

March 18, 2002

texas water development board

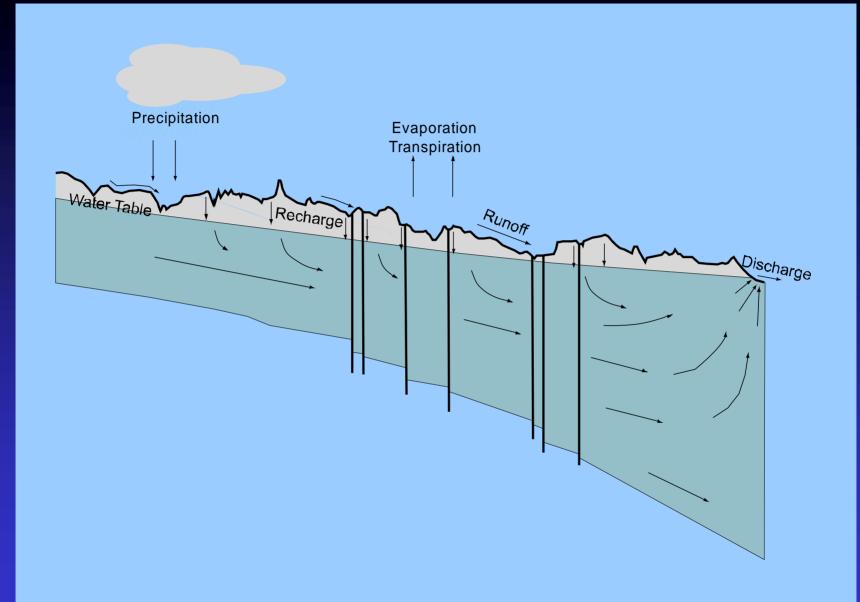
### OUTLINE

- Introduction to groundwater modeling
- Overview of northern segment of Edwards Aquifer
- GAM schedule
  - SAF meetings
  - Project milestones

# INTRODUCTION TO GROUNDWATER FLOW MODELING

#### WHAT IS AN AQUIFER?

 Rock or sediment from which usable amounts of water can be extracted



#### HYDROLOGIC CYCLE

### WHY ARE GROUNDWATER FLOW MODELS NEEDED?

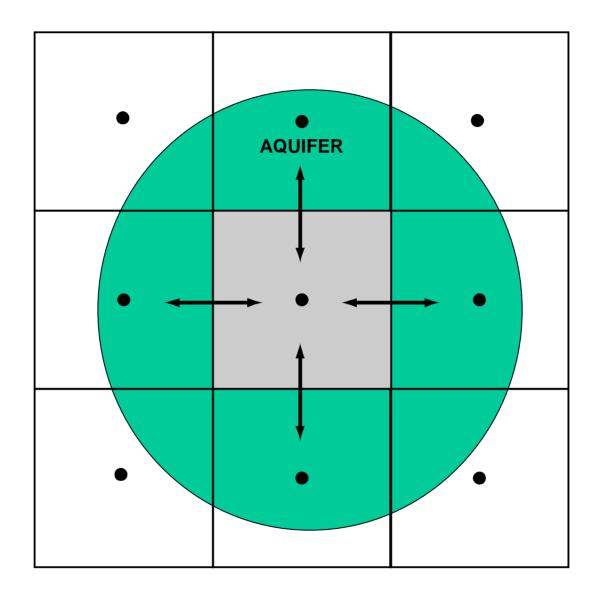
- Groundwater flow is difficult to observe
- Aquifers are typically complex in terms of spatial extent and hydrogeological characteristics
- Means of integrating available data for prediction of groundwater flow

#### GROUNDWATER FLOW MODELING

- Mathematical representation of an aquifer
- Uses basic laws of physics that govern groundwater flow
- Calculates the hydraulic head at discrete locations (grid)
- Calculated model heads can be compared to hydraulic heads measured in wells

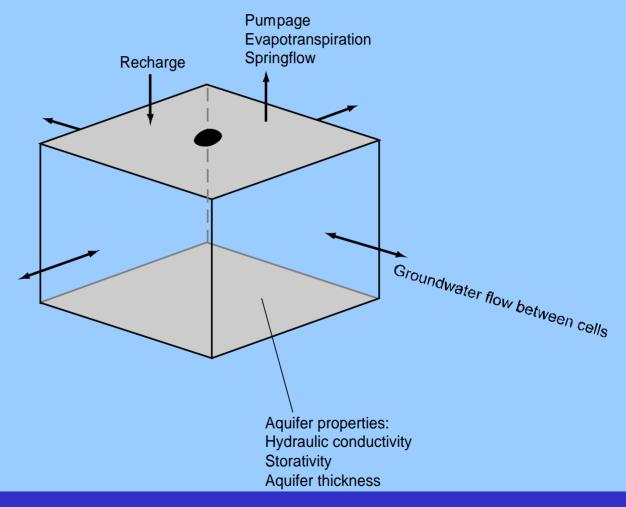
#### MODEL INPUT DATA

- Geology
  - Stratigraphy
  - Structure
- Water levels
- Surface water
  - Spring discharge
  - Stream discharge
- Aquifer properties
- Water use



#### MODEL CELL

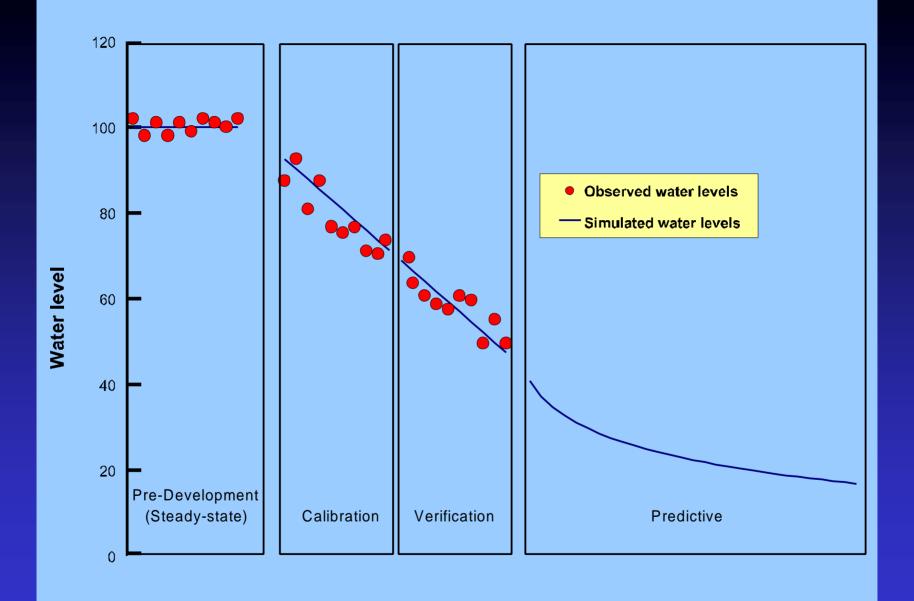
#### Hydraulic head calculated by balancing water inflows and outflows



#### **MODEL CELL**

#### MODELING PROCESS

- Define model objectives
- Develop conceptual model
- Design model
- Calibration and verification modeling
  - Comparison with observed data
- Predictive modeling
  - Predict impacts of projected growth
    - 2000 2050

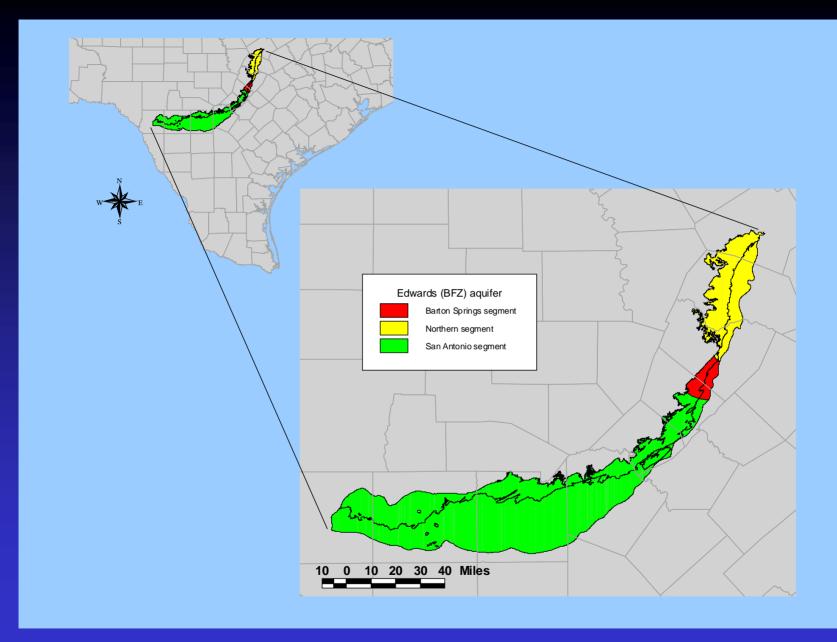


#### MODEL PERIODS

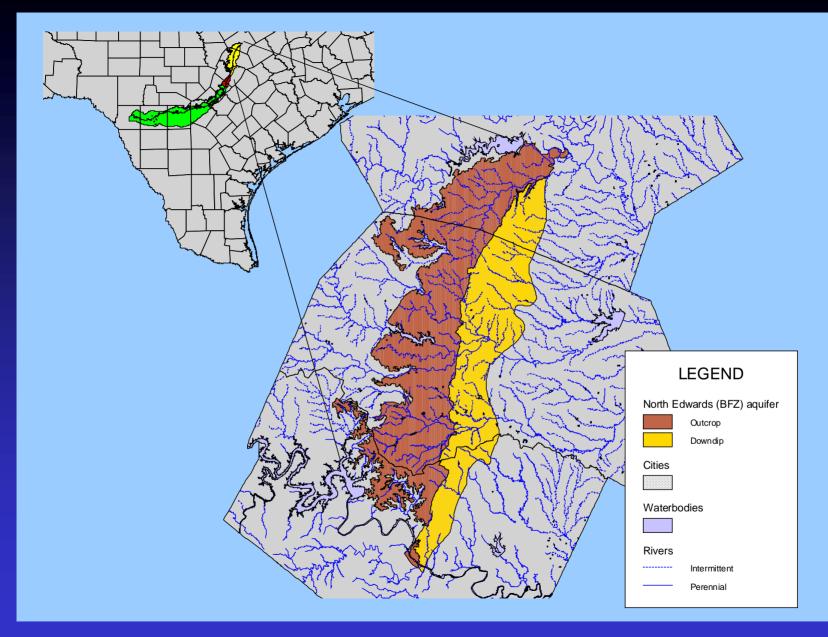
#### MODEL LIMITATIONS

- Approximation of the real system
  - Regional scale
- Uncertainty in the input data
  - Grid resolution
  - Incomplete data

## OVERVIEW OF THE NORTHERN SEGMENT OF THE EDWARDS AQUIFER



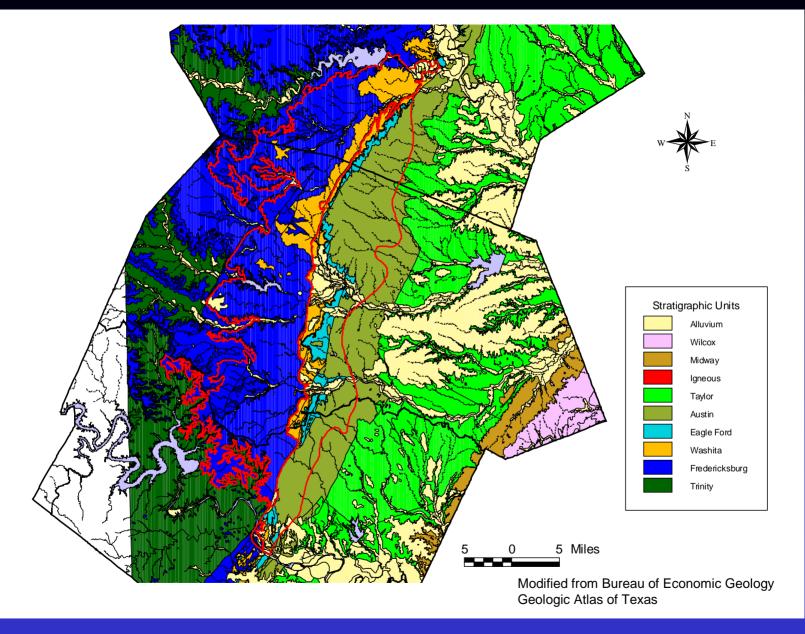
#### **EDWARDS AQUIFER**



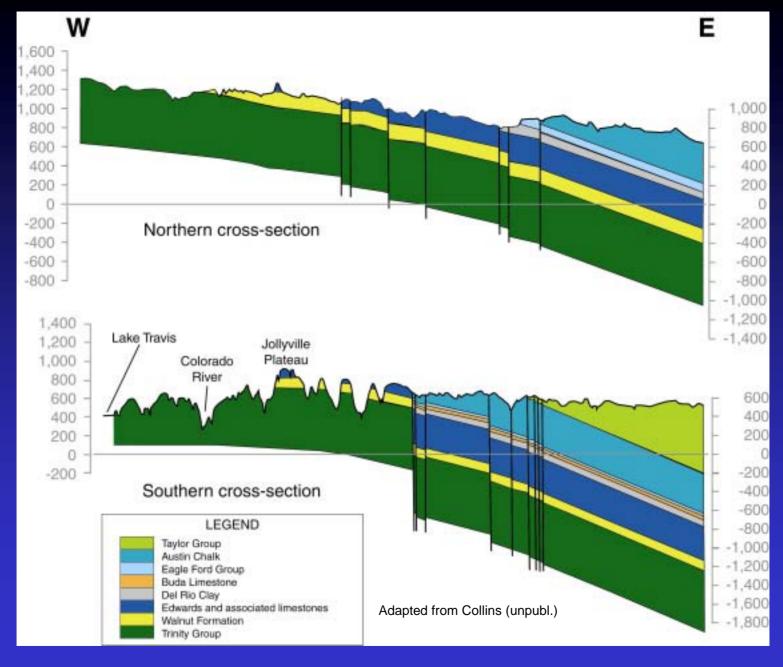
**LOCATION MAP** 

Series	Group	;	Stratigraphic Unit	Hydrologic Unit	Maximum Thickness (feet)
Jig	Navarro			Navarro and	920
	Taylor			Taylor Groups	820
	Austin			Austin Chalk	425
	Eagle Ford				30
	Washita	Buda Limestone			50
		Del Rio Clay			60
		Georgetown Formation		Edwards and associated limestones	90
	Frederickburg	Kiamichi Formation			15
		Edwards Limestone			185
		Comanche Peak Limestone			50
ghe		Walnut Formation			110
Comanche	Trinity	Paluxy Formation		Han an Talaka	10
		Gen Rose	Upper Member	Upper Trinity	430
			Lower Member	Middle Trinity	430
		Travis Peak	Hensell Sand Member		75
			Cow Creek Limestone Member		80
			Hammett Shale Member		30
			Sligo Member	Lower Trinity	140
			Hosston Member		815

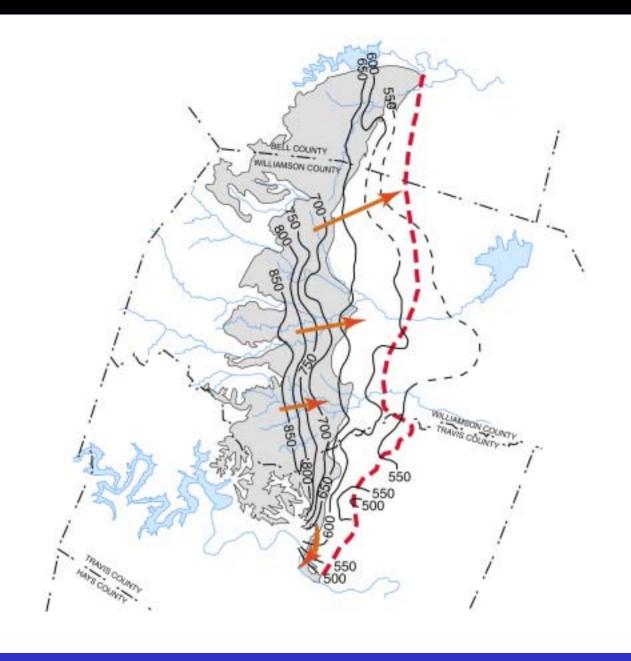
#### HYDROSTRATIGRAPHIC COLUMN



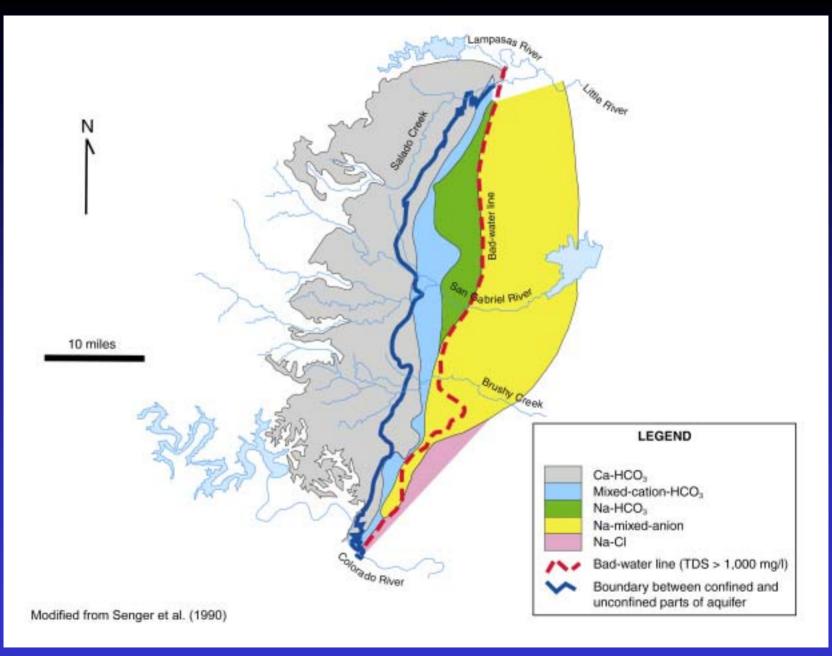
#### **SURFACE GEOLOGY**



#### **CROSS SECTIONS**



#### POTENTIOMETRIC SURFACE MAP

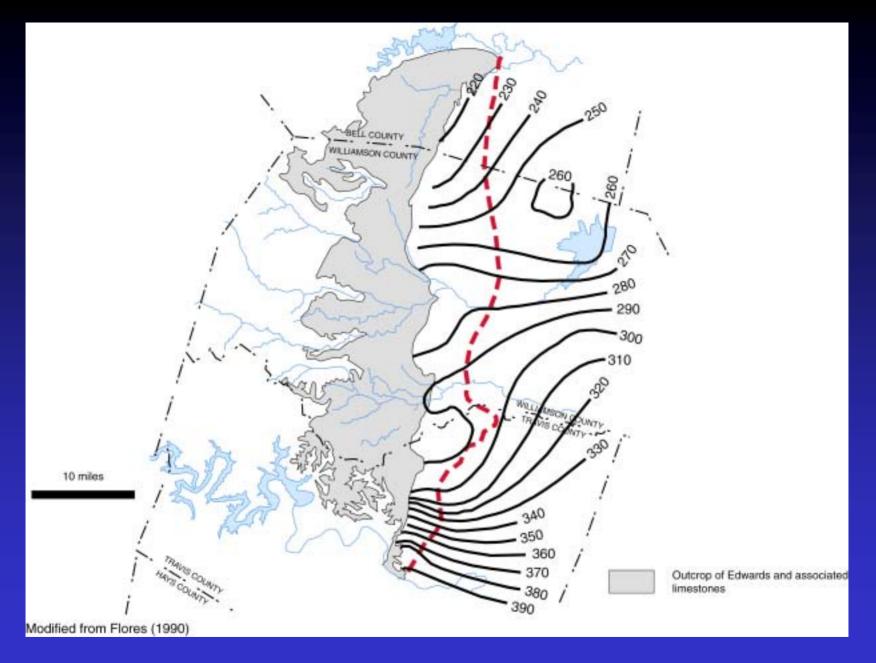


#### **GROUNDWATER QUALITY**

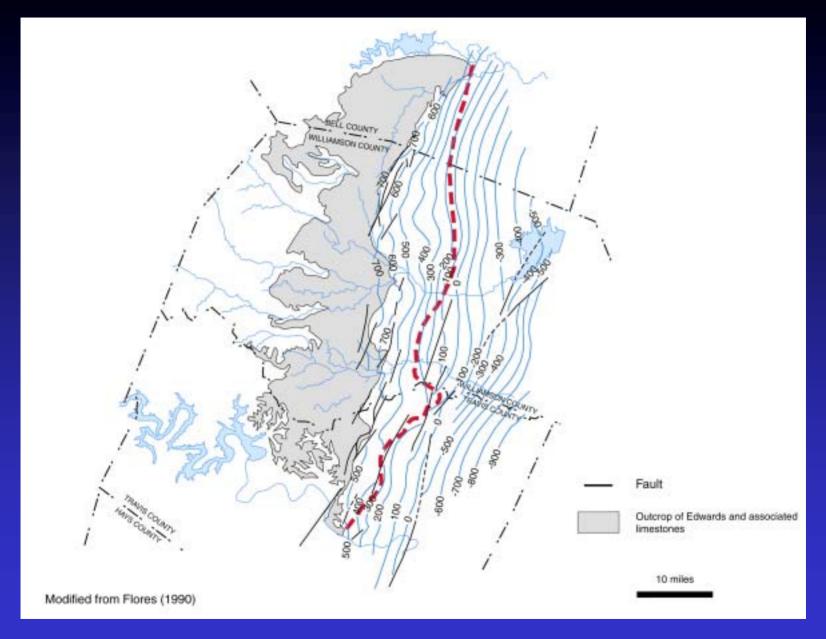
# MODEL OF THE NORTHERN SEGMENT OF THE EDWARDS AQUIFER

#### MODELING APPROACH

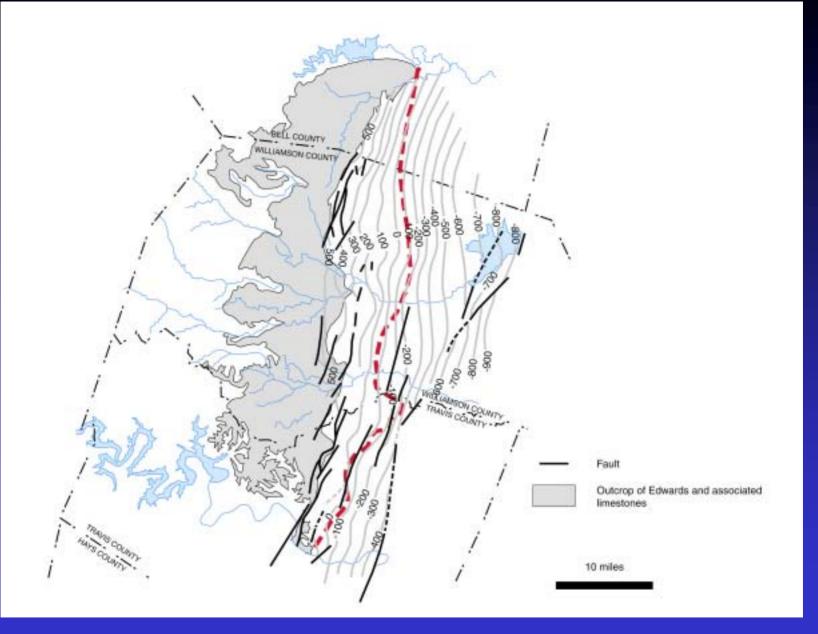
- One-layer model
- Lateral boundaries
  - Colorado River
  - Outcrop of Edwards and associated limestones
  - Bad-water line



AQUIFER THICKNESS MAP



ALTITUDE OF AQUIFER TOP



ALTITUDE OF AQUIFER BASE

### **GAM SCHEDULE**

#### SCHEDULE

SAF Meeting 1— Mar. 18 June —Draft conceptual model SAF Meeting 2 — June Sept. —Initial model design SAF Meeting 3— Sept. Dec. —Calibrate steady-state model Feb. —Calibrate transient model SAF Meeting 4 — Dec. SAF Meeting 5 — Mar. Mar. —Complete model predictions Apr. —Prepare draft report SAF Meeting 6— June Aug. —Present SAF Model Seminar **Deliver Final Product** 

#### SAF INPUT NEEDED

- Data
  - Pump test results
  - Water-level
  - Springflow
- Insights
  - How the aquifer works
  - Model assumptions



#### Northern Segment of the Edwards Aquifer Stakeholder Advisory Forum 1 March 18, 2002

Name	Affiliation
1 David Johns	City of Austin/WPDRD
2 Cheryl Maxwell	Clearwater UWCD
3 Kelly Mills	TNRCC
4 Abiy Berehe	TNRCC
5 James Carson Sloan	TNRCC
6 B. D. Spoonts	TDA
7 Andrew Covar	City of Austin/W/WW
8 Roberto Anaya	TWDB
9 Robert Mace	TWDB
10 Ian Jones	TWDB

#### NORTHERN SEGMENT OF THE EDWARDS AQUIFER GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY MODEL

#### Stakeholder Advisory Forum #1, March 18, 2002

About 10 people attended the first Stakeholder Advisory Forum for the northern segment of the Edwards aquifer groundwater availability model. These stakeholders represent different state government agencies, the City of Austin, and the Clearwater UWCD.

At the beginning of the meeting, Robert Mace gave an introduction to GAM and the role of SAFs. Ian Jones gave the main presentation that consisted of a brief introduction to groundwater hydrology, groundwater modeling and the hydrogeology of the northern segment of the Edwards aquifer, and the schedule work to be done on the northern Edwards GAM and SAF meetings.

The discussion following the presentations mostly dealt with suggestions for potential sources of data to be used in model. These suggestions included obtaining pump test data from public supply wells, evapotranspiration data from the Blackland Research Center and TWRI, as well as data from dissertations, e.g., Barbara Mahler. Concern was expressed by David Johns (City of Austin) about the potential for successfully modeling groundwater flow along the southern edge of the model. He expressed willingness to share results of dye tracing and stream gauging along Shoal Creek, conducted by the City of Austin, that may be use to the model.