

"Techniques for Mapping and Characterizing Brackish Aquifers through the Mining of Existing Geophysical Data"

Brackish Groundwater Characterization System (BRACS)

by Mark Robinson

TGWA Annual Convention & Trade Show January 25, 2015



The following presentation is based upon professional research and analysis within the scope of the Texas Water Development Board's statutory responsibilities and priorities but, unless specifically noted, does not necessarily reflect official Board positions or decisions.

Source: TWDB General Counsel

Who are we?
Why do we study brackish aquifers?
How do we study brackish aquifers?



Innovative Water Technologies Team



Erika Mancha, Manager IWT

John Meyer, P.G. - Geoscientist

Andrea Croskrey - Geoscientist

Matthew Webb - Hydrologist

Nathaniel van Oort - Hydrologist

Jean Perez - Hydrologist

Mark Robinson, P.G. - Geoscientist

Alan Andrews - Hydrogeologist

Alysa Suydam - Hydrogeologist



Innovative Water Technologies

"Our mission is to educate the water community on the use of nontraditional water supplies."

- Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR)
- Desalination
- Water Reuse
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS)

Brackish Groundwater

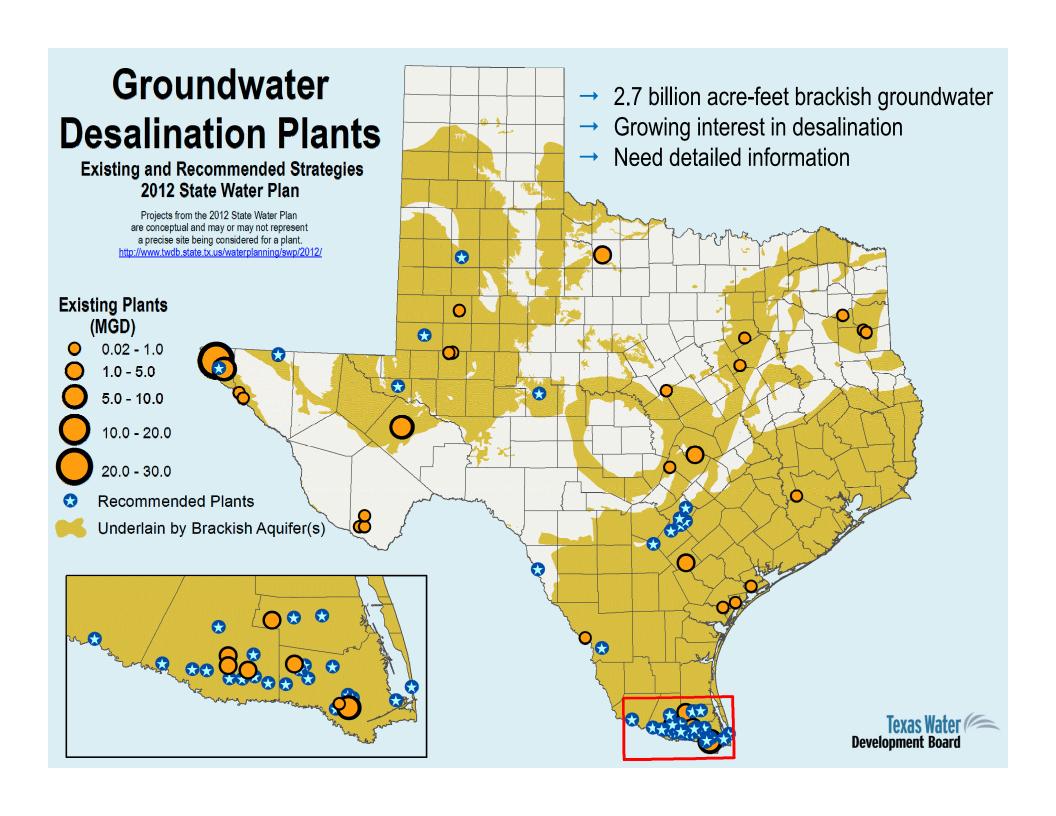
Saltier than fresh water, less salty than seawater

	Groundwater Salinity Classification	Salinity Zone Code	Total Dissolved Solids Concentration (units: milligrams per liter)	
	Fresh	FR	0 to 1,000	Drinking Water
	Slightly Saline	SS	1,000 to 3,000	Limit ← Major/Minor
	Moderately Saline	MS	3,000 to 10,000	Aquifer Mapped Limit
	Very Saline	VS	10,000 to 35,000	← Seawater
	Brine	BR	Greater than 35,000	Scawater

Groundwater Salinity Classification

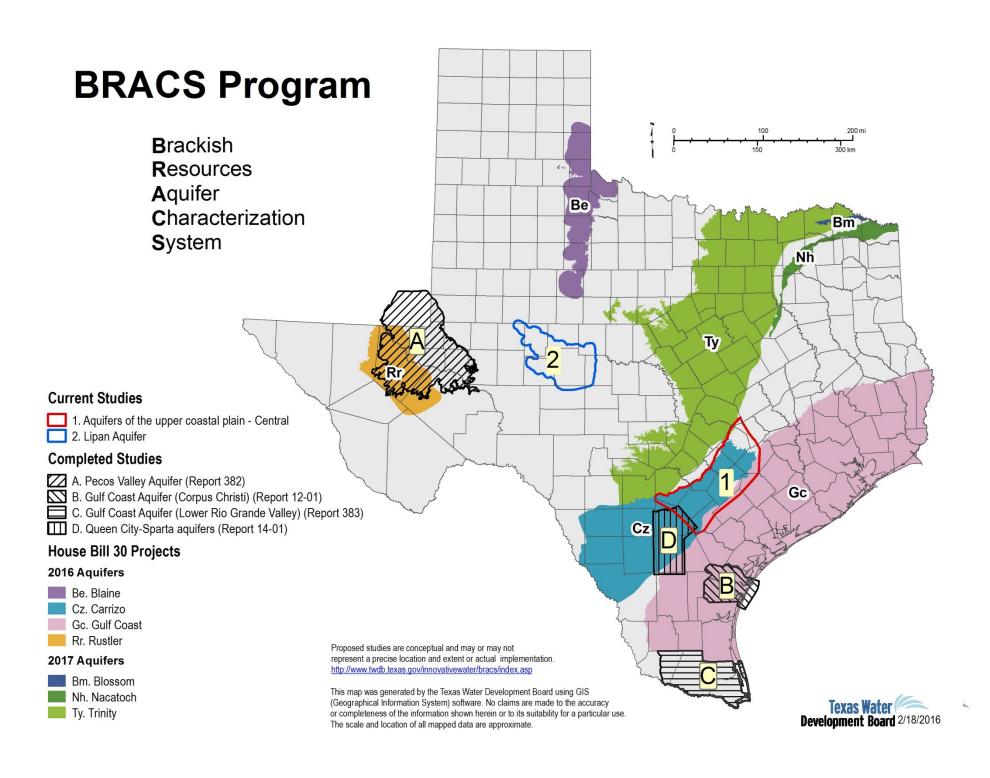
Source: modified from Winslow and Kister, 1956





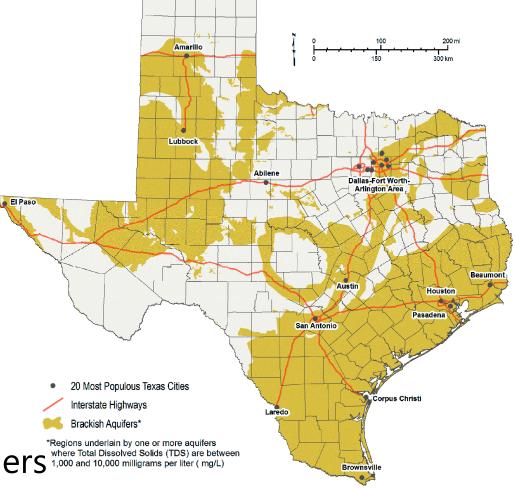
Development of Brackish Groundwater House Bill 30 (84th Texas Legislature, 2015)

- \$2,000,000 appropriated from General Revenue Fund
- Note that \$1,681,446 was dedicated to funding the BRACS studies. The remainder paid for two FTE.
- Four aquifer projects must be completed by December 1, 2016
- Three other contracted projects must be completed by August 31, 2017
- Map brackish groundwater production zones and estimate 30- and 50-year production without causing significant impact to water quality or water quantity in freshwater aquifers
- Include status report in every biennial desalination report, next report due December 1, 2016 (Water Code Sec. 16.060)
- Remaining aquifers in the state required to be mapped by December 1, 2022

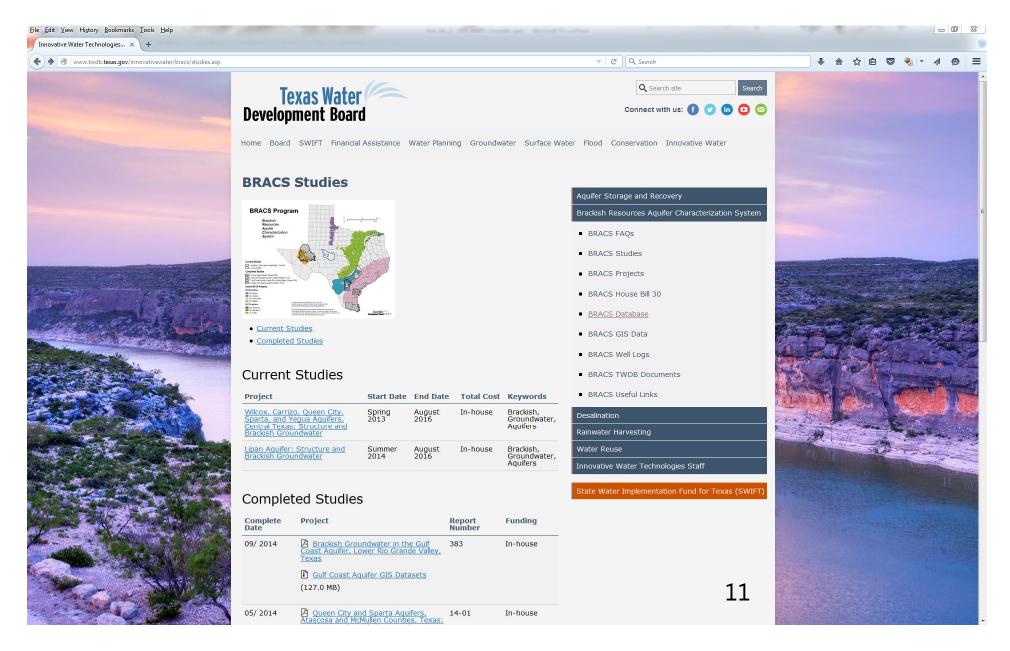


Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System

- Collect data
- Map and characterize aquifers
- Map key water quality parameters
- Estimate saturated zones using net sand analysis
- Chemical parameters important to desalination
- Provide data to stakeholders



Study Reports and GIS Data



BRACS Studies

Published reports



Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System Database **Data Dictionary** John F. Meyer, P.C.



GIS Datasets

BRACS Database

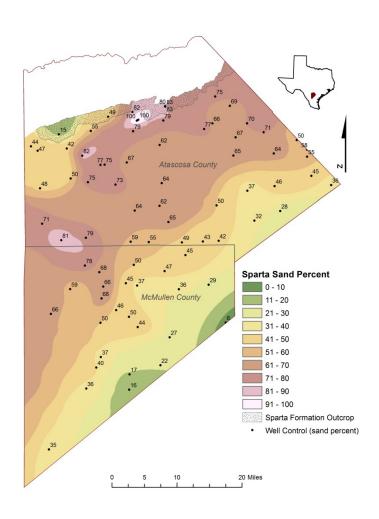
Well logs

The real value is in the data:

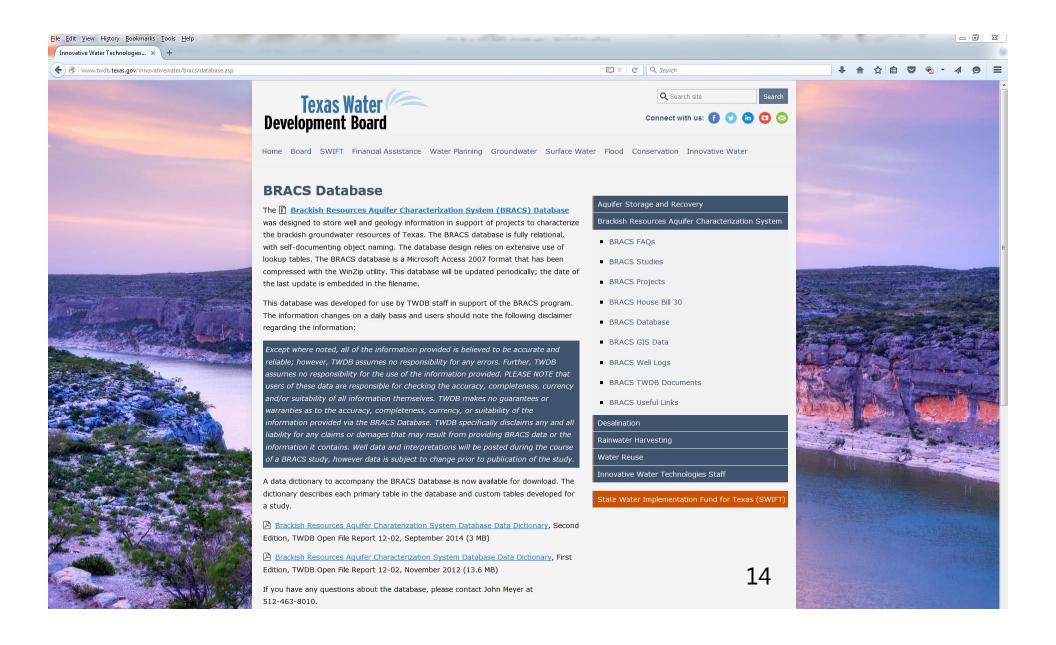
Stakeholders can use this to evaluate potential groundwater exploration areas.

BRACS Data

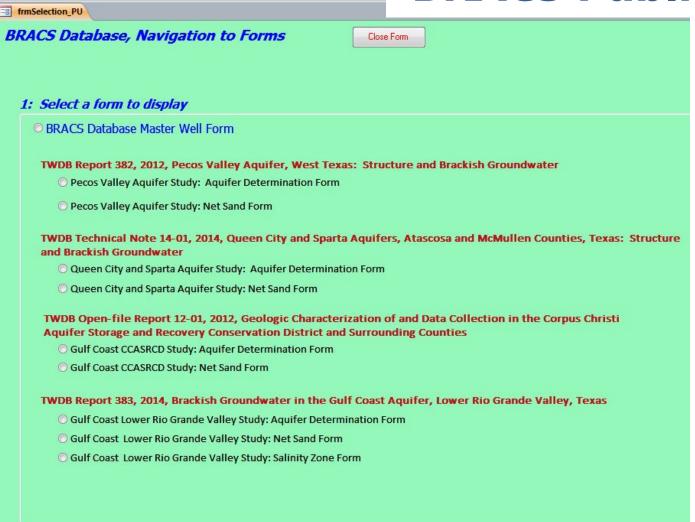
- GIS data
 - Locate geophysical well logs
 - Lateral extent of brackish aquifers
 - Stratigraphy and Lithology Interpolation
 - Water quality parameters
 - Saturated Zones
 - Rasters and shapefiles
 - Available for download online



BRACS Website for Database



BRACS Public Database



http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/bracs/database.asp

2: Press Button

Open Form



BRACS Supporting Databases

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB): BRACS Database

TWDB:

Groundwater, Desalination,
Aquifer Storage & Recovery
Databases

Rail Road Commission:
Oil & Gas Well, Q Log, and
Class II Injection Well
Databases

U.S. Geological Survey: Water Well and Produced Water Data

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality:

Public Water Systems Database

Texas Bureau of Economic Geology: Integrate Core and Log Database

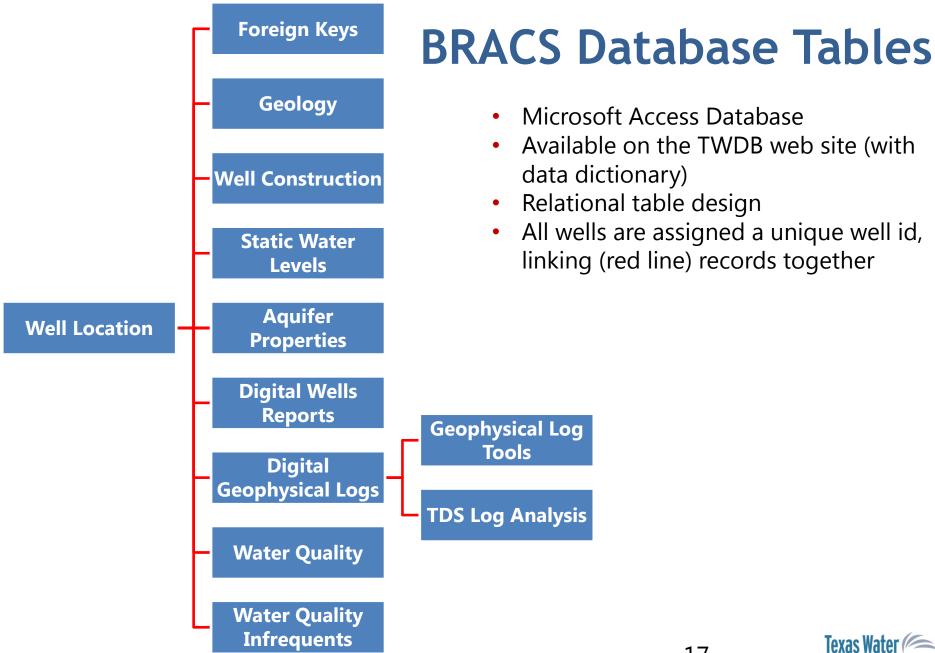
Groundwater Conservation
Districts:
Water Well Data

Texas Department on Licensing and Regulation:
Water Well Report Database

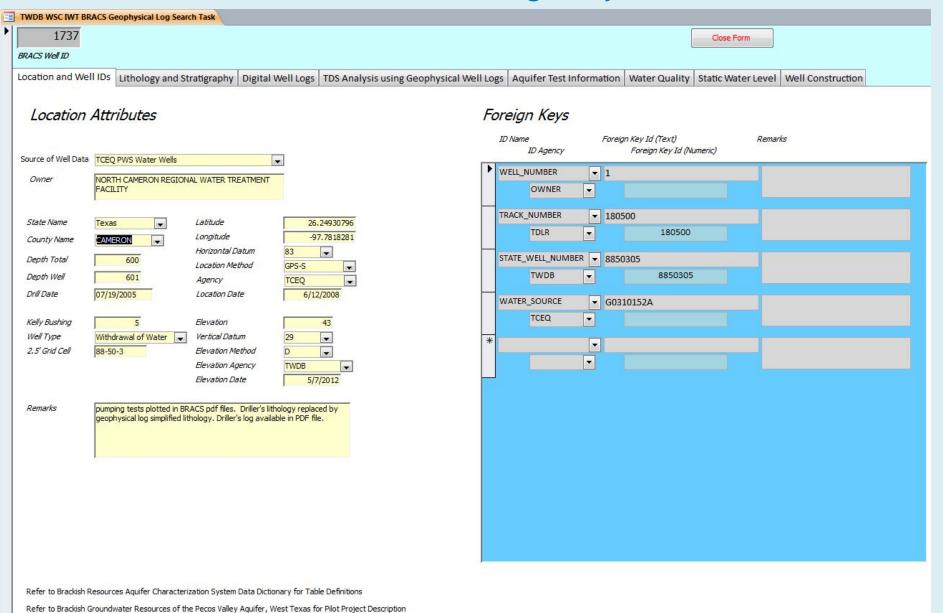
University Lands:
Oil & Gas Well Database

Public Water Service Systems: Water Well Data

New Mexico:
Oil & Gas and Water Well Databases

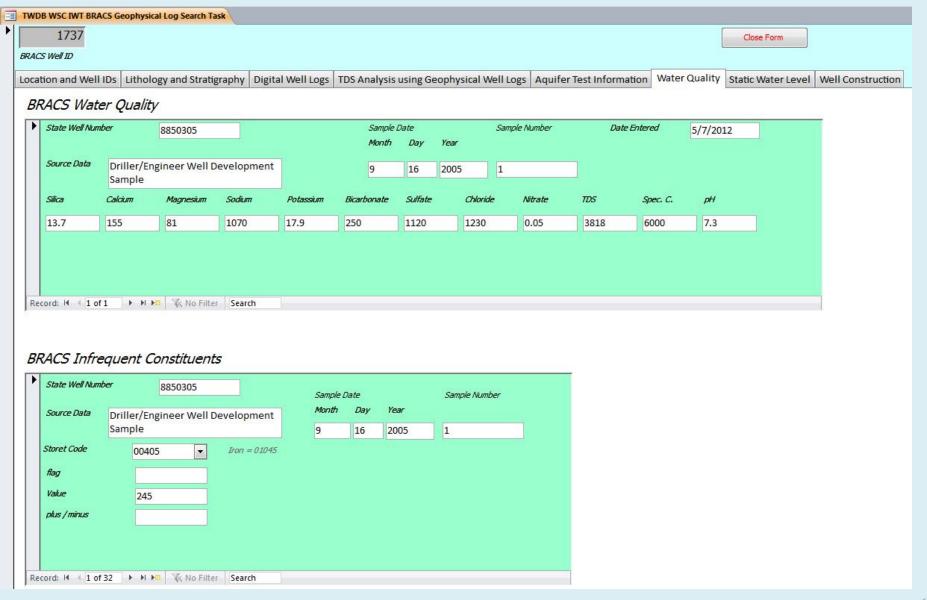


BRACS Database: Location and Foreign Key tables



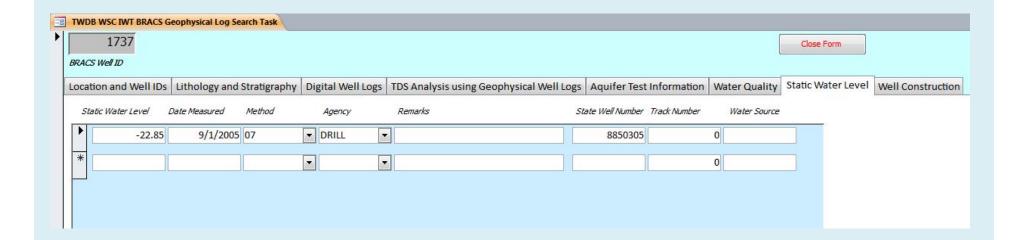


BRACS Database: Water quality tables



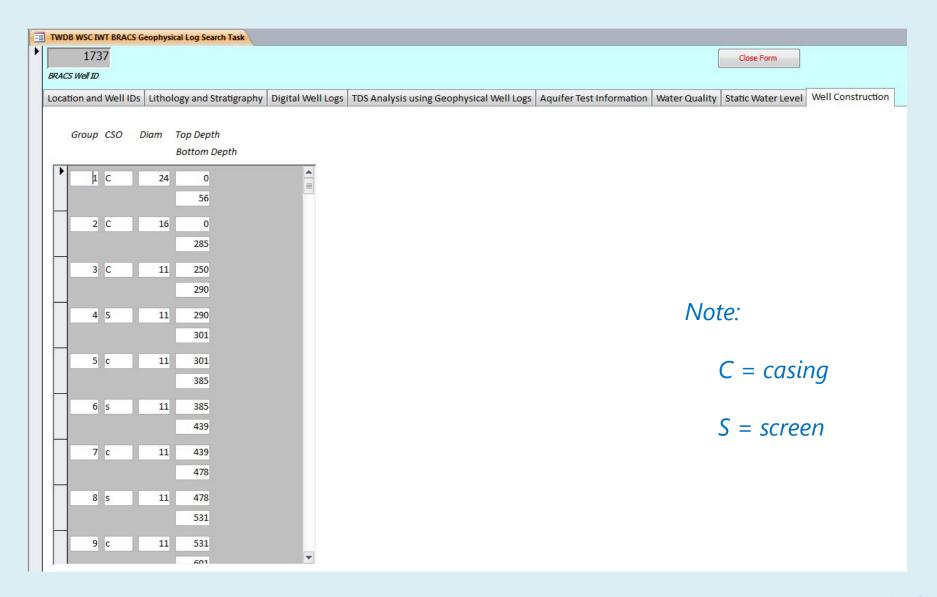


BRACS Database: Static water level table



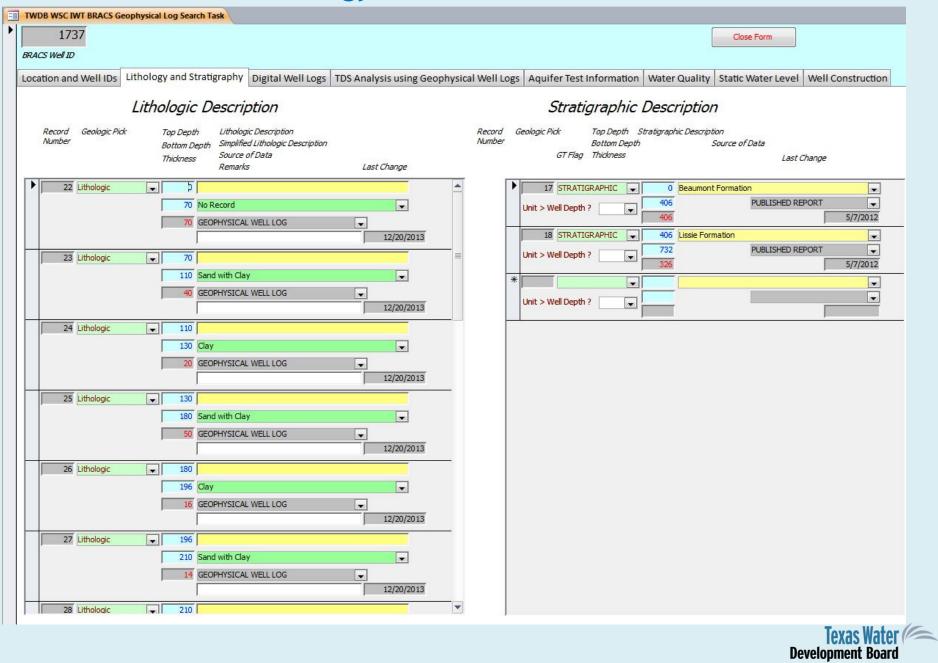


BRACS Database: Well construction table





BRACS Database: Geology table



Simplified Lithologic Description

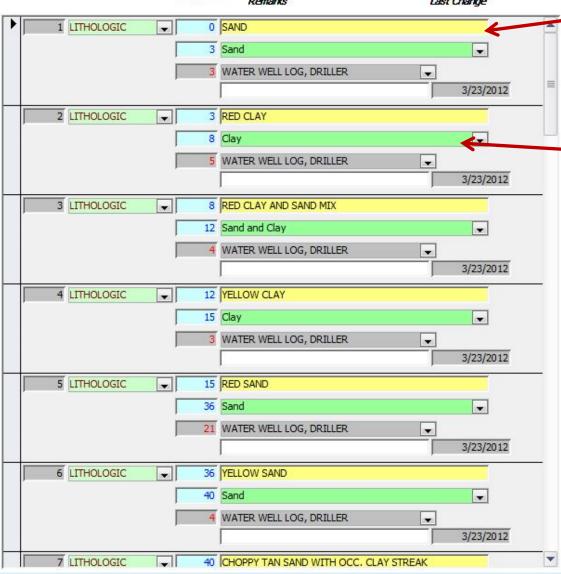
Lithologic Description Top Depth

Record Geologic Pick Number

Lithologic Description Simplified Lithologic Description Bottom Depth Source of Data Thickness

Remarks

Last Change



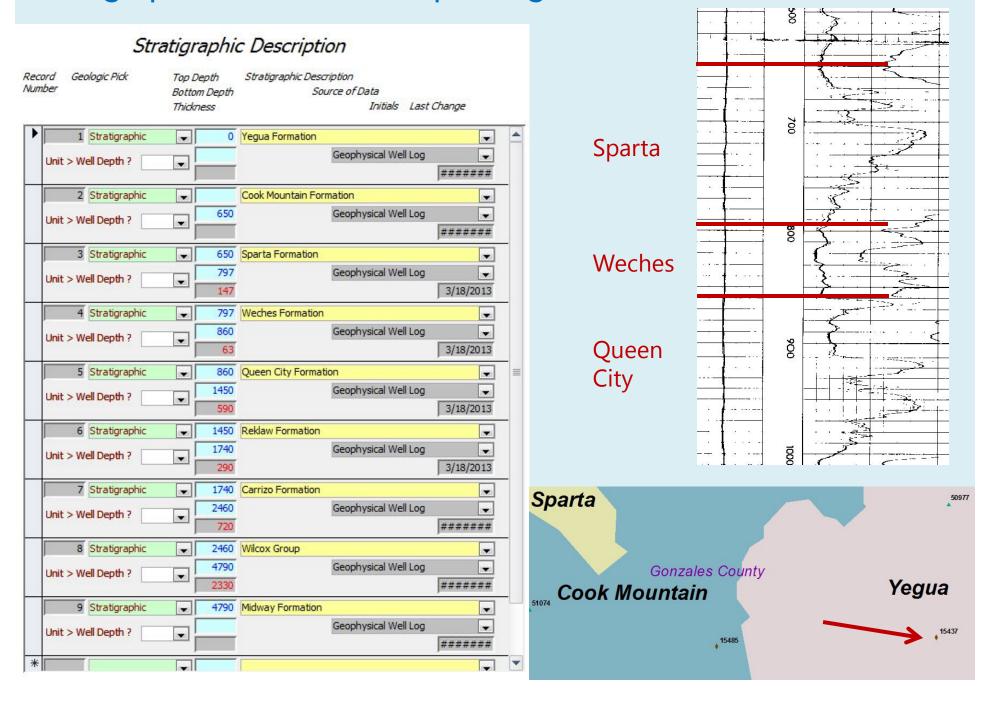
Description from well report

Simplified description from well report or

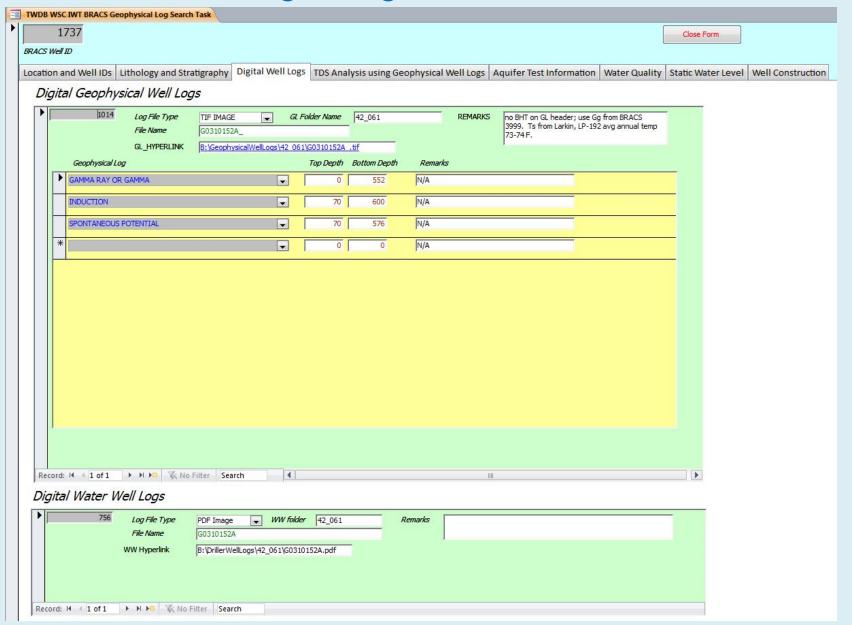
geophysical log interpretation



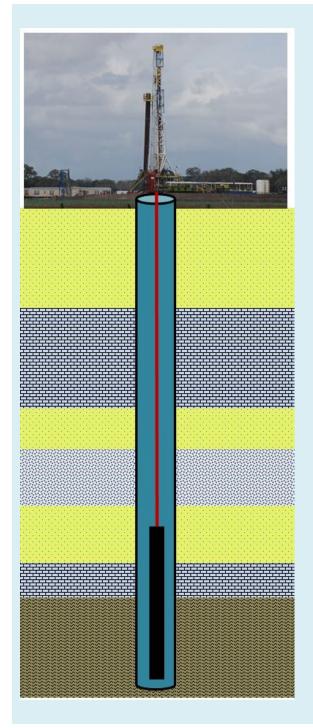
Stratigraphic Picks: Link map to log to database



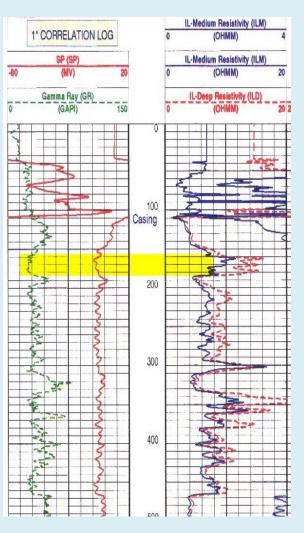
BRACS Database: Digital log tables







What is a Geophysical Well Log?



A tool or combination of tools lowered into a borehole on a wireline and retrieved to the surface.

Tools are designed to record specific parameters.

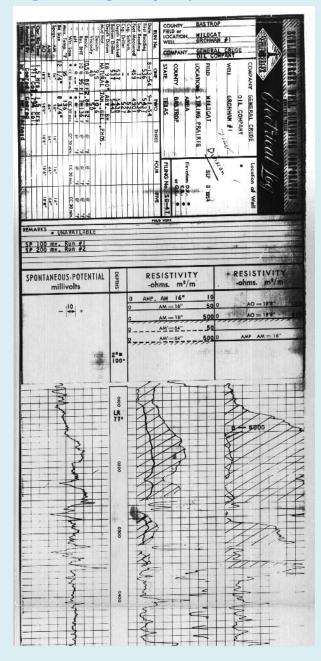
Also known as: electrical logging; wireline logging.

Logs must be corrected for a number of parameters.

Tool response recorded in left and right tracks.



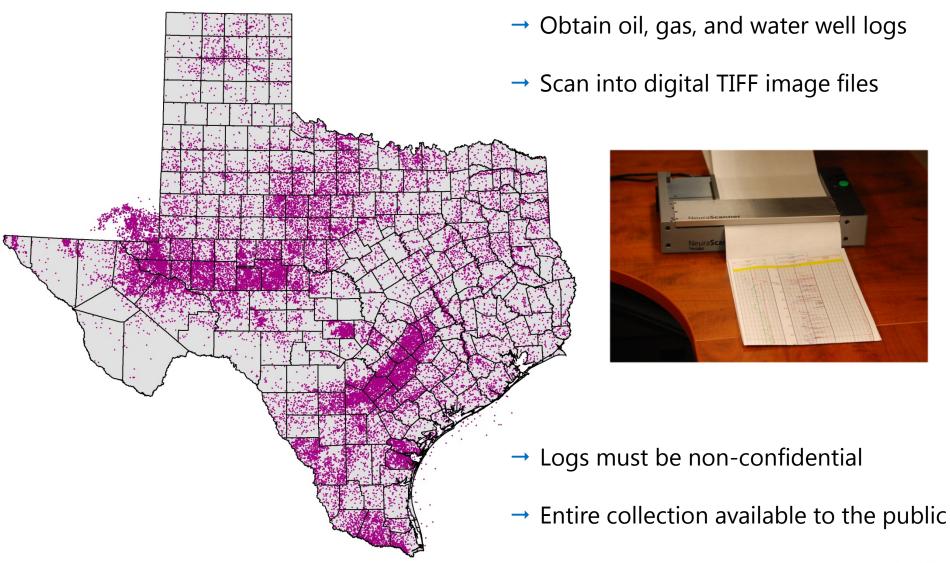
Digital geophysical and water well logs



	CC, P.O. Box 1:							Please use black ink.				
				te of Texas LL REPORT			Texas Water Well Drillers Advisory Coun P.O. Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087 512-239-0530					
1) OWNER Gonzales Count	y Water	Supply	Corpadda	ESS	1903	Sarah DeWitt	Dr., Gonz		, Texas			
2) ADDRESS OF WELL: County Gonzales	8 mil	es N. e	of Gonza	les	(F.N	1. 794 well)		RID#_	(State) 67-20-9	(Z		
3) TYPE OF WORK (Check): 4) PROPOSED USE (Check): [(X New Well Deepening Industrial Infgation Plugging If Public Supply well, were plans				Monit	OF C	Environmental Soil Boring		tic	5)			
6) WELL LOG: DIAMETER OF HOLE							No	_				
Date Drilling:	Dia. (in.) From (ft.) To (ft.)			"		ING METHOD (Check):	☐ Driven					
Started 10-24- 19 96	18 1/2 Surface 748			☐ Air Rotary								
Completed 11-10- 19 96	11 1/2	748	830		Oth							
rom (ft.) To (ft.) Descrip	tion and color	of formation	material	8)	Boreh	ole Completion (Check):	C) Open Her	- r×	61			
0 - 5 Top	Soil				[] Uno	erreamed GravelP	acked 🗆 O		Straight Wall			
5 - 68 Clay 68 - 150 Sand	(Yellow)			II Gravi	el Packed give Interval fr	om	ft.	lo			
150 - 184 Sand	& Shale			CAS	ING, BI	ANK PIPE, AND WELL S	CREEN DATA:		W = 1000			
184 - 266 Shale	2			Dia.	New	Steel, Plastic, etc.		Settir	o (ft.)	Gag		
266 - 270 Sand				(in.)	Used	Perf., Slotted, etc. Screen Mfg., if comme	rcial.	From	To	Cas		
270 - 296 Shale 296 - 302 Sand	2					Steel		4	748	GC.		
Dutta	& Shale					Steel		702	750			
06 - 353 Sand	u snare			8 5/8	New	Screen Mfg.		750	820			
513 - 672 Sand 672 - 675 Shale 675 - 700 Sand (Use reverse side if necessary) 3) TYPE PUMP: N/A □ Turbine □ Jet □ Submersible □ Cylinder				Cemented from 0 n. io 748 n. No. of sacks used 420 1. to 1. No. of sacks used 420 Method used Pressure Cemented by International Services, Inc. Distance to septic system field lines or other concentrated contamination 200 Method of verification of above distance measured								
Other		ler	- 1	10) S	URFAC	E COMPLETION				_		
Denth to numn howie cylinder let et-	WELLTESTS: Type test: X Pump Bailer Jetted Estimated Yield: 1471 gorn with 252 ft. drawdown after 36 hrs.				X Specified Surface Slab Installed [Rule 338.44(2)(A)] Specified Steel Sleave Installed [Rule 338.44(3)(A)] Pittess Adapter Used [Rule 338.44(3)(b)] Approved Alternative Procedure Used [Rule 338.71]							
Type test: 1X Pump [7] Bailer	☐ Jetted {	or 36	hee -						2-23-96	_		
WELL TESTS: Type lest: (X Pump (*) Bailer	ft. drawdown af	er_36	hrs.	11) W	ATER (tatic leve rtesian f	ft, below ta	nd surface	Date_1		_		
WELL TESTS: Type lest: X Pump Bailer Yinkt: 1471 gpm with 252 WATER QUALITY: Did you knowingly penetrate any strata with constituents? Yes X No	ft. drawdown af	er 36 ndesirable	TER*	11) W Si Ai 12) Pi	tatic leve	owft. below ta			Depth			
WELL TESTS: Type lest: X Pump Bailer Yinkt: 1471 gpm with 252 WATER QUALITY: Did you knowingly penetrate any strata with constituents? Yes X No	ft. drawdown af	er 36 ndesirable	TER*	11) W Si A	tatic levi tesian f	owft. below ta	gpm.		Depth			
WELLTESTS: Type test: IX Pump	ft. drawdown af	er_36 Indesirable RABLE WAT 750-820	d that each and	11) W Si A 12) Pi N/A dall of recompi	tatic leve tesian f ACKER: the state letion an	ow fit below to the fit below to the fit of	Type Type e best of my known	Date				
WELL TESTS: Type lest: IX Pump	ft. drawdown af	er_36 Indesirable RABLE WAT 750-820	d that each and	11) W Si A 12) Pi N/A dall of recompi	tatic lever tesian f ACKER: the state letion an	ow fit below to the fit below to the fit of	Type Type e best of my known	Date				



BRACS Geophysical Well Log Collection

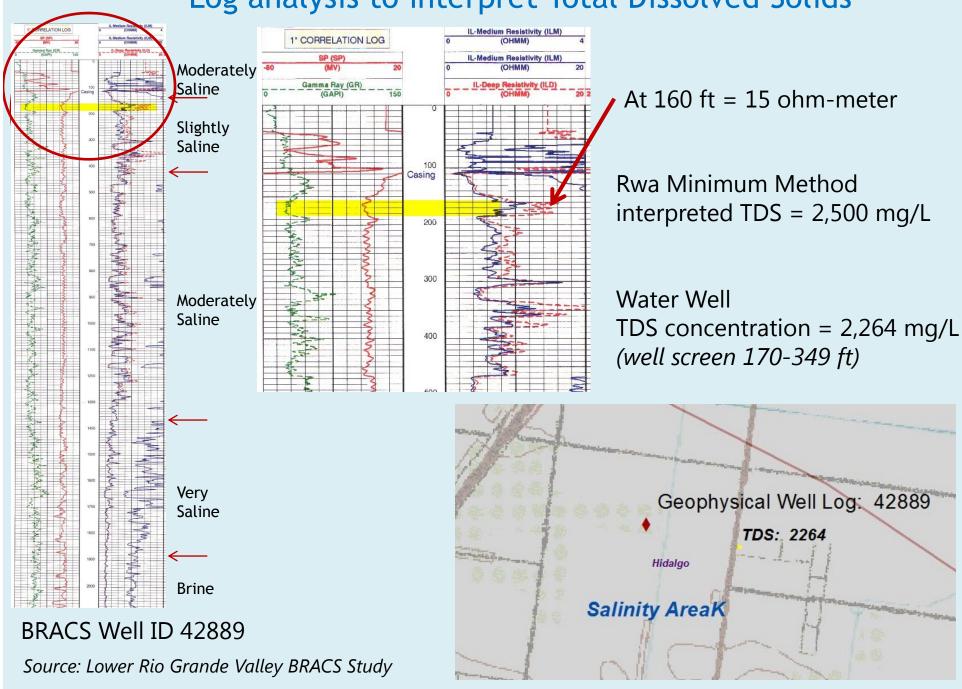


BRACS Database: Log analysis to interpret Total Dissolved Solids

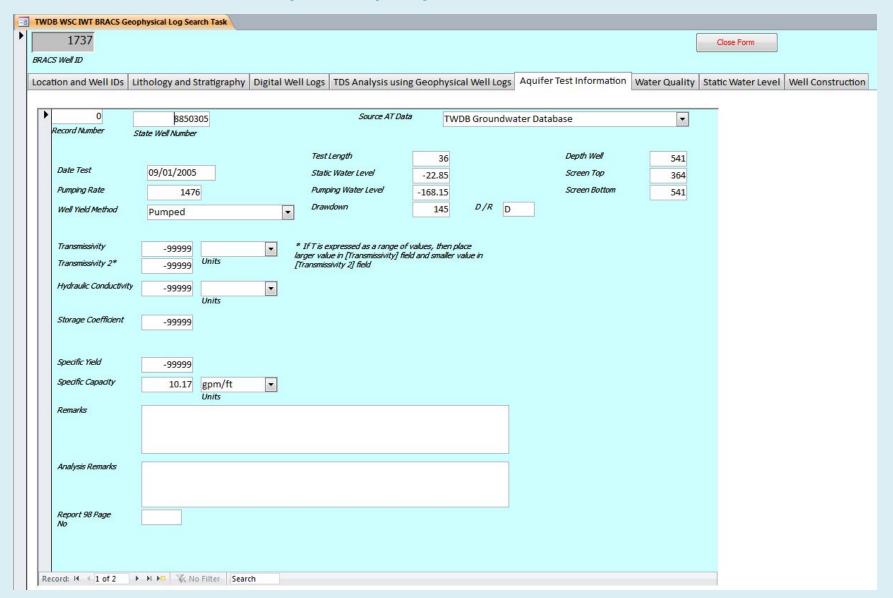
-8	TWDB WSC IWT BRACS Geophysical Log Search Task	
	1737 Close Form	
	BRACS Well ID	
	Location and Well IDs Lithology and Stratigraphy Digital Well Logs TDS Analysis using Geophysical Well Logs Aquifer Test Information Water Quality Static Water Level Well Construction	
ľ		
	GL NUMBER: 1014 GL FILE TYPE TIF IMAGE GL CO Baker Hughes	
	GL FILE NAME G0310152A_ Remarks no BHT on GL header; use Gg from BRACS 3999. Ts from Larkin, LP-192 avg annual	
	Depth Total 603 Rmf 0.7 temp 73-74 F.	
	Temperature Surface 74 Rmf Temperature 75	
	Temperature Bottom Hole 81 Rm 0.9	
	Rm Temperature 75 Mud Type water base	
	Depth Formation (Df): 296	
	IDS Interpreted 0 Remarks: N/A	
	Thickness Lithologic Unit: 12 Consensus TDS Method N/A	
	7DS Method: Rwe 1.08 Rw 0.92 Rw75 0.94 Cw 10638.3 7DS 5638	
	TWW Predict	
	Geophysical Log Used: INDUCTION Correction Factors	
	SP 0 0 K (Temperature): SP Method	
	Rxo 0 1.17 Rwe Rw: Sp, Alger Harrison, and Rwa Minimum Methods	
	Ro 6 0 Rmf: SP and Alger Harrision Methods Chart N/A Rxn/Ro 0 0.53 — ct: Many Methods Remarks: WQ: 8850305 (2005) TDS: 3817 ct: 0.53	
	Rxo /Ro 0 0.53 ct: Many Methods	
	Source m Eq. 1.18 (Estepp, 1998) 1 m correction factor: Estepp Method high anion waters	
	Porosity: 0.35 1 Ro: Mean Ro Method	
	Source Porosity: N/A	
	Record: M 4 1 of 1 M M W No Filter Search	
	Record: Id 4 1 of 3 P PI PI V No Filter Search	
	Record: H 4 1 of 1	
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Log analysis to interpret Total Dissolved Solids

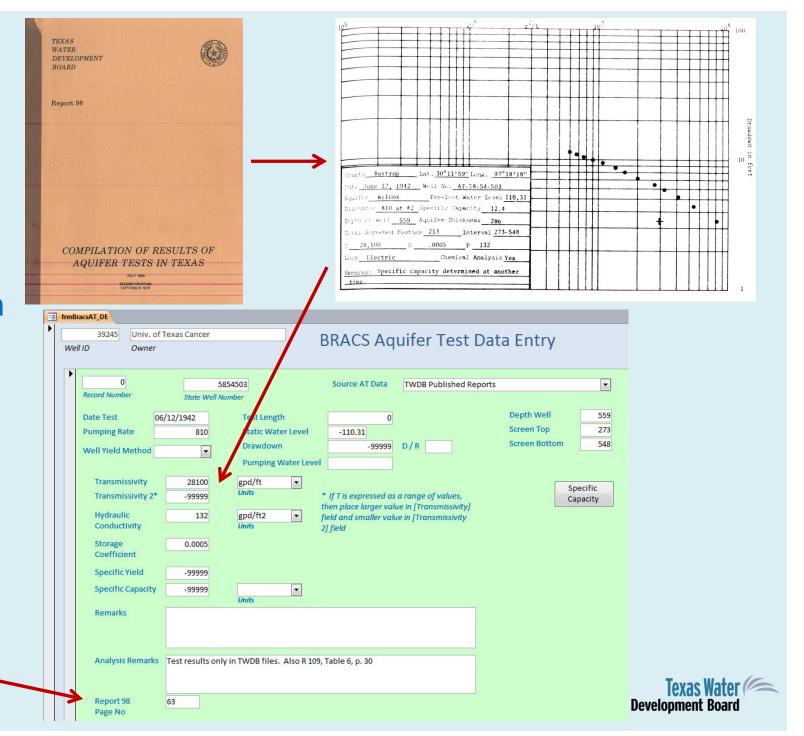


BRACS Database: Aquifer properties table

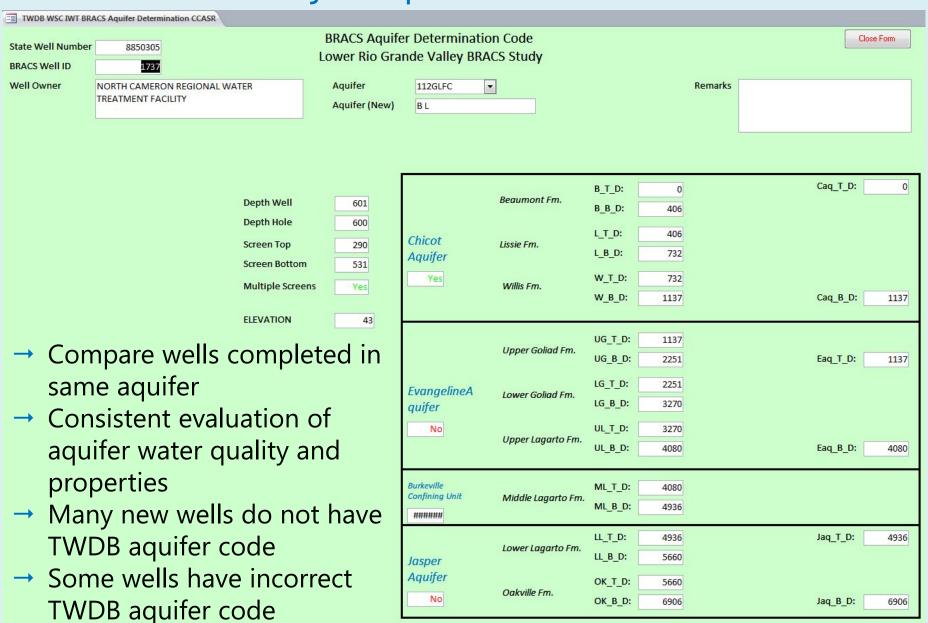




Link
aquifer
properties
to
the
source
of
information

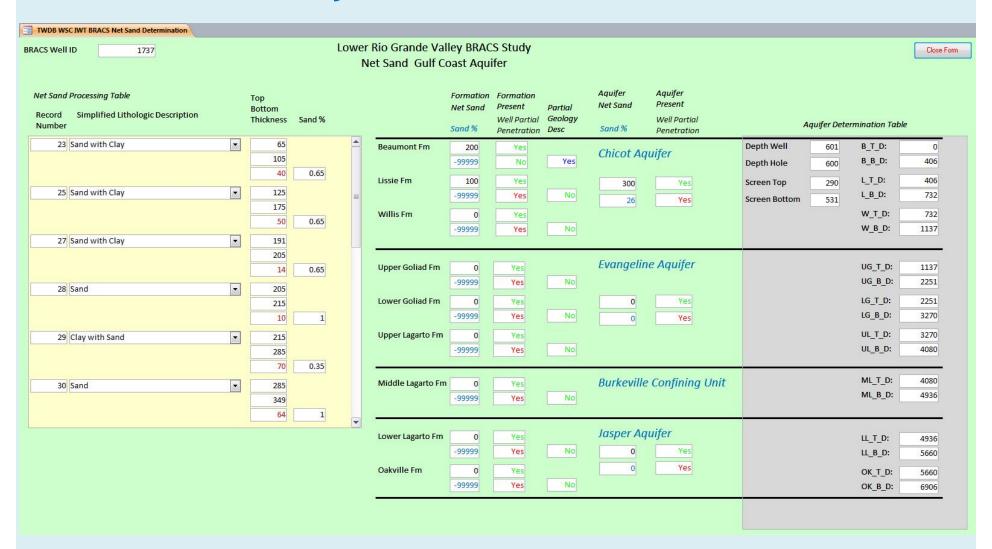


BRACS Database: Project aquifer determination table





BRACS Database: Project net sand determination tables

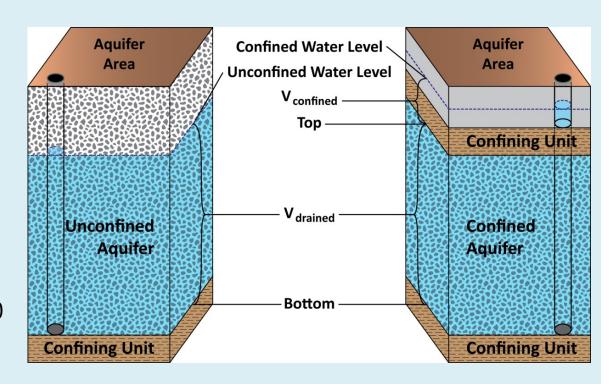




Estimated Groundwater Volumes

Five TDS Ranges (mg/L):

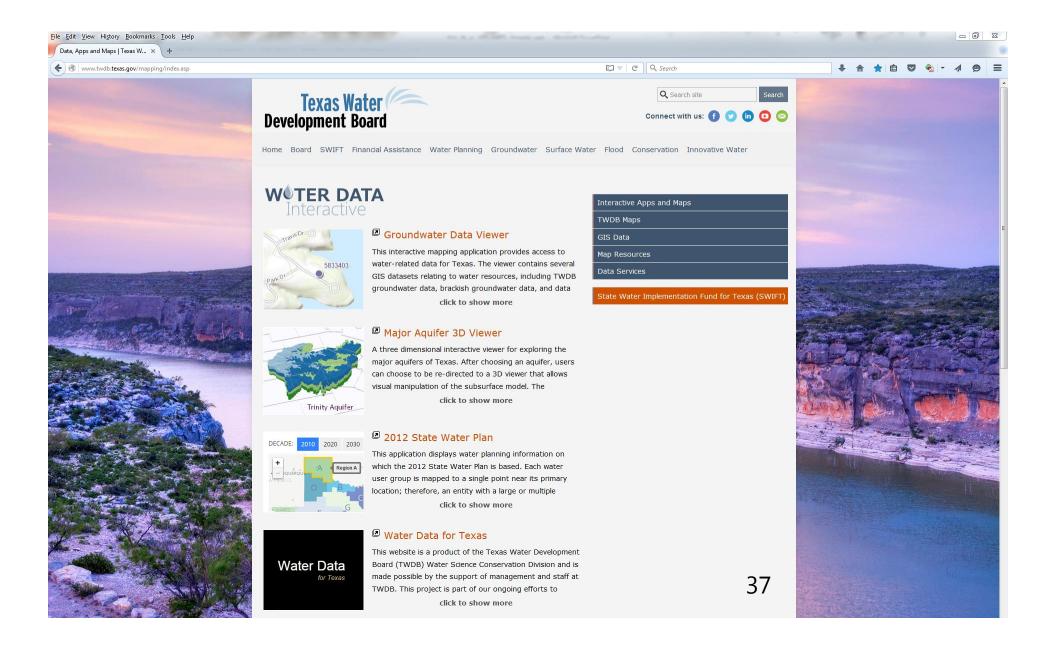
- Fresh 0-999
- Slightly 1,000 -2,999
 Saline
- Moderately 3,000 9,999
 Saline
- Very Saline 10,000 35,000
- Brine > 35,000



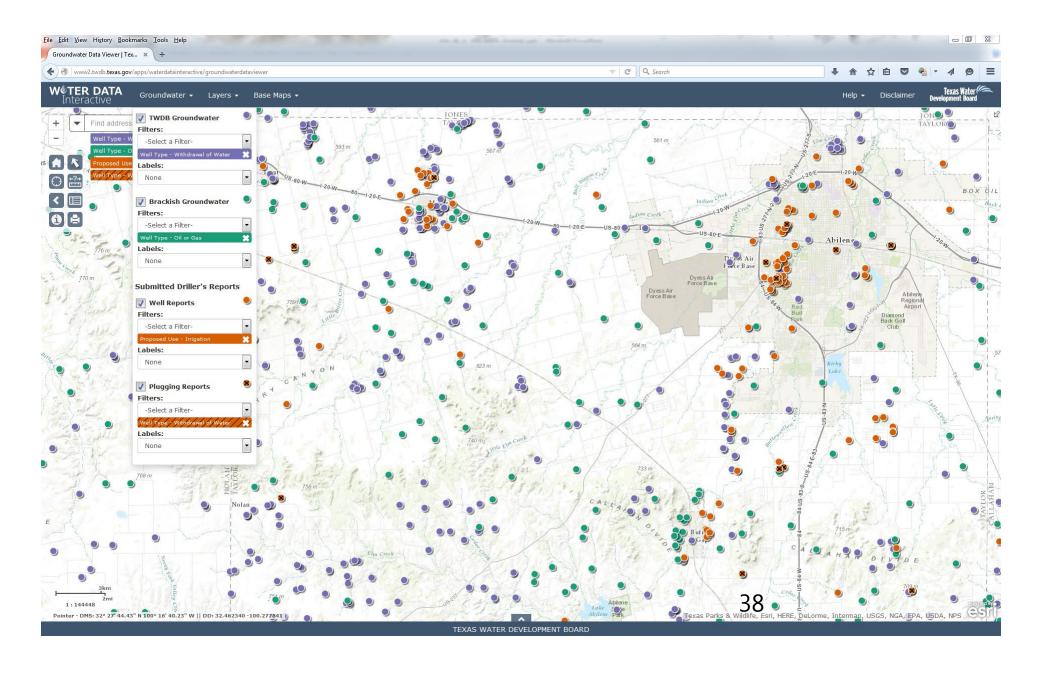


BRACS GIS Eddy **Project Well Control** : New Mexico: **Queen City Sand Percent** Dockum Group and Cretaceous Undivided Eddy 31 - 40 Pecos Valley Aquifer Thickness (feet) 41 - 50 51 - 60 New Mexico Texas 61 - 70 12.5 71 - 80 100 - 200 81 - 90 200 - 300 91 - 93 Winkler Queen City Formation Outcrop 400 - 500 Well Control (sand percent) 600 - 700 800 - 900 1,000 - 1,100 1,100 - 1,200 1,200 - 1,300 1,300 - 1,400 1,400 - 1,500 1,500 - 1,600 1,600 - 1,700 Study Area Boundary 1,700 - 1,800 Texas Water Development Board

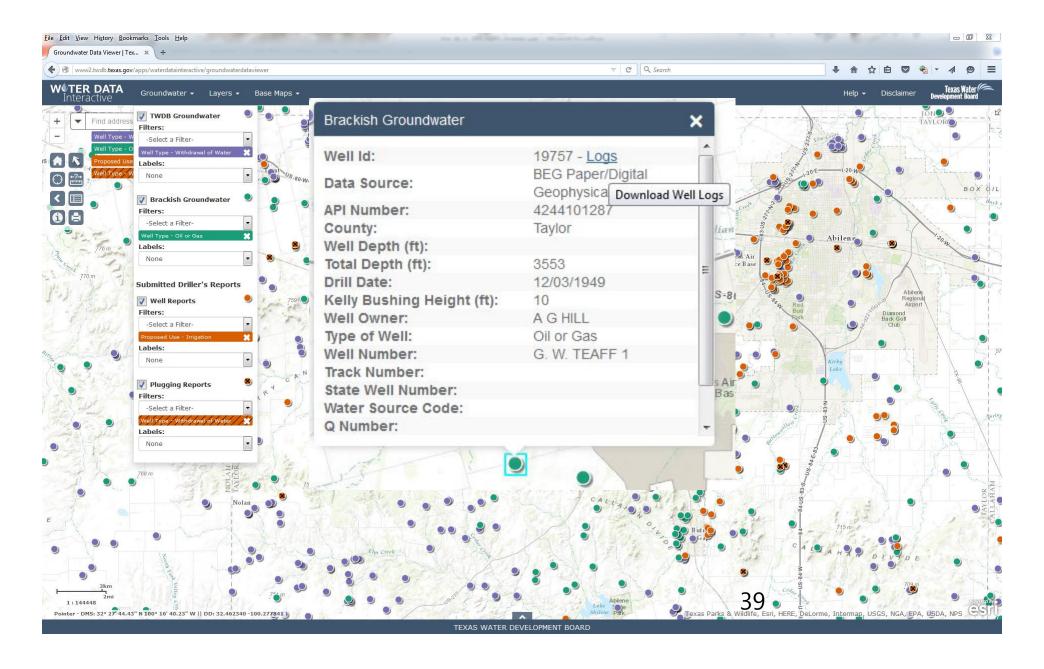
Water Data Interactive



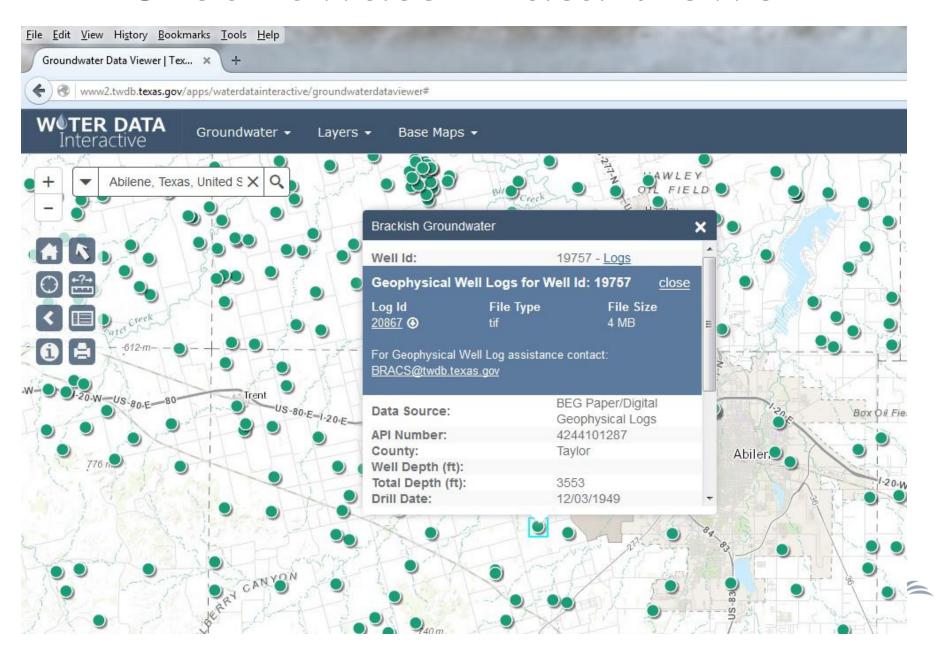
Groundwater Data Viewer



Groundwater Data Viewer



Groundwater Data Viewer



Who are we?

Texas Water Development Board

Why do we study brackish aquifers?

Groundwater Desalination is part of the Texas Water Plan

How do we study brackish aquifers?

Well Logs, Databases, Geospatial Data

www.twdb.texas.gov



We appreciate data!

Mark Robinson

Geologist

Innovative Water Technologies

Texas Water Development Board

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(512) 463-7657

http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/index.asp

Draft 2017 Water Plan:

https://2017.texasstatewaterplan.org/statewide