Texas Water Development Board

P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.state.tx.us
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

November 21, 2011

Mr. Paul Weatherby
General Manager
Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District
P.O. Box 1644
Fort Stockton, TX 79735

Re: Modeled available groundwater estimates for the Capitan Reef Complex, Dockum, Edwards-Trinity (Plateau), Pecos Valley, and Rustler aquifers in Groundwater Management Area 3

Dear Mr. Weatherby:

The Texas Water Code, Section 36.1084, Subsection (b), states that the Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) Executive Administrator shall provide each groundwater conservation district and regional water planning group located wholly or partly in the groundwater management area with the modeled available groundwater in the management area based upon the desired future conditions adopted by the districts. This letter and the attached reports (GAM Run 10-039 MAG, GAM Run 10-042 MAG, GTA Aquifer Assessment 10-36 MAG, and GTA Aquifer Assessment 10-37 MAG) are in response to this directive.

As noted in the packet received by the TWDB on September 7, 2010, from Paul Weatherby of the Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District on behalf of Groundwater Management Area 3, desired future conditions were adopted for the Capitan [Reef Complex], Dockum, Edwards-Trinity (Plateau), Pecos Valley, and Rustler aquifers on August 9, 2010.

Modeled available groundwater is defined in the Texas Water Code, Section 36.001, Subsection (25), as "the amount of water that the executive administrator determines may be produced on an average annual basis to achieve a desired future condition established under Section 36.108." This is different from "managed available groundwater," shown in the draft version of these reports, which was a permitting value and accounted for the estimated use exempt from permitting. This change was made to reflect changes in statute by the 82nd Legislature, effective September 1, 2011. For use in the regional water planning process, modeled available groundwater estimates have been reported by aquifer, county, river basin, regional water planning area, groundwater conservation district, and any other subdivision of the aquifer designated by the management area (if applicable).

Our Mission

To provide leadership, planning, financial assistance, information, and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas

Board Members

Edward G. Vaughan, Chairman
Joe M. Crutcher, Vice Chairman
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Lewis H. McMahan, Member
Billy R. Bradford Jr., Member
Monte Cluck, Member

Melanie Callahan, Interim Executive Administrator

We encourage open communication and coordination between groundwater conservation districts, regional water planning groups, and the TWDB to ensure that the modeled available groundwater reported in regional water plans and groundwater management plans are not in conflict. We estimated modeled available groundwater that would have to occur to achieve the desired future condition using the best available scientific tools. However, these estimates are based on assumptions of the magnitude and distribution of projected pumping in the aquifer. It is, therefore, important for groundwater conservation districts to monitor whether their management of pumping is achieving their desired future conditions. Districts are encouraged to continue to work with the TWDB to better define available groundwater as additional information may help better assess responses of the aquifer to pumping and its distribution now and in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Rima Petrossian of my staff at 512-936-2420 or rima.petrossian@twdb.state.tx.us for further information.

Sincerely,

Melanie Callahan

Melanie Callahan
Interim Executive Administrator

Attachments: GAM Run 10-039 MAG
GAM Run 10-042 MAG
GTA Aquifer Assessment 10-36 MAG
GTA Aquifer Assessment 10-37 MAG

c w/atts.: L'Oreal Stepney, Deputy Director, Office of Water, Texas Commission of Environmental Quality
Linda Brookins, Texas Commission of Environmental Quality
Kelly Mills, Texas Commission of Environmental Quality
Simone Kiel, Freese & Nichols, Inc.
Robert E. Mace, Ph.D, P.G., Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Science and Conservation
Cindy Ridgeway, P.G., Groundwater Resources
Rima Petrossian, P.G., Groundwater Resources
Robert Bradley, P.G., Groundwater Resources
Wade Oliver, Groundwater Resources
Dan Hardin, Water Resources Planning
Matt Nelson, Water Resources Planning
Temple McKinnon, Water Resources Planning
Angela Kennedy, Water Resources Planning
Wendy Barron, Water Resources Planning

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November 21, 2011

Mr. John Grant
Region F Water Planning Group Chairman
Colorado River MWD
P.O. Box 869
Big Spring, TX 79721

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