

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

BRAZOS G RWPG

Regional Policy on 'Conjunctive Use of Groundwater and Surface Water', Issue #6

Member Assignment: Terry Kelley

Background: Conjunctive Use is the systematic blending of groundwater with surface water sources to optimize the combined yield from both sources. Conjunctive use seeks to maximize the advantages and minimize the disadvantages of each source when both are blended together. The Senate Select Committee on Water Policy has published recommendations for conjunctive use by reaffirming state policy that endorses conjunctive use and promoting the effective use thereof. The Lower Colorado RWPG (Region K) and South Central Texas RWPG (Region L) both include conjunctive use strategies in their 2001 Regional Water Plans.

Analysis: Systematic use of both sources conjunctively can maximize the overall public benefit while limiting the negative impact associated with using a single source.

- Combining sources or blending surface water with groundwater conserves groundwater use pending peak time demands
- Blending a lower quality source with a higher quality source increases available water and can dilute the salinity of the single source
- Conjunctive use can offer a balance of optimum capacity, quality and economy

RECOMMENDATION: committee submittal to Brazos G Water Planning Group

- As conjunctive use projects are recognized, include them as management strategies for the regional water plan
- Explore resources and mechanisms by which to promote conjunctive use projects
- Encourage development of conceptual modeling for alternative conjunctive use projects, including aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) operations as needed