

APPENDIX D

**ESTIMATED REGIONAL GROUNDWATER DRAWDOWN FOR THE CARRIZO, CALVERT
BLUFF, AND SIMSBORO AQUIFERS**

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APPENDIX D

Two numerical groundwater models were developed by R. W. Harden & Associates, Inc. that model groundwater flow in the Three Oaks Mine area (Three Oaks Life-of-Mine [LOM] model) and the lower basin area of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Area (Region G model). These models differ in their design because each model was intended for a specific purpose. The Three Oaks LOM model was designed for modeling dewatering of the Calvert Bluff aquifer and depressurization of the underlying Simsboro aquifer during lignite coal mining by Alcoa in the Three Oaks Mine area. This model has six layers for the Calvert Bluff and one layer separating the Calvert Bluff and the Simsboro Formations to simulate the compact clay horizon between the lowest lignite zone in the Calvert Bluff and the Simsboro. The Region G model was designed solely to model water supply and water level changes in the Simsboro due to municipal pumpage in the Brazos G Water Planning Area. This model has only one layer for the Calvert Bluff. The Three Oaks LOM model is described in the Alcoa Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) Permit Application (Alcoa 2000 [Volume 4]) and in a report prepared for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Office of Surface Mining entitled: *Review of the Three Oaks Life-of-Mine Groundwater Flow Model for Groundwater Analyses in the Three Oaks Mine EIS* (ENSR and HydroGeo, Inc. 2002a). The Region G model is described in R. W. Harden & Associates, Inc. (2000). At the request of the USACE, the Region G model was modified by expanding the area in Bastrop County around and near the Colorado River to more accurately evaluate the cumulative effects to the Colorado River. The Modified Region G model is described in a report prepared for the USGS entitled: *Review of the Modified Region G Groundwater Flow Model for Groundwater Analyses in the Three Oaks Mine EIS* (ENSR and HydroGeo, Inc. 2002b).

The Three Oaks LOM and Modified Region G models were used for the Three Oaks Mine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to estimate groundwater impacts due to projected future pumpage between the years 2000 and 2050. The Three Oaks LOM model was used to project direct and indirect impacts related to the proposed mining by Alcoa at the Three Oaks Mine. This model showed that pumpage of groundwater in both the Calvert Bluff and Simsboro aquifers did not affect the Carrizo aquifer during the period between year 2000 and year 2030, the approximate projected end of mining at the Three Oaks Mine. Each of the seven layers used to model the Calvert Bluff aquifer in the Three Oaks LOM model had a low vertical hydraulic conductivity and a corresponding low vertical leakance (vertical hydraulic conductivity divided by the thickness of the layer), as the Calvert Bluff is mostly clay and silt with discontinuous sand layers. The vertical leakance in the Calvert Bluff ranged from a low value of approximately 1.0×10^{-7} to a high value of approximately 7.0×10^{-2} for the layers used to model the Calvert Bluff aquifer. The average vertical leakance for most layers in the vicinity of the Three Oaks Mine was in the range of 1.0×10^{-5} to 2.0×10^{-5} . For the transition layer separating the lowest lignite zone in the Calvert Bluff from the Simsboro, the vertical leakance was approximately 1.4×10^{-5} to 8.0×10^{-6} .

In the Three Oaks LOM model, layer thicknesses average approximately 100 feet each for the five main layers used for the lignite horizons, giving a total average thickness for these five layers of approximately 500 feet. The compact clay layer separating the lowest lignite zone from the Simsboro averaged approximately 60 feet in thickness, while the upper Calvert Bluff layer that lies above all of the lignite zones ranged in thickness from 100 to 1,160 feet and averaged approximately 300 to 500 feet in thickness in the vicinity of the Three Oaks Mine. Thus, approximately 1,000 feet of low conductivity clay and silt separate the

Simsboro aquifer from the Carrizo aquifer in the Three Oaks LOM model. This reflects the geology of the Three Oaks Mine area and the geology of Lee, Bastrop, and Milam Counties in the area of the proposed Three Oaks Mine and the existing Sandow Mine. Due to this thick layer of clay and silt that comprises the Calvert Bluff Formation, pumpage of the Simsboro aquifer is not projected to affect the Carrizo aquifer in the area of Lee, Bastrop, and Milam Counties.

The Modified Region G model has only one layer representing the Calvert Bluff aquifer. This model was originally designed to model groundwater availability and drawdown in the Simsboro aquifer due to regional municipal pumpage in the lower basin area of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Area. The Calvert Bluff layer in the Modified Region G model ranges in thickness from 10 to 3,595 feet, with the thinner portions of the aquifer located in the area of Lee, Bastrop, and Milam Counties. Vertical leakance values assigned to the Calvert Bluff range from 6.3×10^{-9} to 2.3×10^{-1} , with the higher values located in and around Lee, Bastrop, and Milam Counties due to the generally lower thickness of the Calvert Bluff Formation in these areas. The average value for vertical leakance in the Lee, Bastrop, and Milam County areas was approximately 1.0×10^{-5} to 1.5×10^{-5} .

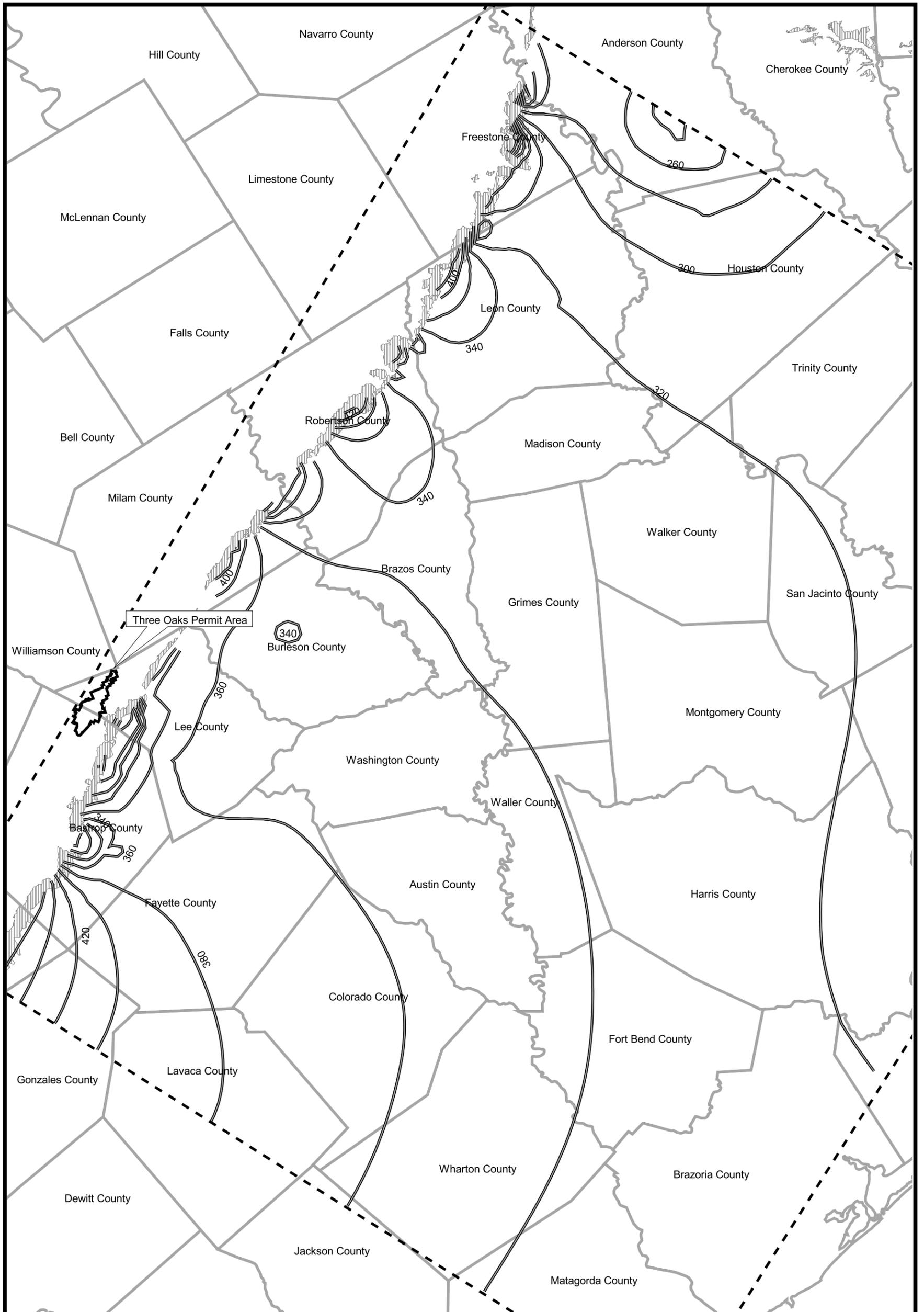
The Modified Region G model was used for modeling cumulative impacts of the Three Oaks Mine. **Figure D-2** is for the Three Oaks Mine at year 2030, with no San Antonio Water System (SAWS) pumpage. **Figure D-4** is for Three Oaks plus SAWS pumpage of 40,000 acre-feet per year at the Sandow Mine for years 2013 through 2030. The difference between the model runs is SAWS pumpage in the Sandow Mine area.

A comparison of the results of these two simulations shows the 20-foot drawdown contour in Lee County moving out (enlarging) by approximately 2 to 3 miles in **Figure D-4** compared to **Figure D-2** due to less than 0.5-foot of artesian pressure decline. Thus, SAWS pumpage in the Sandow Mine area for the years 2013 through 2030 appears to result in a very small increase in artesian drawdown in the Carrizo aquifer when compared to Three Oaks Mine pumpage without SAWS for the same time period. There is essentially no effect in the outcrop area of the Carrizo.

The text (Section 3.2) of this EIS states that pumpage in the Simsboro and Calvert Bluff aquifers is not projected to affect the Carrizo Formation. This is based on modeling of direct impacts with the Three Oaks LOM model and on the geology of the Calvert Bluff Formation. As stated above, approximately 1,000 feet of clay and silt comprise the Calvert Bluff Formation in Lee, Bastrop, and Milam Counties. This thickness of low conductivity sedimentary rock should effectively insulate the Carrizo aquifer from the Simsboro Formation. The Three Oaks LOM model, which reflects this complex geology of low conductivity rock in the Calvert Bluff Formation, supports this conclusion and shows that pumpage in the Simsboro and lower Calvert Bluff aquifers should not affect the Carrizo aquifer.

Therefore, **Figures D-2** and **D-4** of this appendix should not be taken as literal projections of what will actually happen when SAWS pumpage begins in the Sandow Mine area. The Sandow Mine is currently pumping groundwater from the Simsboro aquifer at approximately 35,000 acre-feet per year to depressurize the mine. There has been no noticeable impact to the Carrizo aquifer from this pumpage. The Modified Region G model is suitable for estimating approximate regional impacts to the Simsboro, Calvert Bluff, and Carrizo aquifers due to regional municipal pumpage. The Modified Region G model was used for this

purpose in projecting cumulative impacts for this EIS. The Modified Region G model was not designed for modeling interaquifer flow or for estimating aquifer/stream impacts; thus, this model should not be used for these purposes. The apparent potential effect on the Carrizo Formation in the Lee, Bastrop, and Milam County area is an artifact of the model design and pumpage in the Carrizo Formation.



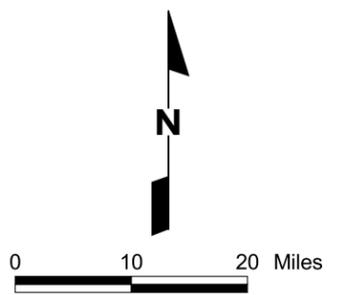
D-4

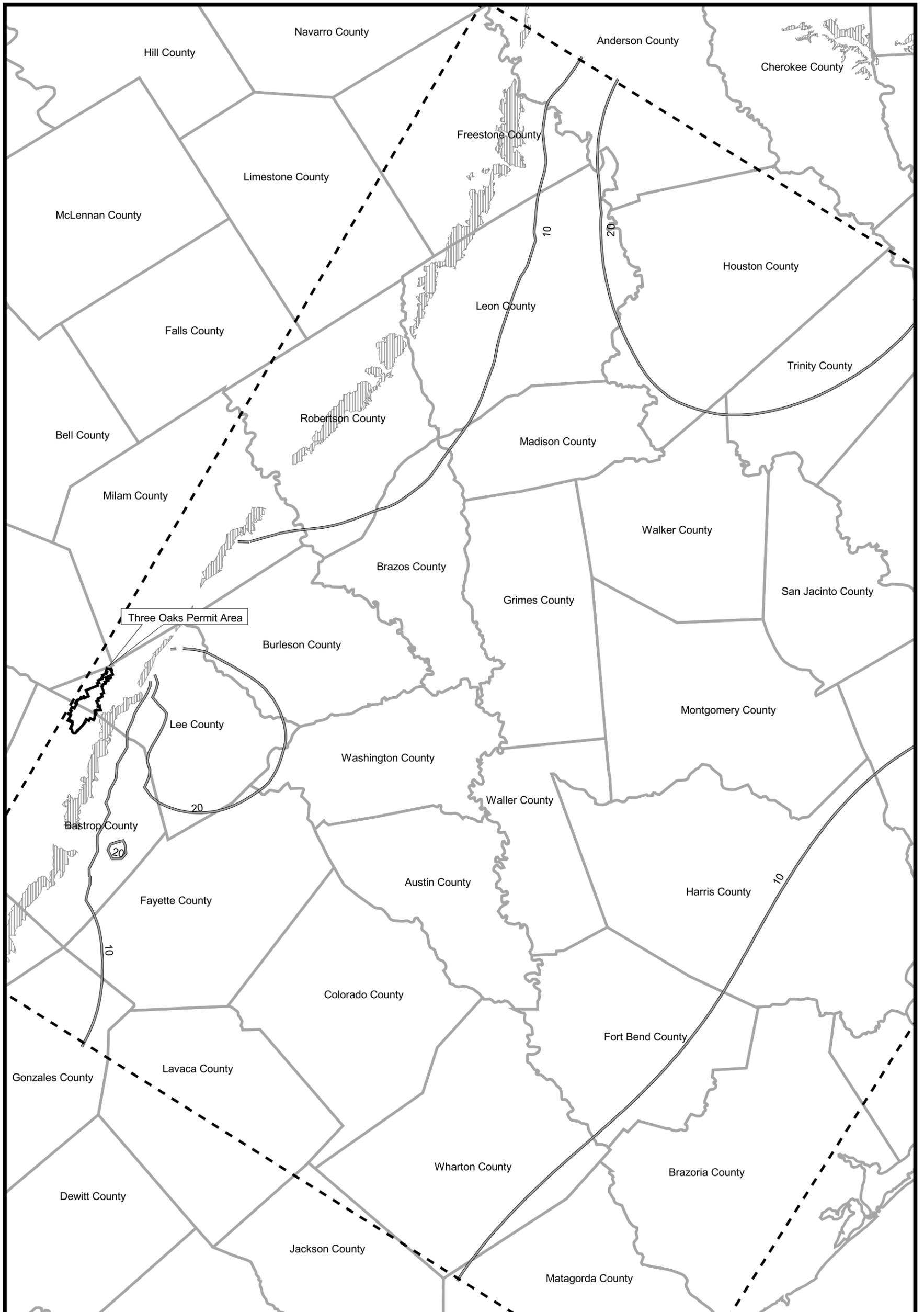
Figure D-1
Regional
Groundwater Levels in
Carrizo Aquifer
Year 2000

Three Oaks Mine

- Approximate Groundwater Elevation (feet NGVD, 20-foot increments)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Carrizo Outcrop

Source: Water elevation modeled by ENSR 2002.





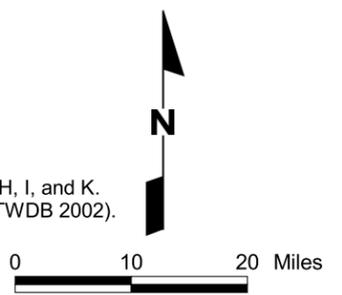
D-5

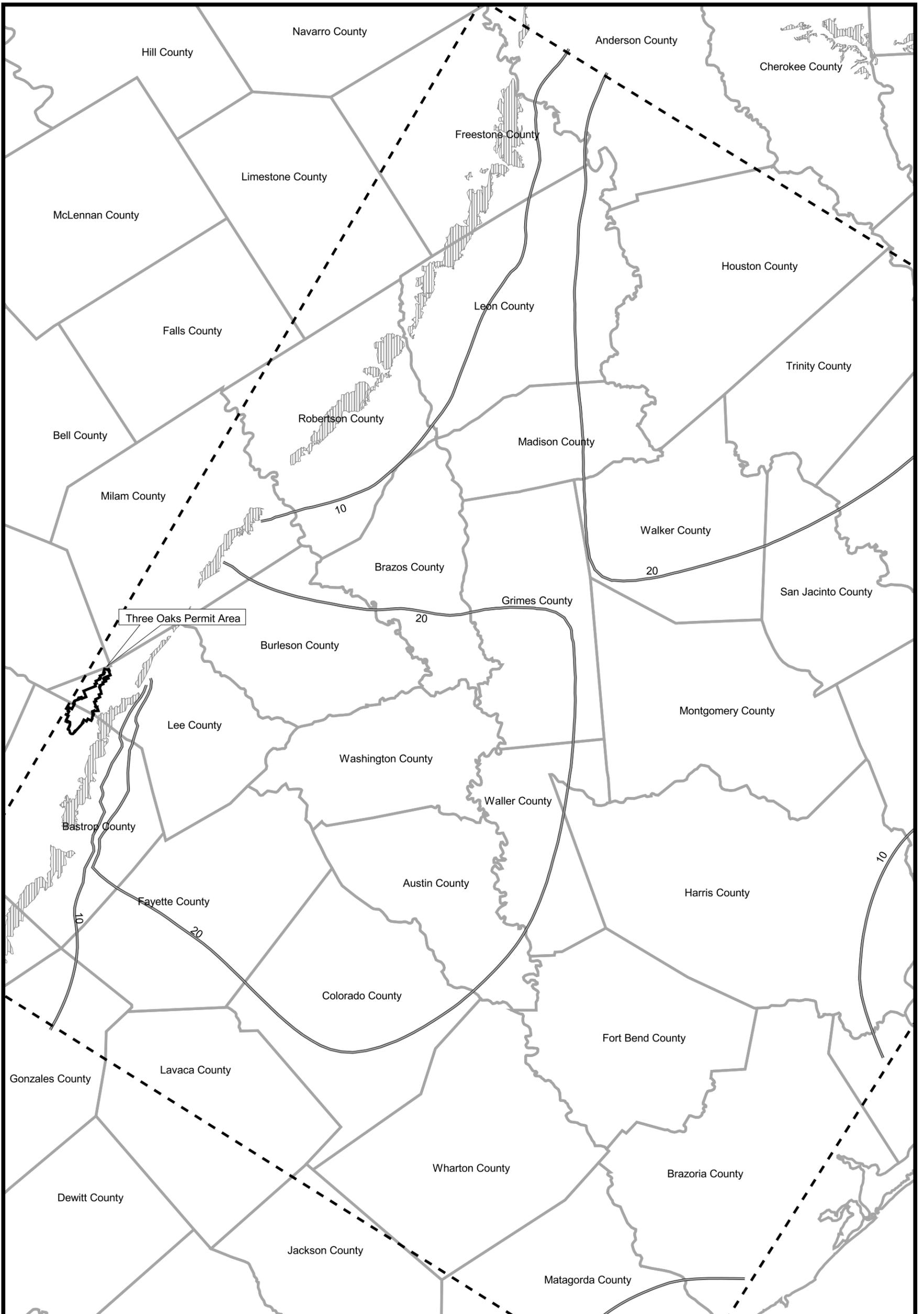
Three Oaks Mine
 Figure D-2
 Regional Drawdown in
 Carrizo Aquifer
 Three Oaks
 without SAWS
 Year 2030

- Approximate Drawdown (10- and 20-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Carrizo Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Water elevation modeled by ENSR 2002.





D-6

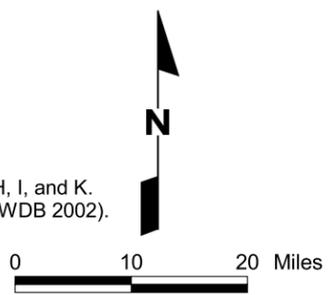
Regional Drawdown in
Carrizo Aquifer
Three Oaks
without SAWS
Year 2050

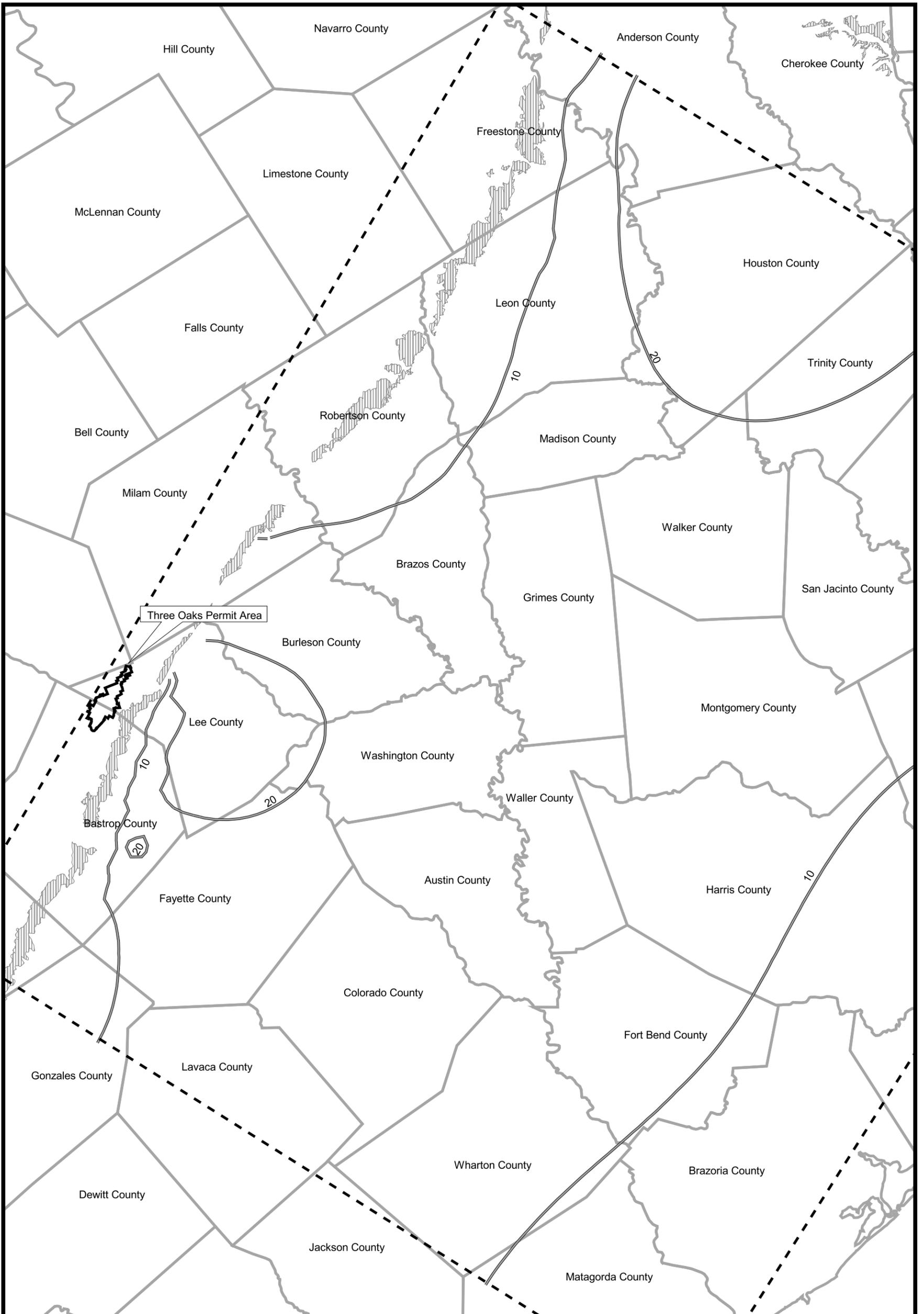
Three Oaks Mine
Figure D-3

- Approximate Drawdown (10- and 20-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Carrizo Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Water elevation modeled by ENSR 2002.





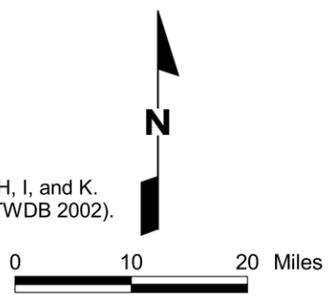
D-7

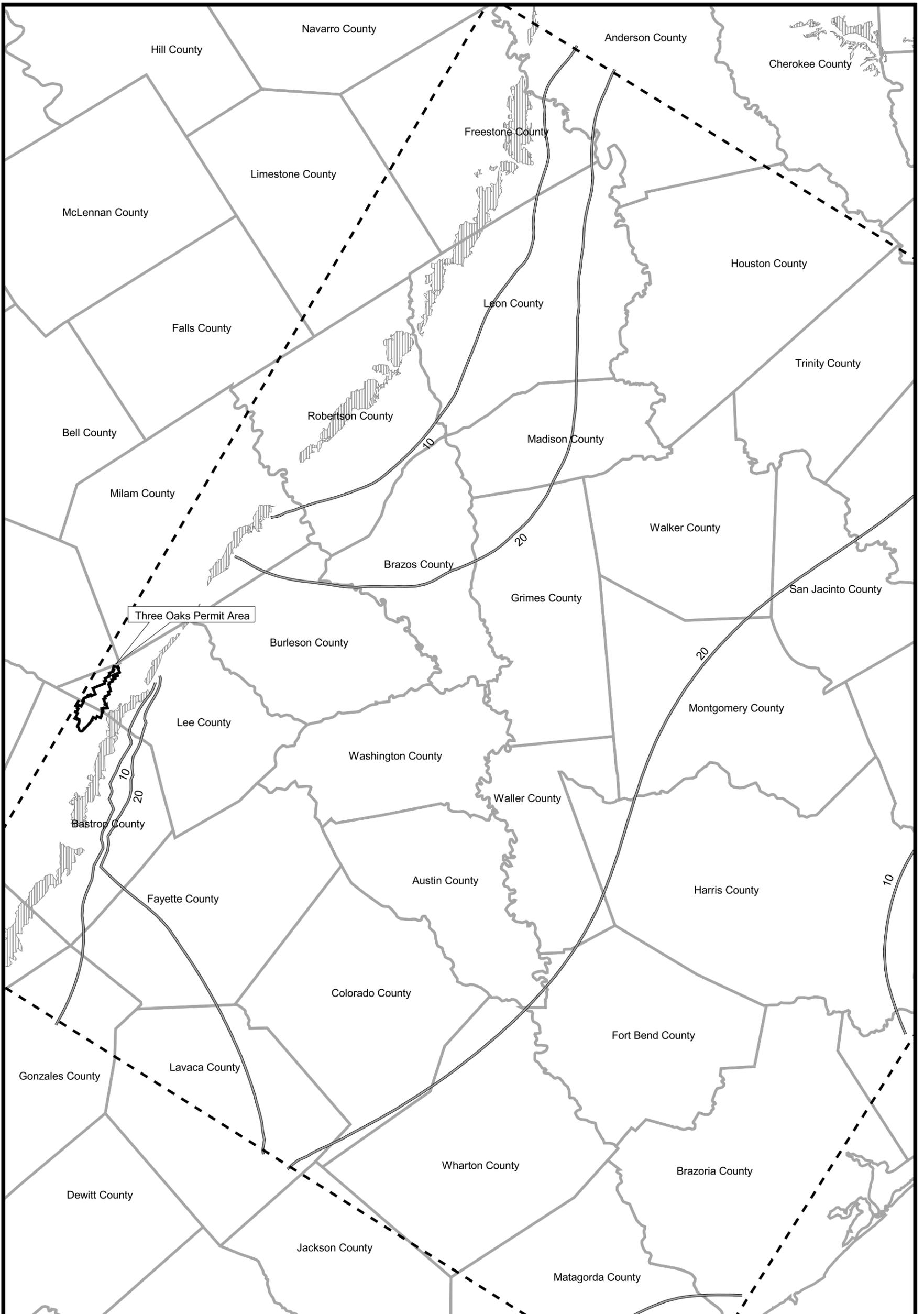
Three Oaks Mine
 Figure D-4
 Regional Drawdown in
 Carrizo Aquifer
 Three Oaks
 with SAWS
 Year 2030

- Approximate Drawdown (10- and 20-foot intervals)
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Carrizo Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Water elevation modeled by ENSR 2002.





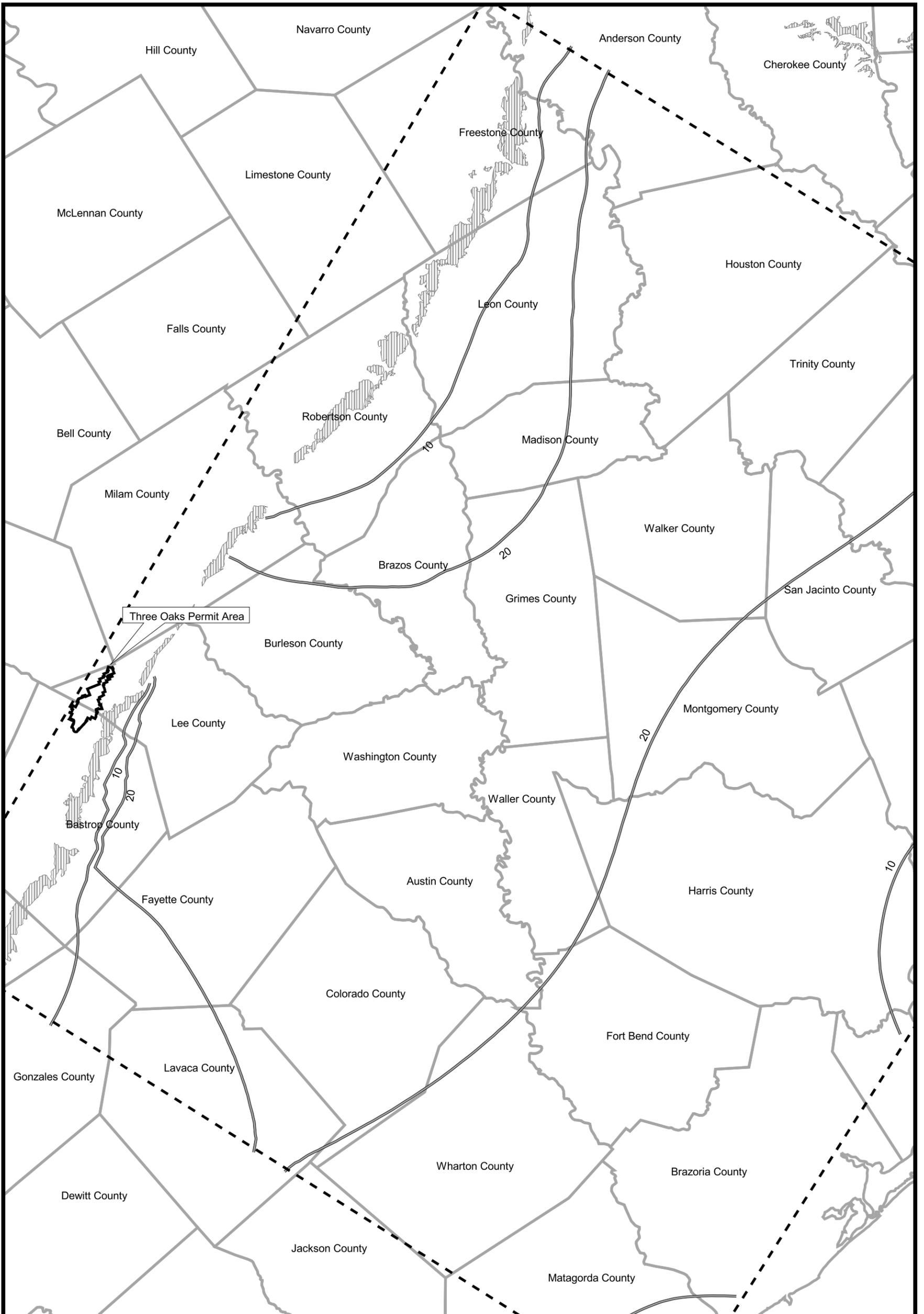
- Approximate Drawdown (10- and 20-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Carrizo Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Water elevation modeled by ENSR 2002.

Three Oaks Mine
 Figure D-5
 Regional Drawdown in
 Carrizo Aquifer
 Three Oaks
 with SAWS
 Year 2050

D-8



D-10

Regional Drawdown in
Carrizo Aquifer
SAWS without
Three Oaks
Year 2050

Figure D-7

Three Oaks Mine

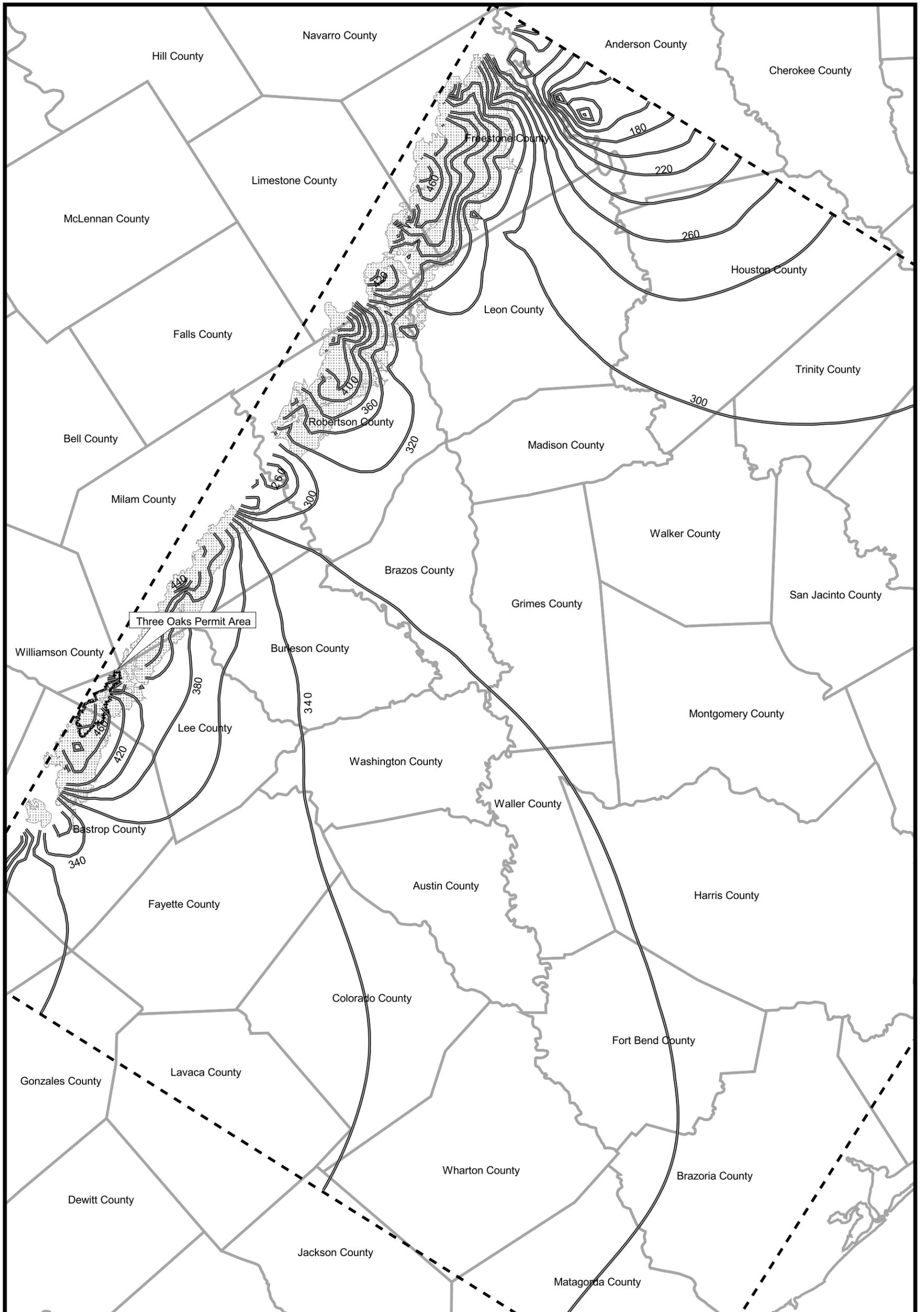
- Approximate Drawdown (10- and 20-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Carrizo Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

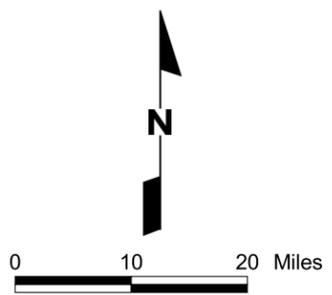
Source: Water elevation modeled by ENSR 2002.



0 10 20 Miles



- Approximate Groundwater Elevation (feet NGVD, 20-foot increments)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Calvert Bluff Outcrop

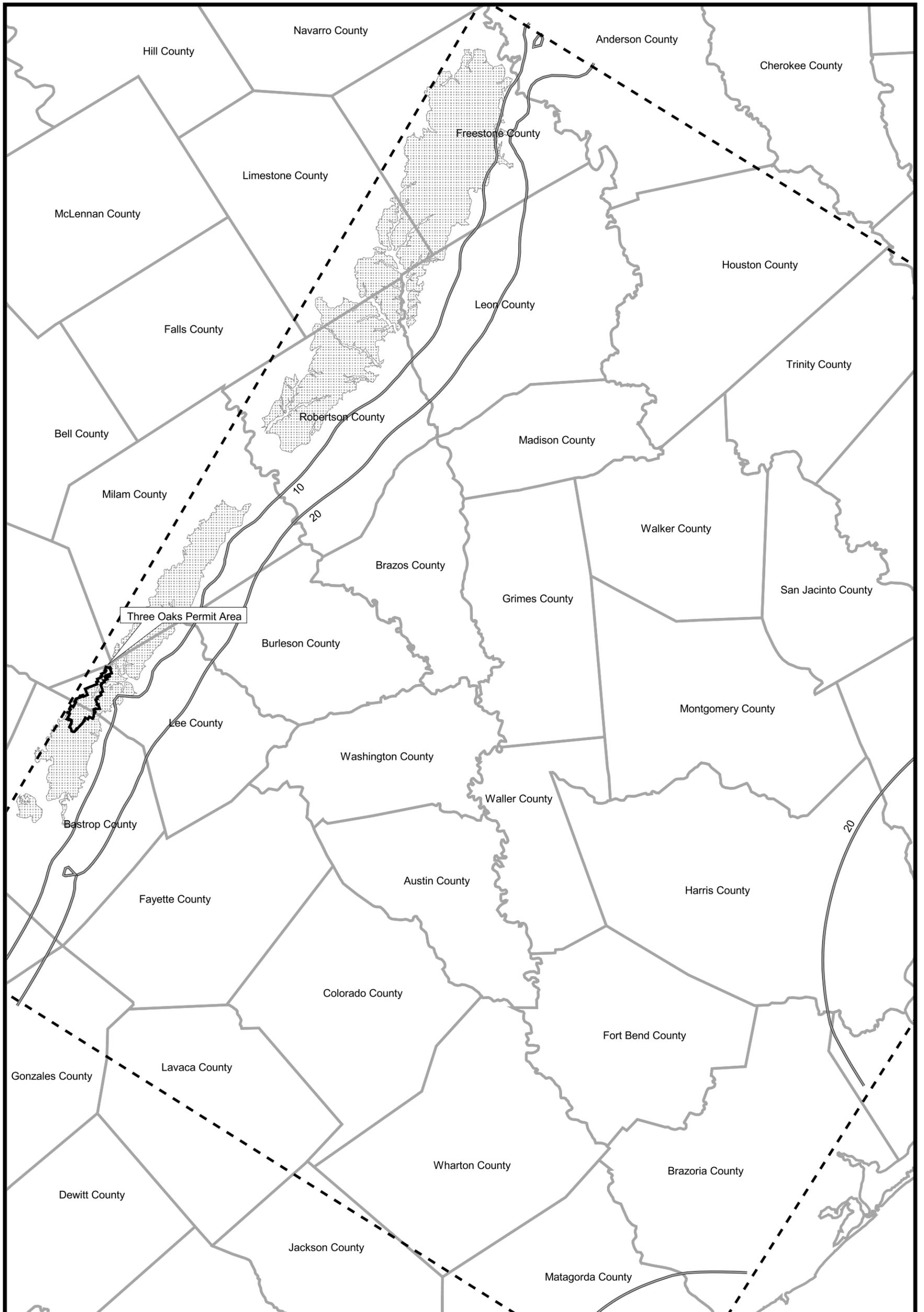


Three Oaks Mine

Figure D-8

Regional
Groundwater Levels in
Calvert Bluff Aquifer
Year 2000

Source: Water elevation modeled by ENSR 2002.

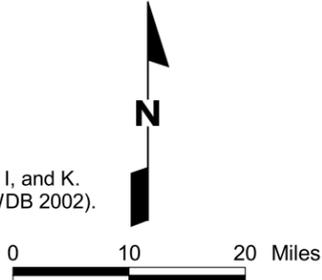


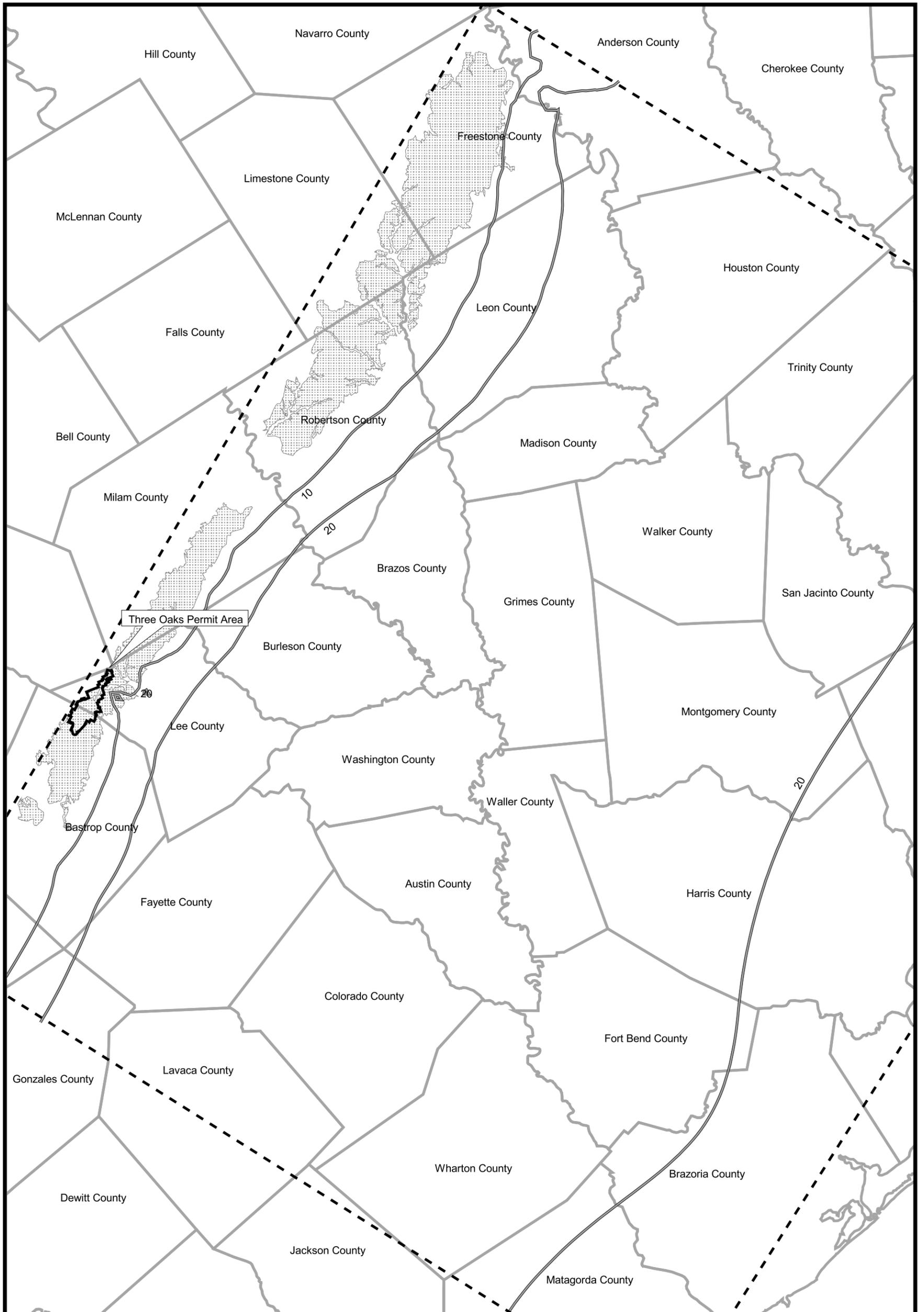
Three Oaks Mine
 Figure D-10
 Regional Drawdown in
 Calvert Bluff Aquifer
 Three Oaks
 without SAWs
 Year 2050

- Approximate Drawdown (10- and 20-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Calvert Bluff Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.





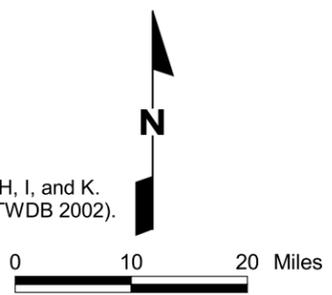
D-14

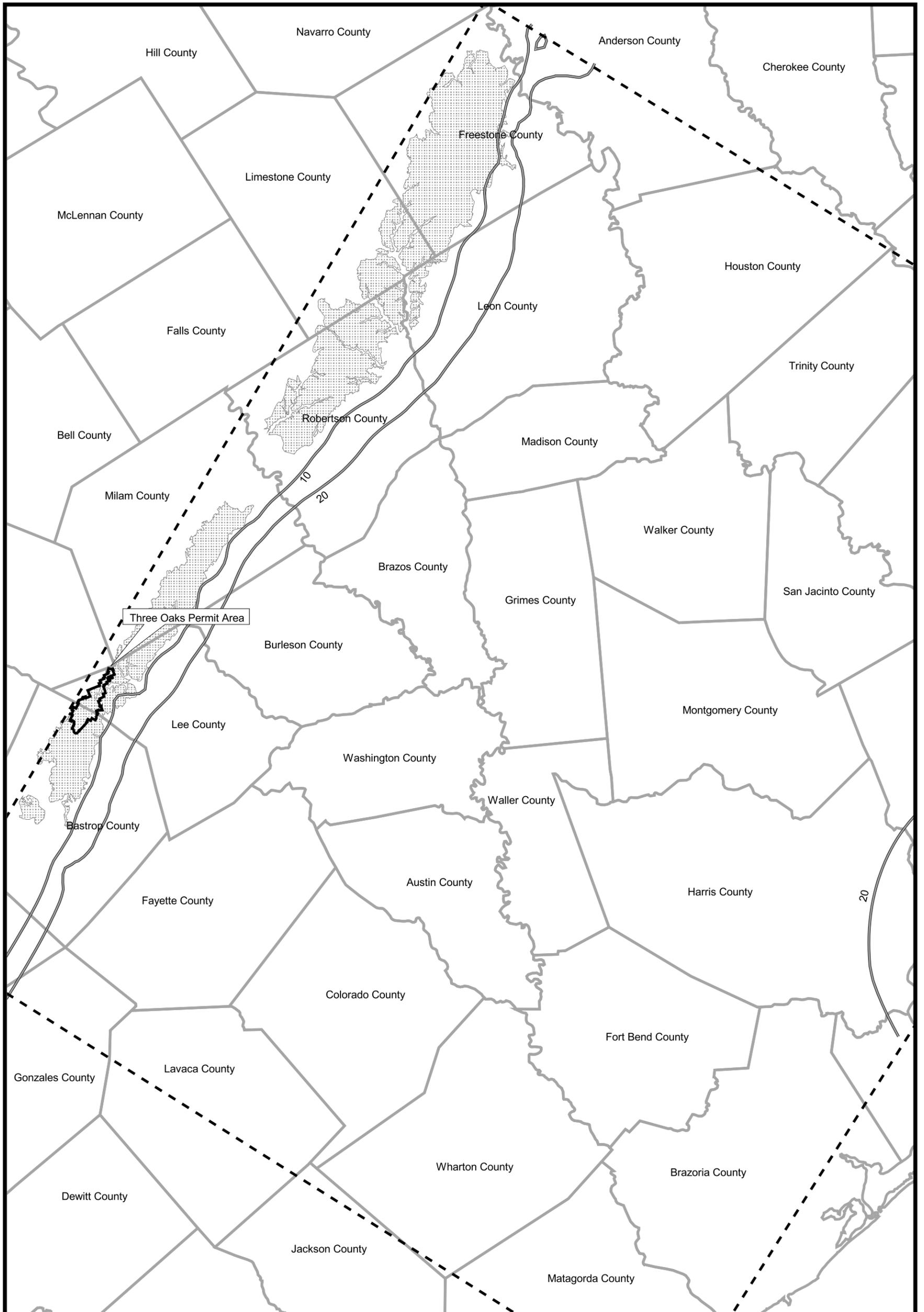
Three Oaks Mine
 Figure D-11
 Regional Drawdown in
 Calvert Bluff Aquifer
 Three Oaks
 with SAWS
 Year 2030

- Approximate Drawdown (10- and 20-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Calvert Bluff Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.





Three Oaks Mine

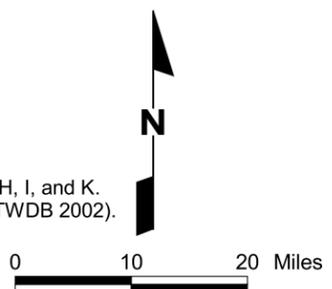
Figure D-12

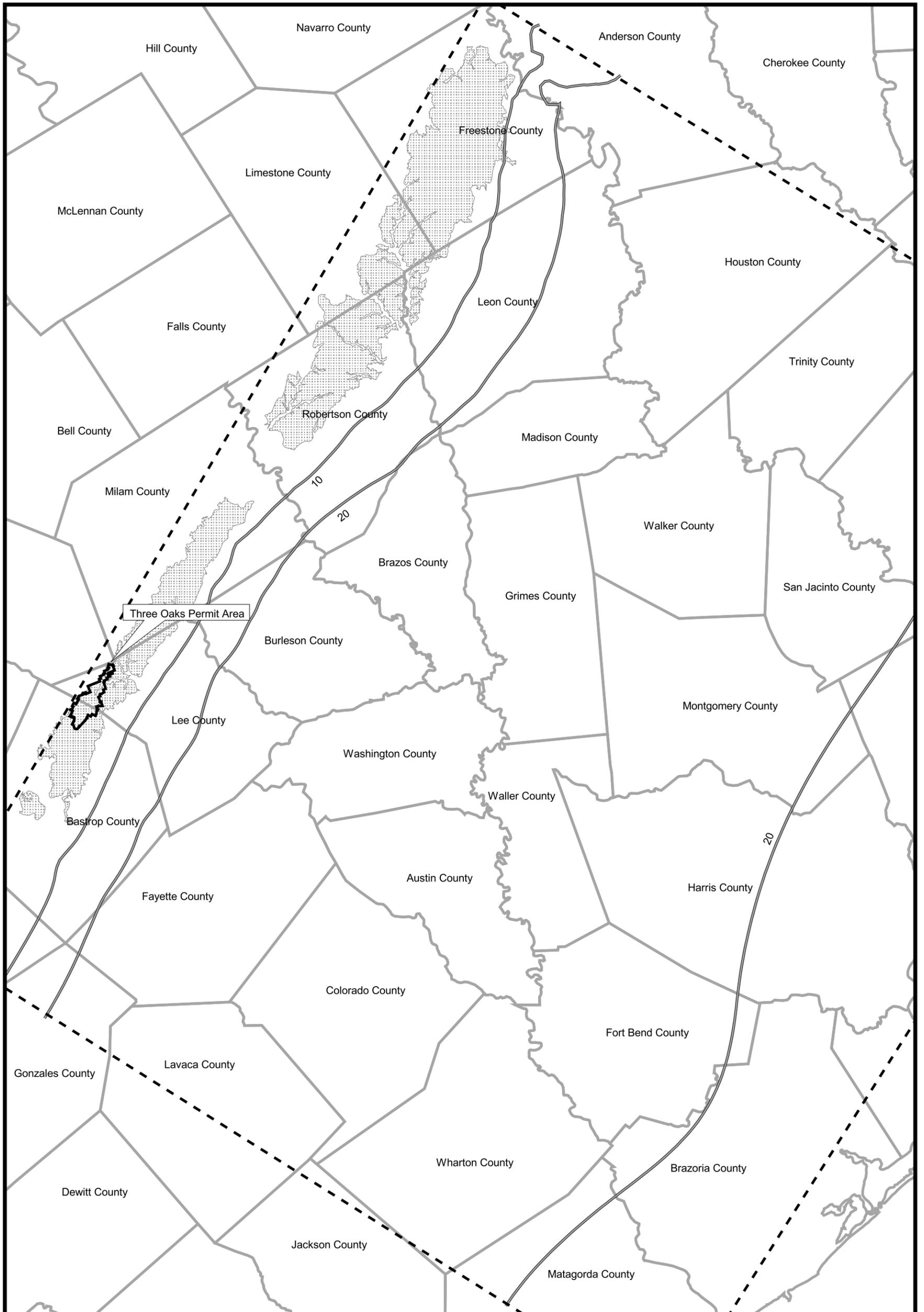
Regional Drawdown in Calvert Bluff Aquifer with Three Oaks with SAWS Year 2050

- Approximate Drawdown (10- and 20-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Calvert Bluff Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.





D-16

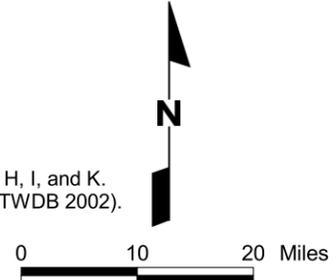
Regional Drawdown in
Calvert Bluff Aquifer
SAWS without
Three Oaks
Year 2030

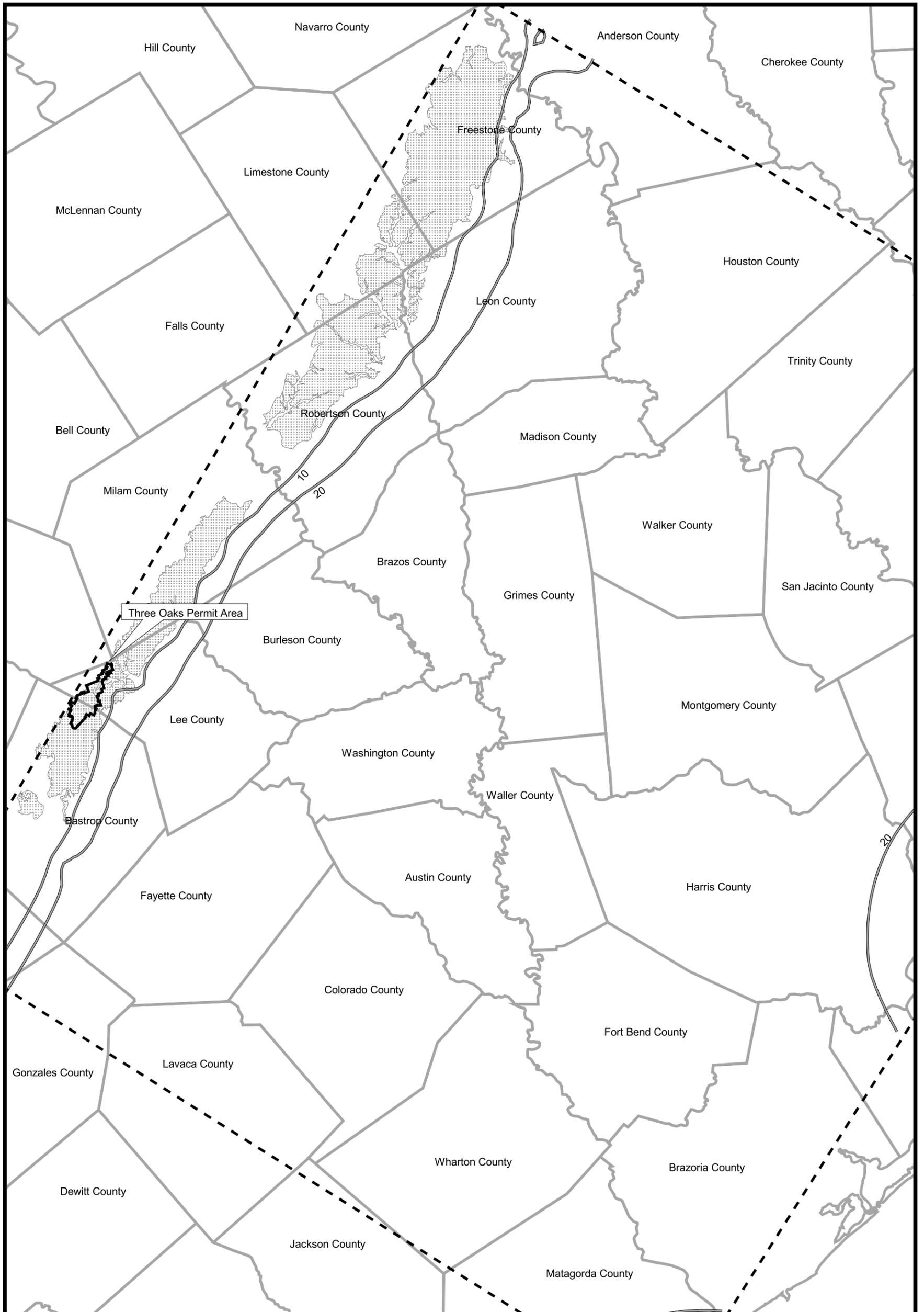
Three Oaks Mine
Figure D-13

- Approximate Drawdown (10- and 20-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Calvert Bluff Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.



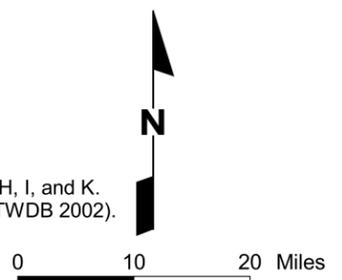


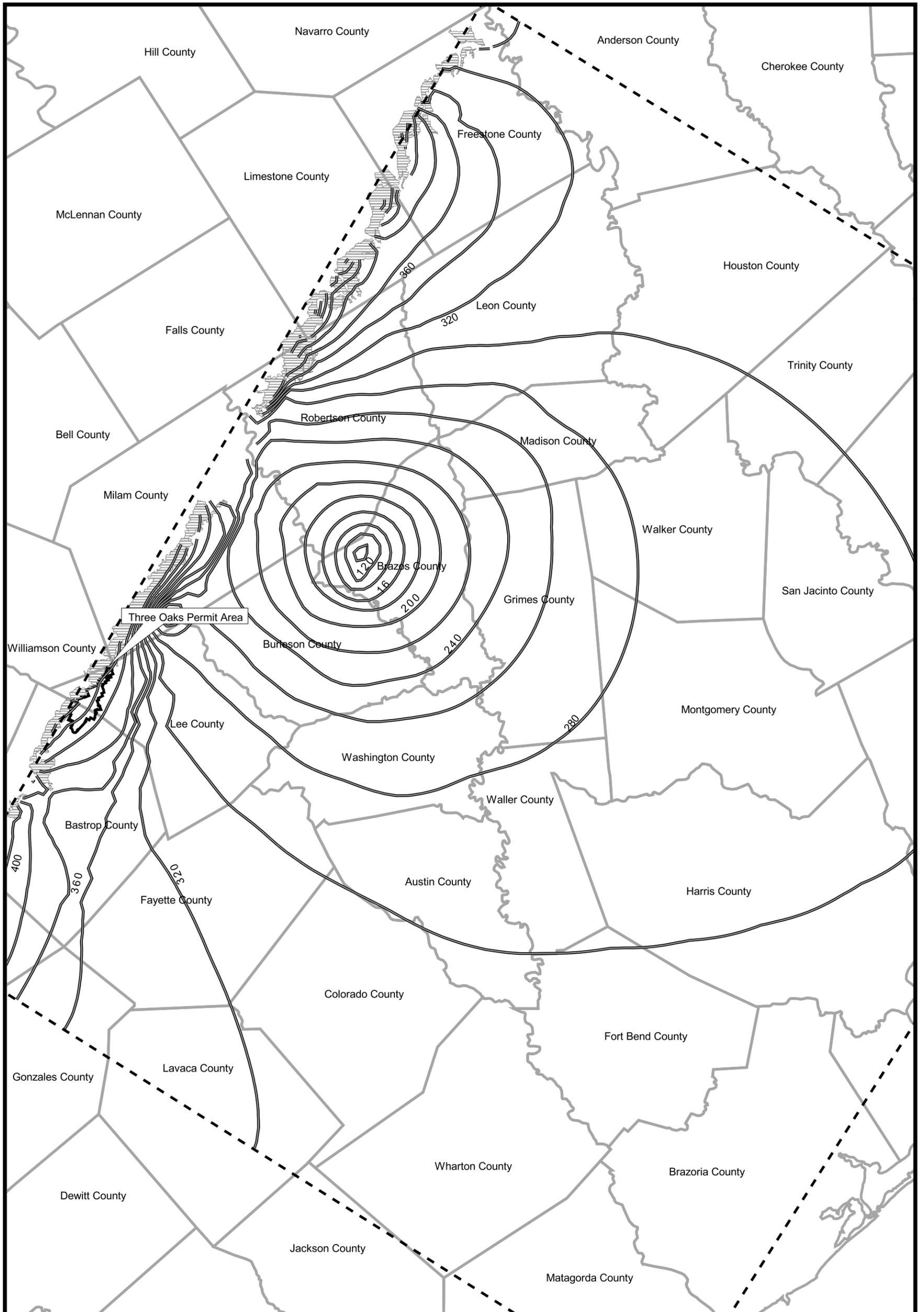
Three Oaks Mine
 Figure D-14
 Regional Drawdown in
 Calvert Bluff Aquifer
 SAWS without
 Three Oaks
 Year 2050

- Approximate Drawdown (10- and 20-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Calvert Bluff Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.



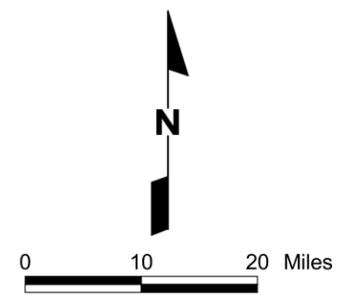


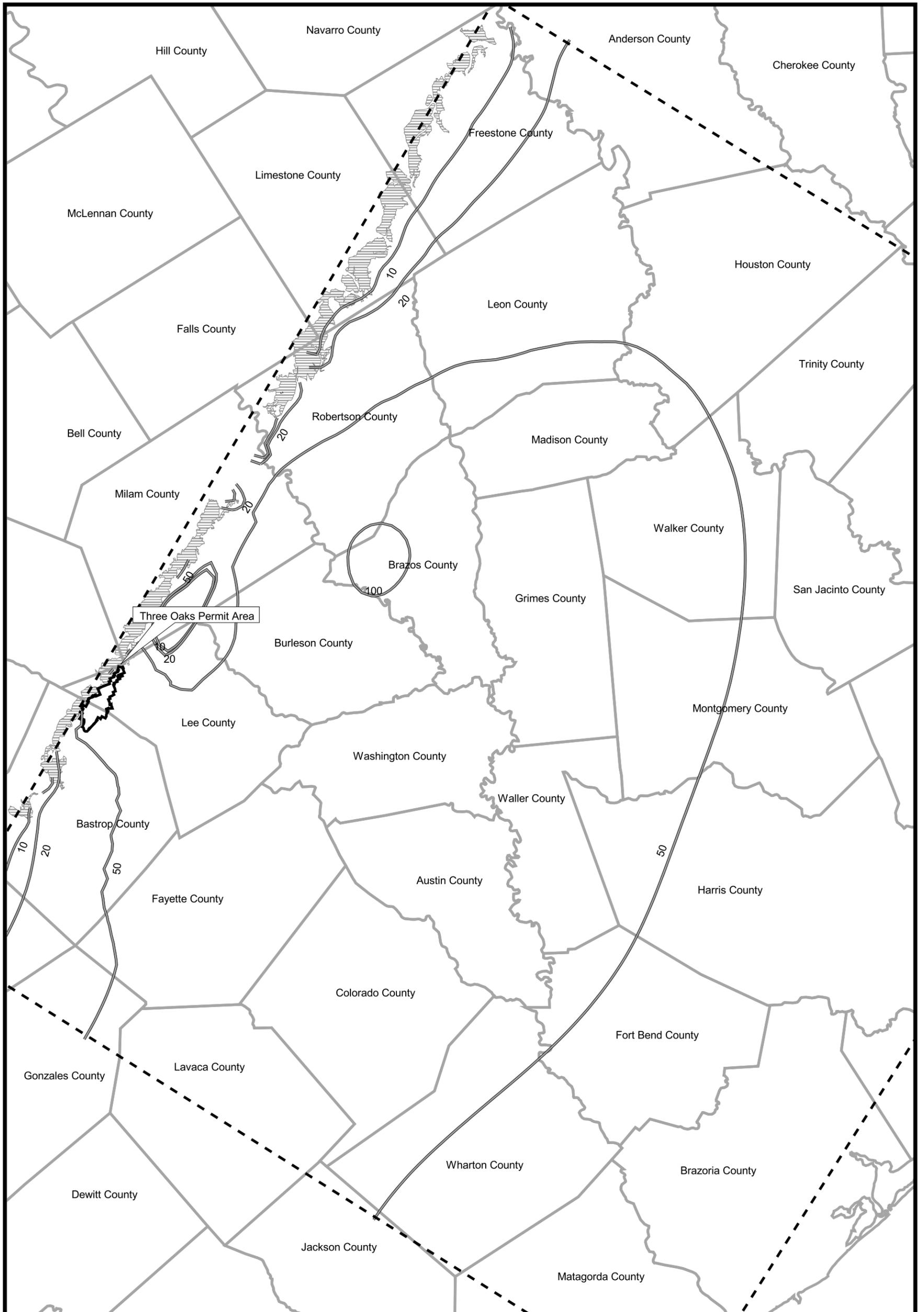
D-18

Three Oaks Mine
 Figure D-15
 Regional
 Groundwater Levels in
 Simsboro Aquifer
 Year 2000

- Approximate Groundwater Elevation (feet NGVD, 20-foot increments)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Simsboro Outcrop

Source: Water elevation modeled by ENSR 2002.





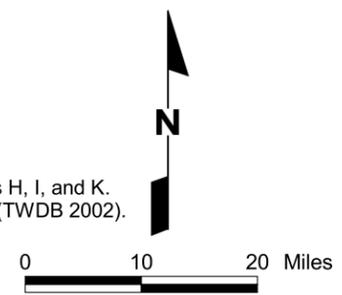
D-19

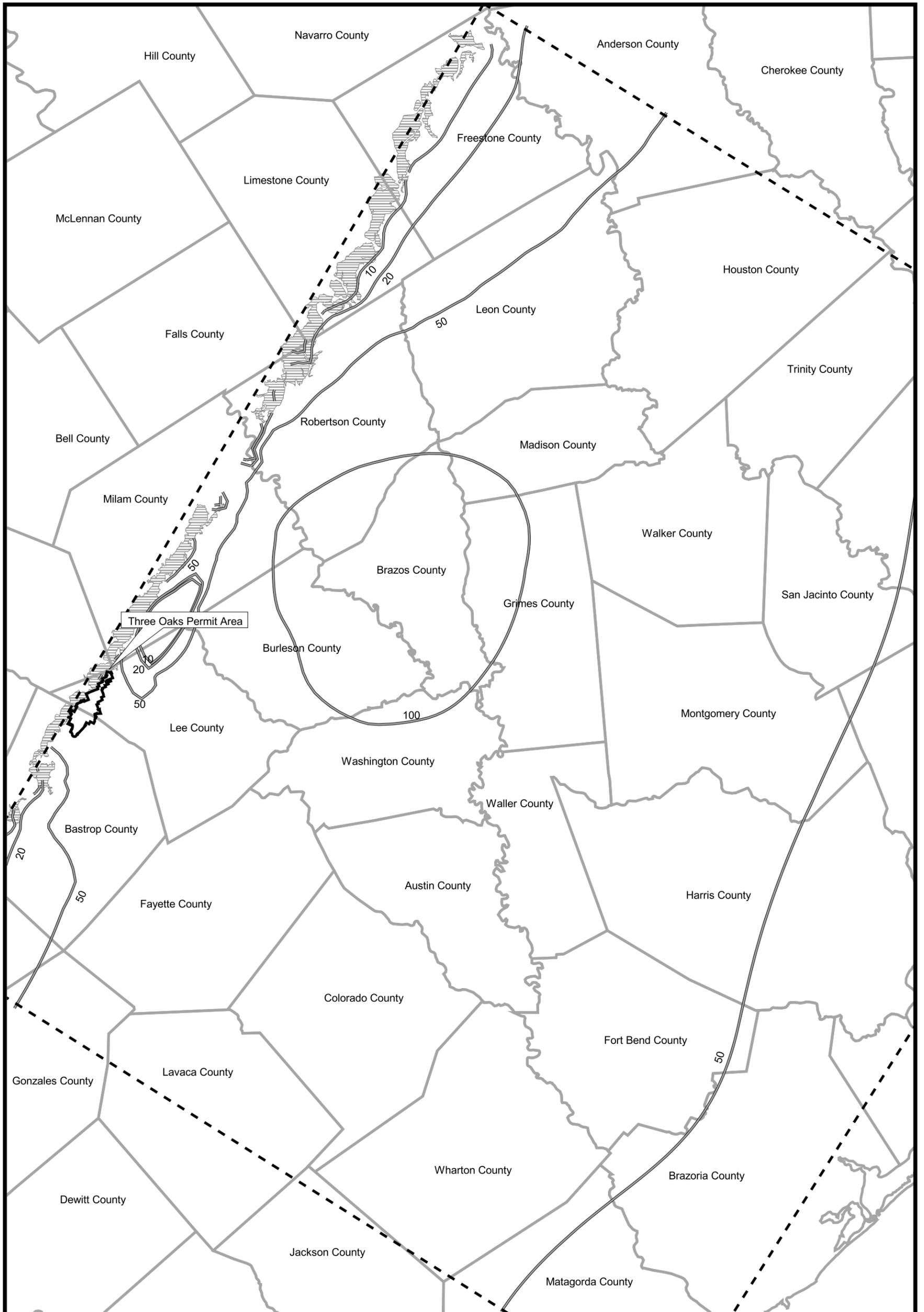
Three Oaks Mine
 Figure D-16
 Regional Drawdown in
 Simsboro Aquifer
 Three Oaks
 without SAWS
 Year 2030

- Approximate Drawdown (10-, 20-, 50-, and 100-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Simsboro Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.





D-20

Regional Drawdown in
Simsboro Aquifer
Three Oaks
without SAWS
Year 2050

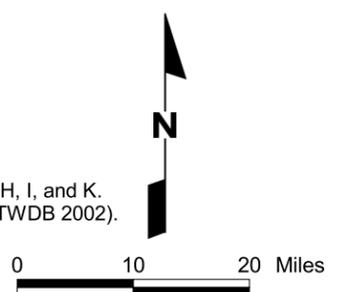
Figure D-17

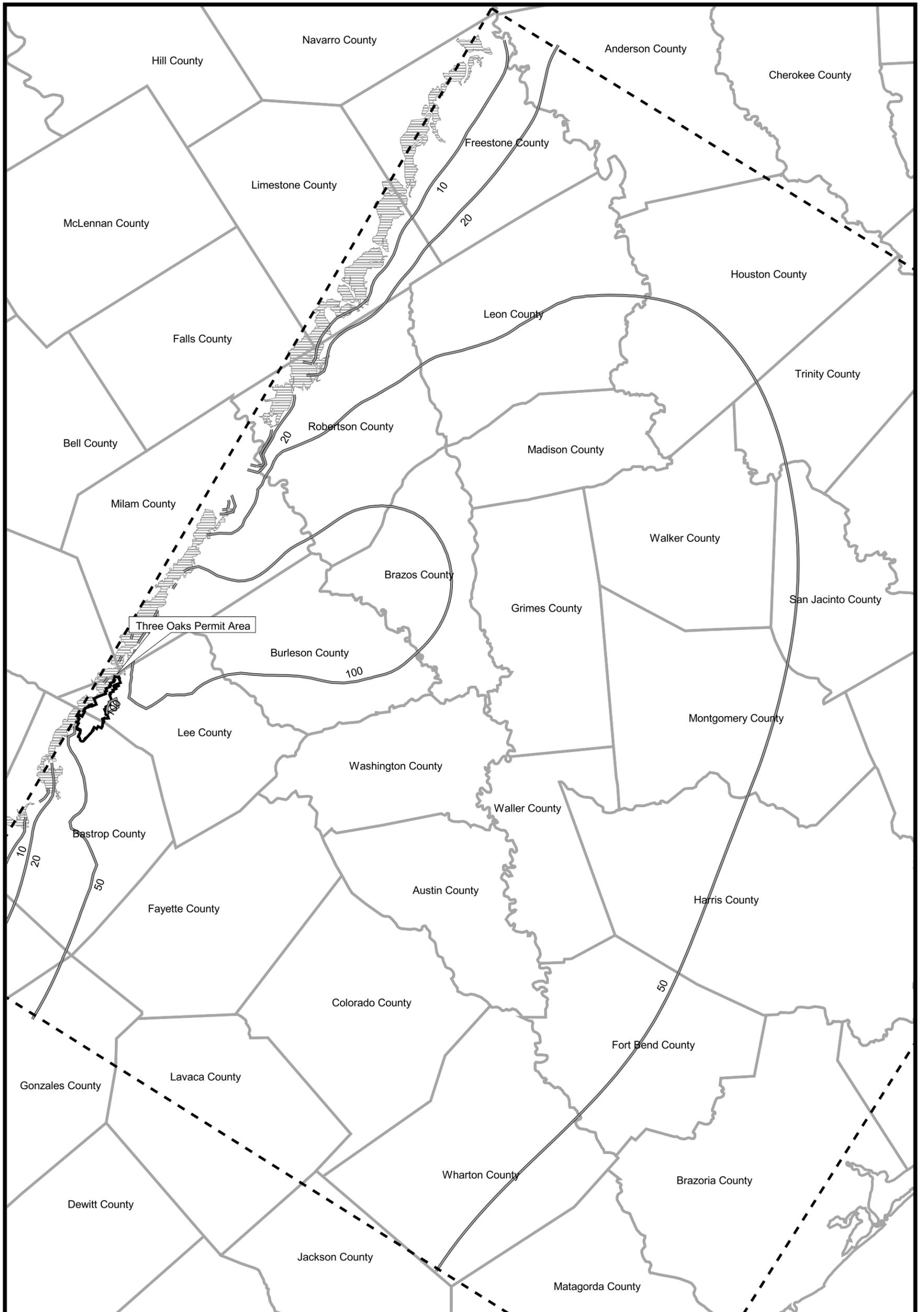
Three Oaks Mine

- Approximate Drawdown (10-, 20-, 50-, and 100-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Simsboro Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.





D-21

Regional Drawdown in
Simsboro Aquifer
Three Oaks
with SAWS
Year 2030

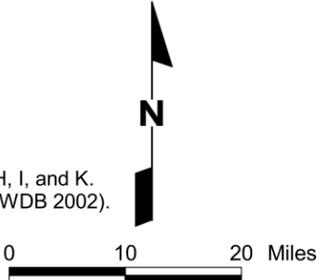
Figure D-18

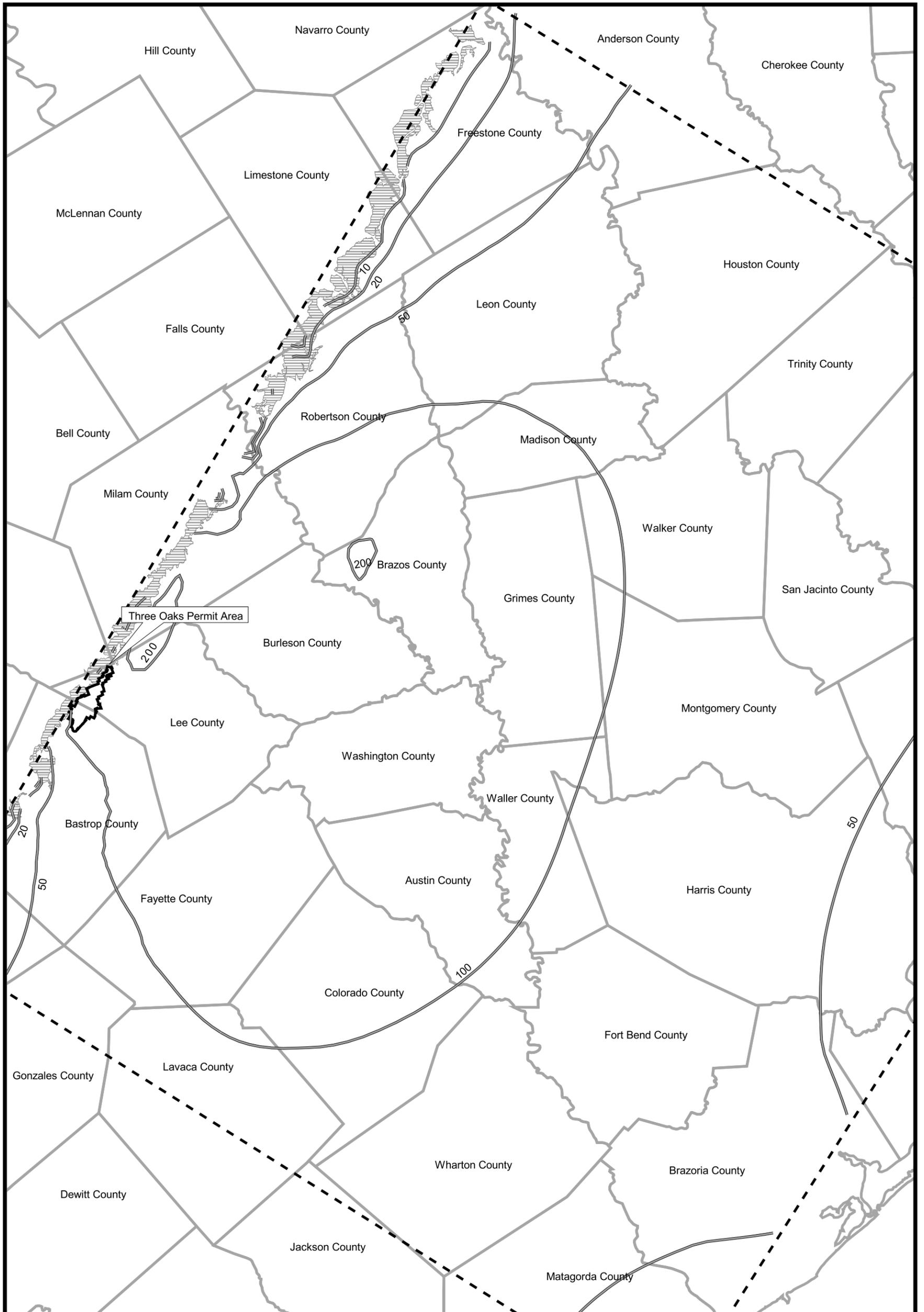
Three Oaks Mine

- Approximate Drawdown (10-, 20-, 50-, and 100-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Simsboro Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.





D-22

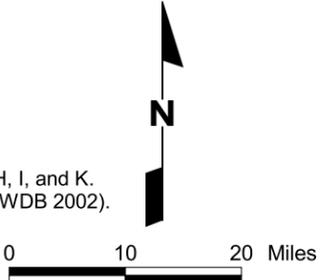
Regional Drawdown in
Simsboro Aquifer
Three Oaks
with SAWS
Year 2050

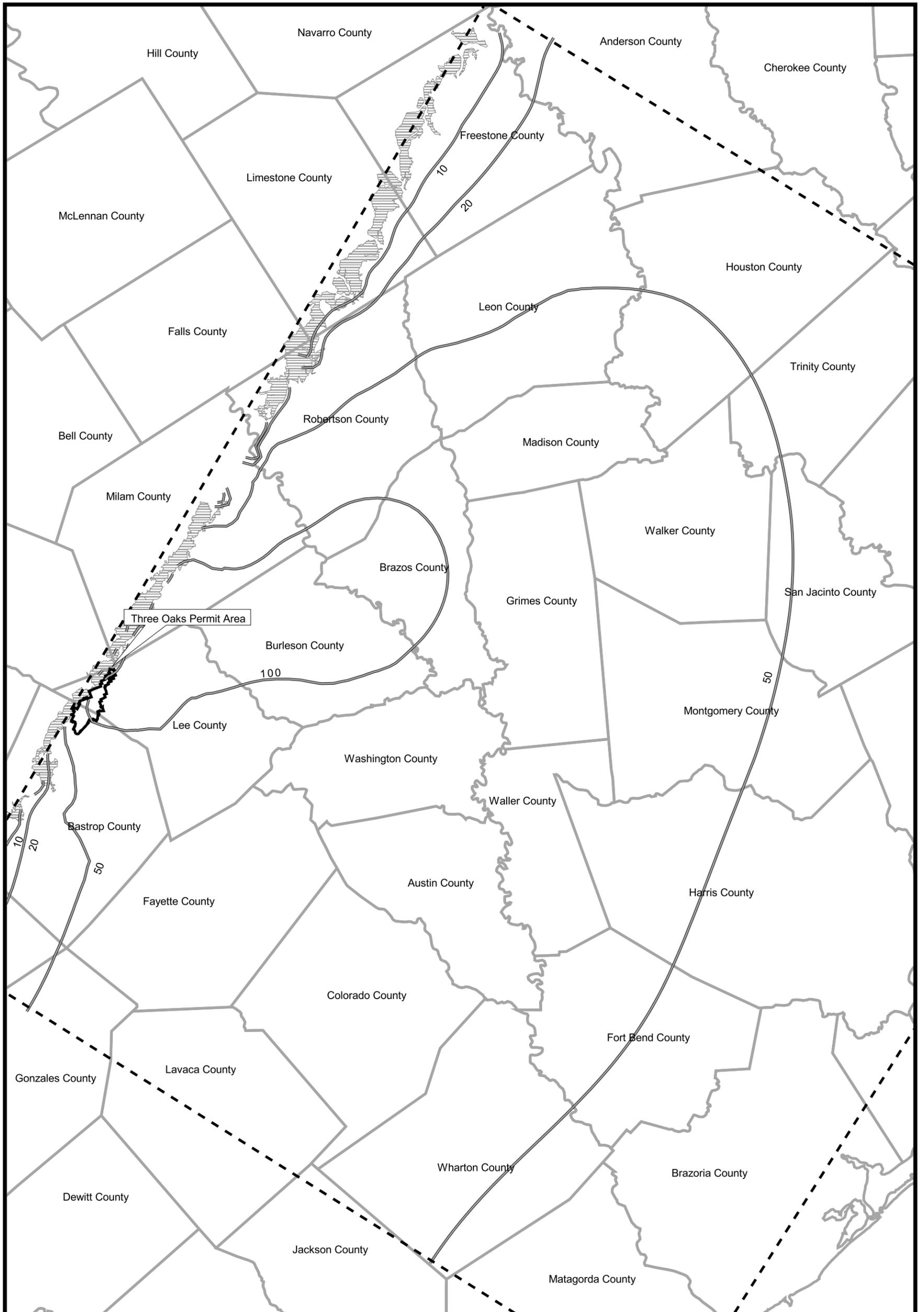
Three Oaks Mine
Figure D-19

- Approximate Drawdown (10-, 20-, 50-, 100-, and 200-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Simsboro Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.





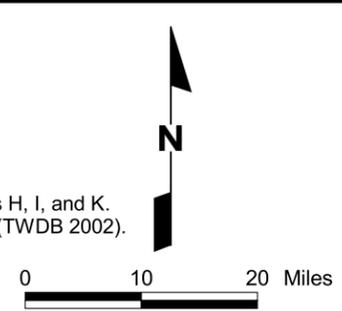
D-23

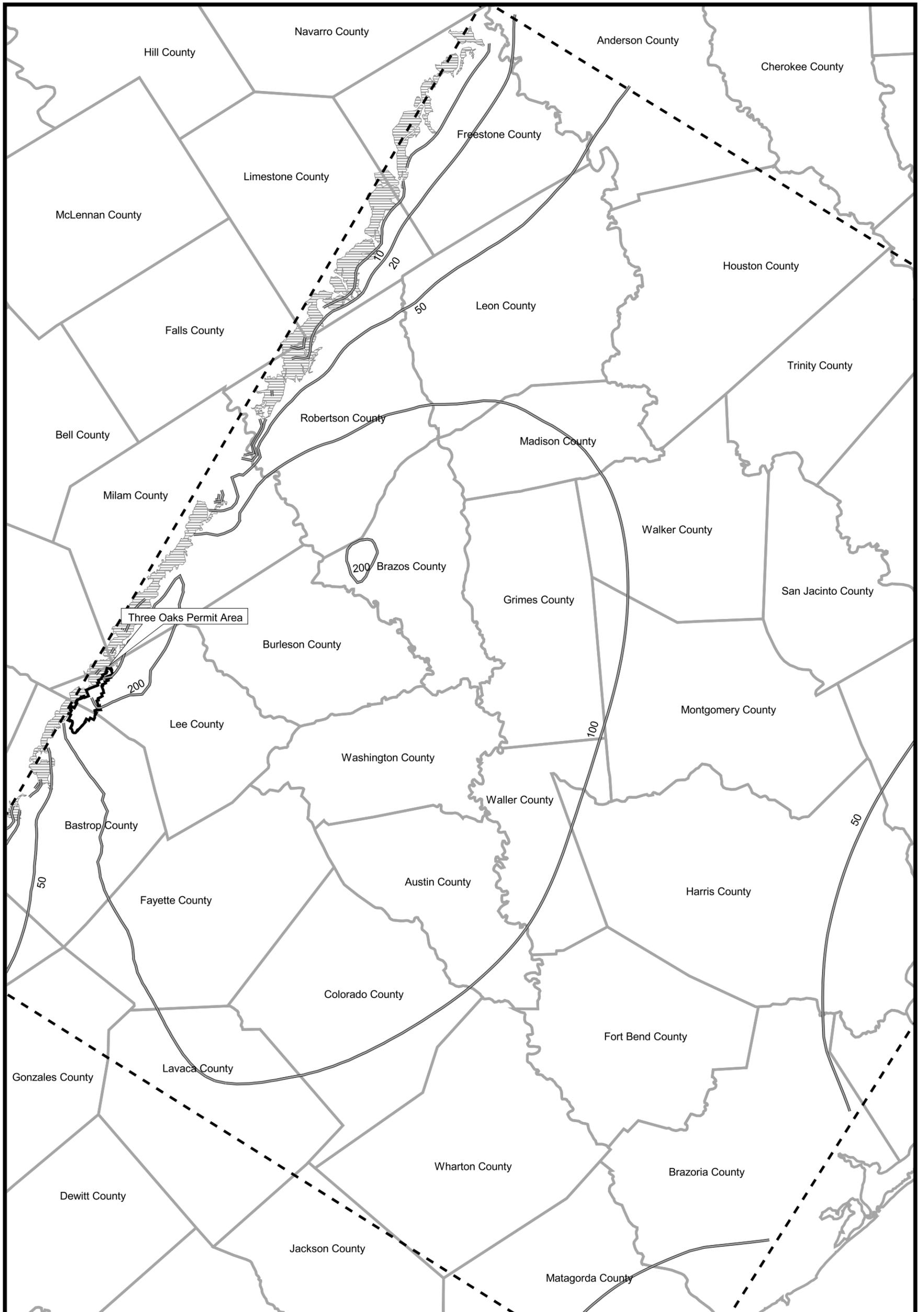
Three Oaks Mine
 Figure D-20
 Regional Drawdown in
 Simsboro Aquifer
 SAWS without
 Three Oaks
 Year 2030

- Approximate Drawdown (10-, 20-, 50-, and 100-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Simsboro Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.





D-24

Regional Drawdown in
Simsboro Aquifer
SAWS without
Three Oaks
Year 2050

Three Oaks Mine
Figure D-21

- Approximate Drawdown (10-, 20-, 50-, 100-, and 200-foot intervals)
- Drainages
- Modified Region G Model Boundary
- Simsboro Outcrop

Note: The Modified Region G Model was used to estimate the regional groundwater drawdown shown on this map. This map reflects municipal pumpage for the lower basin area of Region G and adjacent counties of Regions H, I, and K. Municipal pumpage was based on estimates through the year 2050 provided from "Water for Texas - 2002" (TWDB 2002).

Source: Drawdown modeled by ENSR 2002.

