

# Update on ACA Petition to Clearwater UWCD TWCA June 15, 2023



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# ACA was created to build the strategy

**Action of the Legislature** - Formed through special legislation, which is usually introduced by a local senator or representative

**Petition to TCEQ by property owners** - Local landowners may petition the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to form a groundwater conservation district.

**Initiation by the TCEQ** - If local landowners do not take action to create a groundwater conservation district in a priority groundwater management area, the TCEQ can create one.

**Addition of territory to an existing district** - A group of landowners can petition an existing GCD's board of directors to be annexed into that district. The annexation must be approved by the directors, public hearings must be held and the addition must be confirmed by voters.

# Our goal is to establish a GCD



- Ensure future developments have water
- Protect landowners' existing investments
- Help the county promote healthy growth
- Support local conservation programs
- Bring peace to our community



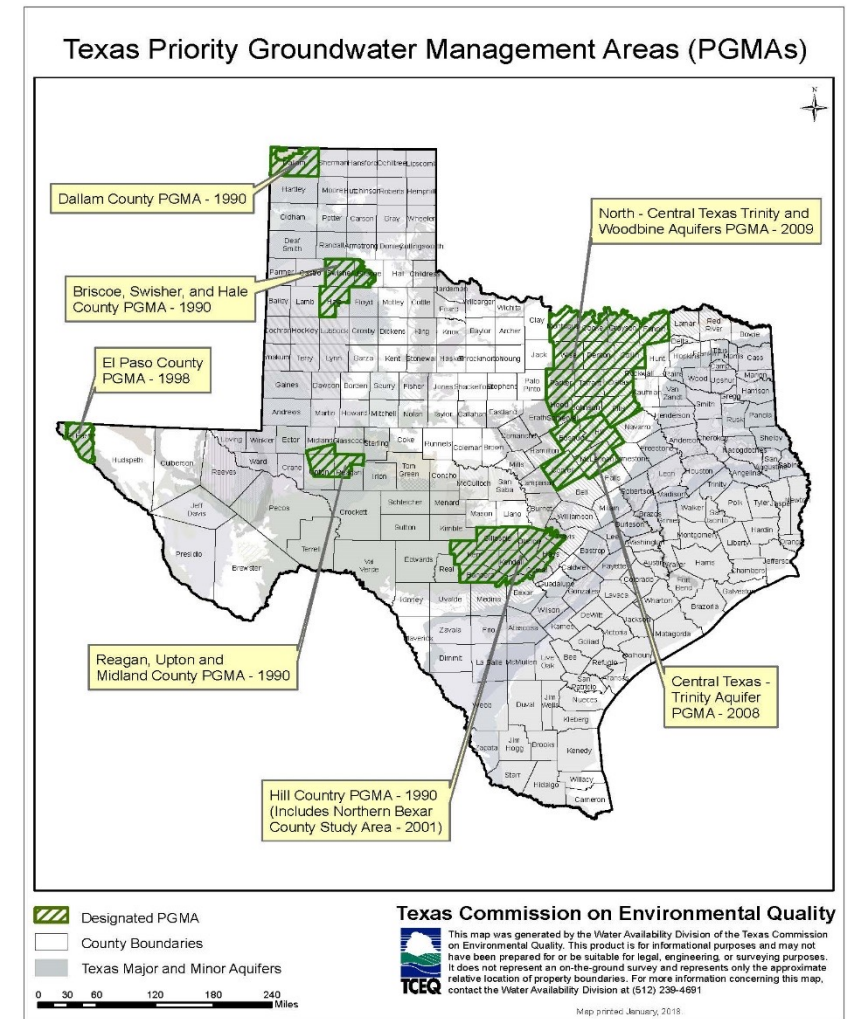
# Why we chose Clearwater UWCD

- Decision making is driven by science
- Operational in months not years
- 20 years of demonstrated success
- Fiscally Conservative
  - 1/8 of 1% of Williamson County's annual budget
  - \$10-15 per landowner per year

*An effective GCD needs a strong board – Aquifers do not follow county lines.*  
- Col (ret) Terry Wilson

# PGMA Designation Process

- First requires designation of a PGMA under Chapter 35 of Texas Water Code
  - TCEQ designates PGMA
  - Example: Southwestern Travis County GCD
- Confirmation election required in territory to be annexed

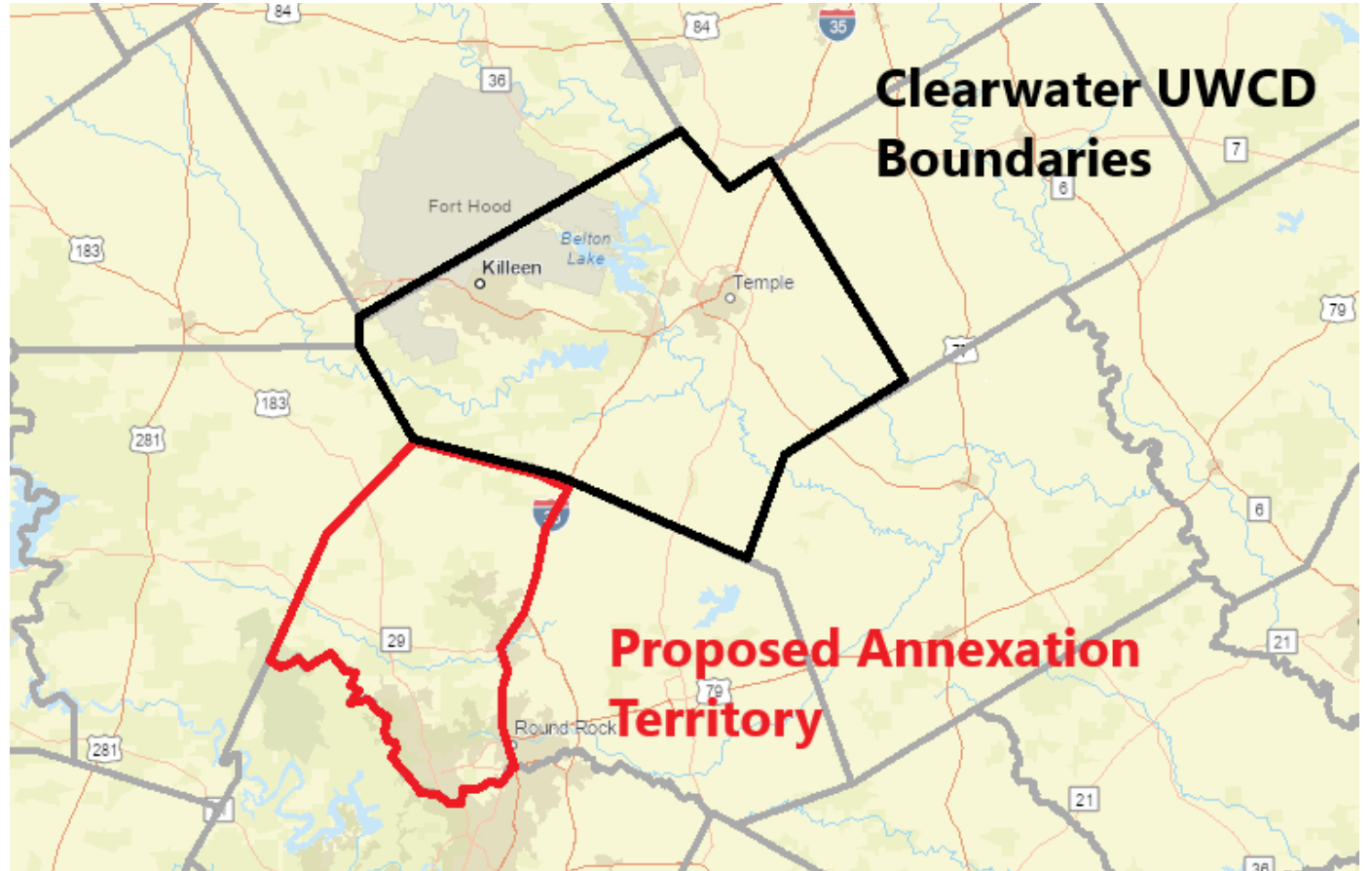


# TWC § 36.325 Annexation Petition Requirements

- Petition must be signed by:
  - A majority of the landowners in the proposed territory to be annexed,
  - At least 50 landowners if the number of landowners is more than 50, **OR**
  - the commissioners court of the county in which the area is located **if** the area is identified as a priority groundwater management area or includes the entire county.
- Petition must describe the land by legal description or by metes and bounds or by lot and block number if there is a recorded plat of the area to be included.

# Clearwater UWCD's Legal Obligations

- After receiving a petition to annex territory, the Board must:
  - Order at least two public hearings, and set the time and for both: one in Bell County, and one in the proposed annexation territory.
  - If after the hearings, the Board believes the proposed annexation would benefit the District, the Board ***may*** add the territory by resolution.
  - If the Board adds the territory by resolution, it must call for a ratification election.



# Ratification Election

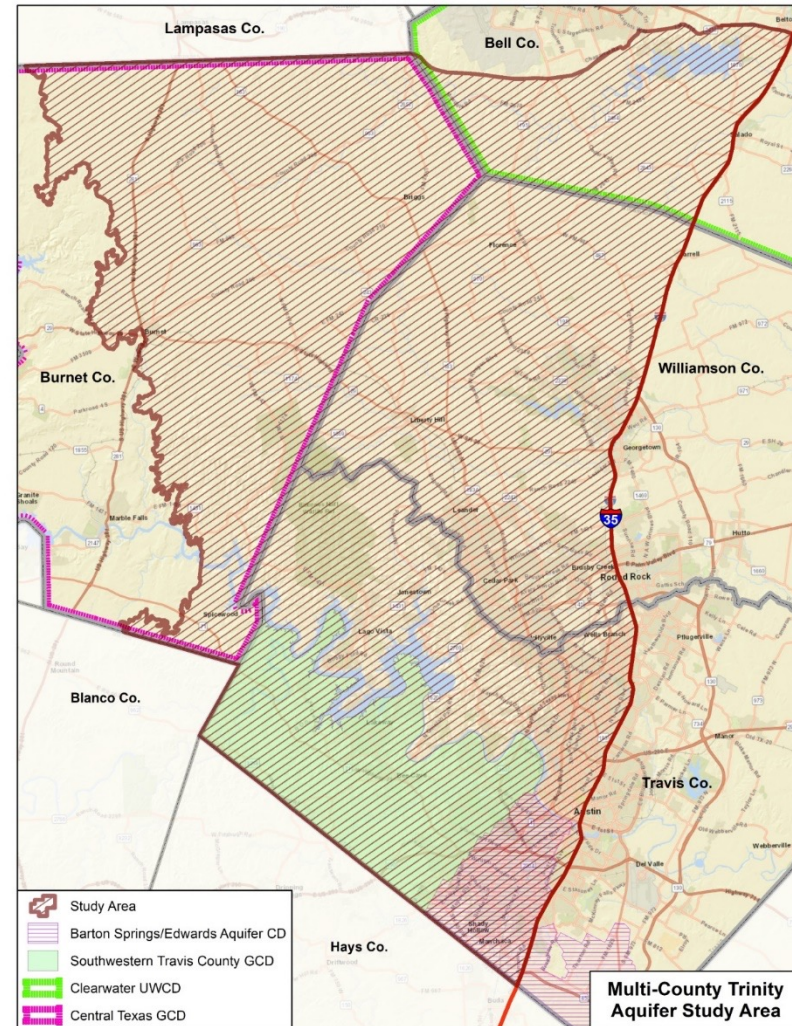
- Annexation is not final until ratified by a majority vote *of the voters in the territory to be added*. An election in the existing District accept the addition of the land is not required.
- Ballot must indicate the property tax rate proposed for the territory.
- Elections may only be held on uniform election dates. The next uniform election date is first Tuesday, May 6, 2023.
- The amount of the tax included in the proposition shall be the **maximum amount that the district is authorized** to levy (5 cents per \$100 valuation).
- The Board's current tax rate is ~0.27 cents per \$100 valuation.



# Clearwater UWCD's Annexation Timeline

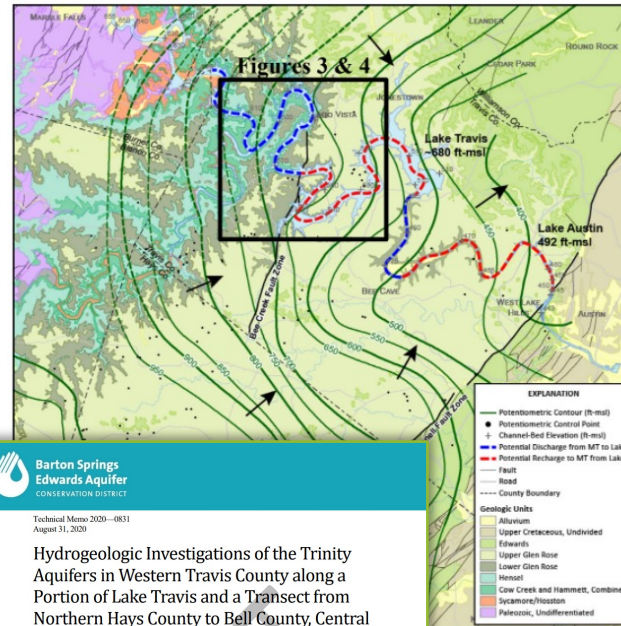
- January 2023:** Receive Annexation Petition from Landowners in the proposed annexation area.
- February 2023:** Board reviews the petition and sets 2 public hearings as required by Ch. 36.
- March 2023:** Board holds 1 public hearing in Bell County, and 1 public hearing in the proposed annexation territory.  
At its next meeting, Board adopts annexation resolution and calls for an election to ratify the resolution.
- ~~**March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023** Petition Withdrawn~~
- ~~**August 21, 2023:** State deadline to call for an election.~~
- ~~**November 7, 2023** Election Day~~

# Hydrostratigraphic Model of the Trinity Aquifer for Portions of Bell, Burnet, Travis and Williamson Counties, Central Texas



# JOINT STUDY GOALS

1. Provide policy makers, and the scientific community with a detailed hydrogeologic framework for the Trinity Aquifer in Central Texas
2. Better understand groundwater flow and the impacts of structure and facies changes
3. Fill in the gaps between prior BSEACD and CUWCD research



**Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Technical Memo 2020-0831  
August 31, 2020

Hydrogeologic Investigations of the Trinity Aquifers in Western Travis County along a Portion of Lake Travis and a Transect from Northern Hays County to Bell County, Central Texas

Brian B. Hunt, P.G., Lane P. Cockrell, Brian A. Smith, Ph.D., P.G.

Bee Creek Fault Zone

Allan R. Standen LLC

Middle and Lower Trinity Hydrogeologic Investigation of Southwest Bell and Northwest Williamson County

Prepared for:  
Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District

Prepared By:  
Allan R. Standen, P.G. 1227  
Vince Clause, GISP

PRELIMINARY - Subject to Revision

Cross-section B - B'

**Legend**

- 11 Austin Chalk
- 12 On the Geopline, Main Street and New Flow Lineations
- 13 Edwards and Comanche Peak Lineations
- 14 Hensel
- 15 Glen Rose
- 16 Hensel and Cow Creek Lineations
- 17 Hensel and Hensel Stage
- 18 Houston
- 19 Undifferentiated
- Fault 1
- Fault 2
- Fault 3
- Fault 4
- 2010 Potentiometric Surface
- 2010 Hydrogeologic Surface
- 2010 Detailed Fault Location (1/8" R of Abscissa)

Scale: 1:175,000  
Vertical exaggeration: 20x  
North Arrow

GAP Coordinates  
N: 558641, 1097513  
E: 170219, 1096863

**NICHELE & SUTHERLAND**

# Questions

