# lexas Water Conditions Report

December 2021

# Water News:

According to the state climatologist, December 2021 was the warmest December since 1889. For more information on drought and weather conditions visit: https://texaswaternewsroom.org/videos/water\_and\_weather\_for\_december\_2021. html

## RAINFALL

This month very little to no rain [yellow, orange, and red shading, Figure 1(a)] fell over most of the state, while eastern portions of Texas received above average rainfall, reaching 5.62 inches in some areas [dark blue shading, Figure 1(a)]. Some rainfall [light blue and dark blue shading, Figure 1(a)] was recorded in central and eastern North Central, small areas of northern Trans Pecos, northeastern Low Rolling Plains, portions of the Edwards Plateau, areas throughout South Central, particularly the northeastern portions, East Texas, Lower Valley, and the Upper Coast climate divisions.

Monthly rainfall for December was well below average, compared to historical data from 1981–2010, for most of the state [yellow and orange shading, Figure 1(b)]. Average rainfall [green shading, Figure 1(b)] was seen in northwestern Trans Pecos, southern North Central, a small area in southern East Texas, and the Lower Valley climate divisions.

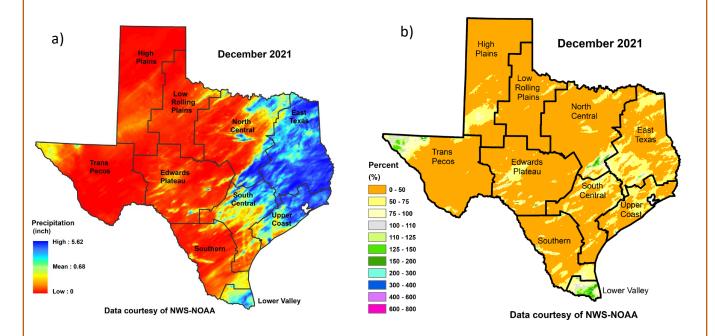
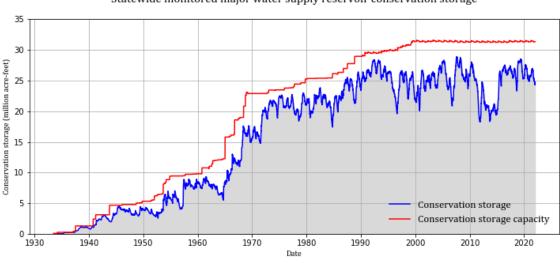


Figure 1: (a) Monthly accumulated rainfall and (b) Percent of normal rainfall

#### **RESERVOIR STORAGE**

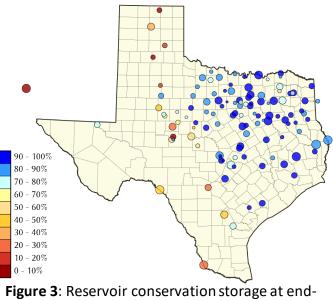
At the end of December 2021, total conservation storage\* in 122 of the state's major water supply reservoirs was 24.54 million acre-feet or 77 percent of total conservation storage capacity (Figure 2). This is approximately 0.06-million-acre-feet more than a month ago and approximately 0.24 million acre-feet less than at the end of December 2020.



Statewide monitored major water supply reservoir conservation storage

Figure 2: Statewide reservoir conservation storage

Out of 122 reservoirs in the state, 12 reservoirs held 100 percent of conservation storage capacity (Figure 3). Additionally, 46 were at or above 90 percent full. Eight reservoirs remained below 30 percent full: E.V. Spence (25 percent full), Greenbelt (16 percent full), Mackenzie (8 percent full), O. C. Fisher (6 percent full), Palo Duro Reservoir (1 percent full), Falcon (22 percent full), Medina Lake (26 percent full), and White River (19 percent full). Elephant Butte Reservoir (located in New Mexico) was 8 percent full.

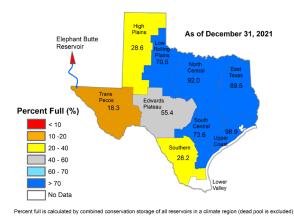


December expressed as percent full (%)

\*Storage is based on end of the month data in 122 major reservoirs that represent 96 percent of the total conservation storage capacity of 188 major water supply reservoirs in Texas plus Elephant Butte Reservoir in New Mexico. Major reservoirs are defined as having a conservation storage capacity of 5,000 acre-feet or greater. Only the Texas share of storage in border reservoirs is counted.

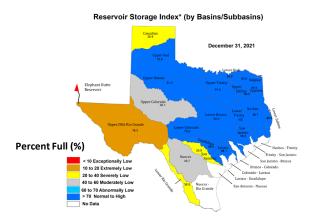
Total regionally combined conservation storage was at or above normal (storage ≥70 percent full) in the Low Rolling Plains (70.5 percent full), East Texas (89.5 percent full), North Central (92.0 percent full), South Central (73.6 percent full), and Upper Coast (98.9 percent full) climate divisions (Figure 4). The Edwards Plateau climate division had moderately low conservation storage (55.4 percent full). The High Plains (28.6 percent full) and Southern (28.2 percent full) climate divisions had severely low storage, and Trans Pecos climate division (18.3 percent full) had extremely low storage (Figure 4).

Combined conservation storage by river basin or sub-basin did not show much change from the previous month. Normal to high (>70 percent full, Figure 5) conservation storage was seen in the Upper and Lower Red, Sulphur, Cypress, Upper and Lower Sabine, Upper and Lower Trinity, Upper and Lower Brazos, San Jacinto, Lower Colorado, Guadalupe, and Lavaca river basins. The Upper Colorado and Nueces river basins had moderately low conservation storage (40–60 percent full, Figure 5), and the San Antonio and Lower Rio Grande river basins had severely low conservation storage (20–40 percent full, Figure 5). The Upper/Mid Rio Grande river basin had extremely low conservation storage (10–20 percent full, Figure 5).



#### **Regional Reservoir Storage Condition**

Figure 4: Reservoir Storage Index\* by climate division at 12/31/2021



\*Percent of combined storage capacity of 122 major water supply reservoirs by sub-basin (dead pools are excluded)

Figure 5: Reservoir Storage Index\* by river basin/sub-basin at 12/31/2021

\*Reservoir Storage Index is defined as the percent full of conservation storage capacity.

		Storage at and		Storago chango f	rom	Storago chango f	rom
Name of lake or reservoir	Storage capacity	Storage at end- December 2021		Storage change from end-Nov 2021		Storage change from end-Dec 2020	
	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)**	(%
Abilene, Lake	7,900	5,996	76	-263	-3	462	
Alan Henry Reservoir	96,207	86,533	90	-1,358	-1	1,539	
*Amistad Reservoir (Texas & Mexico)	3,275,532	1,112,150	34	-8,448	0	-129,485	-
*Amistad Reservoir (Texas)	1,840,849	903,014	49	-12,370	0	-274,342	-1
Amon G Carter, Lake	19,266	18,948	98	-318	-2	918	
Aquilla Lake	43,243	39,391	91	-914	-2	0	
Arlington, Lake	40,157	31,692	79	-1,876	-5	-1,894	-
Arrowhead, Lake	230,359	199,027	86	-2,949	-1	-25,143	-1
Athens, Lake	29,503	29,503	100	0	0	0	
*Austin, Lake	23,972	22,711	95	-215	0	-463	-
B A Steinhagen Lake	69,186	64,773	94	-1,384	-2	-3,092	-
Bardwell Lake	46,122	45,123	98	-373	0	960	
Belton Lake	435,225	407,802	94	-4,697	-1	-15,977	-
Benbrook Lake	85,648	71,611	84	7,933	9	-4,542	-
Bob Sandlin, Lake	192,417	180,251	94	2,833	1	-7,922	-
Bonham, Lake	11,027	8,335	76	-167	-2	-2,048	-1
Brady Creek Reservoir	28,808	16,586	58	-212	0	-3,087	-1
Bridgeport, Lake	366,236	327,303	89	-5,835	-2	6,908	-
*Brownwood, Lake	130,868	121,169	93	-1,957	-1	8,393	
Buchanan, Lake	860,607	757,726	88	-1,957	0	38,604	
•	29,898	29,898	100	0	0	no data	
Caddo, Lake			99		0		1
Canyon Lake	378,781	376,808	99 92	-1,726		39,742	1
Cedar Creek Reservoir in Trinity	644,686	595,297		-1,243	0	-30,607	-
Champion Creek Reservoir	41,580	29,072	70	-339	0	4,684	1
Cherokee, Lake	40,094	39,408	98	2,566	6	-686	-
Choke Canyon Reservoir	662,820	290,026	44	-4,926	0	56,009	
*Cisco, Lake	29,003	25,337	87	-282	0	2,328	
Coleman, Lake	38,075	35,784	94	-426	-1	3,102	
Colorado City, Lake	31,040	30,735	99	-305	0	10,104	3
*Coleto Creek Reservoir	30,758	22,783	74	-357	-1	11,518	3
Conroe, Lake	410,988	392,418	95	3,730	1	-5,068	-
Corpus Christi, Lake	256,062	203,268	79	no data		no data	
Crook, Lake	9,195	8,050	88	-31	0	-1,145	-1
Cypress Springs, Lake	66,756	61,115	92	-1,311	-2	-5,641	-
E. V. Spence Reservoir	517,272	128,984	25	-2,364	0	12,384	
Eagle Mountain Lake	179,880	163,974	91	-2,983	-2	330	
Elephant Butte Reservoir (Texas)	852,491	72,351	8	14,136	2	17,627	
Elephant Butte Reservoir (Total Storage)	1,985,900	167,480	8	32,722	2	40,804	
*Falcon Reservoir (Texas & Mexico)	2,646,817	405,585	15	-11,969	0	-122,771	-
*Falcon Reservoir (Texas)	1,551,007	335,318	22	2,297	0	-135,372	-
Fork Reservoir, Lake	605,061	460,516	76	-72,623	-12	-96,671	-1
Fort Phantom Hill, Lake	70,030	65,848	94	-980	-1	4,104	
Georgetown, Lake	36,823	27,464	75	1,168	3	4,710	1
Gibbons Creek Reservoir	25,721	22,241	86	1,053	4	1,275	
Graham, Lake	45,288	39,247	87	-647	-1	-3,265	
Granbury, Lake	132,949	128,669	97	0	0	-4,280	

	Storage capacity	Storage at end	-	Storage change f	rom	Storage change f	rom
Name of lake or reservoir	Storage capacity	Storage capacity December 2021		end-Nov 202		end-Dec 2020	
	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)**	(%
		Continued					
Granger Lake	51,822	51,822	100	0	0	4,849	
Grapevine Lake	163,064	156,208	96	-381	0	-4,822	-
Greenbelt Lake	59,968	9,824	16	-190	0	-31	
*Halbert, Lake	6,033	5,225	87	54	1	-710	-1
Hords Creek Lake	8,109	3,496	43	-75	0	-893	-1
Houston County Lake	17,113	17,113	100	0	0	0	
Houston, Lake	130,147	130,147	100	0	0	0	
Hubbard Creek Reservoir	313,298	276,627	88	-5,543	-2	-1,016	
Hubert H Moss Lake	24,058	22,790	95	-31	0	-549	-
nks, Lake	13,962	12,952	93	-83	0	112	
I. B. Thomas, Lake	199,931	80,254	40	-2,149	-1	51,965	2
lacksonville, Lake	25,670	25,670	100	289	1	0	
lim Chapman Lake (Cooper)	260,332	206,656	79	-9,813	-4	14,689	
loe Pool Lake	175,800	166,908	95	-2,398	-1	3,096	
Kemp, Lake	245,307	207,909	85	-2,254	0	2,570	
Kickapoo, Lake	86,345	65,454	76	-1,304	-2	-4,841	-
Lavon Lake	406,388	331,625	82	-4,559	-1	-37,630	
Leon, Lake	27,762	24,296	88	-546	-2	-1,283	
Lewisville Lake	563,228	520,604	92	-4,425	0	-17,803	-
Limestone, Lake	203,780	184,601	91	2,958	1	-11,310	-
*Livingston, Lake	1,741,867	1,741,867	100	4,912	0	0	
*Lost Creek Reservoir	11,950	11,602	97	-75	0	378	
_yndon B Johnson, Lake	115,249	110,881	96	-306	0	184	
Mackenzie Reservoir	46,450	3,564	8	-57	0	-607	-
Marble Falls, Lake	6,901	6,820	99	-38	0	6	
Martin, Lake	75,726	65,040	86	-182	0	905	
Vedina Lake	254,823	66,044	26	-1,986	0	-40,199	-1
Veredith, Lake	500,000	173,115	35	-2,672	0	-5,427	
Millers Creek Reservoir	26,768	23,200	87	-527	-2	-3,568	-1
*Mineral Wells, Lake	5,273	5,125	97	-78	-1	-148	
Vonticello, Lake	34,740	27,229	78	525	2	-1,722	
Mountain Creek, Lake	22,850	22,850	100	0	0	0	
, Murvaul, Lake	38,285	37,226	97	878	2	-682	
Nacogdoches, Lake	39,522	34,718	88	-199	0	532	
Nasworthy	9,615	8,745	91	672	7	439	
Navarro Mills Lake	49,827	44,545	89	-404	0	-3,554	
Jew Terrell City Lake	8,583	7,654	89	-74	0	-551	
Jocona, Lake (Farmers Crk)	21,444	18,988	89	-319	-1	-887	
Jorth Fork Buffalo Creek Reservoir	15,400	12,362	80	-345	-2	-2,053	-
D' the Pines, Lake	241,363	235,059	97	-1,044	0	-6,304	
). C. Fisher Lake	115,742	7,117	6	-57	0	-192	
O. H. Ivie Reservoir	554,340	302,630	55	-3,545	0	-33,354	
Oak Creek Reservoir	39,210	26,962	69	-3,343 -482	-1	-3,564	

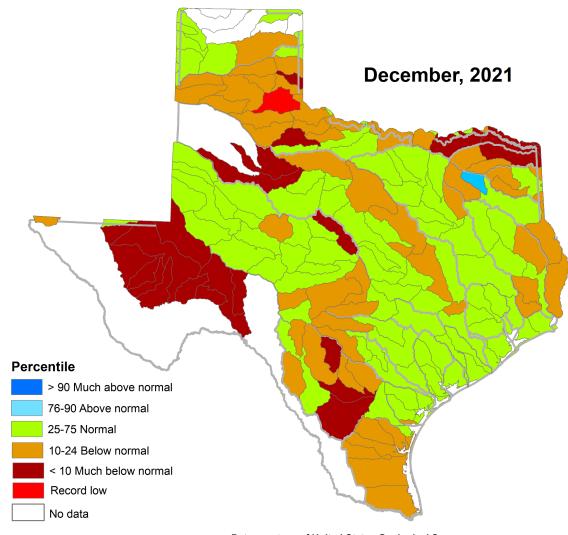
	Storago capacity	Storage at end- Storage chang			ESERVOIRS e from Storage change from						
Name of lake or reservoir	Storage capacity	December 202	1	end-Nov 202	1	end-Dec 2020					
	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)	(%)	(acre-feet)**	(%				
Continued											
Palestine, Lake	367,303	364,077	99	11,832	3	-3,226					
Palo Duro Reservoir	61,066	434	1	-38	0	-568					
Palo Pinto, Lake	26,766	25,878	97	-410	-2	2,561	1				
Pat Cleburne, Lake	26,008	20,741	80	-365	-1	-1,179					
*Pat Mayse Lake	113,683	102,229	90	-1,711	-2	-11,454	-1				
Possum Kingdom Lake	538,139	518,886	96	-2,967	0	-9,825	-:				
Proctor Lake	54,762	47,371	87	-831	-2	-4,565	-8				
Ray Hubbard, Lake	439,559	410,227	93	-7,031	-2	-1,001	(				
Ray Roberts, Lake	788,167	766,800	97	-4,187	0	5,007	1				
Red Bluff Reservoir	151,110	111,661	74	1,091	1	39,868	26				
Richland-Chambers Reservoir	1,087,839	995,561	92	-5,770	0	-42,332	-4				
Sam Rayburn Reservoir	2,857,077	2,479,979	87	-20,808	0	47,562	2				
Somerville Lake	150,293	150,293	100	0	0	27,101	18				
Squaw Creek, Lake	151,250	151,250	100	0	0	253	(				
Stamford, Lake	51,570	44,994	87	-1,270	-2	-6,576	-13				
Stillhouse Hollow Lake	227,771	215,379	95	-3,553	-2	-12,392	-5				
Striker, Lake	16,934	16,932	100	-2	0	-2	(				
Sweetwater, Lake	12,267	9,826	80	-86	0	-200	-2				
*Sulphur Springs, Lake	17,747	10,046	57	-714	-4	-2,445	-14				
Tawakoni, Lake	871,685	801,475	92	-8,106	0	-18,033	-2				
Texana, Lake	159,566	156,637	98	-1,919	-1	-2,929	-2				
Texoma, Lake (Texas & Oklahoma)	2,487,601	2,411,694	97	29,390	1	-30,479	-1				
Texoma, Lake (Texas)	1,243,801	1,205,846	97	14,694	1	-15,240	-1				
Toledo Bend Reservoir (Texas & Louisiana)	4,472,900	3,849,739	86	86,602	2	-47,131	-1				
Toledo Bend Reservoir (Texas)	2,236,450	1,922,820	86	43,302	2	-23,565	-1				
Travis, Lake	1,113,348	792,122	71	-6,172	0	41,452	4				
Twin Buttes Reservoir	182,454	94,647	52	-311	0	-2,942	-2				
Tyler, Lake	72,073	71,088	99	2,123	3	-985	-:				
Waco, Lake	189,418	165,234	87	-4,574	-2	-12,713	-7				
Waxahachie, Lake	10,780	8,750	81	-180	-2	-541	-!				
Weatherford, Lake	17,812	14,856	83	-239	-1	-1,057	-6				
White River Lake	29,880	5,814	19	-262	0	2,216					
Whitney, Lake	553,344	506,108	91	-211	0	10,462					
Worth, Lake	24,419	19,411	79	-1,046	-4	615					
Wright Patman Lake	122,593	122,593	100	0	0	0					
		WIDE TOTAL									
STATEWIDE TOTAL	31,912,775	24,542,326	77	57,491	0.2	-236,038	-				

\*Total volume below elevation of conservation pool top is used as conservation storage capacity, because the dead pool storage is unknown.

\*\*Monthly and yearly changes do not include reservoirs that did not have data in the last month or last year, respectively.

# STREAMFLOW CONDITIONS

Much of the state had near normal streamflow in December 2021 (25–75th percentile, green shading, Figure 6). The only area of the state to have above normal streamflow (76–90th percentile, light blue shading in Figure 6) was in the Upper Sabine river basin. Below normal streamflow (10–24th percentile, orange shading in Figure 6) was recorded in the Canadian, Upper and Lower Red, Upper and Lower Brazos, Upper and Lower Colorado, Nueces, and Nueces-Rio Grande river basins. Much below normal streamflow (< 10th percentile, dark red shading in Figure 6) was recorded in the Upper and Lower Red, Upper Brazos, Nueces, and Pecos river basins. A record low (bright red shading in Figure 6) was seen in the Upper Red river basin.



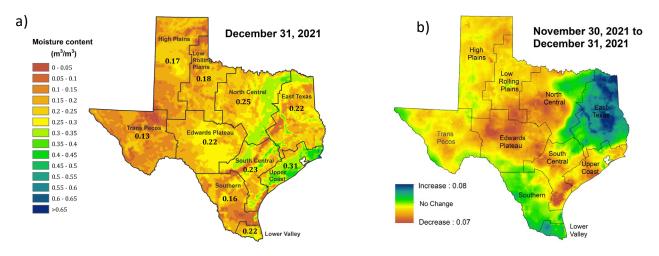
Data courtesy of United States Geological Survey

Figure 6: Runoff percentiles by the U.S. Geological Survey's Hydrologic Unit Code

## SOIL MOISTURE

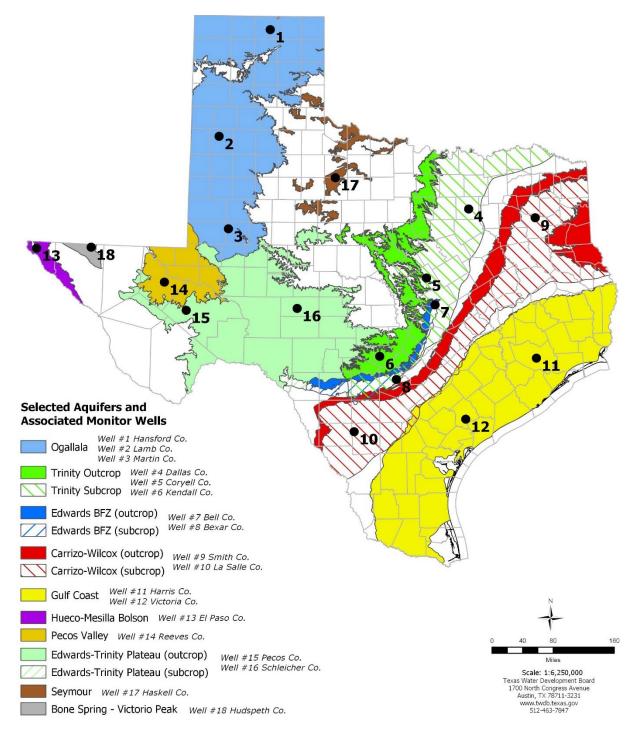
Root zone soil moisture at the end of December 2021 [Figure 7(a)] was moderate [> 0.20 cubic meters of water per bulk cubic meter soil (m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>)] in the Edwards Plateau, North Central, East Texas, South Central, and Lower Valley. There were areas of low soil moisture [< 0.15 cubic meters of water per bulk cubic meter soil (m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>)] in portions of the High Plains, Low Rolling Plains, Trans Pecos, Edwards Plateau, Southern, Lower Valley, East Texas, western North Central, southwestern Upper Coast, southern South Central and stretching across the climate division from the northwest to the northeast. Average soil moisture [0.3 cubic meters of water per bulk cubic meter soil (m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>)] was seen in eastern North Central, northern and southern South Central, southeastern Southern, central Lower Valley, areas of East Texas, and most of the Upper Coast climate divisions.

Compared to conditions at the end of November 2021, soil moisture content increased slightly [green to blue shading in Figure 7(b)] in portions of the Trans Pecos, High Plains, central Low Rolling Plains, southern Edwards Plateau, Southern, Lower Valley, eastern North Central, northern South Central, eastern Upper Coast, and East Texas climate divisions. Soil moisture content decreased [yellow, orange, and brown shading in Figure 7(b)] in most of the state including the High Plains, Trans Pecos, Low Rolling Plains, Edwards Plateau, North Central, eastern Southern, South Central, and the Upper Coast climate divisions.



Data from NASA Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) Level 4 - Model - Value Added Version 4 Soil moisture content is shown as volume of water per unit volume of bulk soil. Root zone: 0 to 1 meter depth.

**Figure 7**: (a) Root zone soil moisture conditions in December 2021 and (b) the difference in root zone soil moisture between end-November 2021 and end-December 2021



#### December 2021 GROUNDWATER LEVELS IN MONITORING WELLS

Water-level measurements were available for 15 key monitoring wells in the state. Recorders in 3 wells (#1, #14, and #18 on map) were offline during the reporting period. Water levels rose in 10 monitoring wells since the beginning of December, ranging from an increase of 0.09 feet in the Bell County Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer well (#7 on map) to 15.41 feet in the Pecos County Edwards-Trinity Plateau Aquifer well (#15 on map). Water levels remained the same for the Dallas County Trinity Aquifer well (#4 on map). Water levels declined in 4 monitoring wells, ranging from a decline of -0.06 feet in the Lamb County Ogallala Aquifer well (#2 on map) to -2.10 feet in the Bexar County Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer well (#8 on map). The J-17 well (#8 on map) in San Antonio recorded a water level of 67.40 feet below land surface or 663.60 feet above mean sea level. Water levels are 3.60 feet above the Stage I critical management level for the San Antonio portion of the Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer.

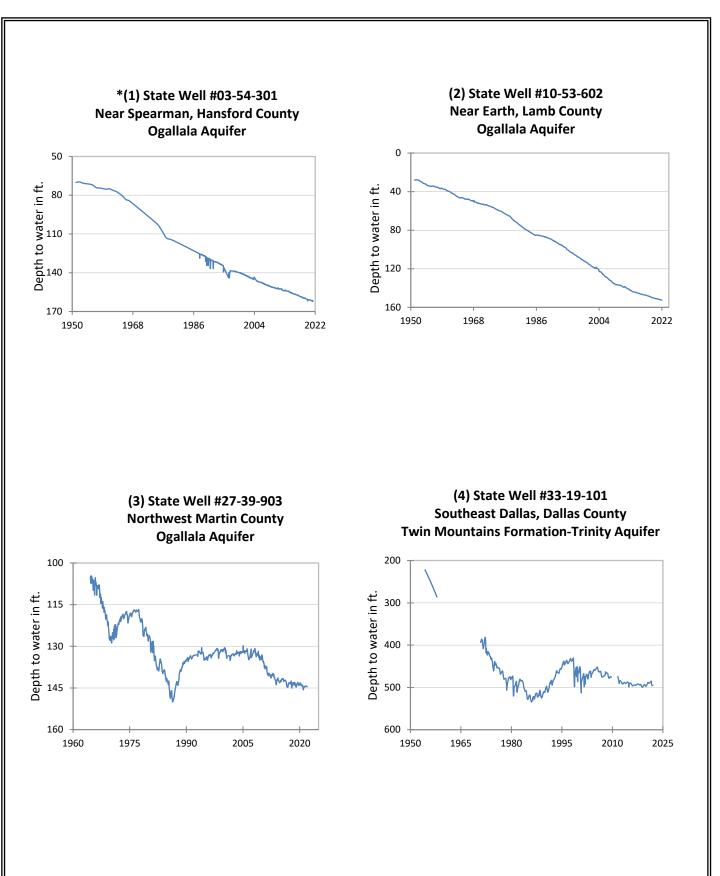
\* Well numbers used in this publication on the aquifer map to indicate the monitoring well location (numbers 1 - 18) are different than the TWDB's seven-digit state well number.

Monitoring Well	December (depth to water, feet)	November (depth to water, feet)	Month Change	Year Change	Historical Change*	First Measured (year)
(1) Hansford 0354301	NA	NA	NA	NA	-91.74	1951
(2) Lamb 1053602	152.46	152.40	-0.06	-0.87	-124.29	1951
(3) Martin 2739903	144.56	144.45	-0.11	1.11	-39.67	1964
(4) Dallas 3319101	495.53	495.53	0.00	-5.86	-273.53	1954
(5) Coryell 4035404	534.72	532.97	-1.75	-5.11	-242.72	1955**
(6) Kendall 6802609	148.15	149.01	0.86	2.36	-88.15	1975
(7) Bell 5804816	121.82	121.91	0.09	2.86	1.69	2008
(8) Bexar 6837203	67.40	65.30	-2.10	0.70	-20.76	1932
(9) Smith 3430907	439.69	440.18	0.49	-2.91	-139.69	1977**
(10) La Salle 7738103	501.81	503.73	<b>1.92</b>	11.49	-248.74	2003
(11) Harris 6514409	185.63	186.28	0.65	2.55	-50.13*	1947**
(12) Victoria 8017502	31.12	31.42	0.30	3.24	2.88	1958**
(13) El Paso 4913301	298.14	298.81	0.67	-1.60	-66.24	1964**
(14) Reeves 4644501	NA	NA	NA	NA	-65.93	1952
(15) Pecos 5216802	202.02	217.43	15.41	-4.52	44.86	1976
(16) Schleicher 5512134	279.24	279.90	0.66	NA	22.66	2003
(17) Haskell 2135748	44.93	45.31	0.38	-0.40	-1.93	2002
(18) Hudspeth 4807516	NA	NA	NA	NA	-50.79	1966

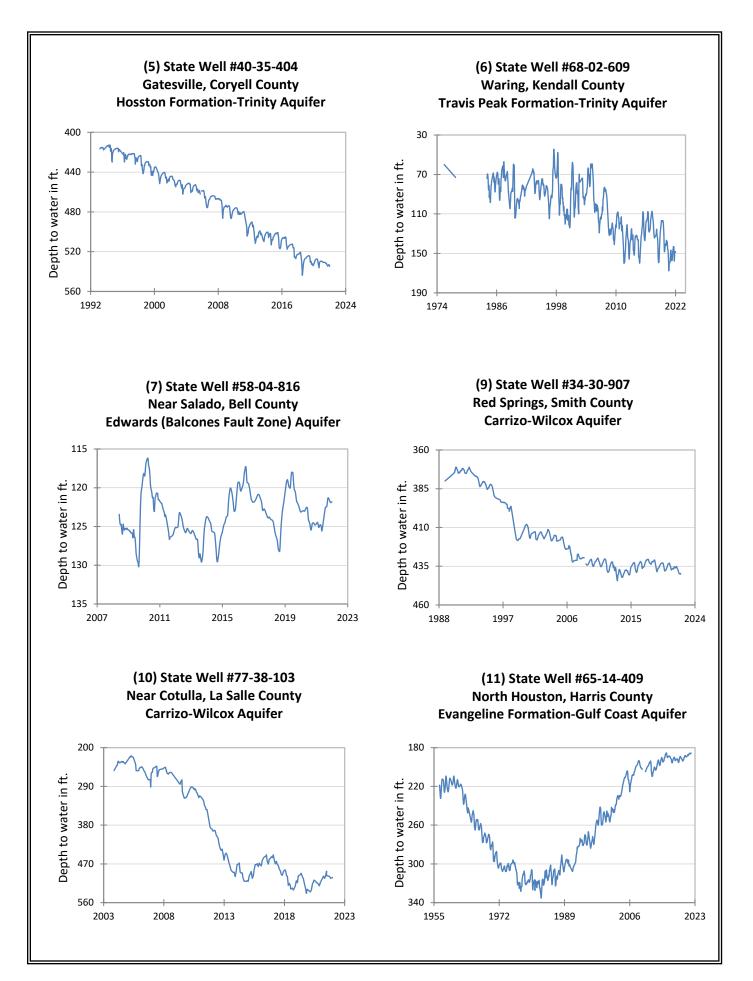
\* Change since the original measurement taken on the date indicated in the last column. The historical changes shown for recorder wells #1, #14, and #18 are based off the most recent water level records from May, October, and June 2021, respectively.

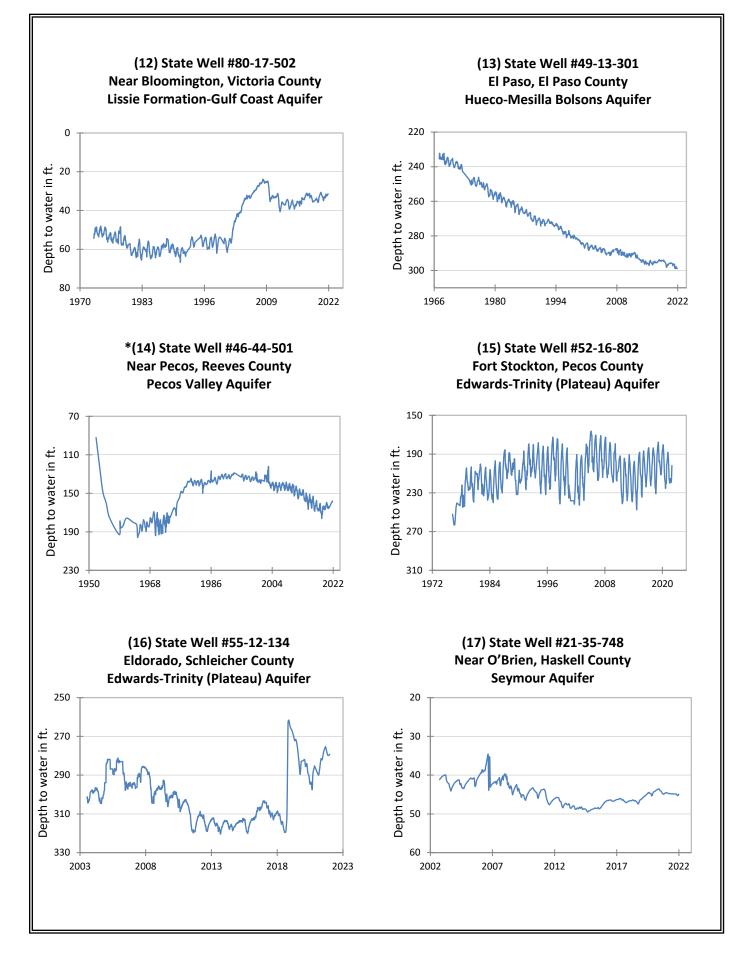
\*\* Measurement not shown on the hydrograph.

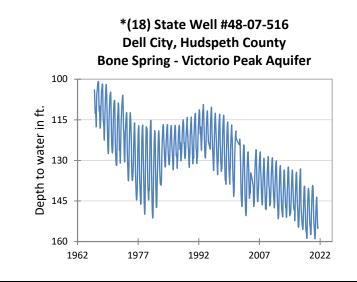
NA (not available)



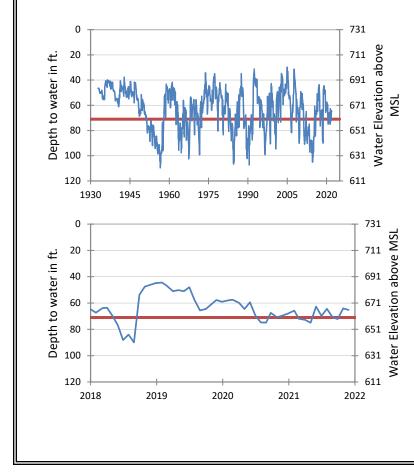
#### December 2021 MONITORING WELL HYDROGRAPHS







(8) State Well #68-37-203 (J-17) San Antonio, Bexar County Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer



The late December water-level measurement in this Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone) Aquifer well, located at an elevation of 731 feet above mean sea level, was 67.40 feet below land surface, or 663.60 feet above mean sea level. This was 2.10 feet below last month's measurement, 0.70 feet above last year's measurement and 20.76 feet below the initial measurement recorded in 1932.

Water levels below the red line indicate periods in which Edwards Aquifer Authority Stage 1 drought restrictions are in effect. In December 2021, Stage 1 drought restrictions were not in effect because the aquifer remained above the Stage 1 critical management level.

\*Recorder wells #1, #14, and #18 were offline in December 2021 and did not record data.

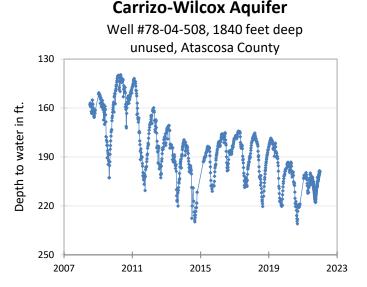
#### HYDROGRAPH OF THE MONTH



Each month this space features a new hydrograph (marked with the • symbol on the map) depicting different aquifers and their conditions in Texas.

The Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is a major aquifer extending from the Louisiana border to the border of Mexico in a wide band adjacent to and northwest of the Gulf Coast Aquifer. It consists of the Wilcox Group and the overlying Carrizo Formation of the Claiborne Group. The aquifer is primarily composed of sand locally interbedded with gravel, silt, clay, and lignite. The Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer reaches 3,000 feet in thickness, with the freshwater saturated thickness of the sands averaging 670 feet. Isolated areas of slightly saline to moderately saline groundwater exist in the eastern and central portions of the aquifer and more widespread in the southwest. In the deeper subsurface portions of the aquifer, high iron and manganese exceed secondary drinking water standards. The groundwater, although hard, is generally fresh in the outcrop, whereas softer groundwater occurs in the subsurface. Irrigation accounts for more than half the water pumped, while municipal supply accounts for another 40 percent.





The initial measurement of 157.88 feet below land surface was taken by an automatic water level recorder that was installed by the TWDB in July 2008. The recorder continues to take hourly measurements (available online) and daily measurements (in the groundwater database). The period of record reveals a steady decline in water level equivalent to -3.05 feet/year, with seasonal fluctuations which may be attributed to less pumping for irrigation in the winter months.



Far away (left), and close-up (right) images of well #78-04-508.