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RECONNAISSANCE OF THE CHEMICAL QUALITY OF SURFACE WATERS OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER BASIN, TEXAS

By

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RECONNAISSANCE OF THE CHEMICAL QUALITY OF SURFACE WATERS OF THE

SAN ANTONIO RIVER BASIN, TEXAS

ABSTRACT

The kinds and quantities of minerals dissolved in surface waters of the San Antonio River basin are related principally to the geology of the area and to rainfall and streamflow characteristics. Municipal and industrial wastes have degraded the natural quality of water in some streams.

Rocks exposed in the basin range in age from Cretaceous to Quaternary. The upper part of the basin is underlain by the Edwards and associated limestones and Glen Rose Limestone. Streams that traverse these outcrops usually contain less than 325 mg/l (milligrams per liter) dissolved solids but are very hard. Principal chemical constituents are calcium and bicarbonate. Dissolved-solids content of water in the lower reach of Medina River averages more than 325 mg/l because of municipal and industrial pollution.

The chemical composition of water in streams that traverse younger formations in the central and lower part of the basin is variable. However, the dissolvedsolids content of most streams not appreciably affected by pollution averages less than 200 mg/l. Water in these streams usually is moderately hard. Although the chemical quality of water in the mainstem San Antonio River and the lower reach of Cibolo Creek is being degraded by municipal, industrial, and irrigation wastes, the discharge-weighted concentration of dissolved solids in both streams averages less than 500 mg/l. Water in both streams usually is very hard.

The chloride content of surface waters in the basin generally averages less than 20 mg/l, except in areas where the chemical quality is being degraded considerably by pollution.

The concentration of chemical constituents in surface waters throughout much of the basin is within limits recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service for domestic use. The waters also are suitable for most irrigation uses. However, the water throughout much of the basin is moderately hard or very hard and will require softening for most industrial uses.

RECONNAISSANCE OF THE CHEMICAL QUALITY OF SURFACE WATERS OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER BASIN, TEXAS

INTRODUCTION

The investigation of the chemical quality of surface waters of the San Antonio River basin, Texas, is a part of a statewide reconnaissance. The chemical quality of surface waters in each of the major river basins is being studied, and a series of reports summarizing the results of the study is being prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Texas Water Development Board. (See list of references.)

The purpose of this report is to present available data and interpretations on the quality of surface waters that will aid in the proper development, management, and use of the water resources of the San Antonio River basin. In the study, the following factors were considered: the nature and concentrations of mineral constituents in solution; the geologic, hydrologic, and cultural influences that determine the water quality; and the suitability of the water for municipal supply, industrial use, and irrigation.

A network of daily chemical-guality stations on principal streams in Texas is operated by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Texas Water Development Board and with federal and local agencies. However, this network has not been adequate to inventory completely the chemical quality of surface waters in the State. To supplement the information being obtained by the network, a cooperative statewide reconnaissance by the U.S. Geological Survey and Texas Water Development Board was begun in September 1961. Samples for chemical analysis are collected periodically at numerous sites throughout Texas so that some quality-of-water information will be available for locations where water-development projects are likely to be built. These data aid in the delineation of areas having water-quality problems and in the identification of probable sources of pollution, thus indicating areas in which more detailed investigations are needed.

During the reconnaissance, water-quality data were collected for the principal streams and several of their tributaries, Medina Lake, and a number of potential reservoir sites. Agencies that have cooperated in the collection of chemical quality and streamflow data include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, Edwards Underground Water District, Bexar Metropolitan Water District, city of San Antonio, and Texas State Department of Health.

THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER BASIN AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

Physical Features

The San Antonio River basin comprises an area of more than 4,100 square miles in south-central Texas and includes parts of two physiographic sections—the Edwards Plateau of the Great Plains province and the West Gulf Coastal Plain of the Coastal Plain province (Figure 1). These physiographic sections within the basin are separated by the Balcones Escarpment. Although both the Edwards Plateau and the top of the Balcones Escarpment are partly protected from erosion by a cap of very resistant limestone, streams that rise in the plateau have cut broad valleys below the upland surface. Between these valleys, remnants of the resistant limestone form steep cliffs. The resulting terrain is rough and rugged and the soil mantle is very thin—except along the major stream valleys.

The West Gulf Coastal Plain section within the basin extends from the Balcones Escarpment to the Gulf of Mexico. In this section the rolling to moderately hilly country merges with the level, nearly featureless prairie of the Gulf Coast.

The principal stream that drains the Edwards Plateau section of the basin is the Medina River, which rises in the northwestern part of Bandera County, flows southeastward across the Edwards Plateau, and joins the San Antonio River about 15 miles south of the city of San Antonio (Figure 2).

The mainstem San Antonio River rises in the city of San Antonio near the center of Bexar County, flows southeastward across the West Gulf Coastal Plain, and



Figure 1.-River Basins in Texas and Physiographic Sections of the San Antonio River Basin

joins the Guadalupe River about 11 miles upstream from San Antonio Bay, an arm of the Gulf of Mexico. Another report (Rawson, 1968) describes the quality of water in the Guadalupe River basin.

Cibolo Creek, the principal tributary to the San Antonio River, rises in Kendall County in the Edwards Plateau section, flows southeastward across the Balcones Escarpment and West Gulf Coastal Plain section, and joins the San Antonio River in Karnes County.

Springflow from the Edwards and associated limestones in the Edwards Plateau contributes to the base flow of Medina River and Cibolo Creek. In turn, most of the base flow and a part of the floodflow infiltrates into the Balcones Fault zone on the outcrop of the Edwards and associated limestones (Garza, 1962, p. 4). Consequently, south of the Balcones Fault zone, these streams are often dry.

Climate

The San Antonio River basin has a dry subhumid climate (Thornthwaite, 1952, p. 32) characterized by mild winters and hot summers. Daily minimum temperatures during the winter are seldom less than 0° C (32° F); daily maximum temperatures during the summer usually exceed 32° C (90° F) and occasionally are greater than 38° C (100° F).

Mean annual precipitation in the basin is about 31 inches and ranges from about 26 inches in the west to about 37 inches in the southeast. Mean annual precipitation in the basin and annual and average monthly precipitation at two U.S. Weather Bureau stations for the 1931-60 period are shown on Figure 2. These data indicate that rainfall varies considerably from year to year but that the average monthly rainfall is fairly constant. However, much of the rainfall occurs during

thunderstorm activity; consequently, a few days of high intensity rainfall often account for much of the rainfall that occurs in any given month.

Cultural Features and Economic Development

The population of the San Antonio River basin in 1960 was about 700,000, more than 85 percent of which was urban. Three cities, all within the San Antonio metropolitan area, had more than 5,000 inhabitants in 1960 (San Antonio–587,718, Alamo Heights–7,552, and Terrell Hills–5,572).

Agriculture contributes substantially to the economy of the basin. Principal agricultural and livestock products include wool and mohair from the Edwards Plateau section, and poultry, beef cattle, dairy products, cotton, grain, grain sorghum, and vegetables from the West Gulf Coastal Plain section.

Although most of the basin is agriculturally oriented, the San Antonio area is a combined military, commercial, and light industrial center. Food processing, breweries, and tourism are also mainstays of the San Antonio economy.

The production of cement is an important industry in the basin because large deposits of limestone are abundant.

Surface-Water Resources Development

Three reservoirs in the San Antonio River basin have storage capacities of 5,000 acre-feet or more (Figure 8). (In the following discussion, total capacity is that capacity below the lowest uncontrolled outlet or spillway and is based on the most recent reservoir survey available.)

Medina Lake, owned and operated by the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa Counties Water Improvement District No. 1, is the largest reservoir in the basin. This 254,000 acre-foot reservoir on the Medina River supplies water for irrigation, mostly in the Nueces River basin.

Olmos Reservoir, which has a storage capacity of 15,500 acre-feet, is owned and operated by the city of San Antonio for flood protection of the city's business district. The reservoir, located on Olmos Creek in San Antonio, is maintained empty and the area is used for parks and playgrounds—except when needed for floodwater storage.

Victor Braunig Lake, constructed on Arroyo Seco by the City Public Service Board of San Antonio to supply cooling water for a steam-electric generating plant, has a storage capacity of 26,500 acre-feet. Inflow to the lake consists of runoff from the drainage area of Arroyo Seco supplemented by water pumped from the San Antonio River.

CHEMICAL QUALITY OF SURFACE WATER

Chemical-Quality Records

The systematic collection of chemical-quality data on surface waters of the San Antonio River basin by the U.S. Geological Survey was begun in 1942 when a daily sampling station was established on the San Antonio River at Goliad. This station was discontinued in 1946 but was reestablished in 1958. Data obtained from the station until it was discontinued in 1946 consisted of chemical analyses of filtrates from samples collected by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for the determination of suspended matter. Usually only specific conductance and chloride determinations were made on these filtered samples. Since reestablishment of the station in 1958, chemical analyses have been more comprehensive, and the discharge-weighted averages of analyses have been computed annually. The only other station in the basin for which daily chemical-quality records are available is San Antonio River near Elmendorf, which was established in October 1966. However, periodic or miscellaneous chemical-quality data are available for several additional sites in the basin. Locations of selected data-collection sites are shown on Figure 8. Chemicalquality data for the daily station San Antonio River at Goliad are summarized in Table 5, and the complete records are published in an annual series of U.S. Geological Survey water-supply papers and in reports of the Texas Water Development Board and predecessor agencies. (See table in the list of references.) Results of selected periodic and miscellaneous analyses are given in Table 6. Included in Table 6 are results of analyses of samples collected periodically from the station San Antonio River near Elmendorf before its conversion to a daily station.

The Texas State Department of Health since 1957 has maintained a statewide stream-sampling program which includes the periodic determination of pH, dissolved solids, chloride, and sulfate at eight sites in the San Antonio River basin. Data from this program were made available to the Geological Survey and were studied during the preparation of this report.

Factors Affecting Chemical Quality of Water

All natural waters contain dissolved minerals, most of which are dissociated into charged particles (ions). Principal cations (positively charged ions) are calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), sodium (Na), potassium (K), and iron (Fe). Principal anions (negatively charged ions) are carbonate (CO_3), bicarbonate (HCO_3), sulfate (SO_4), chloride (Cl), fluoride (F), and nitrate (NO_3). These and

Table 1.-Source and Significance of Dissolved-Mineral Constituents and Properties of Water

CONSTITUENT OR PROPERTY	SOURCE OR CAUSE	SIGNIFICANCE
Silica (SiO ₂)	Dissolved from practically all rocks and soils, commonly less than 30 mg/l. High concentra- tions, as much as 100 mg/l, gener- ally occur in highly alkaline waters.	Forms hard scale in pipes and boilers. Carried over in steam of high pressure boilers to form deposits on blades of turbines. Inhibits deterioration of zeolite-type water softeners.
Iron (Fe)	Dissolved from practically all rocks and soils. May also be derived from iron pipes, pumps, and other equipment. More than 1 or 2 mg/l of iron in surface waters generally indicate acid wastes from mine drainage or other sources.	On exposure to air, iron in ground water oxidizes to reddish- brown precipitate. More than about 0.3 mg/l stain laundry and utensils reddish-brown. Objectionable for food processing, tex- tile processing, beverages, ice manufacture, brewing, and other processes. U.S. Public Health Service (1962) drinking-water standards state that iron should not exceed 0.3 mg/l. Larger quantities cause unpleasant taste and favor growth of iron bacteria.
Calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg)	Dissolved from practically all soils and rocks, but especially from limestone, dolomite, and gypsum. Calcium and magnesium are found in large quantities in some brines. Magnesium is present in large quantities in sea water.	Cause most of the hardness and scale-forming properties of water; soap consuming (see hardness). Waters low in calcium and magnesium desired in electroplating, tanning, dyeing, and in textile manufacturing.
Sodium (Na) and potassium (K)	Dissolved from practically all rocks and soils. Found also in ancient brines, sea water, indus- trial brines, and sewage.	Large amounts, in combination with chloride, give a salty taste. Moderate quantities have little effect on the usefulness of water for most purposes. Sodium salts may cause foaming in steam boilers and a high sodium content may limit the use of water for irrigation.
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃) and carbonate (CO ₃)	Action of carbon dioxide in water on carbonate rocks such as lime- stone and dolomite.	Bicarbonate and carbonate produce alkalinity. Bicarbonates of calcium and magnesium decompose in steam boilers and hot water facilities to form scale and release corrosive carbon dioxide gas. In combination with calcium and magnesium, cause carbon- ate hardness.
Sulfate (SO ₄)	Dissolved from rocks and soils containing gypsum, iron sulfides, and other sulfur compounds. Commonly present in mine waters and in some industrial wastes.	Sulfate in water containing calcium forms hard scale in steam boilers. In large amounts, sulfate in combination with other ions gives bitter taste to water. Some calcium sulfate is considered beneficial in the brewing process. U.S. Public Health Service (1962) drinking-water standards recommend that the sulfate content should not exceed 250 mg/l.
Chloride (Cl)	Dissolved from rocks and soils. Present in sewage and found in large amounts in ancient brines, sea water, and industrial brines.	In large amounts in combination with sodium, gives salty taste to drinking water. In large quantities, increases the corrosiveness of water. U.S. Public Health Service (1962) drinking-water standards recommend that the chloride content should not exceed 250 mg/l.
Fluoride (F)	Dissolved in small to minute quantities from most rocks and soils. Added to many waters by fluoridation of municipal sup- plies.	Fluoride in drinking water reduces the incidence of tooth decay when the water is consumed during the period of enamel calcification. However, it may cause mottling of the teeth, depending on the concentration of fluoride, the age of the child, amount of drinking water consumed, and susceptibility of the individual. (Maier, 1950)
Nitrate (NO ₃)	Decaying organic matter, sewage, fertilizers, and nitrates in soil.	Concentration much greater than the local average may suggest pollution. U.S. Public Health Service (1962) drinking-water standards suggest a limit of 45 mg/l. Waters of high nitrate content have been reported to be the cause of methemoglo- binemia (an often fatal disease in infants) and therefore should not be used in infant feeding. Nitrate has been shown to be helpful in reducing inter-crystalline cracking of boiler steel. It encourages growth of algae and other organisms which produce undesirable tastes and odors.
Dissolved solids	Chiefly mineral constituents dissolved from rocks and soils. Includes some water of crystal- lization.	U.S. Public Health Service (1962) drinking-water standards recommend that waters containing more than 500 mg/l dissolved solids not be used if other less mineralized supplies are available. Waters containing more than 1000 mg/l dissolved solids are unsuitable for many purposes.

Table 1.-Source and Significance of Dissolved-Mineral Constituents and Properties of Water-Continued

CONSTITUENT OR PROPERTY	SOURCE OR CAUSE	SIGNIFICANCE
Hardness as CaCO ₃	In most waters nearly all the hardness is due to calcium and magnesium. All the metallic cations other than the alkali metals also cause hardness.	Consumes soap before a lather will form. Deposits soap curd on bathtubs. Hard water forms scale in boilers, water heaters, and pipes. Hardness equivalent to the bicarbonate and carbonate is called carbonate hardness. Any hardness in excess of this is called non-carbonate hardness. Waters of hardness as much as 60 mg/l are considered soft; 61-120 mg/l, moderately hard; 121-180 mg/l, hard; more than 180 mg/l, very hard.
Specific conductance (micromhos at 25°C)	Mineral content of the water.	Indicates degree of mineralization. Specific conductance is a measure of the capacity of the water to conduct an electric current. Varies with concentration and degree of ionization of the constituents.
Hydrogen ion concentration (pH)	Acids, acid-generating salts, and free carbon dioxide lower the pH. Carbonates, bicarbonates, hydrox- ides, phosphates, silicates, and borates raise the pH.	A pH of 7.0 indicates neutrality of a solution. Values higher than 7.0 denote increasing alkalinity; values lower than 7.0 indicate increasing acidity. pH is a measure of the activity of the hydrogen ions. Corrosiveness of water generally increases with decreasing pH. However, excessively alkaline waters may also attack metals.

other constituents and properties are determined to evaluate the chemical quality of water. Table 1 lists the constituents and properties commonly determined by the U.S. Geological Survey and includes a resume of their source and significance.

Waters are classified usually in various ways to demonstrate similarities and differences in chemical composition. In the following discussion which relates chemical quality of water to environmental factors, waters are classified on the basis of chemical type and degree of hardness. As to chemical type, water is classified according to the predominant cations and anions in milliequivalents per liter. For example, a water is referred to as a calcium bicarbonate type if the calcium ion constitutes 50 percent or more of the cations and the bicarbonate ion constitutes 50 percent or more of the anions. Waters in which one cation and one anion are not clearly predominant are recognized as mixed types and are identified by names of all important ions.

On the basis of hardness, waters are classified as soft, moderately hard, hard, or very hard. (See tabulation on page 15.)

Geology

The kinds and amounts of dissolved constituents in unpolluted surface waters are determined to a large extent by the geologic environment. All rocks and soils contain soluble minerals, but the amount of minerals available for solution is decreased by leaching. Therefore, rocks and soils in areas of high rainfall usually are well leached and yield water of low mineralization, whereas rocks and soils in arid regions are poorly leached and often yield large quantities of minerals to circulating waters.

Mean annual precipitation in the San Antonio River basin is about 31 inches; consequently, many of the more soluble minerals have been leached from the surface rocks and soils. The dissolved-mineral content of unpolluted surface runoff in the basin usually averages less than 325 mg/l (milligrams per liter).

Most streams in the basin traverse more than one geologic formation; consequently, water in some of these streams is a composite of several different chemical types. Moreover, the chemical composition of water in some streams is altered by municipal or industrial pollutants. For these reasons, the following discussion which relates chemical composition of surface waters to geology is very general.

The geology of the San Antonio River basin has been described by Alexander, Myers, and Dale (1964, p. 29-50). Rocks exposed in the basin consist of sediments that range in age from Cretaceous to Quaternary; the outcrop areas of the various geologic units are shown in Figure 3.

A few chemical analyses of surface water are represented diagrammatically (Stiff, 1951) in Figure 3 to relate chemical composition to geology. The shape of each diagram indicates the relative concentration of the principal chemical constituents; the size of the diagram indicates roughly the degree of mineralization. Most of the samples for which diagrams are shown on Figure 3 were collected during low flow periods when the flow was sustained by the inflow of ground water.

The Edwards Plateau section of the basin is underlain by the Edwards and associated limestones and Glen Rose Limestone of Cretaceous age. These rocks consist largely of limestone, dolomitic limestone, marl, and shale. Chemical analyses of samples collected from Medina Lake indicate that runoff from these rocks averages less than 325 mg/l dissolved solids and is very hard. The water is a calcium bicarbonate type and is typical of water that drains a terrane of impure limestone (Figure 3, site 2).

In the West Gulf Coastal Plain section of the San Antonio River basin, successively younger formations crop out in narrow belts roughly parallel to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Rocks from the Grayson Shale of Late Cretaceous age to the Wills Point Formation of the Midway Group of Paleocene age were considered as a unit by Alexander, Myers, and Dale (1964, p. 41) and are mapped together on Figure 3. These rocks, which crop out in a belt from 10 to 15 miles wide in the upper part of the West Gulf Coastal Plain section, consist largely of clay, marl, limestone, and sandstone. Data on the chemical character of surface runoff from these rocks in the San Antonio River basin are lacking. However, in the adjoining Guadalupe River basin, low flows of streams that traverse these rocks usually contain less than 500 mg/l dissolved solids and are calcium bicarbonate or mixed calcium sodium bicarbonate sulfate types.

Other rocks that crop out in the upper and central part of the West Gulf Coastal Plain section include the Wilcox Group, Claiborne Group, Jackson Group, Catahoula Tuff, and the lower part of the Fleming Formation of Tertiary age. These rocks consist largely of sand, sandstone, silt, clay, and gravel. The chemical character of water in streams that traverse these rocks is variable. The dissolved-solids content of low flows in Ecleto Creek near Runge has ranged from less than 100 mg/l to more than 750 mg/l. Principal chemical constituents in the more highly mineralized low flows usually are sodium, calcium, and bicarbonate (Figure 3, site 10).



Figure 4.- Relation of Concentration of Dissolved Solids to Water Discharge, San Antonio River at Goliad, Water Years 1959-66

During high flow periods, the water usually contains less than 200 mg/l dissolved solids and is the calcium bicarbonate type.

The dissolved-solids concentration of water in Escondido Creek, which traverses outcrops of Catahoula Tuff and the lower part of the Fleming Formation, usually is less than 250 mg/l. Principal chemical constituents are calcium and bicarbonate, and the water is moderately hard or hard (Figure 3, site 12).

Formations that crop out in the lower part of the San Antonio River basin, in downstream order, are the upper part of the Fleming Formation and Goliad Sand of Tertiary age and the Lissie Formation and Beaumont Clay of Quaternary age. Chemical-quality data for streams that traverse these rocks are lacking; consequently, no generalization about the chemical character of runoff can be made. However, since rainfall in this area averages more than 32 inches annually, the dissolved-solids content of surface runoff probably is low.

Streamflow

The dissolved-solids concentration of streams not regulated by upstream reservoirs usually varies inversely with the water discharge. The concentration usually is minimum during floods when most of the water is surface runoff that has been in contact with the rocks and soils for a short time. Conversely, the concentration is maximum during low flow periods when the flow is sustained by ground-water effluent that has been in contact with the rocks and soils for a sufficient time to dissolve more of the soluble minerals. Figure 4 shows this general relationship to be true for the San Antonio River at Goliad. However, the scatter of points in Figure 4 shows that the inverse relationship between streamflow and concentration of dissolved solids is not precise. Obviously, the concentration of dissolved solids has varied somewhat at all rates of water discharge. Although part of the variation is related to the diverse geology and pattern of runoff from subbasins, the intermittent disposition of municipal and industrial wastes into the river is responsible for much of the variation.

Activities of Man

The activities of man often debase the chemical quality of surface water. Depletion of flow by diversion and consumptive use, and the return flow of irrigation, municipal, and industrial wastes into a stream increase the concentration of dissolved constituents.

According to an inventory by the Texas Water Commission (Gillett and Janca, 1965, p. 39), about 78,600 acre-feet of water was used for irrigation in the San Antonio River basin in 1964. (This does not include water diverted from Medina Lake for irrigation in the Nueces River basin.) Surface-water sources supplied about 32,200 acre-feet, much of which was effluent from San Antonio waste-disposal facilities. The return flow of water used for irrigation has degraded the quality of water in some streams. However, the use of municipal waste water for irrigation has reduced the waste-disposal burden of streams in the San Antonio area.

Chemical-quality data indicate that the return flow of municipal, industrial, and irrigation wastes from the San Antonio area has caused a considerable increase of dissolved minerals in the San Antonio River and the lower reach of the Medina River. Available data for miscellaneous sites indicate that the concentration of dissolved solids in tributary inflow, downstream from the mouth of Medina River, averages less than 300 mg/l, whereas the discharge-weighted concentration of dissolved solids in the San Antonio River at Goliad during the 1959-66 water years averaged 413 mg/l.

Similarly, the quality of water in Cibolo Creek is being degraded by municipal, industrial, and irrigation return flows, especially during periods when natural streamflow is low (Holland and Welborn, 1965, p. 7). During low flow periods, water in Cibolo Creek at Falls City has contained as much as 796 mg/l dissolved solids. Elm Creek, a small tributary to Cibolo Creek, has contained as much as 3,010 mg/l dissolved solids, of which 1,120 mg/l was chloride. Elm Creek drains one of the largest oil fields in the area, and the high concentrations of dissolved solids and chloride indicate that some oil-field brine has reached the stream (Holland and Welborn, 1965, p. 6). Although the inflow of wastes has caused some deterioration of the chemical quality of water in Cibolo Creek, available data indicate that the discharge-weighted concentration of dissolved solids averages less than 300 mg/l.

Daily Variations of Water Quality

The amount of dissolved constituents in a stream is ever changing. Because one or more constituents sometimes may exceed the limit recommended for a specific use, a knowledge of the daily variations of chemical constituents at a particular site is desirable. Table 2 provides this information for selected chemical constituents in water that passed the daily chemicalquality station San Antonio River at Goliad during the 1959-66 water years.

Table 2.—Concentrations of Selected Constituents (in Milligrams per Liter) That Were Equaled or Exceeded for Indicated Percentage of Days of Flow, San Antonio River at Goliad, Water Years 1959-66

CONSITUENT	PERCENT					
CONSTICENT	10	25	50	75	90 F	F
Sulfate (SO ₄)	120	110	100	80	50	1
Chloride (Cl)	145	130	115	90	50	
Dissolved solids	685	640	585	490	345	
Hardness as CaCO ₃	355	335	310	270	200	/

Although daily samples were collected from the San Antonio River at Goliad, a complete chemical analysis of each daily sample was not feasible. Therefore, two or more daily samples usually were composited for chemical analysis on the basis of specific conductance, supplemented by data on river stage. For this study, the dissolved-solids content of each daily sample was estimated from the relation of specific conductance to dissolved solids. These data were used to prepare a dissolved-solids duration curve (Figure 5) from which the dissolved-solids values in Table 2 were compiled. Next, curves of relation between dissolved solids and concentrations of sulfate, chloride, and hardness were prepared (Figure 6). Then, for each value of dissolved solids in Table 2, corresponding concentrations of sulfate, chloride, and hardness were tabulated. The resulting Table 2 shows that the concentrations of sulfate, chloride, dissolved solids, and hardness are fairly constant in the mainstem San Antonio River.

Although data in Table 2 and Figure 6 can be used as a rough guide for estimating the percentage of days that a particular concentration will be exceeded in the future, excessively dry or wet years or radical changes in land use or industrial development may cause significant changes in concentrations of some constituents.

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Figure 5.-Duration Curve of Dissolved Solids, San Antonio River at Goliad, Water Years 1959-66



Areal Variations of Water Quality

Some of the previous sections have shown that the concentrations of dissolved constituents vary from stream to stream and from site to site on the same stream. The areal variations of the discharge-weighted average concentrations of dissolved solids, chloride, and hardness are shown in Figure 9. The discharge-weighted average represents approximately the concentration that would be present if all water passing a point in the stream during a period were impounded in a reservoir and mixed, with no adjustment for evaporation, rainfall, or chemical change that might occur during storage. Chemical-quality data for some streams in the basin are meager, especially for floodflows; therefore, the boundaries of the areas in Figure 9 are general. All of the streams will at times have concentrations greater than those shown for their respective areas, but the averages shown in Figure 9 are indicative of the water that would be stored in reservoirs.

Dissolved Solids

The discharge-weighted concentration of dissolved solids in streams that traverse the Edwards Plateau section of the basin averages less than 325 mg/l. Tributary streams that traverse the West Gulf Coastal Plain section of the basin and join the mainstem San Antonio River downstream from the mouth of Medina River generally contain less than 200 mg/l dissolved solids.

Cibolo Creek rises in the Edwards Plateau section and traverses the West Gulf Coastal Plain section. Available data indicate that flow in Cibolo Creek originating in the Edwards Plateau contains about 300 mg/l dissolved solids. However, as Cibolo Creek crosses the Balcones Fault zone, part of this flow is lost as recharge to the Edwards and associated limestones. As the flow remaining in Cibolo Creek moves downstream, its quality is degraded somewhat by the inflow of municipal, industrial, and irrigation wastes. However, natural runoff from the West Gulf Coastal Plain section of the drainage area is low in dissolved solids. Thus, the discharge-weighted concentration of dissolved solids in the lower reach of Cibolo Creek averages about 280 mg/l.

Flow in the mainstem San Antonio River and the lower reach of the Medina River is sustained partly by the inflow of municipal and industrial wastes from the San Antonio area. Nevertheless, the discharge-weighted concentration of dissolved solids in water throughout the mainstem and in the lower reach of Medina River averages less than 500 mg/l. During the 1959-66 water years, for example, the dissolved-solids content of the San Antonio River at Goliad averaged 413 mg/l.

Hardness

Surface runoff from the limestone terrane of the Edwards Plateau section of the basin is very hard. For example, available data indicate that the discharge-weighted concentration of hardness in the upper reaches of Medina River averages more than 200 mg/l.

Surface runoff from the West Gulf Coastal Plain section of the basin generally is moderately hard; the discharge-weighted averages of hardness in most tributaries that join the San Antonio River downstream from the mouth of Medina River are less than 100 mg/l. However, available data indicate that the hardness of water in Cibolo Creek averages more than 180 mg/l.

Water throughout the mainstem San Antonio River is very hard. The discharge-weighted hardness in the San Antonio River at Goliad averaged 228 mg/l during the 1959-66 water years.

Chloride

The chloride content of surface waters in the San Antonio River basin is low—the discharge-weighted concentration in most streams averages less than 20 mg/l. However, the chloride content of water in the mainstem San Antonio River and the lower reaches of Medina River and Cibolo Creek averages more than 20 mg/l because of the inflow of municipal and industrial wastes. Available data indicate that the dischargeweighted chloride concentration averages about 50 mg/l in the lower reach of the Medina River and about 25 mg/l in the lower reach of Cibolo Creek. During the 1959-66 water years, the discharge-weighted concentration of chloride in the San Antonio River at Goliad averaged 68 mg/l.

Other Constituents

Other constituents of importance in the evaluation of the quality of a water include silica, sodium, bicarbonate, sulfate, fluoride, and nitrate.

The silica content of surface water in the San Antonio River basin generally averages less than 20 mg/l. During the 1959-66 water years, the discharge-weighted silica concentration in the San Antonio River at Goliad averaged 17 mg/l.

The sodium content of surface water throughout the basin generally averages less than 20 mg/l—except in areas where pollution is occurring. Available data indicate that the sodium content of water in the lower reach of Cibolo Creek averages about 35 mg/l. The dischargeweighted sodium plus potassium concentration (calculated as sodium) in water of the San Antonio River at Goliad averaged 55 mg/l during the 1959-66 water years. Bicarbonate is the principal anion in streams that traverse the Edwards and associated limestones and Glen Rose Limestone. Available data indicate that the bicarbonate content of these streams averages more than 175 mg/l. The bicarbonate content of most streams that traverse younger formations is somewhat variable but generally averages less than 150 mg/l. However, the discharge-weighted concentration of bicarbonate in water of the San Antonio River at Goliad averaged 215 mg/l during the 1959-66 water years.

The sulfate content of surface water in the Edwards Plateau section of the San Antonio River basin generally averages less than 75 mg/l. The sulfate content of most streams in the West Gulf Coastal Plain section averages less than 20 mg/l; however, the inflow of pollutants has increased the average sulfate content in some streams. Available data indicate that the sulfate content of water in the lower reach of Cibolo Creek averages about 50 mg/l. During the 1959-66 water years, the discharge-weighted concentration of sulfate in the San Antonio River at Goliad averaged 67 mg/l.

Although the nitrate content of most streams in the San Antonio River basin seldom exceeds 4.0 mg/l, the disposition of municipal wastes has caused a considerable increase in the nitrate content of the mainstem San Antonio River. During the 1959-66 water years, for example, the discharge-weighted concentration of nitrate in the San Antonio River at Goliad averaged 8.2 mg/l. Similarly, the nitrate content of water in Cibolo Creek is fairly high during some periods—water collected from Cibolo Creek near Falls City has contained as much as 7.6 mg/l nitrate.

The concentration of fluoride in surface waters of the San Antonio River basin seldom exceeds 0.7 mg/l. The discharge-weighted concentration of fluoride in the San Antonio River at Goliad averaged 0.4 mg/l during the 1959-66 water years.

Water Quality in Medina Lake

Medina Lake stores water of the calcium bicarbonate type that is hard or very hard. The dissolvedsolids content of six samples collected from the reservoir during the period from November 1950 to June 1965 averaged 303 mg/l, of which 14 mg/l was chloride and 75 mg/l was sulfate.

Water Quality at Potential Reservoir Sites

One of the principal objectives of this reconnaissance was to appraise the quality of water available for storage at potential reservoir sites. The locations of three potential reservoir sites are shown on Figure 8. In the following discussion, evaluations of the water quality at these sites are based on present conditions. Municipal and industrial growth in some areas may increase the waste-disposal burdens of the streams and may cause significant changes in water quality before some of the reservoirs can be built.

Cibolo.—Chemical analyses of samples collected from Cibolo Creek near Falls City indicate that water stored in Cibolo Reservoir would contain about 280 mg/l dissolved solids, 25 mg/l chloride, and 50 mg/l sulfate. The water usually would be very hard.

Goliad.—Discharge-weighted average analyses of water collected from the daily station San Antonio River at Goliad indicate that water stored in Goliad Reservoir would contain about 420 mg/l dissolved solids, 70 mg/l chloride, 70 mg/l sulfate, and 230 mg/l hardness.

Confluence.—Confluence Reservoir would store water from both the San Antonio and Guadalupe Rivers. Daily chemical-quality records for the San Antonio River at Goliad and Guadalupe River at Victoria (Rawson, 1968) indicate that the stored water would contain less than 350 mg/l dissolved solids, 50 mg/l chloride, and 50 mg/l sulfate and would be very hard.

Relation of Water Quality to Use

Although other water-quality criteria are important, the suitability of a water for most uses is often dependent on its chemical quality. To present chemicalquality criteria for all purposes would be an endless task. Because surface water in the San Antonio River basin is being used or developments are being planned primarily for municipal supply, industrial use, and irrigation, only these uses will be considered.

Municipal Supply

Because of differences in individuals, amounts of water used, and other factors, defining the safe limits for mineral constituents in water to be used for municipal supply is difficult. The criteria usually accepted in the United States are those recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service. These standards, originally established in 1914 to control the quality of water used for drinking and culinary purposes on interstate carriers, have been revised several times; the latest revision was in 1962 (U.S. Public Health Service, 1962). The limits recommended by these standards for some of the more commonly determined constituents are included in the following table.

CONSTITUENT	MAXIMUM CONCENTRATION MG/L
Sulfate	250
Chloride	250
Nitrate	45
Fluoride	0.8 1/
Iron	0.3
Dissolved solids	500

1/Based on temperature records for San Antonio.

The concentrations of sulfate, chloride, nitrate, and fluoride throughout much of the San Antonio River basin are within limits recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service. Although the concentration of dissolved solids in the mainstem San Antonio River and some of the tributaries often exceeds the recommended limit of 500 mg/l (Tables 2 and 6), a considerable number of water supplies containing more than 500 mg/l dissolved solids have been used for municipal supply without adverse effects. Moreover, the discharge-weighted concentration of dissolved solids in surface waters throughout the basin averages less than 500 mg/l.

Iron determinations usually were not included in the chemical analyses of surface-water samples collected from the San Antonio River basin. However, chemical analyses of water from shallow wells and Medina Lake indicate generally that iron concentrations in surface waters of the basin are within the U.S. Public Health Service recommended limit of 0.3 mg/l.

Hardness is another property usually considered in evaluating a water for municipal supply. Soaps and synthetic detergents react with calcium, magnesium, and other hardness components to form an insoluble curd; thus, the effective concentration of soaps and detergents is decreased in hard water. Surface waters in the Edwards Plateau section of the San Antonio River basin and in Cibolo Creek and San Antonio River are very hard and probably will require softening for domestic use.

Industrial Use

The quality requirements vary greatly for many industrial applications. A few of the maximum limits for chemical constituents in water to be used in industry are given in Table 3; for more detailed information on the requirements of specific industries, the reader is referred to Nordell (1961).

Corrosion is the most widespread and probably the most costly water-caused difficulty with which industry must cope. Consequently, the suitability of a water for many industrial applications is determined partly by its corrosiveness. Large concentrations of dissolved solids, chloride, and sulfate; small concentrations of calcium; and a low or high pH usually are conducive to corrosion. The concentrations of dissolved solids, chloride, and sulfate in surface waters in the San Antonio River basin are not excessive; the pH usually ranges between 6.5 and 8.0; and the waters usually are moderately hard or very hard. On the basis of these properties or constituents, the corrosive potential of surface waters in the basin is low.

Although some calcium hardness may be desirable for the prevention of corrosion, excessive hardness is objectionable for most industrial applications because it contributes to the formation of scale in steam boilers, pipes, water heaters, radiators, and various other equipment where water is heated, evaporated, or treated with alkaline material. The accumulation of scale increases cost for fuel, labor, repairs, and replacements, and lowers the quality of many wet-processed products. A comparison of hardness-duration data for the San Antonio River at Goliad (Table 2) and chemical analyses of water from miscellaneous sites (Table 6) with the classification of hardness in the following table shows that surface waters in the San Antonio River basin will require softening for some industrial applications. Otherwise, the waters are suitable for many industrial applications-or can be made suitable with a minimum of treatment.

HARDNESS (MG/L)	RATING	USABILITY
0 to 60	Soft	Suitable for many uses without further softening.
61 to 120	Moderately hard	Usable except in some industrial applications.
121 to 180	Hard	Softening required by some industries.
181+	Very hard	Softening desirable for most purposes.

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Irrigation

The suitability of a water for irrigation depends primarily on its chemical composition. However, the extent to which chemical quality limits the suitability of a water for irrigation depends on many factors, such as: the nature, composition, and drainage of the soil and subsoil; the amounts of water used and the methods of application; the kind of crops grown; and the climate of the region, including the amounts and distribution of rainfall. Because these factors are highly variable, every method of classifying waters for irrigation is somewhat arbitrary.

According to the U.S. Salinity Laboratory Staff (1954, p. 69) the most important characteristics in determining the quality of irrigation water are: (1) total concentration of soluble salts, (2) relative proportion of sodium to other cations, (3) concentration of boron or other elements that may be toxic, and (4) the excess of equivalents of carbonate plus bicarbonate over equivalents of calcium plus magnesium.

High concentrations of dissolved salts in irrigation water may cause a buildup of salts in the soil solution and may make the soil saline. The increased soil salinity may reduce crop yields drastically by decreasing the ability of the plants to take up water and essential plant nutrients from the soil solution. This tendency of irrigation water to cause a high buildup of salts in the soil is called the salinity hazard of the water. The specific conductance of the water is used as an index of the salinity hazard.

High concentrations of sodium relative to the concentrations of calcium and magnesium in irrigation water can adversely affect soil structure. Cations in the soil solution become fixed on the surface of the soil particles; calcium and magnesium tend to flocculate the particles, whereas sodium tends to deflocculate them. Deflocculation of the soil particles by sodium decreases the permeability of the soil. This tendency to deflocculate soil particles by high sodium concentrations in an irrigation water is called the sodium hazard of the water. An index used for predicting the sodium hazard is the sodium-adsorption ratio (SAR), which is defined by the equation:

$$SAR = \frac{Na^{+}}{\sqrt{\frac{Ca^{++} + Mg^{++}}{2}}}$$

where the concentrations of the ions are expressed in milliequivalents per liter.

The U.S. Salinity Laboratory Staff has prepared a classification for irrigation waters in terms of salinity and sodium hazards. Empirical equations were used in developing a diagram, reproduced in modified form as Figure 7, which uses SAR and specific conductance in classifying irrigation waters. This classification, although

embodying both research and field observations, should be used only for general guidance because many additional factors (such as availability of water for leaching, ratio of applied water to precipitation, and crops grown) affect the suitability of water for irrigation. With respect to both salinity and sodium hazards, waters are divided into four classes—low, medium, high, and very high. The classification range encompasses those waters that can be used for irrigation of most crops on most soils as well as those waters that are usually unsuitable for irrigation. Selection of class demarcation is discussed in detail in the publication by the U.S. Salinity Laboratory Staff (1954).

The salinity and sodium hazards of water at selected sites in the San Antonio River basin are given in Table 4 and Figure 7. Because the concentrations of dissolved solids and individual constituents vary somewhat with change in water discharge, Table 4 shows the sodium and salinity hazards for both low and high flows. These data show that the sodium hazard of surface waters throughout the basin is low. The salinity hazard is somewhat variable but usually ranges from medium to high during low-flow periods when rainfall is deficient and irrigation is desirable. The salinity hazard of water that passed the daily station San Antonio River at Goliad during the 1959-66 water years was high more than 75 percent of the time. The salinity hazard of water stored in Medina Lake usually is medium; the sodium



(Adapted from US. Salinity Laboratory Staff, 1954, p. 80) Figure 7.-Classification of Irrigation Waters

hazard is low. Available data indicate that the salinity hazard of water that would be stored in Cibolo, Goliad, and Confluence Reservoirs would be medium.

Surface water for irrigation in the San Antonio River basin is being used principally for the supplemental irrigation of pastures and fields producing feed, forage, and vegetables. Water-quality requirements for water used for supplemental irrigation of these crops are not stringent. Thus, the medium and high salinity hazards of surface water in the basin do not preclude the use of water for irrigation.

Other criteria for evaluating the suitability of water for irrigation include the boron content and residual sodium carbonate (excess of equivalents of carbonate plus bicarbonate over equivalents of calcium plus magnesium). Although small quantities of boron are essential for normal plant growth, concentrations that are required for the optimum growth of some plants are toxic to others. Water with residual sodium carbonate causes irrigated soils to become alkaline and thus reduces the soil's permeability.

Boron determinations usually were not included in the analyses of surface-water samples collected from the San Antonio River basin. However, the boron content of surface waters in the adjoining Guadalupe River basin is low. During the 1951-56 water years, for example, the discharge-weighted concentration of boron in the Guadalupe River at Victoria averaged 0.20 mg/l. Streams in the Guadalupe and San Antonio River basins traverse the same geologic formations; thus, the boron content of surface waters in the San Antonio River basin probably is low.

With regard to residual sodium carbonate, surface waters in the San Antonio River basin usually contain an excess of equivalents of calcium plus magnesium over equivalents of bicarbonate plus carbonate. Consequently, the residual sodium carbonate is usually zero.

Table 4.-Suitability of Waters for Irrigation

STATION (FIGURE 8)	STREAM AND LOCATION	I	DATE	WATER DISCHARGE (cfs)	SALINITY HAZARD	SODIUM HAZARD
2	Medina Lake near San Antonio	Nov. Oct.	28,1950 9,1964	-	do do	low Do.
4	San Antonio River near Elmendorf	May Apr.	18,1964 30,1965	15,200 226	do high	Do. Do.
6	Calaveras Creek near Elmendorf	Feb. May	23,1965 18,1965	1.11 1,340	low do	Do. Do.
7	San Antonio River near Falls City	Apr. May	10,1959 19,1956	433 5,010	high medium	Do. Do.
9	Cibolo Creek near Falls City	Aug. May	7,1962 18,1965	4.81 8,190	high medium	Do. Do.
10	Ecleto Creek near Runge	Jan. Jan.	30,1961 22,1965	1.1 2,650	high Iow	Do. Do.
12	Escondido Creek at Kenedy	Feb. Feb.	15,1965 16,1965	.1 1,360	medium medium	Do. Do.

Be consistent

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WATER YEAR	U.S.G.S. WATER-SUPPLY PAPER NO.	T.W.D.B. REPORT NO.
1943-45		*1938-45
1946	1050	*1946
1959	1644	Bull. 6205
1960	-	Bull. 6215
1961		Bull. 6304
1962	1944	Bull. 6501
1963	1950	Rept. 7

* "Chemical Composition of Texas Surface Waters" was designated only by water year from 1938 through 1955.

					Maa		De	Bi-	0						Dissolved solids (calculated)			Hardness as CaCO ₃		So-	Specific con-	
Date of collection	Mean Discharge (cfs)	Silica (SiQ _s)	Iron (Fe)	Cal- cium (Ca)	ne- sium (Mg)	Sodium (Na)	tas- sium (K)	car- bon- ate (HCO ₃)	bon- ate (CO ₃)	Sulfate (SO ₄)	Chloride (Cl)	Fluo- ride (F)	Ni- trate (NO ₃)	Bo- ron (B)	Milli- grams per liter	Tons per acre- foot	Tons per day	Cal- cium, Mag- ne- sium	Non- car- bon- ate	ad- sorp- tion ratio 25°	duct- ance (micro- mhos at 25°C)	pН
							14	. SAN	ANTO	NIO RIVE	R AT GOLI	AD										
Water year 1942 Maximum, Aug. 25, 1942 Minimum, July 6	281 6910										192 9.0										1210 174	
Water year 1944 Maximum, Feb. 25, 1944 Minimum, May 4	263 6070				==		<u> </u> -				12										$\begin{array}{c} 1270 \\ 250 \end{array}$	
Water year 1945 Maximum, June 30, 1945 Minimum, Apr. 22	344 2350					:	<u> </u> -				132 20										959 328	
Water year 1946 Maximum, Sept. 11-12, 28, 1946 Minimum, May 17-18	1724 5220			91 36	17 4.0	-	57	280 122		75 15	77 11		6.2 3.0		a560 a175	0.76	2610 2470	297 106	68 6		801 248	
Water year 1959 Maximum, Sept. 18, 1959 Minimum, Oct. 30-31,	199							269			216				808	1.10	434	290	70		1300	8.1
Weighted average	597	15		77	16		57	242		73	70	.4	4.2		457	. 62	737	96 258	60	0.7	732	7.8
Water year 1960Maximum, June 11-24, 1960.Minimum, July 21Weighted average	$124 \\ 3070 \\ 429$	23 9.8 18		105 25 73	23 6.6 15	1	06 21 65	314 109 232		122 20 74	139 15 78	.5 .4 .5	$5.2 \\ 4.0 \\ 9.8$		a726 156 460	.99 .21 .63	243 1290 533	356 90 244	99 1 54	$2.4 \\ 1.0 \\ 1.8$	1100 265 745	8.0
Water year 1961Maximum, June 1-10, 1961Minimum, Oct. 27, 1960Weighted average	226 9230 994	23 16		104 60	23 	1	09 43	310 75 188		127 55	141 3.0 52	.6 .4	6.9 6.1		a725 85 347	. 99 . 12 . 47	442 2120 931	354 57 194	100 0 40	2.5	$1140 \\ 138 \\ 564$	7.9 7.4
Water year 1962 Maximum, Apr. 1-10, 1962 Minimum, June 3 Weighted average	252 5190 374	20 20		105 75	23 16	1	02 69	308 89 237		125 8.6 79	133 16 84	.5	8.9 9.3		a718 137 488	. 98 . 19 . 66	489 1920 493	356 74 253	104 1 59	2.3	1100 218 761	7.8 7.4 7.7
Water year 1963Maximum, Aug. 1-31, 1963Minimum, Dec. 22, 1962Weighted average	47.9 1060 196	24 18		106 81	26 17	1	32 79	316 99 239		132 12 91	182 22 102	.6 	3.5 11		761 158 524	1.03 .21 .71	98.4 452 277	372 86 271	112 5 75	3.0	1290 262 863	7.6 7.4 7.5
Water year 1964Maximum, Aug. 1-8, 1964Minimum, Aug. 9-10Weighted average	$144 \\ 3885 \\ 289$	19 16 16		86 38 71	24 3.2 15	1	17 36 62	268 10 219		114 13 73	157 78	.6 	7.0 .2 8.4		657 162 431	. 89 . 22 . 59	255 1700 336	313 108 236	94 0 57	2.9 .6 1.7	1100 276 732	8.2 8.0 7.5
Water year 1965Maximum, July 1-31, 1965Minimum, Feb. 17-19Weighted average	231 5537 676	20 10 14		110 29 64	23 2.3 11	97	6.3 14 43	320 98 198		118 13 54	135 11 53	. 6 	6.8 2.8 6.7		674 130 343	.92 .18 .47	420 1940 626	369 82 204	107 2 42	2.2 .8 1.2	1140 225 582	7.5 7.8 7.3
Water year 1966 Maximum, Feb. 1-10, 1966 Minimum, Oct. 20-22, 1965. Weighted average	287 3097 390	14 11 15		107 41 75	21 5.3 14	94	5.9 13 64	304 102 222		112 28 74	120 26 81	.3 .4	21 3.0 8.6		648 177 445	· 88 · 24 · 61	502 1480 469	354 124 246	$\begin{array}{c}105\\40\\64\end{array}$	 1.8	1090 328 769	7.8 7.5 7.6

Table 5. -- Summary of Chemical Analyses at Daily Stations on Streams in the San Antonio River Basin

(Analyses listed as maximum and minimum were classified on the basis of the values for dissolved solids only; values of other constituents may not be extremes. (Results in milligrams per liter except as indicated.)

a Residue at 180°C.

						(Results	in m	illigra	ams pe	er liter	except a	s ind	icated	d.)								
								Di							Dis (c	solved alcula	solids ted)	Hard as Ca	ness aCO ₃	So-	Specific	
Date of collection	Discharge (cfs)	Silica (SiQ ₂)	Iron (Fe)	Cal- cium (Ca)	Mag- ne- sium (Mg)	Sodium (Na)	Po- tas- sium (K)	car- bon- ate (HCO ₃)	bon- ate (CO ₃)	Sulfate (SO ₄)	Chloride (Cl)	Fluo- ride (F)	Ni- trate (NO3)	Bo- ron (B)	Milli- grams per liter	Tons per acre- foot	Tons per day	Cal- cium, Mag- ne- sium	Non- car- bon- ate	dium ad- sorp- tion ratio	duct- ance (micro- mhos at 25°C)	рН
1. SAN ANTONIO RIVER AT SAN ANTONIO																						
June 7, 1965	39.4	12		66	13	2	3	206		42	36	0.3	5.8		299	0.41		218	49	0.7	531	6.9
					1		2.	MEDI	NA LAP	E NEAR S	SAN ANTON	10										
Nov. 28, 1950 Oct. 19, 1951 Apr. 8, 1954 Sept. 15, 1964 Oct. 9 July 16, 1965		$ \begin{array}{c c} 9.9\\ 11\\ 7.0\\ 9.8\\ 6.4\\ 7.8 \end{array} $	0.00	78 58 66 62 44 52	16 21 15 22 8.1 15	8.5 1 3.1 6.4	$\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	234 168 209 191 132 170		134 93 57 84 31 52	20 13 12 18 5.9 12	0.1 .4 .3 .2	3.5 2.2 2.0 .5 6.2 1.2	0.61	a455 a350 a303 303 173 233	0.62 .48 .41 .41 .24 .32		260 235 226 245 143 191	69 0 55 88 40 52	1.2 .2 .3 .3 .1 .2	655 484 462 500 296 405	7.9 8.1 8.1 7.3 7.0 7.1
							3.	MEDI	NA RI	VER NEAR	SAN ANTO	NIO		-		- 10		0.50	50	0.0	C0.5	7.0
June 7, 1965	. 306	12		76	16	2	29	250		52	39	0.3	5.0		352	0.48		256	50	0.8	625	1.2
	1	1	1	1 ==			4.	SAN AN	TONIO	RIVER N.	EAR ELMEN	DORF			324	0.44	[223	26	0.9	554	7.0
Sept. 28, 1964 Nov. 4 Apr. 30, 1965 May 17 May 17 May 18 June 4	333 5,630 3,730 4,660 5,380 15,200 10,400 406	11 13 11 16 12 13 7.4 9.9	1	73 63 69 88 56 60 47 64 88	$ \begin{array}{c} 10 \\ 7.0 \\ 6.8 \\ 18 \\ 5.7 \\ 4.9 \\ 4.3 \\ 6.4 \\ 20 \end{array} $		32 12 21 74 15 14 11 18 54	240 238 234 281 191 204 153 206 278		45 3.8 25 86 22 18 22 28 82	34 8.6 19 84 11 9.6 6.3 17 68	.2 .3 .6 .3 .4 .3 .1 .4	0.8 .5 1.2 17 .5 2.2 2.5 12		225 268 522 216 220 176 247 475	.31 .36 .71 .29 .30 .24 .34 .65		186 200 294 163 170 135 186 302	0 8 63 7 3 10 17 74	.4 .6 1.9 .5 .5 .4 .6 1.4	397 468 870 377 380 309 436 800	$\begin{array}{c} 6.8\\ 6.9\\ 7.1\\ 7.6\\ 7.1\\ 7.0\\ 6.9\\ 7.6\\ 7.6\\ \end{array}$
						5. CAL	AVERAS	CREEK	SUBW	ATERSHED	NO. 6 NE	AR EL	MENDO	RF								
Sept. 6, 1962 Apr. 29, 1963 Mar. 1, 1965	•	7.8 4.6 6.8	3	56 50 24	13 9.6 2.9	4.6	57 28 5.2	137 133 87		126 86 12	50 18 2.7	0.7	0.0 .2 2.0		a382 262 104	0.52 .36 .14		193 164 72	80 55 1	$1.8 \\ 1.0 \\ .2$	614 437 183	6.9 6.9 6.7
							6.	CALAV	ERAS	CREEK NE	AR ELMEND	ORF										
Apr. 5, 1963 Sept. 13 Feb. 23, 1965 May 18	$\begin{array}{c} 23.5 \\ 43.9 \\ 1.11 \\ 1340 \end{array}$	6. 8. 6. 8.	2 5 7 2	24 39 30 32	2.4 3.6 3.7 2.7	4 3.9 7 2.8	$\begin{vmatrix} 6.7\\11\\11\\4.2\end{vmatrix}$	7 76 126 109 116		13 23 15 4.8	6.0 5.1 5.6 2.6	0.4	1.2 1.5 .8 .2		101 154 127 115	0.14 .21 .17 .16		70 112 90 91	7 9 1 0	0.2 .5 .5 .1	172 281 227 203	$ \begin{array}{r} 6.4 \\ 6.5 \\ 7.5 \\ 6.6 \\ \end{array} $
							7.	SAN ANT	ONIO	RIVER NE	AR FALLS	CITY										
Apr. 10, 1959 May 19, 1965 June 3	433 5010 547	16 8. 13	9	90 62 100	20 4. 21	1	61 13 60	b264 204 302		94 19 95	75 8.2 77	0.3	22 1.8 14		508 218 529	0.69 .30 .72		306 173 336	90 6 88	1.5 .4 1.4	852 383 897	8.5 7.0 7.2
			-				TALL ST.	8. El	LM CRE	EK NEAR	LAVERNIA											
Mar. 6, 1963 Mar. 11, 1964 Mar. 21 Feb. 18, 1965	0.1 c.03 1.17 92.4	5 10 7 12 11	-	410 64 21	101 11 2.	- 8 3.6	17 58 55.	249 298 129 5 62		344 708 86 19	750 1120 94 3.1	0.4	0.0 1.5 1.0 3.2		3010 389 100	4.99 .53 .14		$920 \\ 1440 \\ 204 \\ 64$	716 1190 99 13	5.9 1.8 .2	3140 4700 692 160	6.8 7.0 6.9 7.2

Table 6. -- Chemical Analyses of Streams and Reservoirs in the San Antonio River Basin for Locations other than Daily Stations

See footnotes at end of table.

								Bi-							Dis (Dissolved solids (calculated)			Hardness as CaCO ₃		Specificon-	-
Date of collection	Discharge (cfs)	Discharge (cfs) Silica (SiQg)	Iron (Fe)	Cal- cium (Ca)	Mag- ne- sium (Mg)	Sodium (Na)	Po- tas- sium (K)	car- bon- ate (HCO ₃)	Car- bon- ate (CO ₃)	Sulfate (SO ₄)	Chloride (Cl)	Fluo- ride (F)	Ni- trate (NO ₃)	Bo- ron (B)	Milli- grams per liter	Tons per acre- foot	Tons per day	Cal- cium, Mag- ne- sium	Non- car- bon- ate	ad- sorp- tion ratio 25	duct- ance (micro- mhos at 25°C)	pH
							9.	CIBO	LO CR	EEK NEAR	FALLS CI	ТҮ										
Oct. 25, 1961 Jan. 5, 1962 Jan. 30 Apr. 18 June 4	28.7 34.6 34 26.4 32	16 11 13 12 11		83 101 107 86 44	15 21 19 24 7.6		77 11 12 35 54	211 258 275 187 139		147 196 190 203 73	76 112 112 170 47	0.5 .3 .3 .3 .3	1.8 7.1 7.6 2.2 .8		a545 a727 a714 a738 a326	0.74 .99 .97 1.00 .44		268 338 345 313 142	96 127 120 160 28	2.0 2.6 2.6 3.3 2.0	831 1130 1130 1200 532	7.5 7.1 7.1 7.4 6.7
Aug. 1 Sept. 5 Oct. 18 Nov. 26 Jan. 3, 1963		17 18 15 16 14		70 83 82 87 98	21 19 18 21 19		33 25 18 23 03	168 218 218 236 226		216 192 190 205 198	132 126 112 115 110	.4 .3 .3 .4	.0 .2 .2 .2 .0		672 670 648 684 a661	.91 .91 .94 .93 .90		261 285 278 304 322	124 106 100 110 138	3.6 3.2 3.1 3.1 2.5	1090 1100 1030 1090 1030	7.3 7.5 7.6 7.6 7.5
Mar. 7 Aug. 7 Nov. 10 Jan. 28, 1964 June 19	17.2 4.81 312 12.9 688	8.8 19 6.8 17 9.4		95 82 38 108 46	18 21 3.7 21 4.2	10 10 11 7.0	00 69 11 24 5.4	212 216 114 250 150		197 226 23 220 15	104 173 8.8 135 6.5	.5 .5 .3 .2 .3	2.2 .0 4.2 .0 4.8		a637 796 152 748 173	.87 1.08 .21 1.02 .24		311 291 110 356 132	138 114 17 151 9	2.5 4.3 .5 2.9 .3	1020 1270 271 1200 295	7.2 7.3 6.6 7.8 7.0
July 21 Aug. 25 Sept. 29 Sept. 29 Oct. 1	5.36 28.9 2700 2400 126	13 6.1 11 7.9 8.4		82 42 68 58 59	$ \begin{array}{r} 16 \\ 7.3 \\ 5.4 \\ 4.4 \\ 5.1 \end{array} $	2.6 2.9	03 27 3.8 4.4	213 99 226 187 184		158 73 9.6 10 24	110 25 3.2 3.6 8.8	.4 .4 .3 .4 .4	.0 .8 .0 4.8 3.5		587 231 215 188 210	.80 .31 .29 .26 .29		270 135 192 163 168	96 54 7 10 17	2.7 1.0 .1 .1 .4	964 399 367 327 361	7.1 6.7 7.1 7.2 7.1
Nov. 2 Feb. 17, 1965 Apr. 29 May 18 May 20	17.7 2790 75.3 8190 5540	9.6 11 15 6.3 3.8		52 63 87 47 60	7.4 5.1 15 3.6 4.0	8.1 2.9 5.4	$ \begin{array}{c c} 39 \\ 4.1 \\ 85 \\ 4.1 \\ 4.4 \\ 4.4 \end{array} $	160 205 254 159 201		57 18 134 8.8 14	36 6.1 80 3.0 5.1	.6 .3 .3 .1 .2	1.5 2.5 1.0 1.2 .2		282 219 542 155 196	.38 .30 .74 .21 .27		160 178 278 132 166	29 10 70 2 1	1.3 .3 2.2 .1 .2	479 382 891 276 351	7.1 7.2 7.0 7.3
May 21 June 4	1320 110	11 12		57 97	5.8 16		12 52	188 296		21 87	9.3 59	.1 .3	3.2 4.8		211 474	.29 .64		166 308	12 66	.4 1.3	367 802	7.0 6.8
								10. E	CLETO	CREEK N	EAR RUNGE											
Oct. 24, 1961 Jan. 2, 1962 Jan. 30 June 2 June 4	1.03 1.36 1.1 971 75.0	12 20 17 12 12		32 72 76 50 23	3.4 9.9 12 1.6 2.4	6.1	43 19 48 5.3 28	144 314 342 168 96		17 64 79 4.4 14	35 108 139 6.0 23	0.5 .5 .2 .3	0.5 .5 .0 .0 1.5		214 a570 a647 169 151	0.29 .78 .88 .23 .21		94 220 239 131 67	0 0 0 0	1.9 3.5 4.2 .2 1.5	371 928 1080 292 262	7.0 7.6 7.5 6.9 6.5
June 5 Sept. 27 Dec. 18, 1963 Apr. 3, 1964 Aug. 8	15.9 .01 1.03 c.21 194	11 19 10 16 18		22 36 20 56 40	3.5 3.1 2.2 5.5 2.5		33 13 15 91 10	92 134 74 264 147		26 6.8 13 23 5.6	26 8.5 12 84 2.8	.4 .2 .2 .4 .2	2.0 1.2 1.0 .5 2.0		169 154 109 406 153	.23 .21 .15 .55 .21		69 103 59 162 110	0 0 0 0	1.7 .6 .8 3.1 .4	304 246 197 719 254	$6.3 \\ 6.6 \\ 6.5 \\ 7.3 \\ 6.7$
Jan. 22, 1965 Jan. 23 Feb. 16 Apr. 29 May 21	2650 459 67.8 .10 82	12 9.8 13 20 11		26 14 44 125 16	2.2 2.4 3.5 16 1.7	1	10 13 15 31 13	102 60 141 296 65		5.2 11 15 119 9.0	3.0 7.2 17 209 7.3	.3 .2 .1 .4 .2	2.2 3.5 2.2 .2 1.0		111 91 179 767 91	.15 .12 .24 1.04 .12		74 45 124 378 47	0 9 136 0	.5 .8 .6 2.9 .8	178 157 324 1360 153	7.4 6.6 7.1 7.2 6.1
May 22 May 25	29.9 4.41	12 19		20 36	2.2 4.9		12 26	76 138		9.4 17	8.3 24	.1 .3	2.5 .8		104 196	.14 .27		59 110	0 0	.7 1.1	177 331	6.5 7.6

Table 6.--Chemical Analyses of Streams and Reservoirs in the San Antonio River Basin for Locations other than Daily Stations--Continued

(Results in milligrams per liter except as indicated.)

See footnotes at end of table.

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Date				0.1	Mag-		Po-	Bi-	Car-						Dissolved solids (calculated)			Hardness as CaCO ₃		So-	Specific con-	-
of Discharge collection (cfs)	Silica Iron (SiQ ₂) (Fe)	Iron (Fe)	cium (Ca)	ne- sium (Mg)	Sodium (Na)	n tas- sium (K)	car- bon- ate (HCO ₃)	bon- ate (CO ₃)	Sulfate (SO ₄)	Chloride (Cl)	ride (F)	Ni- trate (NO ₃)	Bo- ron (B)	Milli- grams per liter	Tons per acre- foot	Tons per day	Cal- cium, Mag- ne- sium	Non- car- bon- ate	ad- sorp- tion ratio 25°	duct- ance (micro- mhos at 25°C)	рH	
						11. ES	CONDI	DO CRE	EK SU	BWATERSH	ED NO. 1 M	NEAR 1	KENED	Y								
Jan. 11, 1955 June 1 July 13 Jan. 4, 1956 July 10		 10 3.0 		 32 24 	 1.5 2.7	7 4.5 12	7.5 4.9	110 120 114 108 190		2.0 2.9 1.5	3.5 3.5 2.0 3.8 3.5	 0.4 .5	 3.8 1.4		al23 al15	 0.17 .16		74 89 86 72 138	0 0 0 0	 0.2 .6	241 229 230 184 295	7.5 7.2 7.9 7.3 7.2
Dec. 17 Feb. 25, 1957 Mar. 12 Apr. 17 Apr. 22		5.0 11 12 18		21 22 30 42	1.7 1.3 1.6 2.3	12 10 4.9 14) 6.2	156 83 87 111 143		7.2 3.4 2.8 5.4	4.0 4.5 3.2 2.5 10	 - 5 - 5 - 5 - 8	3.5 3.0 3.2 5.0		a160 96 97 119 a183	.22 .13 .13 .18 .25		117 59 61 81 113	0 0 0 0	.7 .6 .2 .6	279 143 164 166 285	7.5 7.5 7.8 6.9 7.5
Apr. 27 Sept. 30 Nov. 18, 1957 Jan. 6, 1958 Jan. 27		7.8 6.0 		19 23 	.8 1.6 	6.8 	8.0 	71 96 118 104 106		.6 3.8 	.0 4.5 2.5 2.2 3.0	.5 .2 	2.0 1.0		71 102 	.10 .14 		51 64 88 77 75	0 0 0 0	.3 .4 	127 174 205 170 155	7.9 7.4 7.2 7.6 8.2
May 28 Feb. 10, 1959 Oct. 26 Mar. 10, 1960 Aug. 2		1.9 12 8.7 8.0		33 36 36 43	2.8 2.0 2.0 2.2	6.8 3.8 5.0 12	6.5 7.4 6.3	104 120 131 126 163		7.2 .6 3.8 .6	3.0 4.8 3.0 3.0 4.8	.4 .4 .2 .3	3.2 .8 4.0 .2		126 a143 131 151	.17 .19 .18 .21		77 94 98 98 116	0 0 0 0	 .3 .2 .2 .5	180 236 233 228 271	7.9 7.5 7.0 7.0 7.0 7.0
Mar. 9, 1961 Sept. 4, 1962 Mar. 7, 1963 Feb. 15, 1965 May 20		1.0 11 6.6 10 10		42 57 43 30 33	3.0 3.0 2.4 1.3 1.4	15 26 4.3 3.5 11	5.6	134 224 153 108 124		6.8 10 .2 .8 4.2	22 9.0 2.8 1.2 1.9	.2 .3 .3 .3	.8 5.6 .2 .2 2.2		$157 \\ 232 \\ 140 \\ 104 \\ 125$.21 .32 .19 .14 .17		117 155 117 80 88	7 0 0 0	.6 .9 .2 .2 .5	303 379 256 180 211	7.0 7.0 6.9 7.0 7.9
May 21 May 24		12 11		33 33	$2.3 \\ 2.1$	5.6 6.0	4.5	122 124		5.2 4.6	2.0 2.3	.2 .3	$2.8 \\ 2.2$		128 127	.17 .17		92 91	0 0	.3 .3	211 215	7.5 7.8
							1	2. ES	CONDII	O CREEK	AT KENEDY	t										
May 3, 1959 Apr. 30, 1963 May 1 Feb. 15, 1965 Feb. 16 Feb. 17	0 82.7 11.2 c.1 1360 200	10 23 16 16 14 11		54 28 36 40 52 50	4.8 2.1 2.9 2.7 2.7 3.2	38 16 27 32 6.1 23	4.5	168 100 145 145 182 173		17 11 20 18 7.2 12	56 11 12 29 3.0 23	0.4 .6 1.0 .6 .4 .6	1.0 2.2 1.0 .2 .2 .0		264 143 187 210 179 208	0.36 .19 .25 .29 .24 .28		154 78 102 111 141 138	17 0 0 0 0 0	1.3 .8 1.2 1.3 .2 .9	487 221 309 351 299 363	7.4 6.9 6.8 7.4 7.4 7.3
				13.	ESCON	DIDO CRE	EK SU	BWATERS	SHED N	10. 11 (I	ORY ESCONE	DIDO C	CREEK)	NEAF	KENEDY							
Sept. 14, 1962 Oct. 30, 1964 Feb. 15, 1965 Feb. 19		1.7 3.3 9.6 9.4		23 29 26 25	$3.2 \\ 9.1 \\ 3.4 \\ 1.4$	28 104 29 21		118 273 119 106		$ \begin{array}{r} 4.8 \\ 8.4 \\ 7.8 \\ 6.4 \end{array} $	21 72 24 14	0.3 .5 .4 .3	0.0 .5 1.2 .5		140 361 160 130	0.19 .49 .22 .18		71 110 79 68	0 0 0 0	$1.4 \\ 4.3 \\ 1.4 \\ 1.1$	263 697 285 229	6.5 6.6 7.3 7.0

Table 6. -- Chemical Analyses of Streams and Reservoirs in the San Antonio River Basin for Locations other than Daily Stations -- Continued

(Results in milligrams per liter except as indicated.)

a Residue at 180°C.
b Includes the equivalent of a milligrams per liter carbonate (CO₃).
c Field estimate.