

**Item 6a**

# **BSEACD, the City of Austin, and Local Groundwater Issues**

**Presentation to the  
City of Austin Environmental Board**

**April 15, 2015**

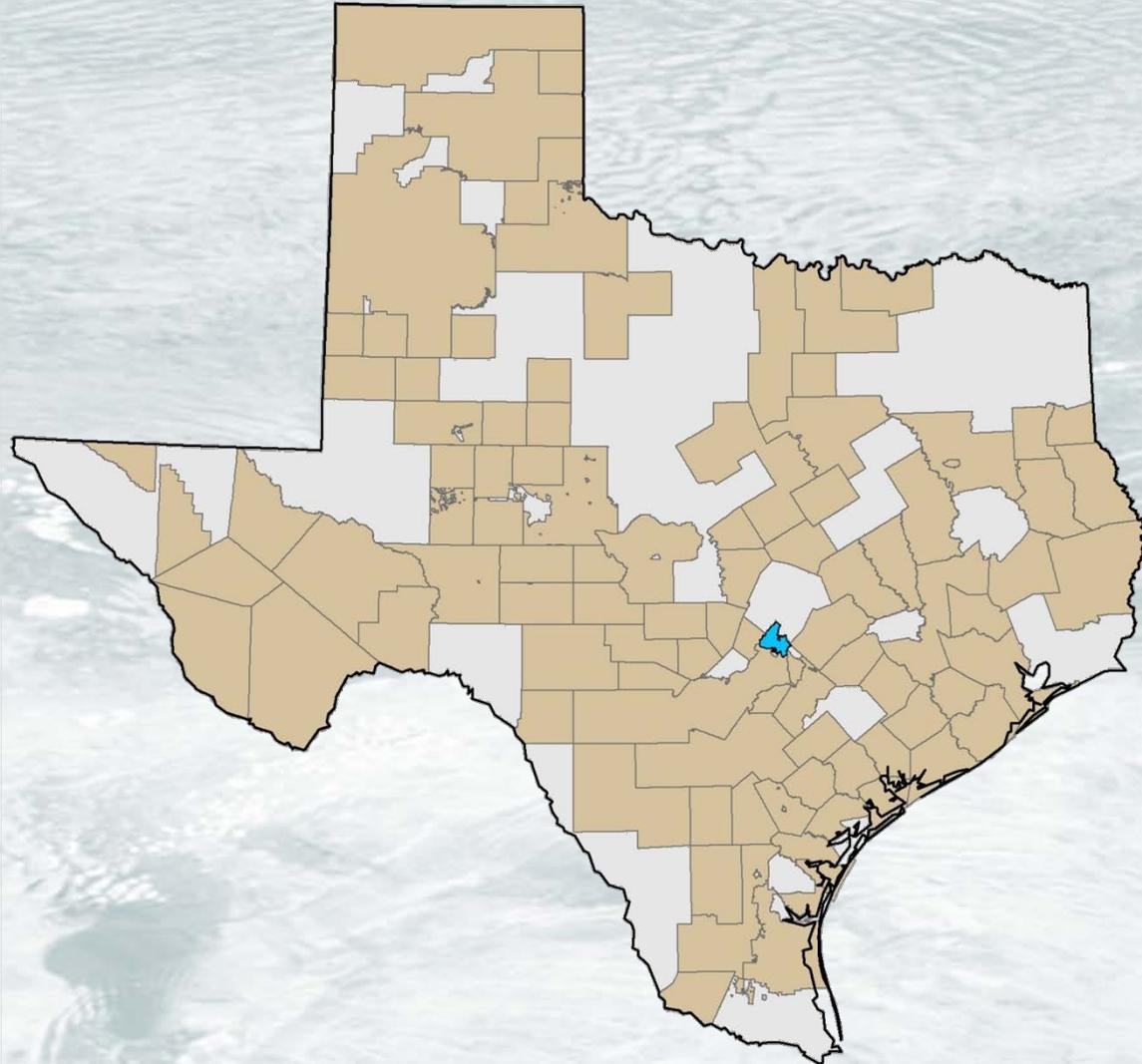
**John T. Dupnik, P.G.**  
*General Manager*



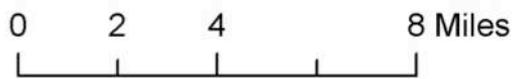
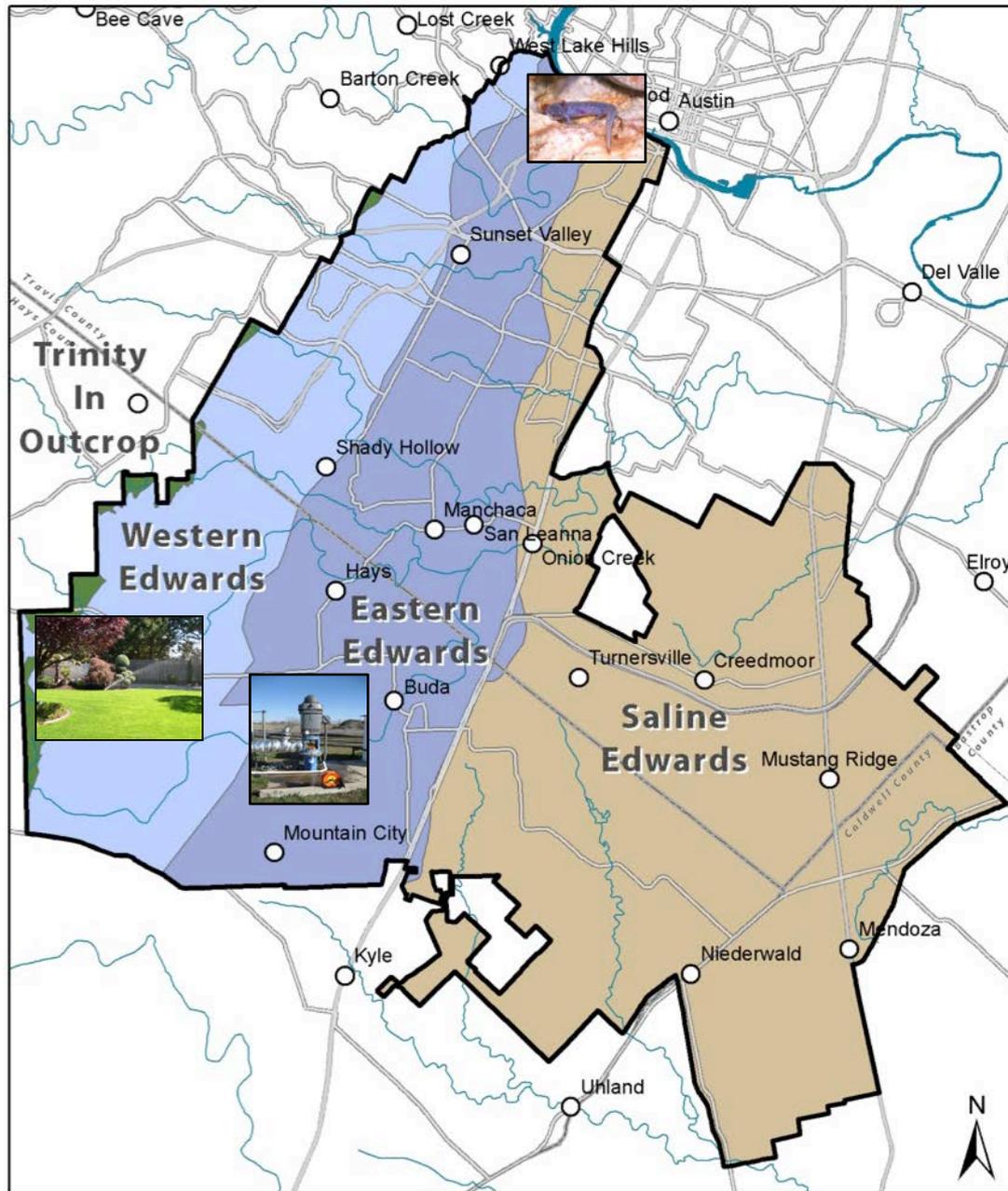
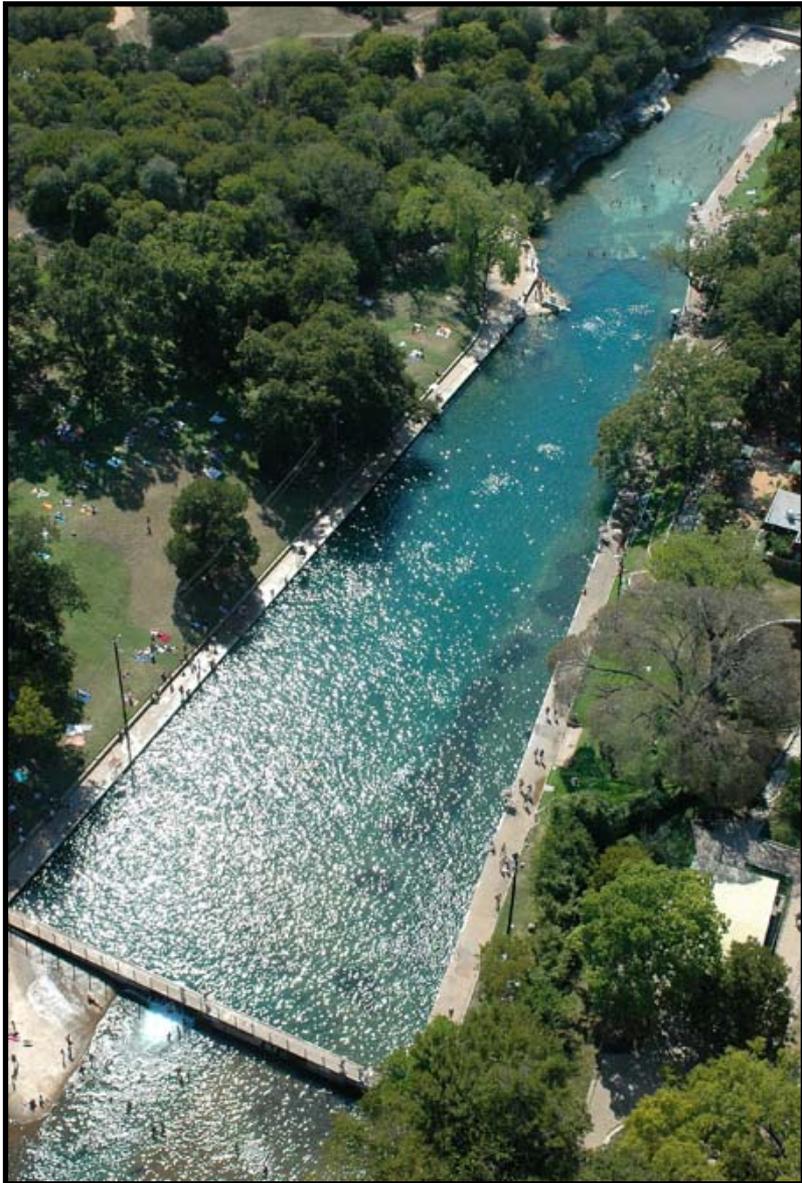
**BARTON SPRINGS  
EDWARDS AQUIFER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

# Groundwater Conservation Districts

- Decentralized Management – Local Control
- Purpose: Preserve, conserve, and protect groundwater
- 100 created to date
- Preferred method of groundwater management
- Authority (Ch. 36)
  - Register Wells/Permit Pumping
  - Well Spacing/Construction
  - Aquifer Studies

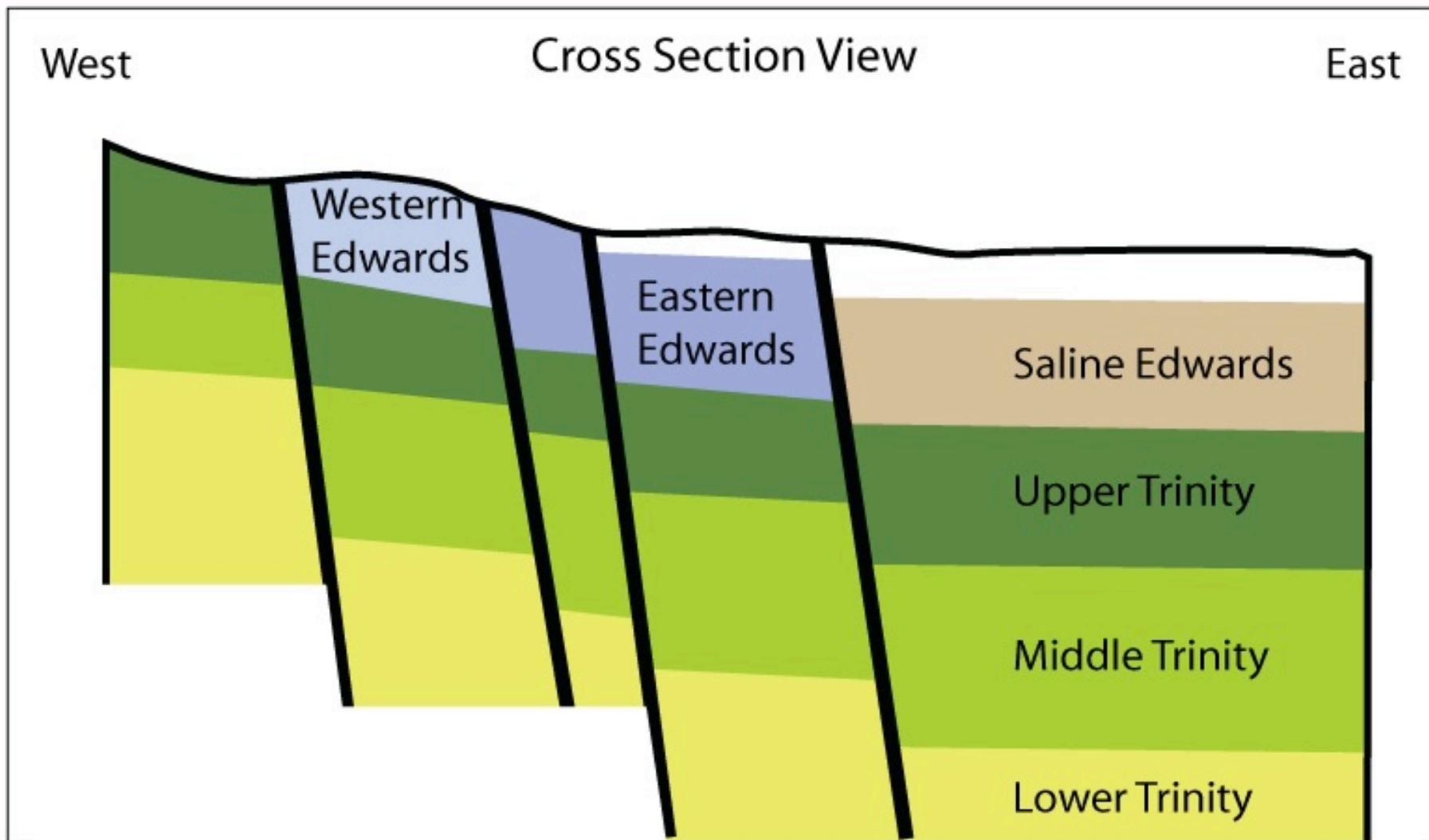


# The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District



 BSEACD Boundary

# BS/EACD Managed Aquifers



not to  
scale

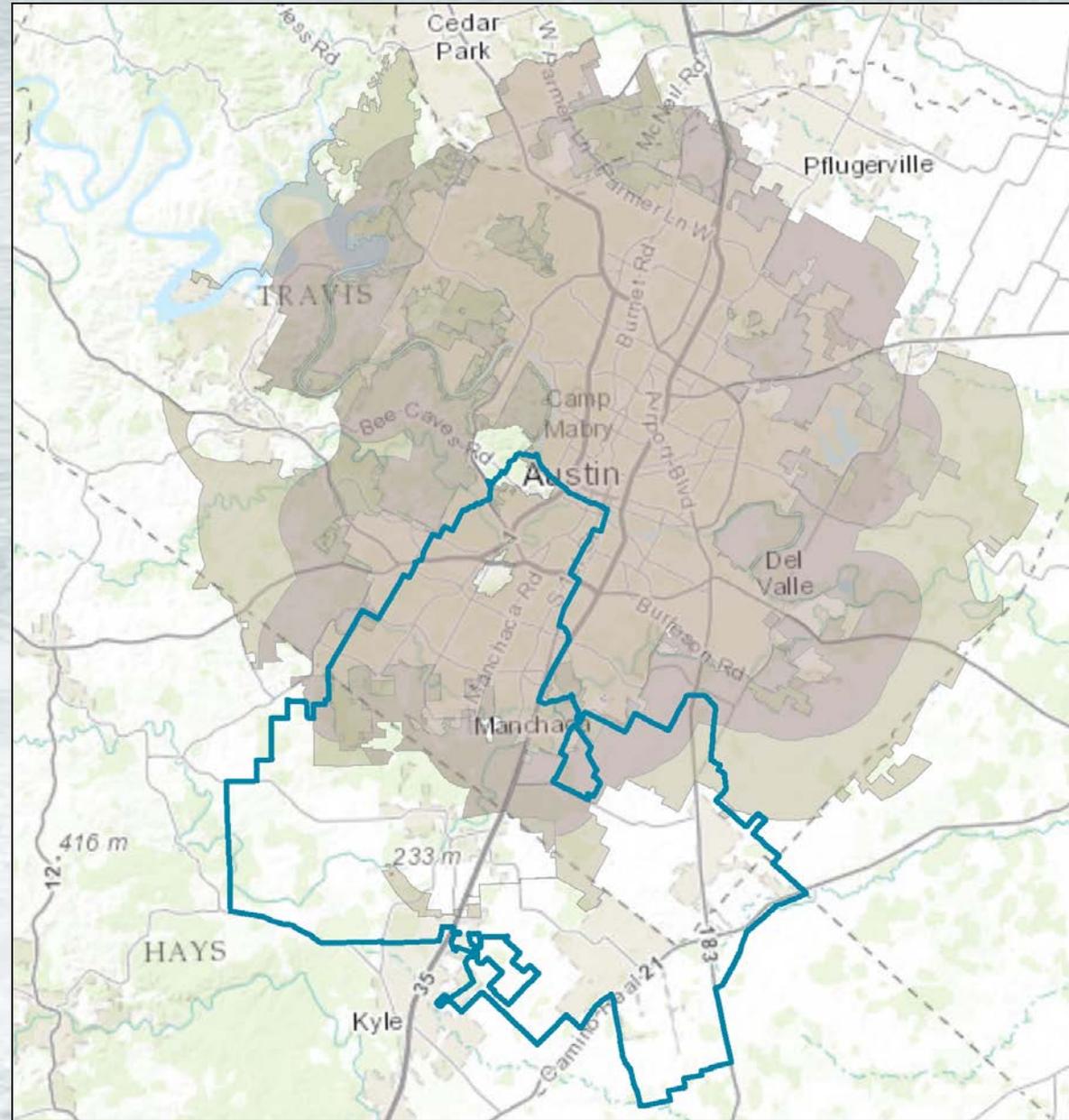
# The BS/EACD and the City of Austin

💧 The Edwards Aquifer requires coordinated management

💧 Austin Authority = Water Quality

💧 BSEACD Authority = Water Quantity

💧 Symbiotic relationship



# Effective Partnership

## BS/EACD

- 💧 No authority to regulate land use
- 💧 Water Quantity: Limit pumping to preserve springflows
- 💧 HCP = to preserve springflow
- 💧 Groundwater drought response coordination
- 💧 Well construction standards/plug abandoned wells
- 💧 Limited funding
- 💧 Provide GW expertise on EB

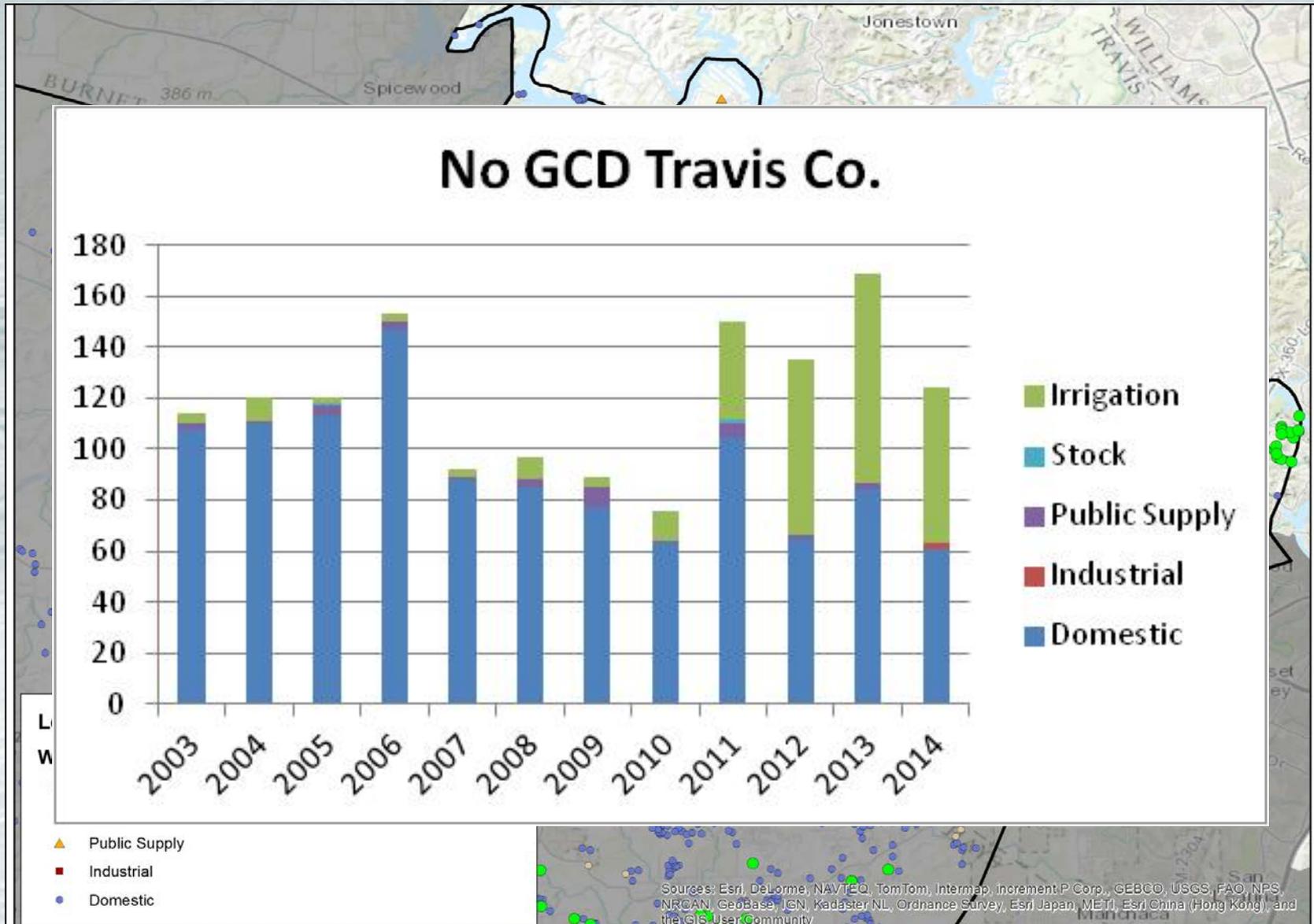
## City of Austin

- 💧 No authority to regulate pumping
- 💧 Water Quality: Progressive land use regulations
- 💧 HCP = to preserve habitat
- 💧 Active land conservation programs (WQPL/BCCP)
- 💧 Water Well Ordinance, Oct. 2012
- 💧 Provide funding (60% of fees)
- 💧 Reserve seat on EB

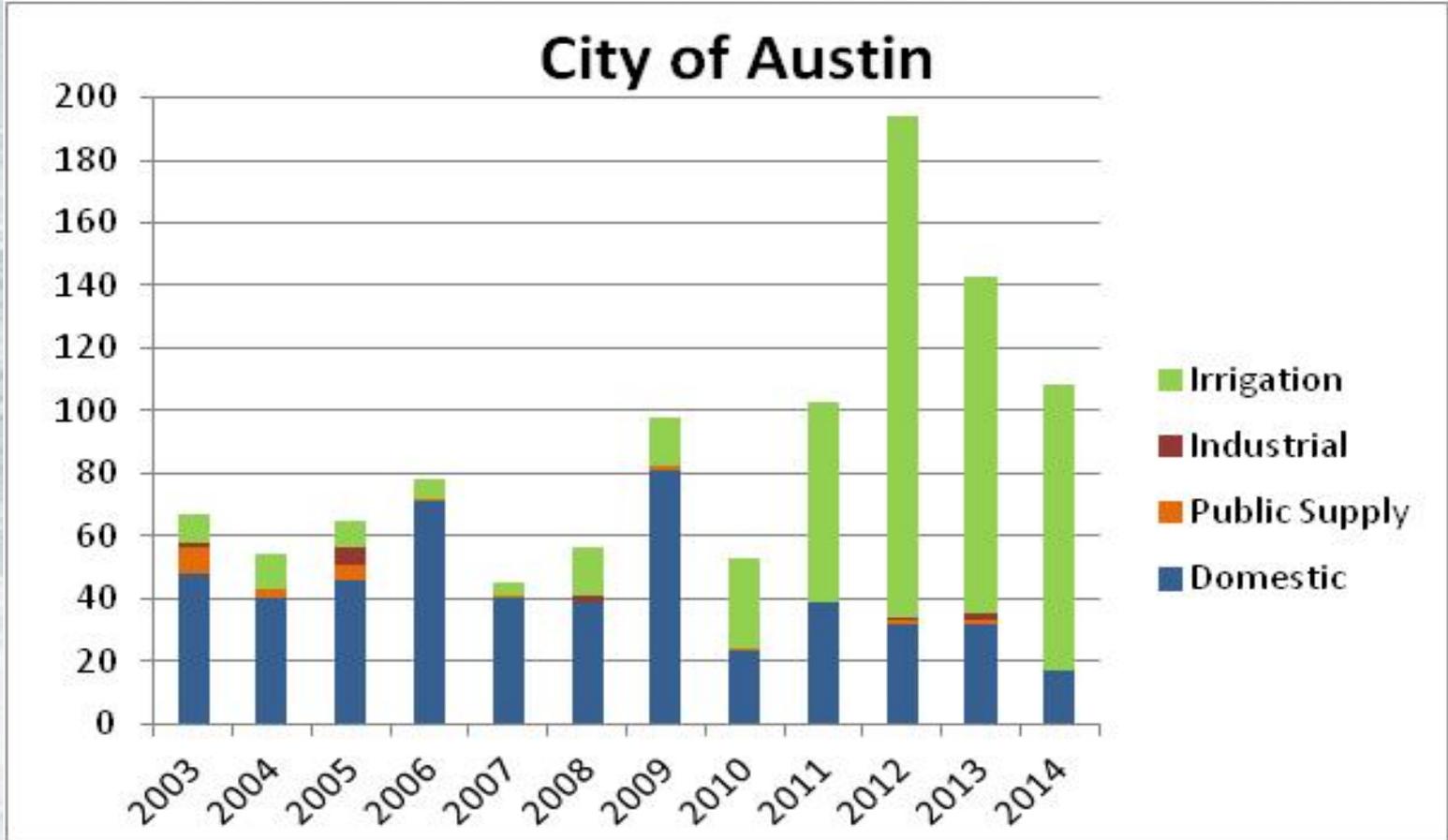
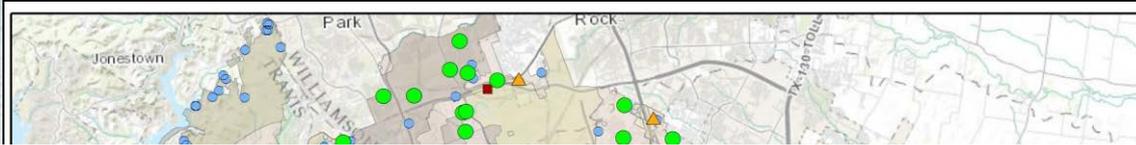
An aerial photograph of a large body of water, likely a lake or a wide river. The water is a light blue-green color and shows several distinct circular ripples or patterns on its surface, suggesting a boat or a large object moving through the water. The text "Regional Groundwater Issues" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# **Regional Groundwater Issues**

# Well Drilling Activity – SW Travis County



# Well Drilling Activity - City of Austin



# Unregulated Trinity

Trinity Aquifer well field in Central Hays County

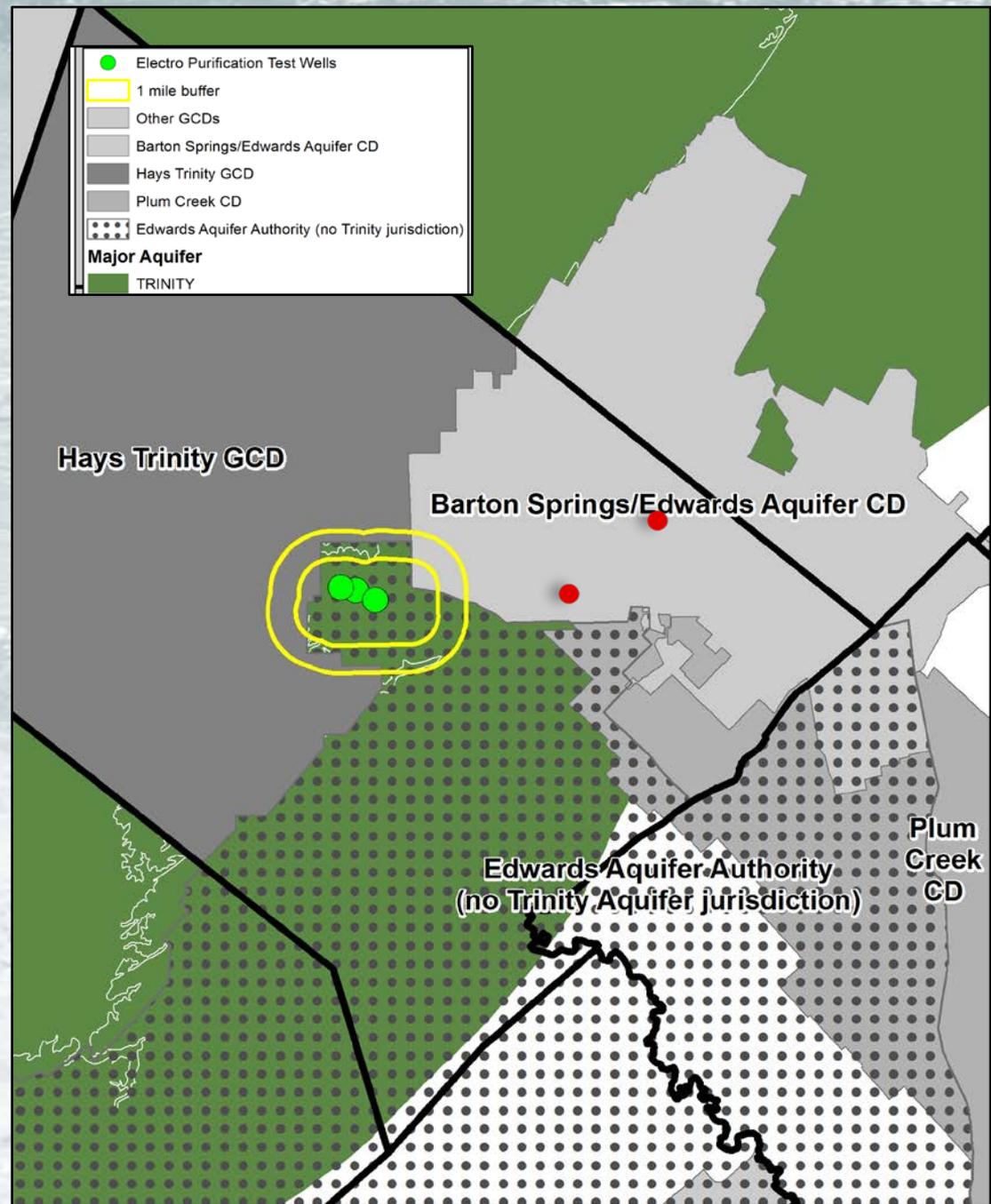
5.3 MGD of wholesale water contracts with communities ~10 miles to east

1. Goforth SUD (3.0 MGD)
2. Anthem (1.3 MGD)
3. City of Buda (1.0 MGD)

2x available “White Space” MAG

Surrounded by 3 GCDs

Very controversial



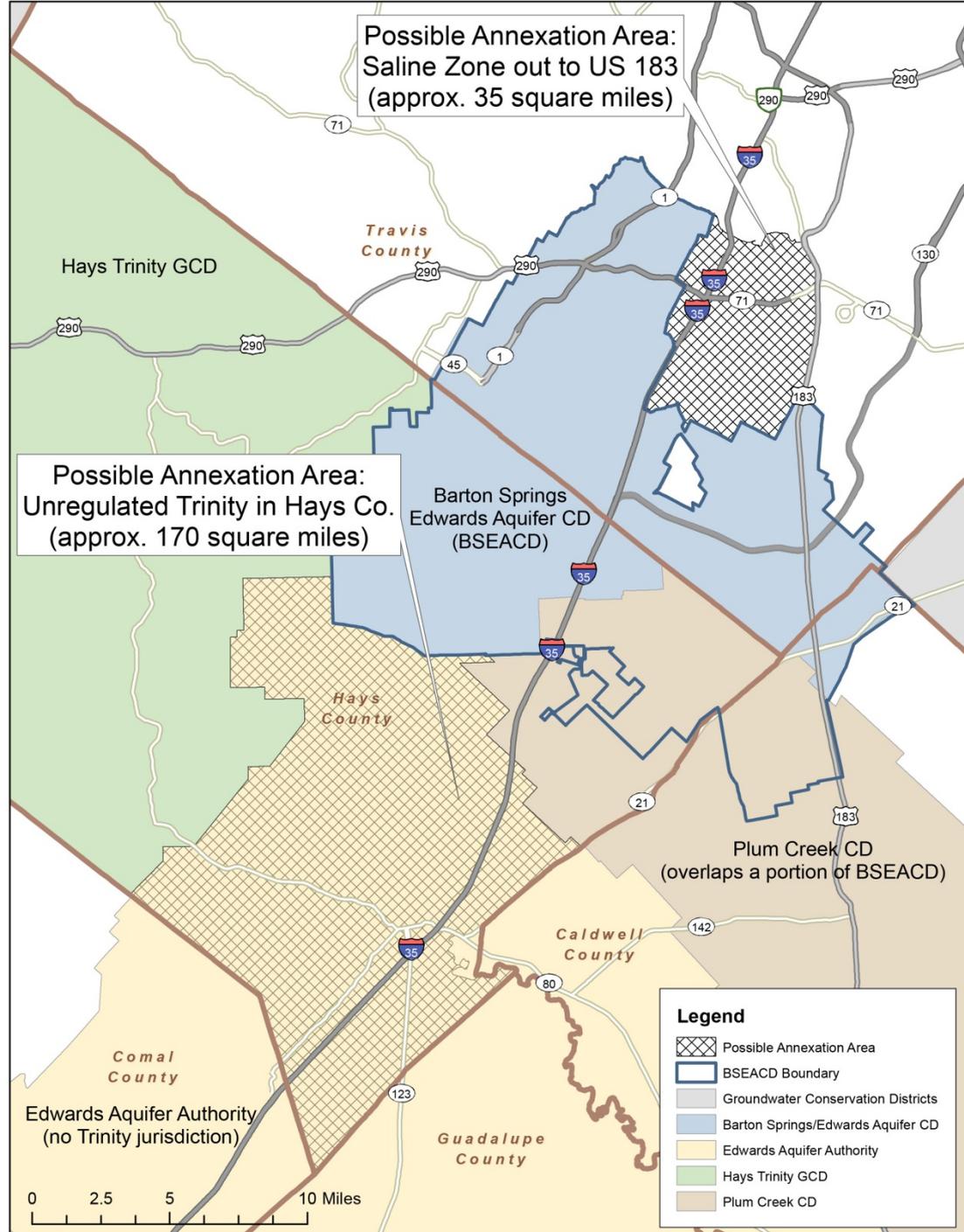
# Proposed Annexation

## HB 3405/SB1440:

- Annex unregulated Trinity
- Clarify authority over Trinity Aquifer
- Clarify shared territory authority

## Possible amendments:

- Expand Board (5 to 7)
- Annex saline Edwards buffer
- Cap Austin fees (60%)





**Thanks for  
Listening!**