

#### **4.7 Region Summary**

The following observations are made regarding current and future water needs of the Brazos G region:

1. Water needs in the next 50 years are created, for the most part, by population growth, groundwater depletion, declining reservoir yields, and natural salt pollution of surface water.
2. High growth along I-35, particularly in Williamson and Johnson Counties, is creating water needs. Bell, McLennan, and Hill Counties, as well as counties just west of I-35, overlay the Trinity Aquifer and are experiencing rapid growth – thereby straining modest groundwater supplies.
3. Groundwater will continue to be a major water supply in much of the region and available supply has been allocated to meet demands – implicit in this is a management strategy to fully develop groundwater sources.
4. The Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer east of I-35 provides adequate long-term supply to the overlying counties; in many cases, new facilities are needed to use this supply.
5. Slower economic growth, and implementation of previous long-term planning, results in fewer long-term municipal needs in the upper Brazos G Region.
6. Many of the needs can be met with contractual changes, but may require new delivery facilities to move available supplies.
7. Water availability in a county does not mean that all local water utilities have adequate water - infrastructure and contract limitations create needs in some areas.
8. The biggest challenge to many communities is financing construction of delivery and treatment facilities, rather than securing new water sources.
9. Deregulation of electric generation is prompting construction of merchant power plants and water supplies must be found to meet these prospective significant water demands.
10. Agriculture irrigation demands are heavily influenced by government farm policy and long-term projections of agricultural water use have uncertain accuracy.
11. With farm economics and policy changes, Trinity Aquifer groundwater and Leon River surface water could become a limiting resource for renewed agricultural production.
12. Irrigation shortages are typical during dry years for areas using deficit irrigation practices, and little, if any, water management changes are indicated.
13. Demand/supply comparisons show where water is available, but water quality (TDS and chlorides) influences whether water is usable or economically treatable. Counties where this is of concern include Jones, Johnson, McLennan, Palo Pinto, Haskell, Hood, Young, and possibly others.

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