

DRAFT FEASIBILITY REPORT FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY FOR SMALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

**ZAVALA COUNTY WCID 1
PWS ID# 2540003**

Prepared for:

THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Prepared by:

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BUREAU OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGY
AND**

PARSONS

Preparation of this report was financed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Small Systems Assistance Program

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AUGUST 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) and its subcontractor, Parsons Transportation Group Inc. (Parsons), was contracted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to conduct a project to assist with identifying and analyzing alternatives for use by Public Water Systems (PWS) to meet and maintain Texas drinking water standards.

The overall goal of this project was to promote compliance using sound engineering and financial methods and data for PWSs that had recently recorded sample results exceeding maximum contaminant levels (MCL). The primary objectives of this project were to provide feasibility studies for PWSs and the TCEQ Water Supply Division that evaluate water supply compliance options, and to suggest a list of compliance alternatives that may be further investigated by the subject PWS for future implementation.

This feasibility report provides an evaluation of water supply alternatives for the Zavala County Water Control and Improvement District 1 (WCID) PWS, ID# 2540003, located at 100 Glenn Street, La Pryor, Texas in Zavala County. The water system serves a population of 1,500 and contains 580 connections. The water source for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS comes from three ground water wells completed to depths ranging from 567 feet to 708 feet in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer (Code 124CRRZ). Wells #2, #4, and #5 (G2540003A, G2540003C, G2540003D, respectively), are rated at 700 gallons per minute (gpm), 750 gallons per minute (gpm), and 750 gpm, respectively. Well #3 (G2540003B) is no longer used and was plugged in June 2004.

The Zavala County WCID 1 PWS recorded gross alpha particle activities (gross alpha) values between 15 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) and 35 pCi/L between January 2002 and December 2002. During the same period, combined radium values ranged from 5 pCi/L to 10.2 pCi/L. These values are at or above the 15 pCi/L MCL for gross alpha and 5 pCi/L MCL for combined radium. Therefore, Zavala County WCID 1 PWS faces compliance issues under the water quality standards for gross alpha and combined radium.

Basic system information for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS is shown in Table ES.1.

**Table ES.1 Zavala County WCID 1 PWS
Basic System Information**

Population served	1,500
Connections	580
Average daily flow rate	0.35 million gallons per day (mgd)
Peak demand flow rate	972gallons per minute
Water system peak capacity	3.168 mgd
Typical gross alpha range	15 – 35 pCi/L
Typical combined radium range	5 - 10.2 pCi/L

STUDY METHODS

The methods used for this project were based on a pilot project performed in 2004 and 2005 by TCEQ, BEG, and Parsons. Methods for identifying and analyzing compliance options were developed in the pilot project (a decision tree approach).

The process for developing the feasibility study used the following general steps:

- Gather data from the TCEQ and Texas Water Development Board databases, from TCEQ files, and from information maintained by the PWS;
- Conduct financial, managerial, and technical (FMT) evaluations of the PWS;
- Perform a geologic and hydrogeologic assessment of the study area;
- Develop treatment and non-treatment compliance alternatives which, in general, consist of the following possible options:
 - Connecting to neighboring PWSs via new pipeline or by pumping water from a newly installed well or an available surface water supply within the jurisdiction of the neighboring PWS;
 - Installing new wells within the vicinity of the PWS into other aquifers with confirmed water quality standards meeting the MCLs;
 - Installing a new intake system within the vicinity of the PWS to obtain water from a surface water supply with confirmed water quality standards meeting the MCLs;
 - Treating the existing non-compliant water supply by various methods depending on the type of contaminant; and
 - Delivering potable water by way of a bottled water program or a treated water dispenser as an interim measure only.

- Assess each of the potential alternatives with respect to economic and non-economic criteria;
- Prepare a feasibility report and present the results to the PWS.

This basic approach is summarized in Figure ES.1.

HYDROGEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

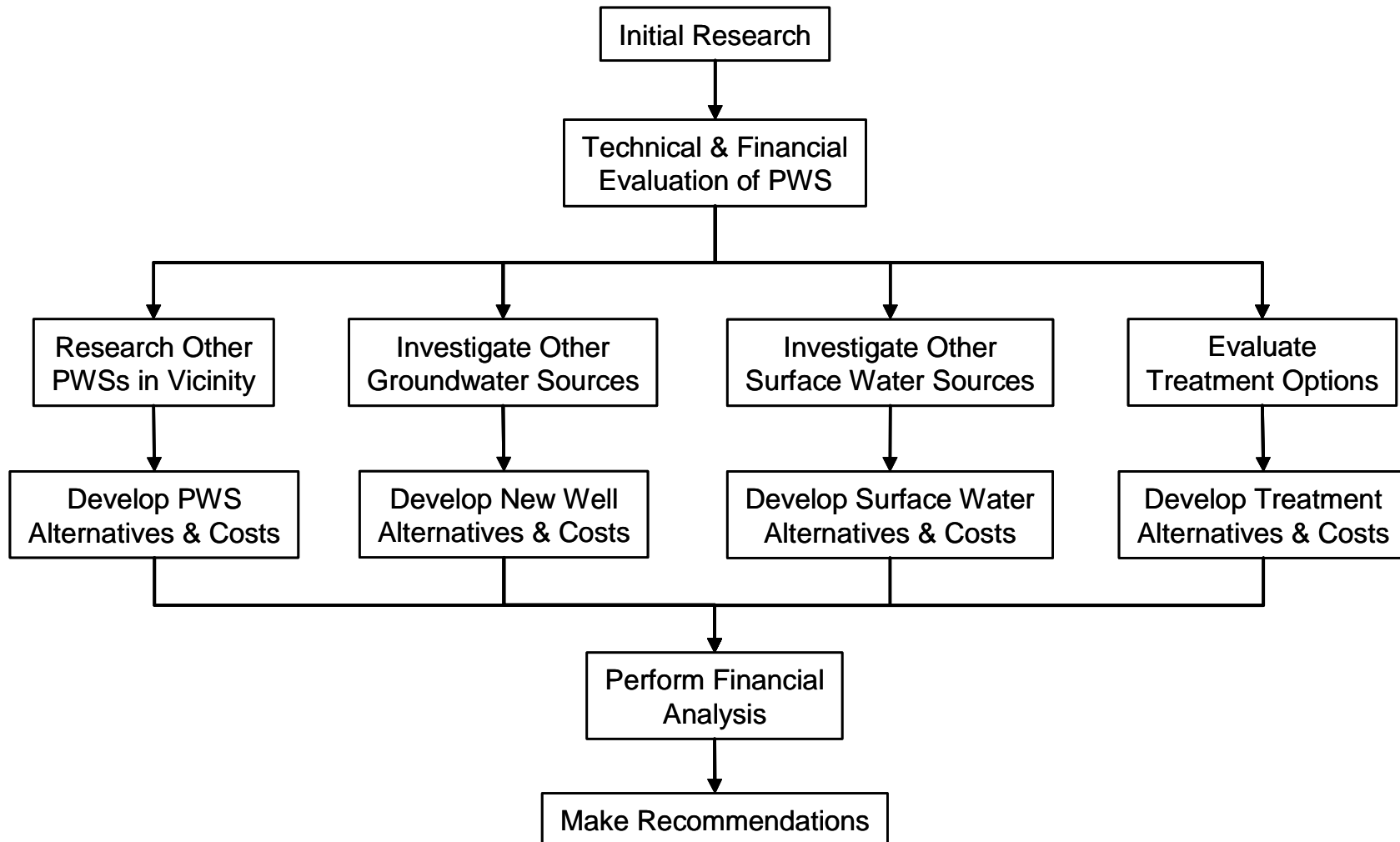
The Zavala County WCID 1 PWS obtains groundwater from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer (124CRRZ). Gross alpha and combined radium are commonly found in area wells at concentrations greater than the MCL. There are no wells within 6.2 miles of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS wells that have been analyzed for gross alpha concentrations. One well, located about 5-1/2 miles east of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS wells, has shown acceptable levels of combined radium.

The lack of available measurements in nearby wells makes it difficult to assess local variation in gross alpha and combined radium concentrations. In addition, the lack of information on the exact source of waters measured in the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS wells makes it impossible to assess possible variation in contaminant levels between these wells. Two historical measurements of combined radium in the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS wells are below the MCL, which indicates that one or more of the wells might contain acceptable levels of combined radium and gross alpha. Sampling the wells separately and analyzing for these constituents could help to identify a possible mixture of water from existing wells that meets quality standards. Variation in gross alpha and combined radium in the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS wells could be related to well depth. If water quality is adequate within a certain depth range, then casing all wells above and below that depth range could also improve water quality using existing wells.

It may also be possible to do down-hole testing on non-compliant wells to determine the source of the contaminants. If the contaminants derive primarily from a single part of the formation, that part could be excluded by modifying the existing well, or avoided altogether by completing a new well.

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Figure ES.1 Summary of Project Methods



COMPLIANCE ALTERNATIVES

Overall, the system had a good level of FMT capacity. The system had some areas that needed improvement to be able to address future compliance issues; however, the system does have many positive aspects, including sufficient revenues to fund reserve accounts, and financial sustainability. Areas of concern for the system included lack of long-term capital planning, and lack of a source water and wellhead protection plan.

There are several PWSs within 30 miles of Zavala County WCID 1. Many of these nearby systems also have water quality problems, but there are some with good quality water. In general, feasibility alternatives were developed based on obtaining water from the nearest PWSs, either by directly purchasing water, or by expanding the existing well field. There is a minimum of surface water available in the area.

Centralized treatment alternatives for radionuclide removal have been developed and were considered for this report, including reverse osmosis, and Water Remediation Technologies, Inc. (WRT) Z-88 adsorption. Point-of-use (POU) and point-of-entry treatment alternatives were also considered. Temporary solutions such as providing bottled water or providing a centralized dispenser for treated or trucked-in water, were also considered as alternatives.

Developing a new well close to Zavala County WCID 1 PWS is likely to be the best solution if compliant groundwater can be found. Having a new well close to Zavala County WCID 1 PWS is likely to be one of the lower cost alternatives since the PWS already possesses the technical and managerial expertise needed to implement this option. The cost of new well alternatives quickly increases with pipeline length, making proximity of the alternate source a key concern. A new compliant well or obtaining water from a neighboring compliant PWS has the advantage of providing compliant water to all taps in the system.

Central treatment can be cost-competitive with the alternative of new nearby wells, but would require significant institutional changes to manage and operate. Similar to obtaining an alternate compliant water source, central treatment would provide compliant water to all water taps.

POU treatment can be cost competitive, but does not supply compliant water to all taps. Additionally, significant efforts would be required for maintenance and monitoring of the POU treatment units.

Providing compliant water through a central dispenser is significantly less expensive than providing bottled water to 100 percent of the population, but a significant effort is required for clients to fill their containers at the central dispenser.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Financial analysis of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS indicated that current water rates are funding operations, and a rate increase is not necessary to meet operating expenses at this time. The current average water bill of \$389 represents approximately 2.0 percent of the

median household income (MHI). Table ES.2 provides a summary of the financial impact of implementing selected compliance alternatives. The alternatives were selected to highlight results for the best alternatives from each different type or category.

Some of the compliance alternatives offer potential for shared or regional solutions. A group of PWSs could work together to implement alternatives for developing a new groundwater source or expanding an existing source, obtaining compliant water from a large regional provider, or for central treatment. Sharing the cost for implementation of these alternatives could reduce the cost on a per user basis. Additionally, merging PWSs or management of several PWSs by a single entity offers the potential for reduction in administrative costs.

Table ES.2 Selected Financial Analysis Results

Alternative	Funding Option	Average Annual Water Bill	Percent of MHI
Current	NA	\$389	2.0
To meet current expenses	NA	\$320	1.6
New well at Crystal City	100% Grant	\$858	4.4
	Loan/Bond	\$1,608	8.2
Central WRT Z-88 treatment	100% Grant	\$1,106	5.6
	Loan/Bond	\$1,206	6.1
Point-of-use	100% Grant	\$1,155	5.9
	Loan/Bond	\$1,254	6.4
Public dispenser	100% Grant	\$499	2.5
	Loan/Bond	\$504	2.6

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

µg/L	Micrograms per liter
AFY	acre-feet per year
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
BEG	Bureau of Economic Geology
BFZ	Balcones Fault Zone
BV	bed volume
CD	Community Development
CDBG	Community Development Block Grants
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DWSRF	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
ED	Electrodialysis
EDAP	Economically Distressed Areas Program
EDR	Electrodialysis reversal
FMT	Financial, managerial, and technical
GAM	Groundwater Availability Model
gpd	gallons per day
gpm	Gallons per minute
IX	Ion exchange
KMnO ₄	manganese oxide filtration
MCL	Maximum contaminant level
mg/L	Milligram per liter
mgd	Million gallons per day
MHI	Median household income
MnO ₂	manganese dioxide
NMEFC	New Mexico Environmental Financial Center
NPDWR	National Primary Drinking Water Regulations
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
ORCA	Office of Rural Community Affairs
Parsons	Parsons Transportation Group, Inc.
pCi/L	picoCuries per liter
POE	Point-of-entry
POU	Point-of-use
PWS	Public Water System
RFP	Revolving Fund Program
RO	Reverse osmosis
RUS	Rural Utilities Service
RWAF	Rural Water Assistance Fund

SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
STEP	Small Towns Environment Program
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TDS	total dissolved solids
TSS	total suspended solids
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VOC	volatile organic compound
WAM	Water Availability Model
WCID	Water Control and Improvement District
WEP	Water and Environment Program
WRT	Water Remediation Technologies, Inc.

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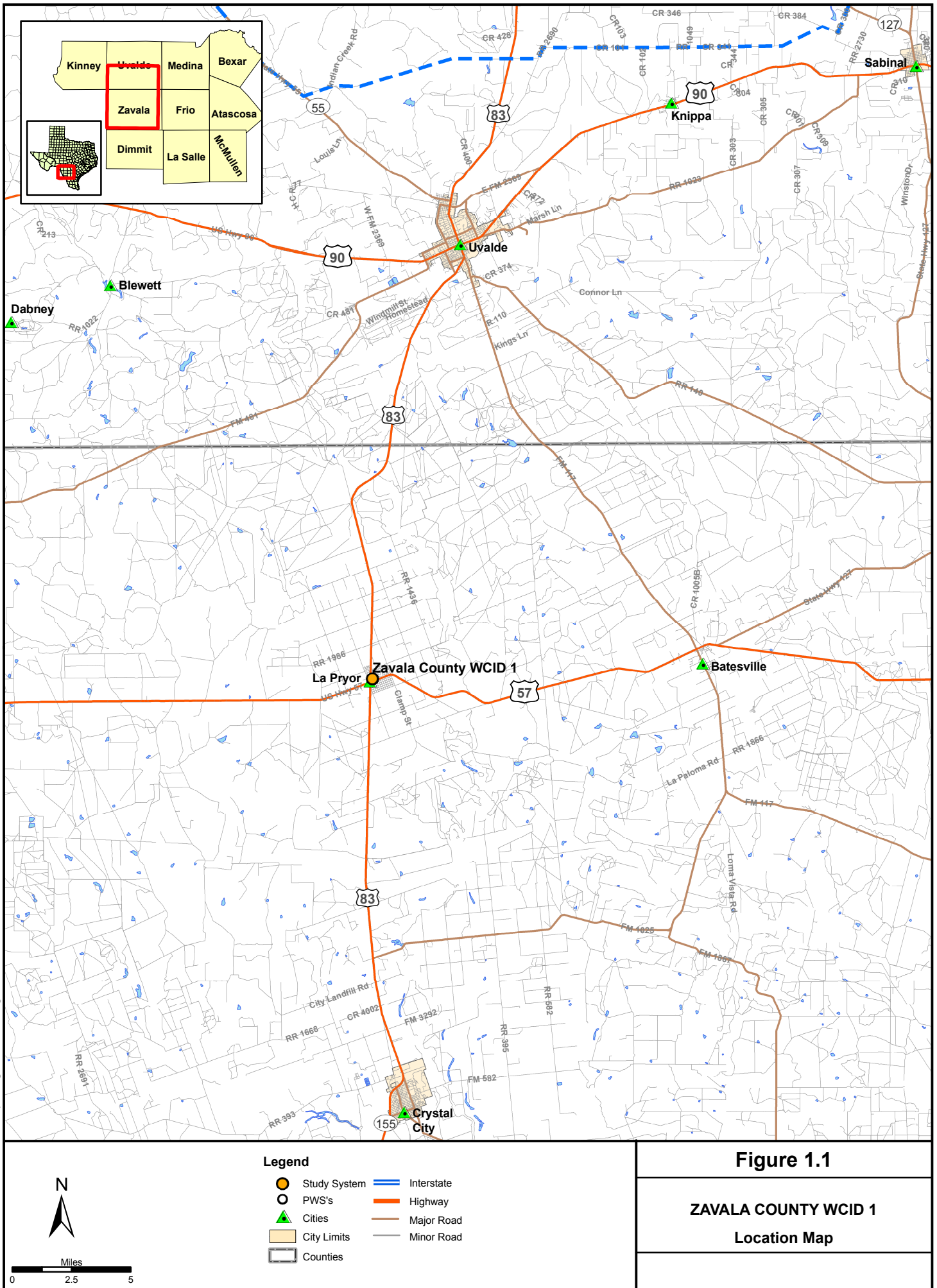
SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

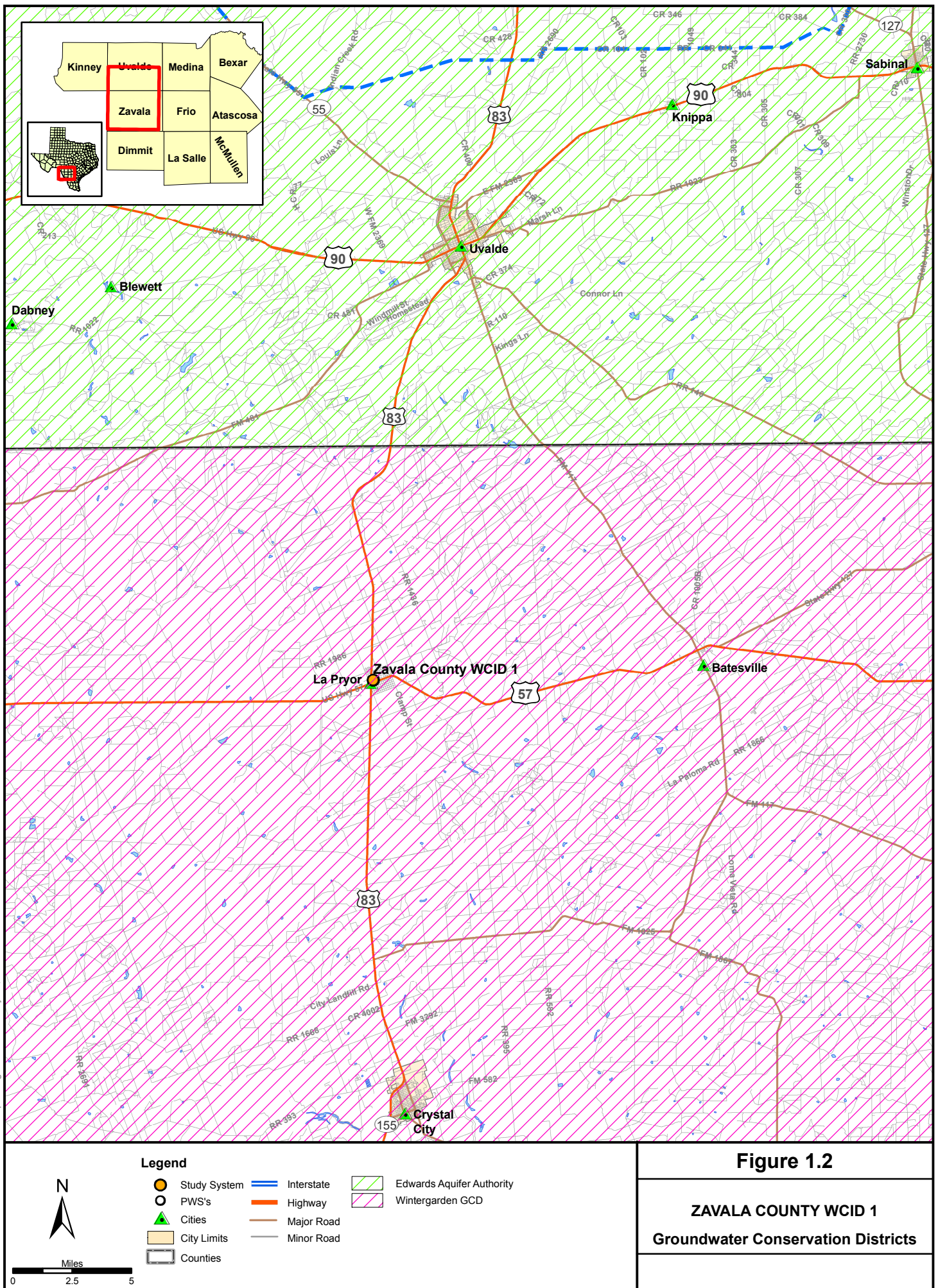
The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) and its subcontractor, Parsons Transportation Group Inc. (Parsons), were contracted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to assist with identifying and analyzing compliance alternatives for use by Public Water Systems (PWS) to meet and maintain Texas drinking water standards.

The overall goal of this project is to promote compliance using sound engineering and financial methods and data for PWSs that have recently had sample results that exceed maximum contaminant levels (MCL). The primary objectives of this project are to provide feasibility studies for PWSs and the TCEQ Water Supply Division that evaluate water supply compliance options, and to suggest a list of compliance alternatives that may be further investigated by the subject PWS with regard to future implementation. The feasibility studies identify a range of potential compliance alternatives, and present basic data that can be used for evaluating feasibility. The compliance alternatives addressed include a description of what would be required for implementation, conceptual cost estimates for implementation, and non-cost factors that could be used to differentiate between alternatives. The cost estimates are intended for comparing compliance alternatives, and to give a preliminary indication of potential impacts on water rates resulting from implementation.

It is anticipated the PWS will review the compliance alternatives in this report to determine if there are promising alternatives, and then select the most attractive alternative(s) for more detailed evaluation and possible subsequent implementation. This report contains a decision tree approach that guided the efforts for this project, and also contains steps to guide a PWS through the subsequent evaluation, selection, and implementation of a compliance alternative.

This feasibility report provides an evaluation of water supply compliance options for the Zavala County Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) 1 PWS, PWS ID# 2540003, located in Zavala County, hereinafter referred to in this document as the “Zavala County WCID 1 PWS.” Recent sample results from the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS exceeded the MCL for gross alpha particle activity (gross alpha) of 15 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) radium of 5 pCi/L (USEPA 2008a, TCEQ 2004). The location of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS is shown on Figure 1.1. Various water supply and planning jurisdictions are shown on Figure 1.2. These water supply and planning jurisdictions are used in the evaluation of alternate water supplies that may be available in the area.





1.1 PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMPLIANCE WITH MCLs

The goal of this project is to promote compliance for PWSs that supply drinking water exceeding regulatory MCLs. This project only addresses those contaminants and does not address any other violations that may exist for a PWS. As mentioned above, the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS water system had recent sample results exceeding the MCL for gross alpha and combined radium.

In general, contaminant(s) in drinking water above the MCL(s) can have both short-term (acute) and long-term or lifetime (chronic) effects. Long-term ingestion of drinking water containing any of the radionuclides (radium 226, radium 228, and/or gross alpha particle emitters) above the MCL may increase the risk of cancer (USEPA 2008b).

1.2 METHOD

The method for this project follows that of a pilot project performed by TCEQ, BEG, and Parsons. The pilot project evaluated water supply alternatives for PWSs that supplied drinking water with contaminant concentrations above U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Texas drinking water standards. Three PWSs were evaluated in the pilot project to develop the method (*i.e.*, decision tree approach) for analyzing options for provision of compliant drinking water. This project is performed using the decision tree approach that was developed for the pilot project, and which was also used for subsequent projects.

Other tasks of the feasibility study are as follows:

- Identifying available data sources;
- Gathering and compiling data;
- Conducting financial, managerial, and technical (FMT) evaluations of the selected PWSs;
- Performing a geologic and hydrogeologic assessment of the area;
- Developing treatment and non-treatment compliance alternatives;
- Assessing potential alternatives with respect to economic and non-economic criteria;
- Preparing a feasibility report; and
- Suggesting refinements to the approach for future studies.

The remainder of Section 1 of this report addresses the regulatory background, and provides a summary of contaminant abatement options. Section 2 describes the method used to develop and assess compliance alternatives. The groundwater sources of combined radium and gross alpha are addressed in Section 3. Findings for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, along with compliance alternatives development and evaluation, can be found in Section 4. Section 5 references the sources used in this report.

1.3 REGULATORY PERSPECTIVE

The Utilities & Districts and Public Drinking Water Sections of the TCEQ Water Supply Division are responsible for implementing requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which include oversight of PWSs and water utilities. These responsibilities include:

- Monitoring public drinking water quality;
- Processing enforcement referrals for MCL violators;
- Tracking and analyzing compliance options for MCL violators;
- Providing FMT assessment and assistance to PWSs;
- Participating in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program to assist PWSs in achieving regulatory compliance; and
- Setting rates for privately owned water utilities.

This project was conducted to assist in achieving these responsibilities.

1.4 ABATEMENT OPTIONS

When a PWS exceeds a regulatory MCL, the PWS must take action to correct the violation. The MCL exceedances at Zavala County WCID 1 PWS involve combined radium and gross alpha. The following subsections explore alternatives considered as potential options for obtaining/providing compliant drinking water.

1.4.1 Existing Public Water Supply Systems

A common approach to achieving compliance is for the PWS to make arrangements with a neighboring PWS for water supply. For this arrangement to work, the PWS from which water is being purchased (supplier PWS) must have water in sufficient quantity and quality, the political will must exist, and it must be economically feasible.

1.4.1.1 Quantity

For purposes of this report, quantity refers to water volume, flowrate, and pressure. Before approaching a potential supplier PWS, the non-compliant PWS should determine its water demand on the basis of average day and maximum day. Peak instantaneous demands can be met through proper sizing of storage facilities. Further, the potential for obtaining the appropriate quantity of water to blend to achieve compliance should be considered. The concept of blending involves combining water with low levels of contaminants with non-compliant water in sufficient quantity that the resulting blended water is compliant. The exact blend ratio would depend on the quality of the water a potential supplier PWS can provide, and would likely vary over time. If high quality water is purchased, produced or otherwise obtained, blending can reduce the amount of high quality water required. Implementation of blending will require a control system to ensure the blended water is compliant.

If the supplier PWS does not have sufficient quantity, the non-compliant community could pay for the facilities necessary to increase the quantity to the extent necessary to supply the needs of the non-compliant PWS. Potential improvements might include, but are not limited to:

- Additional wells;
- Developing a new surface water supply,
- Additional or larger-diameter piping;
- Increasing water treatment plant capacity
- Additional storage tank volume;
- Reduction of system losses,
- Higher-pressure pumps; or
- Upsized, or additional, disinfection equipment.

In addition to the necessary improvements, a transmission pipeline would need to be constructed to tie the two PWSs together. The pipeline must tie-in at a point in the supplier PWS where all the upstream pipes and appurtenances are of sufficient capacity to handle the new demand. In the non-compliant PWS, the pipeline must tie in at a point where no down stream bottlenecks are present. If blending is the selected method of operation, the tie-in point must be selected to ensure all the water in the system is blended to achieve regulatory compliance.

1.4.1.2 Quality

If a potential supplier PWS obtains its water from the same aquifer (or same portion of the aquifer) as the non-compliant PWS, the quality of water may not be significantly better. However, water quality can vary significantly due to well location, even within the same aquifer. If localized areas with good water quality cannot be identified, the non-compliant PWS would need to find a potential supplier PWS that obtains its water from a different aquifer or from a surface water source. Additionally, a potential supplier PWS may treat non-compliant raw water to an acceptable level.

Surface water sources may offer a potential higher-quality source. Since there are significant treatment requirements, utilization of surface water for drinking water is typically most feasible for larger local or regional authorities or other entities that may provide water to several PWSs. Where PWSs that obtain surface water are neighbors, the non-compliant PWS may need to deal with those systems as well as with the water authorities that supply the surface water.

1.4.2 Potential for New Groundwater Sources

1.4.2.1 Existing Non-Public Supply Wells

Often there are wells not associated with PWSs located in the vicinity of the non-compliant PWS. The current use of these wells may be for irrigation, industrial purposes, domestic supply, stock watering, and other purposes. The process for investigating existing wells is as follows:

- Existing data sources (see below) will be used to identify wells in the areas that have satisfactory quality. For the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, the following standards could be used in a rough screening to identify compliant groundwater in surrounding systems:
 - Nitrate (measured as nitrogen) concentrations less than 8 mg/L (below the MCL of 10 mg/L);
 - Fluoride concentration less than 2.0 mg/L (below the Secondary MCL of 2 mg/L);
 - Arsenic concentration less than 0.008 mg/L (below the MCL of 0.01 mg/L);
 - Uranium concentration less than 0.024 mg/L (below the MCL of 0.030 mg/L); and
 - Selenium concentration less than 0.04 mg/L (below the MCL of 0.05 mg/L).
- The recorded well information will be reviewed to eliminate those wells that appear to be unsuitable for the application. Often, the “Remarks” column in the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) hard-copy database provides helpful information. Wells eliminated from consideration generally include domestic and stock wells, dug wells, test holes, observation wells, seeps and springs, destroyed wells, wells used by other communities, etc.
- Wells of sufficient size are identified. Some may be used for industrial or irrigation purposes. Often the TWDB database will include well yields, which may indicate the likelihood that a particular well is a satisfactory source.
- At this point in the process, the local groundwater control district (if one exists) should be contacted to obtain information about pumping restrictions. Also, preliminary cost estimates should be made to establish the feasibility of pursuing further well development options.
- If particular wells appear to be acceptable, the owner(s) should be contacted to ascertain their willingness to work with the PWS. Once the owner agrees to participate in the program, questions should be asked about the wells. Many owners have more than one well, and would probably be the best source of information regarding the latest test dates, who tested the water, flowrates, and other well characteristics.
- After collecting as much information as possible from cooperative owners, the PWS would then narrow the selection of wells and sample and analyze them for quality.

Wells with good quality water would then be potential candidates for test pumping. In some cases, a particular well may need to be refurbished before test pumping. Information obtained from test pumping would then be used in combination with information about the general characteristics of the aquifer to determine whether a well at that location would be suitable as a supply source.

- It is recommended that new wells be installed instead of using existing wells to ensure the well characteristics are known and the well meets construction standards.
- Permit(s) would then be obtained from the groundwater control district or other regulatory authority, and an agreement with the owner (purchase or lease, access easements, etc.) would then be negotiated.

1.4.2.2 Develop New Wells

If no existing wells are available for development, the PWS or group of PWSs has an option of developing new wells. Records of existing wells, along with other hydrogeologic information and modern geophysical techniques, should be used to identify potential locations for new wells. In some areas, the TWDB's Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) may be applied to indicate potential sources. Once a general area is identified, land owners and regulatory agencies should be contacted to determine an exact location for a new well or well field. Pump tests and water quality tests would be required to determine if a new well will produce an adequate quantity of good quality water. Permits from the local groundwater control district or other regulatory authority could also be required for a new well.

1.4.3 Potential for Surface Water Sources

Water rights law dominates the acquisition of water from surface water sources. For a PWS, 100 percent availability of water is required, except where a back-up source is available. For PWSs with an existing water source, although it may be non-compliant because of elevated concentrations of one or more parameters, water rights may not need to be 100 percent available.

1.4.3.1 Existing Surface Water Sources

"Existing surface water sources" of water refers to municipal water authorities and cities that obtain water from surface water sources. The process of obtaining water from such a source is generally less time consuming and less costly than the process of developing a new source; therefore, it should be a primary course of investigation. An existing source would be limited by its water rights, the safe yield of a reservoir or river, or by its water treatment or water conveyance capability. The source must be able to meet the current demand and honor contracts with communities it currently supplies. In many cases, the contract amounts reflect projected future water demand based on population or industrial growth.

A non-compliant PWS would look for a source with sufficient spare capacity. Where no such capacity exists, the non-compliant PWS could offer to fund the improvements necessary to obtain the capacity. This approach would work only where the safe yield could be increased

(perhaps by enlarging a reservoir) or where treatment capacity could be increased. In some instances water rights, where they are available, could possibly be purchased.

In addition to securing the water supply from an existing source, the non-compliant PWS would need to arrange for transmission of the water to the PWS. In some cases, that could require negotiations with, contracts with, and payments to an intermediate PWS (an intermediate PWS is one where the infrastructure is used to transmit water from a “supplier” PWS to a “supplied” PWS, but does not provide any additional treatment to the supplied water). The non-compliant PWS could be faced with having to fund improvements to the intermediate PWS in addition to constructing its own necessary transmission facilities.

1.4.3.2 New Surface Water Sources

Communication with the TCEQ and relevant planning groups from the beginning is essential in the process of obtaining a new surface water source. Preliminary assessment of the potential for acquiring new rights may be based on surface water availability maps located on the TWDB website. Where water rights appear to be available, the following activities need to occur:

- Discussions with TCEQ to indicate the likelihood of obtaining those rights. The TCEQ may use the Water Availability Model (WAM) to assist in the determination.
- Discussions with land owners to indicate potential treatment plant locations.
- Coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local river authorities.
- Preliminary engineering design to determine the feasibility, costs, and environmental issues of a new treatment plant.

Should these discussions indicate that a new surface water source is the best option, the community would proceed with more intensive planning (initially obtaining funding), permitting, land acquisition, and detailed designs.

1.4.4 Identification of Treatment Technologies

Various treatment technologies were also investigated as compliance alternatives for reduction of radium and gross alpha radioactivity to regulatory levels (*i.e.*, MCLs). The reduction of gross alpha activity typically is achieved by reducing radium, which appears to be responsible for a major part of the gross alpha activity of the groundwater. Radium-226 and Radium-228 are cations (Ra^{2+}) dissolved in water and are not removed by particle filtration. A 2002 USEPA document (*Radionuclides in Drinking Water: A Small Entity Compliance Guide, EPA 815-R-02-001*) lists a number of small system compliance technologies that can remove radium (combined radium-226 and radium-228) from water. These technologies include ion exchange, reverse osmosis (RO), electrodialysis/electrodialysis reversal (ED/EDR), lime softening, greensand filtration, re-formed hydrous manganese oxide filtration ($KMnO_4$ -filtration), and co-precipitation with barium sulfate. A relatively new process using the Water Remediation Technologies, Inc.(WRT) Z-88 media that is specific for radium adsorption has been demonstrated to be an effective radium technology. Lime softening and co-precipitation

with barium sulfate are technologies that are relatively complex and require chemistry skills that are not practical for small systems with limited resources and hence they are not evaluated further.

1.4.5 Description of Treatment Technologies

The application radium removal treatment technologies include ion exchange (IX), WRT-Z-88 media adsorption, RO, ED/EDR, and KMnO_4 -greensand filtration. A description of these technologies follows.

1.4.5.1 Ion Exchange

Process – In solution, salts separate into positively charged cations and negatively charged anions. Ion exchange (IX) is a reversible chemical process in which ions from an insoluble, permanent, solid resin bed are exchanged for ions in the water. The process is based on the preferential adsorption of specific ions on the ion exchange resin. Operation begins with a fully charged cation or anion bed, having enough positively or negatively charged ions to carry out the cation or anion exchange. Usually a polymeric resin bed is composed of millions of spherical beads about the size of medium sand grains. As water passes the resin bed, the charged ions are released into the water, being substituted or replaced with the contaminants in the water (IX). When the resin becomes saturated with the contaminant ions, the bed must be regenerated by passing or pumping a concentrated sodium chloride solution over the resin, displacing the contaminant ions with sodium ions for cation exchange resins and chloride ions for anion exchange resins. Many different types of resins can be used depending on the specific contaminant to be removed.

The IX treatment train for groundwater typically consists of an ion exchange system containing cation or anion resin, chlorine disinfection, and clear well storage. The ion exchange system has provisions for regeneration with salt (sodium chloride) and generates approximately 2 to 4% of waste or “spent” regeneration solutions. Treatment trains for surface water may also include raw water pumps, debris screens, and filters for pre-treatment. Additional treatment or management of the spent regeneration salt solutions and the removed solids will be necessary prior to disposal, especially for radium removal resins that have elevated radioactivity.

For radium removal, a strong acid cation exchange resin in the sodium form can remove 95-99 percent of the radium. The strong acid resin has less capacity for radium on water with high hardness and it has the following adsorption preference: $\text{Ra}^{2+} > \text{Ba}^{2+} > \text{Ca}^{2+} > \text{Mg}^{2+} > \text{Na}^+$. Because of the selectivity radium and barium are much more difficult to remove from the resin during regeneration than calcium and magnesium. Economical regeneration removes most of the hardness ions, but radium and barium buildup on the resin after repeated cycles to the point where equilibrium is reached and then radium and barium will begin to breakthrough shortly after hardness. Regeneration of the sodium form strong acid resin for water with 200 mg/L of hardness with application of 6.5 lb NaCl/ft^3 resin would produce 2.4 bed volumes (BV) of 16,400 mg/L TDS brine per 100 BV of product water. This results in waste liquids equaling

about 2.4% of the volume of water treated. The radium concentration in the regeneration waste would be approximately 40 times the influent radium concentration in groundwater.

The strong acid cation exchange process produces a pleasing water supply that reduces scaling in pipes. However, it increases an average daily sodium intake by 200 to 400 mg compared to an estimated average daily intake of 2,000 to 7,000 mg. Increased sodium levels from all sodium chloride regenerated ion exchange process are a concern to some people, particularly those on low salt diets, but in most cases the increase will amount to no more than approximately 10% of the average dietary intake of sodium.

Pretreatment – Pretreatment guidelines are available on accepted limits for pH, organics, turbidity, and other raw water characteristics. Pretreatment may be required to reduce excessive amounts of total suspended solids (TSS), iron, and manganese, which could plug the resin bed, and typically includes media or carbon filtration.

Maintenance – The IX resin requires regular on-site regeneration, the frequency of which depends on raw water characteristics (especially hardness), the contaminant concentration, and the size and number of IX vessels. Many systems have undersized the IX vessels only to realize higher than necessary operating costs. Preparation of the sodium chloride solution is required. If used, filter replacement and backwashing will be required.

Waste Disposal – Approval from local authorities is usually required for disposal of concentrate from the regeneration cycle (highly concentrated salt solution with radioactivity); occasional solids waste (in the form of broken resin beads) backwashed during regeneration; and if used, spent filters and backwash wastewater.

Advantages

- Well established process for radium removal.
- Fully automated and highly reliable process.
- Suitable for small and large installations.
- Operates on demand
- Relatively insensitive to source water pH.

Disadvantages

- Requires salt storage; regular regeneration.
- Generates a brine liquid waste requiring disposal.
- Liquid spent regenerate brine can contain high levels of radium.
- Resins are sensitive to the presence of competing ions such as calcium and magnesium, which reduce the effectiveness for radium removal.

In considering application of IX for inorganic, it is important to understand what the effect of competing ions will be, and to what extent the brine can be recycled. Conventional IX cationic resin removes calcium and magnesium in addition to radium and thus the capacity for radium removal and frequency of regeneration depend on the hardness of the water to be treated. Spent regenerant is produced during IX bed regeneration, and it may have concentrations of the sorbed contaminants that would be expensive to treat and/or dispose because of hazardous waste regulations.

1.4.5.2 WRT Z-88 Media

Process – The WRT Z-88 radium treatment process is a proprietary process using a radium specific adsorption resin or zeolite supplied by WRT. The Z-88 process is similar to IX except that the radium ions are irreversibly adsorbed or attached to the Z-88 resin and no regeneration is conducted. The resin is disposed upon exhaustion. The Z-88 does not remove calcium and magnesium and thus it can last for a long time relative to conventional ion exchange (2-3 years, according to WRT) before replacement is necessary. The process is operated in an upflow, fluidized mode with a surface loading rate of 10.5 gallons per minute per square foot. Pilot testing of this technology has been conducted successfully for radium removal in many locations including in the State of Texas. Seven full-scale systems with capacities of 750 to 1,200 gpm have been constructed in the Village of Oswego, Illinois since July 2005. The treatment equipment is owned by WRT and the ownership of spent media would be transferred to an approved disposal site. The customer pays WRT based on an agreed upon treated water unit cost (e.g., \$1.00-6.70/kgal, depending on water characteristics, flow capacity and annual production for the water systems).

Dow Chemical Company produces a radium selective complexer resin (DOWEX RSC) that has similar characteristics.

Pretreatment – Pretreatment may be required to reduce excess amounts of TSS, iron, and manganese that could plug the resin bed. Pretreatment typically includes media or carbon filtration. No chemical addition is required for radium removal.

Maintenance – Maintenance is relatively low for this technology as no regeneration or chemical handling is required. Periodical water quality monitoring and inspection of mechanical equipment are required.

Waste Disposal – The Z-88 media would be disposed of in an approved low level radioactive waste landfill by WRT once every 2-3 years. No liquid waste is generated for this process. However, if pretreatment filters are used then spent filters and backwash wastewater disposal is required. Generally since WRT owns the equipment and adsorption media, communities are not responsible for disposal of the spent media.

Advantages

- Simple and fully automated process.
- No liquid waste disposal.

- No chemical handling, storage, or feed systems.
- No change in water quality except radium reduction.
- Low capital cost as WRT owns the equipment.

Disadvantages

- Relatively new technology.
- Proprietary technology without much direct competition.
- Long term contract with WRT required.

From a small utilities point of view the Z-88 process is a desirable technology for radium removal as an operation and maintenance (O&M) effort is minimal and no regular liquid waste is generated. However, this technology has been in use for only 3 to 5 years and has limited long-term full-scale operating experience. But since the equipment is owned by WRT and the performance is guaranteed by WRT the financial risk to a community can be minimized.

1.4.5.3 Reverse Osmosis

Process – RO is a pressure-driven membrane separation process capable of removing dissolved solutes from water by means of ion size and electrical charge. The raw water is typically called feed; the product water is called permeate, and the concentrated reject is called concentrate. Common RO membrane materials include asymmetric cellulose acetate and polyamide thin film composite. Common RO membrane configurations include spiral wound and hollow fine fiber but most RO systems to date are of the spiral wound type. A typical RO installation includes a high pressure feed pump with chemical feed, parallel first and second stage membrane elements in pressure vessels, and valving and piping for feed, permeate, and concentrate streams. Factors influencing membrane selection are cost, recovery, rejection, raw water characteristics, and pretreatment. Factors influencing performance are raw water characteristics, pressure, temperature, and regular monitoring and maintenance. RO is capable of achieving over 95 percent removal of radium. The treatment process is relatively insensitive to pH. Water recovery is 60-80 percent, depending on the raw water characteristics. This means that for every 100 gallons of water entering the system, 60 to 80 gallons of product water and 20 to 40 gallons of “concentrate” or waste are produced. Disposal of the concentrate can have a significant cost depending on options available.

The RO process is not selective for radium and gross alpha removal. A majority of salts and dissolved materials in the water are removed. This is an advantage if the water has high concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS).

Pretreatment – RO requires careful review of raw water characteristics and pretreatment needs to prevent membranes from fouling, scaling or other membrane degradation. Removal or sequestering of suspended and colloidal solids is necessary to prevent fouling, and removal of sparingly soluble constituents such as calcium, magnesium, silica, sulfate, barium, *etc.* may be required to prevent scaling. Iron and manganese must be removed prior to RO. Pretreatment

can include media filters, ion exchange softening, acid and antiscalant feed, activated carbon or bisulfite feed to dechlorinate, and cartridge filters to remove any remaining suspended solids to protect membranes from upsets.

Maintenance – Monitoring rejection percentage is required to ensure contaminant removal below MCL. Regular monitoring of membrane performance is necessary to determine fouling, scaling, or other membrane degradation. Acidic or caustic solutions are regularly flushed through the system at high volume/low pressure with a cleaning agent to remove foulants and scalants. Frequency of membrane replacement is dependent on raw water characteristics, pretreatment, and maintenance.

Waste Disposal – Pretreatment waste streams, concentrate flows, spent filters and membrane elements all required approved disposal methods. The disposal of the significant volume of the concentrate stream is a problem for many utilities.

Advantages

- Can remove radium effectively.
- Can remove other undesirable dissolved constituents.

Disadvantages

- Relatively expensive to install and operate.
- Needs sophisticated monitoring systems.
- Needs to handle multiple chemicals.
- Concentrate disposal.
- Waste of water because of the significant concentrate flows.

RO is an expensive alternative to remove radium and is usually not economically competitive with other processes unless nitrate and/or TDS removal is also required. The biggest drawback for using RO to remove radium is the waste of water through concentrate disposal, which is also difficult or expensive because of the relatively large volume involved.

1.4.5.4 Electrodialysis/Electrodialysis Reversal

Process – Electrodialysis is an electrochemical separation process in which ions migrate through ion-selective semi-permeable membranes as a result of their attraction to two electrically charged electrodes. The driving force for ion transfer is direct electric current. ED is different from RO in that it removes only dissolved inorganics but not particulates, organics, and silica. Electrodialysis reversal is an improved form of ED in which the polarity of the direct current is changed approximately every 15 minutes. The change of polarity helps to reduce the formation of scale and fouling films and thus a higher water recovery can be achieved. EDR has been the dominant form of ED system used for the past 25-30 years. A typical EDR system includes a membrane stack with a number of cell pairs, each consisting of

a cation transfer membrane, a demineralized water flow spacer, an anion transfer membrane, and a concentrate flow spacer. Electrode compartments are at opposite ends of the stack. The influent feed water (chemically treated to prevent precipitation) and concentrate reject flow in parallel across the membranes and through the demineralized water and concentrate flow spacers, respectively. The electrodes are continually flushed to reduce fouling or scaling. Careful consideration of flush feed water is required. Typically, the membranes are cation or anion exchange resins cast in sheet form; the spacers are high density polyethylene; and the electrodes are inert metal. EDR stacks are tank-contained and often staged. Membrane selection is based on review of raw water characteristics. A single-stage EDR system usually removes 40-50 percent of the dissolved salts including radium, and multiple stages may be required to meet the MCL if radium concentration is high. The conventional EDR treatment train typically includes EDR membranes, chlorine disinfection, and clearwell storage.

Pretreatment – Guidelines are available on acceptable limits on pH, organics, turbidity, and other raw water characteristics. EDR typically requires acid and antiscalant feed to prevent scaling and a cartridge filter for prefiltration. Treatment of surface water may also require pretreatment steps such as raw water pumps, debris screens, rapid mix with addition of a coagulant, flocculation basin, sedimentation basin or clarifier, and gravity filters. Microfiltration could be used in place of flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration.

Maintenance – EDR membranes are durable, can tolerate pH from 1-10, and temperatures to 115°F for cleaning. The can be removed from the unit and scrubbed. Solids can be washed off by turning the power off and letting water circulate through the stack. Electrode washes flush out byproducts of electrode reaction. The byproducts are hydrogen, formed in the cathode space, and oxygen and chlorine gas, formed in the anode spacer. If the chlorine is not removed, toxic chlorine gas may form. Depending on raw water characteristics, the membranes will require regular maintenance or replacement. If used, pretreatment filter replacement and backwashing will be required. The EDR stack must be disassembled, mechanically cleaned, and reassembled at regular intervals.

Waste Disposal – Highly concentrated reject flows, electrode cleaning flows, and spent membranes require approved disposal methods. Pretreatment process residuals and spent materials also require approved disposal methods.

Advantages

- EDR can operate with minimal fouling, scaling, or chemical addition.
- Low pressure requirements; typically quieter than RO.
- Long membrane life expectancy.
- More flexible than RO in tailoring treated water quality requirements.

Disadvantages

- Not specific to radium, also removes many TDS constituents.

- Not suitable for high levels of iron, manganese, hydrogen sulfide, and hardness.
- Relatively expensive process and high energy consumption.
- Does not remove particulates, organics, or silica.

EDR can be quite expensive to run because of the energy it uses. If radium removal is the only purpose it is probably more expensive than other technologies. However, if nitrate and/or TDS removal is also required, then EDR is a competitive process.

1.4.5.5 Potassium Permanganate Greensand Filtration

Process – Manganese dioxide, (MnO_2) has capacity to adsorb radium from water. MnO_2 can be formed by oxidation of Mn^{2+} occurring in natural waters and/or reduction of potassium permanganate (KMnO_4) added to the water. The MnO_2 is in the form of colloidal MnO_2 , which has a large surface area for adsorption. The MnO_2 does not adsorb calcium and magnesium so hardness is not a factor but iron and manganese and other heavy metal cations can compete strongly with radium adsorption. If these cations are present it would be necessary to install a good iron and manganese removal process before the MnO_2 -filtration process to ensure that MnO_2 is still available for radium sorption. The KMnO_4 -greensand filtration process can accomplish this purpose as the greensand is coated with MnO_2 , which is regenerated by the continuous feeding of KMnO_4 . Many operating treatment systems utilizing continuous feed KMnO_4 , 30-minute contact time, and manganese greensand remove radium to concentrations below the MCL. The treatment system equipment includes a KMnO_4 feed system, a pressurized reaction tank, and a manganese greensand filter. Backwashing of the greensand filter is usually required but periodic regeneration is not required. The overall radium removal is typically 65 to 95%.

Pretreatment – The KMnO_4 -greensand filtration process usually does not require pretreatment except if the turbidity is very high. The greensand filter usually has an anthracite layer to filter larger particles while the greensand adsorbs dissolved cations such as radium.

Maintenance – The greensand requires periodic backwashing to rid of suspended materials and metal oxides. KMnO_4 is usually supplied in the powder form and preparation of KMnO_4 solution is required. Occasional monitoring to ensure no overfeeding of KMnO_4 (pink water) is important to avoid problems in distribution system and household fixtures.

Waste Disposal – Approval from local authorities is usually required for the backwash wastewater. If local sewer is not available, a backwash water storage and settling tank would be required to recycle settled water to the process and disposed of the settled solids periodically.

Advantages

- Well established process for radium removal.
- No regeneration waste generated.

- Low pressure operation and no repumping required.
- No additional process for iron and manganese removal.

Disadvantages

- Need to handle powdered KMnO_4 , which is an oxidant.
- Need to monitor and backwash regularly.
- Need to manage backwash
- Disposal of settled solids is required.
- Limited effectiveness if KMnO_4 is under dosed.

The KMnO_4 -greensand filtration is a well established iron and manganese removal process and is effective for radium removal. It is suitable for small and large systems and is cost competitive with other alternative technologies.

1.4.6 Point-of-Entry and Point-of-Use Treatment Systems

Point-of-entry (POE) and Point-of-use (POU) treatment devices or systems rely on many of the same treatment technologies used in central treatment plants. However, while central treatment plants treat all water distributed to consumers to the same level, POU and POE treatment devices are designed to treat only a portion of the total flow. POU devices treat only the water intended for direct consumption, typically at a single tap or limited number of taps, while POE treatment devices are typically installed to treat all water entering a single home, business, school, or facility. POU and POE treatment systems may be an option for PWSs where central treatment is not affordable. Updated USEPA guidance on use of POU and POE treatment devices is provided in “*Point-of-Use or Point-of-Entry Treatment Options for Small Drinking Water Systems*,” EPA 815-R-06-010, April 2006 (USEPA 2006).

Point-of-entry and POU treatment systems can be used to provide compliant drinking water. These systems typically use small adsorption or reverse osmosis treatment units installed “under the sink” in the case of POU, and where water enters a house or building in the case of POE. It should be noted that the POU treatment units would need to be more complex than units typically found in commercial retail outlets to meet regulatory requirements, making purchase and installation more expensive. Point-of-entry and POU treatment units would be purchased and owned by the PWS. These solutions are decentralized in nature, and require utility personnel entry into houses or at least onto private property for installation, maintenance, and testing. Due to the large number of treatment units that would be employed and would be largely out of the control of the PWS, it is very difficult to ensure 100 percent compliance. Prior to selection of a POE or POU program for implementation, consultation with TCEQ would be required to address measurement and determination of level of compliance.

The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 141.100, covers criteria and procedures for PWSs using POE

1 devices and sets limits on the use of these devices. According to the regulations (July 2005
2 Edition), the PWS must develop and obtain TCEQ approval for a monitoring plan before POE
3 devices are installed for compliance with an MCL. Under the plan, POE devices must provide
4 health protection equivalent to central water treatment meaning the water must meet all
5 NPDWR and would be of acceptable quality similar to water distributed by a well-operated
6 central treatment plant. In addition, monitoring must include physical measurements and
7 observations such as total flow treated and mechanical condition of the treatment equipment.
8 The system would have to track the POE flow for a given time period, such as monthly, and
9 maintain records of device inspection. The monitoring plan should include frequency of
10 monitoring for the contaminant of concern and number of units to be monitored. For instance,
11 the system may propose to monitor every POE device during the first year for the contaminant
12 of concern and then monitor one-third of the units annually, each on a rotating schedule, such
13 that each unit would be monitored every three years. To satisfy the requirement that POE
14 devices must provide health protection, the water system may be required to conduct a pilot
15 study to verify the POE device can provide treatment equivalent to central treatment. Every
16 building connected to the system must have a POE device installed, maintained, and properly
17 monitored. Additionally, TCEQ must be assured that every building is subject to treatment and
18 monitoring, and that the rights and responsibilities of the PWS customer convey with title upon
19 sale of property.

20 Effective technology for POE devices must be properly applied under the monitoring plan
21 approved by TCEQ and the microbiological safety of the water must be maintained. TCEQ
22 requires adequate certification of performance, field testing, and, if not included in the
23 certification process, a rigorous engineering design review of the POE devices. The design and
24 application of the POE devices must consider the tendency for increase in heterotrophic
25 bacteria concentrations in water treated with activated carbon. It may be necessary to use
26 frequent backwashing, post-contactor disinfection, and Heterotrophic Plate Count monitoring
27 to ensure that the microbiological safety of the water is not compromised.

28 The SDWA [§1412(b)(4)(E)(ii)] regulates the design, management and operation of POU
29 and POE treatment units used to achieve compliance with an MCL. These restrictions, relevant
30 to MCL compliance are:

- 31 • POU and POE treatment units must be owned, controlled, and maintained by the water
32 system, although the utility may hire a contractor to ensure proper O&M and MCL
33 compliance. The water system must retain unit ownership and oversight of unit
34 installation, maintenance and sampling; the utility ultimately is the responsible party for
35 regulatory compliance. The water system staff need not perform all installation,
36 maintenance, or management functions, as these tasks may be contracted to a third
37 party-but the final responsibility for the quality and quantity of the water supplied to the
38 community resides with the water system, and the utility must monitor all contractors
39 closely. Responsibility for O&M of POU or POE devices installed for SDWA
40 compliance may not be delegated to homeowners.
- 41 • POU and POE units must have mechanical warning systems to automatically notify
42 customers of operational problems. Each POU or POE treatment device must be

equipped with a warning device (e.g., alarm, light) that would alert users when their unit is no longer adequately treating their water. As an alternative, units may be equipped with an automatic shut-off mechanism to meet this requirement.

- If the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) issued product standards for a specific type of POU or POE treatment unit, only those units that have been independently certified according to those standards may be used as part of a compliance strategy.

The following observations with regard to using POE and POU devices for SDWA compliance were made by Raucher, *et al.* (2004):

- If POU devices are used as an SDWA compliance strategy, certain consumer behavioral changes will be necessary (e.g., encouraging people to drink water only from certain treated taps) to ensure comprehensive consumer health protection.
- Although not explicitly prohibited in the SDWA, USEPA indicates that POU treatment devices should not be used to treat for radon or for most volatile organic contaminants (VOC) to achieve compliance, because POU devices do not provide 100 percent protection against inhalation or contact exposure to those contaminants at untreated taps (e.g., shower heads).
- Liability – PWSs considering unconventional treatment options (POU, POE, or bottled water) must address liability issues. These could be meeting drinking water standards, property entry and ensuing liabilities, and damage arising from improper installation or improper function of the POU and POE devices.

1.4.7 Water Delivery or Central Drinking Water Dispensers

Current USEPA regulations 40 CFR 141.101 prohibit the use of bottled water to achieve compliance with an MCL, except on a temporary basis. State regulations do not directly address the use of bottled water. Use of bottled water at a non-compliant PWS would be on a temporary basis. Every 3 years, the PWSs that employ interim measures are required to present the TCEQ with estimates of costs for piping compliant water to their systems. As long as the projected costs remain prohibitively high, the bottled water interim measure is extended. Until USEPA amends the noted regulation, the TCEQ is unable to accept water delivery or central drinking water dispensers as compliance solutions.

Central provision of compliant drinking water would consist of having one or more dispensers of compliant water where customers could come to fill containers with drinking water. The centralized water source could be from small to medium-sized treatment units or could be compliant water delivered to the central point by truck.

Water delivery is an interim measure for providing compliant water. As an interim measure for a small impacted population, providing delivered drinking water may be cost effective. If the susceptible population is large, the cost of water delivery would increase significantly.

- Water delivery programs require consumer participation to a varying degree. Ideally, consumers would have to do no more than they currently do for a piped-water delivery system. Least desirable are those systems that require maximum effort on the part of the customer (*e.g.*, customer has to travel to get the water, transport the water, and physically handle the bottles).

SECTION 2 EVALUATION METHOD

2.1 DECISION TREE

The decision tree is a flow chart for conducting feasibility studies for a non-compliant PWS. The decision tree is shown in Figures 2.1 through 2.4. The tree guides the user through a series of phases in the design process. Figure 2.1 shows Tree 1, which outlines the process for defining the existing system parameters, followed by optimizing the existing treatment system operation. If optimizing the existing system does not correct the deficiency, the tree leads to six alternative preliminary branches for investigation. The groundwater branch leads through investigating existing wells to developing a new well field. The treatment alternatives address centralized and on-site treatment. The objective of this phase is to develop conceptual designs and cost estimates for the six types of alternatives. The work done for this report follows through Tree 1 and Tree 2, as well as a preliminary pass through Tree 4.

Tree 3, which begins at the conclusion of the work for this report, starts with a comparison of the conceptual designs, selecting the two or three alternatives that appear to be most promising, and eliminating those alternatives that are obviously infeasible. It is envisaged that a process similar to this would be used by the study PWS to refine the list of viable alternatives. The selected alternatives are then subjected to intensive investigation, and highlighted by an investigation into the socio-political aspects of implementation. Designs are further refined and compared, resulting in the selection of a preferred alternative. The steps for assessing the financial and economic aspects of the alternatives (one of the steps in Tree 3) are given in Tree 4 in Figure 2.4.

2.2 DATA SOURCES AND DATA COLLECTION

2.2.1 Data Search

2.2.1.1 Water Supply Systems

The TCEQ maintains a set of files on public water systems, utilities, and districts at its headquarters in Austin, Texas. The files are organized under two identifiers: a PWS identification number and a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity number. The PWS identification number is used to retrieve four types of files:

- CO – Correspondence,
- CA – Chemical analysis,
- MOR – Monthly operating reports (quality/quantity), and
- FMT – Financial, managerial and technical issues.

Figure 2.1
TREE 1 – EXISTING FACILITY ANALYSIS

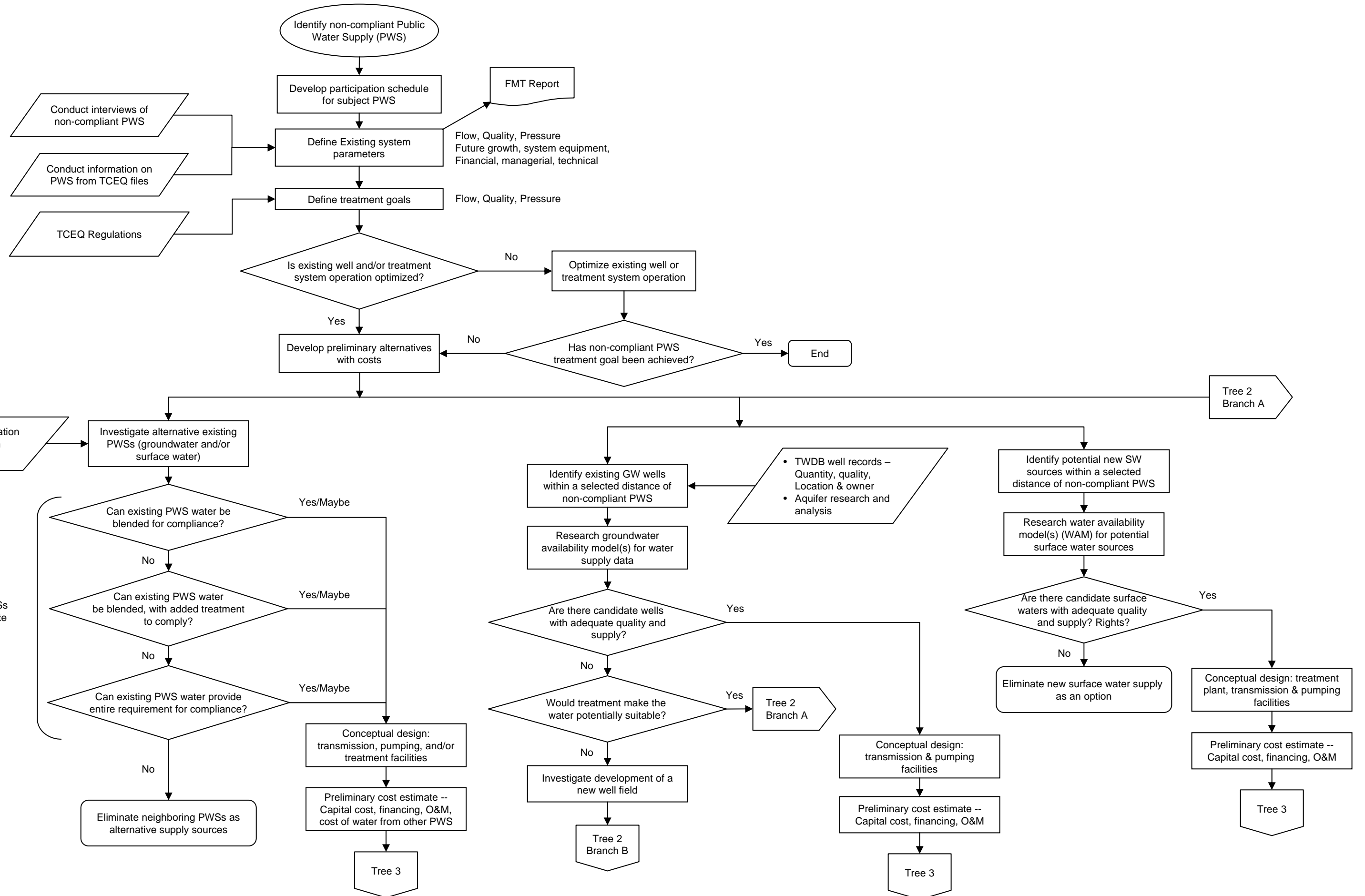


Figure 2.2
TREE 2 – DEVELOP TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES

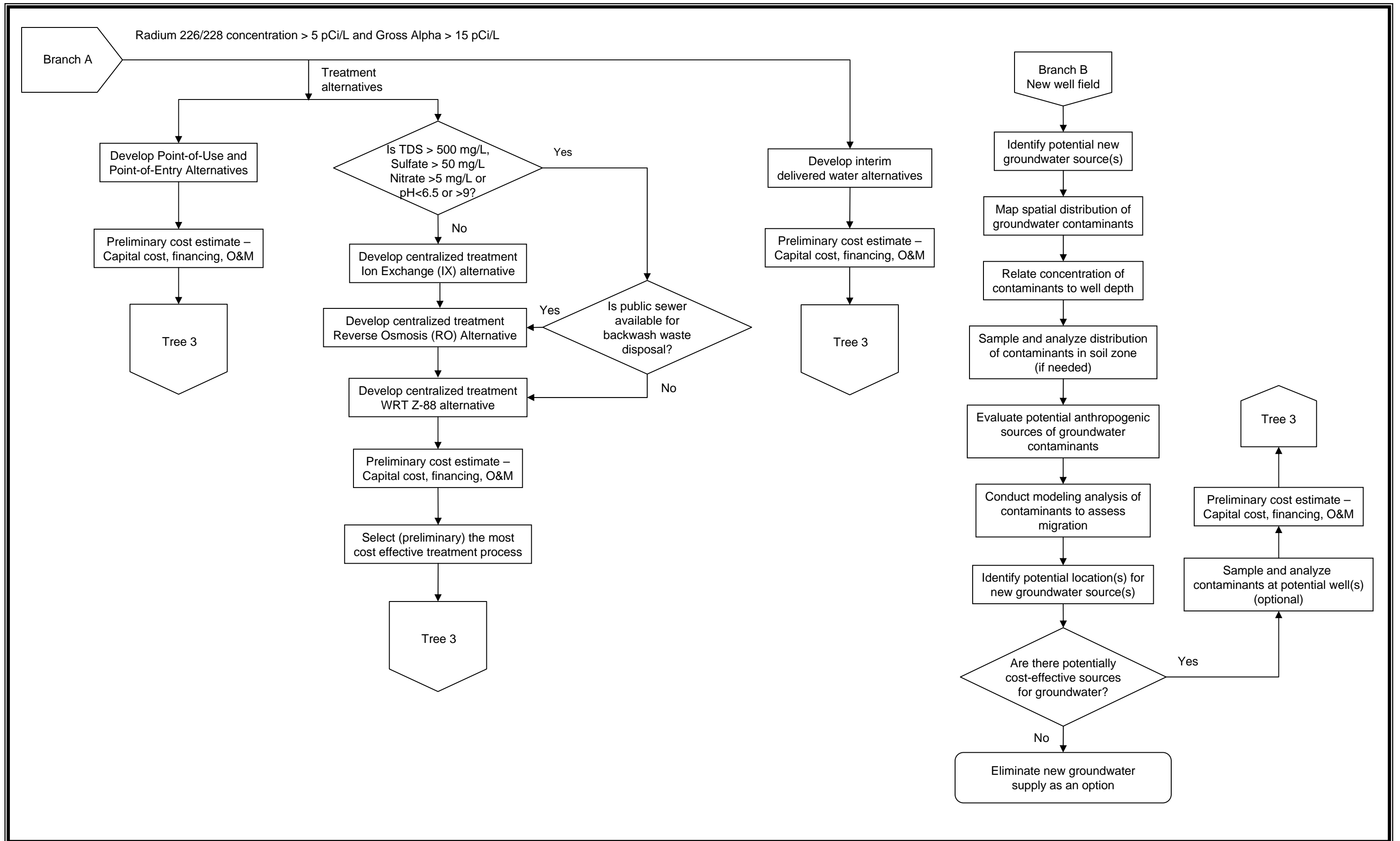


Figure 2.3

Tree 3 – PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

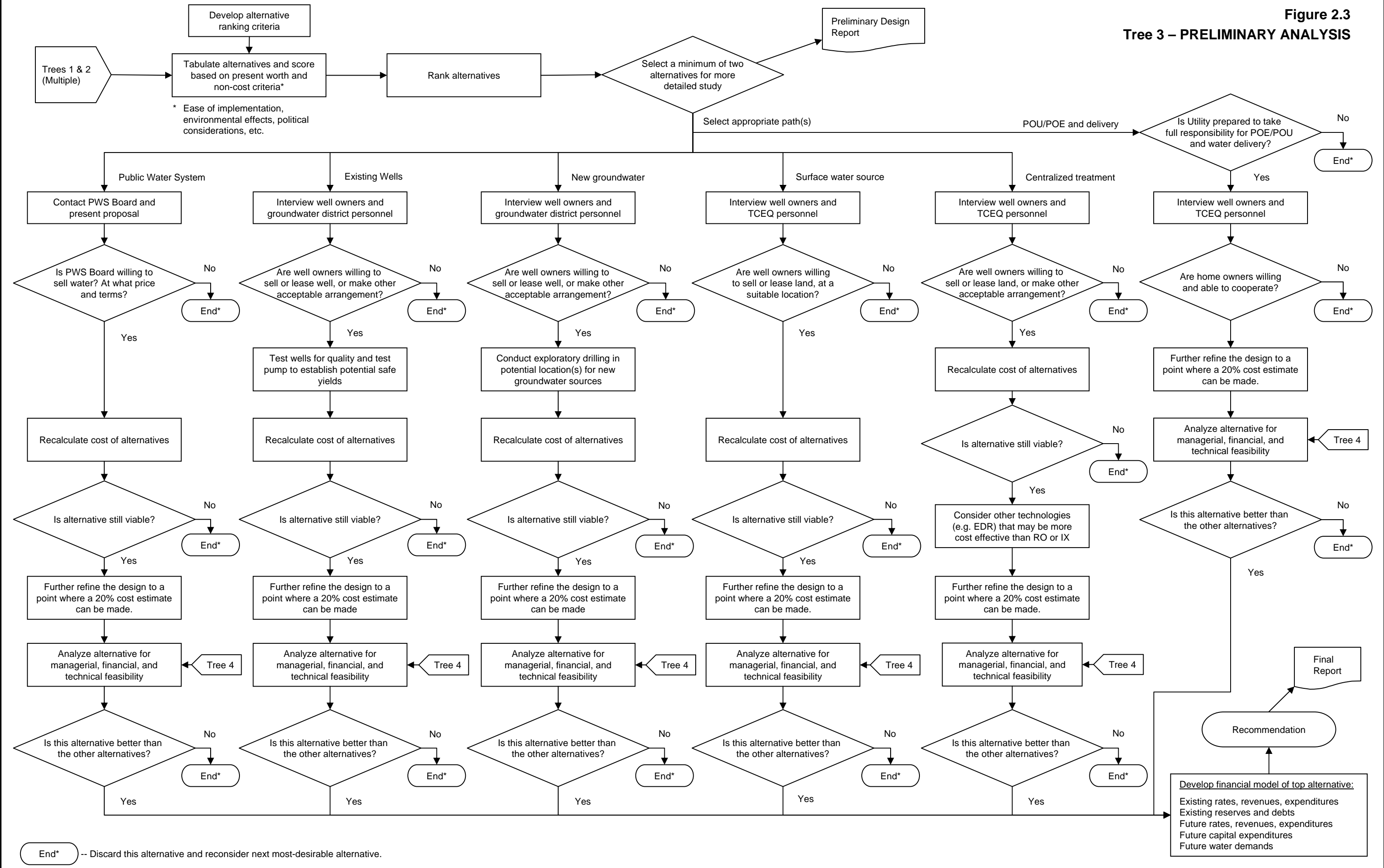
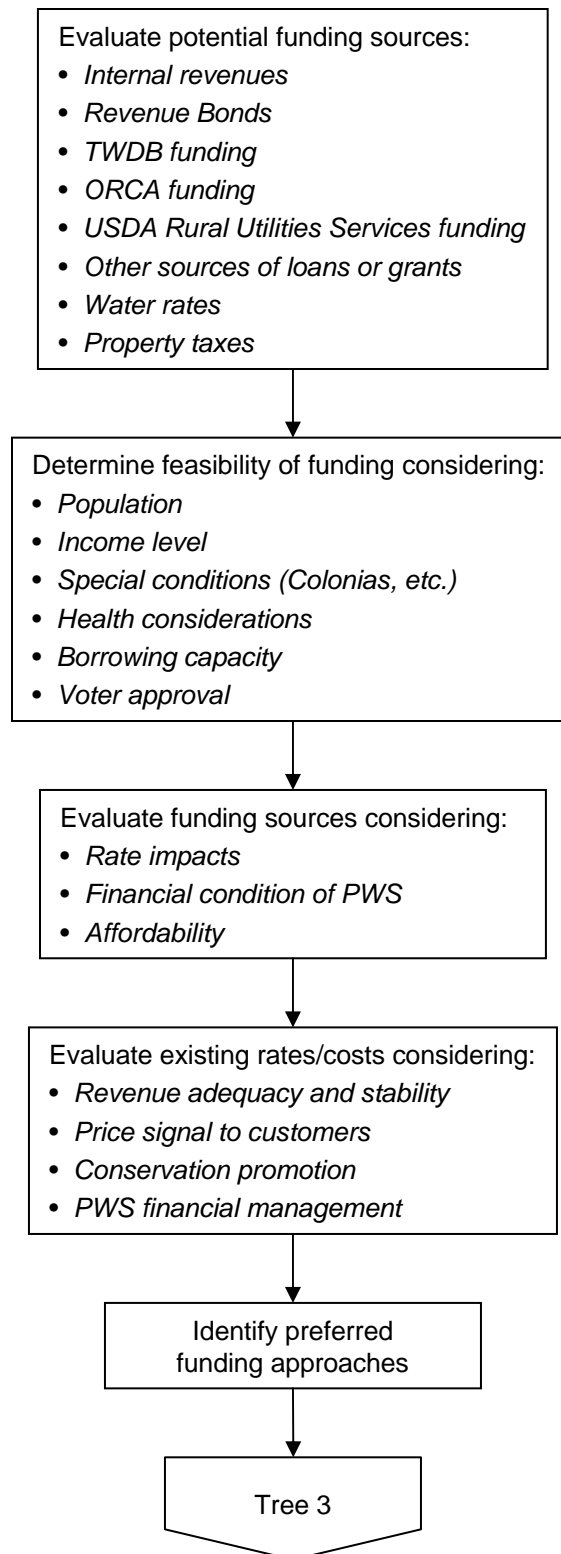


Figure 2.4
TREE 4 – FINANCIAL



The CCN files generally contain a copy of the system's Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, along with maps and other technical data.

These files were reviewed for the PWS and surrounding systems.

The following websites were consulted to identify the water supply systems in the area:

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
www3.tceq.state.tx.us/iwud/.
- USEPA Safe Drinking Water Information System
www.epa.gov/safewater/data/getdata.html

Groundwater Control Districts were identified on the TWDB web site, which has a series of maps covering various groundwater and surface water subjects. One of those maps shows groundwater control districts in the State of Texas.

2.2.1.2 Existing Wells

The TWDB maintains a groundwater database available at www.twdb.state.tx.us that has two tables with helpful information. The "Well Data Table" provides a physical description of the well, owner, location in terms of latitude and longitude, current use, and for some wells, items such as flowrate, and nature of the surrounding formation. The "Water Quality Table" provides information on the aquifer and the various chemical concentrations in the water.

2.2.1.3 Surface Water Sources

Regional planning documents were consulted for lists of surface water sources.

2.2.1.4 Groundwater Availability Model

GAMs, developed by the TWDB, are planning tools and should be consulted as part of a search for new or supplementary water sources. The GAM for the southern Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer was investigated as a potential tool for identifying available and suitable groundwater resources.

2.2.1.5 Water Availability Model

The WAM is a computer-based simulation predicting the amount of water that would be in a river or stream under a specified set of conditions. WAMs are used to determine whether water would be available for a newly requested water right or amendment. If water is available, these models estimate how often the applicant could count on water under various conditions (e.g., whether water would be available only one month out of the year, half the year, or all year, and whether that water would be available in a repeat of the drought of record).

WAMs provide information that assist TCEQ staff in determining whether to recommend the granting or denial of an application.

2.2.1.6 Financial Data

An evaluation of existing data will yield an up-to-date assessment of the financial condition of the water system. As part of a site visit, financial data were collected in various forms such as electronic files, hard copy documents, and focused interviews. Data sought included:

- Annual Budget
- Audited Financial Statements
 - Balance Sheet
 - Income & Expense Statement
 - Cash Flow Statement
 - Debt Schedule
- Water Rate Structure
- Water Use Data
 - Production
 - Billing
 - Customer Counts

2.2.1.7 Demographic Data

Basic demographic data were collected from the 2000 Census to establish incomes and eligibility for potential low cost funding for capital improvements. Median household income (MHI) and number of families below poverty level were the primary data points of significance. If available, MHI for the customers of the PWS should be used. In addition, unemployment data were collected from current U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. These data were collected for the following levels: national, state, and county.

2.2.2 PWS Interviews

2.2.2.1 PWS Capacity Assessment Process

Capacity assessment is the industry standard term for evaluation of a water system's FMT capacity to effectively deliver safe drinking water to its customers now and in the future at a reasonable cost, and to achieve, maintain and plan for compliance with applicable regulations. The assessment process involves interviews with staff and management who have a responsibility in the operations and management of the system.

Financial, managerial, and technical capacity are individual yet highly interrelated components of a system's capacity. A system cannot sustain capacity without maintaining adequate capability in all three components.

Financial capacity is a water system's ability to acquire and manage sufficient financial resources to allow the system to achieve and maintain compliance with SDWA regulations. Financial capacity refers to the financial resources of the water system, including but not limited to, revenue sufficiency, credit worthiness, and fiscal controls.

Managerial capacity is the ability of a water system to conduct its affairs so the system is able to achieve and maintain compliance with SDWA requirements. Managerial capacity refers to the management structure of the water system, including but not limited to, ownership accountability, staffing and organization, and effective relationships with customers and regulatory agencies.

Technical capacity is the physical and operational ability of a water system to achieve and maintain compliance with SDWA regulations. It refers to the physical infrastructure of the water system, including the adequacy of the source water, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure. It also refers to the ability of system personnel to effectively operate and maintain the system and to otherwise implement essential technical knowledge.

Many aspects of water system operations involve more than one component of capacity. Infrastructure replacement or improvement, for example, requires financial resources, management planning and oversight, and technical knowledge. A deficiency in any one area could disrupt the entire operation. A system that is able to meet both its immediate and long-term challenges demonstrates that it has sufficient FMT capacity.

Assessment of FMT capacity of the PWS was based on an approach developed by the New Mexico Environmental Finance Center (NMEFC), which is consistent with the TCEQ FMT assessment process. This method was developed from work the NMEFC did while assisting USEPA Region 6 in developing and piloting groundwater comprehensive performance evaluations. The NMEFC developed a standard list of questions that could be asked of water system personnel. The list was then tailored slightly to have two sets of questions – one for managerial and financial personnel, and one for operations personnel (the questions are included in Appendix A). Each person with a role in the FMT capacity of the system was asked the applicable standard set of questions individually. The interviewees were not given the questions in advance and were not told the answers others provided. Also, most of the questions are open ended type questions so they were not asked in a fashion to indicate what would be the “right” or “wrong” answer. The interviews lasted between 45 minutes to 75 minutes depending on the individual's role in the system and the length of the individual's answers.

In addition to the interview process, visual observations of the physical components of the system were made. A technical information form was created to capture this information. This form is also contained in Appendix A. This information was considered supplemental to the interviews because it served as a check on information provided in the interviews. For example, if an interviewee stated he or she had an excellent preventative maintenance schedule and the visit to the facility indicated a significant amount of deterioration (more than would be expected for the age of the facility) then the preventative maintenance program could be further

investigated or the assessor could decide that the preventative maintenance program was inadequate.

Following interviews and observations of the facility, answers that all personnel provided were compared and contrasted to provide a clearer picture of the true operations at the water system. The intent was to go beyond simply asking the question, “Do you have a budget?” to actually finding out if the budget was developed and being used appropriately. For example, if a water system manager was asked the question, “Do you have a budget?” he or she may say, “yes” and the capacity assessor would be left with the impression that the system is doing well in this area. However, if several different people are asked about the budget in more detail, the assessor may find that although a budget is present, operations personnel do not have input into the budget, the budget is not used by the financial personnel, the budget is not updated regularly, or the budget is not used in setting or evaluating rates. With this approach, the inadequacy of the budget would be discovered and the capacity deficiency in this area would be noted.

Following the comparison of answers, the next step was to determine which items noted as a potential deficiency truly had a negative effect on the system’s operations. If a system had what appeared to be a deficiency, but this deficiency was not creating a problem in terms of the operations or management of the system, it was not considered critical and may not have needed to be addressed as a high priority. As an example, the assessment may have revealed an insufficient number of staff members to operate the facility. However, it may also have been revealed that the system was able to work around that problem by receiving assistance from a neighboring system, so no severe problems resulted from the number of staff members. Although staffing may not be ideal, the system does not need to focus on this particular issue. The system needs to focus on items that are truly affecting operations. As an example of this type of deficiency, a system may lack a reserve account that can then lead the system to delay much-needed maintenance or repair on its storage tank. In this case, the system needs to address the reserve account issue so that proper maintenance can be completed.

The intent was to develop a list of capacity deficiencies with the greatest impact on the system’s overall capacity. Those were the most critical items to address through follow-up technical assistance or by the system itself.

2.2.2.2 Interview Process

PWS personnel were interviewed by the project team, and each was interviewed separately. Interview forms were completed during each interview.

2.3 ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS

The initial objective for developing alternatives to address compliance issues is to identify a comprehensive range of possible options that can be evaluated to determine the most promising for implementation. Once the possible alternatives are identified, they must be defined in sufficient detail so a conceptual cost estimate (capital and O&M costs) can be developed. These conceptual cost estimates are used to compare the affordability of

compliance alternatives, and to give a preliminary indication of rate impacts. Consequently, these costs are pre-planning level and should not be viewed as final estimated costs for alternative implementation. The basis for the unit costs used for the compliance alternative cost estimates is summarized in Appendix B. Other non-economic factors for the alternatives, such as reliability and ease of implementation, are also addressed

2.3.1 Existing PWS

The neighboring PWSs were identified, and the extents of their systems were investigated. PWSs farther than 30 miles from the non-compliant PWSs were not considered because the length of the pipeline required would make the alternative cost prohibitive. The quality of water provided was also investigated. For neighboring PWSs with compliant water, options for water purchase and/or expansion of existing well fields were considered. The neighboring PWSs with non-compliant water were considered as possible partners in sharing the cost for obtaining compliant water either through treatment or developing an alternate source.

The neighboring PWSs were investigated to get an idea of the water sources in use and the quantity of water that might be available for sale. They were contacted to identify key locations in their systems where a connection might be made to obtain water, and to explore on a preliminary basis their willingness to partner or sell water. Then, the major system components that would be required to provide compliant water were identified. The major system components included treatment units, wells, storage tanks, pump stations, and pipelines.

Once the major components were identified, a preliminary design was developed to identify sizing requirements and routings. A capital cost estimate was then developed based on the preliminary design of the required system components. An annual O&M cost was also estimated to reflect the change in O&M expenditures that would be needed if the alternative was implemented.

Non-economic factors were also identified. Ease of implementation was considered, as well as the reliability for providing adequate quantities of compliant water. Additional factors were whether implementation of an alternative would require significant increase in the management or technical capability of the PWS, and whether the alternative had the potential for regionalization.

2.3.2 New Groundwater Source

It was not possible in the scope of this project to determine conclusively whether new wells could be installed to provide compliant drinking water. To evaluate potential new groundwater source alternatives, three test cases were developed based on distance from the PWS intake point. The test cases were based on distances of 10 miles, 5 miles, and 1 mile. It was assumed that a pipeline would be required for all three test cases, and a storage tank and pump station would be required for the 10-mile and 5-mile alternatives. It was also assumed that new wells would be installed, and that their depths would be similar to the depths of the existing wells, or other existing drinking water wells in the area.

A preliminary design was developed to identify sizing requirements for the required system components. A capital cost estimate was then developed based on the preliminary design of the required system components. An annual O&M cost was also estimated to reflect the change (*i.e.*, from current expenditures) in O&M expenditures that would be needed if the alternative was implemented.

Non-economic factors were also identified. Ease of implementation was considered, as well as the reliability for providing adequate quantities of compliant water. Additional factors were whether implementation of an alternative would require significant increase in the management or technical capability of the PWS, and whether the alternative had the potential for regionalization.

2.3.3 New Surface Water Source

New surface water sources were investigated. Availability of adequate quality water was investigated for the main rivers in the area, as well as the major reservoirs. TCEQ WAMs were inspected, and the WAM was run, where appropriate.

2.3.4 Treatment

Treatment technologies considered potentially applicable to radium removal are IX, WRT Z-88™ media, RO, EDR, and KMnO₄-greensand filtration. RO and EDR are membrane processes that produce a considerable amount of liquid waste: a reject stream from RO treatment and a concentrate stream from EDR treatment. As a result, the treated volume of water is less than the volume of raw water that enters the treatment system. The amount of raw water used increases to produce the same amount of treated water if RO or EDR treatment is implemented. Because the TDS is not high the use of RO or EDR would be considerably more expensive than the other potential technologies. And thus RO and EDR are not considered further. However, RO is considered for POU and POE alternatives. IX, WRT Z-88™ media, and KMnO₄-greensand filtration are considered as alternative central treatment technologies. The treatment units were sized based on flow rates, and capital and annual O&M cost estimates were made based on the size of the treatment equipment required. Neighboring non-compliant PWSs were identified to look for opportunities where the costs and benefits of central treatment could be shared between systems.

Non-economical factors were also identified. Ease of implementation was considered, as well as the reliability for providing adequate quantities of compliant water. Additional factors were whether implementation of an alternative would require significant increase in the management or technical capability of the PWS, and whether the alternative had the potential for regionalization.

2.4 COST OF SERVICE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

The primary purpose of the cost of service and funding analysis is to determine the financial impact of implementing compliance alternatives, primarily by examining the required rate increases, and also the fraction of household income that water bills represent. The current

financial situation is also reviewed to determine what rate increases are necessary for the PWS to achieve or maintain financial viability.

2.4.1 Financial Feasibility

A key financial metric is the comparison of an average annual household water bill for a PWS customer to the MHI for the area. MHI data from the 2000 census are used at the most detailed level available for the community. Typically, county level data are used for small rural water utilities due to small population sizes. Annual water bills are determined for existing base conditions, including consideration of additional rate increases needed under current conditions. Annual water bills are also calculated after adding incremental capital and operating costs for each of the alternatives to determine feasibility under several potential funding sources. It has been suggested by agencies such as USEPA that federal and state programs consider several criteria to determine “disadvantaged communities” with one based on the typical residential water bill as a percentage of MHI.

Additionally, the use of standard ratios provides insight into the financial condition of any business. Three ratios are particularly significant for water utilities:

- Current Ratio = current assets (items that could be converted to cash) divided by current liabilities (accounts payable, accrued expenses, and debt) provides insight into the ability to meet short-term payments. For a healthy utility, the value should be greater than 1.0.
- Debt to Net Worth Ratio = total debt (total amount of money borrowed) divided by net worth (total assets minus total liabilities) shows to what degree assets of the company have been funded through borrowing. A lower ratio indicates a healthier condition.
- Operating Ratio = total operating revenues divided by total operating expenses show the degree to which revenues cover ongoing expenses. The value is greater than 1.0 if the utility is covering its expenses.

2.4.2 Median Household Income

The 2000 U.S. Census is used as the basis for MHI. In addition to consideration of affordability, the annual MHI may also be an important factor for sources of funds for capital programs needed to resolve water quality issues. Many grant and loan programs are available to lower income rural areas, based on comparisons of local income to statewide incomes. In the 2000 Census, MHI for the State of Texas was \$39,927, compared to the U.S. level of \$41,994. The census broke down MHIs geographically by block group and ZIP code. The MHIs can vary significantly for the same location, depending on the geographic subdivision chosen. The MHI for each PWS was estimated by selecting the most appropriate value based on block group or ZIP code based on results of the site interview and a comparison with the surrounding area.

2.4.3 Annual Average Water Bill

The annual average household water bill was calculated for existing conditions and for future conditions incorporating the alternative solutions. Average residential consumption is estimated and applied to the existing rate structure to estimate the annual water bill. The estimates are generated from a long-term financial planning model that details annual revenue, expenditure, and cash reserve requirements over a 30-year period.

2.4.4 Financial Plan Development

The financial planning model uses available data to establish base conditions under which the system operates. The model includes, as available:

- Accounts and consumption data
- Water tariff structure
- Beginning available cash balance
- Sources of receipts:
 - Customer billings
 - Membership fees
 - Capital Funding receipts from:
 - ❖ Grants
 - ❖ Proceeds from borrowing
- Operating expenditures:
 - Water purchases
 - Utilities
 - Administrative costs
 - Salaries
- Capital expenditures
- Debt service:
 - Existing principal and interest payments
 - Future principal and interest necessary to fund viable operations
- Net cash flow
- Restricted or desired cash balances:
 - Working capital reserve (based on 1-4 months of operating expenses)

- Replacement reserves to provide funding for planned and unplanned repairs and replacements

From the model, changes in water rates are determined for existing conditions and for implementing the compliance alternatives.

2.4.5 Financial Plan Results

Results from the financial planning model are summarized in two areas: percentage of household income and total water rate increase necessary to implement the alternatives and maintain financial viability.

2.4.5.1 Funding Options

Results are summarized in a table that shows the following according to alternative and funding source:

- Percentage of the median annual household income the average annual residential water bill represents.
- The first year in which a water rate increase would be required
- The total increase in water rates required, compared to current rates

Water rates resulting from the incremental capital costs of the alternative solutions are examined under a number of funding options. The first alternative examined is always funding from existing reserves plus future rate increases. Several funding options were analyzed to frame a range of possible outcomes.

- Grant funds for 100 percent of required capital. In this case, the PWS is only responsible for the associated O&M costs.
- Grant funds for 75 percent of required capital, with the balance treated as if revenue bond funded.
- Grant funds for 50 percent of required capital, with the balance treated as if revenue bond funded.
- State revolving fund loan at the most favorable available rates and terms applicable to the communities.
- If local MHI > 75 percent of state MHI, standard terms, currently at 3.8 percent interest for non-rated entities. Additionally:
 - If local MHI = 70-75 percent of state MHI, 1 percent interest rate on loan.
 - If local MHI = 60-70 percent of state MHI, 0 percent interest rate on loan.
 - If local MHI = 50-60 percent of state MHI, 0 percent interest and 15 percent forgiveness of principal.

- If local MHI less than 50 percent of state MHI, 0 percent interest and 35 percent forgiveness of principal.

- Terms of revenue bonds assumed to be 25-year term at 6.0 percent interest rate.

2.4.5.2 General Assumptions Embodied in Financial Plan Results

The basis used to project future financial performance for the financial plan model includes:

- No account growth (either positive or negative).
- No change in estimate of uncollectible revenues over time.
- Average consumption per account unchanged over time.
- No change in unaccounted for water as percentage of total (more efficient water use would lower total water requirements and costs).
- No inflation included in the analyses (although the model has provisions to add escalation of O&M costs, doing so would mix water rate impacts from inflation with the impacts from the alternatives being examined).
- Minimum working capital fund established for each district, based on specified months of O&M expenditures.
- O&M for alternatives begins 1 year after capital implementation.
- Balance of capital expenditures not funded from primary grant program is funded through debt (bond equivalent).
- Cash balance drives rate increases, unless provision chosen to override where current net cash flow is positive.

2.4.5.3 Interpretation of Financial Plan Results

Results from the financial plan model are presented in a Table 4.4, which shows the percentage of MHI represented by the annual water bill that results from any rate increases necessary to maintain financial viability over time. In some cases, this may require rate increases even without implementing a compliance alternative (the no action alternative). The table shows any increases such as these separately. The results table shows the total increase in rates necessary, including both the no-action alternative increase and any increase required for the alternative. For example, if the no action alternative requires a 10 percent increase in rates and the results table shows a rate increase of 25 percent, then the impact from the alternative is an increase in water rates of 15 percent. Likewise, the percentage of household income in the table reflects the total impact from all rate increases.

2.4.5.4 Potential Funding Sources

A number of potential funding sources exist for Water Supply Corporations, which typically provide service to less than 50,000 people. Both state and federal agencies offer grant

1 and loan programs to assist rural communities in meeting their infrastructure needs. Most are
2 available to “political subdivisions” such as counties, municipalities, school districts, special
3 districts, or authorities of the state with some programs providing access to private individuals.
4 Grant funds are made more available with demonstration of economic stress, typically
5 indicated with MHI below 80 percent that of the state. The funds may be used for planning,
6 design, and construction of water supply construction projects including, but not limited to, line
7 extensions, elevated storage, purchase of well fields, and purchase or lease of rights to produce
8 groundwater. Interim financing of water projects and water quality enhancement projects such
9 as wastewater collection and treatment projects are also eligible. Some funds are used to
10 enable a rural water utility to obtain water or wastewater service supplied by a larger utility or
11 to finance the consolidation or regionalization of neighboring utilities. Three Texas agencies
12 that offer financial assistance for water infrastructure are:

- 13 • Texas Water Development Board has several programs that offer loans at interest rates
14 lower than the market offers to finance projects for public drinking water systems that
15 facilitate compliance with primary drinking water regulations. Additional subsidies
16 may be available for disadvantaged communities. Low interest rate loans with short
17 and long-term finance options at tax exempt rates for water or water-related projects
18 give an added benefit by making construction purchases qualify for a sales tax
19 exemption. Generally, the program targets customers with eligible water supply
20 projects for all political subdivisions of the state (at tax exempt rates) and Water Supply
21 Corporations (at taxable rates) with projects.
- 22 • Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) is a Texas state agency with a focus on
23 rural Texas by making state and federal resources accessible to rural communities.
24 Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community
25 Development Block Grants (CDBG) are administered by ORCA for small, rural
26 communities with populations less than 50,000 that cannot directly receive federal
27 grants. These communities are known as non-entitlement areas. One of the program
28 objectives is to meet a need having a particular urgency, which represents an immediate
29 threat to the health and safety of residents, principally for low- and moderate-income
30 persons.
- 31 • U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Texas (Texas Rural Development)
32 coordinates federal assistance to rural Texas to help rural Americans improve their
33 quality of life. The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) programs provide funding for water
34 and wastewater disposal systems.
- 35 • The application process, eligibility requirements, and funding structure vary for each of
36 these programs. There are many conditions that must be considered by each agency to
37 determine eligibility and ranking of projects. The principal factors that affect this
38 choice are population, percent of the population under the state MHI, health concerns,
39 compliance with standards, Colonia status, and compatibility with regional and state
40 plans.

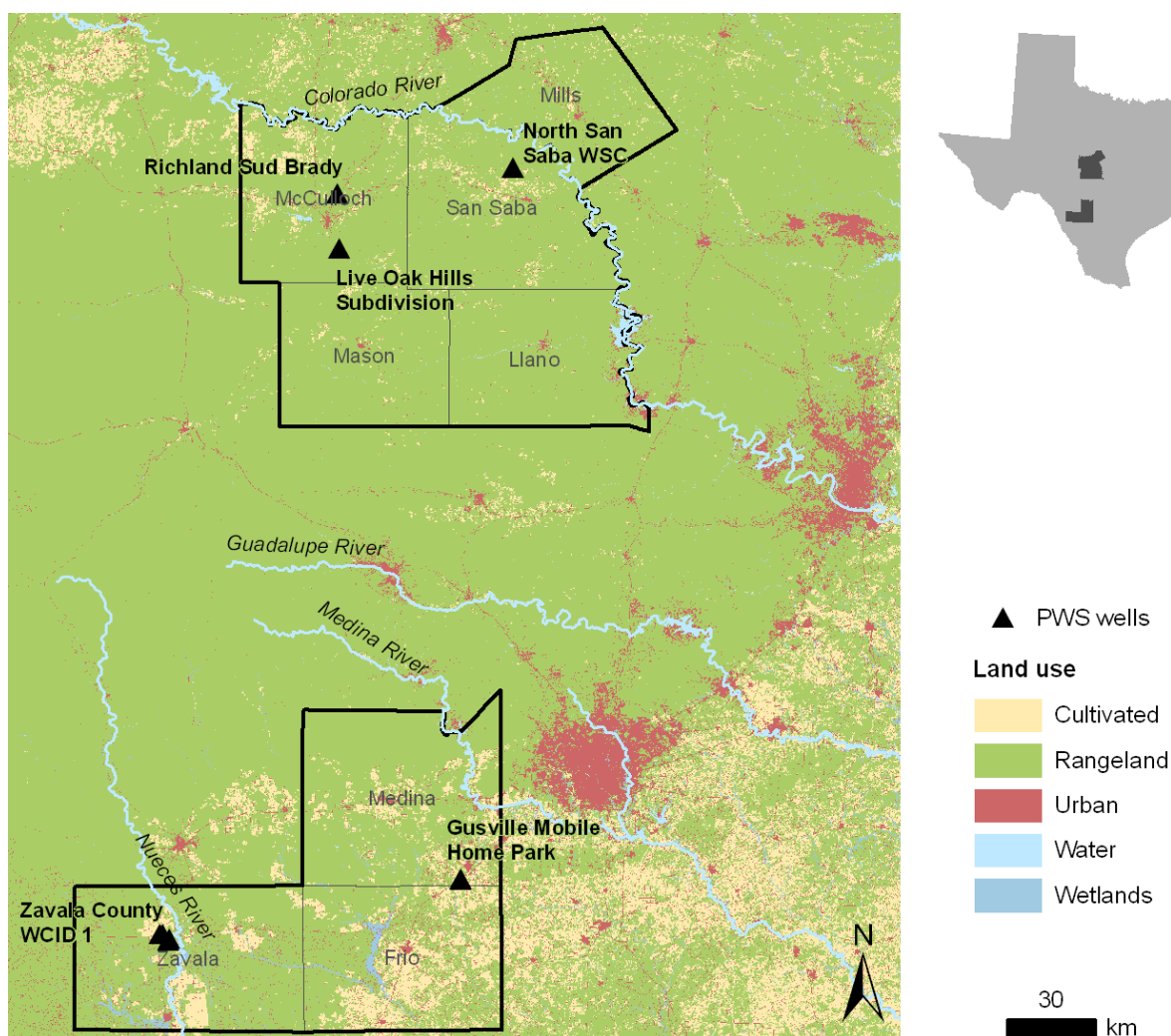
SECTION 3 UNDERSTANDING SOURCES OF CONTAMINANTS

3.1 REGIONAL ANALYSIS

3.1.1 Overview of the Study Area

The regional overview below includes data from eight counties in central Texas: Frio, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Medina, Mills, San Saba, and Zavala counties (Figure 3.1). Land uses shown here are based on the National Land Cover Database for 2001 (U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center Agencies 2007).

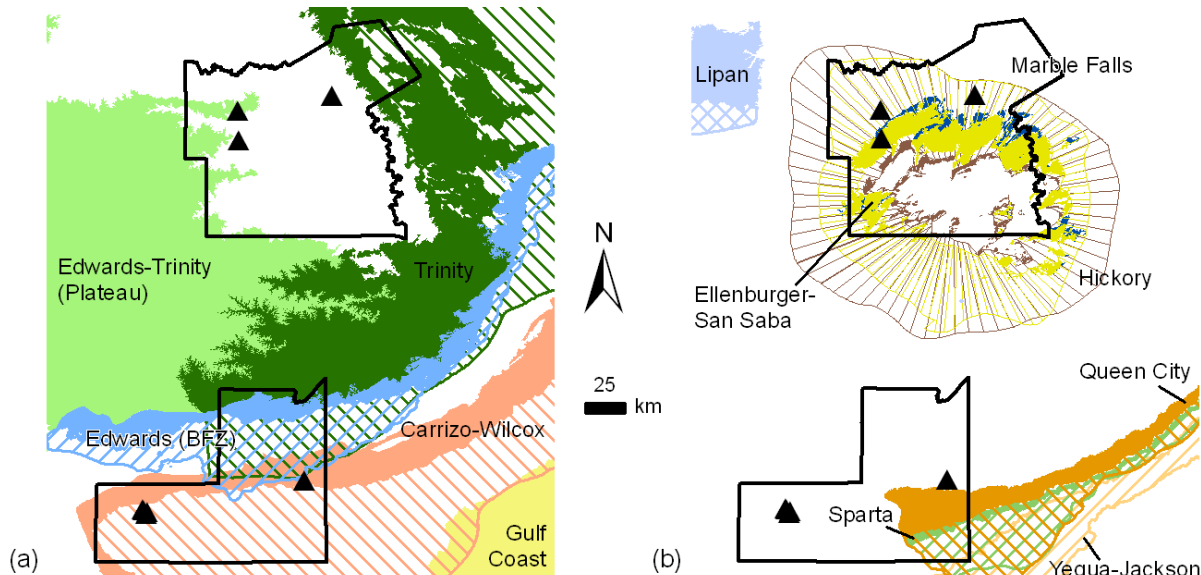
Figure 3.1 Regional Study Area and Locations of the PWS Wells Assessed in this Report



There are several major and minor aquifers within the study area (Figure 3.2). Major aquifers include the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer, the Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone [BFZ]) aquifer,

the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) aquifer, and the Trinity aquifer. Minor aquifers include the Ellenburger-San Saba aquifer, the Hickory aquifer, the Marble Falls aquifer, the Queen City aquifer, the Sparta aquifer, and the Yegua-Jackson aquifer. All PWS wells in the northern part of the study area draw water from the Hickory aquifer, while all PWS wells in the southern part of the study area draw water from the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer. The geology and hydrogeology of the area are described in more detail below.

Figure 3.2 Major (a) and Minor (b) Aquifers in the Study Area



Solid indicates a portion of an aquifer that lies at the land surface. Hatched indicates a portion of an aquifer that underlies other formations.

Water chemistry data used for this study were obtained from two sources:

- Texas Water Development Board groundwater database available at www.twdb.state.tx.us. The database includes information on the location and construction of wells throughout the state as well as historical measurements of water chemistry and levels in the wells.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Public Water Supply database (not publicly available). The database includes information on the location, type, and construction of water sources used by PWS in Texas, along with historical measurements of water levels and chemistry.

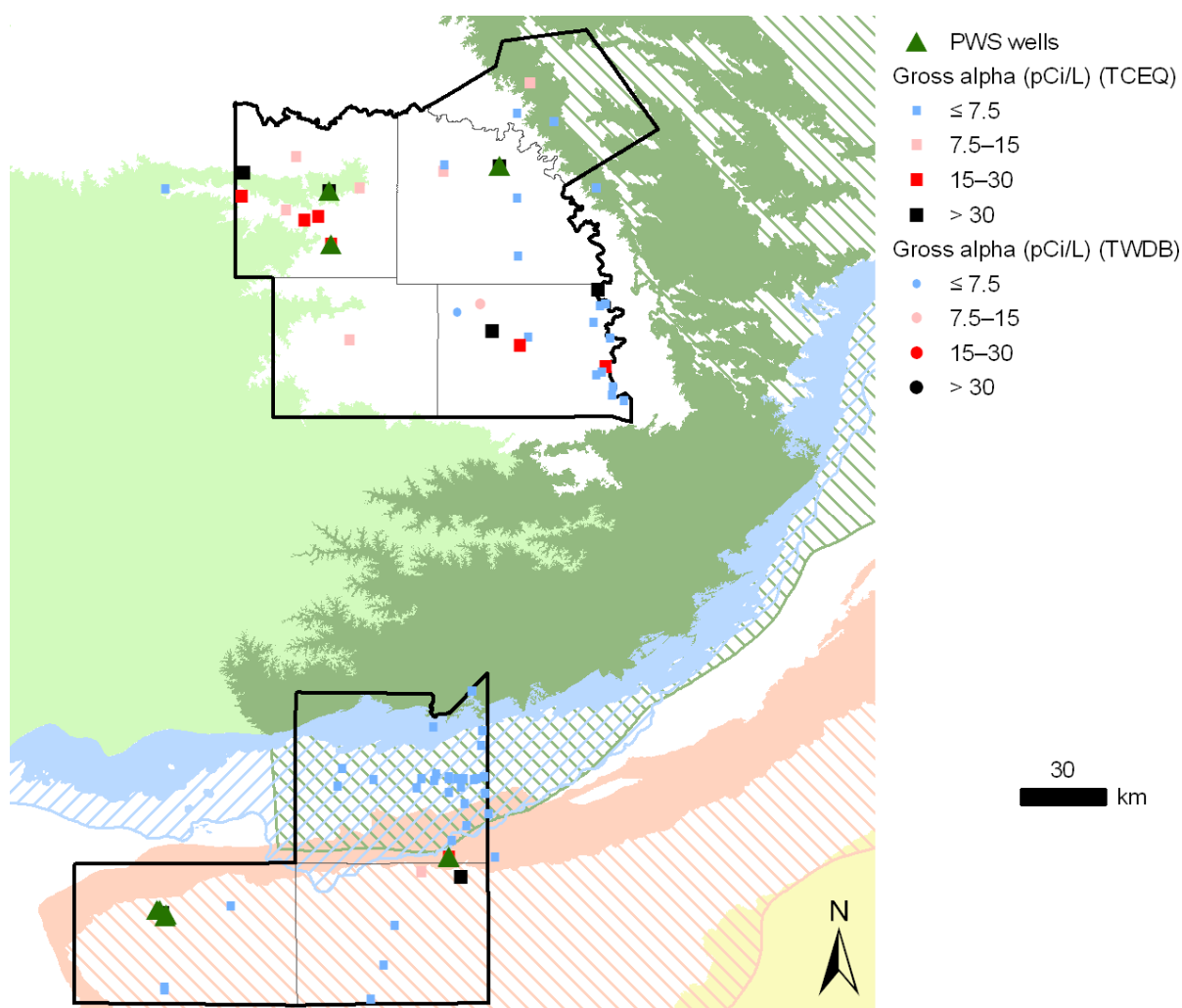
3.1.2 Contaminants of Concern in the Study Area

Contaminants addressed are combined radium and gross alpha. Groundwater sources from each PWS assessed in Section 2 have been found to contain levels of these contaminants in excess of USEPA's MCL. The database or databases used to assess each constituent are those with the most readily available measurements. For individual wells that have been sampled for a given constituent multiple times, the most recent measurement is shown.

Gross Alpha

In general, gross alpha concentrations are low in the southern part of the study area, while many wells in the northern part of the study area have concentrations above the MCL (15 pCi/L) (Figure 3.3). All but two of the measurements in Figure 3.3 are from the TCEQ database, which commonly includes samples that are a mixture of water from multiple wells. Therefore, a quantitative assessment of how gross alpha concentrations vary with aquifer or well depth is not possible. Based on the aquifer locations shown in Figure 3.2, levels of gross alpha are likely higher in the Hickory and Ellenburger-San Saba aquifers than in the Carrizo-Wilcox, Edwards (BFZ), and Trinity aquifers.

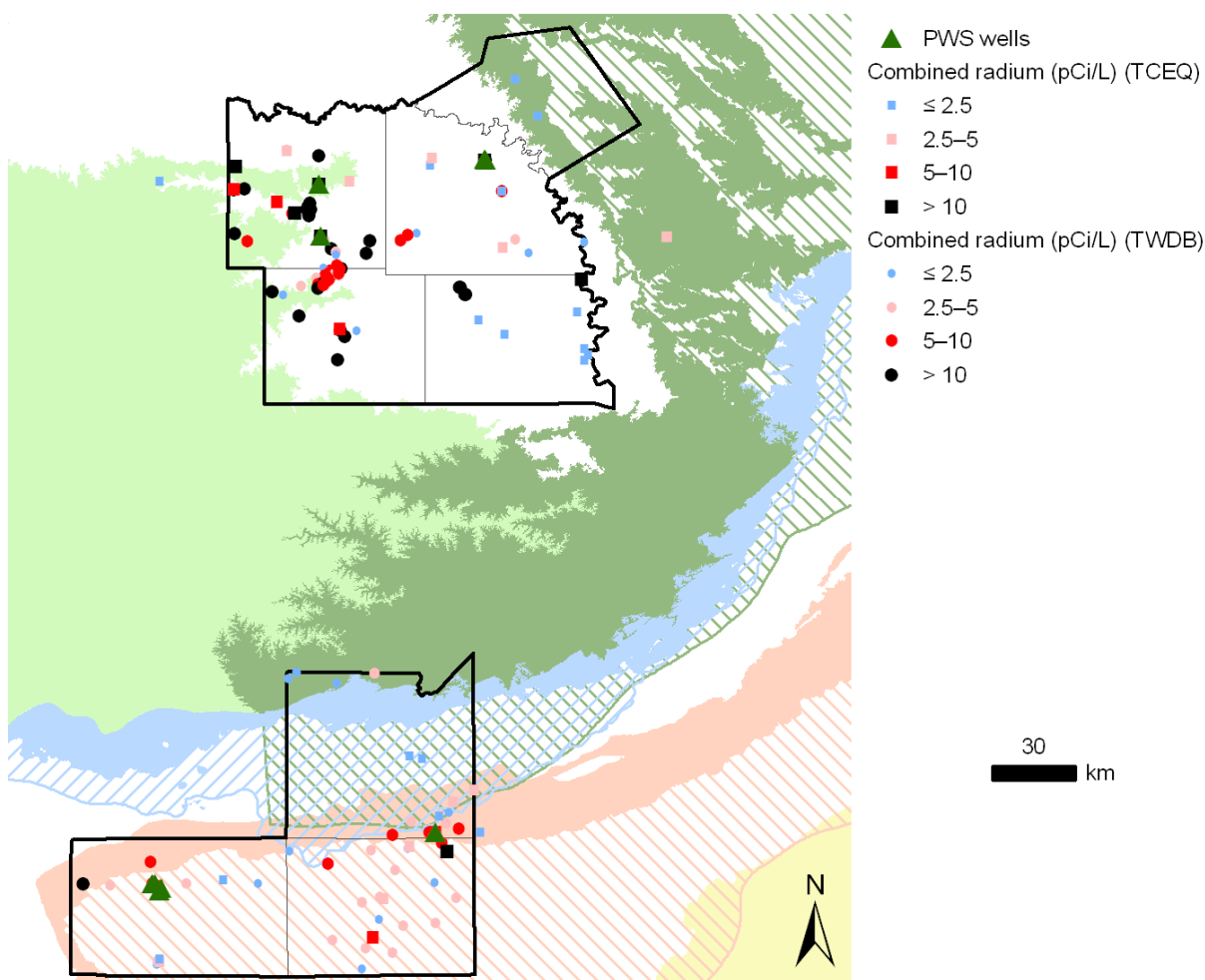
Figure 3.3 Spatial Distribution of Gross Alpha Concentrations in the Study Area



Combined Radium

The concentration of combined radium, which refers to radium 226 plus radium 228, commonly exceeds the MCL (5 pCi/L) in wells throughout the study area, with a larger number of high values in the northern part of the study area (Figure 3.4). The values shown in this analysis represent an upper limit of the possible concentration, because in wells that contained less than 1 pCi/L of radium 228 (the detection limit), 1 pCi/L was used in the combined concentration.

Figure 3.4 Spatial Distribution of Combined Radium Concentrations in the Study Area



A comparison of available measurements of combined radium by aquifer shows that over three-fourths of wells in the Hickory aquifer and other aquifers exceed the MCL, while only 27 percent of wells in the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer exceed the MCL (Table 3.1). There are too few measurements from wells in the Ellenburger-San Saba, Trinity, and Queen City aquifers to discern any trends in these aquifers.

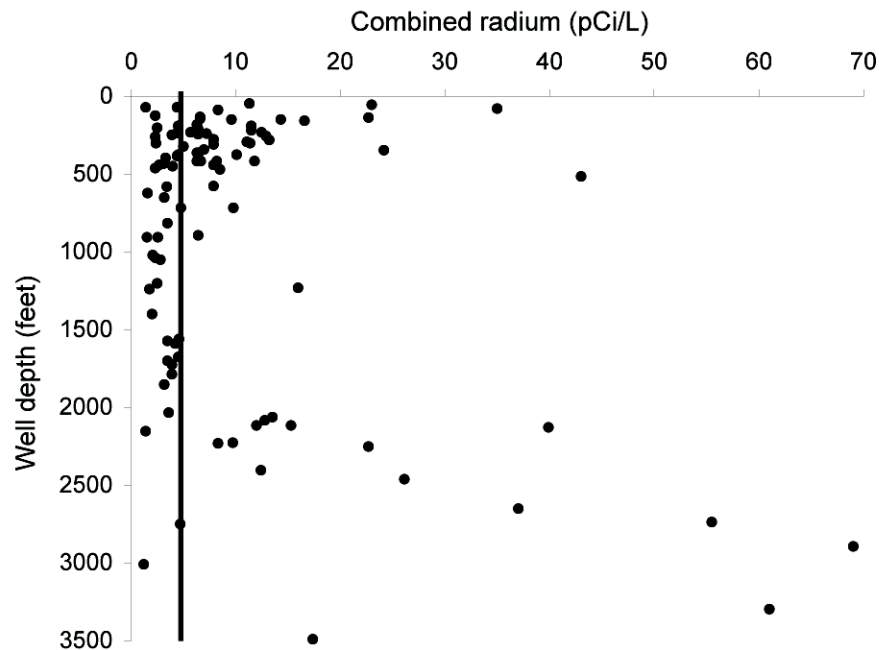
Table 3.1 Summary of Wells that Exceed the MCL for Combined Radium, by Aquifer

Aquifer	Wells with measurements	Wells that exceed 5 pCi/L	Percentage of wells that exceed 5 pCi/L
Carrizo-Wilcox	30	8	27
Ellenburger-San Saba	1	0	0
Hickory	48	37	77
Trinity	4	0	0
Queen City	1	0	0
other	14	11	79

Data from the TWDB Database.

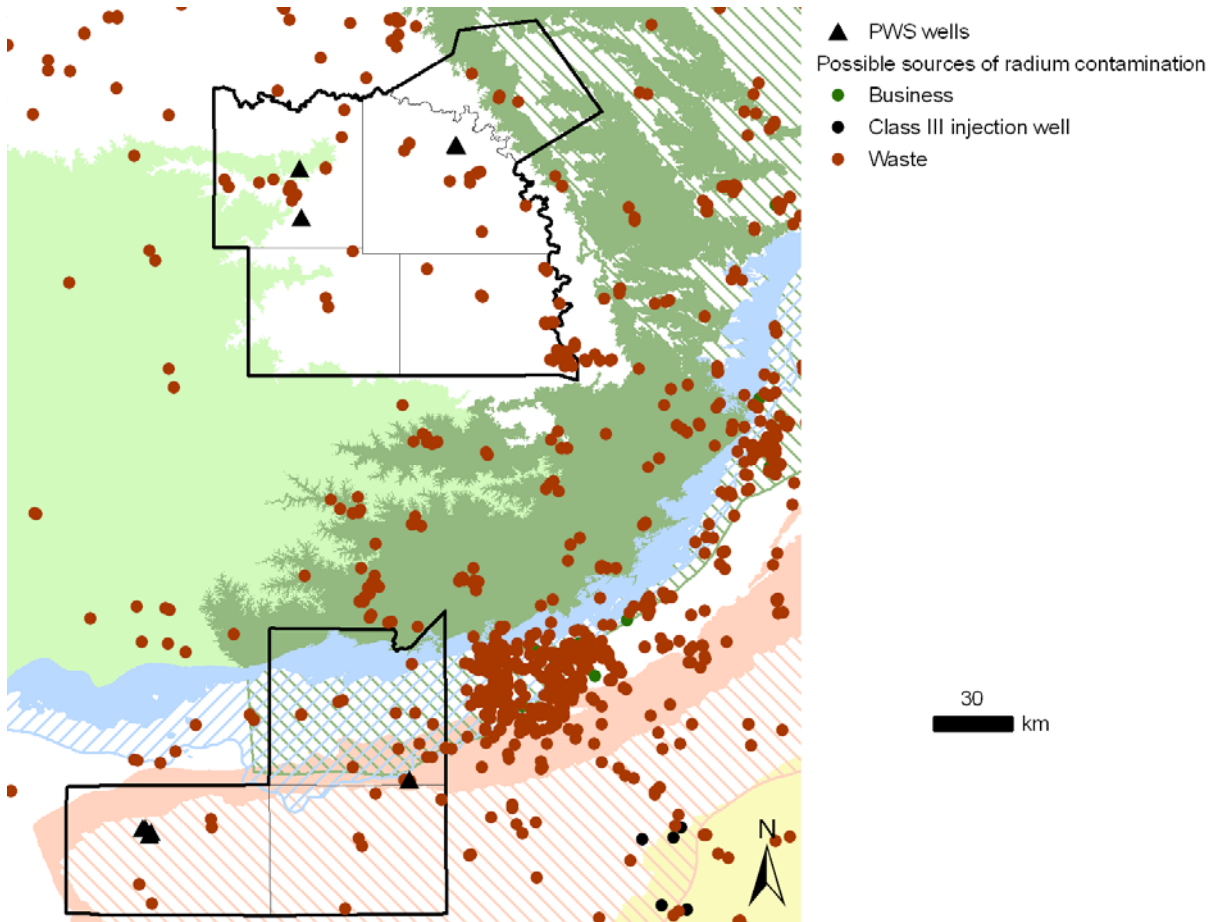
Combined radium levels were compared to well depths (Figure 3.5). Concentrations of combined radium are below the MCL in most wells between 1,000 and 2,000 feet deep. Wells shallower or deeper than this range appear much more likely to exceed the MCL.

Figure 3.5 Combined Radium Concentrations and Well Depths within the Study Area



In addition to these geologic trends, high radium concentrations can also be caused by anthropogenic sources of contamination. The TCEQ Source Water Protection Program compiled a database of potential sources of radium contamination, including certain businesses, injection wells related to oil production, and waste disposal sites (Figure 3.6).

Figure 3.6 Locations of Possible Sources of Radium Contamination in the Study Area



3.1.3 Regional Hydrogeology

The PWS considered in this study overlie three aquifers. These are the Hickory and Ellenburger-San Saba aquifers in the northern part of the study area, and the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer in the southern part of the study area. The Hickory and Ellenburger-San Saba aquifers are located in the area of the Llano Uplift, a structural dome made up of Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks surrounded by more recent geologic units that dip away from the center of the uplift (Bluntzer 1992). The Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer is one of several aquifers composed of sedimentary units that lie parallel to the Gulf of Mexico coastline (Ashworth and Hopkins 1995).

The Hickory aquifer is composed of the Hickory Sandstone Member of the Cambrian aged Riley Formation. It is found on top and on the sides of the dome of Precambrian rocks that form the center of the Llano Uplift. Within McCulloch County, the thickness of the Hickory Sandstone Member averages 360 feet in the outcrop area and 400 feet where it is located in the subsurface (Mason 1961). The sand beds that make up the member vary in grain size and are typically cemented with iron oxide or clay. Groundwater can be found in the Hickory aquifer down to 4,500 feet beneath the land surface (Ashworth and Hopkins 1995).

The Ellenburger-San Saba aquifer lies above the Hickory aquifer and is separated from it by units of shale, limestone, and sandstone that are not known to yield significant quantities of water (Mason 1961). The aquifer consists of the San Saba Member of the late Cambrian aged Wilberns Formation along with the early Ordovician aged Ellenburger Group. The Ellenburger Group includes the Honeycut, Gorman, and Tanyard formations (Ashworth and Hopkins 1995). The San Saba Member is composed primarily of glauconitic limestone. The Ellenburger Group is made up of texturally variable limestone and dolomite that commonly contain fossils and chert. Within McCulloch County, the average thickness of the Ellenburger Group is 450 feet (Mason 1961). Much of the water movement in the aquifer takes place through fractures and cavities in the rock. Where it dips beneath other geologic units, the Ellenburger-San Saba aquifer can be found at depths of up to 3,000 feet (Ashworth and Hopkins 1995).

In places, the Hickory and Ellenburger-San Saba aquifers are hydraulically connected to each other and to the Marble Falls and Trinity aquifers. Significant movement between these aquifers can occur where confining layers between them are thin or absent and where fault movement has positioned formations next to each other (Bluntzer 1992).

The Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer includes the Tertiary age Wilcox Group, which includes the Calvert Bluff, Simsboro, and Hooper formations, and the overlying Carrizo Formation. These units are located along a band that follows the Gulf of Mexico coastline and extends into Mexico and Louisiana. These geologic units are composed primarily of sand, with interbedded layers of gravel, silt, clay, and lignite. The aquifer is up to 3,000 feet thick (Ashworth and Hopkins 1995). Sediment texture and permeability within the aquifer vary based on depositional facies, with channel-fill deposits forming thick, highly permeable sections of the aquifer (McCoy 1991). In general, the Carrizo Formation provides higher well yields and higher quality water than the Wilcox Group (Klemt and others 1976).

3.2 DETAILED ASSESSMENT FOR THE ZAVALA COUNTY WCID 1 PWS

The Zavala County WCID 1 PWS has four wells: G2540003A–D. From A to D, these wells are 708, 695, 654, and 567 feet deep, respectively. All are designated as being within the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer. Water within this PWS has been sampled from an entry point that combines water from the four wells, at one or more raw sample points, and from one or more points within the distribution system. Past measurements of gross alpha and combined radium levels in these wells are summarized in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Gross Alpha and Combined Radium Concentrations in the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS

Date	Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	Combined Radium (pCi/L)	Source Sampled
4/20/98	-	9.8	G2540003A–D
4/20/98	-	9.7	distribution system
7/29/99	-	9.6	unknown raw sample
7/29/99	-	8.1	unknown raw sample
11/9/99	-	2.4	unknown raw sample
11/9/99	-	2.6	unknown raw sample
11/9/99	-	6.8	unknown raw sample
11/9/00	-	8.6	distribution system
11/12/02	44.0	11.1	G2540003A–D
11/24/03	35.0	9.2	G2540003A–D
9/8/04	25.4	8.7	G2540003A–D
11/10/04	36.8	8.0	G2540003A–D
10/24/05	38.8	9.5	G2540003A–D
1/16/06	35.5	10.4	G2540003A–D
4/10/06	41.9	9.7	G2540003A–D
7/17/06	24.0	6.9	G2540003A–D
10/16/06	19.7	10.1	G2540003A–D
2/8/07	-	9.9	G2540003A–D

Data from the TCEQ PWS Database.

All nine measurements of gross alpha, from samples taken between 2002 and 2006, exceed the MCL (15 pCi/L). Sixteen of 18 measurements of combined radium, collected between 1998 and 2007, exceed the MCL (5 pCi/L). Samples from the distribution system represent water that has traveled some distance within the distribution system. The raw samples were taken directly from a single source, but the specific well sampled is unknown. Figures 3.7 and 3.8 show the distribution of gross alpha and combined radium, respectively, measured in nearby wells.

**Figure 3.7 Gross Alpha Concentrations within 5- and 10-km Buffers around the
Zavala County WCID 1 PWS**

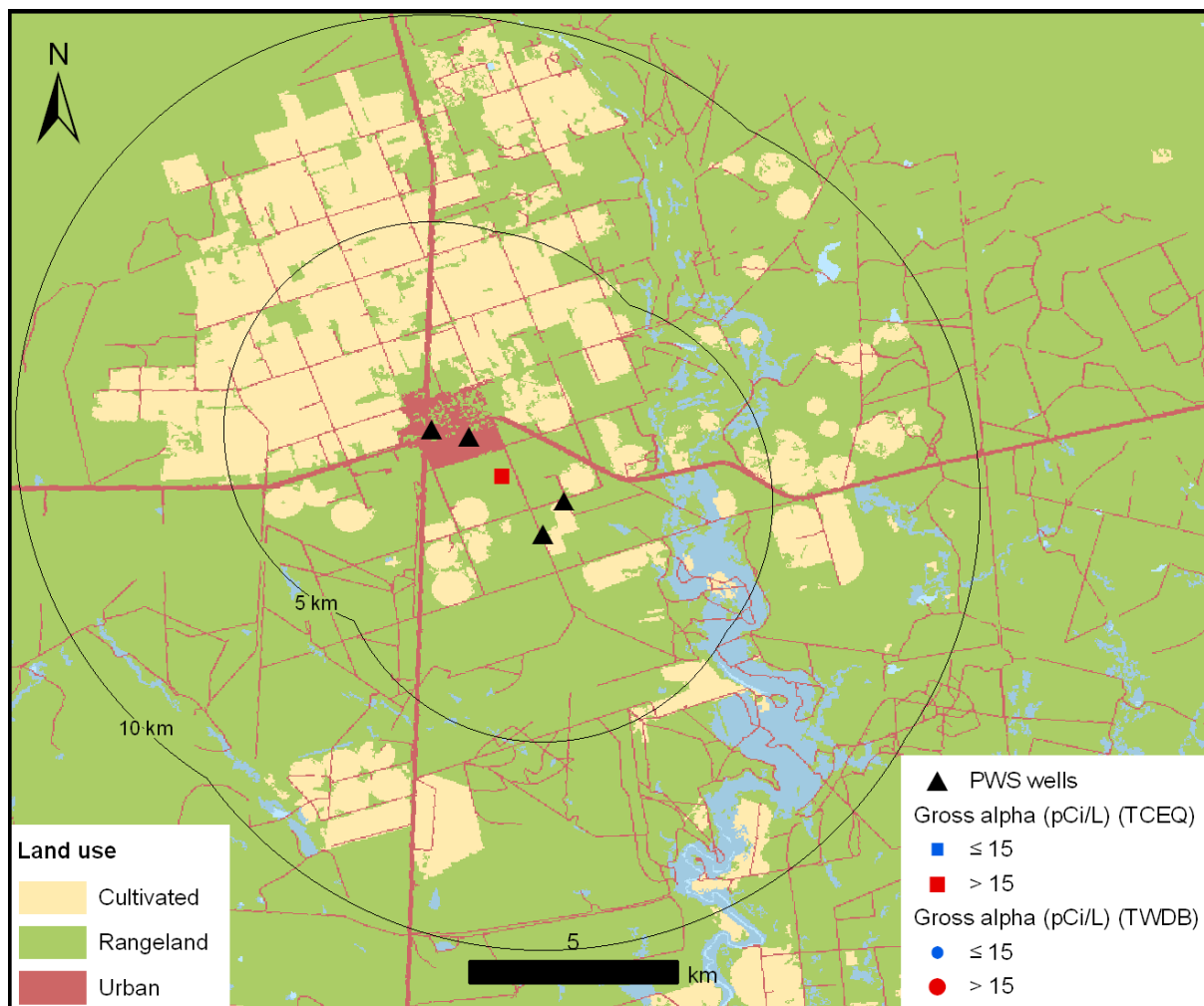
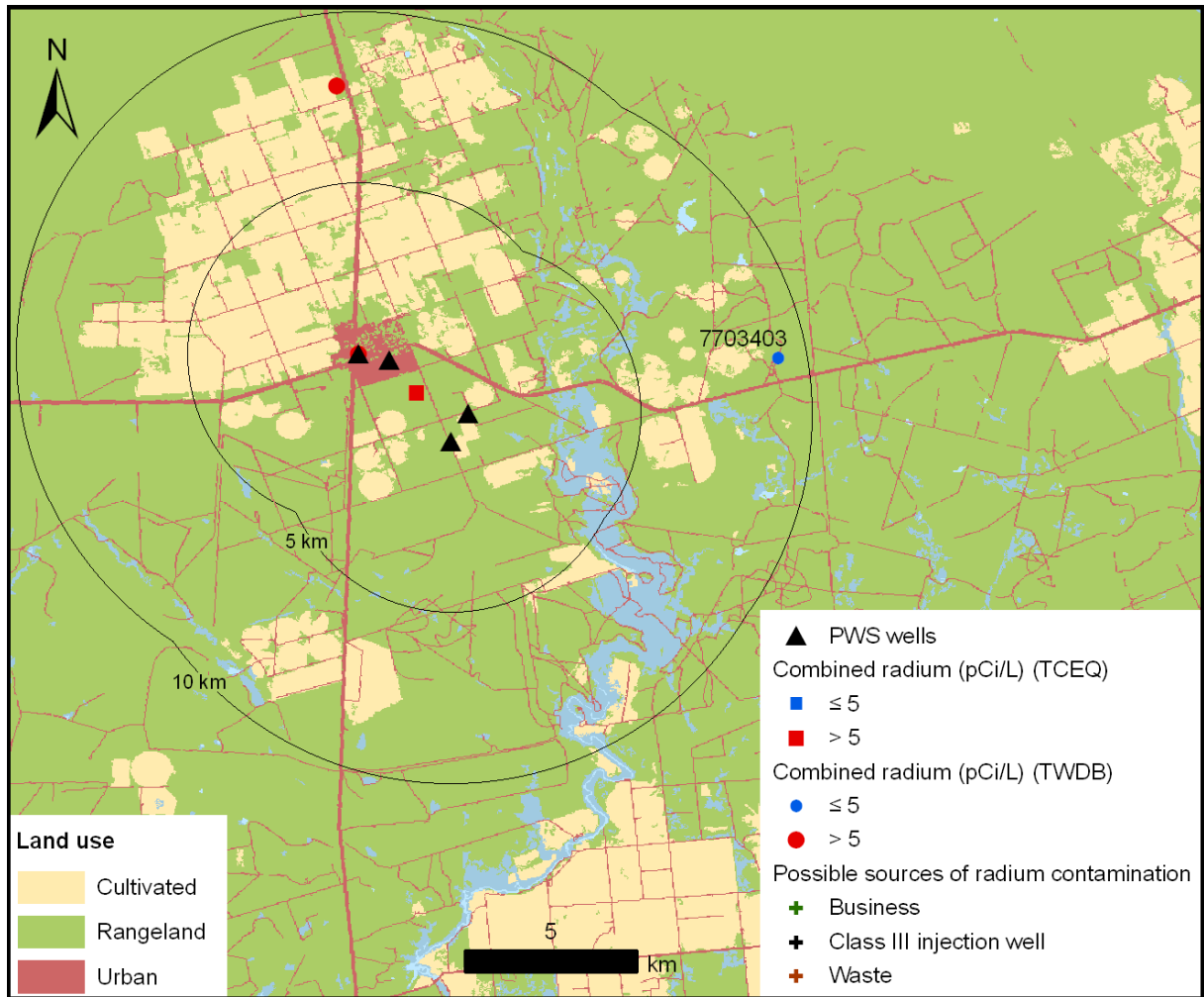


Figure 3.8 Combined Radium Concentrations within 5- and 10-km Buffers around the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS



Data are from the TCEQ and TWDB databases. Two types of samples were included in the analysis. Samples from the TCEQ database (shown as squares on the map) represent the most recent sample taken at a PWS, which can be raw samples from a single well or entry point samples that may combine water from multiple sources. Samples from the TWDB database are taken from single wells (shown as circles in the map). Where more than one measurement has been made from a source, the most recent concentration is shown.

There are no wells within 6.2 miles of the PWS wells that have been analyzed for gross alpha concentrations. One well, located about 5-1/2 miles east of the PWS wells, has shown acceptable levels of combined radium. Additional information about this well is summarized in Table 3.3. Current levels of combined radium, gross alpha, and other constituents of concern should be measured before pursuing this well as an alternative water supply.

Table 3.3 Most Recent Concentrations of Select Constituents in a Potential Alternative Water Source

Well	Owner	Depth (ft)	Aquifer	Use	Date	Gross alpha (pCi/L)	Combined radium (pCi/L)
7703403	Dr. Alvaro Lebrija	580	Carrizo Sand	domestic	9/18/1990	-	3.4

The lack of available measurements in nearby wells makes it difficult to assess local variation in gross alpha and combined radium concentrations. In addition, the lack of information on the exact source of waters measured in the PWS wells makes it impossible to assess possible variation in contaminant levels between these wells. Two historical measurements of combined radium in the PWS wells are below the MCL, which indicates that one or more of the wells might contain acceptable levels of combined radium and gross alpha. Sampling the wells separately and analyzing for these constituents could help to identify a possible mixture of water from existing wells that meets quality standards. Variation in gross alpha and combined radium in the PWS wells could be related to well depth. If water quality is adequate within a certain depth range, then casing all wells above and below that depth range could also improve water quality using existing wells.

3.2.1 Summary of Alternative Groundwater Sources for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS

One well in the vicinity of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS wells has been shown to contain an acceptable concentration of combined radium (Table 3.3). However, this well has not been tested for gross alpha and should be tested for current levels of all constituents of concern if considered as an alternative supply.

Another option is to test the existing PWS wells separately to determine whether one or more of the wells contains acceptable concentrations of gross alpha and combined radium and whether a mixture of water could be used to meet demand as well as water quality standards. If acceptable water quality is found within a certain depth interval, then casing all wells above and below this interval could provide another way to improve water quality with existing wells.

SECTION 4 ANALYSIS OF THE ZAVALA COUNTY WCID 1 PWS

4.1 DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING SYSTEM

4.1.1 Existing System

The Zavala County WCID 1 PWS is shown in Figure 4.1. The Zavala County WCID 1 PWS is located in Zavala County, Texas, and serves a population of 1,500 through 580 connections. The PWS is located in the City of La Pryor on Glen Street one block north of State Highway 57 East. Mr. Ritchie Tammy is the President of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS and Ms. Jill Kimball is the manager and Mr. Victor Delgado is the PWS operator.

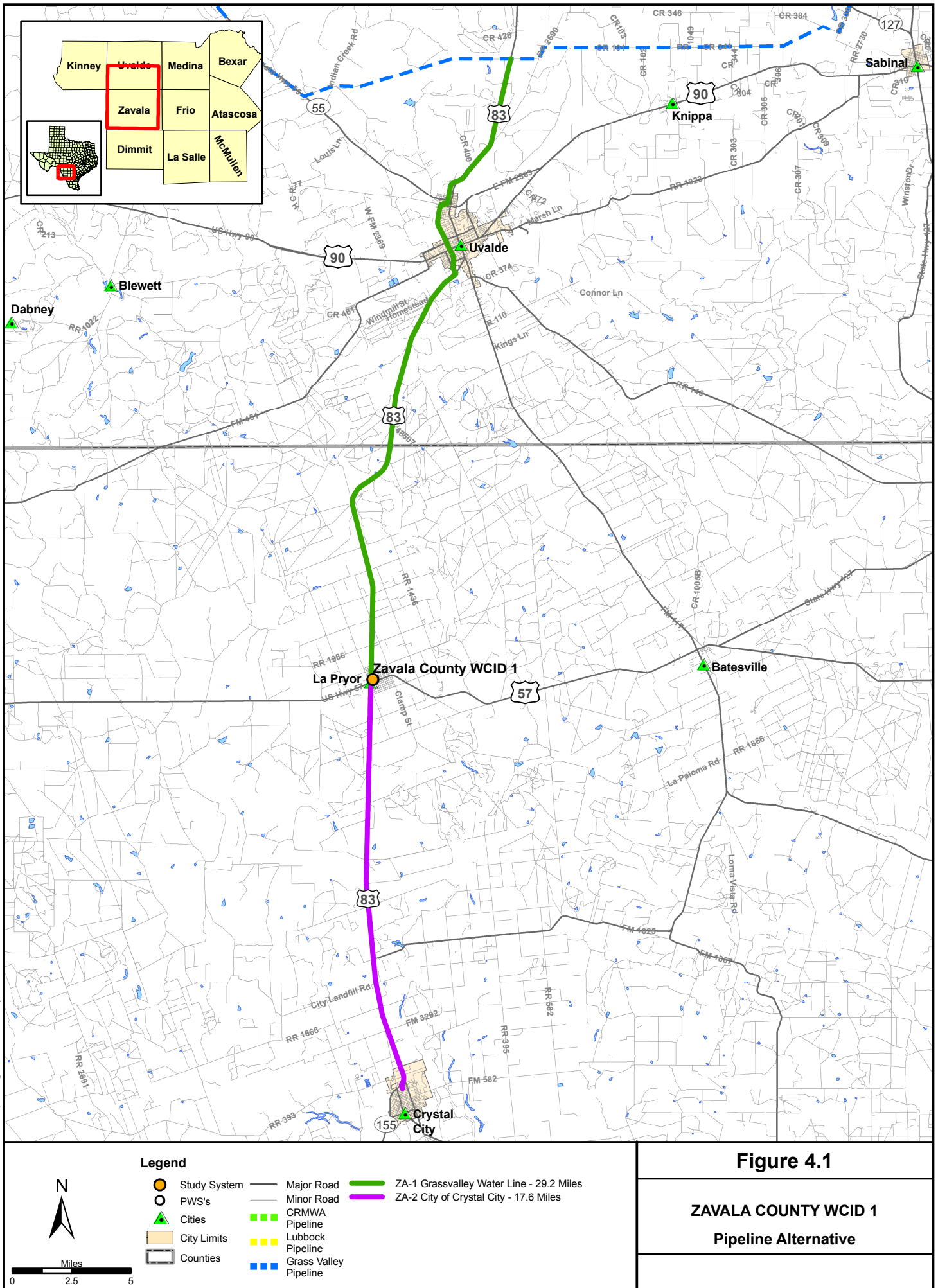
The water sources for this community water system are three wells, completed in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer (Code 124CRRZ), that range in depth from approximately 567 feet deep to 730 feet and have a total production of 3.168 mgd. Well #2 (G2540003A) is rated at 700 gallons per minute (gpm) and Wells #4 and #5 (G2540003C and G2540003D) are both rated at 750 gpm. Well #3 (G2540003B) is no longer used and was plugged in June 2004. The three wells pump to a ground storage tank. Two transfer pumps (550 gpm each) send water to an elevated storage tank, which supplies the distribution system. Another elevated storage tank floats on the system. The water is chlorinated prior to the ground storage tank.

The treatment employed for disinfection is not appropriate or effective for removal of radium or gross alpha, so optimization is not expected to be effective for increasing removal of this contaminant. However, there is a potential opportunity for system optimization to reduce contaminant concentration. The system has more than one well, and since contaminant concentrations can vary significantly between wells, radium and gross alpha concentrations should be determined for each well. If one or more wells happens to produce water with acceptable contaminant levels, as much production as possible should be shifted to that well. It may also be possible to identify contaminant-producing strata through comparison of well logs or through sampling of water produced by various strata intercepted by the well screen.

The Zavala County WCID 1 PWS recorded gross alpha particle activities (gross alpha) values between 15 pCi/L and 35 pCi/L between January 2002 and December 2002. During the same period, combined radium values ranged from 5 pCi/L to 10.2 pCi/L. These values are at or above the 15 pCi/L MCL for gross alpha and 5 pCi/L MCL for combined radium. Therefore, Zavala County WCID 1 PWS faces compliance issues under the water quality standards for gross alpha and combined radium.

Basic system information is as follows:

- Population served: 1,500
- Connections: 580
- Average daily flow: 0.35 mgd



- Total production capacity: 3.168 mgd
- Basic system raw water quality data are as follows:
- Typical combined radium range: 5 – 10.2 pCi/L
- Typical gross alpha range: 15 – 34.7 pCi/L
- Typical arsenic: <0.002 mg/L
- Typical calcium range: 113 – 128 mg/L
- Typical chloride range: 92 – 126 mg/L
- Typical fluoride range: 0.2 – 0.201 mg/L
- Typical iron: <0.05 mg/L
- Typical magnesium range: 13 – 23.5 mg/L
- Typical manganese: <0.008 mg/L
- Typical nitrate range: 2.59 – 8.22 mg/L
- Typical selenium range: 0.008 – 0.0108 mg/L
- Typical sodium range: 28 – 36.4 mg/L
- Typical sulfate range: 45 – 64 mg/L
- Typical pH range: 7.1 – 7.86
- Typical bicarbonate (HCO₃) range: 281 – 283 mg/L
- Typical total dissolved solids range: 435 - 691 mg/L

The typical ranges for water quality data listed above are based on a TCEQ database that contains data updated through the beginning of 2005.

4.1.2 Capacity Assessment for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS

The project team conducted a capacity assessment of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS water system on July 31, 2008 and through additional phone conversations. The results of this evaluation are separated into four categories: general assessment of capacity, positive aspects of capacity, capacity deficiencies, and capacity concerns. The general assessment of capacity describes the overall impression of technical, managerial, and financial capability of the water system. The positive aspects of capacity describe the strengths of the system. These factors can provide the building blocks for the system to improve capacity deficiencies. The capacity deficiencies noted are those aspects that are creating a particular problem for the system related to long-term sustainability. Primarily, these problems are related to the system's ability to meet current or future compliance, ensure proper revenue to pay the expenses of running the system, and to ensure the proper operation of the system. The last category, capacity concerns, include items that are not causing significant problems for the system at this time. However, the system may want to address them before they become problematic.

The project team interviewed the following Jill Kimball, General Manager and Jorge Maldonado, Operator

4.1.2.1 General Structure of the Water System

The Zavala County WCID 1 PWS serves approximately 1,500 people with 580 connections. The District is governed by a 5-member board of directors that meets monthly. The minimum monthly charge is \$18.00, which includes 2,000 gallons. From 2,001 gallons through 10,000 gallons, customers are charged \$1.65 per 1,000 gallons. The District has three employees – a general manager, secretary, and licensed operator. The system is in violation of the gross alpha and combined radium standard.

4.1.2.2 General Assessment of Capacity

Based on the team's assessment, this system has a good level of capacity. There are several positive managerial, financial and technical aspects of the water system, but there are also some areas that need improvement. The deficiencies noted could prevent the water system from being able to meet compliance now or in the future and may also impact the water system's long-term sustainability.

4.1.2.3 Positive Aspects of Capacity

In assessing a system's overall capacity, it is important to look at all aspects – positive and negative. It is important for systems to understand those characteristics that are working well, so that those activities can be continued or strengthened. In addition, these positive aspects can assist the system in addressing the capacity deficiencies or concerns. The factors that were particularly important for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS are listed below.

- **Sufficient Revenues to Fund Reserve Accounts** – The District has been able to fund a Capital Outlay Account as well as a Debt Service Account.
- **Financial Sustainability** – District receives income from water revenue, impact fees, and expansion fees and currently has \$255,000 in investment funds. The operating budget is compared to actual expenses on a monthly basis.

4.1.2.4 Capacity Deficiencies

The following capacity deficiencies were noted in conducting the assessment and seriously impact the ability of the water system to meet compliance with current and future regulations and to ensure long-term sustainability.

- **Lack of Long Term Capital Planning for Compliance and Sustainability** – While the District appears to be financially sustainable, there is no comprehensive planning process in place achieve and maintain compliance and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the water system. The operator is knowledgeable about projects that need to be undertaken, such as replacing distribution pipe, and increasing water storage. It appears that the District seeks grant funding for projects, but there is no long-term

plan that prioritized projects. The District can also use the long-term planning process to help identify financing strategies to pay for the long-term needs.

4.1.2.5 Potential Capacity Concerns

The following items were concerns regarding capacity but no specific operational, managerial, or financial problems can be attributed to these items at this time. The system should address the items listed below to further improve technical, managerial, and financial capabilities and to improve the system's long-term sustainability.

- **Lack of a Source Water and Wellhead Protection Plan** - Although participation in the source water protection program through TCEQ is voluntary, it is recommended the water systems participate in the program to better protect its water source. In addition, the District should develop a wellhead protection plan. Although not required, wellhead protection plans provide a valuable resource to the water system in the maintenance and protection of the water wells the system relies on for safe drinking water. As a first step, the system should contact TCEQ to inquire about participating in the source water protection plan.

4.2 ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE DEVELOPMENT

4.2.1 Identification of Alternative Existing Public Water Supply Sources

Using data drawn from the TCEQ drinking water and TWDB groundwater well databases, the PWSs surrounding the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS were reviewed with regard to their reported drinking water quality and production capacity. PWSs that appeared to have water supplies with water quality issues were ruled out from evaluation as alternative sources, while those without identified water quality issues were investigated further. Small systems were only considered if they were within 10 miles of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. Large systems or systems capable of producing greater than four times the daily volume produced by the study system were considered if they were within 30 miles of the study system. A distance of 30 miles was considered to be the upper limit of economic feasibility for constructing a new water line. Table 4.1 is a list of the selected PWSs based on these criteria for large and small PWSs within 30 miles of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. If it was determined these PWSs had excess supply capacity and might be willing to sell the excess, or might be a suitable location for a new groundwater well, the system was taken forward for further consideration and identified with "EVALUATE FURTHER" in the comments column of Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 Selected Public Water Systems within 30 Miles of the
Zavala County WCID 1 PWS**

PWS ID	PWS Name	Distance from Zavala County WCID 1 (miles)	Comments/Other Issues
2540005	BATESVILLE WATER SUPPLY CORP	13.96	Small GW system. No WQ issues
2540009	LOMA ALTA WATER SYSTEM	15.83	Small GW system. No WQ issues
2320018	WINDMILL WATER SUPPLY INC	16.03	Small GW system. No WQ issues
2320013	FORT INGE MOBILE HOME PARK	17.4	Small GW system. No WQ issues
2540001	CRYSTAL CITY	17.5	Larger GW system. No WQ issues. Evaluate Further.
2320002	CITY OF UVALDE	18.9	Larger GW system. No WQ issues. Not enough capacity
Proposed	GRASS VALLEY WATER	29.2	Large GW system. No WQ issues. Evaluate Further.

WQ = water quality
GW = groundwater

After the PWSs in Table 4.1 with water quality problems were eliminated from further consideration, the remaining PWSs were screened by proximity to Zavala County WCID 1 PWS and sufficient total production capacity for selling or sharing water. Based on the initial screening summarized in Table 4.1, two alternatives were selected for further evaluation. These alternatives are summarized in Table 4.2. Descriptions of both the systems that could be potential water suppliers follow Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2 Public Water Systems Within the Vicinity of the
Zavala County WCID 1 PWS Selected for Further Evaluation**

PWS ID	PWS Name	Pop	Connec- tions	Total Production (mgd)	Avg Daily Usage (mgd)	Approx. Dist. from Zavala County WCID 1	Comments/Other Issues
2540001	CRYSTAL CITY	8263	2494	7.128	1.98	17.52	Larger GW system. No WQ issues.
Proposed	Grass Valley Water	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.2	Larger GW system. No WQ issues.

WQ = water quality
GW = groundwater

4.2.1.1 Grass Valley Water System

Grass Valley is a public/private project in south Texas that plans to draw groundwater from the Edwards Aquifer in Kinney County, Texas. This system is in the study phase and the results indicate that the quantity of water available may justify construction of a well field and over 100 miles of pipe if a sufficient customer base can be found. Grass Valley is actively seeking contracts with large users such as the Cities of San Antonio and Laredo. At this time, Grass Valley is awaiting permit approval for 11,000 acre-feet per year to initiate the next steps

in project development. Non-compliant PWSs near the proposed pipelines may have the option to connect to this water source if the project permit is issued. The proposed pipeline is approximately 29 miles north from Zavala County WCID 1 PWS.

4.2.1.2 Crystal City (2540001)

Crystal City is located 17.5 miles south from the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. The city's total groundwater production capacity is 7.13 mgd for a population of about 8,263 people or 2,494 connections. The city has excess capacity, but the wholesale of water would have to be approved by the City Council. According to available information on this PWS, there are no reported exceedances for constituents of concern above the associated MCLs. The City of San Antonio has approached the city for water, but its request was denied. It is uncertain if the City Council would be willing to entertain requests for water from nearby communities at this time.

4.2.2 Potential for New Groundwater Sources

4.2.2.1 Installing New Compliant Wells

Developing new wells or well fields is recommended, provided good quality groundwater available in sufficient quantity can be identified. Since a number of water systems in the area have water quality problems, it should be possible to share in the cost and effort of identifying compliant groundwater and constructing well fields.

Installation of a new well in the vicinity of the system intake point is likely to be an attractive option provided compliant groundwater can be found, since the PWS is already familiar with operation of a water well. As a result, existing nearby wells with good water quality should be investigated. Re-sampling and test pumping would be required to verify and determine the quality and quantity of water at those wells.

The use of existing wells should probably be limited to use as indicators of groundwater quality and availability. If a new groundwater source is to be developed, it is recommended that a new well or wells be installed instead of using existing wells. This would ensure well characteristics are known and meet standards for drinking water wells.

Some of the alternatives suggest new wells be drilled in areas where existing wells have acceptable water quality. In developing the cost estimates, Parsons assumed the aquifer in these areas would produce the required amount of water with only one well. Site investigations and geological research, which are beyond the scope of this study, could indicate whether the aquifer at a particular site and depth would provide the amount of water needed or if more than one well would need to be drilled in separate areas.

4.2.2.2 Results of Groundwater Availability Modeling

The Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is a major groundwater source for several counties in south Texas, including Zavala County where the PWS is located. Three public supply wells operated by the Zavalla WCID 1 are completed in the Carrizo Sand Formation, the upper hydrological

unit of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. A search of registered wells was conducted using TCEQ's Public Water Supply database to assess groundwater sources utilized within a 10-mile radius of the PWS. The database indicates that the Carrizo Sand Formation is the groundwater source for nearly all wells used for domestic, public supply, irrigation and livestock watering within the PWS vicinity. A limited number of wells located over 5 miles from the PWS are completed in the deeper Wilcox Group formations.

Groundwater Supply

The Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer is classified as a major aquifer on the basis of water production, ranking third in the state behind the Ogallala and Gulf Coast aquifers (TWDB 2007). The aquifer extends from the Rio Grande in south Texas to east Texas and continues into Louisiana, forming a wide band adjacent to and northwest of the Gulf Coast Aquifer. It consists of the upper, middle and lower hydrological units of the Wilcox Group, and the overlying Carrizo Formation. The aquifer reaches 3,000 feet in thickness, with an average freshwater saturated thickness of 670 feet. Irrigation pumping accounts for over half the water pumped, while municipal supply accounts for another 40 percent utilization. The State Water Plan, updated in 2007 by the TWDB, indicated that water level declines have occurred in the northeast section of the aquifer, and in some parts of the southwest section where the PWS is located.

Groundwater Availability

The State Water Plan anticipates that, over a 50-year planning period, water availability from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer will remain at approximately 1 million acre-feet per year (AFY), the projected value for the year 2010 (TWDB 2007). Water needs in Medina County, with implementation of additional water management strategies, would decrease by the year 2060. This decrease would be largely associated with a reduction in irrigation water needs, from a projected 2010 value of 48,165 to 35,078 AFY by the year 2060 (TWDB 2007).

A GAM developed by TWDB for the southern Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer provided projections on water levels and saturated thickness based on pumping demands under drought-of-record conditions for the period 2000-2050 (Deeds et al. 2003). The model predicted a significant decline in irrigation pumping from the aquifer, approximately 100,000 AFY, starting in the year 2000. As a result, rising water levels were expected over most of the western section of Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, with the possible exception of northern Webb County along the Rio Grande (Deeds et al. 2003).

The model predicted a decreased rate of groundwater withdrawal from the aquifer in Zavala County from the year 2000 to 2050, from 26,771 to 8,005 AFY, respectively; the associated increase in water level would be within a 25 to 50 foot range in northwest Zavala County. A GAM evaluation was not run for the PWS. Water use by the system would represent a minor addition to regional withdrawal conditions, making potential changes in aquifer levels beyond the spatial resolution of the regional GAM model.

4.2.3 Potential for New Surface Water Sources

There is a minimum potential for development of new surface water sources for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS because water availability is very limited over the entire river basin, at the county level, and within the site vicinity.

The PWS is located in the Nueces Basin, which occupies a relatively arid region of Texas. The State Water Plan, updated in 2007 by the TWDB, estimates that the basin average watershed yield is only 0.6 inches per year, the third lowest yield among major river basins of Texas. Water rights are assigned primarily to industrial and municipal uses (43% and 41%, respectively). Over a 50-year planning period, the State Water Plan anticipates a significant increase in surface water use due to the steady decline in the groundwater supply due to aquifer depletion and salinization. Despite the increasing demand, the 2007 State Water Plan anticipates an increase in water supply over the next 50 years, from a projected 2010 value of 194,300 AFY, as several proposed long-term management strategies are implemented in the Nueces Basin.

In Zavala County, where the PWS is located, the water supply is used predominantly for irrigation. The 2007 State Water Plan anticipates that the increasing water demand in the county will exceed projected water supply estimates. For the 50-year planning period ending in 2060, additional water needs would be 35,078 AFY. This deficit would be associated with a irrigation water use.

The TWDB developed a surface water availability model for the Nueces Basin as a tool to determine, at a regional level, the maximum amount of water available during the drought of record over the simulation period (regardless of whether the supply is physically or legally available). For the PWS vicinity, simulation data indicate that there is a minimum availability of surface water for new uses. Surface water availability maps were developed by TCEQ for the Nueces Basin, illustrating percent of months of flow per year. Availability maps indicate that in the site vicinity, and over all of Zavala County, unappropriated flows for new applications are typically available less than 25 percent of the time. This availability is inadequate for development of new municipal water supplies as a 100 percent year-round availability is required by TCEQ for new surface water source permit applications.

4.2.4 Options for Detailed Consideration

The initial review of alternative sources of water results in the following options for more-detailed consideration:

1. Grass Valley Water System. Treated water would be purchased from Grass Valley Water System to be used by Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. A pipeline would be constructed from the Grass Valley water line on the north side of Uvalde and convey water to Zavala County WCID 1 PWS (Alternative ZA-1).

2. Crystal City. A new groundwater well would be completed in the vicinity of the well at Crystal City. A pipeline would be constructed and the water would be piped to Zavala County WCID 1 PWS (Alternative ZA-2).

3. New Wells at 10, 5, and 1 mile. Installing a new well within 10, 5, or 1 mile of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS may produce compliant water in place of the water produced by the existing active well. A pipeline and pump station would be constructed to transfer the water to the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS (Alternatives ZA-3, ZA-4, and ZA-5).

4.3 TREATMENT OPTIONS

4.3.1 Centralized Treatment Systems

Centralized treatment of the well water is identified as a potential option. Reverse Osmosis and WRT Z-88 adsorption are potential applicable processes. The central RO treatment alternative is Alternative ZA-6 and the central Z-88 treatment process alternative is Alternative ZA-7.

4.3.2 Point-of-Use Systems

POU treatment using RO technology is valid for combined radium and gross alpha removal. The POU treatment alternative is ZA-8.

4.3.3 Point-of-Entry Systems

POE treatment using RO technology is valid for combined radium and gross alpha removal. The POE treatment alternative is ZA-9.

4.4 BOTTLED WATER

Providing bottled water is considered an interim measure to be used until a compliance alternative is implemented. Even though the community is small and people know each other; it would be reasonable to require a quarterly communication advising customers of the need to take advantage of the bottled water program. An alternative to providing delivered bottled water is to provide a central, publicly accessible dispenser for treated drinking water. Alternatives addressing bottled water are ZA-10, ZA-11, and ZA-12.

4.5 ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS

A number of potential alternatives for compliance with the MCL for combined radium and gross alpha have been identified. Each of the potential alternatives is described in the following subsections. It should be noted that the cost information given is the capital cost and change in O&M costs associated with implementing the particular alternative. Appendix C contains cost estimates for the compliance alternatives. These compliance alternatives represent a range of possibilities, and a number of them are likely not feasible. However, all

have been presented to provide a complete picture of the range of alternatives considered. It is anticipated that a PWS will be able to use the information contained herein to select the most attractive alternative(s) for more detailed evaluation and possible subsequent implementation.

4.5.1 Alternative ZA-1: Purchase Water from Grass Valley Water

This alternative involves purchasing compliant water from Grass Valley Water Limited Partnership to supply water to Zavala County WCID 1. Grass Valley Water is proposing to construct pipelines from a well field in Kinney County to Cities such as San Antonio and Laredo and possibly to the City of Uvalde. The alternative would construct a water line from the main pipeline running north of the City of Uvalde to the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS.

This alternative would require construction of a pump station and a 10,000 gallon feed tank at a point adjacent to the Grass Valley pipeline, and a pipeline from the feed tank to the existing intake point for Zavala County WCID 1 PWS.

Three additional pump stations and 10,000 gallon feed tanks would also be required to overcome pipe friction and the elevation differences between the feed tank and Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. The required pipeline would be 8 inches in diameter. Using this route, the length of pipe required would be approximately 29.2 miles. The pipeline would terminate at the existing storage tank at the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS.

Each pump station would include two pumps, including one standby, and would be housed in a building. It is assumed the pumps and piping would be installed with capacity to meet all water demand for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, since the incremental cost would be relatively small, and would provide operational flexibility.

By definition this alternative involves regionalization, since Zavala County WCID 1 PWS would be obtaining drinking water from an existing larger supplier. Also, other PWSs near Zavala County WCID 1 PWS are in need of compliant drinking water and could share in implementation of this alternative.

The estimated capital cost for this alternative includes constructing the pipeline, pump stations, feed tanks, and pump houses. The estimated O&M cost for this alternative includes the purchase price for the treated water minus the cost the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS currently pays to operate its well field, plus maintenance cost for the pipeline, and power and O&M labor and materials for the pump stations. The estimated capital cost for this alternative is \$8.06 million, with an estimated annual O&M cost of \$617,800. If the purchased water was used for blending rather than for the full water supply, the annual O&M cost for this alternative could be reduced because of reduced pumping costs and reduced water purchase costs. However, additional costs would be incurred for equipment to ensure proper blending, and additional monitoring to ensure the finished water is compliant.

The reliability of adequate amounts of compliant water under this alternative should be good. From the perspective of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, this alternative would be characterized as easy to operate and repair, since O&M and repair of pipelines and pump

stations is well understood, and Zavala County WCID 1 PWS personnel currently operate pipelines and pump stations. If the decision were made to perform blending then the operational complexity would increase.

The feasibility of this alternative is dependent on permit approval for Grass Valley to initiate project development, and an agreement being reached between Zavala County WCID 1 PWS and Grass Valley for water purchase.

4.5.2 Alternative ZA-2: New Well in the Vicinity of Crystal City

This alternative involves completing two new wells in the vicinity of Crystal City and constructing pump stations and a pipeline to transfer the pumped groundwater to the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. Based on the water quality data in the TCEQ database, it is expected that groundwater from this well would be compliant with drinking water MCLs. An agreement would need to be negotiated with Crystal City to expand its well field.

This alternative would require completing two new 1,070 foot wells, a pump station and 10,000 gallon feed tank at the Crystal City well field, and constructing a pipeline from that well/feed tank to the existing intake point for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. Three additional pump stations and 10,000 gallon feed tanks would also be required to overcome pipe friction and the elevation differences between the Crystal City system and Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. The required pipeline would be constructed of 8-inch pipe and would follow Highway 83 and several minor roads south to the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. Using this route, the pipeline required would be approximately 17.6 miles long. The pipeline would terminate at the existing storage tanks owned by the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS.

The pump stations would include two pumps, including one standby, and would be housed in a building. It is assumed the pumps and piping would be installed with capacity to meet all water demand for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, since the incremental cost would be relatively small, and it would provide operational flexibility.

This alternative has the potential to provide a regional solution, as there are several PWSs in the vicinity that have a need for compliant water. PWSs located close to the proposed pipeline route could share the cost of drilling the new well and pipeline construction.

The estimated capital cost for this alternative includes completing the new well, constructing the pipeline, feed tanks, pump houses, and pump station. The estimated O&M cost for this alternative includes the maintenance cost for the pipeline, and power and O&M labor and materials for the pump station. The estimated capital cost for this alternative is \$5.56 million, with an estimated annual O&M cost of \$337,000. If the purchased water was used for blending rather than for the full water supply, the annual O&M cost for this alternative could be reduced because of reduced pumping costs and reduced water purchase costs. However, additional costs would be incurred for equipment to ensure proper blending, and additional monitoring to ensure the finished water is compliant.

1 The reliability of adequate amounts of compliant water under this alternative should be
2 good. From the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS's perspective, this alternative would be
3 characterized as easy to operate and repair, since O&M and repair of pipelines and pump
4 stations is well understood, and Zavala County WCID 1 PWS personnel currently operate
5 pipelines and a pump station. If the decision was made to perform blending then the
6 operational complexity would increase.

7 The feasibility of this alternative is dependent on an agreement being reached between
8 Zavala County WCID 1 PWS and the Crystal City for expanding their well field.

9 **4.5.3 Alternative ZA-3: New Well at 10 miles**

10 This alternative consists of installing two new wells within 10 miles of the Zavala County
11 WCID 1 PWS that would produce compliant water in place of the water produced by the
12 existing wells. At this level of study, it is not possible to positively identify an existing well or
13 the location where a new well could be installed.

14 This alternative would require constructing two new 700-foot wells, a new pump station
15 with a 5,000-gallon feed tank near the new well, an additional pump station and feed tank along
16 the pipeline, and a pipeline from the new well/feed tank to a the existing intake point for the
17 Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. The pump stations and feed tanks would be necessary to
18 overcome pipe friction and changes in land elevation. For this alternative, the pipeline is
19 assumed to be approximately 10 miles long, and would be 8-inches in diameter and discharge
20 to the existing storage tank at the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. Each pump station would
21 include a feed tank, two transfer pumps, including one standby, and would be housed in a
22 building.

23 Depending on well location and capacity, this alternative could present some options for a
24 more regional solution. It may be possible to share water and costs with another nearby
25 system.

26 The estimated capital cost for this alternative includes installing the wells constructing the
27 pipeline, the pump stations, the feed tanks, service pumps and pump houses. The estimated
28 O&M cost for this alternative includes O&M for the pipeline and pump stations. The estimated
29 capital cost for this alternative is \$3.25 million, and the estimated annual O&M cost for this
30 alternative is \$140,300.

31 The reliability of adequate amounts of compliant water under this alternative should be
32 good, since water wells, pump stations and pipelines are commonly employed. From the
33 perspective of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, this alternative would be similar to operate as
34 the existing system. Zavala County WCID 1 PWS personnel have experience with O&M of
35 wells, pipelines, and pump stations.

36 The feasibility of this alternative is dependent on the ability to find an adequate existing
37 well or success in installing a well that produces an adequate supply of compliant water. It is

likely that an alternate groundwater source would not be found on land owned by Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, so landowner cooperation would likely be required.

4.5.4 Alternative ZA-4: New Well at 5 miles

This alternative consists of installing two new wells within 5 miles of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS that would produce compliant water in place of the water produced by the existing wells. At this level of study, it is not possible to positively identify an existing well or the location where new wells could be installed.

This alternative would require constructing two new 705-foot wells, a new pump station with a 10,000 gallon feed tank near the new well, and a pipeline from the new well/feed tank to the existing intake point for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. The pump station and feed tank would be necessary to overcome pipe friction and changes in land elevation. For this alternative, the pipeline is assumed to be 8-inches in diameter, approximately 5 miles long, and would discharge to the existing storage tank at the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. The pump station near the well would include two transfer pumps, including one standby, and would be housed in a building.

Depending on well location and capacity, this alternative could present some options for a more regional solution. It may be possible to share water and costs with another nearby system.

The estimated capital cost for this alternative includes installing the well, and constructing the pipeline and pump station. The estimated O&M cost for this alternative includes O&M for the pipeline and pump station. The estimated capital cost for this alternative is \$1.78 million, and the estimated annual O&M cost for this alternative is \$74,000. The reliability of adequate amounts of compliant water under this alternative should be good, since water wells, pump stations and pipelines are commonly employed. From the perspective of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, this alternative would be similar to operate as the existing system. Zavala County WCID 1 PWS personnel have experience with O&M of wells, pipelines and pump stations.

The feasibility of this alternative is dependent on the ability to find an adequate existing well or success in installing a well that produces an adequate supply of compliant water. It is likely an alternate groundwater source would not be found on land owned by Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, so landowner cooperation would likely be required.

4.5.5 Alternative ZA-5: New Well at 1 mile

This alternative consists of installing two new wells within 1 mile of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS that would produce compliant water in place of the water produced by the existing wells. At this level of study, it is not possible to positively identify an existing well or the location where a new well could be installed.

1 This alternative would require constructing two new 705-foot wells and a pipeline from the
2 new well to the existing intake point for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. Since the new well
3 is relatively close, a pump station would not be necessary. For this alternative, the pipeline is
4 assumed to be 8 inches in diameter, approximately 1 mile long, and would discharge to the
5 existing storage tank at the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS.

6 Depending on well location and capacity, this alternative could present some options for a
7 more regional solution. It may be possible to share water and costs with another nearby
8 system.

9 The estimated capital cost for this alternative includes installing the well, and constructing
10 the pipeline. The estimated O&M cost for this alternative includes O&M for the pipeline. The
11 estimated capital cost for this alternative is \$633,100, and the estimated annual O&M savings
12 for this alternative is \$7,900.

13 The reliability of adequate amounts of compliant water under this alternative should be
14 good, since water wells and pipelines are commonly employed. From the perspective of the
15 Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, this alternative would be similar to operate as the existing
16 system. Zavala County WCID 1 PWS personnel have experience with O&M of wells,
17 pipelines and pump stations.

18 The feasibility of this alternative is dependent on the ability to find an adequate existing
19 well or success in installing a well that produces an adequate supply of compliant water. It is
20 possible an alternate groundwater source would not be found on land owned by Zavala County
21 WCID 1 PWS, so landowner cooperation may be required.

22 **4.5.6 Alternative ZA-6: Central RO Treatment**

23 This system would continue to pump water from the existing well, and would treat the
24 water through an RO system prior to distribution. For this option, 100 percent of the raw water
25 would be treated to obtain compliant water. The RO process concentrates impurities in the
26 reject stream that would require disposal. It is estimated the RO reject generation would be
27 approximately 117,000 gallons per day (gpd) when the system is operated at the average daily
28 consumption (0.35 mgd).

29 This alternative consists of constructing the RO treatment plant near the ground storage
30 tank. The plant is composed of a 2,200 square foot building with a paved driveway; a skid with
31 the pre-constructed RO plant; three transfer pumps, a 15,000-gallon tank for storing the treated
32 water, and a sewer connection for discharge of reject water. The treated water would be
33 chlorinated and stored in the new treated water tank prior to being pumped into the distribution
34 system. The entire facility is fenced.

35 The estimated capital cost for this alternative is \$2.22 million, and the estimated annual
36 O&M cost is \$493,500.

The reliability of adequate amount of compliant water under this alternative is good, since RO treatment is a common and well-understood treatment technology. However, O&M efforts required for the central RO treatment plant may be significant, and O&M personnel would require training with RO. The feasibility of this alternative is not dependent on the cooperation, willingness, or capability of other water supply entities.

4.5.7 Alternative ZA-7: Central WRT Z-88 Treatment

The system would continue to pump water from the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS wells, and would treat the water through the WRT Z-88 adsorption system prior to distribution. The full flow of raw water would be treated by the Z-88 system as the media specifically adsorb radium and do not affect other constituents. There is no liquid waste generated in this process. The Z-88 media would be replaced and disposed by WRT in an approved low-level radioactive waste landfill after several years of operation.

This alternative consists of installing the Z-88 treatment system near the existing Zavala County WCID 1 PWS ground storage tank. WRT owns the Z-88 equipment and the water system would pay for installation of the treatment unit and construction of auxiliary facilities. The plant is composed of a 1,200 square foot building with a paved driveway; the pre-fabricated Z-88 adsorption system; and piping system. The entire facility would be fenced. The treated water would be chlorinated prior to distribution. It is assumed the well pumps would have adequate pressure to pump the water through the Z-88 system to the ground storage tanks without requiring new pumps.

The estimated capital cost for this alternative is \$740,700, and the estimated annual O&M cost is \$455,800.

Based on many pilot testing results and some full-scale plant data, this technology appears to be reliable. It is very simple to operate and the media replacement and disposal would be handled by WRT. Because WRT owns the equipment, the capital cost is relatively low. The main operating cost would be WRT's fee for the treated water. One concern with this technology is the potential health effect on O&M personnel because of the level of radioactivity accumulated in the Z-88 vessel after the media have been operating for a long time.

4.5.8 Alternative ZA-8: Point-of-Use Treatment

This alternative consists of the continued operation of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS well field, plus treatment of water to be used for drinking or food preparation at the point of use to remove combined radium and gross alpha. The purchase, installation, and maintenance of POU treatment systems to be installed "under the sink" would be necessary for this alternative. Blending is not an option in this case.

This alternative would require installing the POU treatment units in residences and other buildings that provide drinking or cooking water. Zavala County WCID 1 PWS staff would be responsible for purchase and maintenance of the treatment units, including membrane and filter

1 replacement, periodic sampling, and necessary repairs. In houses, the most convenient point
2 for installation of the treatment units is typically under the kitchen sink, with a separate tap
3 installed for dispensing treated water. Installation of the treatment units in kitchens will require
4 the entry of Zavala County WCID 1 PWS or contract personnel into the houses of customers.
5 As a result, cooperation of customers would be important for success implementing this
6 alternative. The treatment units could be installed for access without house entry, but that
7 would complicate the installation and increase costs.

8 Treatment processes would involve RO. Treatment processes produce a reject waste
9 stream. The reject waste streams result in a slight increase in the overall volume of water used.
10 POU systems have the advantage that only a minimum volume of water is treated (only that for
11 human consumption). This minimizes the size of the treatment units, the increase in water
12 required, and the waste for disposal. For this alternative, it is assumed the increase in water
13 consumption is insignificant in terms of supply cost, and that the reject waste stream can be
14 discharged to the house septic or sewer system.

15 This alternative does not present options for a regional solution.

16 The estimated capital cost for this alternative includes purchasing and installing the POU
17 treatment systems. The estimated O&M cost for this alternative includes the purchase and
18 replacement of filters and membranes, as well as periodic sampling and record keeping as
19 required by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) (Title 30, Part I, Chapter 290, Subchapter F,
20 Rule 290.106). The estimated capital cost for this alternative is \$736,900, and the estimated
21 annual O&M cost for this alternative is \$484,300. For the cost estimate, it is assumed that one
22 POU treatment unit will be required for each of the 580 connections in the Zavala County
23 WCID 1 PWS. It should be noted that the POU treatment units would need to be more
24 complex than units typically found in commercial retail outlets in order to meet regulatory
25 requirements, making purchase and installation more expensive. Additionally, capital cost
26 would increase if POU treatment units are placed at other taps within a home, such as
27 refrigerator water dispensers, ice makers, and bathroom sinks. In school settings, all taps
28 where children and faculty receive water may need POU treatment units or clearly mark those
29 taps suitable for human consumption. Additional considerations may be necessary for
30 preschools or other establishments where individuals cannot read.

31 The reliability of adequate amounts of compliant water under this alternative is fair, since
32 it relies on the active cooperation of the customers for system installation, use, and
33 maintenance, and only provides compliant water to single tap within a house. Additionally, the
34 O&M efforts (including monitoring of the devices to ensure adequate performance) required
35 for the POU systems will be significant, and the current personnel are inexperienced in this
36 type of work. From the perspective of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, this alternative would
37 be characterized as more difficult to operate owing to the in-home requirements and the large
38 number of individual units.

39 The feasibility of this alternative is not dependent on the cooperation, willingness, or
40 capability of other water supply entities.

4.5.9 Alternative ZA-9: Point-of-Entry Treatment

This alternative consists of the continued operation of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS well field, plus treatment of water as it enters residences to remove combined radium and gross alpha. The purchase, installation, and maintenance of the treatment systems at the point of entry to a household would be necessary for this alternative. Blending is not an option in this case.

This alternative would require the installation of the POE treatment units at houses and other buildings that provide drinking or cooking water. Every building connected to the system must have a POE device installed, maintained, and adequately monitored. TCEQ must be assured the system has 100 percent participation of all property and or building owners. A way to achieve 100 percent participation is through a public announcement and education program. Example public programs are provided in the document “*Point-of-Use or Point-of-Entry Treatment Options for Small Drinking Water Systems*” published by USEPA. The property owner’s responsibilities for the POE device must also be contained in the title to the property and “run with the land” so subsequent property owners understand their responsibilities (USEPA 2006).

Zavala County WCID 1 PWS would be responsible for purchase, operation, and maintenance of the treatment units, including membrane and filter replacement, periodic sampling, and necessary repairs. It may also be desirable to modify piping so water for non-consumptive uses can be withdrawn upstream of the treatment unit. The POE treatment units would be installed outside the residences, so entry would not be necessary for O&M. Some cooperation from customers would be necessary for installation and maintenance of the treatment systems.

POE treatment for combined radium and gross alpha would involve RO. Treatment processes produce a reject stream that requires disposal. The reject water stream results in a slight increase in overall volume of water used. POE systems treat a greater volume of water than POU systems. For this alternative, it is assumed the increase in water consumption is insignificant in terms of supply cost, and that the backwash reject waste stream can be discharged to the house septic or sewer system.

This alternative does not present options for a regional solution.

The estimated capital cost for this alternative includes purchasing and installing the POE treatment systems. The estimated O&M cost for this alternative includes the purchase and replacement of filters and membranes, as well as periodic sampling and record keeping. The estimated capital cost for this alternative is \$8.83 million, and the estimated annual O&M cost for this alternative is \$1.24 million. For the cost estimate, it is assumed that one POE treatment unit will be required for each of the 580 existing connections to the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS.

The reliability of adequate amounts of compliant water under this alternative are fair, but better than POU systems since it relies less on the active cooperation of the customers for

1 system installation, use, and maintenance, and compliant water is supplied to all taps within a
2 house. Additionally, the O&M efforts required for the POE systems will be significant, and the
3 current personnel are inexperienced in this type of work. From the perspective of the Zavala
4 County WCID 1 PWS, this alternative would be characterized as more difficult to operate
5 owing to the on-property requirements and the large number of individual units.

6 The feasibility of this alternative is not dependent on the cooperation, willingness, or
7 capability of other water supply entities.

8 **4.5.10 Alternative ZA-10: Public Dispenser for Treated Drinking Water**

9 This alternative consists of the continued operation of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS
10 wells, plus dispensing treated water for drinking and cooking at a publicly accessible location.
11 Implementing this alternative would require purchasing and installing three treatment units
12 where customers would be able to come and fill their own containers. This alternative also
13 includes notifying customers of the importance of obtaining drinking water from the dispenser.
14 In this way, only a relatively small volume of water requires treatment, but customers would be
15 required to pick up and deliver their own water. Blending is not an option in this case. It
16 should be noted that this alternative would be considered an interim measure until a compliance
17 alternative is implemented.

18 Zavala County WCID 1 PWS personnel would be responsible for maintenance of the
19 treatment unit, including media or membrane replacement, periodic sampling, and necessary
20 repairs. The spent media or membranes will require disposal. This alternative relies on a great
21 deal of cooperation and action from the customers in order to be effective.

22 This alternative does not present options for a regional solution.

23 The estimated capital cost for this alternative includes purchasing and installing the
24 treatment system to be used for the drinking water dispenser. The estimated O&M cost for this
25 alternative includes purchasing and replacing filters and media or membranes, as well as
26 periodic sampling and record keeping. The estimated capital cost for this alternative is
27 \$53,500, and the estimated annual O&M cost for this alternative is \$103,800.

28 The reliability of adequate amounts of compliant water under this alternative is fair,
29 because of the large amount of effort required from the customers and the associated
30 inconvenience. Zavala County WCID 1 PWS has not provided this type of service in the past.
31 From Zavala County WCID 1 PWS's perspective this alternative would be characterized as
32 relatively easy to operate, since these types of treatment units are highly automated, and there
33 are only three units.

34 The feasibility of this alternative is not dependent on the cooperation, willingness, or
35 capability of other water supply entities.

4.5.11 Alternative ZA-11: 100 Percent Bottled Water Delivery

This alternative consists of the continued operation of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS wells, but compliant drinking water will be delivered to customers in containers. This alternative involves setting up and operating a bottled water delivery program to serve all customers in the system. It is expected that Zavala County WCID 1 PWS would find it most convenient and economical to contract a bottled water service. The bottle delivery program would have to be flexible enough to allow the delivery of smaller containers should customers be incapable of lifting and manipulating 5-gallon bottles. Blending is not an option in this case. It should be noted that this alternative would be considered an interim measure until a compliance alternative is implemented.

This alternative does not involve capital cost for construction, but would require some initial costs for system setup, and then ongoing costs to have the bottled water furnished. It is assumed for this alternative that bottled water is provided to 100 percent of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS customers.

This alternative does not present options for a regional solution.

The estimated initial capital cost is for setting up the program. The estimated O&M cost for this alternative includes program administration and purchase of the bottled water. The estimated capital cost for this alternative is \$27,000, and the estimated annual O&M cost for this alternative is \$902,200. For the cost estimate, it is assumed that each person requires one gallon of bottled water per day.

The reliability of adequate amounts of compliant water under this alternative is fair, since it relies on the active cooperation of customers to order and utilize the water. Management and administration of the bottled water delivery program will require attention from Zavala County WCID 1 PWS.

The feasibility of this alternative is not dependent on the cooperation, willingness, or capability of other water supply entities.

4.5.12 Alternative ZA-12: Public Dispenser for Trucked Drinking Water

This alternative consists of continued operation of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS wells, plus dispensing compliant water for drinking and cooking at a publicly accessible location. The compliant water would be purchased from the Batesville Water Supply Corporation, and delivered by truck to a tank at a central location where customers would be able to fill their own containers. This alternative also includes notifying customers of the importance of obtaining drinking water from the dispenser. In this way, only a relatively small volume of water requires treatment, but customers are required to pick up and deliver their own water. Blending is not an option in this case. It should be noted that this alternative would be considered an interim measure until a compliance alternative is implemented.

1 Zavala County WCID 1 PWS would purchase a truck suitable for hauling potable water,
2 and install a storage tank. It is assumed the storage tank would be filled once a week, and that
3 the chlorine residual would be tested for each truckload. The truck would have to meet
4 requirements for potable water, and each load would be treated with bleach. This alternative
5 relies on a great deal of cooperation and action from the customers for it to be effective.

6 This alternative presents limited options for a regional solution if two or more systems
7 share the purchase and operation of the water truck.

8 The estimated capital cost for this alternative includes purchasing a water truck and
9 construction of the storage tank to be used for the drinking water dispenser. The estimated
10 O&M cost for this alternative includes O&M for the truck, maintenance for the tank, water
11 quality testing, record keeping, and water purchase. The estimated capital cost for this
12 alternative is \$149,500, and the estimated annual O&M cost for this alternative is \$35,000.

13 The reliability of adequate amounts of compliant water under this alternative is fair
14 because of the large amount of effort required from the customers and the associated
15 inconvenience. Current personnel have not provided this type of service in the past. From the
16 perspective of Zavala County WCID 1 PWS, this alternative would be characterized as
17 relatively easy to operate, but the water hauling and storage would have to be done with care to
18 ensure sanitary conditions.

19 The feasibility of this alternative is not dependent on the cooperation, willingness, or
20 capability of other water supply entities.

21 **4.5.13 Summary of Alternatives**

22 Table 4.3 provides a summary of the key features of each alternative for Zavala County
23 WCID 1 PWS.

1 **Table 4.3 Summary of Compliance Alternatives for Zavala County WCID 1 PWS**

Alt No.	Alternative Description	Major Components	Capital Cost ¹	Annual O&M Cost	Total Annualized Cost	Reliability	System Impact	Remarks
ZA-1	Purchase water from Grass Valley	- Four pump stations / feed tanks - 29.2-mile pipeline	\$8,063,000	\$617,800	\$1,320,700	Good	N	Agreement must be successfully negotiated with the Grass Valley. Blending may be possible.
ZA-2	New well at Crystal City	- Two new wells - Four pump stations / feed tanks - 17.6-mile pipeline	\$5,585,400	\$337,000	\$824,000	Good	N	Agreement must be successfully negotiated with Crystal City, or land must be purchased. Blending may be possible.
ZA-3	Install new compliant well within 10 miles	- Two new wells - Two pump stations / feed tanks - 10-mile pipeline	\$3,246,600	\$140,300	\$423,400	Good	N	May be difficult to find well with good water quality.
ZA-4	Install new compliant well within 5 miles	- Two new wells - Pump station / feed tank - 5-mile pipeline	\$1,780,300	\$74,000	\$229,200	Good	N	May be difficult to find well with good water quality.
ZA-5	Install new compliant well within 1 mile	- Two new wells - 1-mile pipeline	\$633,100	\$7,900	\$63,100	Good	N	May be difficult to find well with good water quality.
ZA-6	Continue operation of Zavala County WCID well field with central RO treatment	- Central RO treatment plant	\$2,215,300	\$493,500	\$686,600	Good	T	No nearby system to share treatment plant cost.
ZA-7	Continue operation of Zavala County WCID well field with central WRT Z-88 treatment	- Central WRT Z-88 treatment plant	\$740,700	\$455,700	\$520,300	Good	T	No nearby system to share treatment plant cost.
ZA-8	Continue operation of Zavala County WCID well field, and POU treatment	- POU treatment units.	\$736,900	\$484,300	\$548,500	Fair	T, M	Only one compliant tap in home. Cooperation of residents required for installation, maintenance, and testing.
ZA-9	Continue operation of Zavala County WCID well field, and POE treatment	- POE treatment units.	\$8,828,300	\$1,244,100	\$2,013,800	Fair (better than POU)	T, M	All home taps compliant and less resident cooperation required.
ZA-10	Continue operation of Zavala County WCID well field, but furnish public dispenser for treated drinking water	- Water treatment and dispenser unit	\$53,500	\$103,800	\$108,500	Fair/interim measure	T	Does not provide compliant water to all taps, and requires a lot of effort by customers.
ZA-11	Continue operation of Zavala County WCID well field, but furnish bottled drinking water for all customers	- Set up bottled water system	\$27,000	\$902,200	\$904,500	Fair/interim measure	M	Does not provide compliant water to all taps, and requires customers to order and use. Management of program may be significant.

Alt No.	Alternative Description	Major Components	Capital Cost ¹	Annual O&M Cost	Total Annualized Cost	Reliability	System Impact	Remarks
ZA-12	Continue operation of Zavala County WCID well field, but furnish public dispenser for trucked drinking water.	- Construct storage tank and dispenser - Purchase potable water truck	\$149,500	\$35,000	\$48,000	Fair/interim measure	M	Does not provide compliant water to all taps, and requires a lot of effort by customers.

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- Notes: *N – No significant increase required in technical or management capability*
 T – Implementation of alternative will require increase in technical capability
 M – Implementation of alternative will require increase in management capability
 1 – See cost breakdown in Appendix C
 2 – 20-year return period and 6 percent interest

4.6 COST OF SERVICE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

To evaluate the financial impact of implementing the compliance alternatives, a 30-year financial planning model was developed. This model can be found in Appendix D. The financial model is based on estimated cash flows, with and without implementation of the compliance alternatives. Data for such models are typically derived from established budgets, audited financial reports, published water tariffs, and consumption data. Zavala County WCID 1 PWS provides water to a population of approximately 1,500, through 580 connections. Information that was used to complete the financial analysis was based on available financial information that included actual revenues and expenses and water usage records.

This analysis will need to be performed in a more detailed fashion and applied to alternatives deemed attractive and worthy of more detailed evaluation. A more detailed analysis should include additional factors such as:

- Cost escalation,
- Price elasticity effects where increased rates may result in lower water consumption,
- Costs for other system upgrades and rehabilitation needed to maintain compliant operation.

4.6.1 Financial Plan Development

According to the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS financial statements for FY2007, a total of 127.75 million gallons of water were sold in FY2007, with water service annual revenues of \$225,523. Water service expenses were \$185,505. These values were entered into the financial model. Expenses for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS were derived from the 2007 Annual Final Report, ending May 31, 2007

4.6.2 Current Financial Condition

4.6.2.1 Cash Flow Needs

Using the annual water service revenues and number of connections, the current average annual water bill for Zavala County WCID 1 PWS customers is estimated at \$389 or about 2.0 percent of the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS median household income of \$19,625, as given in the 2000 census.

A review of the estimated revenues and the actual operating expenses for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS suggests that water rates are currently adequate to sustain operations for the next several years. Zavala County WCID 1 PWS may need to raise rates in the future to service the debt associated with any capital improvements for the various alternatives that may be implemented to address compliance.

4.6.2.2 Ratio Analysis

Current Ratio = 3.55

The Current Ratio is a measure of liquidity. It is defined as the ratio of Current Assets to current Liabilities. Current liabilities are defined as all debt due within 1 year. A Current Ratio of 3.6 indicates that the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS would be able to meet all its current obligations, with total current assets of \$303,462 exceeding the current liabilities of \$85,419.

Debt to Net Worth Ratio = 0.135

A Debt to Net Worth ratio is another measure of financial liquidity and stability. The Zavala County WCID 1 PWS has a net worth of \$1.53 million, and a total debt of \$208,000, resulting in a debt to net worth ratio of 0.135. Ratios less than 1.25 are indicative of financial stability, with lower ratios indicating greater financial stability and better credit risks for future borrowings. Based on the present ratio, Zavala County WCID 1 PWS is financially stable.

Operating Ratio = 1.15

The Operating Ratio is a financial term defined as a company's revenues divided by the operating expenses. For this calculation water service related revenues and expenses, including interest income, connections fees, debt service, and other moneys used for capital outlays. An operating ratio of 1.0 means that a utility is collecting just enough money to meet expenses. In general, an operating ratio of 1.25 or higher is desirable. An operating ratio of 1.15 indicates that Zavala County WCID 1 PWS does not need to raise further water rates for its customers, bases on financial estimates and the no action alternative.

4.6.3 Financial Plan Results

Each of the compliance alternatives for Zavala County WCID 1 PWS was evaluated using the financial model to determine the overall increase in water rates that would be necessary to pay for the improvements. Each alternative was examined under the various funding options described in Section 2.4.

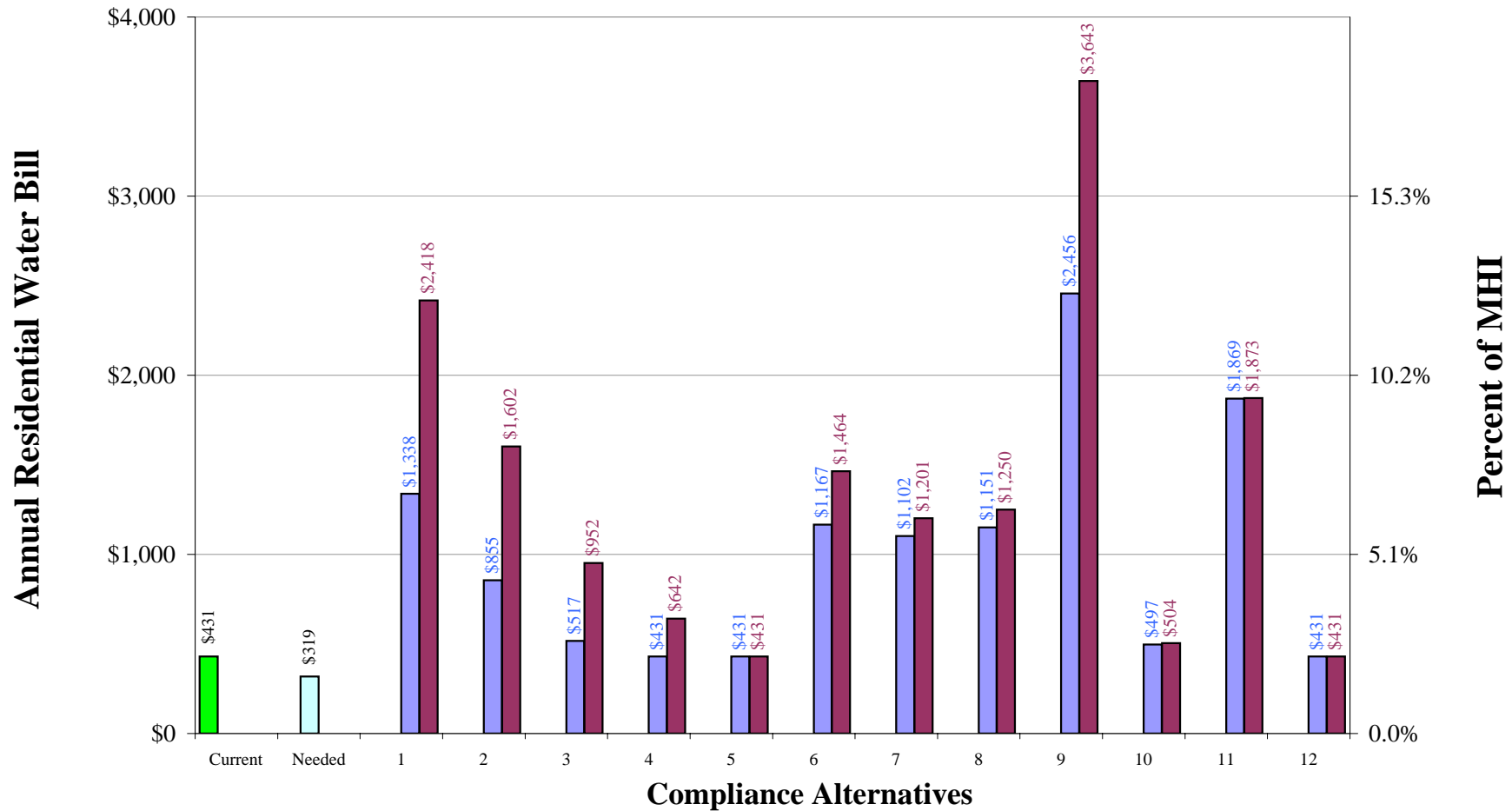
Results of the financial impact analysis are provided in Table 4.4 and Figure 4.2. Table 4.4 and Figure 4.2 present rate impacts assuming that revenues match expenses, without funding reserve accounts, and that operations and implementation of compliance alternatives are funded with revenue and are not paid for from reserve accounts. Figure 4.2 provides a bar chart that, in terms of the yearly billing to an average customer, shows the following:

- Current annual average bill,
- Projected annual average bill including rate increase, if needed, to match existing expenditures, and
- Projected annual bill including rate increases needed to fund implementation of a compliance alternative (this does not include funding for reserve accounts).

Zavala County WCID
Table 4.4 Financial Impact on Households

Alternative	Description		All Revenue	100% Grant	75% Grant	50% Grant	SRF	Bond
1	Purchase Water from Grass Valley	Maximum % of MHI	72.0%	6.8%	8.2%	9.6%	9.1%	12.3%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	3179%	211%	273%	336%	315%	461%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$14,123	\$1,338	\$1,608	\$1,878	\$1,786	\$2,418
2	New Well at Crystal City	Maximum % of MHI	50.3%	4.4%	5.3%	6.3%	5.9%	8.2%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	2191%	99%	142%	185%	171%	272%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$9,866	\$855	\$1,042	\$1,229	\$1,166	\$1,602
3	New Well at 10 Miles	Maximum % of MHI	29.9%	2.6%	3.2%	3.7%	3.6%	4.9%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	1263%	20%	45%	71%	62%	121%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$5,872	\$517	\$626	\$735	\$698	\$952
4	New Well at 5 Miles	Maximum % of MHI	17.1%	2.2%	2.4%	2.7%	2.6%	3.3%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	681%	0%	8%	21%	17%	49%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$3,365	\$431	\$463	\$523	\$502	\$642
5	New Well at 1 Mile	Maximum % of MHI	7.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	227%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$1,407	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$431
6	Central Treatment - RO	Maximum % of MHI	21.0%	5.9%	6.3%	6.7%	6.6%	7.5%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	858%	171%	188%	205%	200%	240%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$4,125	\$1,167	\$1,241	\$1,316	\$1,290	\$1,464
7	Central Treatment - WRT Z-88	Maximum % of MHI	8.1%	5.6%	5.7%	5.9%	5.8%	6.1%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	269%	156%	162%	167%	165%	179%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$1,591	\$1,102	\$1,127	\$1,152	\$1,143	\$1,201
8	Point-of-Use Treatment	Maximum % of MHI	8.1%	5.9%	6.0%	6.1%	6.1%	6.4%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	268%	167%	173%	179%	177%	190%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$1,585	\$1,151	\$1,176	\$1,200	\$1,192	\$1,250
9	Point-of-Entry Treatment	Maximum % of MHI	78.9%	12.5%	14.0%	15.5%	15.0%	18.6%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	3496%	470%	539%	608%	585%	746%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$15,488	\$2,456	\$2,753	\$3,050	\$2,949	\$3,643
10	Public Dispenser for Treated Drinking Water	Maximum % of MHI	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%	2.6%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	15%	15%	16%	16%	16%	17%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$497	\$497	\$499	\$501	\$500	\$504
11	Supply Bottled Water to 100% of Population	Maximum % of MHI	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	334%	334%	334%	334%	334%	335%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$1,869	\$1,869	\$1,870	\$1,871	\$1,870	\$1,873
12	Central Trucked Drinking Water	Maximum % of MHI	2.9%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%
		Percentage Rate Increase Compared to Current	34%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
		Average Annual Water Bill	\$576	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$431

Figure 4.2
Alternative Cost Summary: Zavala County WCID



Current Average Monthly Bill = \$35.89
 Median Household Income = \$19,625
 Average Monthly Residential Usage = 13,746 gallons

■ Current ■ Needed
■ With 100% Grant Funding ■ With 100% Loan/Bond Funding

1 The two bars shown for each compliance alternative represent the rate changes necessary
2 for revenues to match total expenditures assuming 100 percent grant funding and 100 percent
3 loan/bond funding. Most funding options will fall between 100 percent grant and 100 percent
4 loan/bond funding, with the exception of 100 percent revenue financing. Establishing or
5 increasing reserve accounts would require an increase in rates. If existing reserves are
6 insufficient to fund a compliance alternative, rates would need to be raised before
7 implementing the compliance alternative. This would allow for accumulation of sufficient
8 reserves to avoid larger but temporary rate increases during the years the compliance
9 alternative was being implemented.

10 **4.6.4 Evaluation of Potential Funding Options**

11 There are a variety of funding programs available to entities as described in Section 2.4.
12 Zavala County WCID 1 PWS is most likely to obtain funding from programs administered by
13 the TWDB, ORCA, and Rural Development. This report contains information that would be
14 used for an application for funding. Information such as financial analyses, water supply
15 assessment, and records demonstrating health concerns, failing infrastructure, and financial
16 need, may be required by these agencies. This section describes the candidate funding agencies
17 and their appropriate programs as well as information and steps needed to begin the application
18 process.

19 This report should serve to document the existing water quality issues, infrastructure need
20 and costs, and water system information needed to begin the application process. Although this
21 report is at the conceptual level, it demonstrates that significant funding will be needed to meet
22 Safe Drinking Water Standards. The information provided in this report may serve as the
23 needed documentation to justify a project that may only be possible with significant financial
24 assistance.

25 **4.6.4.1 TWDB Funding Options**

26 TWDB programs include the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), Rural
27 Water Assistance Fund (RWAF), State Loan Program (Development Fund II), and EDAP.
28 Additional information on these programs can be found online at the TWDB website under the
29 Assistance tab, Financial Assistance section, under the Public Works Infrastructure
30 Construction subsection.

31 **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund**

32 The DWSRF offers net long-term interest lending rates below the rate the borrower would
33 receive on the open market for a period of 20 years. Because the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS
34 is a “disadvantaged community,” it can receive a 30-year loan term. A cost-recovery loan
35 origination charge is imposed to cover the administrative costs of operating the DWSRF, but an
36 additional interest rate subsidy is offered to offset the charge. The terms of the loan typically
37 require a revenue or tax pledge. Depending on how the origination charge is handled, interest
38 rates can be as low as 0.95 percent below market rates with the possibility of additional federal

subsidies for total interest rates 1.95 percent below market rates. Disadvantaged communities may obtain loans at interest rates between 0 percent and 1 percent.

The loan application process has several steps: pre-application, application and commitment, loan closing, funding and construction monitoring, and any other special requirements. In the pre-application phase, prospective loan applicants are asked to submit a brief DWSRF Information Form to the TWDB that describes the applicant's existing water facilities, additional facility needs and the nature of projects being considered for meeting those needs, project cost estimates, and "disadvantaged community" status. The TCEQ assigns a priority rating that includes an applicant's readiness to proceed. TWDB staff notify prospective applicants of their priority rating and encourage them to schedule a pre-planning conference for guidance in preparing the engineering, planning, environmental, financial, and water conservation portions of the DWSRF application.

Rural Water Assistance Fund

Small rural water utilities can finance water projects with attractive interest rate loans with short and long-term finance options at tax exempt rates. Funding through this program gives an added benefit to nonprofit water supply corporations as construction purchases and qualify for a sales tax exemption. Rural Political Subdivisions are eligible (nonprofit water supply corporations; water districts or municipalities serving a population of up to 10,000; and counties in which no urban area has a population exceeding 50,000). A nonprofit water supply corporation is eligible to apply these funds for design and construction of water projects. Projects can include line extensions, elevated storage, the purchase of well fields, the purchase or lease of rights to produce groundwater, and interim financing of construction projects. The fund may also be used to enable a rural water utility to obtain water service supplied by a larger utility or to finance the consolidation or regionalization of a neighboring utility.

A maximum financing life is 50 years for projects. The average financing period is 20 to 23 years. System revenues and/or tax pledges are typically required. The lending rate scale varies according to several factors, but is set by the TWDB based on cost of funds to the board, risk factors of managing the board loan portfolio, and market rate scales. The TWDB seeks to make reasonable loans with minimal risk to the state. The TWDB posts rates for comparison for applicants, and in August 2008 the TWDB showed its rates for a 22-year, taxable loan at 5.5 percent, where the market was at 7.84 percent. Funds in this program are not restricted.

The TWDB's Office of Project Finance and Construction Assistance staff can discuss the terms of the loan and assist applicants during preparation of the application, and this is encouraged. The application materials must include an engineering feasibility report, environmental information, rates and customer base, operating budgets, financial statements, and project information. The TWDB considers the needs of the area; benefits of the project; the relationship of the project to the overall state water needs; relationship of the project to the State Water Plan; and availability of all sources of revenue to the rural utility for the ultimate repayment of the water supply project cost. The board considers applications monthly.

State Loan Program (Development Fund II)

The State Loan Program is a diverse lending program directly from state funding sources. As it does not receive federal subsidies, it is more streamlined. The loans can incorporate more than one project under the umbrella of one loan. Water supply corporations are eligible, but will have taxable rates. Projects can include purchase of water rights, treatment plants, storage and pumping facilities, transmission lines, well development, and acquisitions.

The loan requires that the applicant pledge revenue or taxes, as well as some collateral for the Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. The maximum financing life is 50 years. The average financing period is 20 to 23 years. The lending rate scale varies according to several factors, but is set by the TWDB based on cost of funds to the board, risk factors of managing the board loan portfolio, and market rate scales. The TWDB seeks to make reasonable loans with minimal risk to the state. The TWDB post rates for comparison for applicants and in August 2008, the TWDB showed their rates for a 22-year, taxable loan at 5.5 percent where the market was at 7.84 percent.

The TWDB staff can discuss the terms of the loan and assist applicants during preparation of the application, and a preapplication conference is encouraged. The application materials must include an engineering feasibility report, environmental information, rates and customer base, operating budgets, financial statements, and project information. The TWDB considers the needs of the area; benefits of the project; the relationship of the project to the overall state water needs and the State Water Plan; and the availability of all sources of revenue to the rural utility for the ultimate repayment of the loan. The board considers applications monthly.

Economically Distressed Areas Program

The EDAP Program was designed to assist areas along the U.S./Mexico border in areas that were economically distressed. In 2008, this program was extended to apply to the entire state so long as requirements are met. This program provides financial assistance through the provision of grants and loans to communities where present facilities are inadequate to meet residents minimal needs. Eligible communities are those that have median household income less than 75 percent of the state household income. Non-profit water supply corporations can apply, but they must be capable of maintaining and operating the completed system, and hold or be in the process of obtaining a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity. The county where the project is located must adopt model rules for the regulation of subdivisions prior to application for financial assistance. If the applicant is a city, the city must also adopt Model Subdivision Rules of TWDB (31 TAC Chapter 364). The program funds design, construction, improvements, and acquisition, and includes measures to prevent future substandard development. The TWDB works with the applicant to find ways to leverage other state and federal financial resources.

The loan requires that the applicant pledge revenue or taxes, as well as some collateral for Zavala County WCID 1 PWS. The maximum financing life is 50 years. The average financing period is 20 to 23 years. The lending rate scale varies according to several factors

but is set by the TWDB based on cost of funds to the board, risk factors of managing the board loan portfolio, and market rate scales. The TWDB seeks to make reasonable loans with minimal loss to the state. The TWDB posts rates for comparison for applicants and in August 2008 the TWDB showed its rates for a 22-year, tax exempt loan at 5.11 percent where the market was at 5.60 percent. Most projects have a financial package with the majority of the project financed with grants. Many have received 100 percent grants.

The first step in the application process is to meet with TWDB staff to discuss the terms of the loan and assist applicants during preparation of the application. Major components of the application materials must include an engineering feasibility report, environmental information, rates and customer base, operating budgets, financial statements, community information, project information, and other legal information.

4.6.4.2 ORCA Funding Options

Created in 2001, ORCA seeks to strengthen rural communities and assist them with community and economic development and healthcare by providing a variety of rural programs, services, and activities. Of their many programs and funds, the most appropriate programs related to drinking water are the Community Development (CD) Fund, Colonias Program, and Texas Small Towns Environment Program (STEP). These programs offer attractive funding packages to help make improvements to potable water systems to mitigate potential health concerns. These programs are available to counties and cities, which have to submit an ORCA application on behalf of the Water Supply Corporation. All program requirement would have to be met by the benefiting community receiving services by the Water Supply Corporation. Additional information can be found online at the ORCA website under the Community Development tab, Grant Funds Section, and clicking on the name of the program or grant.

Colonia Economically Distressed Areas Program

In the event a community, which is designated as economically distressed, receives TWDB funding through EDAP for water and sewer system improvement projects, it may be eligible to receive ORCA grants that can be used to connect households to the improved system. Funding may be used for connection fees, plumbing improvements, taps and meters, distribution lines, and other connection projects to a TWDB improvement project. Applications are submitted at the time an EDAP project construction begins and should work with CDBG staff to complete the application. In addition to CD Fund requirements, the community must be within 150 miles of the border and be designated a Colonia. These funds are submitted by the county on behalf of the Colonia and can be part of a project taken on by a nearby city to provide services to a nearby Colonia. Awards are given based on utilization of grant funds in a timely manner, past CDBG contract performance, availability of other resources, and effectiveness of funds to make connections to improve systems. Awards are on a “first-come, first serve” basis with a maximum of award of \$500,000.

Community Development Fund

The CD Fund is a competitive grant program for water system improvements as well as other utility services (wastewater, drainage improvements, and housing activities). Funds are distributed between 24 state planning regions where funds are allocated to address each region's utility priorities. Funds can be used for various types of public works projects, including water system improvements. Communities with a population of less than 50,000 that are not eligible for direct CDBG funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are eligible. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis decided twice a year by regional review committees using a defined scoring system (past performance with CDBG is a factor). Awards are no less than \$75,000 and cannot exceed \$800,000. More information can be found at the Office of Community Affairs website under Community Development Fund.

Texas Small Towns Environment Program

Under special occasions some communities are invited to participate in grant programs when self-help is a feasible method for completing a water project, the community is committed to self-help, and the community has the capacity to complete the project. The purpose is to significantly reduce the cost of the project by using the communities' own human, material, and financial capital. Projects typically are repair, rehabilitation, improvements, service connections, and yard services. Reasonable associated administration and engineering cost can be funded. A letter of interest is first submitted, and after CDBG staff determine eligibility, an application may be submitted. Awards are only given twice per year on a priority basis so long as the project can be fully funded (\$350,000 maximum award). Ranking criteria are project impact, local effort, past performance, percent of savings, and benefit to low to medium-income persons.

4.6.4.3 Rural Development

The RUS agency of Rural Development established a Revolving Fund Program (RFP) administered by the staff of the Water and Environment Program (WEP) to assist communities with water and wastewater systems. The purpose is to fund technical assistance and projects to help communities bring safe drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound, waste disposal facilities to rural Americans in greatest need. WEP provides loans, grants, and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or less. Recipients must be public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, Indian tribes, and corporations not operated for profit. Projects include all forms of infrastructure improvement, acquisition of land and water rights, and design fees. Rural Development attempts to provide some level of assistance to all communities that apply. Funds are provided on a first come, first serve basis; however, staff do evaluate need and assign priorities as funds are limited. Grant/loan mixes vary on a case by case basis and some communities may have to wait through several funding cycles until funds become available.

Water and Wastewater Disposal Program

The major components of the RFP are loan, loan guarantees, and grant funding for water and waste disposal systems. Entities must demonstrate that they cannot obtain reasonable loans at market rates, but have the capacity to repay loans, pledge security, and operate the facilities. Grants can be up to 75 percent of the project costs, and loan guarantees can be up to 90 percent of eligible loss. Loans are not to exceed a 40-year repayment period, require tax or revenue pledges, and are offered at three rates:

- **Poverty Rate** - The lowest rate is the poverty interest rate of 4.5 percent. Loans must be used to upgrade or construct new facilities to meet health standards, and the MHI in the service area must be below the poverty line for a family of four or below 80 percent of the statewide MHI for non-metropolitan communities.
- **Market Rate** – Where the MHI in the service exceeds the state MHI, the rate is based on the average of the “Bond Buyer” 11-Bond Index over a four week period.
- **Intermediate Rate** – the average of the Poverty Rate and the Market Rate, but not to exceed seven percent.

Water and Waste Disposal Grants and Loans (Section 306C for Colonias)

Grant funds at 100 percent are provided for areas along the U.S./Mexico border known as Colonias. Projects must construct basic drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste disposal, and storm drainage to serve residents of Colonias. Also, the systems can obtain funds to provide grant assistance directly to individuals to install necessary indoor plumbing and pay other costs of connecting to the system. Residents of the rural area to be served must face significant health risks when a significant proportion of the community’s residents do not have access to or are not served by adequate, affordable water and/or waste disposal systems. Colonias is a term used to describe subdivisions that exist outside incorporated areas located along the United States-Mexico border. Colonias are generally characterized as small communities with inadequate drinking water, poor sanitary waste disposal facilities, and substandard housing. Aside from demonstrating health risks, areas not designated as a Colonia must show that (1) per capita income of the residents is not more than 70 percent of the most recent national average per capita income, as determined by the Department of Commerce; and (2) unemployment rate of the residents is not less than 125 percent of the most recent national average unemployment rate, as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Projects are ranked according to eligibility, a state preapplication review, RUS administrative review, population, income, other matching funds, Colonia status, and natural disaster effect.

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2

**APPENDIX A
PWS INTERVIEW FORM**

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT FORM

Prepared By _____

Date _____

Section 1. Public Water System Information

1. PWS ID # 2. Water System Name 3. County 4. Owner Address Tele. E-mail Fax Message 5. Admin Address Tele. E-mail Fax Message 6. Operator Address Tele. E-mail Fax Message 7. Population Served 8. No. of Service Connections 9. Ownership Type 10. Metered (Yes or No) 11. Source Type 12. Total PWS Annual Water Used

13. Number of Water Quality Violations (Prior 36 months)

Total Coliform Chemical/Radiological Monitoring (CCR, Public Notification, etc.) Treatment Technique, D/DBP

A. Basic Information

1. Name of Water System:
2. Name of Person Interviewed:
3. Position:
4. Number of years at job:
5. Number of years experience with drinking water systems:
6. Percent of time (day or week) on drinking water system activities, with current position (how much time is dedicated exclusively to the water system, not wastewater, solid waste or other activities):
7. Certified Water Operator (Yes or No):

 If Yes,
 7a. Certification Level (water):

 7b. How long have you been certified?
8. Describe your water system related duties on a typical day.

B. Organization and Structure

1. Describe the organizational structure of the Utility. Please provide an organizational chart. (Looking to find out the governance structure (who reports to whom), whether or not there is a utility board, if the water system answers to public works or city council, etc.)

2. If not already covered in Question 1, to whom do you report?
3. Do all of the positions have a written job description?
 - 3a. If yes, is it available to employees?
 - 3b. May we see a copy?

C. Personnel

1. What is the current staffing level (include all personnel who spend more than 10% of their time working on the water system)?
2. Are there any vacant positions? How long have the positions been vacant?
3. In your opinion, is the current staffing level adequate? If not adequate, what are the issues or staffing needs (how many and what positions)?
4. What is the rate of employee turnover for management and operators? What are the major issues involved in the turnover (e.g., operator pay, working conditions, hours)?
5. Is the system staffed 24 hours a day? How is this handled (on-site or on-call)? Is there an alarm system to call an operator if an emergency occurs after hours?

D. Communication

1. Does the utility have a mission statement? If yes, what is it?
2. Does the utility have water quality goals? What are they?
3. How are your work priorities set?
4. How are work tasks delegated to staff?
5. Does the utility have regular staff meetings? How often? Who attends?
6. Are there separate management meetings? If so, describe.
7. Do management personnel ever visit the treatment facility? If yes, how often?
8. Is there effective communication between utility management and state regulators (e.g., NMED)?
9. Describe communication between utility and customers.

E. Planning and Funding

1. Describe the rate structure for the utility.
2. Is there a written rate structure, such as a rate ordinance? May we see it?
 - 2a. What is the average rate for 6,000 gallons of water?
3. How often are the rates reviewed?
4. What process is used to set or revise the rates?
5. In general, how often are the new rates set?
6. Is there an operating budget for the water utility? Is it separate from other activities, such as wastewater, other utilities, or general city funds?
7. Who develops the budget, how is it developed and how often is a new budget created or the old budget updated?
8. How is the budget approved or adopted?

9. In the last 5 years, how many budget shortfalls have there been (i.e., didn't collect enough money to cover expenses)? What caused the shortfall (e.g., unpaid bills, an emergency repair, weather conditions)?

9a. How are budget shortfalls handled?
10. In the last 5 years how many years have there been budget surpluses (i.e., collected revenues exceeded expenses)?

10a. How are budget surpluses handled (i.e., what is done with the money)?
11. Does the utility have a line-item in the budget for emergencies or some kind of emergency reserve account?
12. How do you plan and pay for short-term system needs?
13. How do you plan and pay for long- term system needs?
14. How are major water system capital improvements funded? Does the utility have a written capital improvements plan?
15. How is the facility planning for future growth (either new hook-ups or expansion into new areas)?
16. Does the utility have and maintain an annual financial report? Is it presented to policy makers?

17. Has an independent financial audit been conducted of the utility finances? If so, how often? When was the last one?
18. Will the system consider any type of regionalization with any other PWS, such as system interconnection, purchasing water, sharing operator, emergency water connection, sharing bookkeeper/billing or other?

F. Policies, Procedures, and Programs
--

1. Are there written operational procedures? Do the employees use them?
2. Who in the utility department has spending authorization? What is the process for obtaining needed equipment or supplies, including who approves expenditures?
3. Does the utility have a source water protection program? What are the major components of the program?
4. Are managers and operators familiar with current SDWA regulations?
5. How do the managers and operators hear about new or proposed regulations, such as arsenic, DBP, Groundwater Rule? Are there any new regulations that will be of particular concern to the utility?
6. What are the typical customer complaints that the utility receives?
7. Approximately how many complaints are there per month?

8. How are customer complaints handled? Are they recorded?
9. (If not specifically addressed in Question 7) If the complaint is of a water quality nature, how are these types of complaints handled?
10. Does the utility maintain an updated list of critical customers?
11. Is there a cross-connection control plan for the utility? Is it written? Who enforces the plan's requirements?
12. Does the utility have a written water conservation plan?
13. Has there been a water audit of the system? If yes, what were the results?
14. (If not specifically answered in 11 above) What is the estimated percentage for loss to leakage for the system?
15. Are you, or is the utility itself, a member of any trade organizations, such as AWWA or Rural Water Association? Are you an active member (i.e., attend regular meetings or participate in a leadership role)? Do you find this membership helpful? If yes, in what ways does it help you?

G. Operations and Maintenance

1. How is decision-making authority split between operations and management for the following items:
 - a. Process Control
 - b. Purchases of supplies or small equipment
 - c. Compliance sampling/reporting
 - d. Staff scheduling
2. Describe your utility's preventative maintenance program.
3. Do the operators have the ability to make changes or modify the preventative maintenance program?
4. How does management prioritize the repair or replacement of utility assets? Do the operators play a role in this prioritization process?
5. Does the utility keep an inventory of spare parts?
6. Where does staff have to go to buy supplies/minor equipment? How often?
 - 6a. How do you handle supplies that are critical, but not in close proximity (for example if chlorine is not available in the immediate area or if the components for a critical pump are not in the area)

7. Describe the system's disinfection process. Have you had any problems in the last few years with the disinfection system?

7a. Who has the ability to adjust the disinfection process?

8. How often is the disinfectant residual checked and where is it checked?

8a. Is there an official policy on checking residuals or is it up to the operators?

9. Does the utility have an O & M manual? Does the staff use it?

10. Are the operators trained on safety issues? How are they trained and how often?

11. Describe how on-going training is handled for operators and other staff. How do you hear about appropriate trainings? Who suggests the trainings – the managers or the operators? How often do operators, managers, or other staff go to training? Who are the typical trainers used and where are the trainings usually held?

12. In your opinion is the level of your on-going training adequate?

13. In your opinion is the level of on-going training for other staff members, particularly the operators, adequate?

14. Does the facility have mapping of the water utility components? Is it used on any routine basis by the operators or management? If so, how is it used? If not, what is the process used for locating utility components?
15. In the last sanitary survey, were any deficiencies noted? If yes, were they corrected?
16. How often are storage tanks inspected? Who does the inspection?
 - 16a. Have you experienced any problems with the storage tanks?

H. SDWA Compliance

1. Has the system had any violations (monitoring or MCL) in the past 3 years? If so, describe.
2. How were the violations handled?
3. Does the system properly publish public notifications when notified of a violation?
4. Is the system currently in violation of any SDWA or state regulatory requirements, including failure to pay fees, fines, or other administrative type requirements?
5. Does the utility prepare and distribute a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)? Is it done every year? What type of response does the utility get to the CCR from customers?

I. Emergency Planning

1. Does the system have a written emergency plan to handle emergencies such as water outages, weather issues, loss of power, loss of major equipment, etc?
2. When was the last time the plan was updated?
3. Do all employees know where the plan is? Do they follow it?
4. Describe the last emergency the facility faced and how it was handled.

Attachment A

A. Technical Capacity Assessment Questions

1. Based on available information of water rights on record and water pumped has the system exceeded its water rights in the past year? YES ☐ NO ☐

In any of the past 5 years? YES ☐ NO ☐ How many times? _____

2. Does the system have the proper level of certified operator? *(Use questions a – c to answer.)*
YES ☐ NO ☐

a. What is the Classification Level of the system by NMED? _____

- b. Does the system have one or more certified operator(s)? [20 NMAC 7.4.20]

YES ☐ NO ☐

- c. If YES, provide the number of operators at each New Mexico Certification Level. [20 NMAC 7.4.12]

_____ NM Small System _____ Class 2

_____ NM Small System Advanced _____ Class 3

_____ Class 1 _____ Class 4

3. Did the system correct any sanitary deficiency noted on the most recent sanitary survey within 6 months of receiving that information? [20 NMAC 7.20.504]

YES ☐ NO ☐ No Deficiencies ☐

What was the type of deficiency? *(Check all that are applicable.)*

Source ☐ Storage ☐

Treatment ☐ Distribution ☐

Other _____

From the system's perspective, were there any other deficiencies that were not noted on the sanitary survey?
Please describe.

4. Will the system's current treatment process meet known future regulations?

Radionuclides YES ☐ NO ☐ Doesn't Apply ☐

Arsenic YES ☐ NO ☐ Doesn't Apply ☐

Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Product (DBP)

YES ☐ NO ☐ Doesn't Apply ☐

Surface Water Treatment Rule YES ☐ NO ☐ Doesn't Apply ☐

5. Does the system have a current site plan/map? [20 NMAC 7.10.302 A.1.]

YES ☐ NO ☐

6. Has the system had a water supply outage in the prior 24 months?

YES ☐ NO ☐

What were the causes of the outage(s)? *(Include number of outages for each cause.)*

Drought _____ Limited Supply _____

System Failure _____ Other _____

7. Has the system ever had a water audit or a leak evaluation?

YES ☐ NO ☐ Don't Know ☐

If YES, please complete the following table.

Type of Investigation	Date Done	Water Loss (%)	What approach or technology was used to complete the investigation?	Was any follow-up done? If so, describe

8. Have all drinking water projects received NMED review and approval? [20 NMAC 7.10.201]

YES ☐ NO ☐

If NO, what types of projects have not received NMED review and approval.

Source ☐ Storage ☐

Treatment ☐ Distribution ☐

Other ☐ _____

9. What are the typical customer complaints that the utility receives?

10. Approximately how many complaints are there per month? _____

11. How are customer complaints handled? Are they recorded?

12. What is the age and composition of the distribution system? *(Collect this information from the Sanitary Survey)*

Pipe Material	Approximate Age	Percentage of the system	Comments
			Sanitary Survey Distribution System Records Attached

13. Are there any dead end lines in the system?
 YES ☐ NO ☐

14. Does the system have a flushing program?
 YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please describe.

15. Are there any pressure problems within the system?
 YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, please describe.

16. Does the system disinfect the finished water?
 YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, which disinfectant product is used? _____

Interviewer Comments on Technical Capacity:

B. Managerial Capacity Assessment Questions

17. Has the system completed a 5-year Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) plan?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, has the plan been submitted to Local Government Division?

YES ☐ NO ☐

18. Does the system have written operating procedures?

YES ☐ NO ☐

19. Does the system have written job descriptions for all staff?

YES ☐ NO ☐

20. Does the system have:
- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| A preventative maintenance plan? | | | |
| YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A source water protection plan? | | | |
| YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| An emergency plan? | | | |
| YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A cross-connection control program? | | | |
| YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| An emergency source? | | | |
| YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| System security measures? | | | |
| YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
21. Does the system report and maintain records in accordance with the drinking water regulations concerning:
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Water quality violations | | | |
| YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public notification | | | |
| YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sampling exemptions | | | |
| YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
22. Please describe how the above records are maintained:
23. Describe the management structure for the water system, including board and operations staff. Please include examples of duties, if possible.
24. Please describe type and quantity of training or continuing education for staff identified above.
25. Describe last major project undertaken by the water system, including the following: project in detail, positive aspects, negative aspects, the way in which the project was funded, any necessary rate increases, the public response to the project, whether the project is complete or not, and any other pertinent information.

26. Does the system have any debt? YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, is the system current with all debt payments?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If no, describe the applicable funding agency and the default.

27. Is the system currently contemplating or actively seeking funding for any project?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, from which agency and how much?

Describe the project?

Is the system receiving assistance from any agency or organization in its efforts?

28. Will the system consider any type of regionalization with other PWS? *(Check YES if the system has already regionalized.)*

YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, what type of regionalization has been implemented/considered/discussed? *(Check all that apply.)*

System interconnection ☐

Sharing operator ☐

Sharing bookkeeper ☐

Purchasing water ☐

Emergency water connection ☐

Other: _____

29. Does the system have any of the following? *(Check all that apply.)*

Water Conservation Policy/Ordinance ☐ Current Drought Plan ☐

Water Use Restrictions ☐ Water Supply Emergency Plan ☐

Interviewer Comments on Managerial Capacity:

C. Financial Capacity Assessment

30. Does the system have a budget?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, what type of budget?

Operating Budget ☐Capital Budget ☐

31. Have the system revenues covered expenses and debt service for the past 5 years?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If NO, how many years has the system had a shortfall? _____

32. Does the system have a written/adopted rate structure?

YES ☐ NO ☐

33. What was the date of the last rate increase? _____

34. Are rates reviewed annually?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, what was the date of the last review? _____

35. Did the rate review show that the rates covered the following expenses? (*Check all that apply.*)Operation & Maintenance ☐Infrastructure Repair & replacement ☐Staffing ☐Emergency/Reserve fund ☐Debt payment ☐

36. Is the rate collection above 90% of the customers?

YES ☐ NO ☐

37. Is there a cut-off policy for customers who are in arrears with their bill or for illegal connections?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, is this policy implemented?

38. What is the residential water rate for 6,000 gallons of usage in one month. _____

39. In the past 12 months, how many customers have had accounts frozen or dropped for non-payment? _____

[Convert to % of active connections]

Less than 1% ☐ 1% - 3% ☐ 4% - 5% ☐ 6% - 10% ☐11% - 20% ☐ 21% - 50% ☐ Greater than 50% ☐]

40. The following questions refer to the process of obtaining needed equipment and supplies.

a. Can the water system operator buy or obtain supplies or equipment when they are needed?

YES ☐ NO ☐

b. Is the process simple or burdensome to the employees?

c. Can supplies or equipment be obtained quickly during an emergency?

YES ☐ NO ☐

d. Has the water system operator ever experienced a situation in which he/she couldn't purchase the needed supplies?

YES ☐ NO ☐

e. Does the system maintain some type of spare parts inventory?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, please describe.

41. Has the system ever had a financial audit?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If YES, what is the date of the most recent audit? _____

42. Has the system ever had its electricity or phone turned off due to non-payment? Please describe.

Interviewer Comments on Financial Assessment:

43. What do you think the system capabilities are now and what are the issues you feel your system will be facing in the future? In addition, are there any specific needs, such as types of training that you would like to see addressed by NMED or its contractors?

APPENDIX B COST BASIS

This section presents the basis for unit costs used to develop the conceptual cost estimates for the compliance alternatives. Cost estimates are conceptual in nature (+50%/-30%), and are intended to make comparisons between compliance options and to provide a preliminary indication of possible rate impacts. Consequently, these costs are pre-planning level and should not be viewed as final estimated costs for alternative implementation. Capital cost includes an allowance for engineering and construction management. It is assumed that adequate electrical power is available near the site. The cost estimates specifically do not include costs for the following:

- Obtaining land or easements.
- Surveying.
- Mobilization/demobilization for construction.
- Insurance and bonds

In general, unit costs are based on recent construction bids for similar work in the area; when possible, consultations with vendors or other suppliers; published construction and O&M cost data; and USEPA cost guidance. Unit costs used for the cost estimates are summarized in Table B.1.

Unit costs for pipeline components are based on 2008 RS Means Site Work & Landscape Cost Data. The number of borings and encasements and open cuts and encasements is estimated by counting the road, highway, railroad, stream, and river crossings for a conceptual routing of the pipeline. The number of air release valves is estimated by examining the land surface profile along the conceptual pipeline route. It is assumed that gate valves and flush valves would be installed, on average, every 5,000 feet along the pipeline. Pipeline cost estimates are based on the use of C-900 PVC pipe. Other pipe materials could be considered for more detailed development of attractive alternatives.

Pump station unit costs are based on experience with similar installations. The cost estimate for the pump stations include two pumps, station piping and valves, station electrical and instrumentation, minor site improvement, installation of a concrete pad, fence and building, and tools. The number of pump stations is based on calculations of pressure losses in the proposed pipeline for each alternative. Back-flow prevention is required in cases where pressure losses are negligible, and pump stations are not needed. Construction cost of a storage tank is based on consultations with vendors and 2008 RS Means Site Work & Landscape Cost Data.

Labor costs are estimated based on 2008 RS Means Site Work & Landscape Cost Data specific to the Bexar County region.

Electrical power cost is estimated to be \$0.165 per kWh, as supplied by Caprock Energy Co. The annual cost for power to a pump station is calculated based on the pumping head and volume, and includes 11,800 kWh for pump building heating, cooling, and lighting, as recommended in USEPA publication, *Standardized Costs for Water Supply Distribution Systems* (1992).

In addition to the cost of electricity, pump stations have other maintenance costs. These costs cover: materials for minor repairs to keep the pumps operating; purchase of a maintenance vehicle, fuel costs, and vehicle maintenance costs; utilities; office supplies, small tools and equipment; and miscellaneous materials such as safety, clothing, chemicals, and paint. The non-power O&M costs are estimated based on the USEPA publication, *Standardized Costs for Water Supply Distribution Systems* (1992), which provides cost curves for O&M components. Costs from the 1992 report are adjusted to 2008 dollars based on the ENR construction cost index.

Pipeline maintenance costs include routine cleaning and flushing, as well as minor repairs to lines. The unit rate for pipeline maintenance is calculated based on the USEPA technical report, *Innovative and Alternate Technology Assessment Manual MCD 53* (1978). Costs from the 1978 report are adjusted to 2008 dollars based on the ENR construction cost index.

Storage tank maintenance costs include cleaning and renewal of interior lining and exterior coating. Unit costs for storage tank O&M are based on USEPA publication *Standardized Costs for Water Supply Distribution Systems* (1992). Costs from the 1992 report are adjusted to 2008 dollars based on the ENR construction cost index.

The purchase price for point-of-use (POU) water treatment units is based on vendor price lists for treatment units, plus installation. O&M costs for POU treatment units are also based on vendor price lists. It is assumed that a yearly water sample would be analyzed for the contaminant of concern.

The purchase price for point-of-entry (POE) water treatment units is based on vendor price lists for treatment units, plus an allowance for installation, including a concrete pad and shed, piping modifications, and electrical connection. O&M costs for POE treatment units are also based on vendor price lists. It is assumed that a yearly water sample would be analyzed for the contaminant of concern.

Central treatment plant costs include pricing for buildings, utilities, and site work. Costs are based on pricing given in the various R.S. Means Construction Cost Data References, as well as prices obtained from similar work on other projects. Pricing for treatment equipment was obtained from vendors.

Well installation costs are based on 2008 RS Means Site Work & Landscape Cost Data. Well installation costs include drilling, a well pump, electrical and instrumentation installation, well finishing, piping, and water quality testing. O&M costs for water wells include power, materials, and labor. It is assumed that new wells located more than 1 mile from the intake point of an existing system would require a storage tank and pump station.

1 Purchase price for the treatment unit dispenser is based on vendor price lists, plus an
2 allowance for installation at a centralized public location. The O&M costs are also based on
3 vendor price lists. It is assumed that weekly water samples would be analyzed for the
4 contaminant of concern.

5 Costs for bottled water delivery alternatives are based on consultation with vendors that
6 deliver residential bottled water. The cost estimate includes an initial allowance for set-up of
7 the program, and a yearly allowance for program administration.

8 The cost estimate for a public dispenser for trucked water includes the purchase price for a
9 water truck and construction of a storage tank. Annual costs include labor for purchasing the
10 water, picking up and delivering the water, truck maintenance, and water sampling and testing.
11 It is assumed the water truck would be required to make one trip each week, and that chlorine
12 residual would be determined for each truck load.

13

Table B.1
Summary of General Data
Zavala County WCID 1
2540003
General PWS Information

Service Population	1,500	Number of Connections	580
Total PWS Daily Water Usage	0.35 (mgd)	Source	Site visit list

Unit Cost Data

General Items	Unit	Unit Cost	Central Treatment Unit Costs	Unit	Unit Cost
Treated water purchase cost	<i>See alternative</i>		General		
Water purchase cost (trucked)	\$/1,000 gals	\$ 2.24	Site preparation	acre	\$ 4,000
			Slab	CY	\$ 1,000
Contingency	20%	n/a	Building	SF	\$ 60
Engineering & Constr. Management	25%	n/a	Building electrical	SF	\$ 8.00
Procurement/admin (POU/POE)	20%	n/a	Building plumbing	SF	\$ 8.00
			Heating and ventilation	SF	\$ 7.00
Pipeline Unit Costs	Unit	Unit Cost	Fence	LF	\$ 15
PVC water line, Class 200, 08"	LF	\$ 27	Paving	SF	\$ 2.00
Bore and encasement, 12"	LF	\$ 240	General O&M		
Open cut and encasement, 12"	LF	\$ 130	Building power	kwh/yr	\$ 0.165
Gate valve and box, 08"	EA	\$ 785	Equipment power	kwh/yr	\$ 0.165
Air valve	EA	\$ 2,050	Labor, O&M	hr	\$ 40
Flush valve	EA	\$ 1,025	Analyses	test	\$ 200
Metal detectable tape	LF	\$ 2.00			
			Reject Pond		
Bore and encasement, length	Feet	200	Reject pond, excavation	CYD	\$ 3
Open cut and encasement, length	Feet	50	Reject pond, compacted fill	CYD	\$ 7
			Reject pond, lining	SF	\$ 1.50
Pump Station Unit Costs	Unit	Unit Cost	Reject pond, vegetation	SY	\$ 1.50
Pump	EA	\$ 8,000	Reject pond, access road	LF	\$ 30
Pump Station Piping, 08"	EA	\$ 1,315	Reject water haulage truck	EA	\$ 100,000
Gate valve, 08"	EA	\$ 785			
Check valve, 08"	EA	\$ 1,470	Reverse Osmosis		
Electrical/Instrumentation	EA	\$ 10,250	Electrical	JOB	\$ 80,000
Site work	EA	\$ 2,560	Piping	JOB	\$ 40,000
Building pad	EA	\$ 5,125	RO package plant	UNIT	\$ 975,000
Pump Building	EA	\$ 10,250	Transfer pumps (10 hp)	EA	\$ 10,000
Fence	EA	\$ 6,150	Permeate tank	gal	\$ 3
Tools	EA	\$ 1,025	RO materials and chemicals	kgal	\$ 0.75
10,000 gal feed tank	EA	\$ 15,000	RO chemicals	year	\$ 2,000
Backflow preventer, 8"	EA	\$ 6,075	Backwash disposal mileage cost	miles	\$ 1.50
Backflow Testing/Certification	EA	\$ 105	Backwash disposal fee	1,000 gal/yr	\$ 5.00
Well Installation Unit Costs	Unit	Unit Cost	WRT Z-88 package		
Well installation	<i>See alternative</i>		Electrical	JOB	\$ 60,000
Water quality testing	EA	\$ 1,280	Piping	JOB	\$ 30,000
25 HP Well Pump	EA	\$ 7,550	WRT Z-88 package plant	UNIT	\$ 245,000
Well electrical/instrumentation	EA	\$ 5,635	(Initial setup cost for WRT Z-88 package)		
Well cover and base	EA	\$ 3,075			
Piping	EA	\$ 3,075	WRT treated water charge	1,000 gal/yr	\$ 3.00
5,000 gal feed tank	EA	\$ -			
100,000 gal ground storage tank	EA	\$ 100,000			
Electrical Power	\$/kWH	\$ 0.165			
Building Power	kWH	11,800			
Labor	\$/hr	\$ 60			
Materials	EA	\$ 1,540			
Transmission main O&M	\$/mile	\$ 275			
Tank O&M	EA	\$ 1,025			
POU/POE Unit Costs					
POU treatment unit purchase	EA	\$ 615			
POU treatment unit installation	EA	\$ 155			
POE treatment unit purchase	EA	\$ 5,125			
POE - pad and shed, per unit	EA	\$ 2,050			
POE - piping connection, per unit	EA	\$ 1,025			
POE - electrical hook-up, per unit	EA	\$ 1,025			
POU Treatment O&M, per unit	\$/year	\$ 230			
POE Treatment O&M, per unit	\$/year	\$ 1,540			
Treatment analysis	\$/year	\$ 205			
POU/POE labor support	\$/hr	\$ 40			
Dispenser/Bottled Water Unit Costs					
POE-Treatment unit purchase	EA	\$ 7,175			
POE-Treatment unit installation	EA	\$ 5,125			
Treatment unit O&M	EA	\$ 2,050			
Administrative labor	hr	\$ 45			
Bottled water cost (inc. delivery)	gallon	\$ 1.60			
Water use, per capita per day	gpcd	1.0			
Bottled water program materials	EA	\$ 5,125			
20,000 gal ground storage tank	EA	\$ 25,000			
Site improvements	EA	\$ 3,075			
Potable water truck	EA	\$ 75,000			
Water analysis, per sample	EA	\$ 205			
Potable water truck O&M costs	\$/mile	\$ 3.00			

APPENDIX C
COMPLIANCE ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTUAL COST ESTIMATES

This appendix presents the conceptual cost estimates developed for the compliance alternatives. The conceptual cost estimates are given in Tables C.1 through C.12. The cost estimates are conceptual in nature (+50%/-30%), and are intended for making comparisons between compliance options and to provide a preliminary indication of possible water rate impacts. Consequently, these costs are pre-planning level and should not be viewed as final estimated costs for alternative implementation.

Table C.1

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *Purchase Water from Grass Valley*
Alternative Number *ZA-1*

Distance from Alternative to PWS (along pipe) 29.2 miles
Total PWS annual water usage 127,750 MG
Treated water purchase cost \$ 3.37 per 1,000 gals
Pump Stations needed w/ 1 feed tank each 4
On site storage tanks / pump sets needed 0

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Pipeline Construction</i>				
Number of Crossings, bore	7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Crossings, open cut	51	n/a	n/a	n/a
PVC water line, Class 200, 08"	154,228	LF	\$ 27	\$ 4,164,156
Bore and encasement, 12"	1,400	LF	\$ 240	\$ 336,000
Open cut and encasement, 12"	2,550	LF	\$ 130	\$ 331,500
Gate valve and box, 08"	31	EA	\$ 785	\$ 24,214
Air valve	34	EA	\$ 2,050	\$ 69,700
Flush valve	31	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ 31,617
Metal detectable tape	154,228	LF	\$ 2	\$ 308,456
Subtotal				\$ 5,265,643

Pump Station(s) Installation

Pump	8	EA	\$ 8,000	\$ 64,000
Pump Station Piping, 08"	4	EA	\$ 1,315	\$ 5,260
Gate valve, 08"	16	EA	\$ 785	\$ 12,560
Check valve, 08"	8	EA	\$ 1,470	\$ 11,760
Electrical/Instrumentation	4	EA	\$ 10,250	\$ 41,000
Site work	4	EA	\$ 2,560	\$ 10,240
Building pad	4	EA	\$ 5,125	\$ 20,500
Pump Building	4	EA	\$ 10,250	\$ 41,000
Fence	4	EA	\$ 6,150	\$ 24,600
Tools	4	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ 4,100
10,000 gal feed tank	4	EA	\$ 15,000	\$ 60,000
100,000 gal ground storage tank	-	EA	\$ 100,000	\$ -
Backflow Preventor	0	EA	\$ 6,075	\$ -
Subtotal				\$ 295,020

Subtotal of Component Costs **\$ 5,560,663**

Contingency 20% \$ 1,112,133
Design & Constr Management 25% \$ 1,390,166

TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS **\$ 8,062,961**

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Pipeline O&M</i>				
Pipeline O&M	29.2	mile	\$ 275	\$ 8,033
Subtotal				\$ 8,033
<i>Water Purchase Cost</i>				
From PWS	127,750	1,000 gal	\$ 3.37	\$ 430,518
Subtotal				\$ 430,518

Pump Station(s) O&M

Building Power	47,200	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 7,788
Pump Power	1,239,320	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 204,488
Materials	4	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ 6,160
Labor	1,460	Hrs	\$ 60.00	\$ 87,600
Tank O&M	-	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ -
Backflow Test/Cert	0	EA	\$ 105	\$ -
Subtotal				\$ 306,036

O&M Credit for Existing Well Closure

Pump power	619,110	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ (102,153)
Well O&M matl	2	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ (3,080)
Well O&M labor	360	Hrs	\$ 60	\$ (21,600)
Subtotal				\$ (126,833)

TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS **\$ 617,753**

Table C.2

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *New Well at Crystal City*
Alternative Number *ZA-2*

Distance from PWS to new well location 17.6 miles
Estimated well depth 1070 feet
Number of wells required 2
Well installation cost (location specific) \$158 per foot
Pump Stations needed w/ 1 feed tank each 4
On site storage tanks / pump sets needed 0

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Pipeline Construction</i>				
Number of Crossings, bore	5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Crossings, open cut	23	n/a	n/a	n/a
PVC water line, Class 200, 08"	93,054	LF	\$ 27	\$ 2,512,458
Bore and encasement, 12"	1,000	LF	\$ 240	\$ 240,000
Open cut and encasement, 12"	1,150	LF	\$ 130	\$ 149,500
Gate valve and box, 08"	19	EA	\$ 785	\$ 14,609
Air valve	26	EA	\$ 2,050	\$ 53,300
Flush valve	19	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ 19,076
Metal detectable tape	93,054	LF	\$ 2	\$ 186,108
Subtotal				\$ 3,175,052
<i>Pump Station(s) Installation</i>				
Pump	8	EA	\$ 8,000	\$ 64,000
Pump Station Piping, 08"	4	EA	\$ 1,315	\$ 5,260
Gate valve, 08"	16	EA	\$ 785	\$ 12,560
Check valve, 08"	8	EA	\$ 1,470	\$ 11,760
Electrical/Instrumentation	4	EA	\$ 10,250	\$ 41,000
Site work	4	EA	\$ 2,560	\$ 10,240
Building pad	4	EA	\$ 5,125	\$ 20,500
Pump Building	4	EA	\$ 10,250	\$ 41,000
Fence	4	EA	\$ 6,150	\$ 24,600
Tools	4	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ 4,100
10,000 gal feed tank	4	EA	\$ 15,000	\$ 60,000
100,000 gal ground storage tank	-	EA	\$ 100,000	\$ -
Backflow Preventor	0	EA	\$ 6,075	\$ -
Subtotal				\$ 295,020
<i>Well Installation</i>				
Well installation	2,140	LF	\$ 158	\$ 338,120
Water quality testing	4	EA	\$ 1,280	\$ 5,120
Well pump	2	EA	\$ 7,550	\$ 15,100
Well electrical/instrumentation	2	EA	\$ 5,635	\$ 11,270
Well cover and base	2	EA	\$ 3,075	\$ 6,150
Piping	2	EA	\$ 3,075	\$ 6,150
Subtotal				\$ 381,910

Subtotal of Component Costs **\$ 3,851,982**

Contingency 20% \$ 770,396
Design & Constr Management 25% \$ 962,995

TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS **\$ 5,585,373**

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Pipeline O&M</i>				
Pipeline O&M	17.6	mile	\$ 275	\$ 4,847
Subtotal				\$ 4,847
<i>Pump Station(s) O&M</i>				
Building Power	47,200	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 7,788
Pump Power	1,007,029	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 166,160
Materials	4	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ 6,160
Labor	1,460	Hrs	\$ 60.00	\$ 87,600
Tank O&M	-	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ -
Backflow Cert/Test	0	EA	\$ 105	\$ -
Subtotal				\$ 267,708
<i>Well O&M</i>				
Pump power	1,009,830	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 166,622
Well O&M matl	2	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ 3,080
Well O&M labor	360	Hrs	\$ 60	\$ 21,600
Subtotal				\$ 191,302

O&M Credit for Existing Well Closure

Pump power	619,110	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ (102,153)
Well O&M matl	2	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ (3,080)
Well O&M labor	360	Hrs	\$ 60	\$ (21,600)
Subtotal				\$ (126,833)

TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS **\$ 337,023**

Table C.3

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *New Well at 10 Miles*
Alternative Number *ZA-3*

Distance from PWS to new well location 10.0 miles
Estimated well depth 705 feet
Number of wells required 2
Well installation cost (location specific) \$158 per foot
Pump Stations needed w/ 1 feed tank each 2
On site storage tanks / pump sets needed 0

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Pipeline Construction</i>				
Number of Crossings, bore	3	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Crossings, open cut	16	n/a	n/a	n/a
PVC water line, Class 200, 08"	52,800	LF	\$ 27.00	\$ 1,425,600
Bore and encasement, 12"	600	LF	\$ 240.00	\$ 144,000
Open cut and encasement, 12"	800	LF	\$ 130.00	\$ 104,000
Gate valve and box, 08"	11	EA	\$ 785.00	\$ 8,290
Air valve	13	EA	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 26,650
Flush valve	11	EA	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 10,824
Metal detectable tape	52,800	LF	\$ 2.00	\$ 105,600
Subtotal				\$ 1,824,964

Pump Station(s) Installation

Pump	4	EA	\$ 8,000	\$ 32,000
Pump Station Piping, 08"	2	EA	\$ 1,315	\$ 2,630
Gate valve, 08"	8	EA	\$ 785	\$ 6,280
Check valve, 08"	4	EA	\$ 1,470	\$ 5,880
Electrical/Instrumentation	2	EA	\$ 10,250	\$ 20,500
Site work	2	EA	\$ 2,560	\$ 5,120
Building pad	2	EA	\$ 5,125	\$ 10,250
Pump Building	2	EA	\$ 10,250	\$ 20,500
Fence	2	EA	\$ 6,150	\$ 12,300
Tools	2	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ 2,050
10,000 gal feed tank	2	EA	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
100,000 gal ground storage tank	-	EA	\$ 100,000	\$ -
Subtotal				\$ 147,510

Well Installation

Well installation	1,410	LF	\$ 158	\$ 222,780
Water quality testing	4	EA	\$ 1,280	\$ 5,120
Well pump	2	EA	\$ 7,550	\$ 15,100
Well electrical/instrumentation	2	EA	\$ 5,635	\$ 11,270
Well cover and base	2	EA	\$ 3,075	\$ 6,150
Piping	2	EA	\$ 3,075	\$ 6,150
Subtotal				\$ 266,570

Subtotal of Component Costs **\$ 2,239,044**

Contingency 20% \$ 447,809
Design & Constr Management 25% \$ 559,761

TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS **\$ 3,246,613**

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Pipeline O&M</i>				
Pipeline O&M	10.0	mile	\$ 275	\$ 2,750
Subtotal				\$ 2,750

Pump Station(s) O&M

Building Power	23,600	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 3,894
Pump Power	479,644	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 79,141
Materials	2	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ 3,080
Labor	730	Hrs	\$ 60.00	\$ 43,800
Tank O&M	-	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ -
Subtotal				\$ 129,915

Well O&M

Pump power	665,355	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 109,784
Well O&M matl	2	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ 3,080
Well O&M labor	360	Hrs	\$ 60	\$ 21,600
Subtotal				\$ 134,464

O&M Credit for Existing Well Closure

Pump power	619,110	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ (102,153)
Well O&M matl	2	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ (3,080)
Well O&M labor	360	Hrs	\$ 60	\$ (21,600)
Subtotal				\$ (126,833)

TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS **\$ 140,296**

Table C.4

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *New Well at 5 Miles*
Alternative Number *ZA-4*

Distance from PWS to new well location 5.0 miles
Estimated well depth 705 feet
Number of wells required 2
Well installation cost (location specific) \$158 per foot
Pump Stations needed w/ 1 feed tank each 1
On site storage tanks / pump sets needed 0

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Pipeline Construction</i>				
Number of Crossings, bore	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of Crossings, open cut	8	n/a	n/a	n/a
PVC water line, Class 200, 08"	26,400	LF	\$ 27	\$ 712,800
Bore and encasement, 12"	200	LF	\$ 240	\$ 48,000
Open cut and encasement, 12"	400	LF	\$ 130	\$ 52,000
Gate valve and box, 08"	5	EA	\$ 785	\$ 4,145
Air valve	6	EA	\$ 2,050	\$ 12,300
Flush valve	5	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ 5,412
Metal detectable tape	26,400	LF	\$ 2	\$ 52,800
Subtotal				\$ 887,457
<i>Pump Station(s) Installation</i>				
Pump	2	EA	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
Pump Station Piping, 08"	1	EA	\$ 1,315	\$ 1,315
Gate valve, 08"	4	EA	\$ 785	\$ 3,140
Check valve, 08"	2	EA	\$ 1,470	\$ 2,940
Electrical/Instrumentation	1	EA	\$ 10,250	\$ 10,250
Site work	1	EA	\$ 2,560	\$ 2,560
Building pad	1	EA	\$ 5,125	\$ 5,125
Pump Building	1	EA	\$ 10,250	\$ 10,250
Fence	1	EA	\$ 6,150	\$ 6,150
Tools	1	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ 1,025
10,000 gal feed tank	1	EA	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
100,000 gal ground storage tank	-	EA	\$ 100,000	\$ -
Subtotal				\$ 73,755
<i>Well Installation</i>				
Well installation	1,410	LF	\$ 158	\$ 222,780
Water quality testing	4	EA	\$ 1,280	\$ 5,120
Well pump	2	EA	\$ 7,550	\$ 15,100
Well electrical/instrumentation	2	EA	\$ 5,635	\$ 11,270
Well cover and base	2	EA	\$ 3,075	\$ 6,150
Piping	2	EA	\$ 3,075	\$ 6,150
Subtotal				\$ 266,570

Subtotal of Component Costs **\$ 1,227,782**

Contingency 20% \$ 245,556
Design & Constr Management 25% \$ 306,945

TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS **\$ 1,780,284**

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Pipeline O&M</i>				
Pipeline O&M	5.0 mile		\$ 275	\$ 1,375
Subtotal				\$ 1,375
<i>Pump Station(s) O&M</i>				
Building Power	11,800	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 1,947
Pump Power	239,822	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 39,571
Materials	1	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ 1,540
Labor	365	Hrs	\$ 60.00	\$ 21,900
Tank O&M	-	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ -
Subtotal				\$ 64,958
<i>Well O&M</i>				
Pump power	665,355	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ 109,784
Well O&M matl	2	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ 3,080
Well O&M labor	360	Hrs	\$ 60	\$ 21,600
Subtotal				\$ 134,464
<i>O&M Credit for Existing Well Closure</i>				
Pump power	619,110	kWH	\$ 0.165	\$ (102,153)
Well O&M matl	2	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ (3,080)
Well O&M labor	360	Hrs	\$ 60	\$ (21,600)
Subtotal				\$ (126,833)

TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS **\$ 73,963**

PWS Name	<i>Zavala County WCID 1</i>
Alternative Name	<i>New Well at 1 Mile</i>
Alternative Number	<i>ZA-5</i>

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS	\$ 7,905
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Table C.6

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *Central Treatment - Reverse Osmosis*
Alternative Number *ZA-6*

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Reverse Osmosis Unit Purchase/Installation</i>				
Site preparation	1.80	acre	\$ 4,000	\$ 7,200
Slab	83	CY	\$ 1,000	\$ 82,500
Building	2,200	SF	\$ 60	\$ 132,000
Building electrical	2,200	SF	\$ 8	\$ 17,600
Building plumbing	2,200	SF	\$ 8	\$ 17,600
Heating and ventilation	2,200	SF	\$ 7	\$ 15,400
Fence	900	LF	\$ 15	\$ 13,500
Paving	6,000	SF	\$ 2	\$ 12,000
Electrical	1	JOB	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Piping	1	JOB	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Reverse osmosis package including:				
High pressure pumps - 20 hp				
Cartridge filters and vessels				
RO membranes and vessels				
Control system				
Chemical feed systems				
Freight cost				
Vendor start-up services	1	UNIT	\$ 975,000	\$ 975,000
Transfer pumps	4	EA	\$ 10,000	\$ 40,000
Permeate tank	5,000	gal	\$ 3.00	\$ 15,000
Feed Tank	15,000	gal	\$ 3.00	\$ 45,000
Brine Pipeline to Sewer	1	EA	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Subtotal of Design/Construction Costs				\$ 1,527,800
Contingency	20%		\$	305,560
Design & Constr Management	25%		\$	381,950
TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS				\$ 2,215,310

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Reverse Osmosis Unit O&M</i>				
Building Power	20,000	kwh/yr	\$ 0.165	\$ 3,300
Equipment power	465,000	kwh/yr	\$ 0.165	\$ 76,725
Labor	2,500	hrs/yr	\$ 40.00	\$ 100,000
RO materials and Chemicals	127,700	kgal	\$ 0.75	\$ 95,775
Analyses	24	test	\$ 200	\$ 4,800
Subtotal				\$ 280,600
<i>Reject (brine) disposal</i>				
Reject (brine) disposal fee	42,574	kgal/yr	\$ 5.00	\$ 212,868
Subtotal				\$ 212,868

TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS**\$ 493,468**

Table C.7

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *Central Treatment - WRT Z-88*
Alternative Number *ZA-7*

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Coagulation/Filtration Unit Purchase/Installation</i>				
Site preparation	0.80	acre	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,200
Slab	52	CY	\$ 1,000	\$ 52,000
Building	1,200	SF	\$ 60	\$ 72,000
Building electrical	1,200	SF	\$ 8	\$ 9,600
Building plumbing	1,200	SF	\$ 8	\$ 9,600
Heating and ventilation	1,200	SF	\$ 7	\$ 8,400
Fence	1,000	LF	\$ 15	\$ 15,000
Paving	3,000	SF	\$ 2	\$ 6,000
Electrical	1	JOB	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Piping	1	JOB	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000

WRT Z-88 package including:

Z-88 vessels				
Adsorption media	1	UNIT	\$ 245,000	\$ 245,000
<i>(Initial Setup Cost for WRT Z-88 package plant)</i>				

Subtotal of Component Costs **\$ 510,800**

Contingency	20%	\$ 102,160
Design & Constr Management	25%	\$ 127,700

TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS **\$ 740,660**

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Coagulation/Filtration Unit O&M</i>				
Building Power	8,000	kwh/yr	\$ 0.165	\$ 1,320
Equipment power	92,300	kwh/yr	\$ 0.165	\$ 15,230
Labor	1,200	hrs/yr	\$ 40.00	\$ 48,000
Analyses	36	test	\$ 200	\$ 7,200
WRT treated water charge	128,000	kgal/yr	\$ 3.00	\$ 384,000
Subtotal				\$ 455,750

TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS **\$ 455,750**

Table C.8

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *Point-of-Use Treatment*
Alternative Number *ZA-8*

Number of Connections for POU Unit Installation 580 connections

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>POU-Treatment - Purchase/Installation</i>				
POU treatment unit purchase	580	EA	\$ 615	\$ 356,700
POU treatment unit installation	580	EA	\$ 155	\$ 89,900
Subtotal				\$ 446,600
Subtotal of Component Costs				\$ 446,600
Contingency	20%		\$	89,320
Design & Constr Management	25%		\$	111,650
Procurement & Administration	20%		\$	89,320
TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS				\$ 736,890

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>O&M</i>				
POU materials, per unit	580	EA	\$ 230	\$ 133,400
Contaminant analysis, 1/yr per unit	580	EA	\$ 205	\$ 118,900
Program labor, 10 hrs/unit	5,800	hrs	\$ 40	\$ 232,000
Subtotal				\$ 484,300
TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS				\$ 484,300

Table C.9

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *Point-of-Entry Treatment*
Alternative Number *ZA-9*

Number of Connections for POE Unit Installation 580 connections

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>POE-Treatment - Purchase/Installat</i>				
POE treatment unit purchase	580	EA	\$ 5,125	\$ 2,972,500
Pad and shed, per unit	580	EA	\$ 2,050	\$ 1,189,000
Piping connection, per unit	580	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ 594,500
Electrical hook-up, per unit	580	EA	\$ 1,025	\$ 594,500
Subtotal				\$ 5,350,500

Subtotal of Component Costs \$ 5,350,500

Contingency	20%	\$ 1,070,100
Design & Constr Management	25%	\$ 1,337,625
Procurement & Administration	20%	\$ 1,070,100

TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS \$ 8,828,325

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>O&M</i>				
POE materials, per unit	580	EA	\$ 1,540	\$ 893,200
Contaminant analysis, 1/yr per unit	580	EA	\$ 205	\$ 118,900
Program labor, 10 hrs/unit	5,800	hrs	\$ 40	\$ 232,000
Subtotal				\$ 1,244,100

TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS \$ 1,244,100

Table C.10

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *Public Dispenser for Treated Drinking Water*
Alternative Number *ZA-10*

Number of Treatment Units Recommended 3

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Public Dispenser Unit Installation</i>				
POE-Treatment unit(s)	3	EA	\$ 7,175	\$ 21,525
Unit installation costs	3	EA	\$ 5,125	\$ 15,375
Subtotal				\$ 36,900
Subtotal of Component Costs				\$ 36,900
Contingency	20%		\$	7,380
Design & Constr Management	25%		\$	9,225
TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS				53,505

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Program Operation</i>				
Treatment unit O&M, 1 per unit	3	EA	\$ 2,050	\$ 6,150
Contaminant analysis, 1/wk per u	156	EA	\$ 205	\$ 31,980
Sampling/reporting, 1 hr/day	1,095	HRS	\$ 60	\$ 65,700
Subtotal				\$ 103,830
TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS				\$ 103,830

Table C.11

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *Supply Bottled Water to 100% of Population*
Alternative Number *ZA-11*

Service Population 1,500
Percentage of population requiring supply 100%
Water consumption per person 1.00 gpcd
Calculated annual potable water needs 547,500 gallons

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Program Implementation</i>				
Initial program set-up	500	hours	\$ 45	\$ 22,500
Subtotal				\$ 22,500

Subtotal of Component Costs **\$ 22,500**

Contingency 20% \$ 4,500

TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS **\$ 27,000**

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Program Operation</i>				
Water purchase costs	547,500	gals	\$ 1.60	\$ 876,000
Program admin, 9 hrs/wk	468	hours	\$ 45	\$ 21,060
Program materials	1	EA	\$ 5,125	\$ 5,125
Subtotal				\$ 902,185

TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS **\$ 902,185**

Table C.12

PWS Name *Zavala County WCID 1*
Alternative Name *Central Trucked Drinking Water*
Alternative Number *ZA-12*

Service Population 1,500
Percentage of population requiring supply 100%
Water consumption per person 1.00 gpcd
Calculated annual potable water needs 547,500 gallons
Travel distance to compliant water source 14 miles

Capital Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Storage Tank Installation</i>				
20,000 gal ground storage tank	1	EA	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Site improvements	1	EA	\$ 3,075	\$ 3,075
Potable water truck	1	EA	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Subtotal				\$ 103,075
Subtotal of Component Costs				\$ 103,075
Contingency	20%		\$	20,615
Design & Constr Management	25%		\$	25,769
TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS			\$	149,459

Annual Operations and Maintenance Costs

Cost Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>Program Operation</i>				
Water delivery labor, 4 hrs/wk	208	hrs	\$ 60	\$ 12,480
Truck operation, 1 round trip/wk	1,456	miles	\$ 3.00	\$ 4,368
Water purchase	548	1,000 gals	\$ 2.24	\$ 1,226
Water testing, 1 test/wk	52	EA	\$ 205	\$ 10,660
Sampling/reporting, 2 hrs/wk	104	hrs	\$ 60	\$ 6,240
Subtotal				\$ 34,974
TOTAL ANNUAL O&M COSTS				\$ 34,974

1
2
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APPENDIX D EXAMPLE FINANCIAL MODEL

Appendix D
General Inputs

Zavala County WCID

Number of Alternatives

12

Selected from Results Sheet

Input Fields are Indicated by:

General Inputs		
Implementation Year	2009	
Months of Working Capital	0	
Depreciation	\$ -	
Percent of Depreciation for Replacement Fund	0%	
Allow Negative Cash Balance (yes or no)	No	
Median Household Income	\$ 19,625	Zavala County WCID
Median HH Income -- Texas	\$ 39,927	
Grant Funded Percentage	0%	Selected from Results
Capital Funded from Revenues	\$ -	
	Base Year	2007
	Growth/Escalation	
Accounts & Consumption		
Metered Residential Accounts		
Number of Accounts	0.0%	582
Number of Bills Per Year		12
Annual Billed Consumption		96,005,000
Consumption per Account Per Pay Period	0.0%	13,746
Consumption Allowance in Rates		-
Total Allowance		-
Net Consumption Billed		96,005,000
Percentage Collected		100.0%
Unmetered Residential Accounts		
Number of Accounts	0.0%	0
Number of Bills Per Year		12
Percentage Collected		100.0%
Metered Non-Residential Accounts		
Number of Accounts	0.0%	0
Number of Bills Per Year		12
Non-Residential Consumption		-
Consumption per Account	0.0%	-
Consumption Allowance in Rates		-
Total Allowance		-
Net Consumption Billed		-
Percentage Collected		0.0%
Unmetered Non-Residential Accounts		
Number of Accounts	0.0%	0
Number of Bills Per Year		12
Percentage Collected		100.0%
Water Purchase & Production		
Water Purchased (gallons)	0.0%	-
Average Cost Per Unit Purchased	0.0%	\$ -
Bulk Water Purchases	0.0%	\$ -
Water Production	0.0%	96,005,000
Unaccounted for Water		-
Percentage Unaccounted for Water		0.0%

Appendix D
General Inputs

Zavala County WCID

Number of Alternatives

12

Selected from Results Sheet

Input Fields are Indicated by:

Residential Rate Structure	Allowance within Tier	
Estimated Average Water Rate (\$/1000gallons)	-	\$ 2.61
Non-Residential Rate Structure		
Estimated Average Water Rate (\$/1000gallons)	-	\$ -
INITIAL YEAR EXPENDITURES	Inflation	Initial Year
Operating Expenditures:		
Salaries & Benefits	0.0%	-
Contract Labor	0.0%	-
Water Purchases	0.0%	-
Chemicals, Treatment	0.0%	-
Utilities	0.0%	-
Repairs, Maintenance, Supplies	0.0%	-
Repairs	0.0%	-
Maintenance	0.0%	-
Supplies	0.0%	-
Administrative Expenses	0.0%	-
Accounting and Legal Fees	0.0%	-
Insurance	0.0%	-
Automotive and Travel	0.0%	-
Professional and Directors Fees	0.0%	-
Bad Debts	0.0%	-
Garbage Pick-up	0.0%	-
Miscellaneous	0.0%	-
Other 3	0.0%	185,505
Other 4	0.0%	-
Incremental O&M for Alternative	0.0%	-
Total Operating Expenses		185,505
Non-Operating Income/Expenditures		
Interest Income	0.0%	-
Other Income	0.0%	-
Other Expense	0.0%	-
Transfers In (Out)	0.0%	-
Net Non-Operating		-
Existing Debt Service		
Bonds Payable, Less Current Maturities		\$ -
Bonds Payable, Current		\$ -
Interest Expense		\$ 993

Funding Source = Loan/Bond

		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Existing Debt Service	\$ -	-	-	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993
Principal Payments		-	(993)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest Payment	0.00%	993	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Debt Service			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Balance		-	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993	993
Term	25																															
Revenue Bonds		-	-	149,459	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forgiveness	0.00%	-	-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Balance		-	-	149,459	146,735	143,847	140,786	137,542	134,103	130,457	126,593	122,497	118,155	113,553	108,674	103,503	98,021	92,211	86,052	79,523	72,603	65,267	57,492	49,250	40,513	31,252	21,435	11,030	0	0	0	
Principal		-	-	2,724	2,888	3,061	3,245	3,439	3,646	3,864	4,096	4,342	4,602	4,879	5,171	5,482	5,810	6,159	6,529	6,920	7,336	7,776	8,242	8,737	9,261	9,817	10,406	11,030	-	-	-	
Interest	6.00%	-	-	8,968	8,804	8,631	8,447	8,253	8,046	7,827	7,596	7,350	7,089	6,813	6,520	6,210	5,881	5,533	5,163	4,771	4,356	3,916	3,450	2,955	2,431	1,875	1,286	0	0	0	0	
Total Debt Service		-	-	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,692	11,030	0	0	0	0	
New Balance		-	-	146,735	143,847	140,786	137,542	134,103	130,457	126,593	122,497	118,155	113,553	108,674	103,503	98,021	92,211	86,052	79,523	72,603	65,267	57,492	49,250	40,513	31,252	21,435	11,030	0	0	0	0	
Term	20																															
State Revolving Fund		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forgiveness	35.00%	-	-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Balance		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Principal		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	0.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Debt Service		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Balance		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Term	10																															
Bank/Interfund Loan		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forgiveness	0.00%	-	-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Balance		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Principal		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	8.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Debt Service		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Balance		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-																		

