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ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

TO: File

FROM: T. Clay Schultz, Ph.D., Director, Regional Water Project Development

SUBJECT: Guadalupe Blanco River Authority, Gonzales County, Texas
TWDB SWIFT Project No. 51055
Carrizo Groundwater Supply Project
CID 08 – Wellfield Expansion Project
Total Commitment Amount: \$365,290,000

The environmental review for the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority's (Authority) proposed Carrizo Groundwater Supply project has been completed consistent with 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 363.14. The Authority is proposing to use \$365,290,000 in financing from the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) Program to expand the capacity of the existing Carrizo Well Field from the current maximum production of 15,000 ac-f/yr to a maximum 24,000 ac-ft per year. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) committed this financing on July 27, 2022 (LM221530), July 27, 2022 (LM231530), and July 23, 2024 (LM2401832). The Authority closed the financing on November 18, 2022 (LM221530), November 17, 2023 (LM231530), and November 12, 2024 (LM2401832).

This environmental review is documented by the enclosed Environmental Determination (ED), which contains mitigative environmental conditions that will be applied to the project to avoid significant adverse impact on waters of the U.S., floodplains, cultural or historical resources, threatened or endangered species, and protected migratory bird species.

Based on a detailed environmental review of the planning information, the Environmental Data Form received by the TWDB on June 3, 2025, with the supplementary materials submitted to the TWDB on July 2, 2025, the project meets the requirements of 31 TAC § 363.14 with the following special and standard environmental conditions:

Special Environmental Conditions

- As per an agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Ecological & Environmental Planning Program (TPWD Project No. 53613), to ensure compliance with Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapters 12, 64, 67 and 68, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and applicable federal regulations pertaining to protected species (including the white-tailed hawk, Texas horned lizard, harvester ant, and tortoises) the following measures will be implemented:

Our Mission	:	Board Members
Leading the state's efforts	:	L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman W. Brady Franks, Board Member Ashley Morgan, Board Member
in ensuring a secure	:	
water future for Texas	:	Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

- Vegetation clearing must be excluded during the general bird nesting season March 15 through September 15, to avoid adverse impacts to breeding birds. If vegetation clearing during this time is unavoidable, the area proposed for disturbance will be surveyed by a qualified biologist to identify occupied nests, not more than five days prior to clearing activities. If occupied nests are observed during surveys, a vegetation buffer area of no less than 100 feet in diameter will remain around the nest until all young have fledged; however, the size of the buffer zone depends on various factors and can be coordinated with the local or regional USFWS office. State and federal regulations as currently interpreted do not permit incidental take.
- The judicious placement of sediment control fence will be used to exclude protected wildlife from the construction area. An exclusion fence will be buried at least six inches and be at least 24 inches high. The exclusion fence will be maintained for the project's life and removed after construction is completed and the disturbed site is revegetated. For linear project components, such fencing will be installed and maintained for only the active construction area. Construction personnel will be advised to examine the inside of the exclusion area daily to determine if any wildlife species have been trapped inside the area of impact and provide safe egress opportunities prior to initiation of construction activities.
- The length of trenches left open at any given time during construction will be minimized. Trenching and backfilling activities will be kept close together in time. Trenches and excavation areas will be covered overnight and/or inspected every morning or if left open longer than two daylight hours to ensure no wildlife species have been trapped. If trenches cannot be backfilled the day of initial trenching, then escape ramps will be installed every 300 feet, in the form of short lateral trenches or wooden planks sloping to the surface at an angle of less than 45 degrees, at a ratio of one horizontal foot for every one foot of depth.
- For soil stabilization and revegetation, no-till drilling, hydromulching (avoiding plastic ingredients), and/or hydroseeding will be used rather than erosion control blankets or mats, which pose an entanglement hazard to wildlife. If erosion control blankets or mats cannot be avoided, products that contain no netting or loosely woven natural fiber netting will be used, avoiding any type of plastic netting.
- A speed limit will be observed within the project site, to allow personnel to see protected wildlife in the vehicle path and avoid harming them.

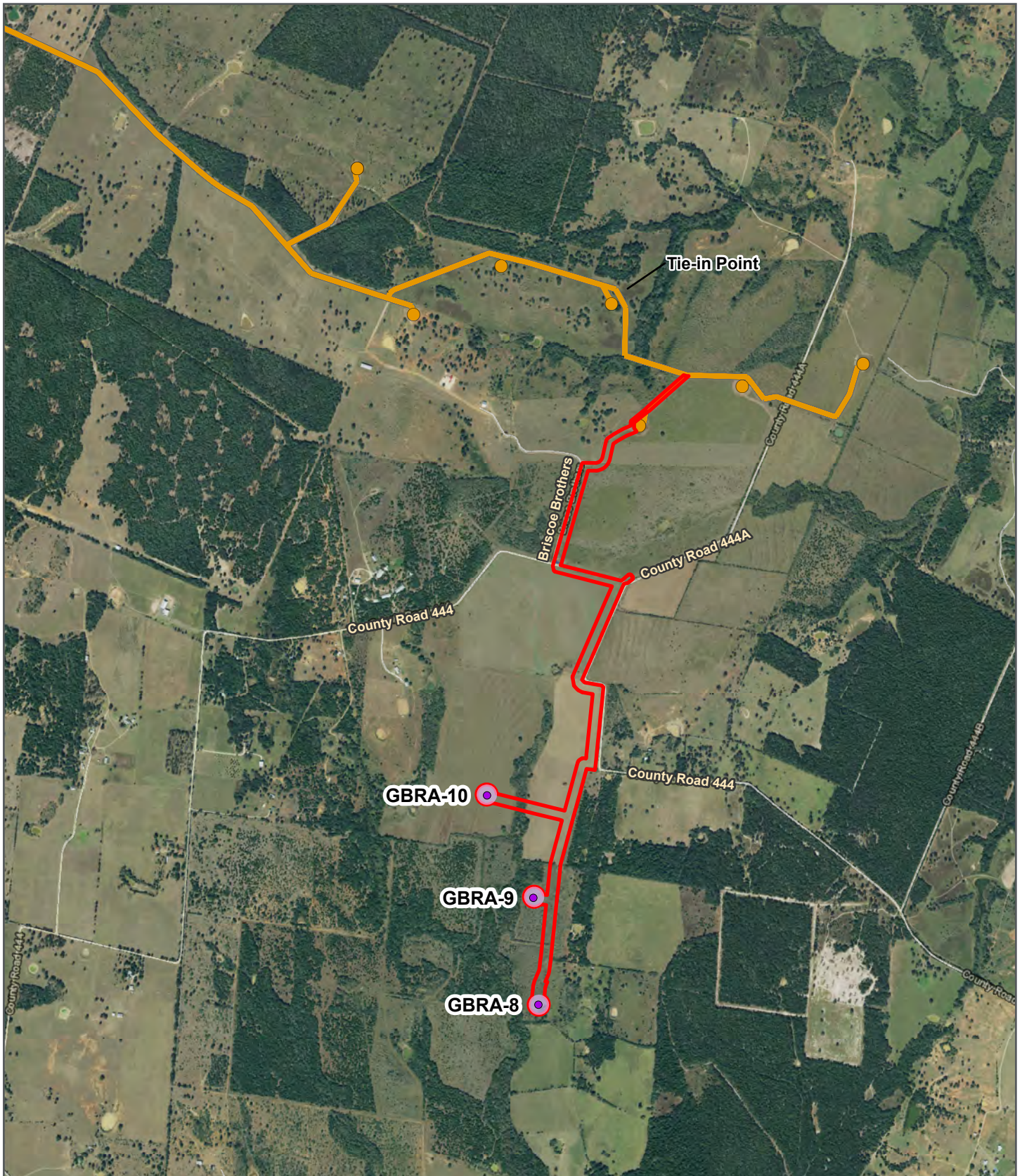
Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the Authority will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the Authority will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

With the addition of these requirements, design funds may be released once all other requirements are satisfied.

Enclosures

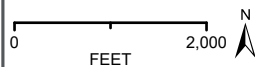


Data Sources:
Aerial Imagery - Texas NAIP Imagery, 2020

Preliminary for Planning Purposes Only



- Existing Wells
- Existing Pipelines
- Study Area
- 150' Sanitation Radius
- Proposed Well Sites

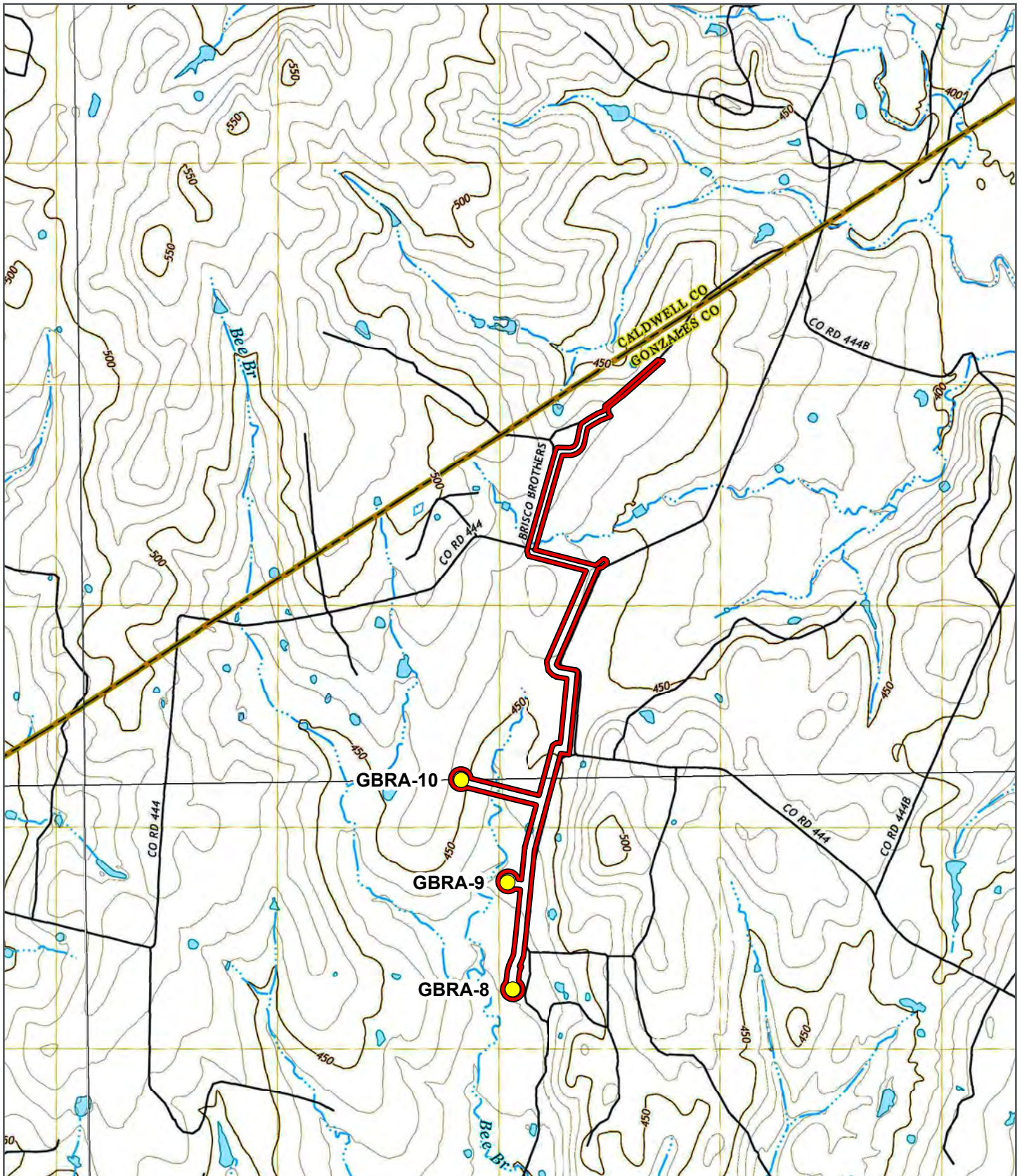


GENERAL VICINITY

GBRA CGSP WELL EXPANSION PROJECT

MAY 2025

FIGURE 1

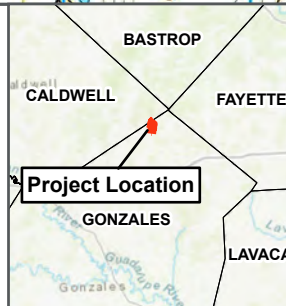
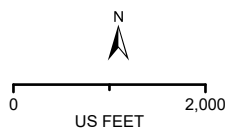


Data Sources:
Topo: Waelder, Sandy, Jeddo & Delhi Quads, USGS, 2022

Preliminary for Planning Purposes Only



- Proposed Well Sites
- Project Area



USGS TOPO MAP

GBRA CGSP WELL EXPANSION PROJECT

APRIL 2025

FIGURE 2