

Correspondence of Geophysical Log Correlation Markers to Hydrostratigraphic Units

The hydrostratigraphic units found to contain the most productive parts of the surficial aquifer system in this study are the Tamiami, Anastasia, and Fort Thompson Formations (fig. 1). The Tamiami Formation was identified as being an important unit within the surficial aquifer system in Broward County just south of Palm Beach County (Causars, 1985; Fish, 1988), and in southwestern Palm Beach County (Reese and Cunningham, 2000). This finding is in contrast with some previous studies, such as Land and others (1973), who indicate that only the few upper feet of the Tamiami Formation is productive. In an older study of Palm Beach County, the Tamiami Formation is indicated to be part of the confining unit below the surficial aquifer system, and the Caloosahatchee marl (Formation) is indicated to be the lowest permeable formation (Schroeder and others, 1954).

The Biscayne aquifer, identified and mapped by Shine and others (1989), and the zone of (high) secondary permeability, delineated by Swayze and Miller (1984), are indicated on hydrostratigraphic sections A-A' and B-B' (figs. 4 and 5). The Biscayne aquifer is best developed in the southern part of the eastern one-third of Palm Beach County (Shine and others, 1989); the aquifer also extends into the northern part of the eastern one-third of the county (Shine and others, 1989) but not in the Atlantic Coastal Ridge province through which hydrostratigraphic section B-B' extends or parallels (figs. 1 and 5). Only the extent of the zone of secondary permeability, also referred to as the Biscayne aquifer, was mapped by Swayze and Miller (1984); the top and thickness were not mapped. This zone is present only in the approximately eastern one-fourth to one-third of the county.

The correlation marker H is generally at or close to the base of the surficial aquifer system; however, thick intervals of sand of low to moderate hydraulic conductivity that are still considered to be in the surficial aquifer system can be present below marker H. For example, a sand interval is present below this marker in wells PB-1703 in fig. 4 (the unnamed formation) and PB-1693 in fig. 5.

The Ochopee Limestone Member, as defined by markers H and O, contains the gray limestone aquifer, which has been mapped in southwestern Palm Beach County and adjoining areas to the west and south (Reese and Cunningham, 2000) (figs. 3 and 4). The gray limestone aquifer is identified in four wells in hydrostratigraphic section A-A'. The lower part of the zone of secondary permeability in eastern Palm Beach County (Swayze and Miller, 1984) commonly includes the upper part of the interval defined by markers O and H and is equivalent to the gray limestone aquifer to the west (figs. 4 and 5, for example, compare well PB-1765 with wells PB-1775 and PB-1105 in fig. 4). A recent replacement water-supply well constructed for the City of Lake Worth well field has most of its production zone in this interval (fig. 5, well PB-600).

The top of the zone of secondary permeability (Swayze and Miller, 1984) approximately coincides with marker F in the western part of the area of southeastern Palm Beach County, lying between the water conservation areas and the coast (fig. 1), as shown by wells PB-1775 and PB-1105 (fig. 4). Development of the Biscayne aquifer (Shine and others, 1989) in this area is principally restricted to the Pinecrest Sand Member, as defined by markers T and O (fig. 4). The top of the zone of secondary permeability is about as high as or above marker F in the following areas: (1) near the coast, as shown by wells PB-675, PB-600, and PB-1082 (hydrostratigraphic section B-B', figs. 1 and 5); and (2) in most of the northeastern part of the county (eastern one-third to one-half of the area between the coast and Lake Okeechobee) based on review of other wells in figure 1.

Structure in the surficial aquifer system in the study area is shown by variations in altitude of the O marker (fig. 6). In the mapped area, the altitude of marker O ranges from as shallow as 14 feet below NGVD 29 in eastern Hendry County just west of the western Palm Beach County border; to as deep as 250 feet below NGVD 29 along the coast in the southwestern part of Palm Beach County. Generally, the surface defined by this marker has a high rate of dip toward the coast in the eastern one-fourth of Palm Beach County, and a structurally low area is present in the central part of Palm Beach County extending eastward and southeastward from the southeastern shoreline of Lake Okeechobee to the coast.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This report defines a preliminary hydrostratigraphic framework of the surficial aquifer system in Palm Beach County through the selection, correlation, and mapping of GR geophysical log markers that have hydrostratigraphic significance. Most previous studies have not placed the hydrogeology in a framework in which stratigraphic units in this complex aquifer system are defined and correlated between wells. Four geophysical log markers that approximately correspond to important stratigraphic unit boundaries in key wells with good lithologic control were correlated to 105 wells with adequate data in the study area. This was accomplished primarily using GR log signatures and secondarily, lithologic descriptions.

The lithostratigraphic units that contain the most productive parts of the surficial aquifer system are the Tamiami, Anastasia, and Fort Thompson Formations. The top of the deepest formation, the Tamiami Formation is placed higher in the section in this study than in most previous studies, based on analysis of core samples from test coreholes. The Tamiami Formation as defined by the geophysical log markers is widespread throughout the county and contains two members: the lower Ochopee Limestone Member and the upper Pinecrest Sand Member, both of which are important hydrogeologically. The Ochopee Limestone Member contains the gray limestone aquifer in southern Palm Beach County; in the southeastern part of the county, the lower part of the Biscayne aquifer can include the upper part of this member. In the western part of the area of southeastern Palm Beach County lying between the water-conservation areas and the coast, the Biscayne aquifer principally consists of the Pinecrest Sand Member.

The upper and lower boundaries of the Ochopee Limestone Member, which are regional-scale depositional sequence boundaries, were approximately defined by two of the geophysical log markers. The marker near the upper boundary of the Ochopee Limestone Member was commonly found to be highly correlative because of a characteristic GR log pattern. This marker exhibits a pronounced GR log peak or peaks, and this peak was observed to correspond with banded limestone crusts and a laminated calcareous layer in continuously drilled core samples. These lithologic features have been interpreted to represent a subaerial exposure surface or surfaces in previous studies.

Structure within the surficial aquifer system is indicated by mapping of the marker near the top of the Ochopee Limestone Member. Generally, the surface defined by this marker has a high rate of dip toward the coast in the eastern one-fourth of Palm Beach County. The area of high dip of this surface to the east in southeastern Palm Beach County generally coincides with the previously mapped extent of the Biscayne aquifer.

Meaningful simulation of ground-water flow in the surficial aquifer system in Palm Beach County requires model construction based on lithostratigraphic unit delineation and determination of hydraulic properties of these units. To adequately define the hydrostratigraphic framework additional test coreholes need to be drilled and logged with a complete geophysical log suite, including an optical borehole log. Additionally, hydraulic data on permeable zones and confining or semiconfining units are needed.

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Table 1. Wells used in this study

[Depths are in feet below land surface; horizontal datum for wells highlighted in pink is the North American Datum of 1983, horizontal datum for all other wells is the North American Datum of 1929; NGVD 29 is the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929; USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; dd mm ss s, degrees, minutes, seconds]

USGS local well no.	Latitude (dd mm ss.s)	Longitude (dd mm ss.s)	Altitude of land surface (feet NGVD 1929)	Total hole depth (feet)
G-2315	26° 19' 58"	80° 34' 21"	18.00	249
G-2916	26° 17' 36"	80° 06' 24"	17.00	1,200
HE-1110	26° 23' 09"	80° 55' 48"	15.00	160
HE-1116	26° 30' 23"	80° 56' 52"	18.00	195
HE-1142	26° 25' 55.6"	80° 53' 04.4"	14.09	184
HE-1143	26° 21' 42.7"	80° 54' 22.8"	14.63	180.5
HE-1144	26° 24' 12.7"	80° 54' 27.2"	15.85	182
HE-1361	26° 59' 17"	80° 36' 20"	22.20	1,380
HE-1367	26° 57' 57.2"	80° 25' 17.4"	27.19	205.7
PB-600	26° 36' 32"	80° 03' 57"	15.00	345
PB-634	26° 30' 50"	80° 03' 35"	10.00	188
PB-640	26° 59' 52"	80° 13' 56"	19.00	236
PB-649	26° 56' 33"	80° 20' 52"	26.00	205
PB-650	26° 57' 28"	80° 29' 00"	7.00	193
PB-651	26° 54' 32"	80° 36' 45"	22.00	236
PB-652A	26° 47' 08"	80° 03' 51"	20.00	314
PB-653	26° 46' 56"	80° 05' 29"	12.00	314
PB-657	26° 37' 58"	80° 09' 25"	18.00	281
PB-658	26° 22' 01"	80° 09' 13"	15.00	365
PB-665	26° 21' 47"	80° 12' 13"	18.00	225
PB-666	26° 22' 13"	80° 06' 52"	13.00	415
PB-667	26° 41' 22"	80° 05' 46"	15.00	357
PB-668	26° 36' 34"	80° 05' 12"	10.00	358
PB-669	26° 35' 15"	80° 04' 52"	12.00	345
PB-670	26° 35' 18"	80° 06' 17"	15.00	325
PB-671	26° 35' 23"	80° 08' 52"	18.00	119
PB-672	26° 35' 27"	80° 12' 17"	18.00	234
PB-673	26° 28' 59"	80° 09' 48"	19.00	248
PB-674	26° 29' 02"	80° 06' 54"	17.00	302
PB-675	26° 28' 18"	80° 05' 18"	14.00	387
PB-676	26° 41' 13"	80° 23' 56"	15.00	175
PB-677	26° 41' 04"	80° 20' 06"	16.00	190
PB-678	26° 40' 58"	80° 17' 52"	20.00	189
PB-679	26° 48' 42"	80° 17' 22"	22.00	174
PB-681	26° 58' 02"	80° 05' 38"	12.00	248

Table 2. Sources of information and interpretations for wells on hydrostratigraphic sections A-A' and B-B' (figs. 4 and 5).

[All depths are in feet below land surface; abbreviations: FAS, Florida aquifer system; FGS, Florida Geological Survey; PB/CWD, Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department; SAS, surficial aquifer system; SPT, standard penetration test (split-barrel sampler); USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; dd mm ss.s, degrees, minutes, seconds]

USGS local well no.	Total depth (ft) aquifer system	Lithologic sampling method	Source of lithologic description	Author of lithologic description	Source of geologic and hydrogeologic unit boundary interpretations shown on figures 4 and 5
Hydrostratigraphic section A-A' (fig. 4)					
HE-1110	160 SAS	Continuous core	Reese and Cunningham, 2000	Cunningham, K.J.	Reese and Cunningham, 2000
PB-1703	221 SAS	Continuous core	Reese and Cunningham, 2000	Cunningham, K.J.	Reese and Cunningham, 2000
PB-1787	180 SAS	SPT with minor core intervals	Ardaman and Associates, Inc., 2003	Harrison, T.	none
PB-1785	180 SAS	SPT with minor core intervals	Ardaman and Associates, Inc., 2003	Scott, N.	none
PB-1704	200.5 SAS	Continuous core	Reese and Cunningham, 2000	Cunningham, K.J.	Reese and Cunningham, 2000
PB-1788	180 SAS	SPT with minor core intervals	Ardaman and Associates, Inc., 2003	Scott, N.	none
PB-1106	217 SAS	Rotary cuttings	Swayze and others, 1980	WAL	This study (base of SAS and top of Hawthorn Group only)
PB-1765	1,225 FAS	Rotary cuttings	FGS, well no. W-12966	Fischer, R.C.	For below 120 ft; Fish, 1988 and Bennett and others, 2001
PB-1761 (at one site)	120 SAS	Continuous core	This study	Reese, R.S.	This study, including paleontologic study by G. L. Wingard, written com., 2006
PB-1775	1,650 SAS	Rotary cuttings	PBCWUD, 2003	unknown	none
PB-1105	220 SAS	Rotary cuttings	Swayze and others, 1980	unknown	none
G-2916	1,200 FAS	Rotary cuttings	CH2M HILL, 1997	unknown	CH2M HILL, 1997
Hydrostratigraphic section B-B' (fig. 5)					
PB-1784	425 SAS	Rotary cuttings	CH2M HILL, 2004	STS and AIS	CH2M HILL, 2004
PB-675	387 SAS	Rotary cuttings	Schneider, 1976	Land, L.F.	This study (base of SAS and top of Hawthorn Group only)
PB-1195	435 SAS	Rotary cuttings	CH2M HILL, 1993	unknown	CH2M HILL, 1993
PB-669	345 SAS	Rotary cuttings	Schneider, 1976	Land, L.F.	This study (base of SAS and top of Hawthorn Group only)
PB-600	345 SAS	Rotary cuttings	Schneider, 1976	unknown	This study (base of SAS and top of Hawthorn Group only)
PB-1693	1,191 FAS	Rotary cuttings	CH2M HILL, 1998	unknown	CH2M HILL, 1998
PB-652A	314 SAS	Rotary cuttings	Schneider, 1976	Land, L.F.	Johnson, 1988 and this study for base SAS only
PB-1082	200 SAS	Rotary cuttings	Swayze and others, 1980	Fischer, J.N.	none
PB-833	520 SAS	Rotary cuttings	Schneider, 1976	Scott, W.B.	Johnson, 1988 and Miller, 1987 for base of SAS
PB-1144	1,038 FAS	Rotary cuttings	USGS well files	unknown	USGS well files and this study

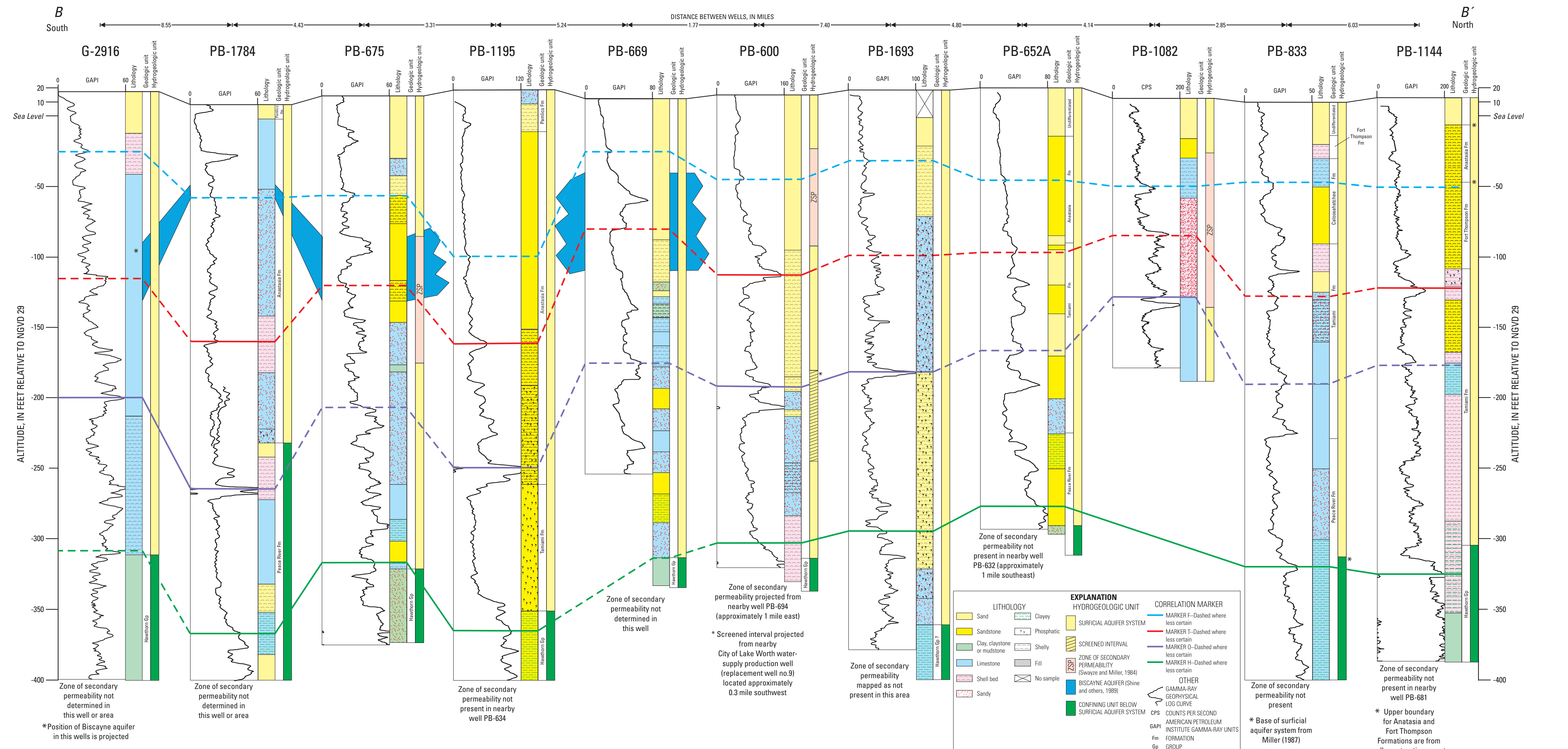


Figure 5. Hydrostratigraphic section B-B'.

HYDROSTRATIGRAPHIC FRAMEWORK AND SELECTION AND CORRELATION OF GEOPHYSICAL LOG MARKERS IN THE SURFICIAL AQUIFER SYSTEM, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA