



# NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
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## **GBRA and UGRA facilitate meeting to organize Trinity Aquifer sub-region for water planning**

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**SEGUIN-** Citizens, elected officials and representatives from river authorities and water agencies in Hays, Comal, Kendall, Kerr, Gillespie and Bandera counties met at the offices of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority in Kerrville on Feb. 13 to facilitate planning for a sub-regional area that would address the special needs of counties located over the Trinity Aquifer.

The Trinity Sub-Regional Planning Group meeting was sponsored by UGRA and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) as part of the Senate Bill 1 state and regional water planning process.

SB 1 requires the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to establish statewide regional planning areas. A final draft showing the state divided into 16 areas identified as A through P was issued in December, 1997. Most of the areas consist of counties that share the same river basin, watershed, aquifer or have similar geographic or hydrologic interests.

Because some counties may be served by more than one river basin or aquifer, SB 1 also allows the creation of 'informational sub-areas' to collect and share data within and between the larger planning areas.

According to GBRA general manager W. E. "Bill" West, Jr. and UGRA general manager J. T. "Jim" Brown, both the Upper Guadalupe and Guadalupe River basins include counties with unique needs.

"The UGRA was established to protect just the water resources of Kerr County," said Brown. "We are part of Planning Area J, but we also happen to be located at the headwaters of the Guadalupe River basin. This means we must consider the ten counties to our south that are served by GBRA, all of which are included in Planning Area L."

West pointed out that Hays County, which is part of GBRA's statutory district, has its northern portion served by the Trinity Aquifer while the southern area is located over the Edwards. For this reason, Hays County is in two Regional Planning Areas -- K and L.

West and Brown said both GBRA and UGRA want to insure adequate protection for current and future resources of the Trinity Aquifer. TWDB population projections for the years 1990-2030 show that Comal and Hays Counties are expected to grow 200% or more, Guadalupe, Kendall and Blanco counties will experience growth between 100-200%, and Kerr County will grow between 50-100%.

“These projections will create tremendous demands on all available water resources in this region, including the Trinity Aquifer. We believe creating a regional sub-area to facilitate planning and address common water needs and issues in areas J, K and L will enable us to best serve all our citizens,” said West.

Kendall County Judge William “Bill” Gooden announced that some of the data needed for regional planning will be provided by a new partnership between GBRA, the UTSA Center for Water Research and Kendall County.

“Kendall County and the Water Research Center have been working together on water availability studies for the county,” said Judge Gooden. “The addition of GBRA to the partnership will expand and continue the Trinity Aquifer studies in the Edwards Plateau region, providing valuable data for the sub-area planning efforts.”

According to Dr. Weldon Hammond of the UTSA Water Research Center, “the Trinity Aquifer supports the base flow for the Guadalupe River. This partnership between the Center, GBRA and Kendall County will develop a decision support system that can be used by water planning managers in the region.”

Planning for each area will be accomplished by Regional Water Planning Groups whose members will be appointed by the TWDB from lists submitted by various interests, including agricultural, counties, electric generating utilities, environmental, industries, municipalities, small business, river authorities, water districts and water utilities.

Counties in Planning Area J are Val Verde, Edwards, Real, Kinney, Bandera and Kerr. Area K includes Mills, San Saba, Llano, Gillespie, Burnet, Blanco, Travis, Bastrop, Fayette, Colorado, Wharton, and Matagorda. Area L consists of Uvalde, Medina, Zavala, Frio, Dimmit, LaSalle, Atascosa, Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, Goliad, Kendall, Comal, Hays, Guadalupe, Caldwell, Gonzales, De Witt, Victoria, Refugio and Calhoun.

It is expected that the TWDB will announce the planning group members on February 19. Each group can add other members as necessary to insure that all area interests listed in SB1 are represented.