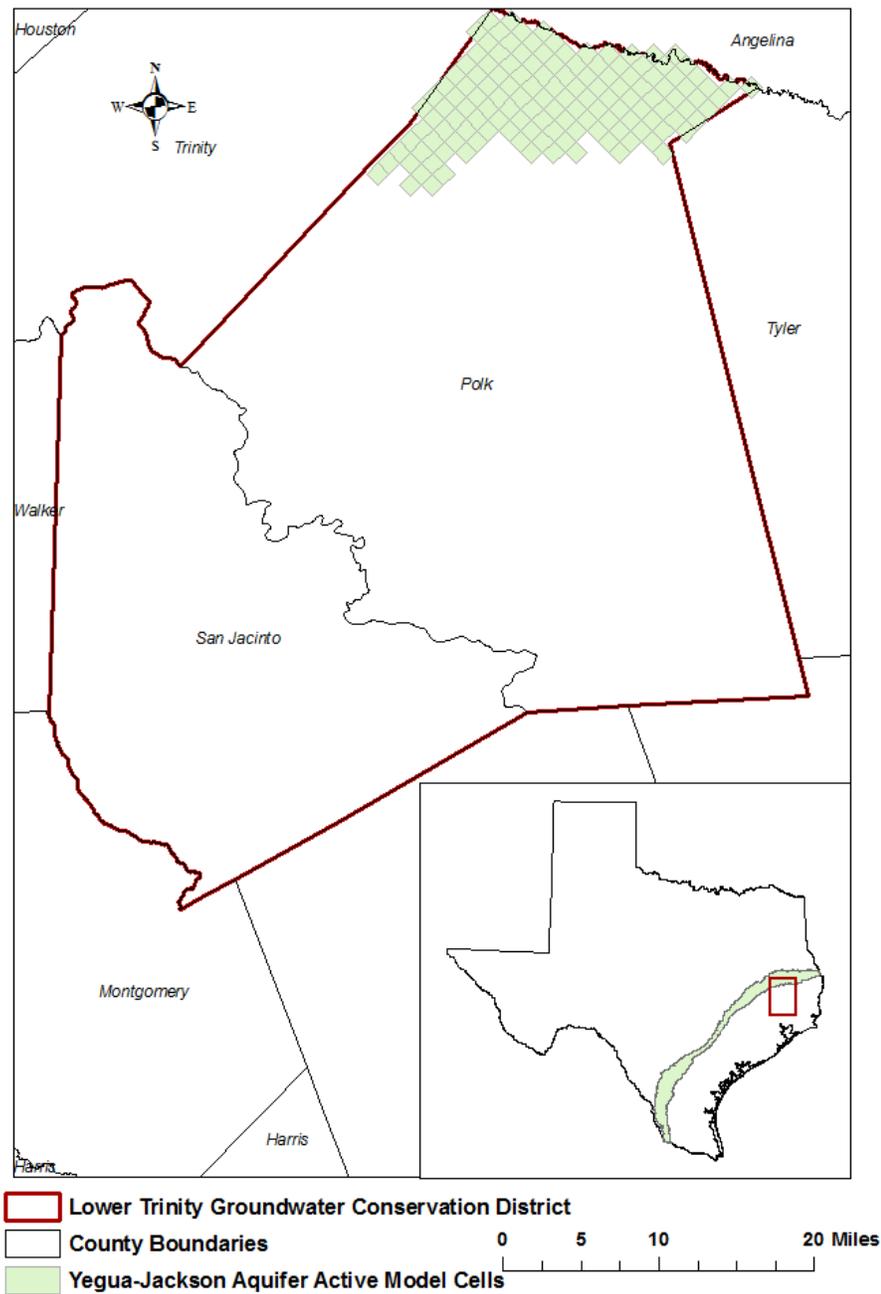
- Precipitation recharge—The areally distributed recharge sourced from precipitation falling on the outcrop areas of the aquifers (where the aquifer is exposed at land surface) within the district.
- Surface water outflow—The total water discharging from the aquifer (outflow) to surface water features such as streams, reservoirs, and springs.

- Flow into and out of district—The lateral flow within the aquifer between the district and adjacent counties.
- Flow between aquifers—The net vertical flow between the aquifer and adjacent aquifers or confining units. This flow is controlled by the relative water levels in each aquifer or confining unit and aquifer properties of each aquifer or confining unit that define the amount of leakage that occurs. “Inflow” to an aquifer from an overlying or underlying aquifer will always equal the “Outflow” from the other aquifer.

It is important to note that sub-regional water budgets are not exact. This is due to the size of the model cells and the approach used to extract data from the model. To avoid double accounting, a model cell that straddles a political boundary, such as a district or county boundary, is assigned to one side of the boundary based on the location of the centroid of the model cell. For example, if a cell contains two counties, the cell is assigned to the county where the centroid of the cell is located.

TABLE 1: SUMMARIZED INFORMATION FOR THE YEGUA-JACKSON AQUIFER THAT IS NEEDED FOR THE LOWER TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN. ALL VALUES ARE REPORTED IN ACRE-FEET PER YEAR AND ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST 1 ACRE-FOOT.

<i>Management Plan requirement</i>	<i>Aquifer or confining unit</i>	<i>Results</i>
Estimated annual amount of recharge from precipitation to the district	Yegua-Jackson Aquifer	4,114
Estimated annual volume of water that discharges from the aquifer to springs and any surface water body including lakes, streams, and rivers	Yegua-Jackson Aquifer	3,879
Estimated annual volume of flow into the district within each aquifer in the district	Yegua-Jackson Aquifer	1,950
Estimated annual volume of flow out of the district within each aquifer in the district	Yegua-Jackson Aquifer	2,826
Estimated net annual volume of flow between each aquifer in the district	To the Yegua-Jackson Aquifer from the confined portion of the Yegua and Jackson groups	434



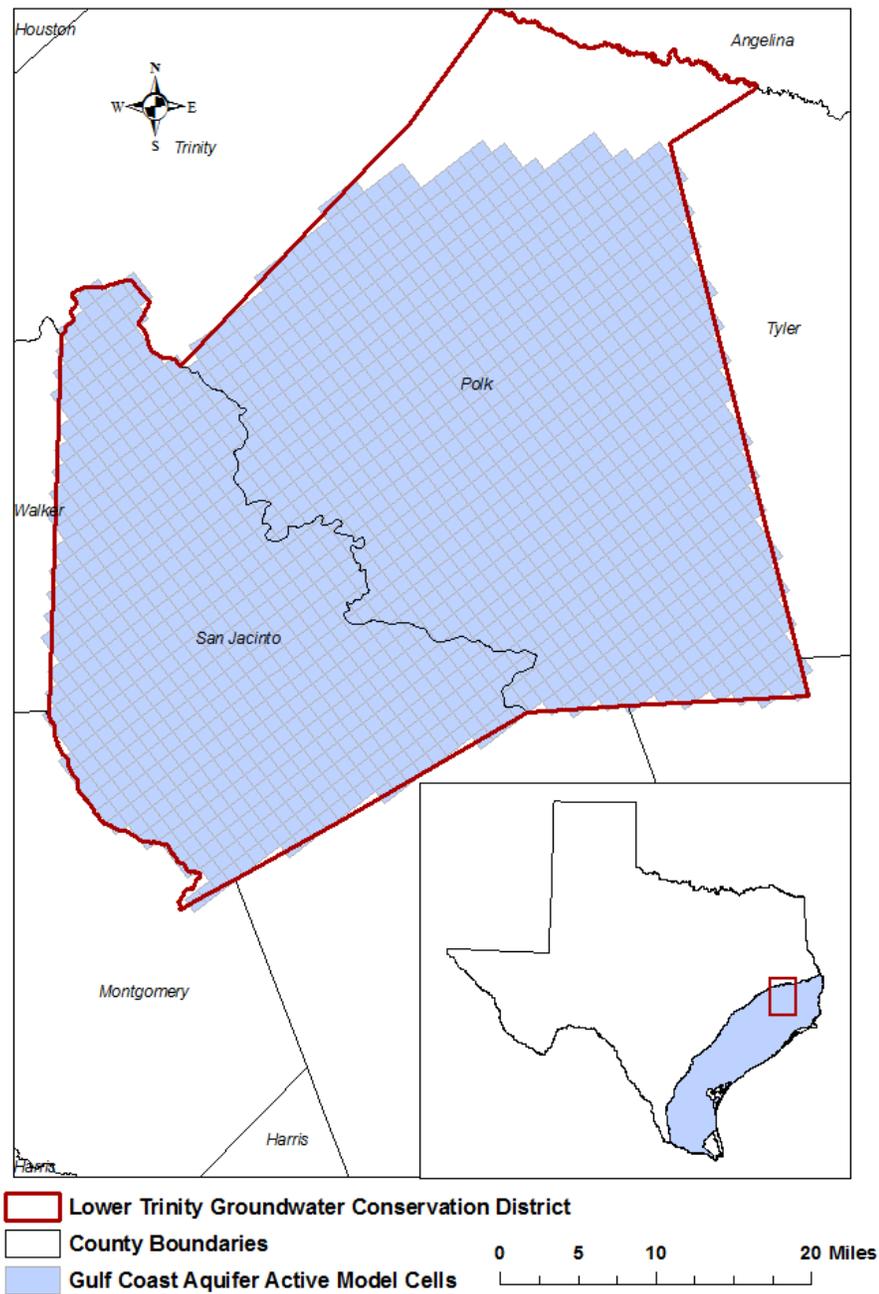
gcd boundary date = 09.25.13, county boundary date = 02.02.11, ygjk model grid date = 02.13.14

FIGURE 1: AREA OF THE GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY MODEL FOR THE YEGUA-JACKSON AQUIFER FROM WHICH THE INFORMATION IN TABLE 1 WAS EXTRACTED (THE YEGUA-JACKSON AQUIFER EXTENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT BOUNDARY).

TABLE 2: SUMMARIZED INFORMATION FOR THE GULF COAST AQUIFER SYSTEM THAT IS NEEDED FOR THE LOWER TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN. ALL VALUES ARE REPORTED IN ACRE-FEET PER YEAR AND ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST 1 ACRE-FOOT.

<i>Management Plan requirement</i>	<i>Aquifer or confining unit</i>	<i>Results</i>
Estimated annual amount of recharge from precipitation to the district	Gulf Coast Aquifer System	23,261 ¹
Estimated annual volume of water that discharges from the aquifer to springs and any surface water body including lakes, streams, and rivers	Gulf Coast Aquifer System	16,820 ¹
Estimated annual volume of flow into the district within each aquifer in the district	Gulf Coast Aquifer System	3,618
Estimated annual volume of flow out of the district within each aquifer in the district	Gulf Coast Aquifer System	11,614
Estimated net annual volume of flow between each aquifer in the district	To the confined portion of the Yegua-Jackson units from the Gulf Coast Aquifer and other overlying units	104

¹ We have changed the approach for estimating recharge and surface water discharge from the groundwater availability model for the Gulf Coast Aquifer System. In previous reports we extracted general head boundary outflows for areas representing stream channels and reported surface water discharge for those zones, and we reported general head boundary inflow as recharge for areas not covered by stream channels. For this analysis we represent all general head boundary inflow within the groundwater conservation district as recharge and all general head boundary outflow as surface water discharge.



gcd boundary date = 09.25.13, county boundary date = 02.02.11, glfc_n model grid date = 02.13.14

FIGURE 2: AREA OF THE GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY MODEL FOR THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE GULF COAST AQUIFER SYSTEM FROM WHICH THE INFORMATION IN TABLE 2 WAS EXTRACTED (THE GULF COAST AQUIFER SYSTEM EXTENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT BOUNDARY).

LIMITATIONS:

The groundwater model(s) used in completing this analysis is the best available scientific tool that can be used to meet the stated objective(s). To the extent that this analysis will be used for planning purposes and/or regulatory purposes related to pumping in the past and into the future, it is important to recognize the assumptions and limitations associated with the use of the results. In reviewing the use of models in environmental regulatory decision making, the National Research Council (2007) noted:

“Models will always be constrained by computational limitations, assumptions, and knowledge gaps. They can best be viewed as tools to help inform decisions rather than as machines to generate truth or make decisions. Scientific advances will never make it possible to build a perfect model that accounts for every aspect of reality or to prove that a given model is correct in all respects for a particular regulatory application. These characteristics make evaluation of a regulatory model more complex than solely a comparison of measurement data with model results.”

A key aspect of using the groundwater model to evaluate historic groundwater flow conditions includes the assumptions about the location in the aquifer where historic pumping was placed. Understanding the amount and location of historic pumping is as important as evaluating the volume of groundwater flow into and out of the district, between aquifers within the district (as applicable), interactions with surface water (as applicable), recharge to the aquifer system (as applicable), and other metrics that describe the impacts of that pumping. In addition, assumptions regarding precipitation, recharge, and interaction with streams are specific to particular historic time periods.

Because the application of the groundwater models was designed to address regional scale questions, the results are most effective on a regional scale. The TWDB makes no warranties or representations related to the actual conditions of any aquifer at a particular location or at a particular time.

It is important for groundwater conservation districts to monitor groundwater pumping and overall conditions of the aquifer. Because of the limitations of the groundwater model and the assumptions in this analysis, it is important that the groundwater conservation districts work with the TWDB to refine this analysis in the future given the reality of how the aquifer responds to the actual amount and location of pumping now and in the future. Historic precipitation patterns also need to be placed in context as future climatic conditions, such as dry and wet year precipitation patterns, may differ and affect groundwater flow conditions.

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