





### Identification of a Deep Superior Quality Aquifer in Several Transboundary Counties of Texas

Texas RRC
Groundwater Advisory Unit
November 2021













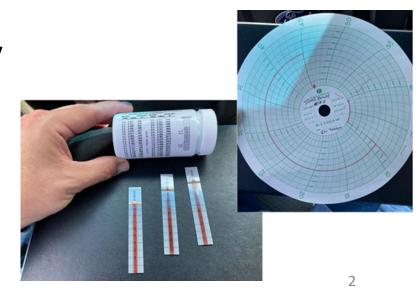




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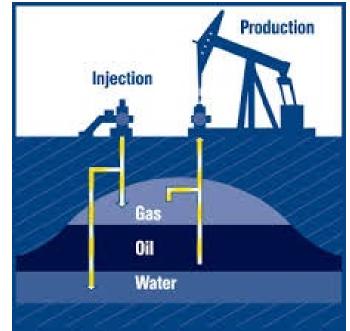


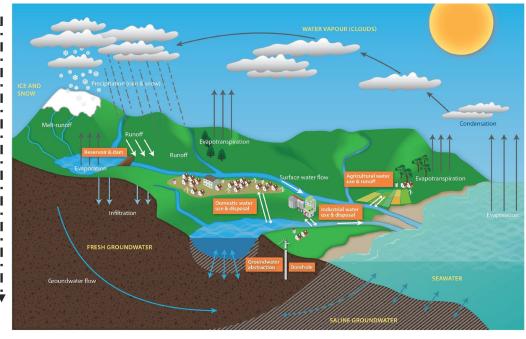
- Approximate Geographic Location of Aquifer/Reservoir
- Present the Data and Geologic Maps as Discovered in Chronological Order
- Define the Extent of the Aquifer and Quantify Certainty and Uncertainty
- Identify the Probable Source of the Superior Quality Water
- Discuss Risk and Benefit's associated with an Aquifer/Reservoir
- Discuss Hypothetical Options for reducing Uncertainty
- Next Steps
- Questions

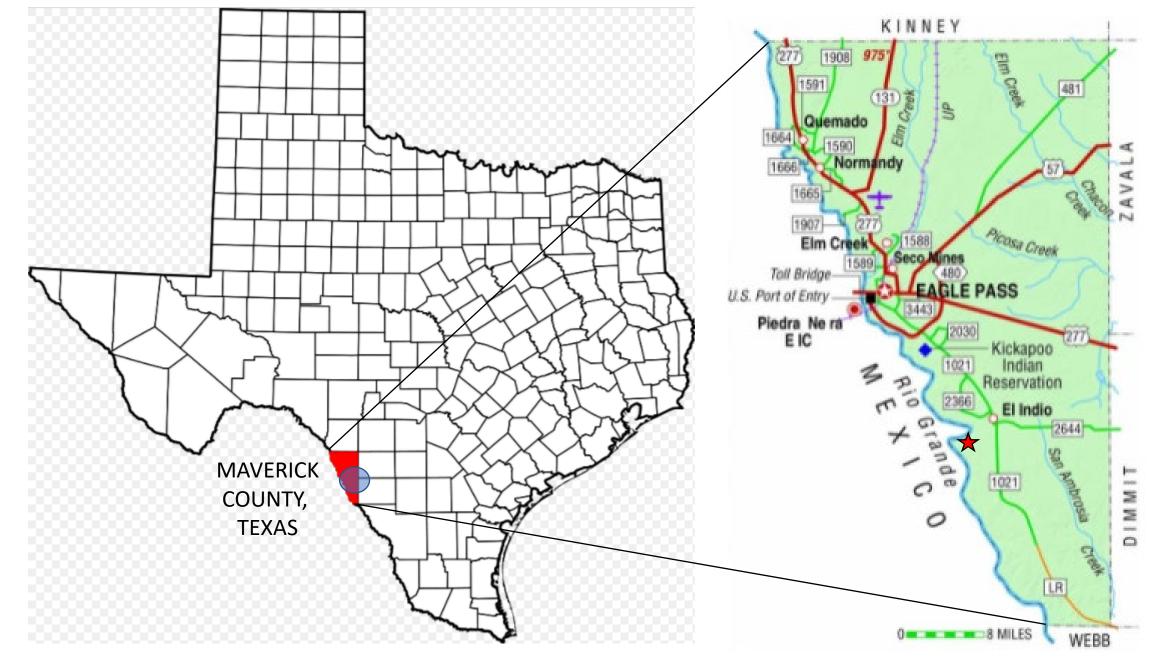


### Key Oil Field Terms & Concepts

- Aquifer's contain economic quantities of Groundwater
  - Deep or remote fresh groundwater may not qualify
- Reservoir's contain Oil & Gas and Produced Water
  - Produced Water is not typically reported to the State
  - Produced Water is an Expense and Nuisance to Operators
  - Aquifers can Transition to Reservoirs & Vice Versa
- Oil and Gas wells are Water Excluders
  - Optimized to Keep Water Out
  - Produced Water Production Biased 10 to 1 over Oil
  - Water always occurs below oil and gas
  - Only Natural Source of Fresh Water is Rain
  - Groundwater is typically Fresh at Surface Increasing in Salinity with Depth & Age







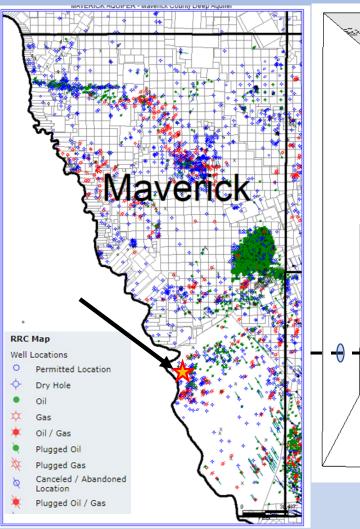
### **New Aquifer Detection Incident**

#### **Background**

 Maverick County > 1,000 Oil & Gas wells

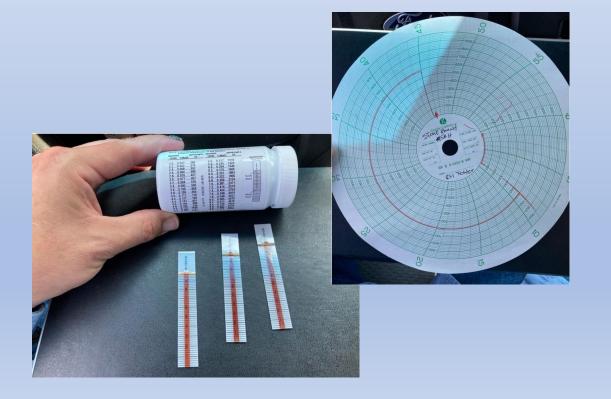
- Different depths, Zones, & Formations
- GAU Groundwater Maps 100'-250' bls
- Occasional reports of deep superior quality produced water since mid 1990's in Oil Field
- Reports of a High Temperature Gradient
- August 2021 Driller applies to convert a 6,200' Oil well to a Water Well
  - ✓ Reports Artesian Flow <500 TDS
  - ✓ P-13 Application lists **drilling not plugging**
- Skeptical GAU Investigation Begins
  - ✓ Target zone Glen Rose Fm.

API # 42-323-32821
Oil Well: Stone Ranch 1-58H
Maverick County



### P-13 Permit Water Quality Results

- Dispatched RRC Outrider with Test Equipment to P-13 well in Maverick County
- Pressure Tested Well Casing
- Formation Water < 500 TDS</li>
- Artesian Flow, High Temperature



PALIFORD COMMISSION OF TEXAS	Railroad Commi Oil and Gas Division Field Operations	ssion o	Inspection Repor Industry Activity, Notification ID 27017 Inspection ID 82255					
Operator	JOINT RESOURCES COM	PANY (4407	42)	Drilling Permit				
Lease/Facility	STONE RANCH [01-14774	]		Pit Permit				
Field	WILDCAT [00002001]			UIC Number				
County	MAVERICK							
Complainant								
GPS Coordinates	GPS Location Coordinates	Not Recorde	d					
SWR Rule		Compliance	Compliance De	escription				
·		Compliance	e Compliance Description					
SWR 2(a), Access to Pro	Compliant							
SWIN Z(a), Access to 1 in								
SWR 3(1), Entrance Sig	n	Compliant						
		Compliant N/A						
SWR 3(1), Entrance Sig SWR 3(3), Battery Sign;		<u> </u>						
SWR 3(1), Entrance Sig SWR 3(3), Battery Sign;	Commingling Permit ed Disposal of Oil and Gas Wastes	N/A						
SWR 3(1), Entrance Sig SWR 3(3), Battery Sign; SWR 8(d)(1), Unpermitte	Commingling Permit ed Disposal of Oil and Gas Wastes ge Tank Warning Sign	N/A N/A						
SWR 3(1), Entrance Sig SWR 3(3), Battery Sign; SWR 8(d)(1), Unpermitte SWR 36(c)(5)(B), Storage	Commingling Permit ed Disposal of Oil and Gas Wastes ge Tank Warning Sign tion of Soil	N/A N/A N/A		API 32332	321			
SWR 3(1), Entrance Sig SWR 3(3), Battery Sign; SWR 8(d)(1), Unpermitt SWR 36(c)(5)(B), Storag SWR 91(d)(1), Remedia	Commingling Permit ed Disposal of Oil and Gas Wastes ge Tank Warning Sign tion of Soil	N/A N/A N/A N/A	Compliance De		321			
SWR 3(1), Entrance Sig SWR 3(3), Battery Sign; SWR 8(d)(1), Unpermitth SWR 36(c)(5)(B), Storag SWR 91(d)(1), Remedia	Commingling Permit ed Disposal of Oil and Gas Wastes ge Tank Warning Sign tion of Soil	N/A N/A N/A N/A 158H	Compliance De		321			
SWR 3(1), Entrance Sig SWR 3(3), Battery Sign; SWR 8(d)(1), Unpermitt SWR 36(c)(5)(B), Storac SWR 91(d)(1), Remedia Well Level Inspecti SWR Rule SWR 3(2), Well Sign	Commingling Permit ed Disposal of Oil and Gas Wastes ge Tank Warning Sign tion of Soil	N/A N/A N/A N/A 158H Compliance	Compliance De		321			
SWR 3(1), Entrance Sig SWR 3(3), Battery Sign; SWR 8(d)(1), Unpermitt SWR 36(c)(5)(B), Storac SWR 91(d)(1), Remedia Well Level Inspecti SWR Rule SWR 3(2), Well Sign	Commingling Permit ed Disposal of Oil and Gas Wastes ge Tank Warning Sign ution of Soil ion	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A Compliance Compliant	Compliance De		321			
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### WOW!

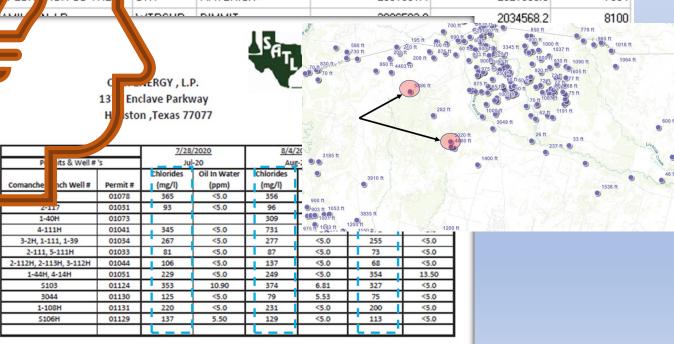
### Are there other freshwater O&G wells nearby?

- We checked the P-13 Data base and contacted Wintergarden GCD
  - ✓ An additional P-13 well was iderated 30 miles East in Dimmit in the Glen Rose Fm.

Inventoried all Oil & Gas well with Glen Ros freshwater discharge permits in region

WSN	UWI (APINum)	Well Number	W	Name		1		perator		Sym Code	County	Surf X	Surf Y	WELL TD
369	4232332821	158H	STONE RA	СН	7	1	LOR	ION CO THE	١	DRY	MAVERICK	2891951.4	2021033.5	7534
10155	4212733754	1G	HAMILTON	EE (JREDRA)	115		ш		1	WIRCHE	DUJUT	2000500.0	2034568.2	8100

- Inventoried all wells in the Nansb
- Conducted a literature search pr
- Enquired with colleagues TWDB, \( \sqrt{Some Shallow Aquifer's reported t} \)
- Searched Mexican Government A
  - ✓ Found several geotechnical publication
  - ✓ Found a Pemex well log 50 miles to



- Hamilton Fee P-13 Application Dimmit Co.
  - ☐ Currently in violation of SWR 18
  - ☐ Cert Letter Sent out Oct. 2021



	TO COM	PLICATION OF LANDO NDITION AN ABANDO FRESH WATER PROD	NED WELL	FORM P-13 EFF 10/04
<ol> <li>Field Name (as per RRC Records or Wildcar)</li> </ol>			2. Field No.	3. RRC District No.:
4. Operator Name (as shown on P-5):			5. Operator P-5 No.:	6. County:
TRHAMILTON 7. Lease Name: // / F	2=-12- 1	8. RRC Lease/Gas ID No.:	9. API No.:	Demmi7
HAMILTON EE OL	PED PANCAL	TO N/A	42-127-33754	5/
11. Location (Section, Block, and Survey):  I I GN RRSURVEY 3 A	1-389 650	FS 650 FWL		
2. If the Operator has changed within the last	60 days, provide the	name, the P-5 No., and the add	ress of the former Operat	or:
40				
3. If the well has been worked over, provide th	e former Field name	(and reservoir name) and numi	er:	
4. Is this an Abandoned Producer or a Dry Hol	le? 2 YES 🗆 NO	O If this is a Dry Hole, or if the ATTACH casing and cemen		
5. Type of Electric or other Log run: F for	~	16. Completion date of the we		ang groundwater departs.
7. Proposed Plug-Back Depth of well for fresh	water	18. Base of Usable Quality	19. Date of TCEQ Is	etter:
production (ft):	(	Water (ft.): 82/7	TCEQ File No.: SC-	. K
0. FOR COMPLETION BY LANDOWNER: In	formation concerning	g groundwater conservation dis		
<ul> <li>I have permitted the well as a water we</li> </ul>	Il with the		Groundwater	Conservation District.
<ul> <li>I have registered the water well with the</li> </ul>	9		Groundwater	Conservation District.
□ The	Groundwater C	onservation District does not re	quire that the water well b	e permitted or registered.
☐ There is no groundwater conservation	district for the area in	which the well is located.		
o constitute a menace to any oil, gas, or fresh o Inder §89.011, Tex. Nat. Res. Code, the duty to commission requirements up to the base of usa uality water production operations; and the lan conservation district, if applicable. The authority to complete this well in the manne	to properly plug the w able quality water stra adowner has registere	well ends only when the well has atum; the Commission has appo ed the well with, or has obtained	been properly plugged in oved the application to co a permit for the well from	ndition the well for usable t, the groundwater
		CERTIFICATION	,,,,,	water from the well.
	3, Tex. Nat. Res. Co.	CERTIFICATION		water from the well.
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nder my supervision and direction, and that de LANDOWNER	ale and facts stated t	herein are true, correct, and con	operator of my k	port was prepared by me
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inder my supervision and direction, and that de LANDOWNER  Date:  Signature of Landowner:  Amen of Landowner:  Stype or print)  Street Address or P. O. Box:  City, State, Zip Code:  CHRRIAG  Gelephone (830) 876-554	PRINCE TX 78 FILL Precorded in the country grate the Notice of It	Date: 8-12-/ Signature of Operator Authorized Representa Name of Person and Titype or print) Street Address or P. O Telephone (83) ING INSTRUCTIONS Inty in which the well is located.	Popelar to the best of my k OPERATOR  The street of the best of my k OPERATOR  The street of the best of my k OPERATOR  The street of the best of the best of this form  The street of the best of the best of this form  The street of the best of	port was prepared by me inowledge.  ERATOR  ESTEXAS-785
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### Communications with Surface Discharge Lease Operator

- All wells in Lease flowing to surface (Artesian Flow)
- Production Formation Exhibits Primary, Karst, and Fractur Porosity
- Formation Pressure relatively constant throughout production history
- Initial Oil Production Tests Yield Produced Water with > 80K TDS
- Production Quickly Waters Out to Fresh
  - Major clue to the aquifer and reservoir system
- Geophysical Information was Provided
- Produced Water Quantity and History was Provided

#### Teresa,

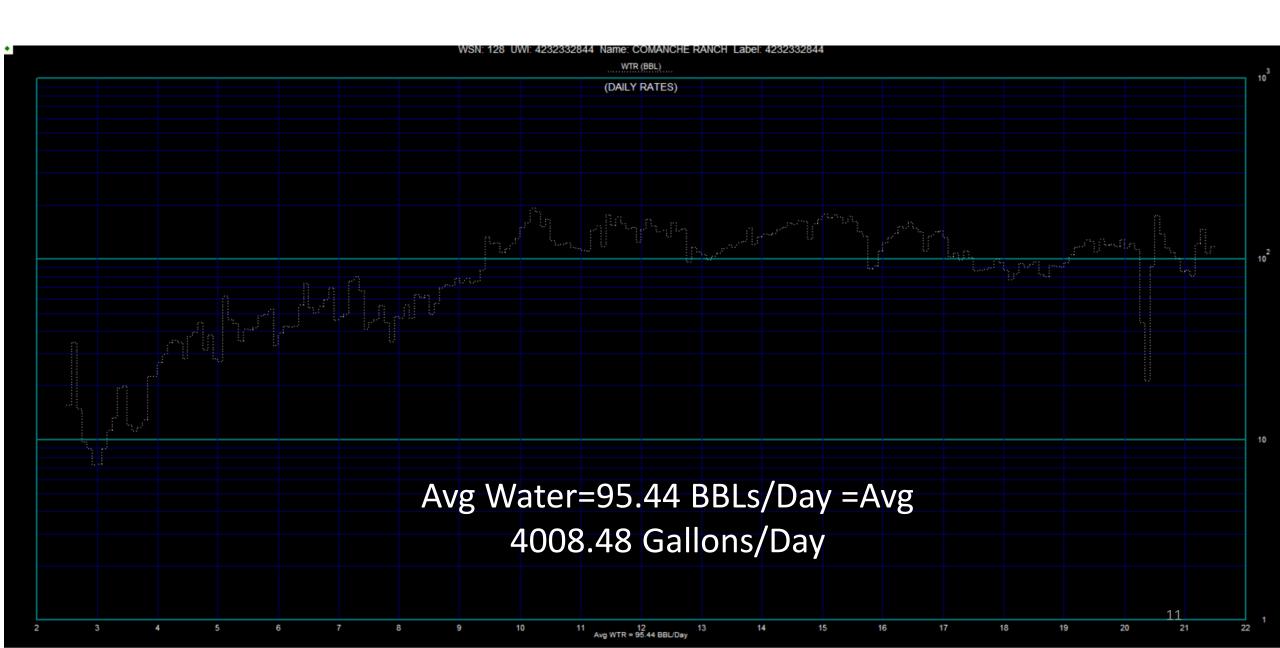
We currently have most of the information we need to issue more accurate and up to date GW-2's (Waterboard letters) in Maverick, Dimmit, and Zavalla Counties. We don't anticipate the updated GAU groundwater maps and letters will have any impact on current or future casing and cementing programs nor existing permitted UIC operations. We think it will have a positive impact on the issuance of P-13's going forward from the stand point of Operators and land owners. I have included a set of questions/wish list below, it's strictly voluntary and not required that you provide the GAU with this information. We want to be respectful of your time and business confidentiality so please do not include any information that is proprietary unless we discuss its handling in advance.

- Are the Glen Rose wells in question on pumps? If so what type of pumps are used and what is the current pressure gradient (.48 Lbs./Ft. etc.) ? The wells are all flowing wells.
- > Could we get current standing fluid level readings for the wells? Surface
- Do you have any porosity logs (or snippets of porosity logs for just the Glen Rose interval) from any wells in the Maverick, Dimmit, Zavalla Counties and/or surrounding area? Comanche Ranch 1-39 attached
- Does the water production performance seem to indicate rock volume allowing water flow through dissolution (vuggy / karstic) porosity developed in the Glen Rose Limestone, or does porosity appear to occur as bedding plane or vertical fractures in the limestone? Consensus is all of the above.
- > Has any pressure transient or other engineering analysis been conducted to determine if there is pressure / fluid communication in the Glen Rose? Possibly prior to CMR
- ➤ Has any engineering assessment of permeability been made for the Glen Rose from the limited production data (using Rate Transient Analysis or ONEPT (Holditch radial flow equations method)
- Are there any water production data (production volume in barrels versus time) for the Glen Rose well tests that have watered-out to low TDS fresh water. CR 1-111 attached. If opened today +99% WC but would make some oil but considered watered-out
- > Has the geophysical consultant been able to map-out or otherwise visualize the occurrence

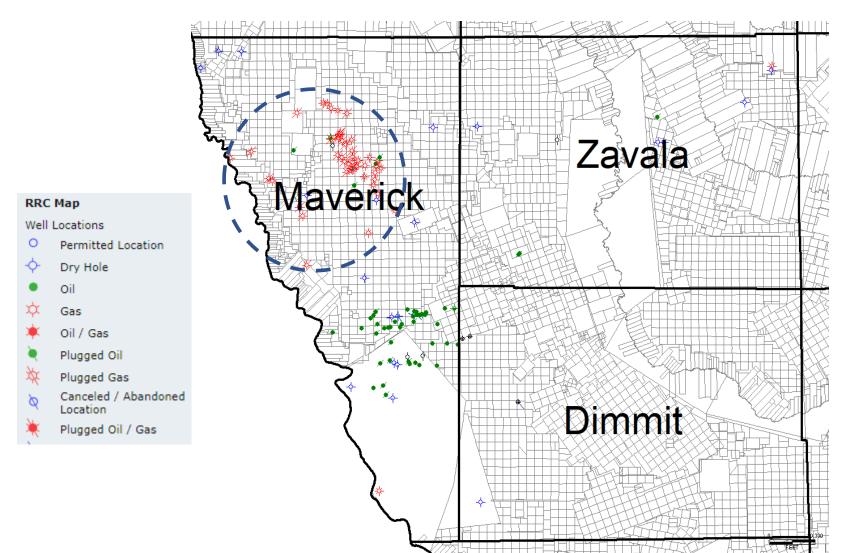
## Water Production Volumes From the Glen Rose Formation (Example from a Single Lease BBL's)

Year	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0	0											
2002							480.43	1071.74	445.17	301.61	267.74	224.52
2003	227.13	249.57	349.3	396.64	596.87	595.92	374.49	347.84	351.1	398.05	670.57	697.51
2004	830.53	859.57	1068.22	1067.27	1076.74	844.99	1160.9	1224.45	1338.65	975.34	1136.29	868.73
2005	838.69	1753.1	1441.25	1321.92	1092.96	1233.47	1263.16	1288.49	1457.42	1537.01	1583.01	1032.04
2006	1209.01	1189.32	1310.29	1278.65	1724.65	2200.99	1662.53	1555.45	1640.43	1854.6	2072.61	1422.83
2007	1485.97	1382.25	2351.6	2396.35	2064.82	1224.79	1385.48	1429.88	1661.99	1384.27	1048.49	1494.47
2008	1465.87	1619.51	1466.94	1919.44	1903.27	1900.3	1539.23	1768.56	2081.26	2234.42	2141.38	2431.6
2009	2287.3	2196.69	2299.21	2274.57	2685.65	4000.83	3793.1	3823.84	3277.51	3543.09	3659.81	4031.61
2010	4655.08	4458.48	5948.97	5504.08	4682.88	5011	3925.36	3709.99	3632.66	3826.49	3486.36	3557.4
2011	3471.36	3109.55	4484.43	4605.92	3657.88	5300.96	4799.81	5297.23	4737.79	4572.87	4483.05	3859.97
2012	4505.06	4819.65	4748.75	4275.17	4499.25	3984.23	4924	4456.69	4412.26	2981.1	3491.95	3415.94
2013	3271.6	2774.86	3221.08	3229.18	3539.94	3586.4	3621.08	3809.65	3766.79	4589.57	3623.35	4103.1
2014	4265.26	3835.19	4333.77	4369.55	4637.82	4744.95	4823.14	5050.92	4845.61	3992.44	4701.14	5143.51
2015	5517.77	4765.57	5459.75	5155.17	4943.09	5166.12	5005.81	4416.49	4019.83	2754.65	2757.42	3432.86
2016	3808.74	3802.82	4322.21	4526.18	4625.69	4811.9	4629.58	4415.1	3328.42	41 46.6	4244.38	4453.25
2017	4077.9	2895.01	3333.13	2987.42	3459.43	3069.66	2672.03	2689.69	2642.18	2784.19	2999.6	2960.44
2018	2696.69	2149.68	2577.88	2828.78	2808.81	2813.13	3001.86	2554.7	2393.75	2855.47	2739.49	2809.25
2019	2965.09	2956.55	3619.14	3539.19	3960.81	3768.74	3407.04	4019.62	3592.49	3759.65	3536.31	3973.97
2020	3565.14	3551.26	3509.25	1340.39	654.39	2729.35	5432.05	4288.91	3457.26	3381.19	3040.14	2636.05
2021	2699.9	2252.64	3779.7	4382.53	3357.74	3525.05						

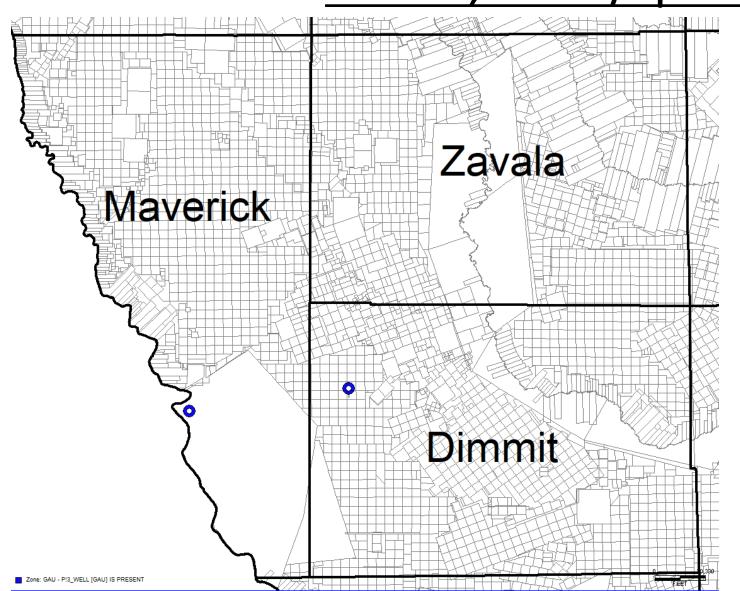
#### Water Production From the Glen Rose Formation



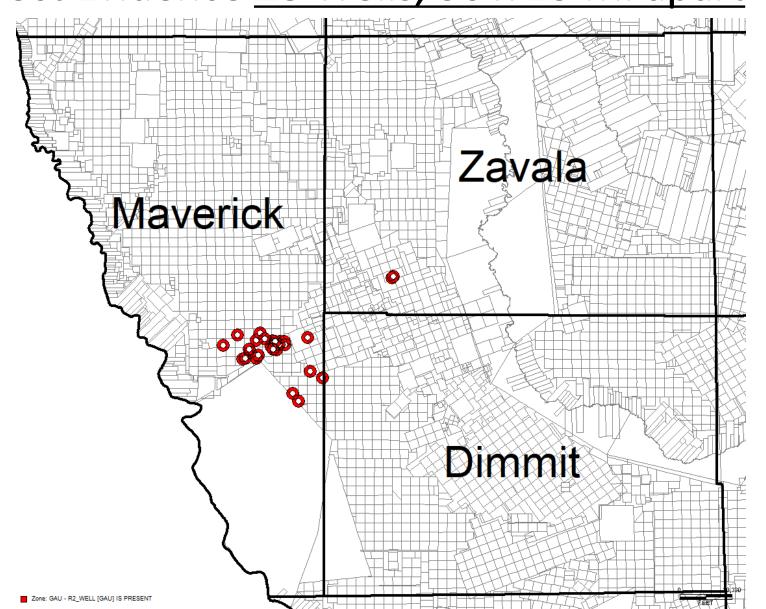
## All Well Tests in or thru the Glenn Rose (Potential solution set >100 Wells)



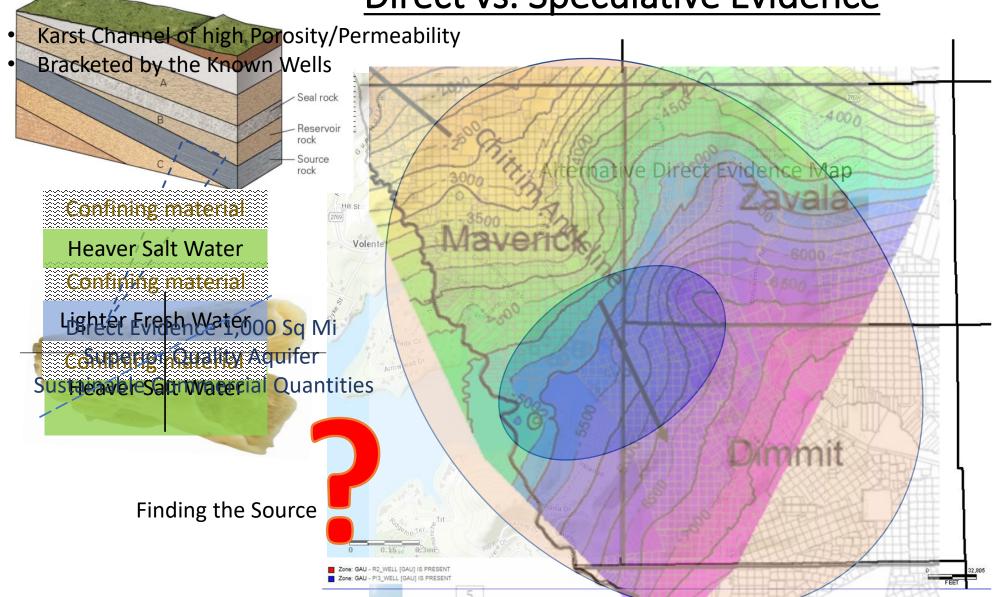
## P13 Wells (Oil Well to Water Well Conversion) Direct Evidence 2 wells, 30 mi/apart



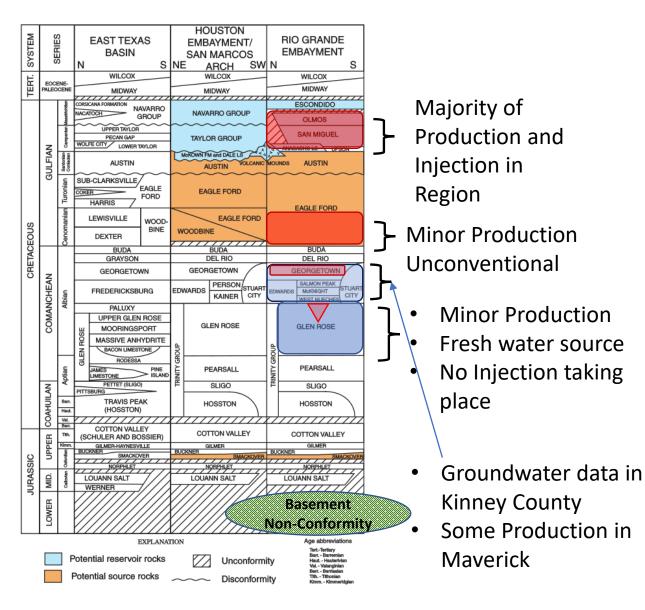
## Produced Water Surface Discharge Well Locations Direct Evidence 28 Wells, 30 x 25 Mi apart



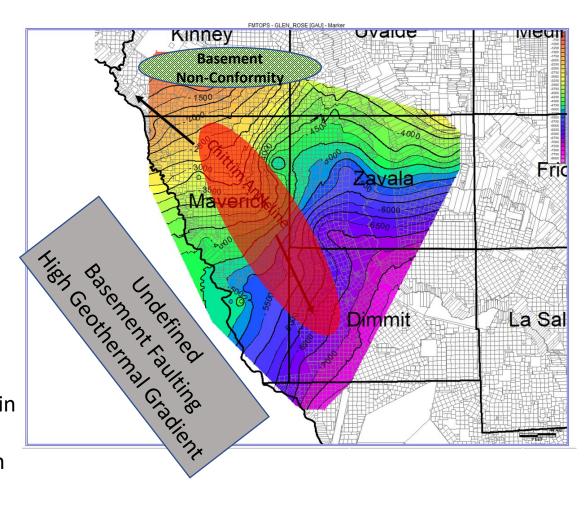
Deep Glen Rose Fm. Aquifer Direct vs. Speculative Evidence



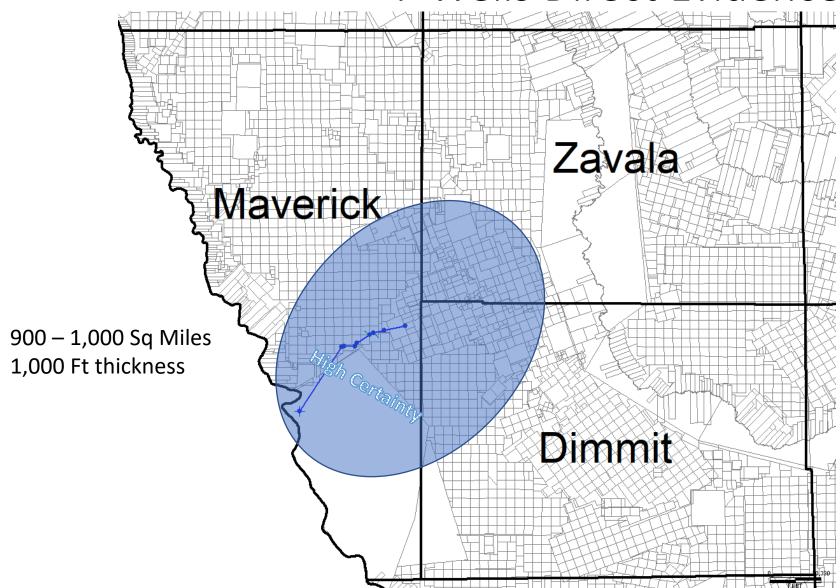
### Vertical Cross Section of Production & Injection Zones



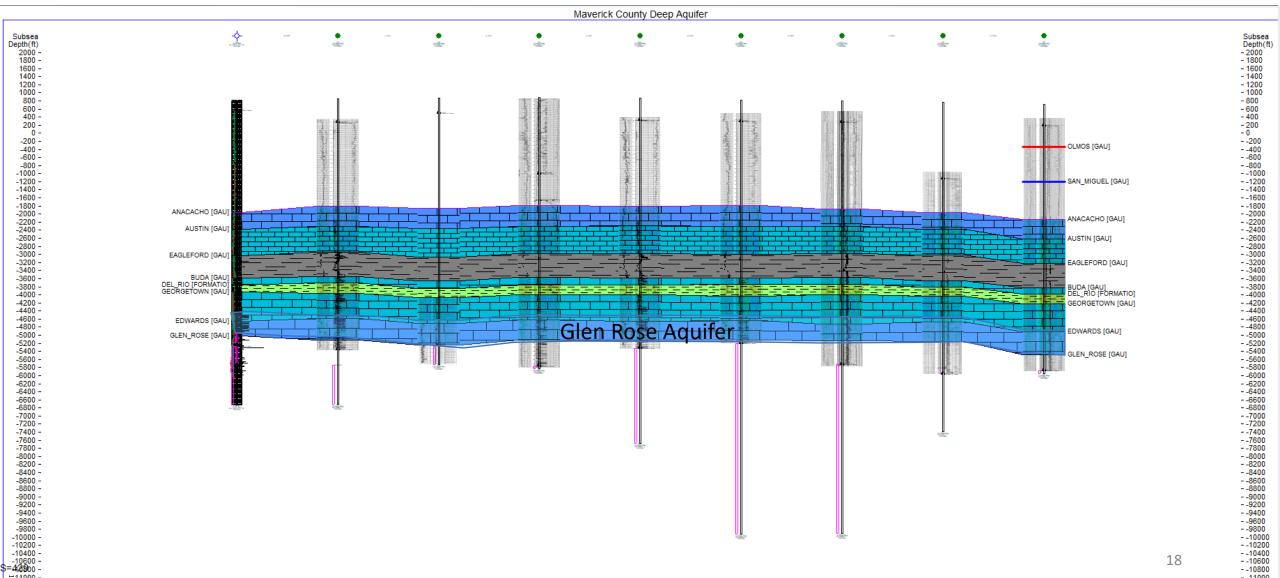
#### Glen Rose Structure



## Southwest to Northeast Cross Section 7 Wells Direct Evidence



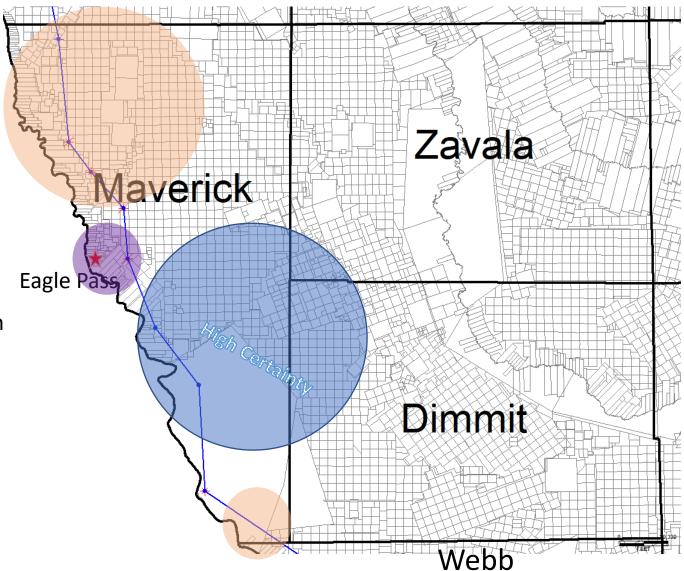
## Southwest to Northeast Cross Section Direct Evidence 30 Miles of Aquifer 1,000 Feet Thick



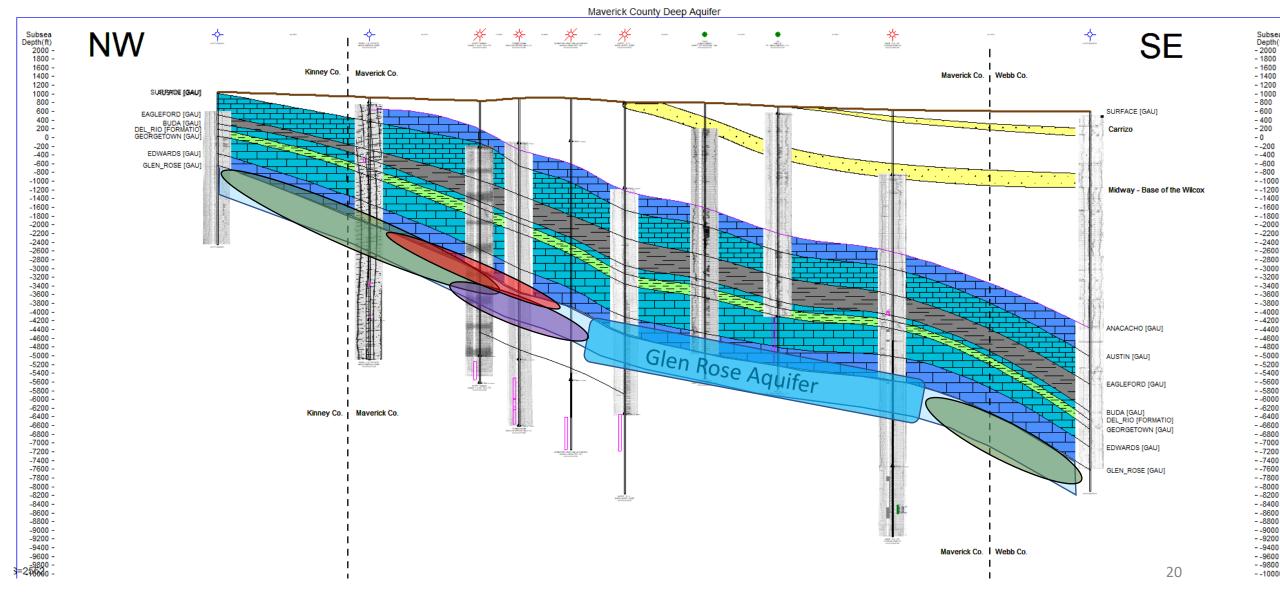
## Northwest to Southeast Cross Section 3 Wells out of 10 have Direct Evidence

Currently gathering direct water quality analytics from gas cap wells in the North

Interest in gathering direct water quality analytics from orphan wells in the North



## Northwest to Southeast Cross Section Direct Evidence of 1,000 Sq. Mi. Potential for 3,000 Sq. Mi.



#### Finding the Source Should Improve Certainty!

## Transboundary Aquifer Area Maps and Technical Reports <u>Texas Water Resources Institute</u>

Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies 20 (2018) 74-102



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ejrh

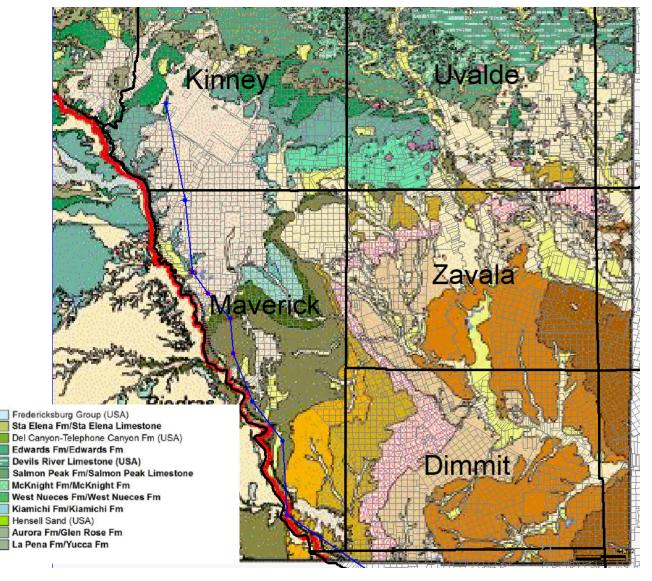


Transboundary aquifers between Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas, Mexico, and Texas, USA: Identification and categorization



Rosario Sanchez<sup>a,\*</sup>, Laura Rodriguez<sup>b</sup>, Cecilia Tortajada<sup>c</sup>

- a Texas Water Resources Institute, Texas A&M University, MS 2260 TAMU, College Station, TX, 77845, United States
- b Water Management and Hydrological Sciences Program, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 77845, United States
- <sup>c</sup> Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore



#### Mexico/USA Geologic Units

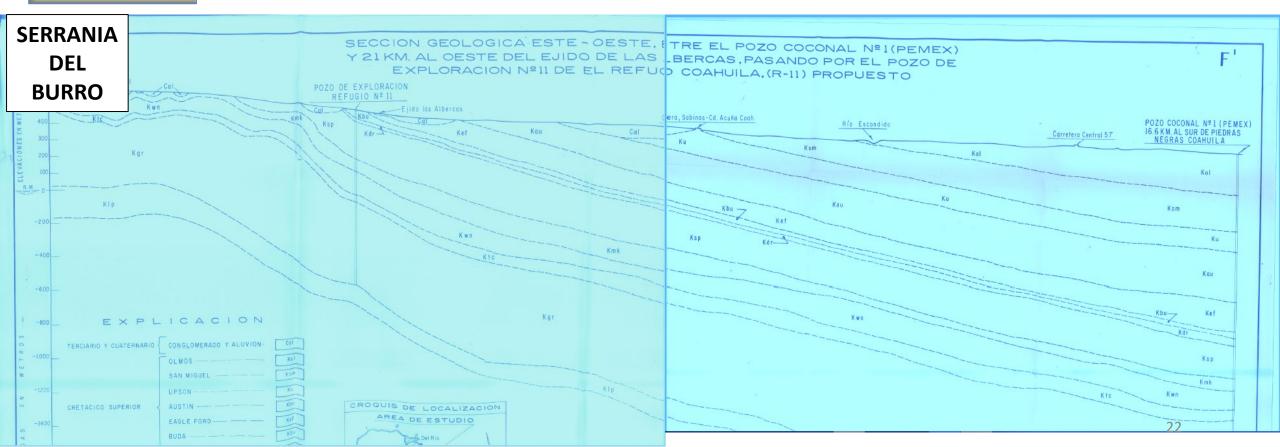




# MESOZOIC Escondido Fm/Escondido Fm Olmos Fm/Olmos Fm San Miguel Fm/San Miguel Fm Upson Fm/Upson Clay Aguja Fm/Aguja Fm Pen Fm/Pen Fm Austin Fm/Austin Chalk Boquillas Fm/Boquillas Fm Eagle Ford Fm/Eagle Ford Group Buda-Del Rio Fm/ Buda Limestone-Del Rio Clay



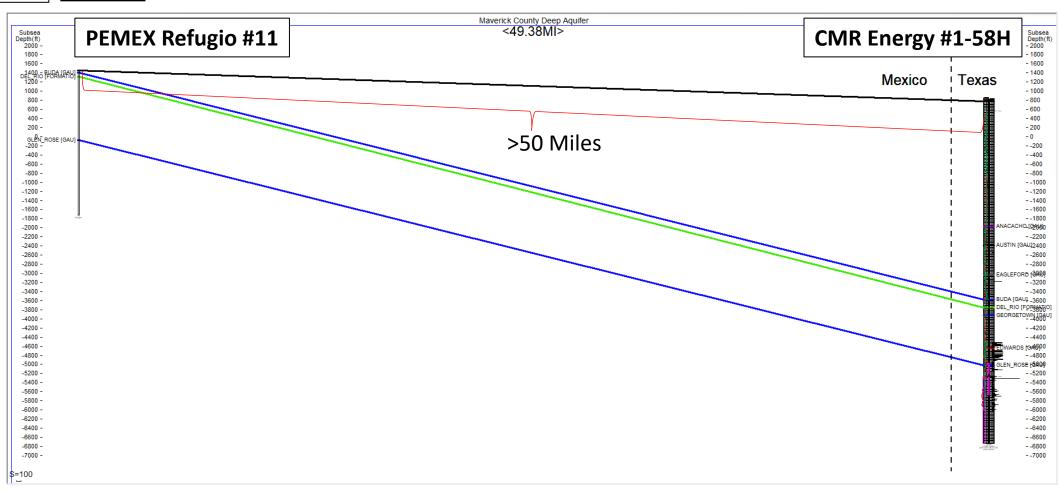
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20170821 - Perforación dentro de CCC.pdf	10/11/2021 9:05 AM	Adobe Acrobat D	5,398 KB
GEOLOGIA BASICA REGIONAL.pdf	10/11/2021 9:05 AM	Adobe Acrobat D	9,569 KB
Sección Litológica de la región.pdf	10/11/2021 9:05 AM	Adobe Acrobat D	793 KB



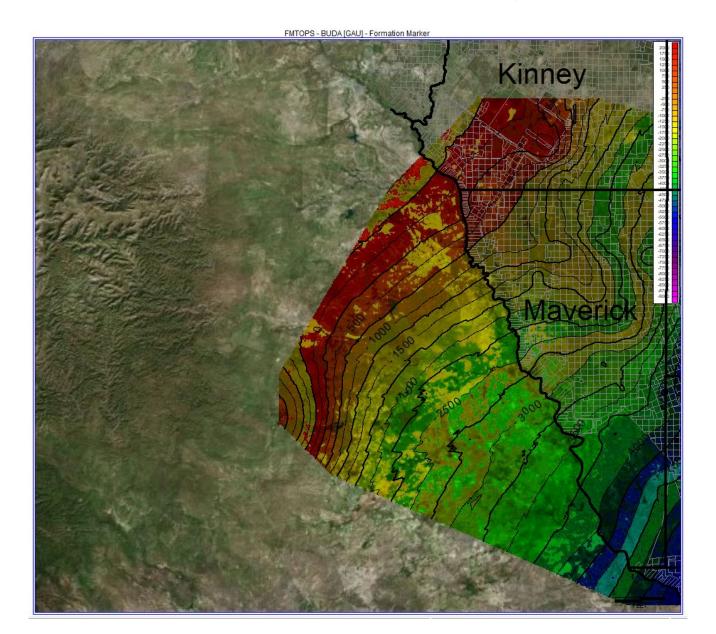
SERRANIA DEL BURRO

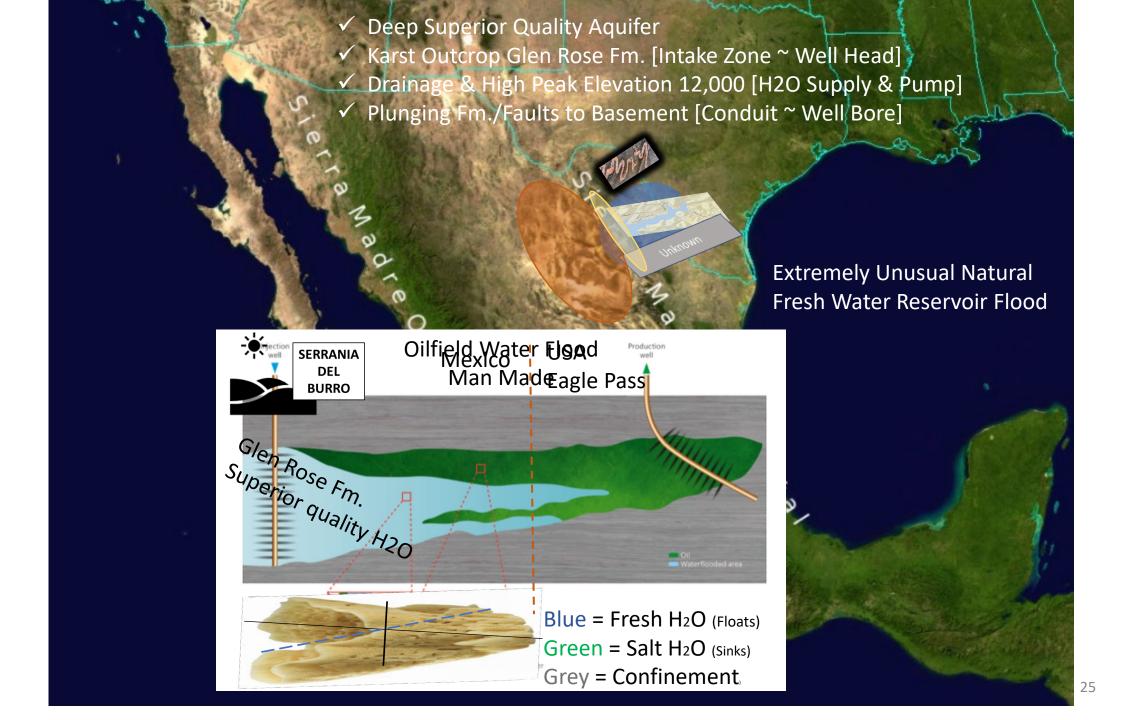
## \*

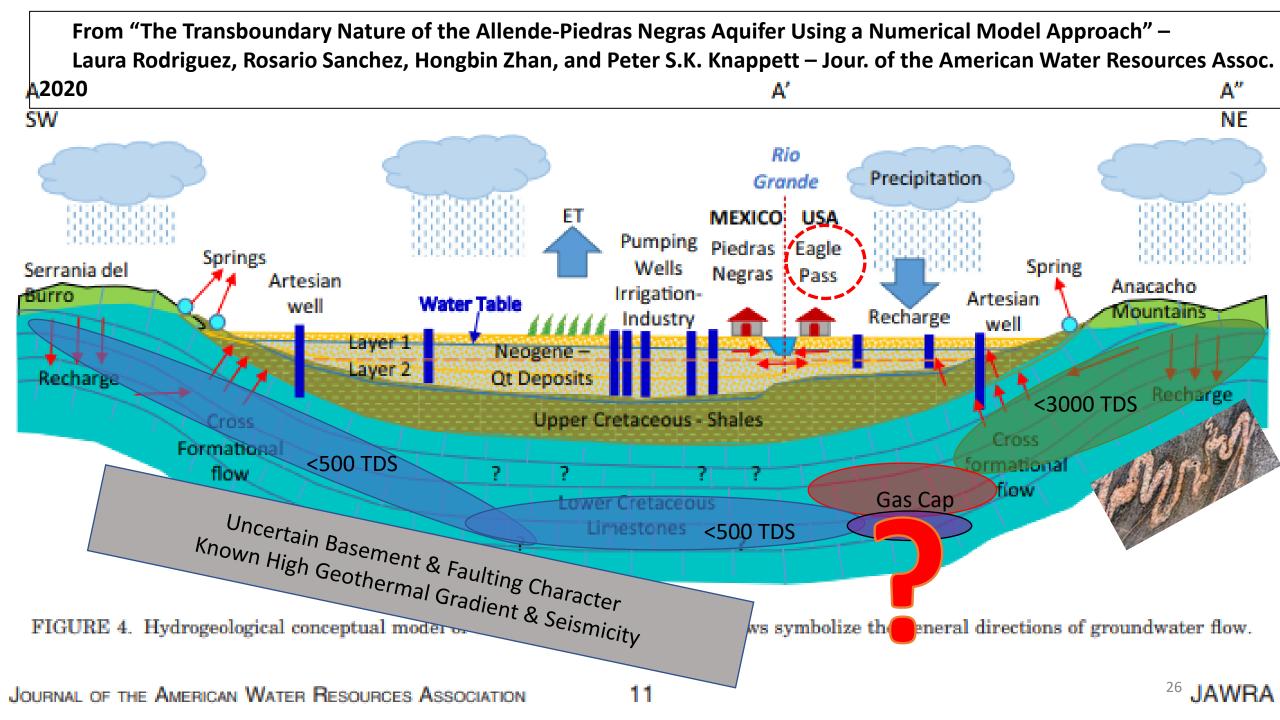
### Cross Section Mexico to Texas



### Buda Limestone Through Mexico







### Risk Benefit

### Oil & Gas Reservoir/Superior Quality Aquifer

#### **Risks**

- Injection into USDW waters
  - ✓ No Injection Permits Issued into Glen Rose
  - ✓ Some into Georgetown Fm.
- Status Quo Change to Casing and Cementing Operations
  - ✓ Nominal impact processing as is mainly simple and immediate
- P-13's renewed production risk
  - ✓ Operators leave separators on site
  - ✓ Several Fee Simple Operators
- Water production capabilities derived from oilfield data
- All Existing Wells Completed as Oil and Gas Wells
  - ✓ Completed as Water Excluders
  - ✓ Future Wells require Oil Field Drilling Technology and Skills
  - ✓ GAU has oil and gas well performance measurements and water production estimation information
- Recent minor seismic activity in the vicinity

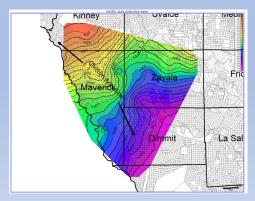
#### **Benefits**

- Get information out sooner rather than later
  - Keep GCD's and Municipalities informed
- Wells are deep but artesian so low cost to operate
- Operators reduce plugging costs using the P-13
  - Existing P-13's offer affordable water well \$20K
- Beneficial Economic Source of Water (conditional)
  - Provable 1,000 Sq Mi 1,000' average thickness
  - Probable 3,000 Sq Mi
- Potential for Drilling Deep Water Wells
  - ✓ Could cost upwards of \$800K require Oil Field Tech.
- The high temperature of waters may lend themselves to geothermal potential
  - ✓ Reports of > 200°F; water boils at 212°F

### Deep Aquifer Hypothetical Evaluation Options

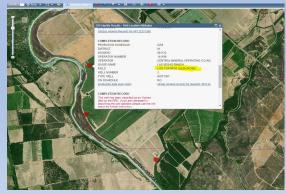
- Investigate using Literature & Geophysical Data (Low Cost, High Uncertainty)

  ✓ Investigate and better map the Probable Source(s) and additional direct evidence in Mexico
- Drill A New Well in A desirable location (High Cost, High Risk, Certainty)
- Acquire Abandon wells for P-13 Conversions (low Cost, Low Risk, Certainty)
- Acquire existing drilled Oil/gas Wells (Medium Cost, High Risk, Certainty)
  - Take over existing Orphan Well(s) in the Glen Rose Fm.
  - Acquire Private Temporally Abandon or Plugged Well(s) in the Glen Rose Fm.











### **NEXT STEPS:**

- The RRC is protecting the Maverick Basin Aquifer
   ✓ No injection currently taking place
- BEG Casing Estimator Site updated with Maverick Aquifer
- Working with San Antonio District Office & Operators GSD'
  - ✓ minimize impact to the Aquifer and Oil Field's
- Presented GAU findings to TWDB Technical Staff in October
- RRC Published High Level Public Interest Article in November
- Sharing Geo Technical Information with interested Stake Holders
  - ✓ City of Eagle Pass Department of Water Works
  - ✓ Private Mining and Energy Businesses



### Questions?

James Harcourt 512-463-2980

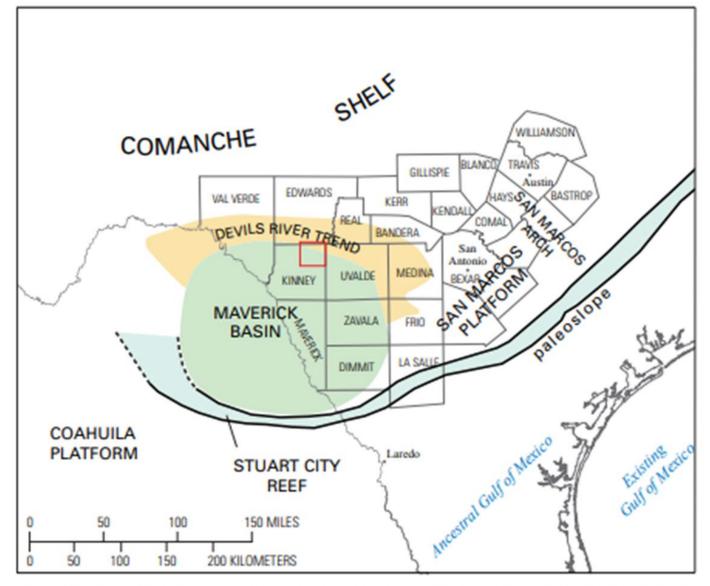


Figure 3. Paleogeography (regional depositional setting) of Comanchean and Gulfian rocks. Present-day counties and selected cities are shown. Red box locates the geologic map. Modified from Rose (1972).