

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

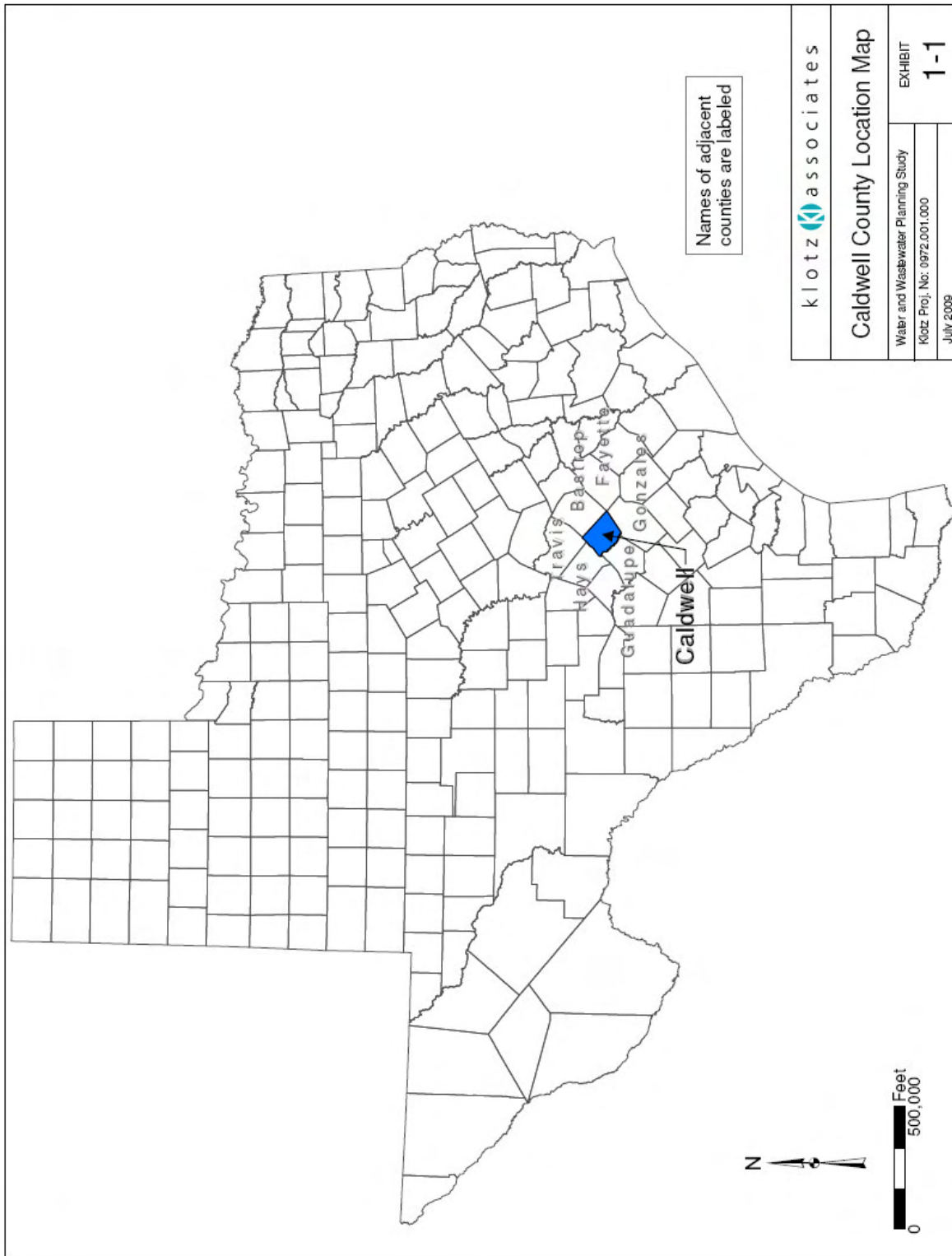
1.1 Background

Caldwell County, located in South Central Texas, was established by the Texas Legislature in 1848 by partitioning land from Gonzales County. Subsequent land additions to Caldwell County in 1850 from Bastrop and Gonzales Counties resulted in a total area of 545 square miles.

Caldwell County, as shown in *Exhibit 1-1*, is bordered on the northwest by some of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Travis and Hays Counties are to the northwest with Guadalupe County on the southwest side. Gonzales County is on the southeast side of Caldwell County while Bastrop County is on the northeast side. Fayette County just touches the eastern corner of Caldwell County.

Located adjacent to fast-growing counties and with significant growth and development pressure from within its own boundaries, Caldwell County will almost triple its current population within 30 years while the availability of water is diminishing. The volume of wastewater produced in the county will grow with the population and new treatment facilities will be required to serve an increasingly dense population. Without controls, stormwater discharges will increase in volume as impervious cover increases and water quality degradation will occur with more non-point pollutants washed into streams and rivers.

Meeting the challenges of developing, managing, conserving and protecting precious water resources requires proactive leadership that has the vision and will to understand the problems, identify the solutions and empower implementation. Completion of a regional water and wastewater planning study is one of the first steps to meet the challenge.



A Grant Application for a Regional Water Supply and Wastewater Planning Study for Caldwell County, Texas, was submitted to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in December 2007 by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and Caldwell County. The request for a study was influenced by continued development along the Interstate Highway 35 (I-35) corridor and the anticipated growth upon completion of State Highway (SH) 130 in 2012. The SH 130 corridor will provide easy and fast access to both Austin and San Antonio, two of the fastest growing cities in Texas. Caldwell County is included in the five-county region that the Austin Chamber of Commerce advertises for living and working.

Planning was considered important for this region not only to GBRA and Caldwell County but also the TWDB. The TWDB agreed that planning was necessary by participating in the funding of the “Caldwell County Water & Wastewater Regional Planning Study.” After grant approval in October of 2008, GBRA awarded Klotz Associates, Inc. (Klotz Associates) a contract to provide professional services for the Caldwell County Regional Water and Wastewater Planning Study.

1.2 Purpose and Scope

The Caldwell County Regional Water and Wastewater Planning Study will serve as a guide and living document to assist in the planning and development of the region. Regional planning is an efficient and cost effective way to meet future water and wastewater needs. The Regional Water and Wastewater Planning Study joined the county, cities, towns, water supply corporations, groundwater districts, local departments and agencies, governmental entities, environmental groups, planners, developers, and other interested individuals together to participate, interact, and develop ideas. The regional approach for Caldwell County creates a synergy that captures the resources of numerous entities, focuses them on problems to be mutually solved and enables efficient and cost-effective solutions.

The energy spent when communities compete for resources is focused on mutual solutions for the benefit of all.

The study examines population projections, projected water supply needs, existing water resources, proposed water plans, and proposed cost estimates. The study also examined the current availability and viability of the proposed projects in the Region L plan to meet the water supply needs of Caldwell County. Region L is one of the 16 regional water planning groups in Texas.

In addition, management strategies were identified that could be considered for implementation to reduce potential non-point pollution loads into the surface water and groundwater resources of Caldwell County

1.3 Project Task

The tasks included in the Caldwell County Regional Water and Wastewater Planning Study were as follows:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Title</u>
I.	Development of Baseline Information
II.	Public Participation
III.	Developing Consensus on Objectives
IV.	Formulation of Development Scenarios
V.	Analyze Water Quality Options
VI.	Develop Regional Water Supply and Quality Protection Plan
VII.	Recommendations for Watershed Management Practices
VIII.	Reports
IX.	Public Meetings

1.4 Participants and Sponsors

The Caldwell County Regional Water and Wastewater Planning study was sponsored by the following entities:

Guadalupe Blanco-River Authority
Caldwell County
Texas Water Development Board

The following individuals served as an Advisory Group to assist in guiding the study and providing feedback as the study progressed.

Members:

The Honorable H.T. Wright, County Judge, Caldwell County, Texas
Mr. Vance Rodgers, City Manager, City of Lockhart, Texas
Mr. Bobby Berger, City Manager, City of Luling, Texas
Mr. Johnie Halliburton, Executive Manager, Plum Creek Conservation District
Mr. Bob Richards, Project Director, Cooper Land Development
Ms. Nikki Dictson, Extension Program Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Mr. Paul Pitman, Manager, Polonia Water Supply Corporation
Ms. Joyce Buckner, Community Representative for Lockhart, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative

Ex-Officio:

Mr. Matt Nelson, Manager, Regional Water Planning, Texas Water Development Board
Ms. Debbie Magin, Director of Water Quality Services, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Three Stakeholder Meetings were held as an important part of collecting data, receiving input from the community and developing solutions for regional water supply, wastewater treatment, and non-point pollution controls.

The stakeholder meetings were held on the dates listed below and sign-in sheets are included in **Appendix A**.

Stakeholder Meeting 1:	September 25, 2008
Stakeholder Meeting 2:	January 8, 2009
Stakeholder Meeting 3:	August 3, 2009 (Public Meeting)

GBRA staff provided valuable oversight and assistance as the study progressed and their contribution is hereby acknowledged:

Ms. Debbie Magin, Director of Water Quality Services, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Ms. Liz Sedlacek, Administrative Assistant, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority