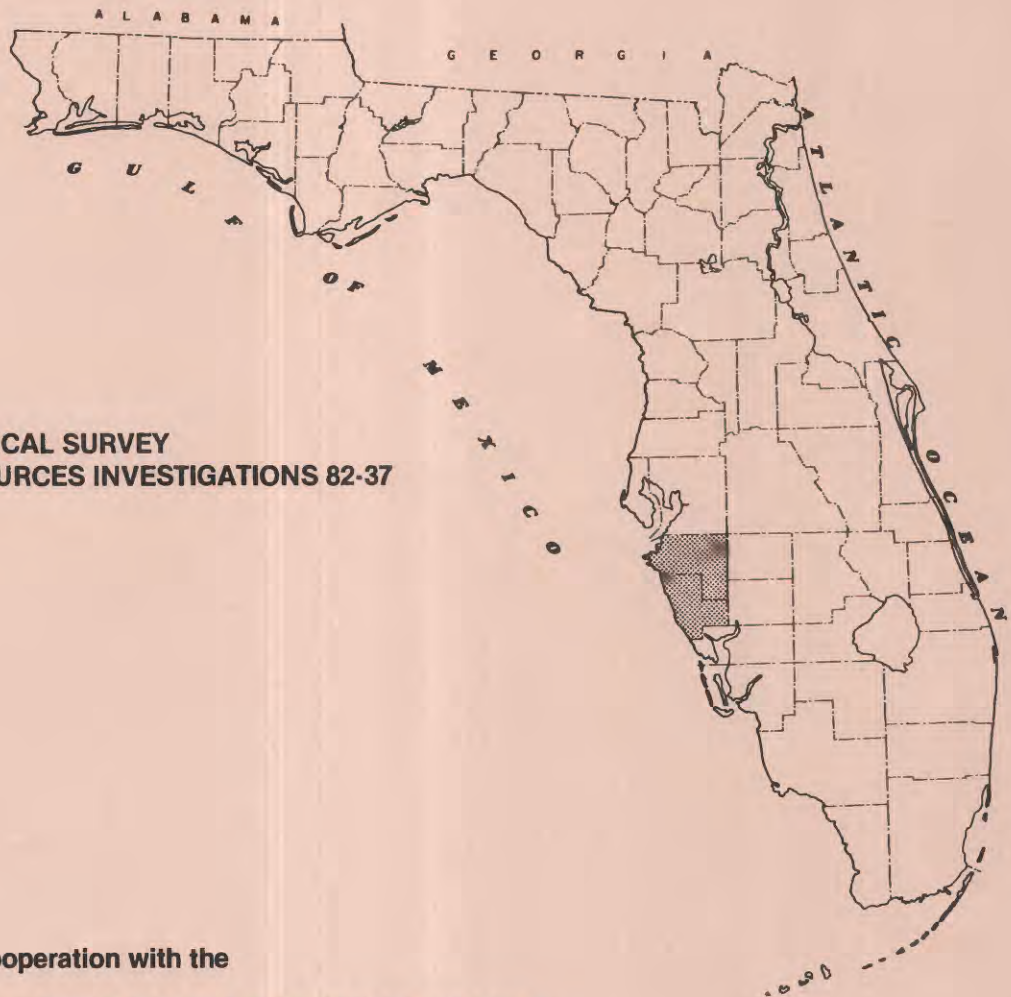


WATER RESOURCES AND DATA-NETWORK ASSESSMENT OF THE MANASOTA BASIN, MANATEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES, FLORIDA

**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WATER-RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS 82-37**



**Prepared in cooperation with the
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**



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Tallahassee, Florida

1982

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVERSION FACTORS

Factors for converting inch-pound units to International System (SI) of metric units and abbreviation of units

<u>Multiply</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>To obtain</u>
inch (in)	25.4	millimeter (mm)
foot (ft)	0.3048	meter (m)
mile (mi)	1.609	kilometer (km)
acre	4,047	square meter (m ²)
square mile (mi ²)	2.590	square kilometer (km ²)
gallon (gal)	3.785	liter (L)
	0.003785	cubic meter (m ³)
million gallons (Mgal)	3,785	cubic meter (m ³)
acre foot (acre-ft)	1,234	cubic meter (m ³)
cubic foot per second (ft ³ /s)	0.02832	cubic meter per second (m ³ /s)
gallon per minute (gal/min)	0.06309	liter per second (L/s)
million gallons per day (Mgal/d)	0.04381	cubic meter per second (m ³ /s)
foot per mile (ft/mi)	0.1894	meter per kilometer (m/km)

* * * * *

National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD of 1929).--A geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of the first-order level nets of both the United States and Canada, formerly called "mean sea level." In the text of this report, NGVD of 1929 is referred to as sea level.

* * * * *

WATER RESOURCES AND DATA-NETWORK ASSESSMENT OF THE MANASOTA
BASIN, MANATEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES, FLORIDA

By David P. Brown

ABSTRACT

The source of freshwater in the Manasota Basin (hydropolitical basin) is rainfall. The average annual rainfall within the Basin is 53.7 inches, and evapotranspiration within the Southwest Florida Water Management District is about 39 inches per year.

The Myakka and Manatee Rivers are the major streams draining the Basin. Numerous small streams originate within several miles of the coast and flow into bays and estuaries. Annual runoff for gaged parts of the Myakka River and Manatee River basins ranges from about 13 to 17 inches per year. Stream-flow in the upland areas of the Basin diminishes rapidly following the end of the rainy season and approaches zero during extended dry periods.

Surface water in the Basin is generally of good quality, except in tidally affected coastal areas where streams and canals are commonly saline. The quality varies seasonally, generally becoming more mineralized during the dry seasons when flow of streams is supplemented or maintained by ground-water discharge.

As of 1978, the Big Slough Canal at North Port, the Manatee River at Lake Manatee Reservoir, the Braden River at Ward Lake, and the Little Manatee River in northern Manatee County were used for public water supply, supplying about 40 million gallons per day.

The Manasota Basin is underlain by a thick sequence of sedimentary rocks whose lithology and structure control the occurrence and movement of ground water. The principal hydrologic units are (1) surficial aquifer, (2) intermediate aquifers and confining beds, (3) Floridan aquifer, and (4) sub-Floridan confining unit.

The quality of ground water in the Basin is generally good, except in the western (coastal) and southern parts where saltwater intrusion or incomplete flushing of connate water has occurred. The mineral content of ground water generally increases with depth and also increases areally from the northeast towards the west and south.

Concentrations of dissolved solids in the surficial aquifer and intermediate aquifers are generally less than 500 milligrams per liter, except in coastal areas where concentrations may exceed 5,000 milligrams per liter. In the Floridan aquifer, concentrations of dissolved solids exceed 500 milligrams per liter in the western and southern parts of the Basin.

In the surficial aquifer and intermediate aquifers, concentrations of sulfate and chloride greater than 250 milligrams per liter occur in the coastal and southern parts of the Basin. In the Floridan aquifer, concentrations of sulfate exceeded 250 milligrams per liter, except in the northeast. Concentrations of chloride greater than 250 milligrams per liter are generally limited to the coastal and extreme southern parts of the Basin.

The intermediate aquifers and Floridan aquifer are highly developed sources of water. The surficial aquifer is undeveloped except near the coast and southern part of the Basin where water from deep aquifers is unpotable. Water from intermediate aquifers is widely used for domestic and public supplies. The Floridan aquifer is a major source of water for agricultural irrigation.

Water use in the Basin is estimated to be 118 million gallons per day. The major use of water is for irrigation, an estimated 44 million gallons per day in 1975. More than 90 percent of the irrigation water was from ground-water sources. Estimated water use for public supply was 30.3 million gallons per day (1978) and is projected to increase to 120 million gallons per day by 2000. By 1985, the projected water use for industrial supply (including proposed phosphate mining in Manatee County) will be 34.4 million gallons per day.

The existing surface-water network consists of three continuous-record stage stations and three crest-stage, partial-record stations. Currently, one streamflow station, Myakka River near Sarasota, and one discontinued station, Manatee River near Bradenton, have sufficient discharge record (more than 20 years) to adequately define their streamflow characteristics. The revised network could include: (1) an expansion of the existing streamflow-data network; (2) a low-flow, partial-record network; (3) expansion of the crest-stage, partial-record network; and (4) collection of data required for modeling of stream systems. Major land-use changes, such as strip mining, urbanization, and stream impoundments and diversions, require reassessment of the type and use of data collected at each station. Such changes may require establishment of additional continuous- and partial-record stations to provide an adequate data base for management of the surface-water sources.

The major emphasis of the existing ground-water network is directed toward the Floridan aquifer; few data are being collected on the surficial aquifer or intermediate aquifers. Most wells in the network are privately owned and may penetrate one or more aquifers or water-bearing zones. Data obtained from these wells may represent a composite of various aquifers, and access to these wells may be only temporary.

Development and completion of the regional ground-water monitoring plan could provide most of the data necessary to adequately define the ground-water system and meet the needs for appraisal, protection, and management of ground-water resources in the Basin. About 50 percent of the monitoring sites should be completed by 1982.

INTRODUCTION

The Southwest Florida Water Management District has named the area consisting of Manatee and Sarasota Counties the "Manasota Basin." It is a hydropolitical basin that is one of the most rapidly developing areas in southwest Florida.

Associated with the development is increased water use. Increased uses for irrigation and industry are of particular importance because the amount of water used is over twice the amount required for domestic and municipal uses. A continued increase in water use could deplete streams and lakes and the aquifers, cause or increase the rate of saltwater intrusion, and degrade the quality of ground water.

More hydrologic data for the Manasota Basin are needed to provide information necessary to wisely manage the water resources. A prerequisite to obtaining needed hydrologic information is a network of stations for collection of surface-water and ground-water data. The Manasota Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Geological Survey undertook a cooperative investigation to increase hydrologic information by modifying the hydrologic-data network to accommodate existing conditions and proposed water-resources development. This report evaluates the available information and proposes a program of increased data collection.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this study is to describe the water resources of the Manasota Basin, to evaluate the adequacy of the hydrologic data network for assessing regional effects of water-resources development, and to propose additional data collection. Specific objectives include: (1) description of the surface-water and ground-water resources, existing and potential water-resources development, and water use; (2) development of maps that delineate water quality in the multizoned aquifer system; and (3) analysis of the current hydrologic data network and recommendations for modification of the network. The description of the area's water resources and the data network evaluation are based on existing data and previously published reports.

Description of Area

The Manasota Basin, one of 10 hydropolitical basins in the Southwest Florida Water Management District, is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico on the west, the Alafia Basin on the north, and the Peace Basin on the east and south (fig. 1). The Basin is about 1,300 mi² in area.

The population of the Manasota Basin in 1977 was about 287,000 (Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1978). Nearly 40 percent of the population is in incorporated areas, generally along the Gulf Coast, one of the more rapidly growing areas in the Basin. By 1980, the population had increased to 347,700 (Southwest Florida Water Management District, written commun., 1980). Bradenton, Englewood, Palmetto, Venice, and Sarasota are the principal cities in the area.

Land surface in the Basin ranges from sea level along the coast to about 135 feet above sea level in the headwaters of the Manatee River in northeast Manatee County. The topography is largely controlled by a series of relic marine terraces (Peek, 1958a). Marshes and swamps occupy about 5 percent of the upland that lies more than 40 feet above sea level.

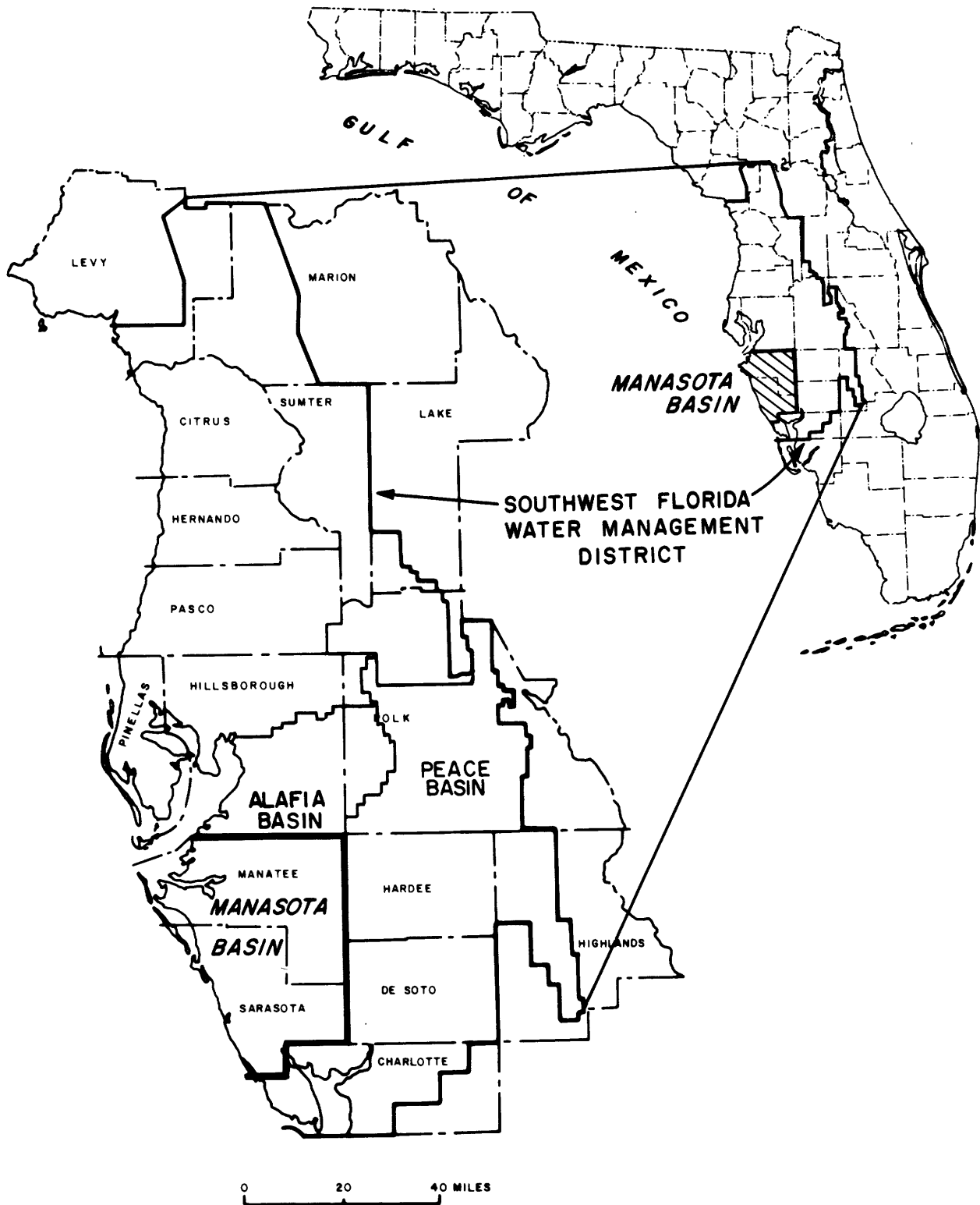


Figure 1.--Location of the Manasota Basin, Southwest Florida Water Management District.

The Myakka and Manatee Rivers are the two major streams (fig. 2). Big Slough Canal and Braden River are the largest tributaries to the Myakka and Manatee Rivers, respectively. The Little Manatee River and the Peace River drain parts of the Manasota Basin, and numerous, small coastal streams drain low-lying coastal areas. Long, low keys that parallel the coast do not have any defined drainage channels.

The three major types of land use in the Manasota Basin in 1975 were: (1) rangeland, about 49 percent; (2) agricultural land (cropland, pasture, and citrus groves), about 23 percent; and (3) urban, about 12 percent (table 1). Urban land occurs mostly along the coast. Projected land-use changes by the year 2000 indicate a decrease in rangeland and agricultural land and a substantial increase in urban land along the coast and southern boundary.

Transitional land, such as strip mines, quarries, and gravel pits, represented less than 4 percent of the Basin in 1975. Texas Instruments Incorporated (1977b) has projected an increase from 505 to 12,617 acres of strip mines, quarries, and gravel pits by 1985, reflecting the expected development of phosphate mining in eastern Manatee County. By 2000, strip mines, quarries, and gravel pits will have decreased to about 9,000 acres. This projection reflects an anticipated decline in phosphate mining as the areas are mined out. Figure 3 shows areas in and near the Basin controlled or owned by active phosphate mining companies.

Table 1.--Generalized land use, 1975, and projected land use, 2000
[Modified from Texas Instruments Incorporated, 1977b]

Land use	1975		2000	
	Acres	Percent of basin	Acres	Percent of basin
Urban	105,760	11.82	144,331	16.14
Agricultural	205,808	23.01	187,447	20.96
Rangeland	437,887	48.98	425,481	47.58
Forest	40,375	4.51	39,768	4.45
Wetland	55,224	6.18	53,998	6.04
Transitional	32,653	3.65	26,682	2.98
Water	16,548	1.85	16,548	1.85
Total	894,255	100	894,255	100

HYDROLOGIC SYSTEM

Rainfall and Evapotranspiration

Rainfall is the source of freshwater in the Manasota Basin. Part of the rainfall remains on the surface, collecting in topographic depressions, such as lakes, swamps, and marshes, or entering stream channels and flowing out of

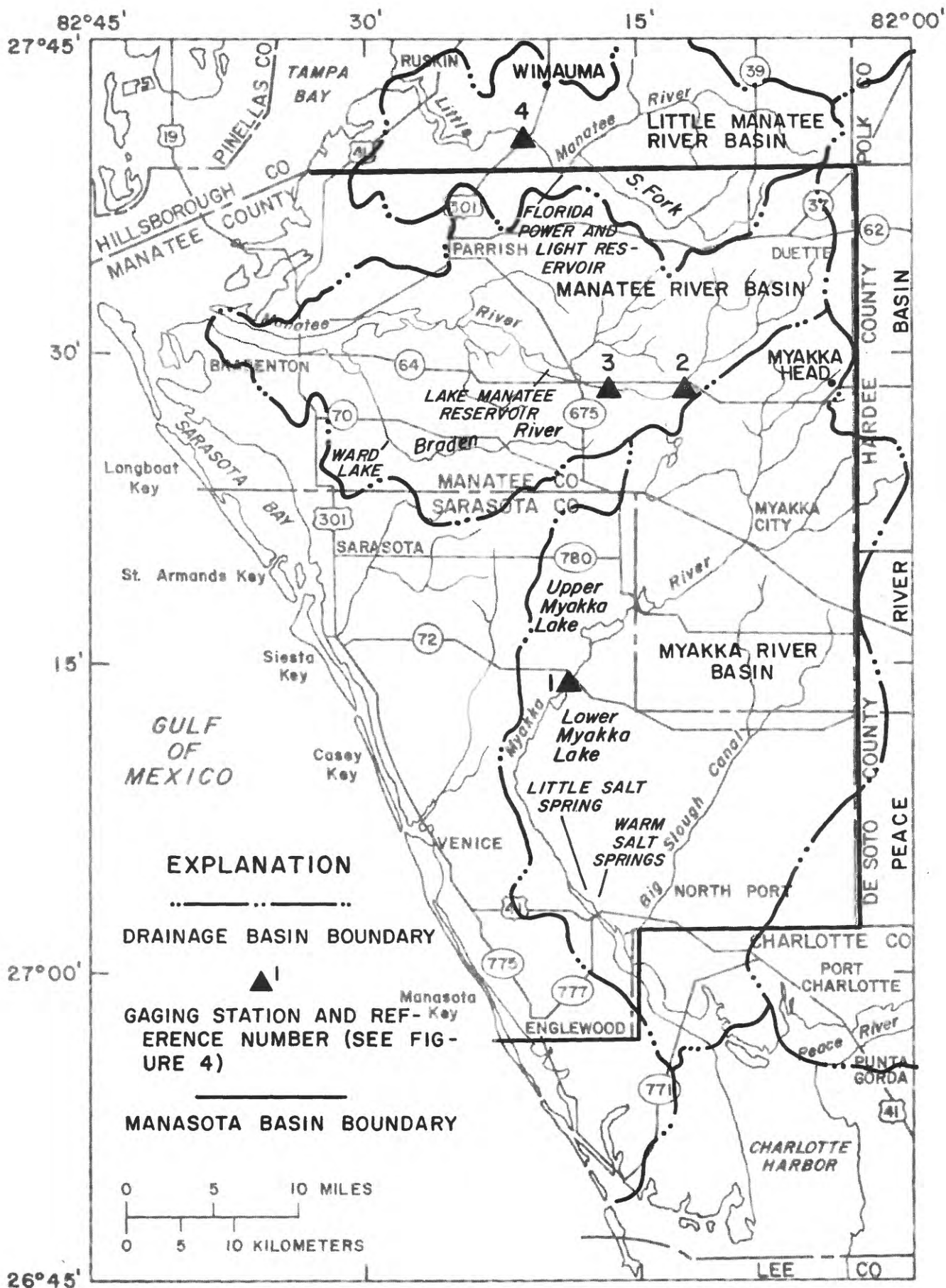


Figure 2.--Drainage basins in the Manasota Basin.

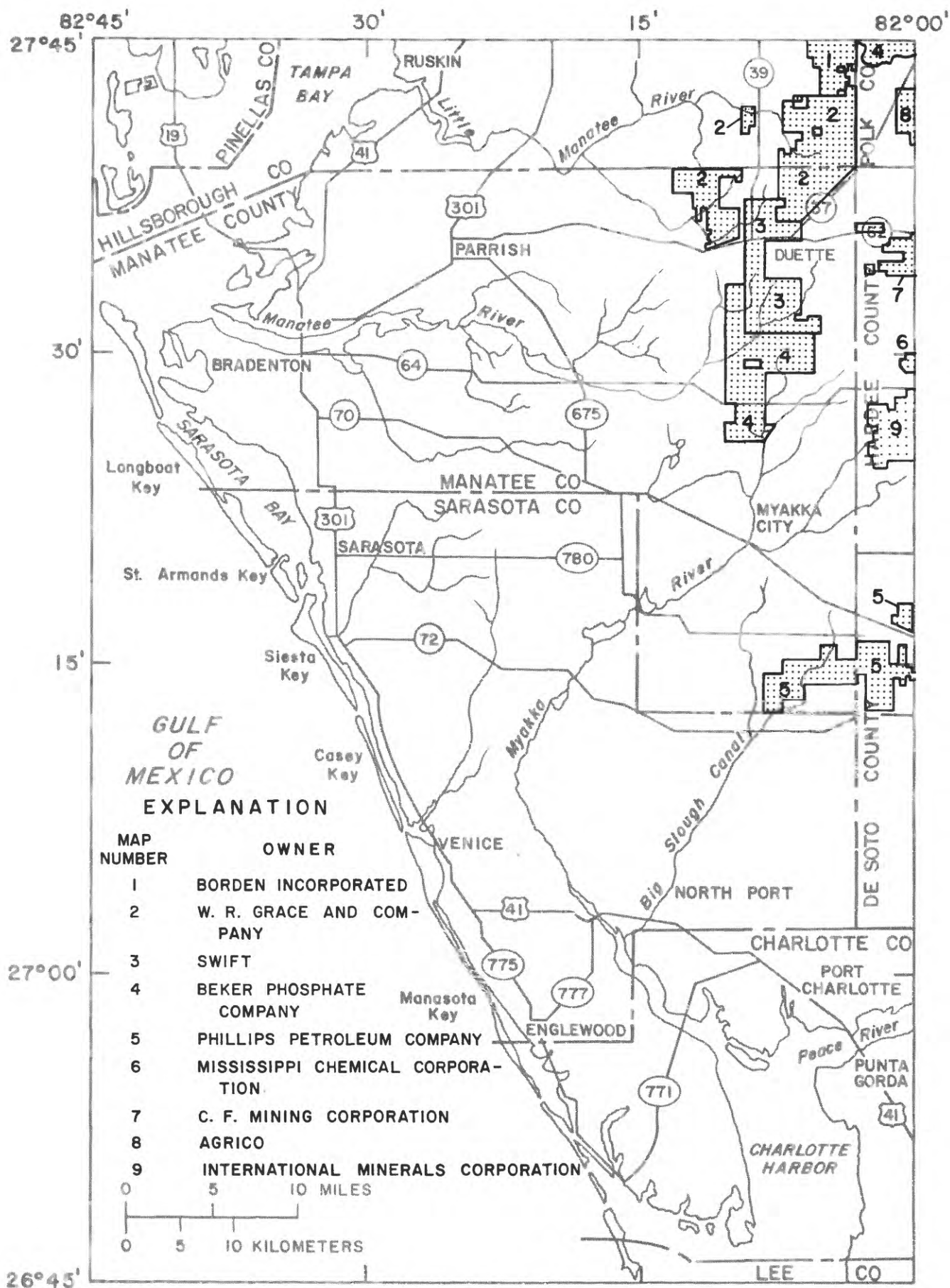


Figure 3.--Areas controlled or owned by active phosphate mining companies in and near the Manasota Basin (from Texas Instruments Incorporated, 1977b).

the area. The remainder is lost to evapotranspiration or infiltrates downward into the soil and aquifers. Water that infiltrates into the soil and aquifers may return to the surface within a few years as seepage, spring flow, or until pumped, the water may remain in storage for thousands of years.

The long-term average annual rainfall within the Basin is 53.7 inches. The average annual rainfall for 1956 through 1975 ranged from less than 52 inches in the south to more than 56 inches in the central part of the Basin. About 60 percent of the rainfall occurs from June through September as a result of heavy rains generally associated with convective thunderstorms. Rainfall during this period ranges from 5 to 8 inches per month. About 40 percent of the rainfall occurs from October through May, ranging from about 1.5 to 3 inches per month.

The evapotranspiration rate within the Manasota Basin has been determined to be about 39 inches per year (Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1978). About 60 percent of this occurs from May to October. Average annual evapotranspiration of the Myakka River basin was estimated to be 35 to 40 inches (Joyner and Sutcliffe, 1976); average annual lake evaporation was estimated to be 52 inches. Joyner and Sutcliffe (1976) reported that evapotranspiration losses from the numerous, predominantly wet-weather, vegetation-filled ponds in the Myakka River basin probably exceed 60 inches per year.

Surface Water

Drainage Basins

Boundaries of major drainage basins are delineated in figure 2, and areas are given in table 2. The major basins are the Myakka and Manatee. The Little Manatee River drains the extreme northern part of the Manasota Basin. The Peace River drains small sections along the eastern and southern boundaries of the Basin.

Numerous small streams drain coastal areas between the Myakka and Manatee Rivers and Tampa Bay. These streams are tidally affected throughout much of their length and are of little importance as sources of water.

Table 2.--Drainage areas in the Manasota Basin

Drainage basin	Drainage area (mi ²)	
	Total	Manasota Basin (approximate)
Peace River basin	2,403	76
Myakka River basin	550	475
Coastal area between Myakka and Manatee Rivers	425	374
Manatee River basin	357	356
Little Manatee River basin	211	72
Tampa Bay and coastal areas	877	42

Myakka River basin

The larger streams and canals of the Myakka River basin are shown in figure 2. The natural stream channels form a poorly developed drainage system with large swampy areas bordering many channels. In broad flatlands, most natural drainageways are shallow sloughs that range in width from a few feet to more than a mile. Only the Myakka River channel is well defined and naturally entrenched throughout its course. Many sloughs and swampy areas have been drained by ditches and canals.

The Myakka River rises in the northeastern part of the Manasota Basin and flows southward to the Gulf of Mexico. The river is 69 miles long and drains 550 mi². At its source, the channel is about 115 feet above sea level. In the upper reach, the channel has a fairly steep gradient, about 5 ft/mi, in comparison to the lower reaches where the channel gradient is generally less than 1 ft/mi.

Big Slough Canal drains the southeastern part of the Myakka River basin. The canal drains flat, swampy lowlands that are generally less than 50 feet above sea level.

Manatee River basin

The Manatee River and its principal tributary, the Braden River, drain about 356 mi² of the Manasota Basin (table 2 and fig. 2). The eastern part of the basin consists of relatively flat terraces that are poorly drained and contain numerous small shallow lakes and swamps. A network of canals has been dug within the Basin to augment natural drainage.

The Manatee River rises in the northeastern part of the Manasota Basin and flows generally westward to the Gulf of Mexico. The river is about 53 miles long and, at its source, is about 130 feet above sea level. In the upper reaches, the river channel has a relatively steep gradient, about 5 ft/mi, compared to the lower reaches where the gradient is less than 1 ft/mi. The stream is affected by tides more than 20 miles upstream from the Gulf of Mexico.

The Braden River rises in the central part of the Manasota Basin and flows west and north to the Manatee River. The river drains about 86 mi², is about 23 miles long, and, at its source, is about 75 feet above sea level.

Little Manatee River basin

The Little Manatee River is about 39 miles long, heads in southeastern Hillsborough County, and flows westward into Tampa Bay (fig. 2). The stream drains about 72 mi² of the northern part of the Manasota Basin. At its source, the channel is about 100 feet in altitude and has a fairly steep gradient. In the lower reach of the river, the stage rises and falls with the tides in Tampa Bay. During low flow, tidal effects are discernible as much as 15 miles from the mouth.

The South Fork Little Manatee River, the largest tributary, is about 14 miles² long and heads in northeastern Manatee County (fig. 2). It drains about 40 mi² in Manatee County and about 1 mi² in Hillsborough County.

Streamflow Characteristics

The average, maximum, and minimum discharges of gaged streams in the Manasota Basin and adjacent areas are presented in table 3. Streamflow characteristics reflect climatic conditions, hydraulic characteristics of the surficial aquifer, and topography; they may be used to evaluate the stream's dependability for water supply.

Table 3.--Summary of data from stream-gaging stations in the Manasota Basin and adjacent areas through September 1977

Station name and map number	Years of record	Drainage area (mi ²)	Discharge (ft ³ /s)			Runoff (in/yr)
			Average	Maximum	Minimum	
(1) Myakka River near Sarasota	41	229	253	8,670	No flow	15.00
(2) Manatee River near Myakka Head	11	65.3	63.6	3,130	No flow	13.23
(3) Manatee River near Bradenton	26 ^{1/}	87.1	109	3,440	1.7	16.99
(4) Little Manatee River near Wimauma	37	149	170	14,000	1.2	15.49

^{1/} Period of record - April 1939 to May 1965.

Flow-duration curves are cumulative frequency curves that show the percent of time specified discharges were equaled or exceeded during a given period. Flow-duration curves at four gaging stations in the area are presented in figure 4. The curve for Myakka River has a steep slope indicating highly variable flow (Flippo and Joyner, 1968). Curves for the Manatee and Little Manatee Rivers generally decrease in slope in the low-flow range, indicating release of ground water from storage. Flow-duration curves for all streams in the Basin generally flatten out at their upper ends. The flattening out of the curves, in part, indicates detention and slow release of water from storage in the numerous lakes and swamps at high flows.

The minimum-annual-flow characteristics of streams determine their dependability for water supply. Periods of minimum flow are primarily determined by climatic conditions. Lowest base flow, streamflow that is maintained primarily from ground-water discharge, usually occurs in April or May and in November or December.

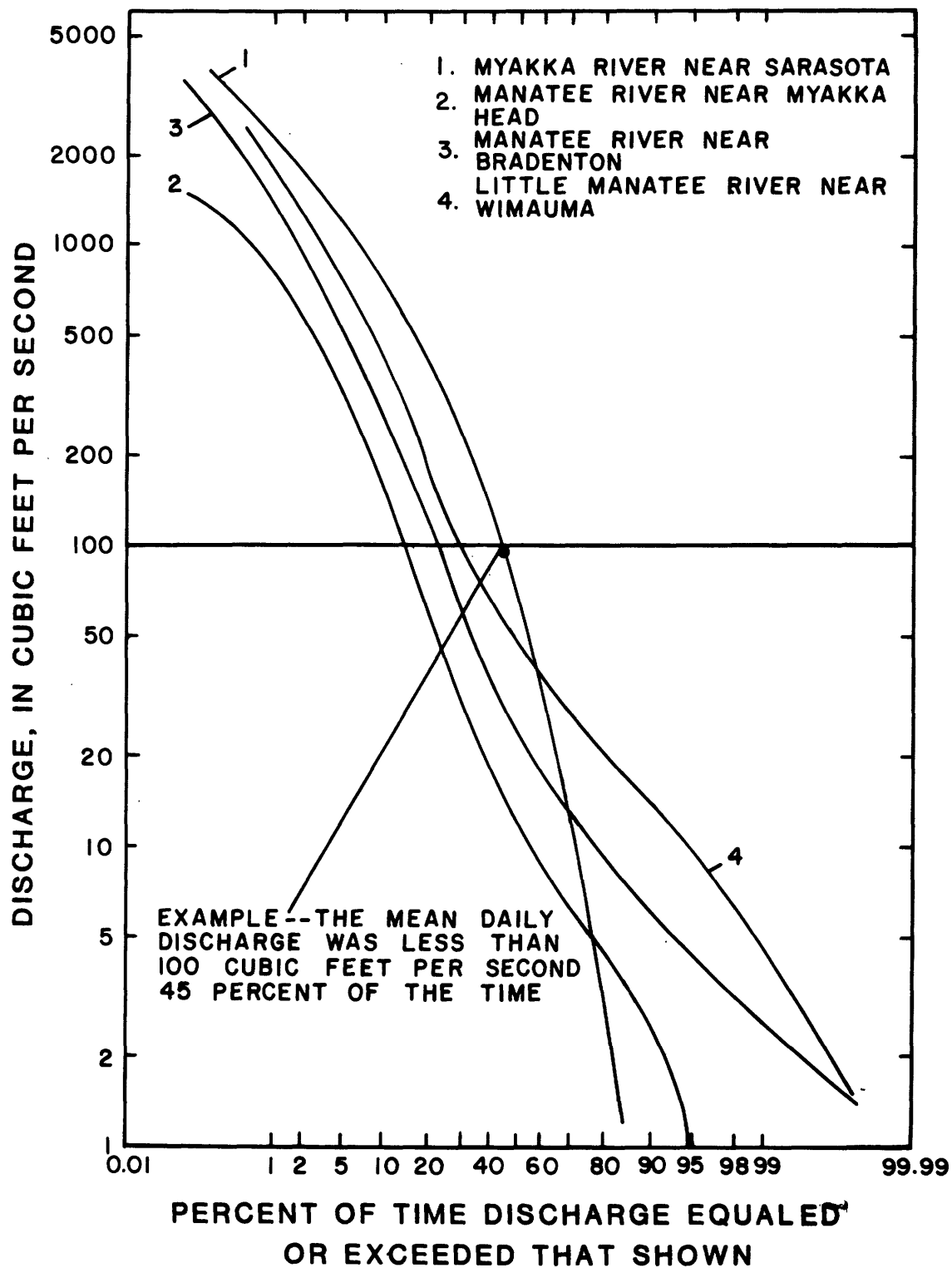


Figure 4.--Flow-duration curves for selected streams, Manasota Basin area.

Surficial sediments are the principal contributors to base flow. They are porous and permeable and drain rapidly on the upland ridges and knolls, but are less permeable over the broad, flat areas. Streamflow in the upland areas diminishes rapidly at the end of the rainy season and approaches zero during extended periods of little or no rainfall. The less permeable surficial sediments in the relatively flat terraces and a lack of well developed drainage retard the movement of water out of these areas.

In the Myakka River basin, some runoff collects in a broad, flat, swampy area just north of Myakka City and is lost to evapotranspiration. Similar losses to evapotranspiration in the Tatum Sawgrass (marsh), in the Upper and Lower Myakka Lakes, and in marshes and swamps between the lakes cause flow from the lakes to cease most years during the dry season (Flipppo and Joyner, 1968).

In the central and northern part of the Basin, low flow of the Manatee River near Bradenton and Little Manatee River near Wimauma is sustained by slow drainage of ground water from moderately to poorly permeable surficial sediments. Deep entrenchment of river channels into these sediments permits drainage to the streams from a greater thickness of the surficial material than would occur if the channels were shallower.

Much of the low flow in the coastal streams is derived from drainage from irrigation wells tapping the deep aquifers and not solely from drainage of surficial deposits (Flipppo and Joyner, 1968). Drainage from irrigated land is at times an appreciable part of low flow of streams in the Manasota Basin.

Lakes and Springs

The principal natural lakes in the Manasota Basin are the Upper and Lower Myakka Lakes. Both lakes are in the Myakka River basin and occupy shallow depressions (fig. 2). The two lakes have been considered for use as public water supplies. Water storage in the lakes totals about 1,500 Mgal at lake levels of 14 feet above sea level in the upper lake and 10 feet in the lower lake (Flipppo and Joyner, 1968).

The Basin also contains hundreds of small lakes and ponds that have surface areas of less than 200 acres. Most lakes are in the western half of the Basin. Most are shallow and may go dry during moderate droughts.

The discharge of the Manatee River at Lake Manatee Reservoir, about 29 miles upstream from the river mouth (fig. 2), is regulated by an earthen dam. Lake Manatee Reservoir has a drainage area of 123 mi². At maximum pool altitude of 40 feet above sea level, the reservoir has a surface area of about 1,850 acres and a storage capacity of about 7,000 Mgal.

Ward Lake on the Braden River has a surface area of 57.6 acres and a drainage area of 59.5 mi². The crest elevation of the central control structure is about 4.2 feet above sea level. The storage capacity of the reservoir is about 58.5 Mgal (Smith and Gillespie Engineers, Inc., 1971).

Florida Power and Light's cooling reservoir on the Little Manatee River covers about 4,000 acres in northern Manatee County and has a volume of 14,300 Mgal. Water for the reservoir is taken from the Little Manatee River where the river meanders into Manatee County.

The two principal springs in the Manasota Basin are Warm Salt and Little Salt Springs. Warm Salt Spring is in Sarasota County, 5 miles northwest of North Port. The spring head is a pool about 250 feet in diameter and 167 feet deep (Ferguson and others, 1947). The spring discharges to a tributary of the Myakka River at a rate of about 10 ft³/s. Little Salt Spring is 2.0 miles northeast of Warm Salt Spring. The spring discharges into a circular pool about 250 feet in diameter. Discharge measured between April 1946 (Ferguson and others, 1947) and June 1962 ranged from 0.89 to 1.53 ft³/s. Both springs discharge highly mineralized water.

Chemical Quality of Water

The quality of surface water in the Manasota Basin is presented in table 4. Surface water is generally suitable for most uses; however, the quality varies seasonally. During the wet season, when streamflow is mainly surface runoff, specific conductance is lowest (fig. 5) and color is highest. During the dry season, when streamflow is maintained by ground-water discharge, specific conductance increases and color decreases. Dissolved mineral concentrations of many streams in the area are increased by agricultural runoff of moderately to highly mineralized water pumped from deep aquifers.

Surface water at low flow within the Manasota Basin ranges from a calcium and magnesium bicarbonate type in the middle and upper reaches of streams to a sodium chloride or calcium and magnesium sulfate type in the low-lying areas near the coast (Kaufman, 1972). The calcium and magnesium bicarbonate type water generally occurs in carbonate rocks that underlie the Basin. This type of water may also be derived from agricultural runoff where irrigation water is pumped from a carbonate aquifer. Calcium and magnesium sulfate type water may also be derived from agricultural runoff of irrigation water pumped from deep aquifers. Sodium chloride type water occurs in low-lying, coastal areas of tidal and estuarine environments, agricultural runoff, and discharge from saline aquifers.

Surface-Water Development

Big Slough Canal at North Port, Manatee River at Lake Manatee Reservoir, and the Braden River at Ward Lake are being used (1978) as public water supplies (fig. 3). Part of the flow of the Little Manatee River in northern Manatee County is diverted for makeup water for a thermoelectric powerplant cooling reservoir. Numerous small streams, lakes, and manmade ponds are used for stock watering and irrigation.

Discharge of Big Slough Canal is controlled by a dam near the U.S. Highway 41 bridge at North Port. In 1975, an estimated 1.0 Mgal/d from Big Slough Canal was supplied to North Port. In 1977, Manatee County utility system pumped an average of 19.1 Mgal/d from Lake Manatee Reservoir. The peak daily pumpage was 27.6 Mgal/d. In 1977, the average daily pumpage by the city of Bradenton from Ward Lake reservoir was 4.0 Mgal. The peak daily pumpage was 5.25 Mgal.

Table 4.--Water quality of selected streams, Manasota Basin and adjacent areas

[Range in concentrations is in milligrams per liter unless otherwise indicated.]

Station name and map number	Period of record	Chloride (Cl)	Sulfate (SO ₄)	Dissolved solids	Hardness as CaCO ₃	Specific conductance (micromhos/cm at 25°C)	Color (Pt-Co units)	Temperature (°C)
(1) Myakka River near Sarasota	1962-76	3.0-90	0-71	18-235	10-120	41-418	60-320	9.0-33
(2) Manatee River near Myakka Head	1967-76	3.5-16	0.8-20	34-146	10-61	17-212	5-320	11-31
(3) Manatee River near Braden- ton	1962-66	2.0-13	0-12	22-80	6.0-140	19-263	5-220	9.0-32
(4) Little Mana- tee River near Wimauma	1956-76	3.2-22	0.8-140	21-323	2.0-230	37-668	5-250	13-31
Recommended limit ^{1/}	---	250	250	500	---	---	75	---

^{1/} National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering, 1973.

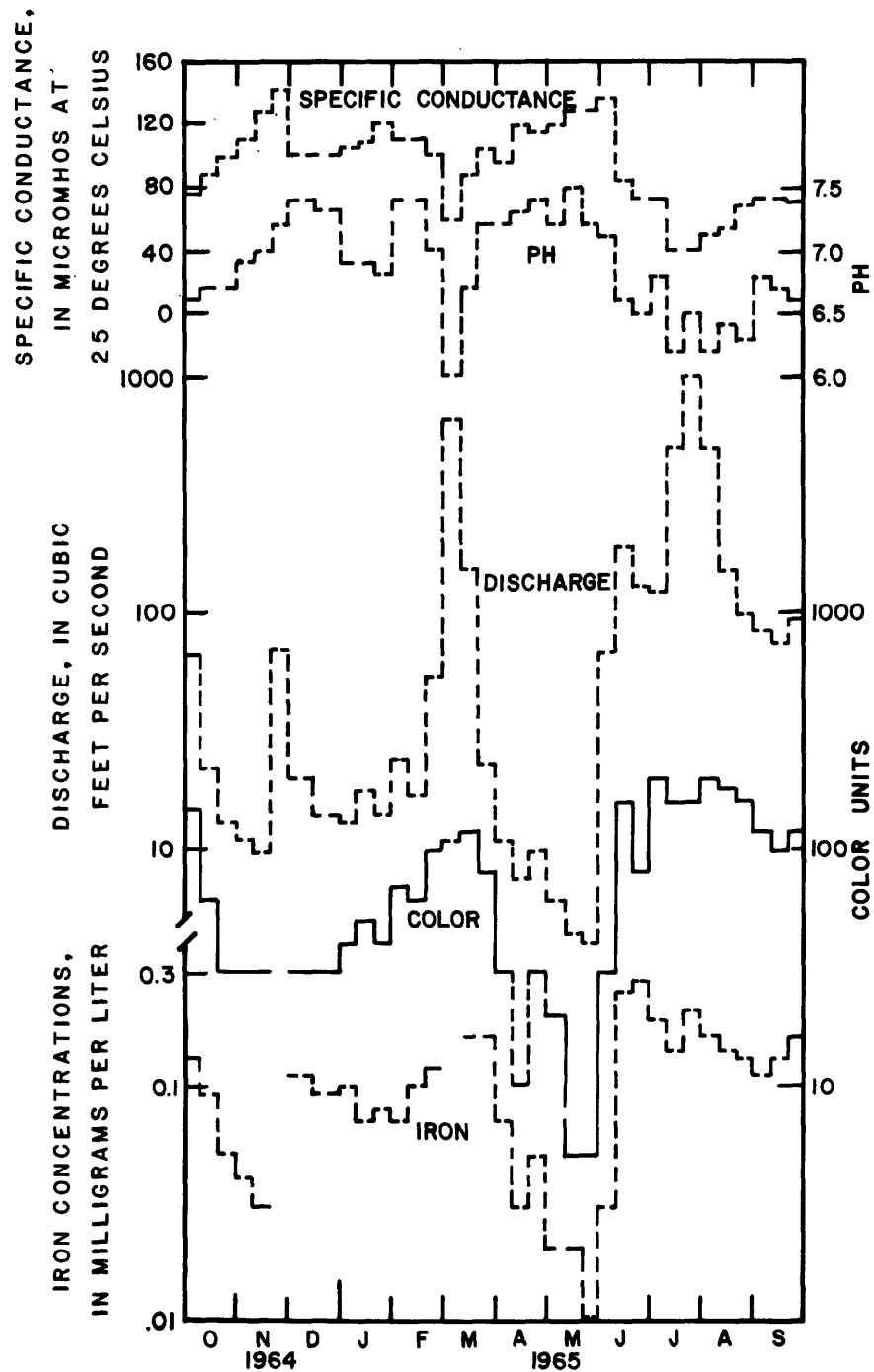


Figure 5.--Seasonal variations of discharge, color, iron concentration, pH, and specific conductance, Manatee River near Bradenton, 1964-65 (from Kaufman, 1969).

Water for the Florida Power and Light cooling reservoir is taken from the Little Manatee River on the basis of discharge; the greater the discharge, the greater the amount of water that can be diverted to the cooling reservoir. An estimated average of 9.8 Mgal/d is diverted (A. D. Duerr, written commun., 1979).

Additional potential impoundment sites in the Manasota Basin are shown in figure 6. The approximate drainage area, surface area, and storage capacity at selected elevations of these potential impoundment sites are listed in table 5.

Table 5.--Characteristics of potential impoundment sites,
Manasota Basin

[from U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1965]

Impoundment number (see fig. 6)	Drainage area (mi ²)	Elevation (ft)	Surface area (acres)	Storage capacity (Mgal)
1	26	60	280	520
2	15	100	180	260
3	17	95	380	750
4	62	75	880	2,220
5	139	40	2,030	6,590
6	28	75	360	1,040
7	16	95	250	550

Ground Water

Hydrogeologic Framework

The Manasota Basin is underlain by a thick sequence of sedimentary rocks whose lithology and structure control the occurrence and movement of ground water. The principal hydrogeologic units are (1) surficial aquifer, (2) intermediate aquifers and confining beds, (3) Floridan aquifer, and (4) sub-Floridan confining unit (fig. 7).

Surficial aquifer

Unconfined ground water generally occurs in surficial deposits of sand, gravel, shell, and limestone. These deposits are discontinuous and result in a surficial aquifer of variable thickness and permeability. The surficial deposits consist of the Holocene sediments, Pleistocene terrace deposits, Caloosahatchee Marl, and Bone Valley Formation.

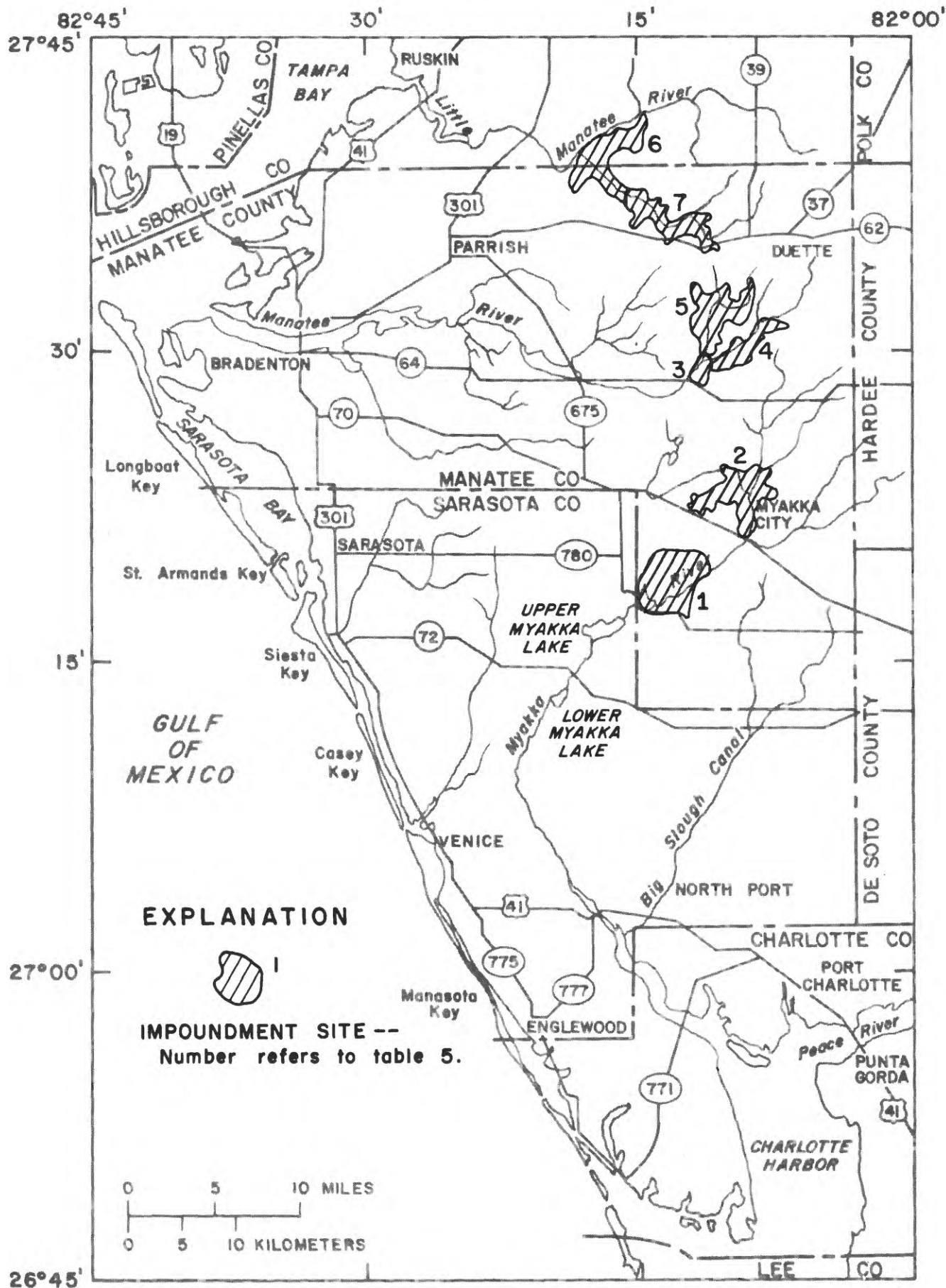
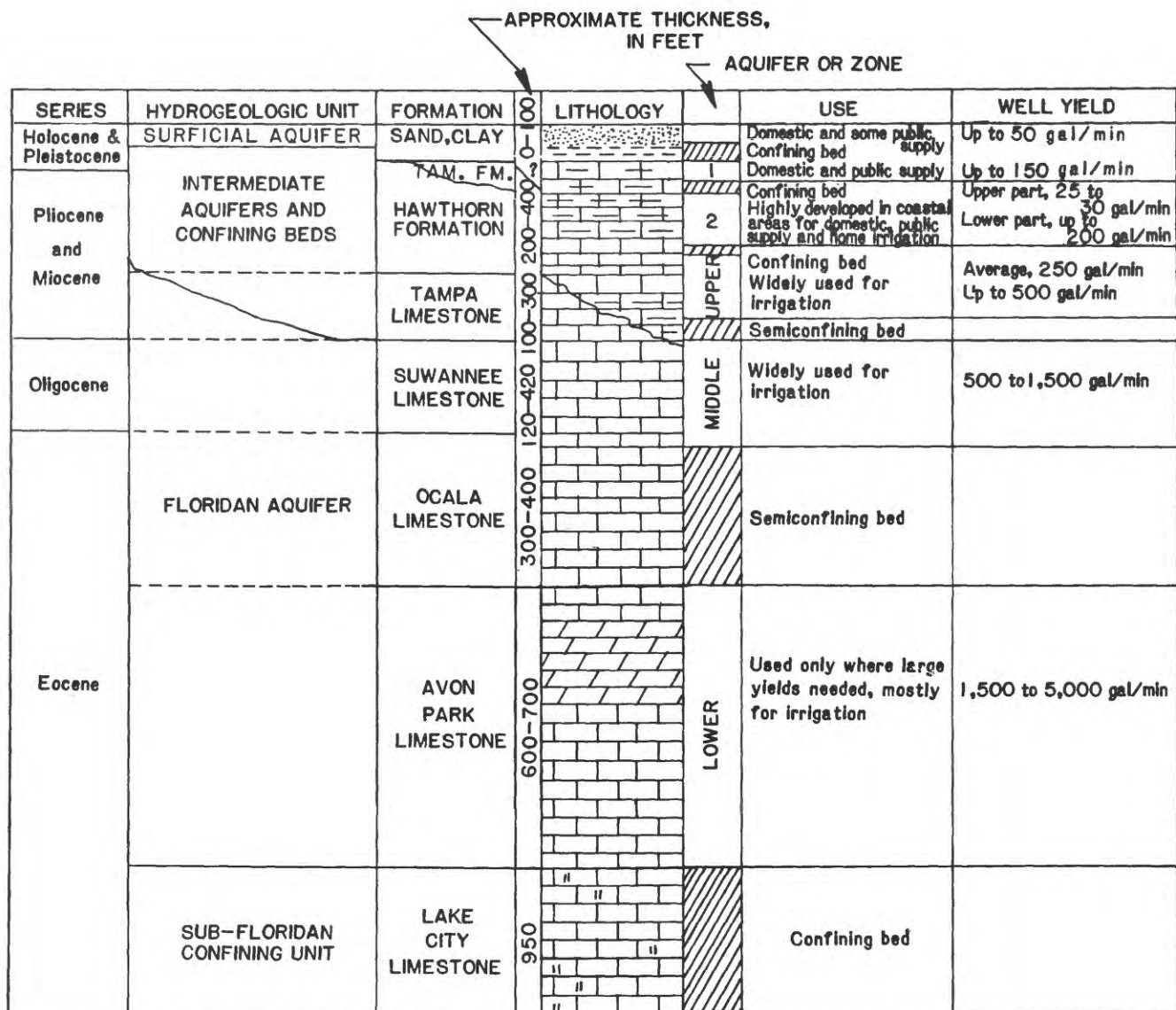


Figure 6.--Potential impoundment sites, Manasota Basin area.



1. TAMPA-UPPER HAWTHORN AQUIFER
2. LOWER HAWTHORN-TAMPA AQUIFER

Figure 7.--Generalized hydrogeologic section of the Manasota Basin.

Characteristics of the surficial aquifer vary greatly. In the northeastern part of the Basin, the aquifer consists mostly of medium to fine-grained, well-sorted quartz sand and phosphate gravel and ranges in thickness from about 10 to 60 feet. In the western and southern parts, the aquifer consists of sand, sandy limestone, and shell fragments and ranges from about 1 to 20 feet in thickness.

Water levels in the surficial aquifer range from near land surface in coastal and low-lying areas to 10 feet or more below land surface in higher areas. In flat, poorly-drained areas, average depth to the water level is less than 3 feet. Seasonal fluctuations of water levels are generally less than 5 feet. Water levels are generally lowest in April or May and highest in September.

The direction of ground-water flow is generally west and south. The configuration of the potentiometric surface in the surficial aquifer is similar to that of the land surface. The potentiometric surface is at or near sea level along the coastal area and increases to altitudes of about 130 feet in the northeastern part of the Basin.

The surficial aquifer is used as a source of water near the coast and the southern parts of the Basin where water from the deeper aquifers is not potable. Elsewhere, the surficial aquifer is generally not used as a source of water. Water from the surficial aquifer is primarily used for domestic supplies, home irrigation, and watering stock; however, several public supplies in the southern part of the Basin (Sarasota County) obtain some water from the surficial aquifer.

Most wells that penetrate the surficial aquifer are small-diameter, drive-point wells. A few wells, 3 to 4 inches in diameter, are completed with open end and yield as much as 50 gal/min.

Intermediate aquifers and confining beds

Intermediate confining beds that overlie the Floridan aquifer consist of sandy clay, clay, and marl at the base of the surficial aquifer, the Tamiami Formation, and the Hawthorn Formation. In the eastern part of Manatee County and adjacent areas, the sand and clay within the Tampa Limestone (Wilson, 1975) are included in the intermediate confining beds.

The intermediate confining beds retard vertical movement of ground water between the surficial and the Floridan aquifers. The thickness of the intermediate aquifers and confining beds ranges from about 200 feet in the northern part of the Basin to more than 400 feet in the mid-coastal and southern parts (fig. 8).

Intermediate aquifers occur within the intermediate confining beds. The aquifers consist of discontinuous permeable sand, gravel, shell, and limestone and dolomite beds in the Tamiami Formation, the upper and lower parts of the Hawthorn Formation, and the Tampa Limestone where it is in hydrologic contact with the Hawthorn Formation. Within the Basin, the intermediate aquifers contain the Tamiami-upper Hawthorn aquifer and the lower Hawthorn-Tampa aquifer.

The Tamiami-upper Hawthorn aquifer consists of permeable limestone and dolomite beds usually in the lower part of the Tamiami Formation and in the upper part of the Hawthorn Formation. These beds occur at depths ranging from

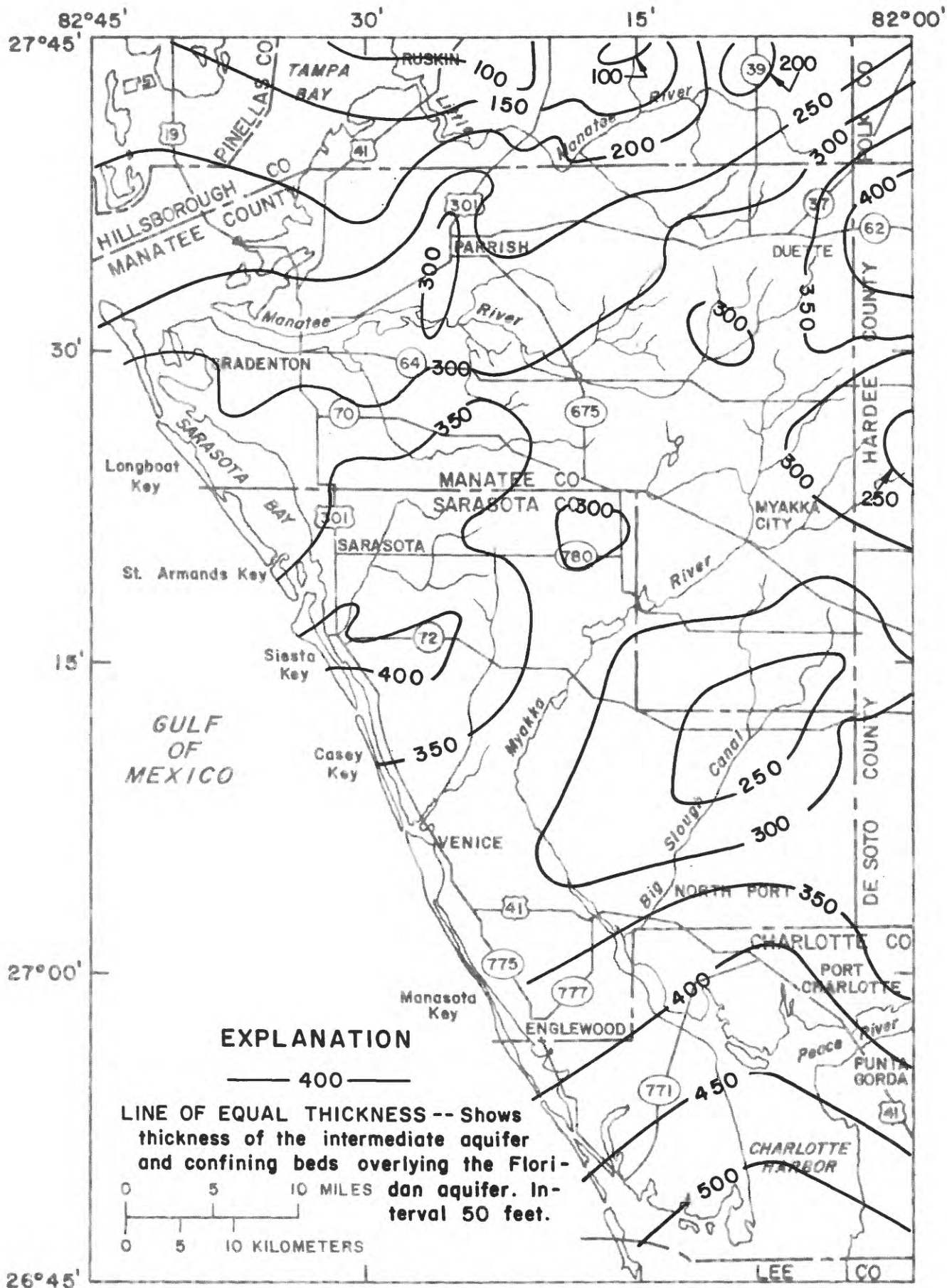


Figure 8.--Thickness of the intermediate aquifers and confining beds overlying the Floridan aquifer (modified from Buono and others, 1979).

about 75 to 200 feet below land surface. The Tamiami Formation underlies the coastal area from Sarasota southward and extends inland 10 to 12 miles, while the Hawthorn Formation underlies the entire Manasota Basin. The aquifer is equivalent to zones 1 and 2 as used by Joyner and Sutcliffe (1976).

The lower Hawthorn aquifer consists of permeable limestone and dolomite beds in the lower part of the Hawthorn Formation and in the upper part of the Tampa Limestone that is in hydrologic contact with the Hawthorn Formation. The top of the aquifer occurs at depths ranging from about 150 to 300 feet below land surface and is present within the entire Basin.

Because of increasing dissolved solids with depth, the intermediate aquifers are the most highly developed aquifers in the Basin and are used for domestic, home irrigation, and public water supplies. The aquifers supply most of the public water supply for the cities of Sarasota and Venice, as well as other public supply systems. Most large irrigation wells that penetrate the Floridan aquifer are also open to the intermediate aquifers.

Wells in the Tamiami-upper Hawthorn aquifer are generally finished as open holes in the rock. Wells less than 4 inches in diameter that partially penetrate the aquifer may produce 25 to 30 gal/min; large diameter wells, 6 inches in diameter or larger, that fully penetrate the aquifers may yield more than 200 gal/min.

The composite potentiometric surface of the intermediate aquifers in May 1977 ranged from about 100 feet above sea level in northeastern Manatee County to less than 10 feet above sea level in coastal areas. In September 1977, the potentiometric surface ranged from about 20 to 100 feet above sea level. Hydrographs of selected wells penetrating the Tamiami-upper Hawthorn aquifer are shown in figure 9. Seasonal water-level fluctuations ranged from about 5 feet in the northeastern and coastal areas to about 20 feet in southern Hillsborough County.

The rate or magnitude of the long-term decline in the potentiometric surface of the Tamiami-upper Hawthorn aquifer cannot be determined accurately from existing data. One well on the west coast, measured periodically from 1953 to 1975 and semiannually since 1976, had declines of about 1 to 4 feet, depending on the season.

Floridan aquifer

The Floridan aquifer, the major source of ground water in the Manasota Basin, is composed of a thick, stratified sequence of limestone and dolomite. The aquifer includes part or all of the Tampa Limestone (lower Miocene), Suwannee Limestone (Oligocene), Ocala Limestone (upper Eocene), and the Avon Park Limestone (middle Eocene).

The limestone and dolomite sequence generally functions as a single hydrogeologic unit; however, three distinct water-bearing zones are known to exist in the sequence. They are the upper zone (Tampa Limestone), the middle zone (the lower part of the Suwannee Limestone), and the lower zone (the Avon Park Limestone below the top 100 feet). These zones are designated as artesian zones 3, 4, and 5, respectively, by Joyner and Sutcliffe (1976). The highly permeable zones generally occur at or near formation contacts. The zones are separated

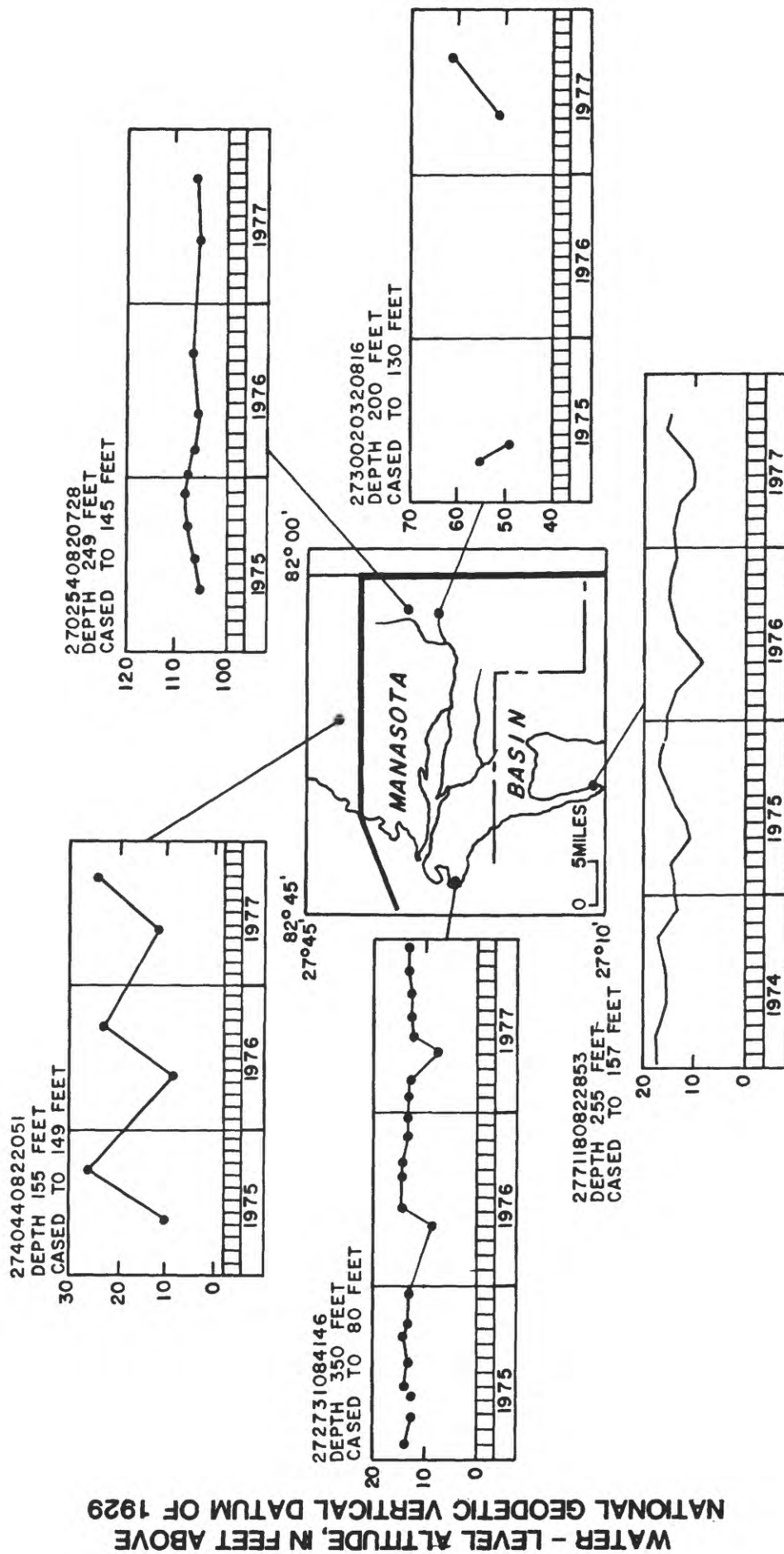


Figure 9.--Hydrographs of water levels for selected wells penetrating the Tamiami-upper Hawthorn aquifer.

by beds of low permeability that act as semiconfining beds retarding vertical movement of water within the aquifer. The altitude of the top of the Floridan aquifer ranges from about 200 feet below land surface in the northeast to about 400 feet below in the southwest (fig. 10).

The Floridan aquifer is the major source of ground water used primarily for irrigation in the Manasota Basin. Minor amounts of water are used for industrial purposes, air conditioning, and municipal and domestic supplies. The Floridan aquifer (upper and middle zones) was a major source of water for public supply before development of surface-water sources in Manatee County and the surficial and intermediate aquifers in Sarasota County.

The Floridan aquifer yields from about 500 gal/min to wells less than 6 inches in diameter that partially penetrate the aquifer to about 5,000 gal/min to wells 12 inches or more in diameter that fully penetrate the aquifer. Most wells are cased only to the first consistent rock and are finished as open hole. In the eastern part of the Basin, the wells range in depth from about 600 to 1,500 feet, depending on quality and quantity of water needed, and depth of casing generally ranges from about 200 to 500 feet below land surface. In the western part and coastal areas, wells are generally less than 800 feet deep with casing depths ranging from about 50 to 200 feet below land surface.

Figure 11 shows hydrographs of water levels for selected wells penetrating one or more zones of the Floridan aquifer. The hydrographs show a general downward trend in water levels and an increase in seasonal fluctuation of water levels. The downward trend indicates that ground-water discharge exceeds recharge, possibly due to below normal rainfall and increased pumping. The wide range of seasonal fluctuations results primarily from pumping for irrigation in the spring.

The configuration of the potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer is shown in figures 12, 13, and 14. In May 1975, the potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer ranged from about 10 feet below sea level in the north-central part of the basin to about 40 feet above sea level in the southeastern part (fig. 12). The depression in the north-central part probably resulted from ground-water withdrawals by irrigation and public supply wells. At the coast, the potentiometric surface is relatively high, generally about 10 feet above sea level. The potentiometric surface in May 1977 (fig. 13) is similar to May 1975 (fig. 12) and may indicate that the aquifer is approaching equilibrium at present withdrawal rates. The decline in the potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer from May 1969 to May 1975 (fig. 12) ranged from 0 to 5 feet in the south and west to more than 40 feet in the northeast.

The potentiometric surface in September 1977 (fig. 14) ranged from about 20 feet above sea level in the north-central part to about 40 feet above sea level in the southeast. The decline in the potentiometric surface in Manatee County from September 1954 to September 1975 ranged from less than 5 feet near the coast to about 20 feet in the northeastern part of the county. Seasonal fluctuation in the potentiometric surface ranged from less than 5 feet near the coast to about 30 feet in the northeast.

Projected declines in the potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer that will result from changes in land use and in ground-water development are shown in figures 15 and 16 (modified from Wilson, 1977). The projected potentiometric surfaces were determined using projected water use for 1976-2000 and a finite-difference, two-dimensional model.

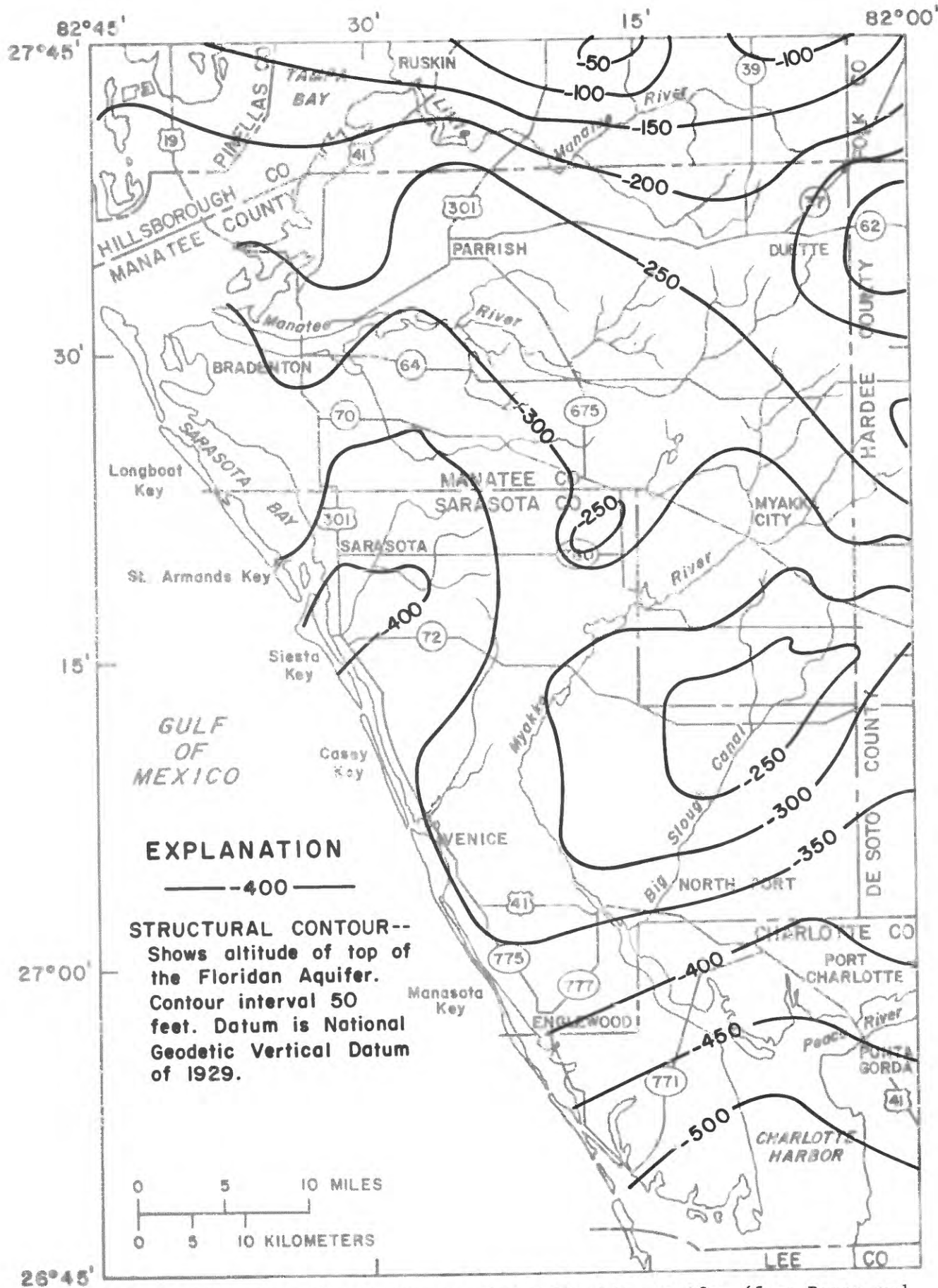


Figure 10.--Altitude of the top of the Floridan aquifer (from Buono and Rutledge, 1978).

WATER-LEVEL ALTITUDE, IN FEET ABOVE OR BELOW
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

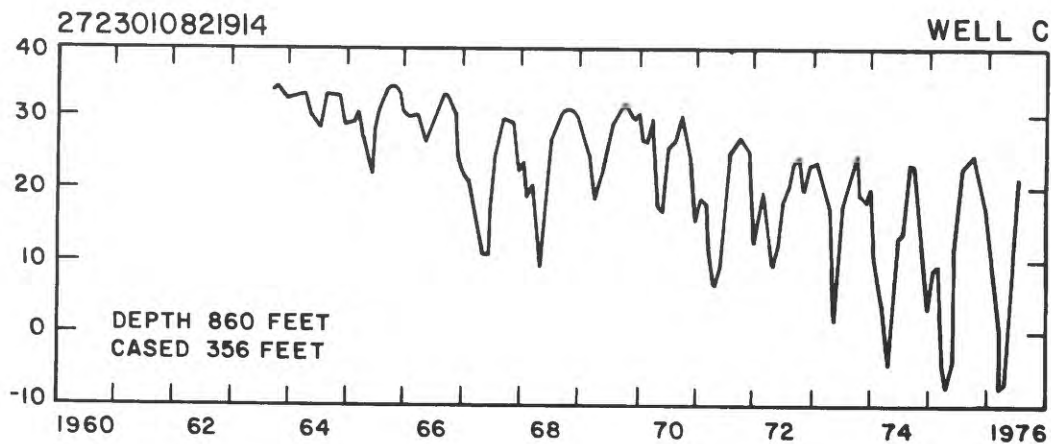
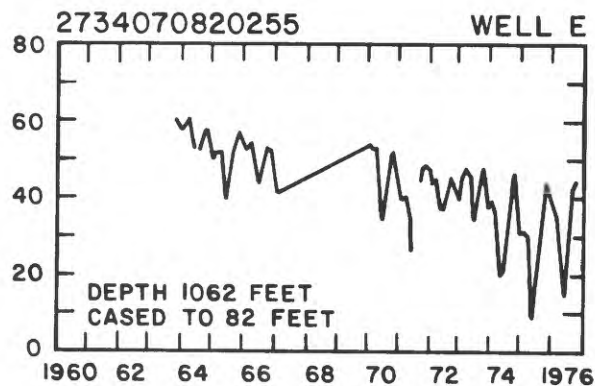
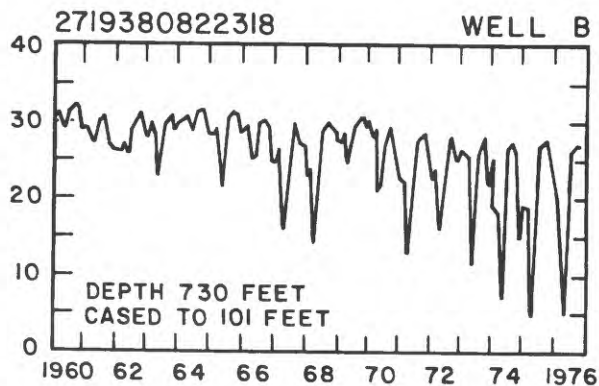
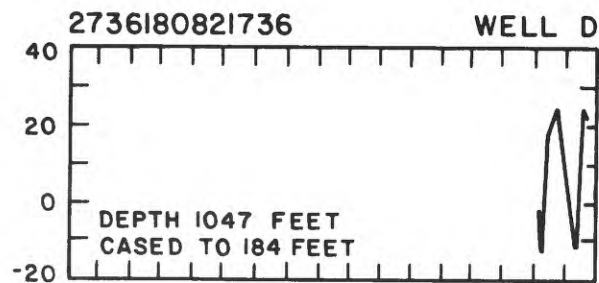
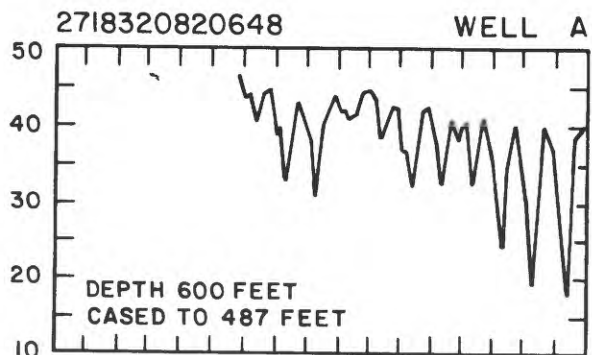


Figure 11.--Hydrographs of water levels for selected wells penetrating the Floridan aquifer. (Locations of wells are shown in figure 13).

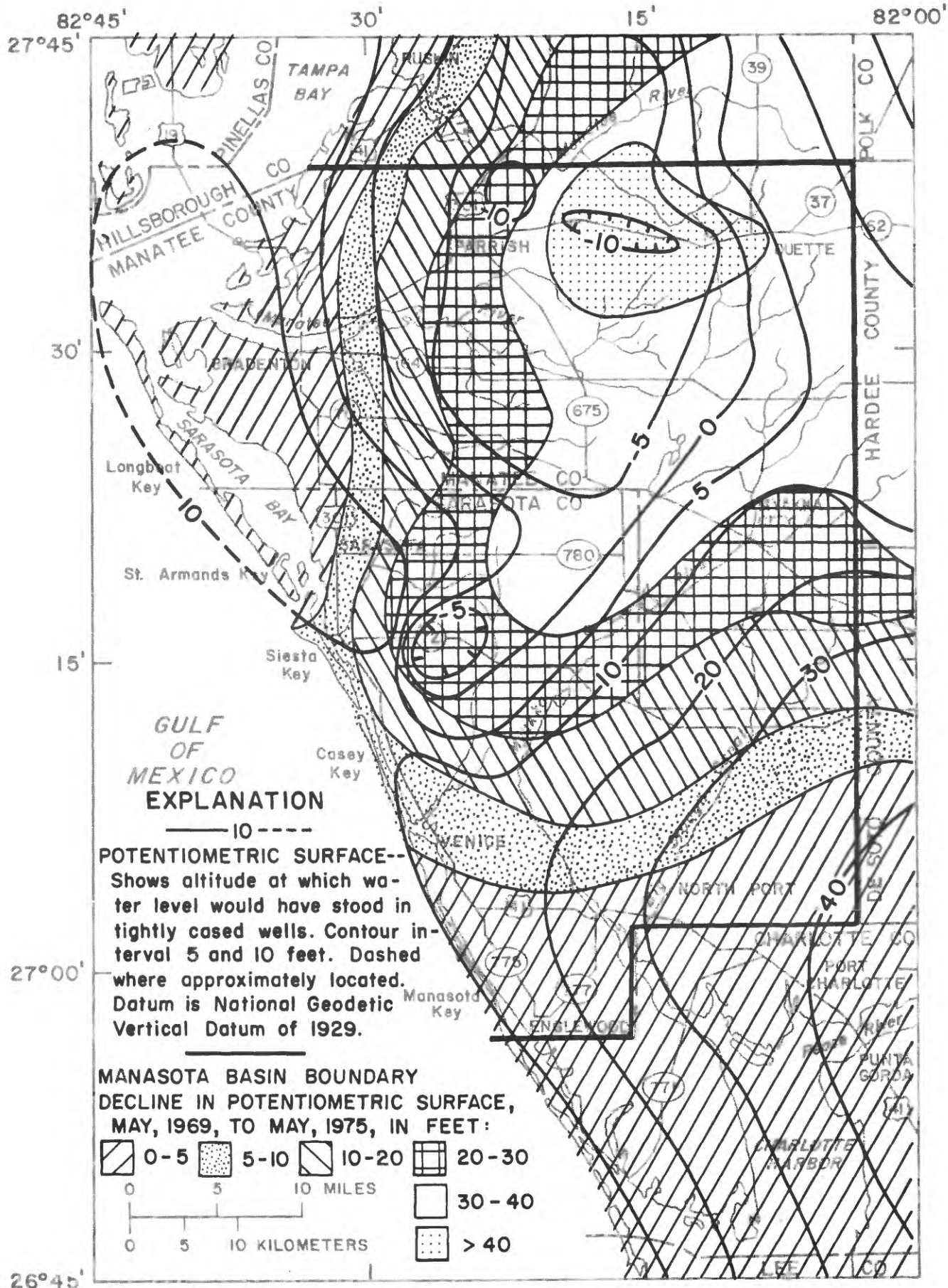


Figure 12.--Potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer, May 1975, and change in potentiometric surface, May 1969 to May 1975 (from Mills and Laughlin, 1976).

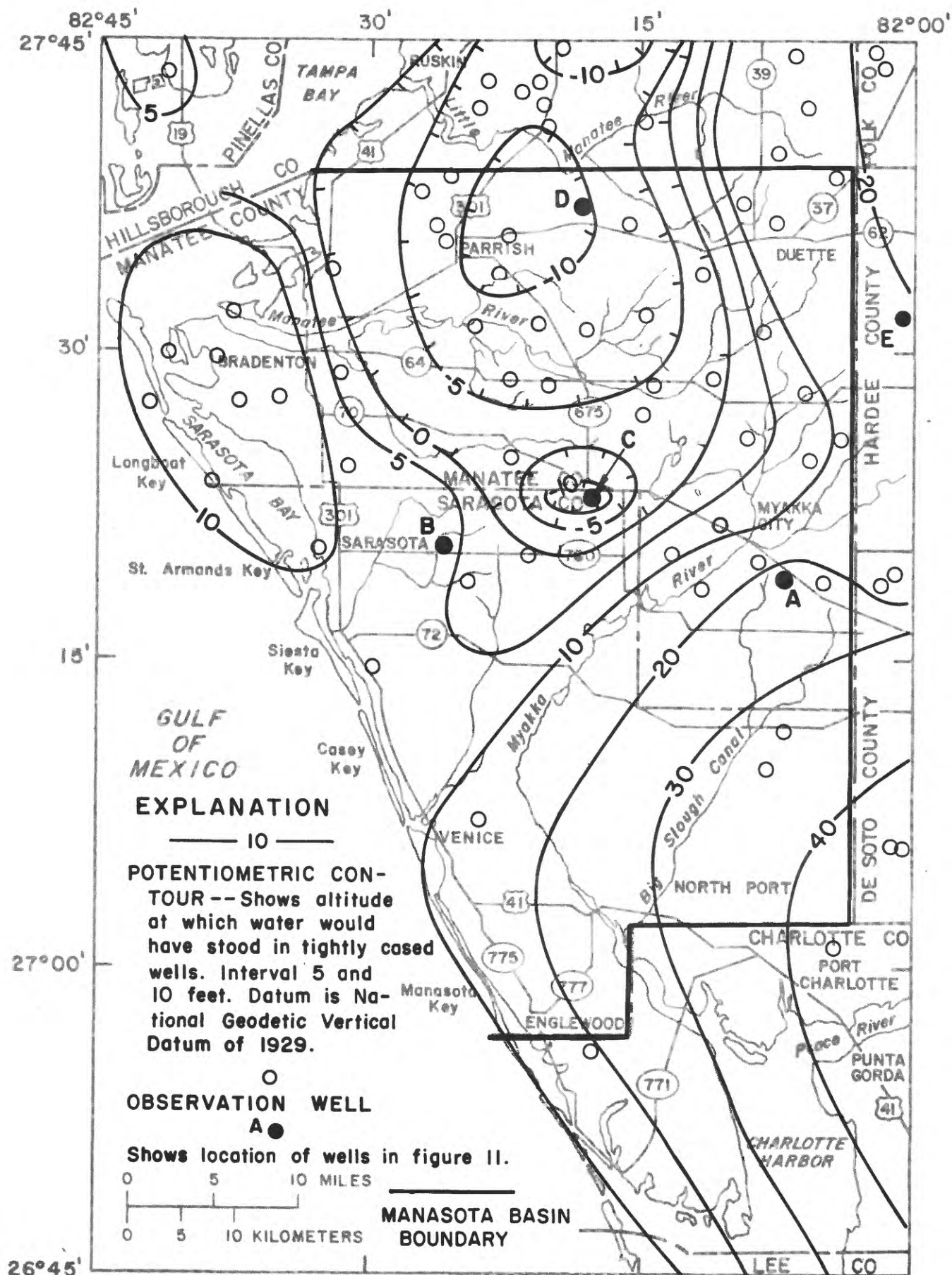


Figure 13.--Potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer, May 1977 (from Ryder and others, 1977c).

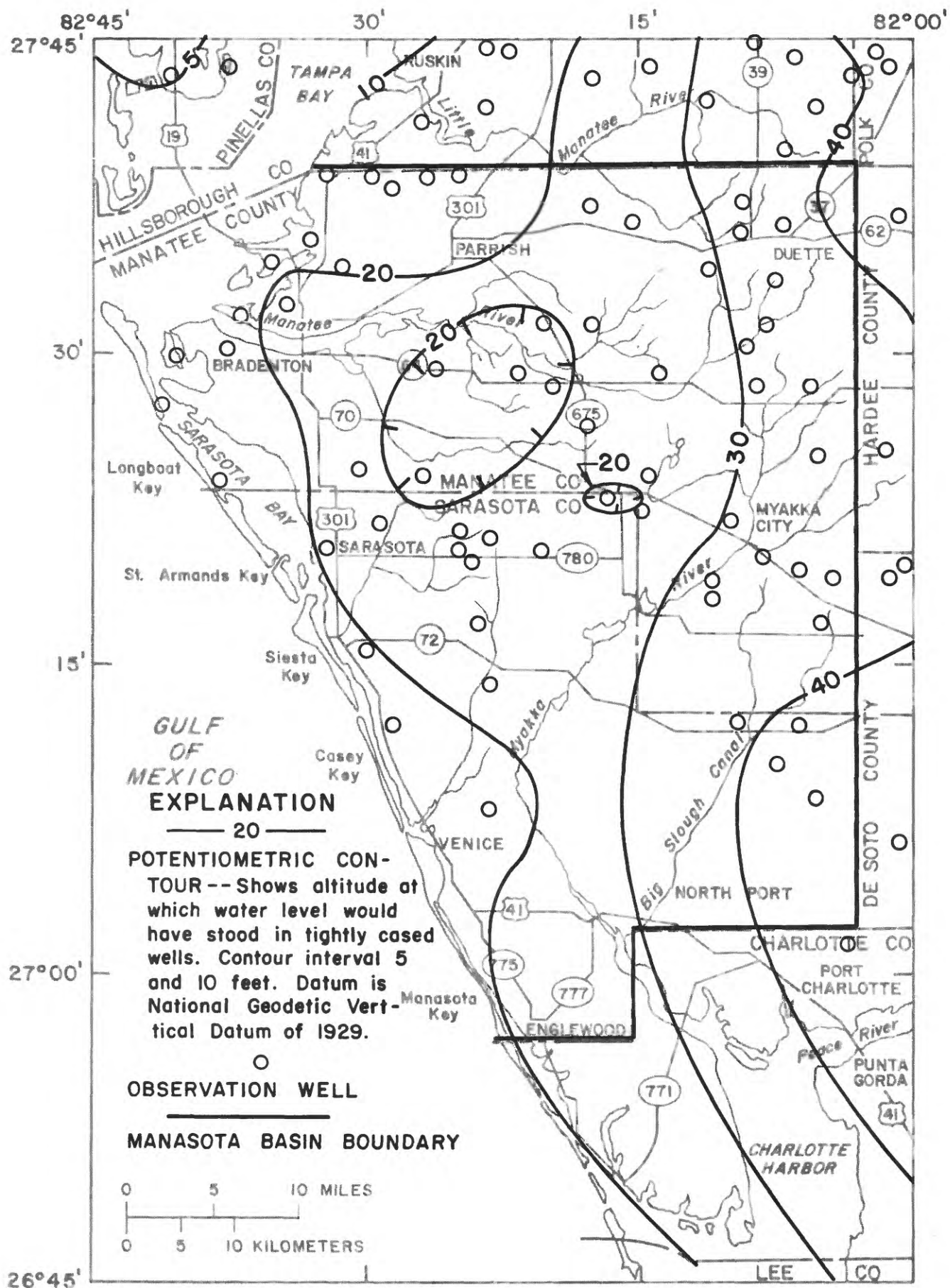


Figure 14.--Potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer, September 1977 (from Ryder and others, 1978).

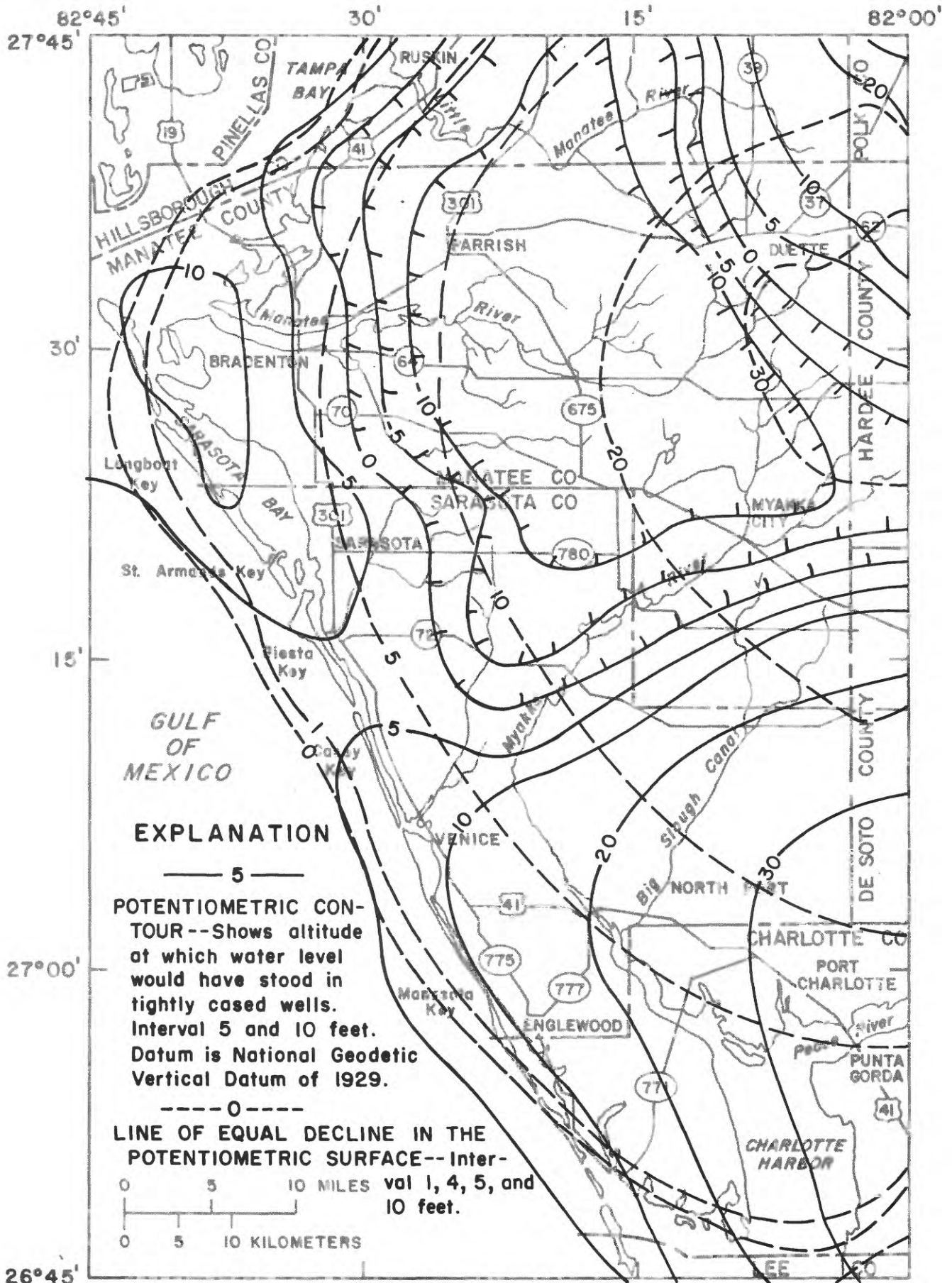


Figure 15.--Projected potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer, May 2000, and decline in the potentiometric surface, May 1976 to May 2000 (modified from Wilson, 1977).

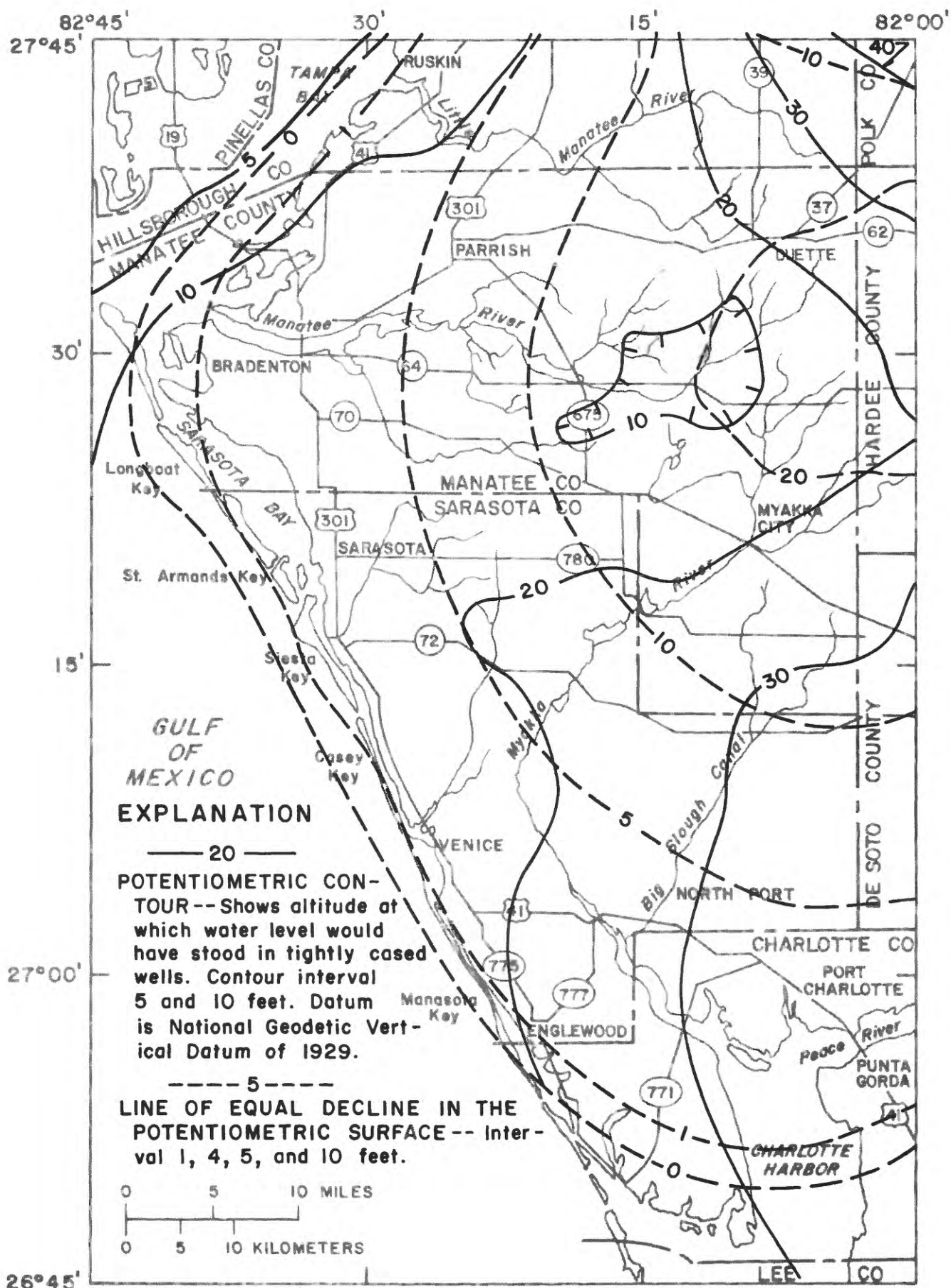


Figure 16.--Projected potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer, October 2000, and decline in the potentiometric surface, November 1976 to October 2000 (modified from Wilson, 1977).

The projected potentiometric surface for May 2000 (seasonal low) ranges from about 10 feet below sea level in the north-central part of the Basin to about 30 feet above sea level in the southeastern part. Projected declines from May 1976 to May 2000 range from less than 5 feet along the coast to about 30 feet in the northeast (fig. 15). In October 2000 (seasonal high), the projected altitude of the potentiometric surface ranges from about 10 feet above sea level along the northwestern coast to about 30 feet above sea level in the southeast. The projected decline in the potentiometric surface from November 1976 to October 2000 ranges from zero along the coast to about 20 feet in the northeast (fig. 16).

Sub-Floridan confining unit

The Lake City Limestone is the lower confining unit of the Floridan aquifer and retards upward movement of saline water. In the northeastern part of the Basin, the Lake City Limestone, from depths of about 1,700 to 2,000 feet below land surface, consists of limestone and dolomite that contain evaporites within much of the intergranular pore space and in distinct layers. The unit contained highly mineralized water and was described as being very impermeable (William F. Guyton and Associates, 1976d).

Chemical Quality of Water

The quality of ground water is affected by composition and solubility of the soil and rock through which the water passes and the residence time of the water. Water in each aquifer or water-bearing zone may have distinctive water-quality characteristics. Thus, the quality of water pumped from a well depends on the aquifer or zone to which the well is open. Wells that penetrate deep aquifers are commonly constructed with tens to many hundreds of feet of open-hole (no casing) and are open to one or more aquifers or water-bearing zones.

Ground water in the Manasota Basin contains dissolved mineral matter (dissolved solids) in varying amounts that affect the quality of water. Water having a low dissolved solids concentration is generally more suitable than water having high dissolved solids concentration. The source and significance of various constituents and properties of water are discussed in detail by Hem (1970). Those properties that have a practical bearing on water use are summarized in "Water Resources Data for Florida--Water Year 1976" (U.S. Geological Survey, 1977).

The principal constituents that determine the potability and use of ground water in the study area are dissolved solids, sulfate, and chloride. Recommended limits for public water supplies for these constituents are 500, 250, and 250 milligrams per liter (mg/L), respectively (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1979).

Surficial aquifer

The dissolved solids in water from the surficial aquifer varies. Water is generally of potable quality except near the coast and tidally affected streams and in the peninsula south and west of the Myakka River estuary (Joyner and Sutcliffe, 1976). In these areas, saltwater intrusion has taken place.

In the northeast, concentrations of dissolved solids, chloride, and sulfate are generally less than 200, 50, and 10 mg/L, respectively (fig. 17). In this area, the surficial aquifer is primarily well-sorted sand, and water from the aquifer has a low dissolved solids concentration.

Near the coast and tidally affected streams, water in the surficial aquifer has higher dissolved solids concentration. Concentrations of dissolved solids and chlorides are generally more than 200 and 50 mg/L, respectively. Concentrations of sulfate vary considerably, but they are usually less than 20 mg/L.

Intermediate aquifers and confining beds

The water in the intermediate aquifers within the intermediate confining beds overlying the Floridan aquifer contains low dissolved solids, except near the coast and inland areas where saltwater intrusion has taken place or seawater has not been completely flushed from the aquifers.

The quality of water from wells that penetrate the permeable beds of the Tamiami Formation (zone 1) varies greatly. Dissolved solids concentrations range from about 300 to 5,000 mg/L, generally being highest near the coast and in the southern part of the Basin. Chloride is generally less than 250 mg/L, except in the coastal areas near Venice and Englewood and the peninsula area west of the Myakka River where concentrations are generally more than 1,000 mg/L. Sulfate is generally less than 250 mg/L, except in coastal areas near Venice and north of Englewood where concentrations range from about 20 to 600 mg/L.

Water from wells that penetrate the upper part of the Hawthorn Formation (zone 2) is generally low in dissolved solids except in coastal and southeastern areas. Dissolved solids range from about 250 to 500 mg/L in the northeast and about 500 to 3,000 mg/L along the coast (fig. 18). Concentrations of more than 500 mg/L extend about 15 miles inland along the Myakka River to Upper Myakka Lake and also southeast of Myakka City. Chloride concentrations range from about 10 to 2,000 mg/L with concentrations greater than 250 mg/L being limited to the coastal and southern parts of the Basin (fig. 19). Sulfate concentrations range from about 10 to 600 mg/L, generally increasing from the northern part of the Basin towards the south and west (fig. 20). Concentrations greater than 250 mg/L are limited to coastal areas and to a small area southeast of Myakka City. Fluoride concentrations in water from wells penetrating zone 2 range from 0.1 to 6.0 mg/L (Joyner and Sutcliffe, 1976).

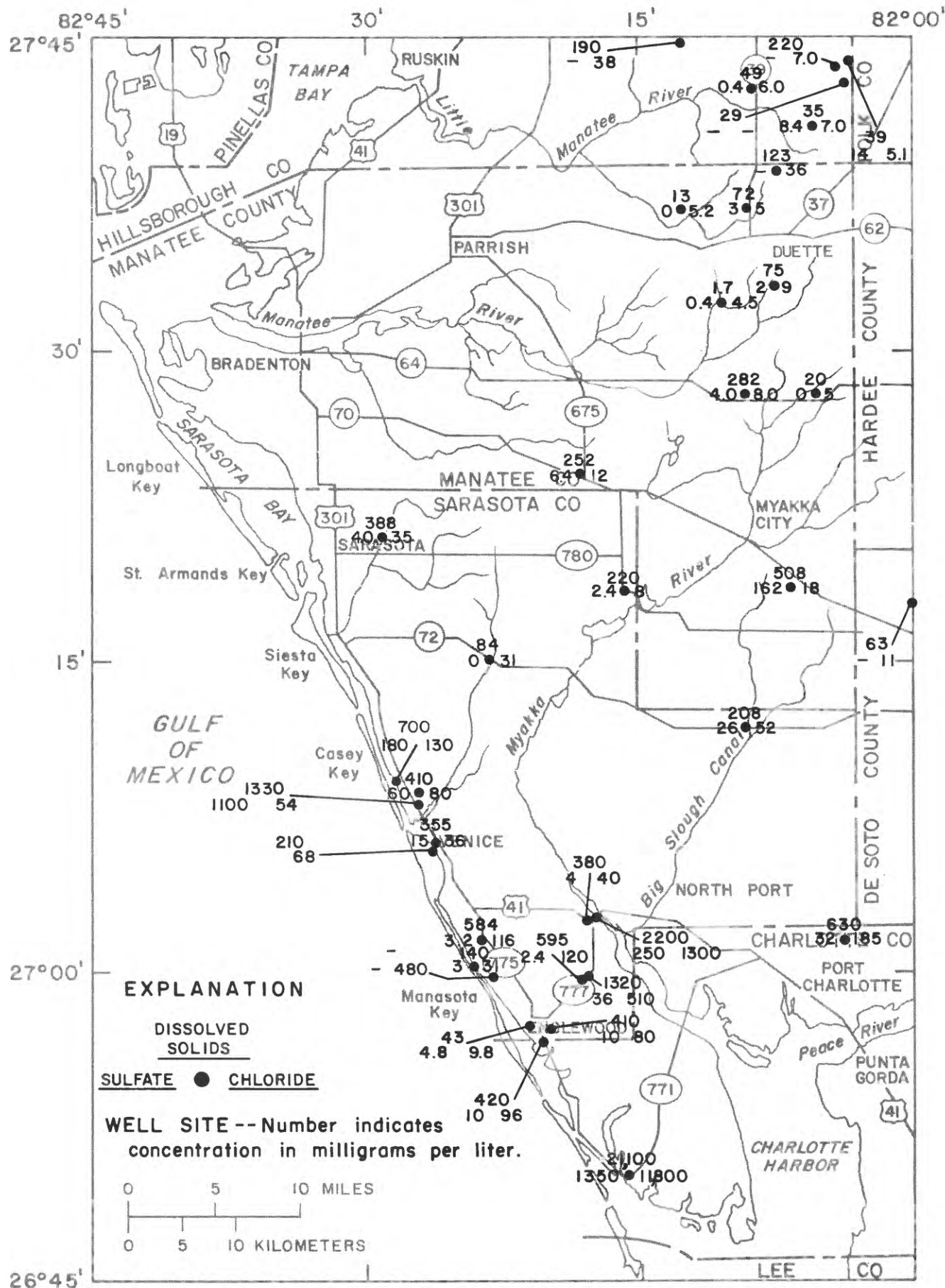


Figure 17.--Chemical quality of water from wells penetrating the surficial aquifer.

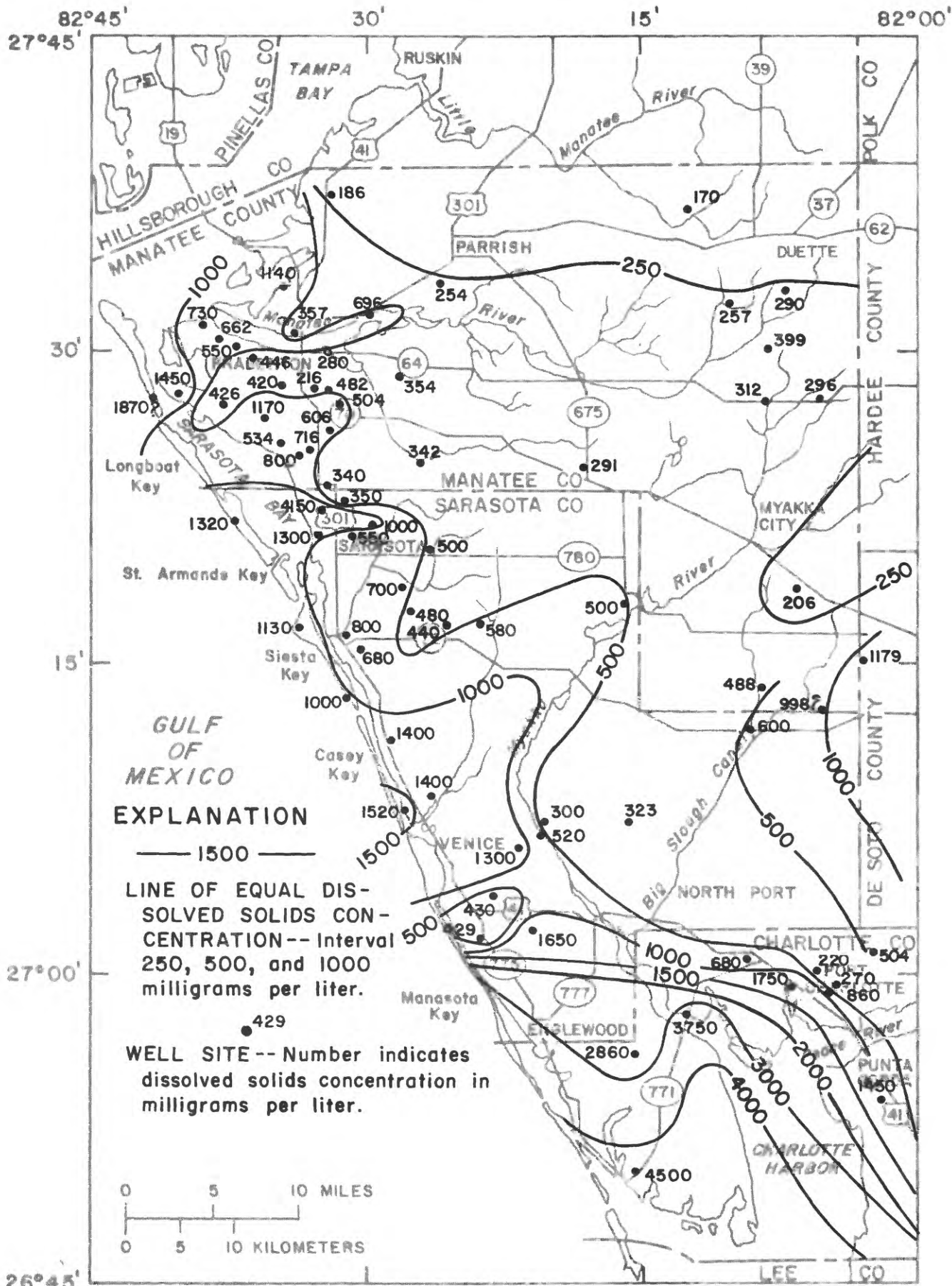


Figure 18.--Concentrations of dissolved solids in water from wells penetrating the Tamiami-upper Hawthorn aquifer.

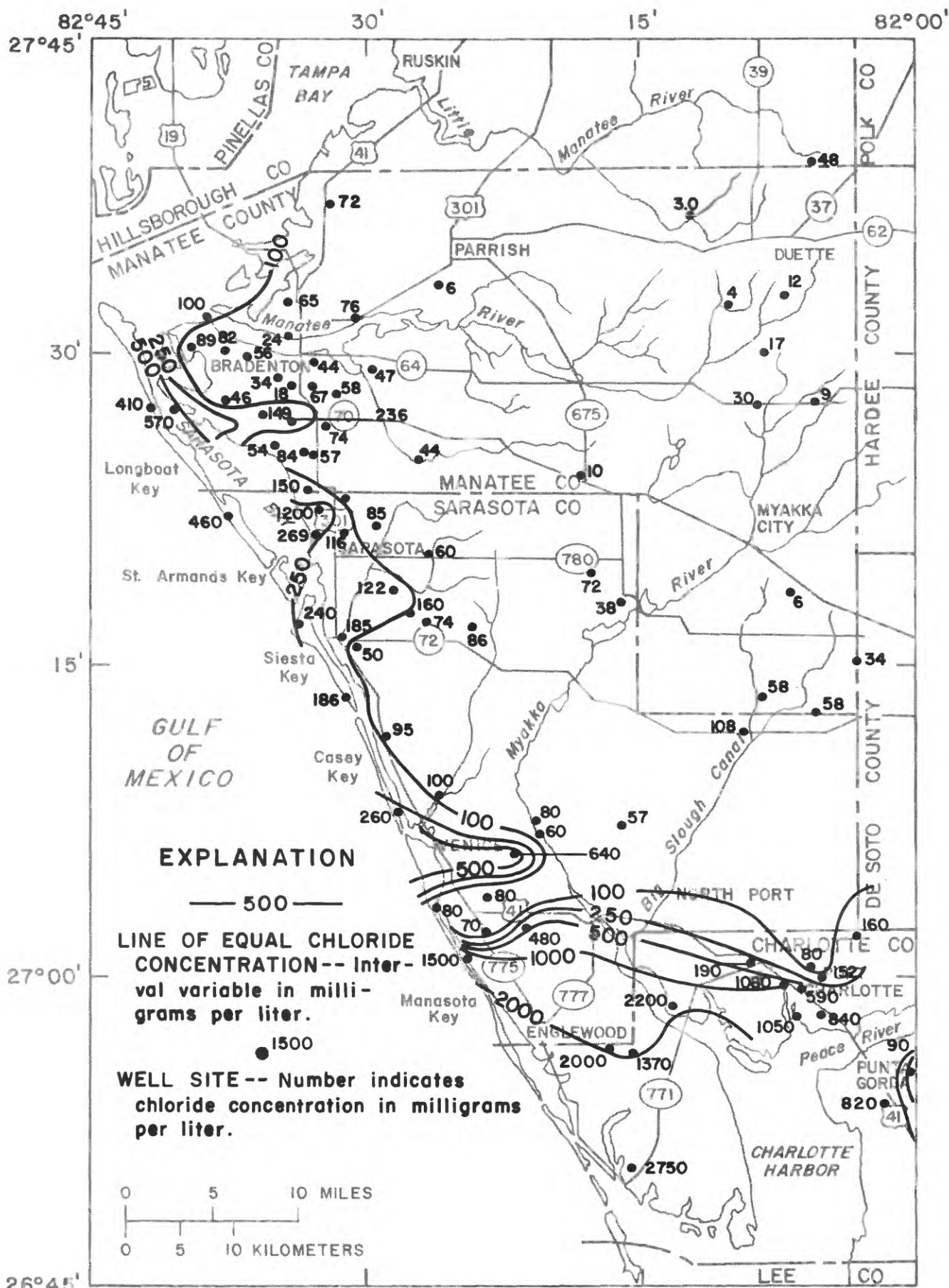


Figure 19.--Concentrations of chloride in water from wells penetrating the Tamiami-upper Hawthorn aquifer.

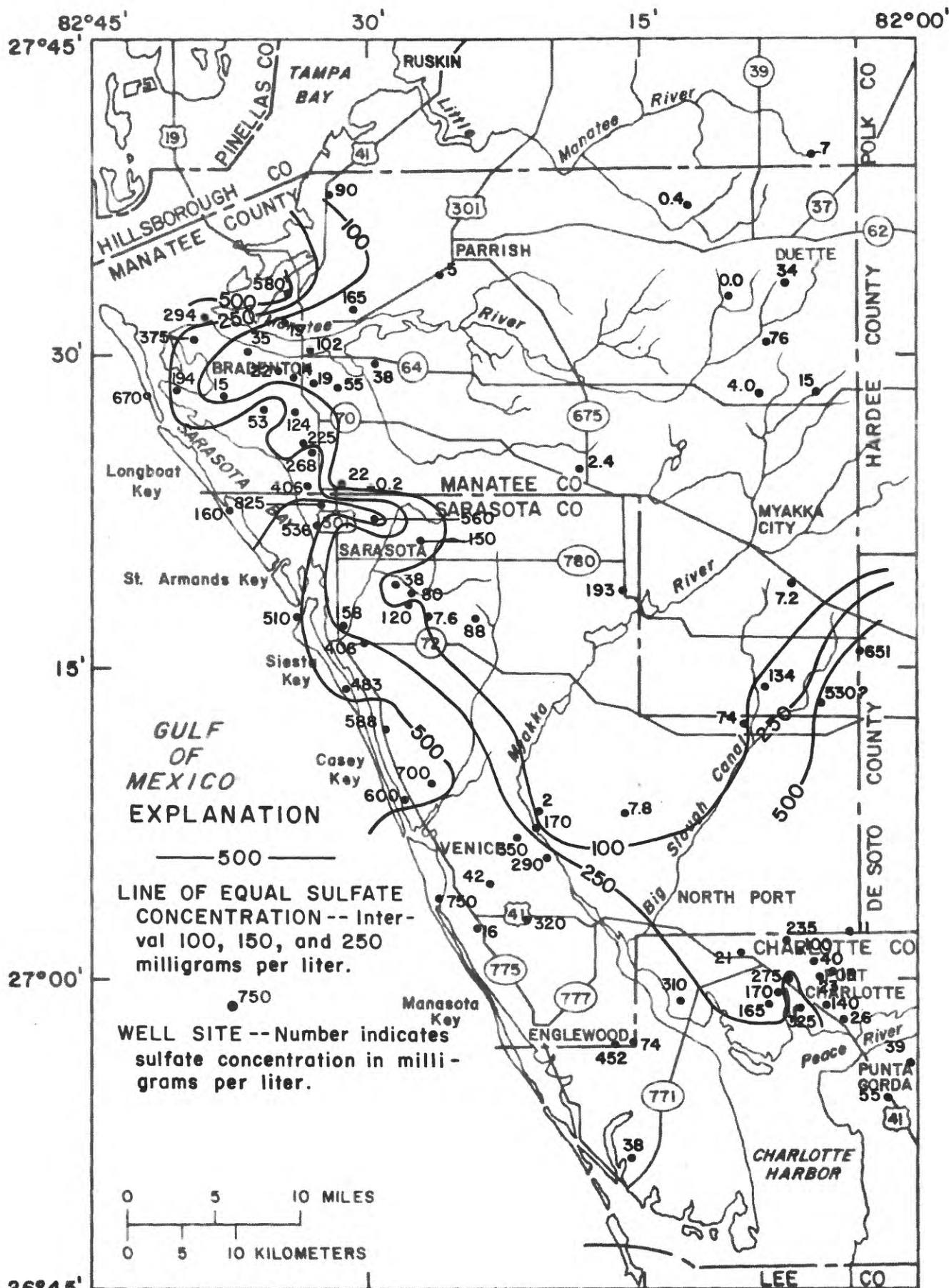


Figure 20.--Concentrations of sulfate in water from wells penetrating the Tamiami-upper Hawthorn aquifer.

Floridan aquifer

Water in the Floridan aquifer is generally more mineralized than water from the surficial aquifer and intermediate aquifers. Water from wells open to the upper zone (Tampa Limestone) is generally less mineralized than water from wells open to the middle zone (Suwannee and Ocala Limestones). Water in the lower zone (Avon Park Limestone) has the highest mineralization.

Dissolved solids in water from the Floridan aquifer generally increase with depth and laterally from the northeast towards the west and south. Dissolved solids in water from the upper zone exceed 500 mg/L in the western and southern parts of the Basin (fig. 21). In the northeast, the upper zone is not currently used as a water supply, but the dissolved solids are probably less than 350 mg/L.

Dissolved solids range from about 225 to 2,500 mg/L in water from wells penetrating the middle zone (fig. 22). In the northeastern part of the Basin, dissolved solids are less than 500 mg/L. In the western and southern parts, dissolved solids range from about 600 to 2,500 mg/L.

Concentrations of dissolved solids range from about 300 to 4,400 mg/L in water from wells penetrating the lower zone (fig. 23). In the northeast, dissolved solids are generally less than 400 mg/L. In the western and southern parts, dissolved solids exceed 1,000 mg/L. Relatively high concentrations of dissolved solids, exceeding 1,000 mg/L, occur northeast of Parrish and northwest of Myakka City, probably a result of lateral migration of saline water because of pumping or upconing of connate water from deeper parts of the aquifer.

Concentrations of sulfate in water from the Floridan aquifer range from less than 5 to about 1,500 mg/L, generally increasing vertically with depth and laterally from the northeast towards the west and south. In the upper zone, relatively high concentrations of sulfate (250 mg/L) are limited to the coastal areas (fig. 24).

Relatively high concentrations of sulfate in water from wells penetrating the middle zone extend inland east of Parrish and north of Myakka City (fig. 25). In water from wells penetrating the upper part of the lower zone, concentrations of sulfate generally exceed 250 mg/L except in the northeast (fig. 26).

Chloride concentrations in all three zones are less than 250 mg/L, except near the coast and the southern parts of the Basin where saltwater intrusion or flushing of residual seawater has been incomplete (figs. 27, 28, and 29). In the northeast, concentrations are generally less than 50 mg/L, and there is little change with depth. In the coastal and southern parts, concentrations generally exceed 250 mg/L, tending to increase seaward and with depth.

Fluoride concentrations in water from the Floridan aquifer vary areally and vertically, ranging from 0.2 to about 3.2 mg/L. Concentrations of fluoride in water from wells penetrating middle and lower zones generally increase from the north and northeast towards the south and west (figs. 30 and 31).

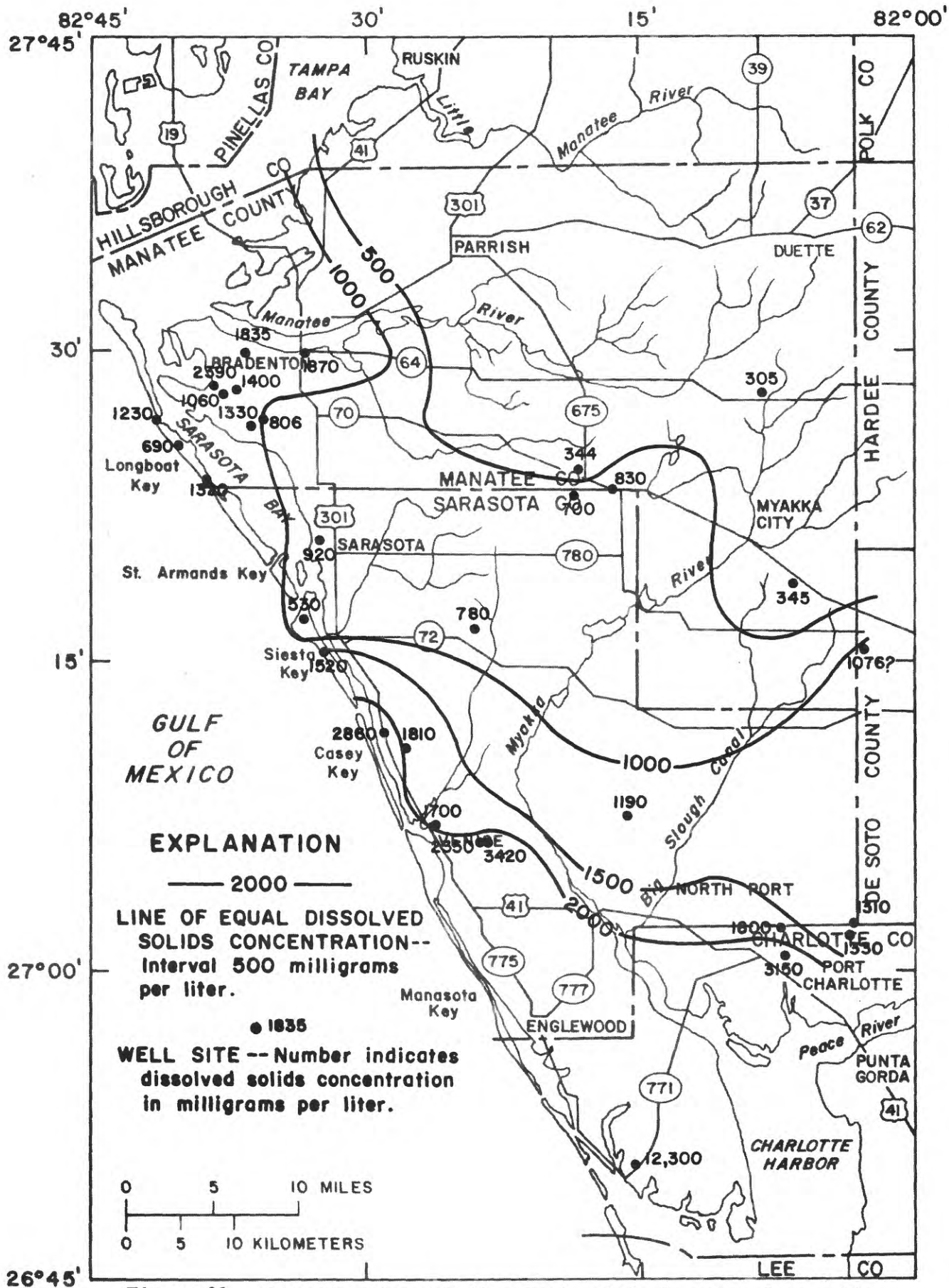


Figure 21.--Concentrations of dissolved solids in water from wells penetrating the upper zone of the Floridan aquifer.

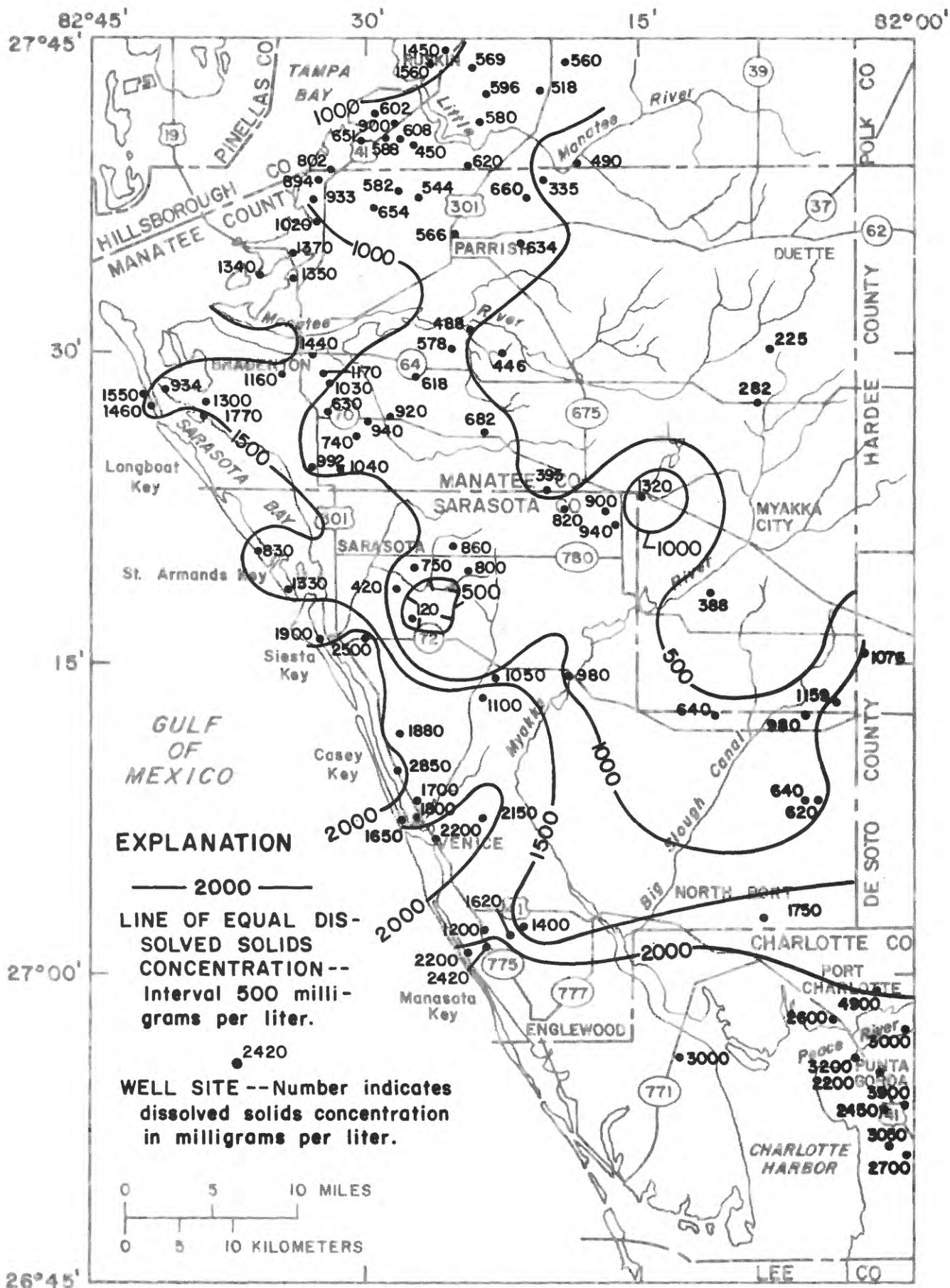


Figure 22.--Concentrations of dissolved solids in water from wells penetrating the middle zone of the Floridan aquifer.

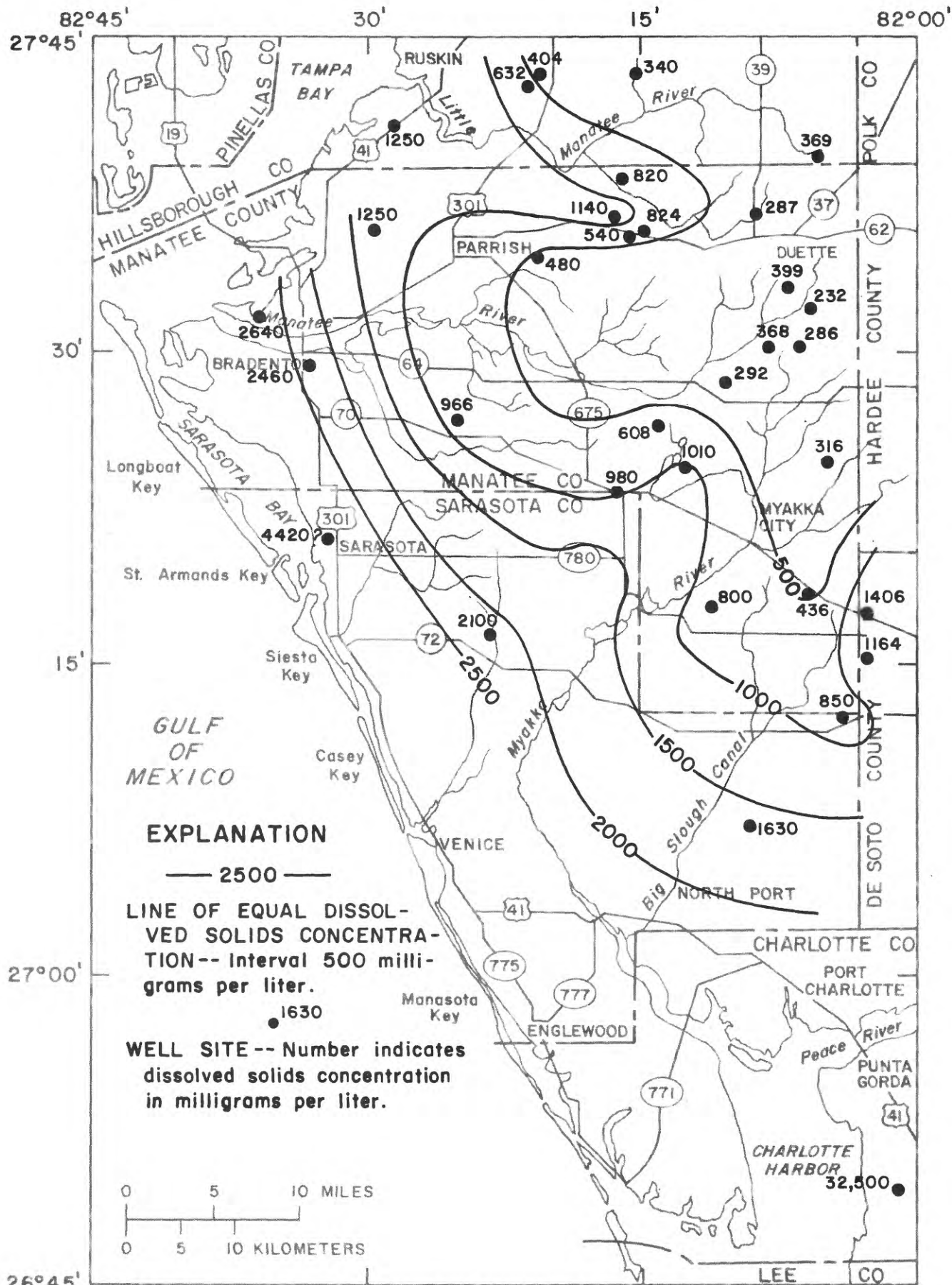


Figure 23.--Concentrations of dissolved solids in water from wells penetrating the lower zone of the Floridan aquifer.

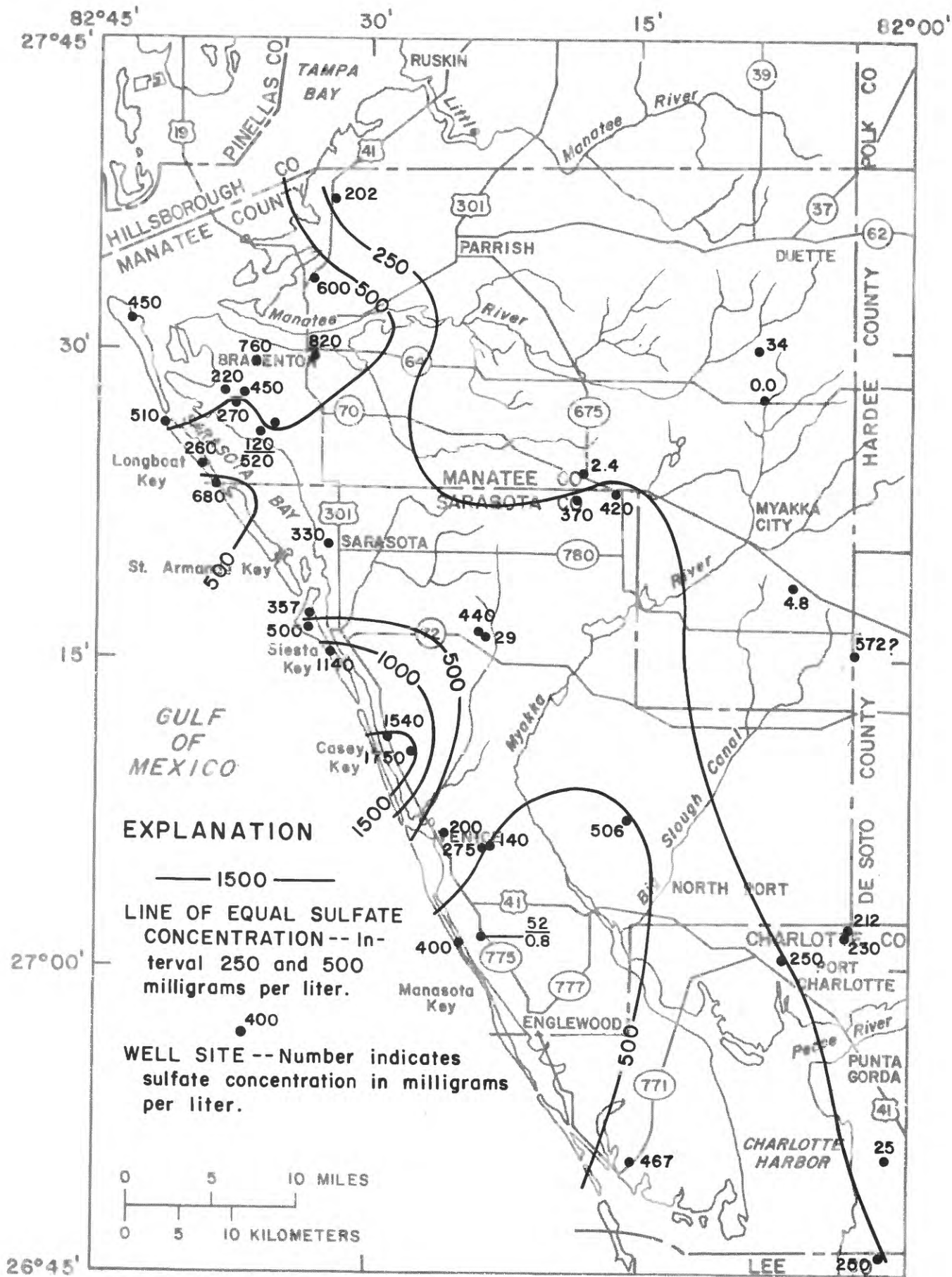


Figure 24.--Concentrations of sulfate in water from wells penetrating the upper zone of the Floridan aquifer.

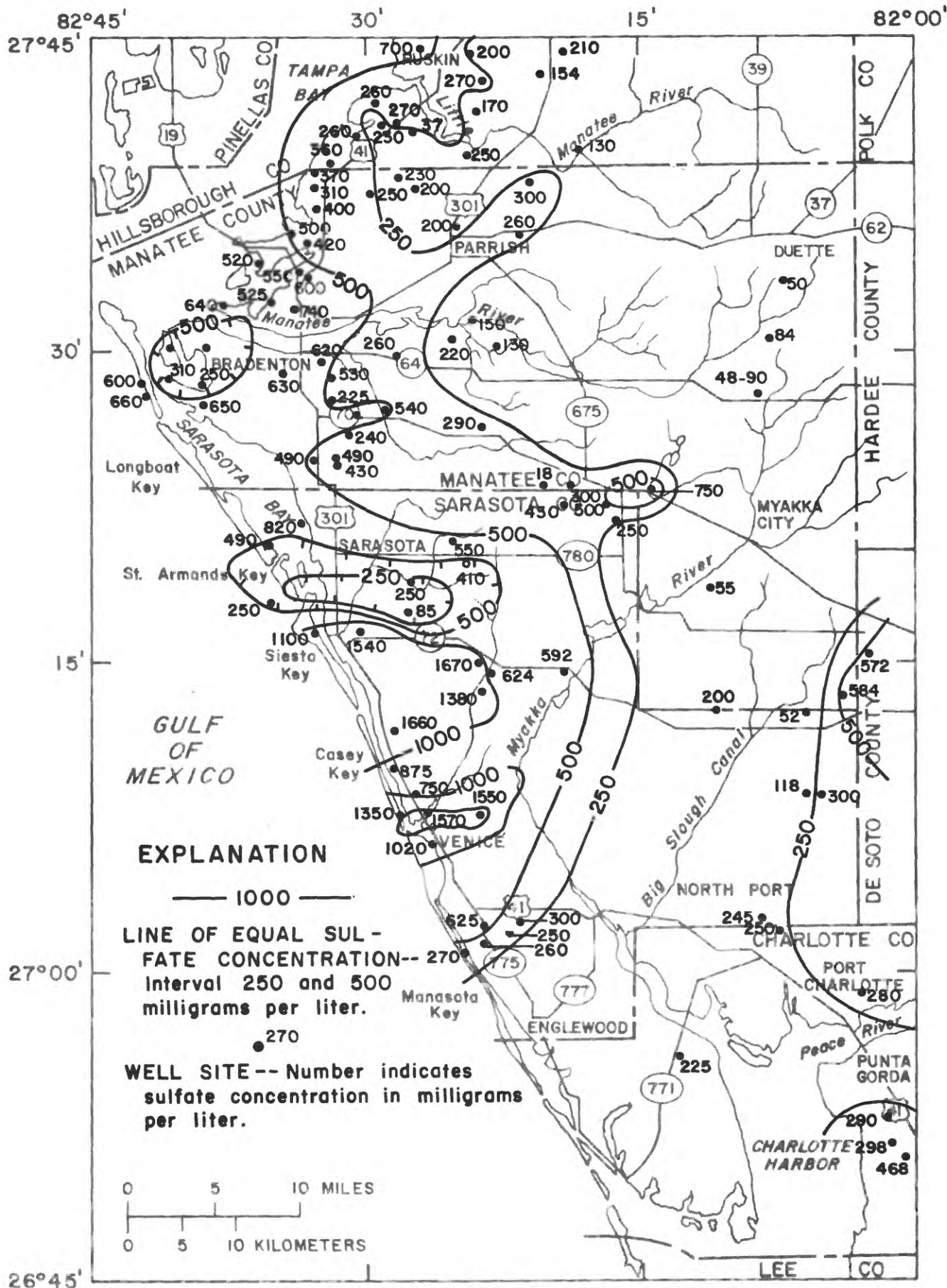


Figure 25.--Concentrations of sulfate in water from wells penetrating the middle zone of the Floridan aquifer.

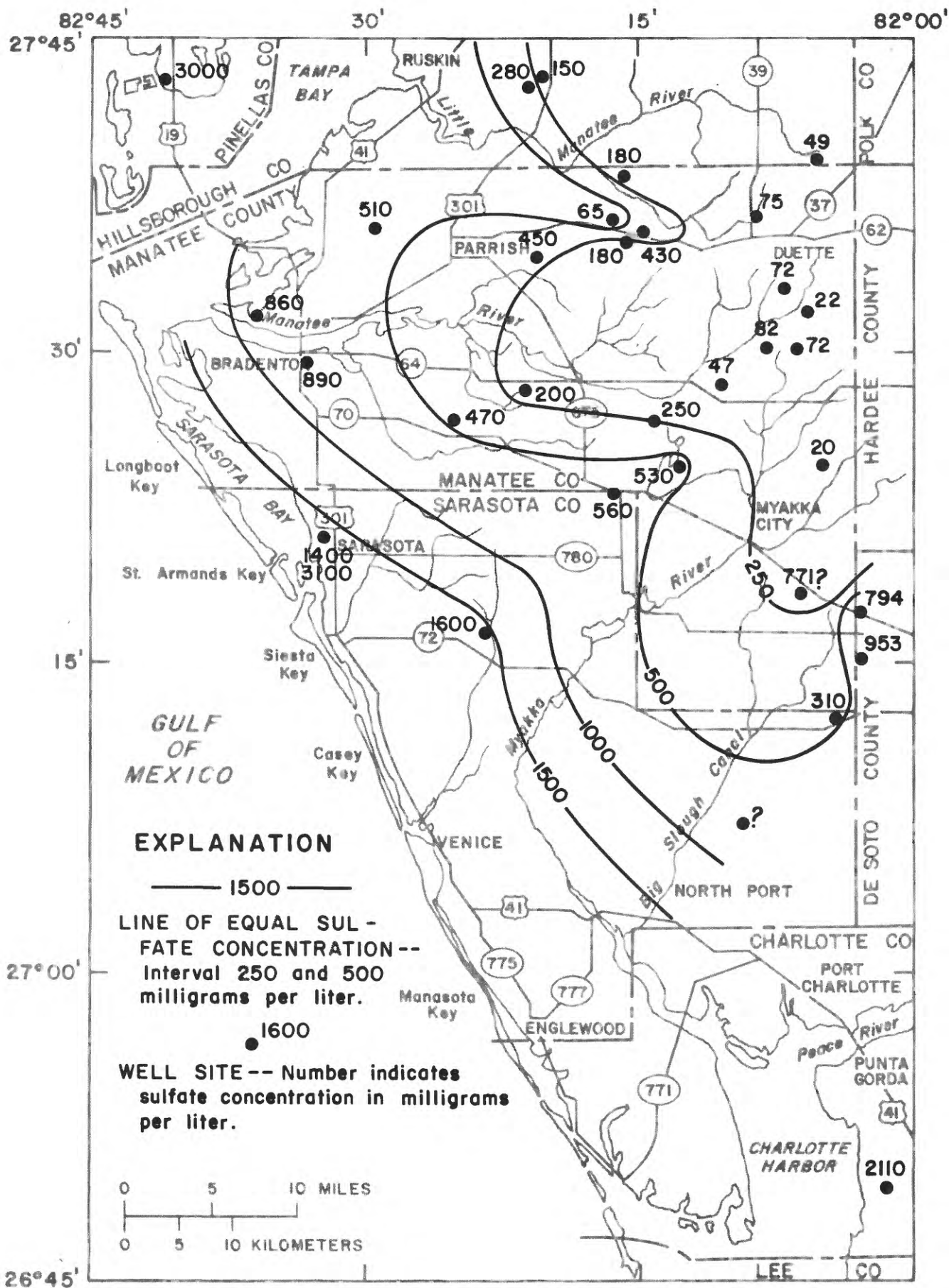


Figure 26.--Concentrations of sulfate in water from wells penetrating the lower zone of the Floridan aquifer.

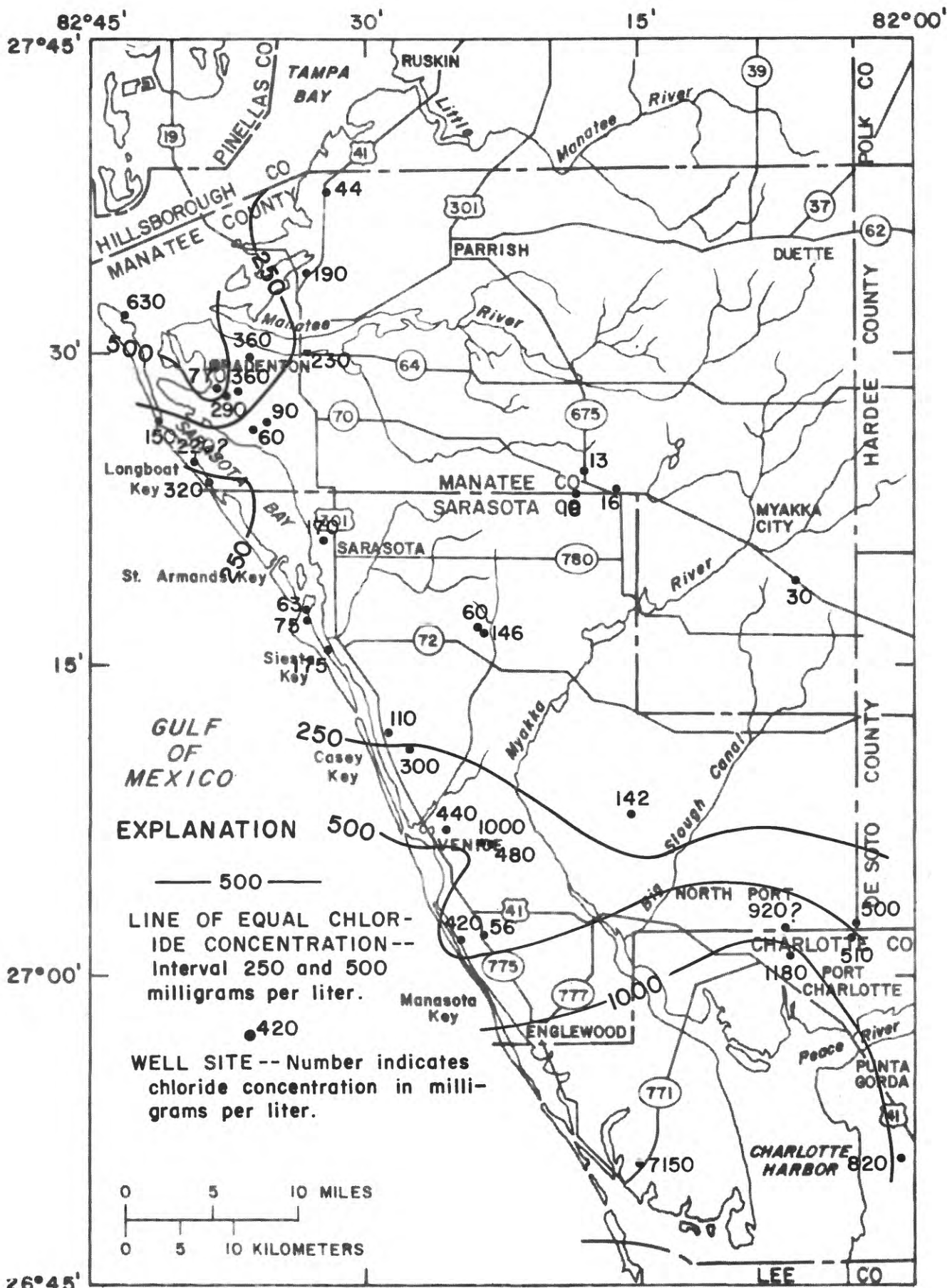


Figure 27.--Concentrations of chloride in water from wells penetrating the upper zone of the Floridan aquifer.

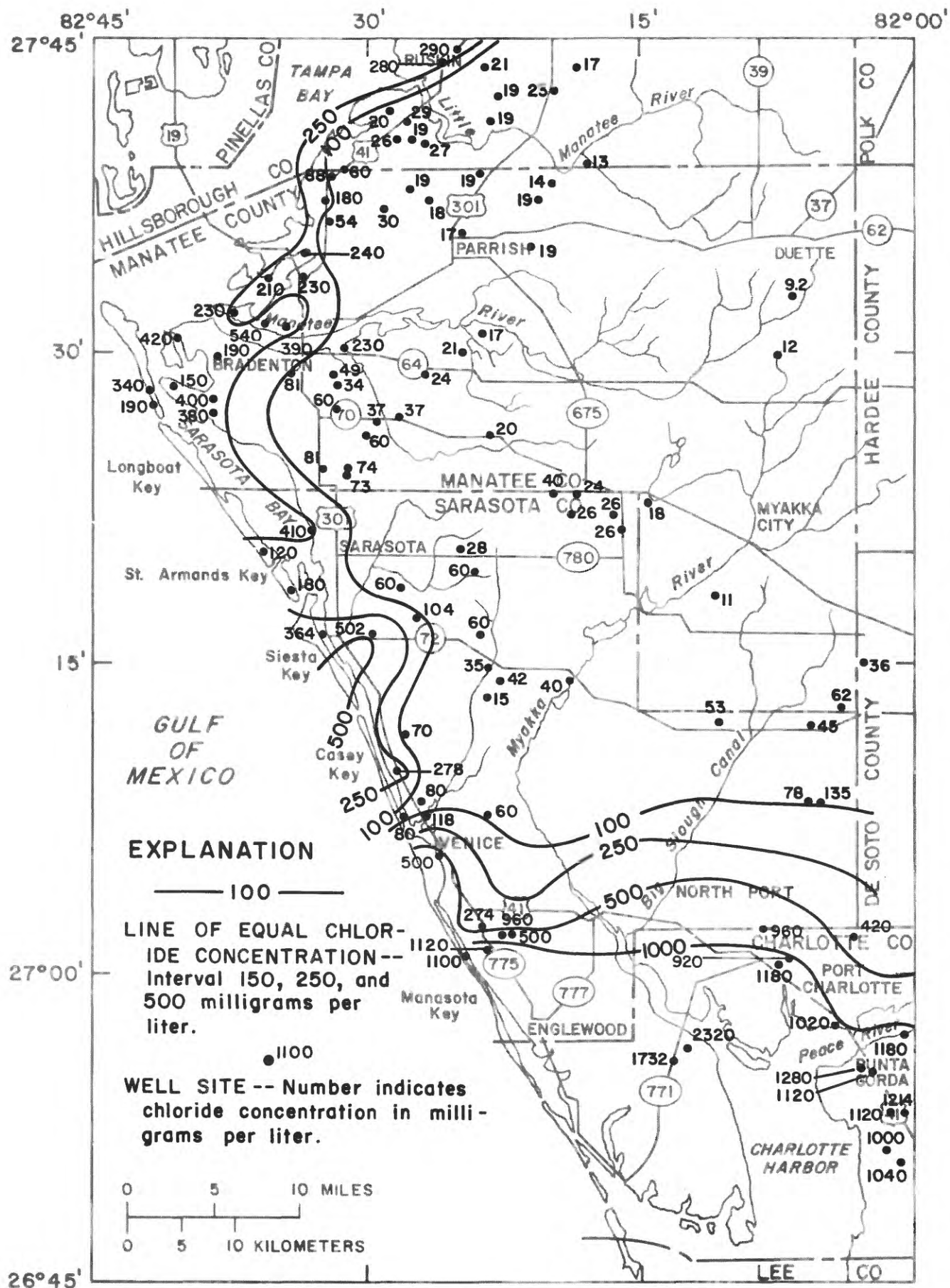


Figure 28.--Concentrations of chloride in water from wells penetrating the middle zone of the Floridan aquifer.

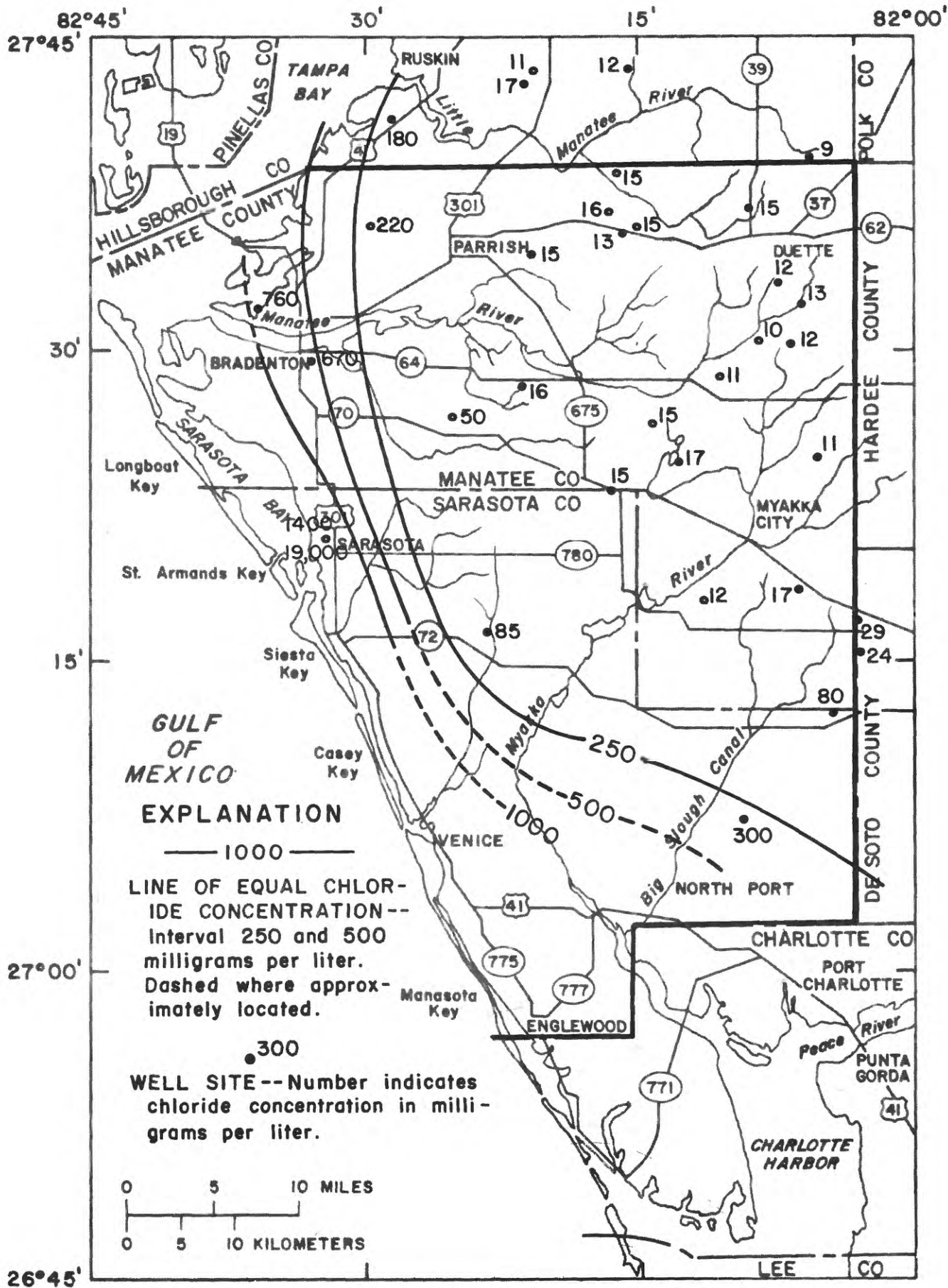


Figure 29.--Concentrations of chloride in water from wells penetrating the lower zone of the Floridan aquifer.

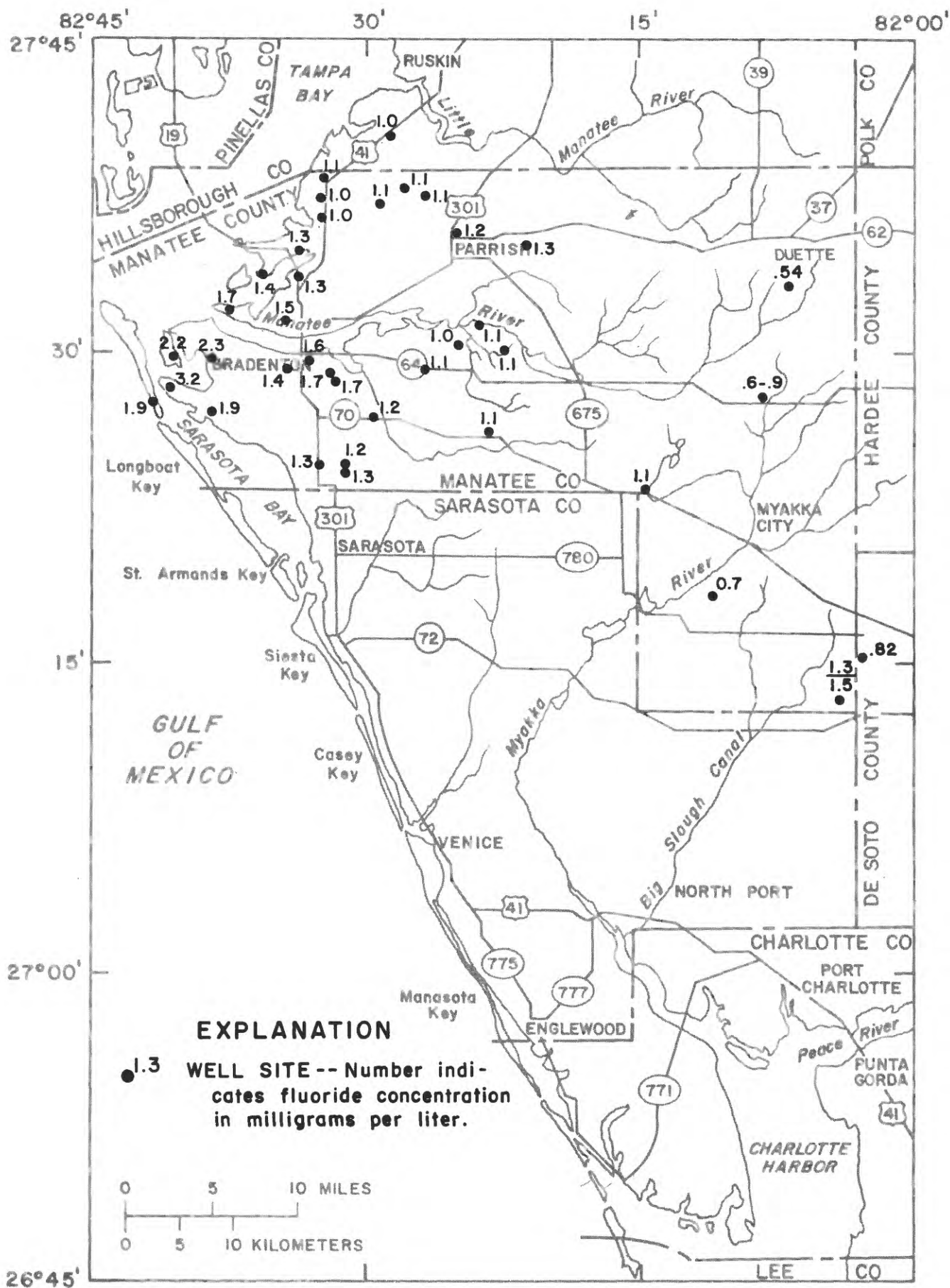


Figure 30.--Concentrations of fluoride in water from wells penetrating the middle zone of the Floridan aquifer.

WATER USE

A knowledge of existing and projected water use in the Manasota Basin is essential in evaluating the hydrologic data network. Background information on water use was provided by statewide water-use surveys by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1970 and 1975 (Pride, 1973; Leach, 1977). Results from these surveys and additional information are summarized in table 6. Projected water-use information was obtained from government and consultant reports.

In 1970, an estimated 111 Mgal/d of surface and ground water were used. By 1975, water use increased to an estimated 118 Mgal/d, and, by 1985, the projected water use will be about 200 Mgal/d. The major water uses are for irrigation and public supply.

Table 6.--Historical and projected water use in the Manasota Basin

[in million gallons per day]							
Year	Public supply			Industrial self-supplied		Thermoelectric power	
	Population served (thousands)	Ground water	Surface water	Ground water	Surface water	Ground water	Surface water
1970 ¹	169.1	11.3	9.9	10.6	---	---	---
1975 ²	169.9	10.4	19.9*	5.0	---	---	25.0**
1985 ³		58.2		34.4		15.0	
2000 ⁴		119.5					

Year	Irrigation		Self-supplied				
	Ground water	Surface water	Population served (thousands)	Domestic		Livestock	
				Ground water	Surface water	Ground water	Surface water
1970 ¹	76.8	2.3	---	---	---	---	---
1975 ²	40.8	3.2	116.8	11.7	---	2.0	0.5
1985 ³	43.0 ⁵	52.1	---	---	---	---	---
2000 ⁴	52.0 ⁵						

¹Pride (1973).

²Leach (1977).

³Geraghty and Miller, Inc. (1977).

⁴Southwest Florida Water Management District (1978).

⁵Wilson and Gerhart (1979).

*Includes 6 Mgal/d raw water for industrial purposes.

**Value represents water used in filling reservoir; actual operating usage is about 9.8 Mgal/d.

Irrigation

The major use of water in the area is for irrigation. Most irrigation occurs during the fall and winter-spring growing seasons, which are also the dry seasons. During the summer season, June through September, little or no irrigation is required. Daily water use when irrigation is required may be two to three times greater than when not required.

An estimated 40,800 acres were irrigated in 1975 (Leach, 1977). The principal crop types were citrus, vegetable, and pasture. Irrigated citrus and pasture acreage decreased markedly from 1970 to 1975, whereas vegetable and other acreage increased slightly. Water used for irrigation of citrus, vegetable, pasture, and other acreage was about 79 Mgal/d in 1970 and 44 Mgal/d in 1975. More than 90 percent of the water used for irrigation was obtained from ground-water sources, primarily from the Floridan aquifer.

By 1985, projected ground-water withdrawal for irrigation will average about 43 Mgal/d, increasing to about 52 Mgal/d by 2000 (Wilson and Gerhart, 1979). The amount of surface water used for irrigation will remain the same or increase slightly.

Public Supply

Estimated water use for public supply was 21.2 Mgal/d in 1970 and 30.3 Mgal/d in 1975 (table 6). The major water suppliers are the Manatee County Utility System and the city of Bradenton in Manatee County and the city of Sarasota, Sarasota County Utility District No. 1, Venice, Venice Gardens, Englewood Water District, and North Port in Sarasota County. By 1985, demands are projected to average about 60 Mgal/d, with a peak demand of 86 Mgal/d. By 2000, demand should average about 120 Mgal/d.

The Manatee County Utility System supplies water to the communities of Palmetto, Holmes Beach, Longboat Key, Anna Maria, and Bradenton Beach and partially supplies the city of Bradenton. The system in 1978 contracted to supply the Sarasota County Utility District No. 1 as much as 10 Mgal/d. In 1975, the average daily pumpage totaled 15.9 Mgal/d with 9.9 Mgal/d serving an estimated 55,000 people and an additional 6.0 Mgal/d pumpage for industrial use. By 1985, the average daily supply will be an estimated 27.4 Mgal/d (table 7). The county system obtains its water from Lake Manatee Reservoir (Manatee River). The safe yield of the reservoir has been estimated at 27 to 30 Mgal/d during a drought of 20-year frequency (Donald J. Smally, written commun., March 13, 1978).

In 1975, the city of Bradenton supplied an average 3.83 Mgal/d, including about 0.7 Mgal/d purchased from the Manatee County Utility System, to an estimated 25,000 people. The water was pumped from the Braden River at Ward Lake. Projected water demand for Bradenton in 1985 is 5.0 Mgal/d.

The city of Sarasota supplied an estimated 7.1 Mgal/d to about 60,000 residents in 1975. The Floridan and intermediate aquifers underlying the Verna well field are the sources of ground water for Sarasota. The projected water demand in 1985 is 7.5 Mgal/d.

Table 7.--Historical and projected water use by selected utility systems

Public supply	Source	Use (Mgal/d)			
		1975 ¹	1977 ²	1980 ²	1985 ²
Manatee County Utility System	Lake Manatee Reservoir (Manatee River)	9.9	19.1	22.2	27.4
City of Bradenton	Ward Lake (Braden River)	3.8	4.0	4.5	5.0
City of Sarasota	Verna well field, additional standby wells	7.1	6.3	6.8	7.5
Sarasota County Utility District No. 1	Manatee County Utility System	---	5.6	9.0	13.8
Venice (city)	Well field, 50 wells	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.0
Venice Gardens Utility Corporation	Well field, 36 wells	---	1.0	1.2	1.8
Englewood Water District	Well field, 48 wells	1.0	1.1	1.7	2.5
General Development Utilities, Inc., North Port	Myakka-Hatchee River (Big Slough)	1.0	---	---	---

¹Leach (1977).

²Smally, written commun. (1978).

In 1975, the estimated water use by the city of Venice was 1.2 Mgal/d for 17,000 residents. During 1977, the actual demand averaged 2.1 Mgal/d, but only 1.4 Mgal/d was available for delivery. The surficial and intermediate aquifers are the sources of water. As of 1978, the city operated a reverse-osmosis water treatment plant that has a 2 Mgal/d capacity. Projected water use in 1985 is 2.0 Mgal/d.

Venice Gardens Utility Corporation, serving the Venice Garden area, obtains an estimated 1.0 Mgal/d (1977) from 36 wells tapping the intermediate aquifers. Projected water demand in 1985 is 1.8 Mgal/d.

The Englewood Water District supplied an estimated 1.0 Mgal/d to a population of 10,000 in 1975. Two existing well fields (estimated capacity of 2.6 Mgal/d) withdraw water from the surficial and intermediate aquifers, and a proposed third well field will increase the water district's capacity to an estimated 6.4 Mgal/d.

In 1975, General Development Utilities, Inc., delivered an estimated 1.0 Mgal/d to about 5,000 people in the North Port area. The source of water was the Myakka-Hatchee River (Big Slough).

Other Uses

Florida Power and Light's Manatee Powerplant in northern Manatee County is the only operating thermoelectric powerplant in the Basin. The plant uses (1978) an estimated 9.8 Mgal/d diverted from the Little Manatee River for its cooling system. In 1975, the plant used an estimated 25 Mgal/d primarily for filling the cooling pond (table 6). By 1985, the amount of water used for condenser cooling at the thermoelectric powerplant is estimated to be 15 Mgal/d.

Estimates of self-supplied industrial water use were 10.6 Mgal/d in 1970 and 5.0 Mgal/d in 1975 (table 6). With the expansion of phosphate mining into the Basin (Manatee County only), the amount of water for industrial use is expected to increase considerably. The projected industrial water use in 1985 is 34.4 Mgal/d (Southwest Florida Water Management District, 1978), 27.8 Mgal/d of this withdrawal will be for phosphate mining. By 2020, water use is expected to decrease to 10.6 Mgal/d as some areas become mined out.

In 1975, the self-supplied rural domestic population of 116,800 used an estimated 11.7 Mgal/d. An additional 2.5 Mgal/d was used for watering livestock.

HYDROLOGIC DATA NETWORK ASSESSMENT

The objective of a hydrologic data network is to provide information needed for the optimum utilization and management of water resources. The different uses for water data have been classified into four general categories: (1) current use; (2) planning and design; (3) long-term trends; and (4) the hydrologic environment. Each category and major use of the data are listed below (modified from Rabon, 1970).

Category	Data use
Current use	Water management assessment of current availability of water. Water-quality control. Forecasting of extreme streamflow events. Monitoring seasonal potentiometric surface fluctuations. Monitoring and surveillance for legal requirements.
Planning and design	Reservoir storage. Well-field development. Irrigation (supplies and systems). Waste dilution and storage. Bridge and culvert design.
Long-term trends	Background or baseline information to determine changes in the hydrologic environments. Determine statistics of streamflow and changes with time.
Hydrologic environment	Hydrologic studies. Planning, design, and operation of systems controlling water pollution. Appraisal of changing land use effects on the hydrologic environments.

Historical Development

Historically, hydrologic data collection and research programs in Florida were developed by the U.S. Geological Survey and its cooperators in response to local needs. The program has grown rapidly to meet the increased demand for water information brought about by urbanization, extreme hydrologic conditions, saltwater intrusion, industrial expansion, and problems associated with pollution and the hydrologic environment. Some principal programs, investigations, and types of data collected in and near the Manasota Basin are discussed below.

Surface Water

The first systematic program of collecting continuous streamflow data in the Manasota Basin and adjacent areas began in the 1930's with the establishment of three continuous-record stations: Myakka River near Sarasota (1936), Manatee River near Bradenton (1939), and Little Manatee River near Wimauma (1939). This was part of the statewide program developed by the Geological Survey and the State of Florida to evaluate the water resources of the state. In the 1950's and 1960's, additional continuous-record stations and a partial-record network were established.

In the early 1960's, an extensive network of continuous, low-flow, partial-record, and miscellaneous measurement stations was established in the Myakka River basin area in conjunction with a study to appraise the water resources of the area (Flipppo and Joyner, 1968; Joyner and Sutcliffe, 1976). Most of these stations were discontinued in 1965.

In 1974, a flood-evaluation study was made of the Myakka River basin. Profiles of floods having recurrence intervals of 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 200, and 500 years were estimated for the nontidal part of a 45-mile reach of the Myakka River main stem (natural and diked conditions) and selected tributaries (Hammett and others, 1978). Flood profiles are plots of water-surface elevation at flood stages versus stream distance, measured in the upstream direction. Recurrence interval is the average interval of time within which a flood of specific magnitude is expected to be equaled or exceeded.

Ground Water

In 1930, an intensive investigation began of the ground-water resources of Florida (Stringfield, 1933a). From 1930 to 1932, periodic water-level measurements were made, and water from selected wells was sampled to determine the chemical quality. Most of the work was done in Sarasota, Manatee, Orange, Duval, and Pinellas Counties (Stringfield, 1936). A detailed study of the ground-water resources in Sarasota County was conducted at the same time (Stringfield, 1933b).

From 1950 to 1955, a study was made of the ground-water resources of Manatee County (Peek and Anders, 1955; Peek, 1958a). Numerous wells were inventoried, continuous and periodic water-level measurements were made, and chemical quality of water from wells tapping selected water-bearing formations was determined. After completion of the study, water levels in selected wells were measured continuously until the late 1950's and in one well until the mid-1960's.

From 1963 to 1966, a detailed study of the water resources of the Myakka River basin was made by Joyner and Sutcliffe (1976). During the investigation, records of about 400 wells were collected, including water-level measurements, well construction, and drillers' and geophysical logs. Chemical quality of water was determined from selected water-bearing zones.

Potentiometric surface maps of the Floridan aquifer showing water levels throughout the Southwest Florida Water Management District were produced in January 1964 and in May 1969, 1971, 1973, and each year since, and in September since 1975. Maps showing changes in the potentiometric surface for the periods January 1964 to May 1969 and May 1969 to May 1975 have been published and are scheduled every 5 years (Stewart and others, 1971; Mills and Laughlin, 1976). The January 1964 and May 1969 maps and the 1964 to 1969 change in potentiometric surface map, however, did not include the Manasota Basin.

The water table in the surficial aquifer and the potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer in selected well fields in west-central Florida were measured, and contour maps were produced semiannually in 1971 and 1972, quarterly from 1973 to 1975, and again semiannually since 1976 (Wolansky and others, 1978). The Verna well field in northern Sarasota County was first included in the May 1977 maps when the Manasota Basin was included in the Southwest Florida Water Management District in January 1977.

In 1975, the Regional Observation Monitor-Well Program (ROMP) was implemented by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The specific objectives of ROMP involve studies of (1) hydrologic properties of the aquifers and confining beds, (2) the potentiometric surface of the intermediate aquifers and the Floridan aquifer and the water table of the surficial aquifer, (3) groundwater quality and seawater intrusion, and (4) relation between climate and ground water (Gomberg, 1975). The proposed monitoring network consists of 18 well sites and 5 transects (fig. 32). Each well site contains one or more wells open to specific aquifers or water-bearing zones, and each transect consists of two or more wells and also includes one of the proposed monitoring well sites. As of August 1978, one well site (No. 32) had been completed in the Manasota Basin.

Existing Network

Surface Water

Surface-water data for the Manasota Basin consist of stage, discharge, and water quality of streams and stage and water quality of reservoirs. Table 8 lists stations operated by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies and the type and frequency of data collection.

The streamflow data network consists of continuous-record, partial-record, and miscellaneous measurement stations. Partial-record stations include crest-stage and low-flow stations.

There are three continuous-record streamflow stations operated in the Manasota Basin. They are the Myakka River at Myakka City, Myakka River near Sarasota, and Manatee River near Myakka Head (table 8). A continuous-record station adjacent to the Manasota Basin is the Little Manatee River near Wimauma.

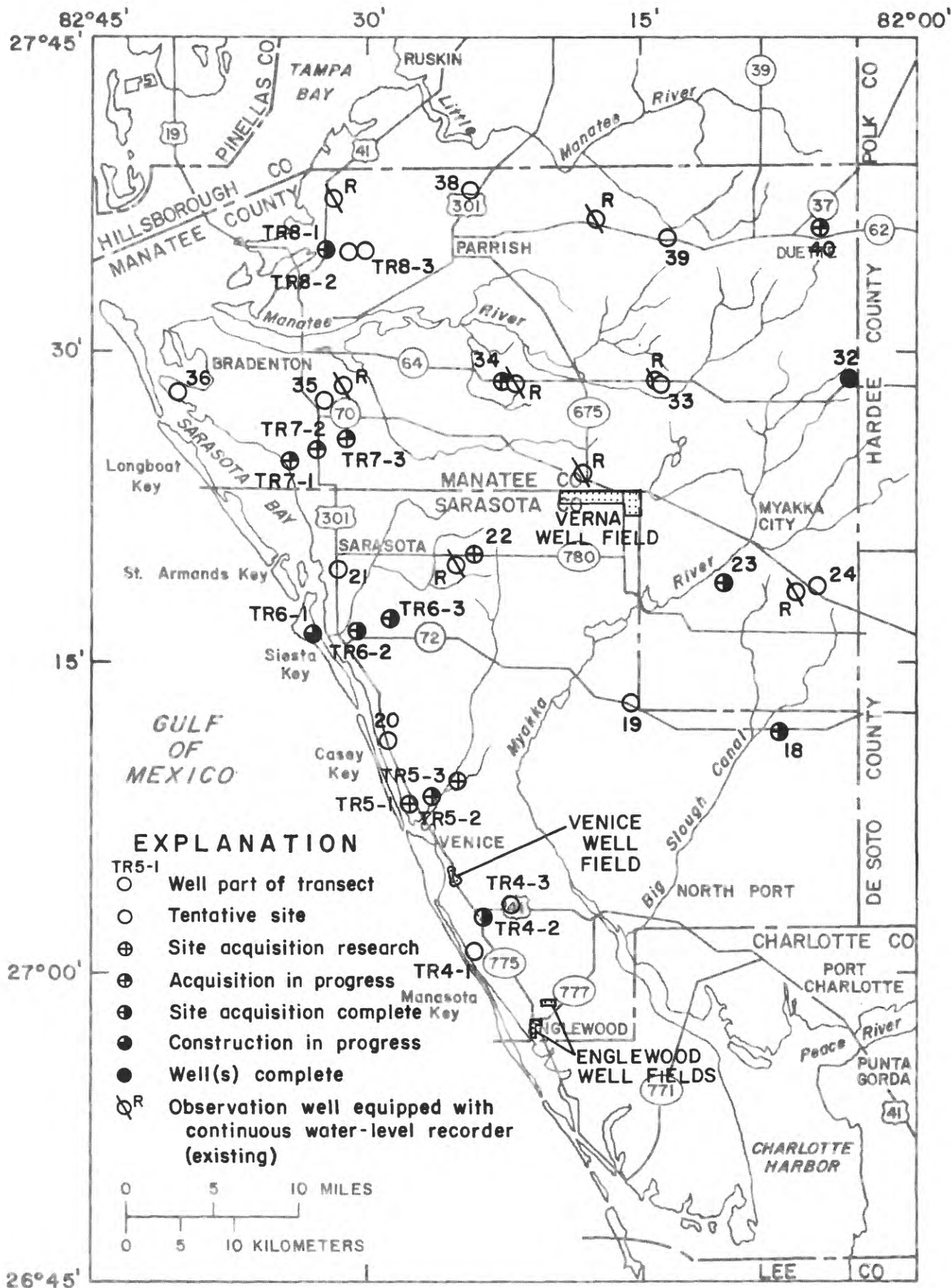


Figure 32.--Location of proposed sites and transects and regional observation monitor-well network as of 1978.

Table 8.--Surface-water data-collection sites, Manasota Basin, 1978

Site number (see fig. 35)	Station name	Streamflow stage or record	Water-quality record										
			Type and frequency ¹										
			K&T	DO	pH	MC	N&P	MET	BOD	TOC	PKT	SED	BCT
02298830	Myakka River near Sarasota	Continuous	365	6	6	10	6	2	2	2	7	12	12
02299800	Phillippi Creek at Sarasota	Crest stage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
02293492	Johnson Creek near Myakka Head	Crest stage	6										
02298608	Myakka River at Myakka City	Continuous	6	6	6				2	2			
02299950	Manatee River near Myakka Head	Continuous	6	2	2	1	2	1	2	2			
02300042	Ward Lake near Bradenton	Continuous	6										
02300200	South Fork Little Manatee River near Duette	Crest stage	6	6	6	6	6	2	2	2			

¹K&T, specific conductance and temperature; DO, dissolved solids; pH, field pH measurement; MC, major chemical constituent; N&P, nitrogen and phosphorous species; MET, metals; BOD, 5-day biochemical oxygen demand; TOC, total organic carbon; PKT, phytoplankton; SED, suspended sediments; BCT, bacteriological; reported in number of samples per year.

There are three crest-stage, partial-record stations within the Manasota Basin where annual maximum flood levels are observed (table 8). They are Johnson Creek near Myakka Head, Phillippi Creek at Sarasota, and South Fork Little Manatee River near Duette.

At low-flow partial-record stations, periodic measurements of base-flow discharge are obtained normally about two or three times per year. However, there are no active low-flow partial-record stations in the Basin.

The U.S. Geological Survey operates a gaging station on Ward Lake near Bradenton. Stage is recorded continuously and lake discharge measurements made twice yearly. A gaging station at Lake Manatee Reservoir is operated by Manatee County; reservoir stage is recorded three times daily.

Ground Water

For 1978, ground-water data for the Basin include water-level data from 40 wells equipped with continuous recorders (fig. 33) and from 4 wells where water levels are measured bimonthly. In May and September, water levels are measured in about 58 wells that are open to the intermediate and Floridan aquifers (fig. 33). Data are used to prepare potentiometric surface maps of the Floridan aquifer in the Water Management District.

Water levels in observation wells within and near the Verna well field are measured continuously in some wells and semiannually in others (May and September). The data are included in semiannual data reports published by the U.S. Geological Survey. Figure 34 shows the altitude of the water table in the surficial aquifer and potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer in May 1978.

As of 1978, more than 80 wells in Sarasota County had been sampled for major constituents and radiochemical analysis in cooperation with Sarasota County (H. Sutcliffe, written commun., 1978). In conjunction with an investigation of the location and movement of the saltwater-freshwater interface in the Floridan aquifer, a salinity-monitoring network has been designed for the Southwest Florida Water Management District and will include about 17 wells open to the Floridan aquifer in the Manasota Basin (W. C. Steinkampf, written commun., 1978).

Evaluation and Modification of Data Network

Surface Water

Rabon (1970) discusses in detail four general categories of hydrologic data in relation to the streamflow data program in Florida (table 9). His discussion and evaluation of the streamflow data network are applicable to the Manasota Basin. Rabon stated that, with few exceptions, the goals of the data program could not be met by generalization of data for a gaged basin by regression analysis.

The Myakka River near Sarasota station was classified as meeting the need for current-use data (Rabon, 1970). Extended periods of zero flow or low flow, however, limit its value in correlation with nearby streams.

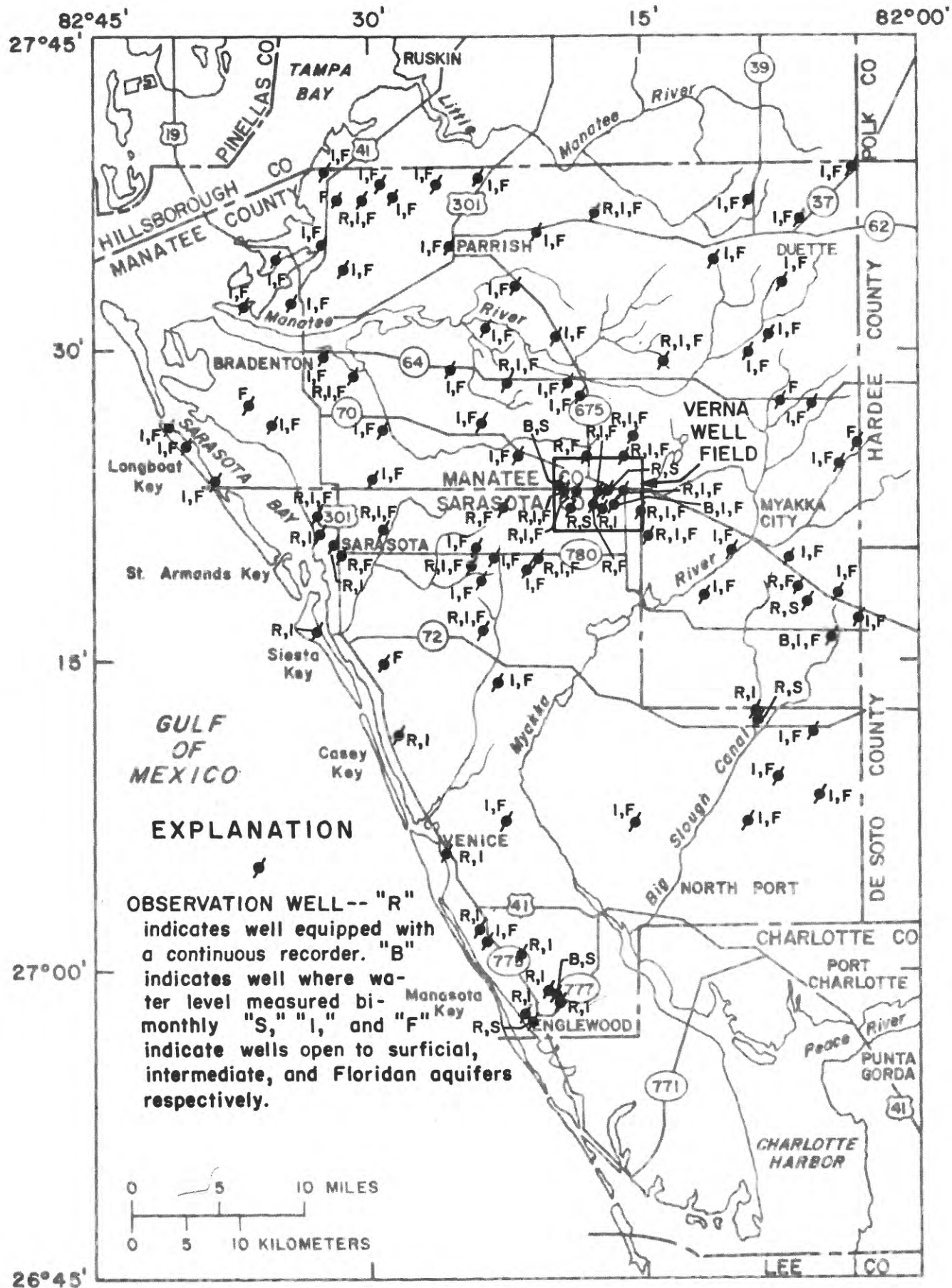
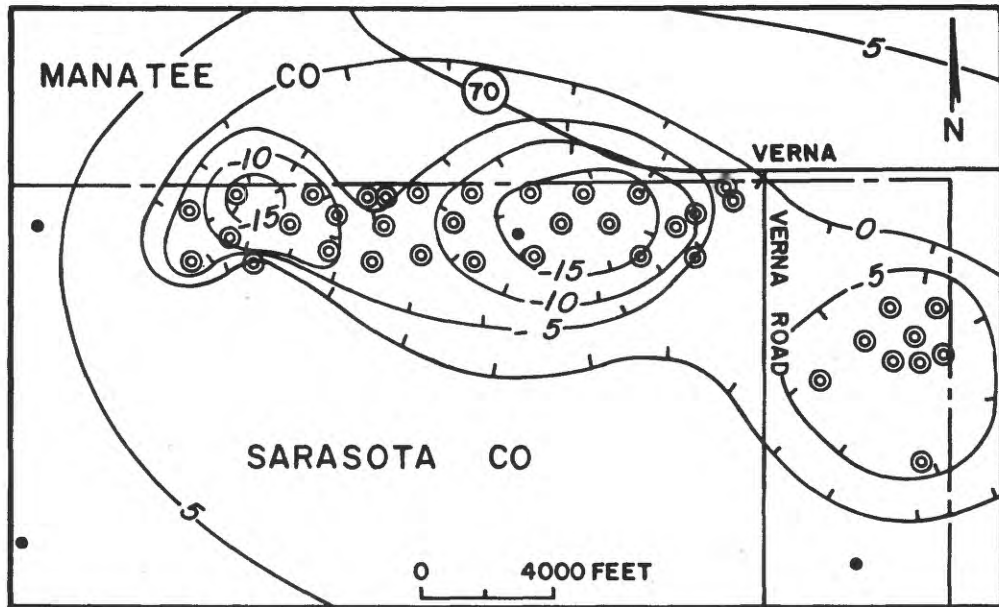


Figure 33.--Observation-well network.

POTENTIOMETRIC SURFACE



VERNA WELL FIELD MAY 16 PUMPAGE 8.6 Mgal/d
(POTENTIOMETRIC SURFACE OF UPPER FLORIDAN AQUIFER)

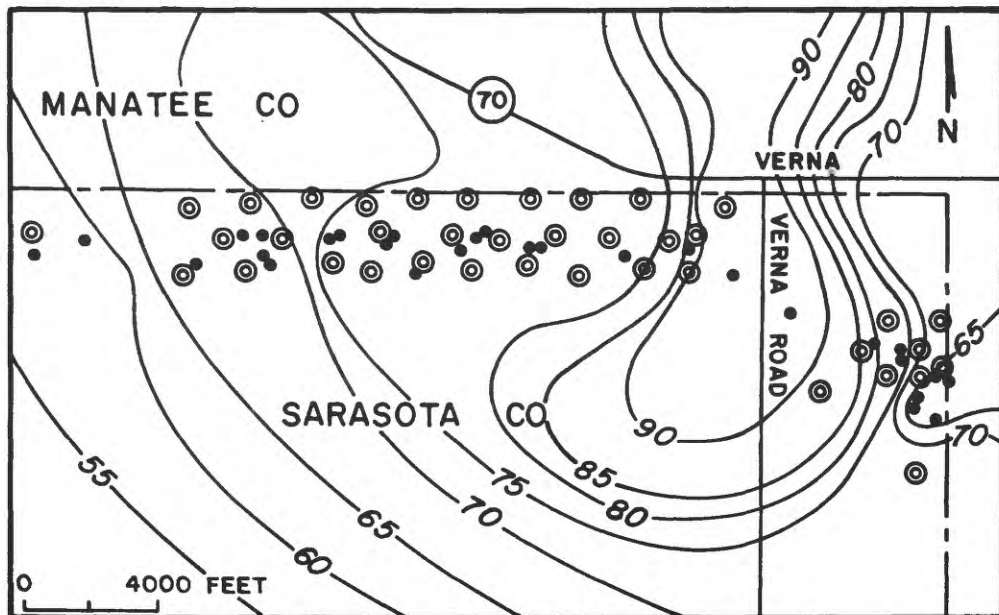
EXPLANATION

— 5 — POTENTIOMETRIC CONTOUR--Shows altitude at which water level would have stood in tightly cased wells. Interval 5 feet. Datum is National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929.

⊙ Municipal supply well

● Observation well

WATER TABLE



VERNA WELL FIELD

EXPLANATION

— 55 — WATER-TABLE CONTOUR--Shows altitude of water table. Interval 5 feet. Datum is National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929.

⊙ Municipal supply well

● Observation well

Figure 34.--Potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer and water table of the surficial aquifer, Verna well field, Sarasota County, May 1978 (from Wolansky and others, 1978).

Table 9.--Framework for design of a

[after

Type of data	Current	Planning and design	
		Natural flow (Low-flow frequency or flood frequency)	
		Minor streams	Principal streams
Goals	To provide current data on streamflow needed for day-by-day decisions on water management as required.	To provide information on statistical any stream to the specified accuracy.	
Drainage area limits.	Full range.	Less than 500 mi ² .	Greater than 500 mi ² .
Accuracy goal.	As requested.	Equivalent to 10 years of record.	Equivalent to 25 years of record.
Approach.	Operate gaging stations as requested to provide specific information needed.	Relate flow characteristics to drainage basin characteristics using data for gaged basins.	Operate gaging stations to obtain 25 years of record (or the equivalent by correlation) at a network of points on principal streams; interpolate between points.
Evaluate available data.	Identify stations where data is used currently and code the specific use of data.	Develop relationship for each flow characteristic and compare standard error with accuracy goal. Evaluate sample.	Lay out network of points on principal streams and compare data available at these points with goal.
Design future.	Identify goals that have not been attained. Consider alternate means of attaining goals. Identify elements of future program.		

surface-water data-collection program

Rabon, 1970]

Planning and design--continued		Long-term trends	Stream environment
Regulated flow (Low-flow frequency or flood frequency)			
Minor streams	Principal streams		
characteristics of flow at any site on		To provide a long-term data base of homogeneous records on natural-flow streams.	To describe the hydrologic environment of stream channels and drainage basins.
Less than 500 mi ² .	Greater than 500 mi ² .	Full range.	Full range.
Equivalent to 10 years of record.	Equivalent to 25 years of record.	Highest obtainable.	As required.
Develop generalized relations that account for the effect of storage, diversion, or regulation on natural flow characteristics.	Utilize analytical model of stream system with observed data as input to compute homogeneous records for both natural flow conditions and present conditions of development.	Operate a number of carefully selected gaging stations indefinitely.	Observe and publish information on stream environment.
Appraise type of regulation, data available, and areas where relationships are needed.	Identify stream systems that should be studied using model approach and determine data requirements.	Select two stations in each WRC subregion to operate indefinitely for this purpose.	Evaluate information available in relation to goals.

The Manatee River near Myakka Head station was categorized as a planning and design station to be continued until improved methods of estimating stream-flow characteristics have been developed (Rabon, 1970). Land-use changes within the river basin and potential stream impoundments may require reassessment of the type and use of the data collected at the station.

Regional relations were developed for estimating the magnitude and frequency of floods on streams in the Southwest Florida Water Management District area (Seijo and others, 1979). These relations are applicable to streams having drainage areas greater than 10 mi² but less than 2,500 mi² and that are not significantly affected by regulation, tides, or urbanization.

A major shortcoming of the existing streamflow data network is the lack of low-flow, partial-record stations. Land-use changes, such as urbanization, phosphate mining, and impoundment of streams, may affect low-flow characteristics. Agriculture and irrigation practices may also affect low-flow characteristics since peak periods of irrigation occur during periods of low flow.

Rabon (1970) stated that low-flow characteristics (mean 7-day low flow at 2- and 20-year recurrence intervals) at ungaged sites on streams could not be estimated adequately by regression methods. To estimate low-flow characteristics, discharge measurements of low flow must be correlated with concurrent flow at suitable continuous-record index stations where similar hydrologic conditions prevail.

The existing surface-water data network does not provide detailed hydrologic data. Detailed hydrologic data could be interpreted to identify flood-prone areas and evaluate the water-supply potential of minor streams and canals in the area. The existing streamflow-data network could be modified to include:

1. An expansion of the existing streamflow-data network.--Gaging stations could be installed on minor streams and maintained until correlations with nearby index stations are adequate to define streamflow characteristics assuming there is no change in flow regime at either site (fig. 35 and table 10). Stations where streamflow may become regulated or substantially altered because of land-use changes could be maintained to provide data for current-use and long-term trends. Types of data collected would include stage and discharge measurements (continuous), water-quality sampling (periodic and daily at selected sites), drainage basin characteristics, and land use.
2. A low-flow partial-record network.--The network could include stations used for measurement in the 1960's, stations on streams where projected land-use changes will occur, and at existing or potential impoundment sites. The low-flow partial-record sites would be continued for 3 or 4 years until a correlation can be made with nearby index stations. Water-quality data could also be collected periodically.
3. Expansion of the crest-stage, partial-record network.--Stations could be located on streams or canals in rural areas that are not expected to change in 10 to 20 years or areas of existing urbanization. The data obtained would improve regional flood-frequency relations developed for west-central Florida that have limited application in the study area. The improvement would be in extending the flood-frequency

relation to small rural and urban watersheds. Crest-stage gages would be operated 10 to 15 years. The information may be used by local governmental agencies to delineate flood-prone areas and to aid in flood-plain management. The expanded network could also incorporate urban-runoff monitoring sites to provide base-line or long-term data.

4. Collection of required data for future modeling of regulated stream systems.--The existing gaging station, Ward Lake near Bradenton on the Braden River, could be upgraded to a continuous stage-discharge station. A gaging station could be installed on Lake Manatee Reservoir. Modeling of Ward Lake and Lake Manatee would enable water-supply managers to simulate reservoir operations to optimize the water-supply potential of the reservoirs.

Ground Water

A ground-water data network consists of observation wells open to selected water-bearing zones. Water levels are measured continuously or periodically, and water samples are collected periodically for chemical analysis. Concurrent programs usually consist of well inventory, water-use inventory, and geologic and geophysical logging of wells or test holes.

Routinely collected ground-water data are generally for monitoring seasonal and long-term fluctuations of water tables and of the potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer. Other types of data for current use, planning and design, long-term trends, and hydrologic environment, such as water quality and hydrologic properties, are mainly specific to a site or area. These data are usually generated by special hydrologic studies.

The existing data network monitors the Floridan aquifer. Continuous and periodic water-level measurements are made on numerous observation wells. Most wells are privately owned and constructed with tens to hundreds of feet of open hole to one or more water-bearing zones. Thus, in some areas, the data represent composite water levels. Because most wells are privately owned, their use as observation wells may be temporary.

Projected declines in the potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer of about 30 feet from May 1976 to May 2000 and 20 feet from November 1976 to October 2000 indicate a need for a long-term data network.

Under the existing network little hydrologic data are collected on the surficial aquifer or intermediate aquifers. A well network for monitoring seasonal and long-term fluctuations of the surficial and intermediate aquifers water-levels is desirable because of increasing withdrawals of water from the aquifers.

Site-specific data, including water-level measurements and water-quality analyses, are collected in well-field areas and at a landfill operation in Venice. Chemical and radiochemical data are collected from selected water-bearing zones and aquifers in Sarasota County. A ground-water quality network to monitor long-term changes within the Basin does not exist. Some water-quality data are now provided by hydrologic investigations by the U.S. Geological Survey, other federal and local governmental agencies, and private industry. The data, however, may have little transfer value for the entire Basin.

Table 10.--Proposed surface-water data-collection network

Map number (see fig. 35)	Station name	Latitude-longitude	Drainage area (mi ²)	Type of data ^{1/}	Remarks
CONTINUOUS-RECORD GAGING STATIONS					
Myakka River Basin					
02298492	Johnson Creek near Myakka Head	272734- 0820849	3.18	Planning and design Natural flow	Existing crest-stage
02298608	Myakka River at Myakka City	272047- 0820917	125	Planning and design Natural flow	Existing
02298800	Upper Myakka Lake near Sarasota	271550- 0821720	210	Current	Proposed
02298830	Myakka River near Sarasota	271425- 0821850	229	Long-term trends	Existing
02298849	Lower Myakka Lake near Sarasota	271305- 0822000	240	Current	Proposed
02299470	Big Slough Canal near Murdock	270415- 0821305	87.5	Planning and design Natural flow	Proposed
Coastal Area Between Myakka and Manatee Rivers					
02299800	Phillippi Creek at Sarasota	271920- 0823020	45	Planning and design Natural flow	Existing crest-stage
Manatee River Basin					
02299950	Manatee River near Myakka Head	272824- 0821241	64.7	Planning and design Natural flow	Existing
1	Lake Manatee Reservoir near Bradenton	272935- 0822116	123	Current	Proposed
02300018	Gamble Creek near Parrish	273311- 0822324	--		
02300042	Ward Lake near Bradenton	272628- 0822919	59	Current	Existing stage only

^{1/} Type of data listed in table 9.

Table 10.--Proposed surface-water data-collection network--Continued

Map number (see fig. 35)	Station name	Latitude-longitude	Drainage area (mi ²)	Type of data ^{1/}	Remarks
CONTINUOUS-RECORD GAGING STATIONS--Continued					
Little Manatee River Basin					
02300300	South Fork Little Manatee	273857- 0821740	38	Planning and design Natural flow	Proposed
CREST-STAGE, PARTIAL-RECORD STATIONS					
Myakka River Basin					
02298458	Myakka River near Myakka Head	272735- 0820640	10.08	Planning and design Natural flow Flood frequency	Also low-flow, partial-rec- ord site
02299410	Big Slough Canal near Myakka City	271135- 0820840	53	Planning and design Natural flow Flood frequency	Also low-flow, partial-rec- ord site
Coastal Area Between Myakka and Manatee Rivers					
02299720	Cow Pen Slough near Laurel	271015- 0822340	56	Planning and design Natural flow Flood frequency	Also low-flow, partial-rec- ord site
02299750	Phillippi Creek near Sarasota	271830- 0822706	24	Planning and design Natural flow Flood frequency	Also low-flow, partial-rec- ord site
Manatee River Basin					
02299920	North Fork Manatee River near Myakka City	273150- 0821019	16.2	Planning and design Natural flow Flood frequency	Low-flow, partial-record site
02299975	East Fork Manatee River near Myakka City	271319- 0820614	11.4	Planning and design Natural flow Flood frequency	Low-flow, partial-record site
3	Gambles Creek (Wimauma)	273535- 0822017	--	Planning and design Natural flow Flood frequency	Low-flow, partial-record site

Table 10.--Proposed surface-water data-collection network--Continued

Map number (see fig. 35)	Station name	Latitude- longitude	Drain- age area (mi ²)	Type of data ^{1/}	Remarks
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CREST-STAGE, PARTIAL-RECORD STATIONS--Continued

Manatee River Basin--Continued

4	Braden River (Lorraine)	272503- 0822358	--	Planning and design Natural flow Flood fre- quency	Low-flow, par- tial-record site
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Little Manatee River Basin

02300200	South Fork Little Manatee River near Duette	273525- 0821057	9.4	Planning and design Natural flow Flood fre- quency	Low-flow, par- tial-record site
5	South Fork Little Manatee River (Parrish)	273640- 0821421	--	Planning and design Natural flow Flood fre- quency	Proposed

LOW-FLOW, PARTIAL-RECORD STATIONS

Myakka River Basin

02298458	Myakka River near Myakka Head	272735- 0820640	10.8	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02298478	Wingate Creek near Myakka City	272734- 0820820	8.47	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02298523	Ogleby Creek near Myakka City	272247- 0821408	11	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02298554	Myakka River near Myakka City	272157- 0820858	87	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	

Table 10.--Proposed surface-water data-collection network--Continued

Map number (see fig. 35)	Station name	Latitude-longitude	Drainage area (mi ²)	Type of data ^{1/}	Remarks
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LOW-FLOW, PARTIAL-RECORD STATIONS--Continued

Coastal Area Between Myakka and Manatee Rivers

02299687	Alligator Creek near Woodmere	270325- 0822349	--	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02299700	Cow Pen Slough near Bee Ridge	271456- 0822310	38	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02299720	Cow Pen Slough near Laurel	271015- 0822340	56	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02299726	Fox Creek near Laurel	270954- 0822543	12	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02299738	South Creek near Osprey	271032- 0822730	3.0	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02299750	Phillippi Creek near Sarasota	271830- 0822706	24	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	

Manatee River Basin

02299913	North Fork Manatee River at Duette	273523- 0820740	6.29	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02299920	North Fork Manatee River near Myakka City	273150- 0821019	16.2	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02299975	East Fork Manatee River near Myakka City	271319- 0820614	11.4	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	

Table 10.--Proposed surface-water data-collection network--Continued

Map number (see fig. 35)	Station name	Latitude-longitude	Drainage area (mi ²)	Type of data ^{1/}	Remarks
LOW-FLOW, PARTIAL-RECORD STATIONS--Continued					
Manatee River Basin--Continued					
02300004	Gilley Creek near Rye	273041-0821715	10.2	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
2	Gilley Creek (Oak Knoll)	273041-0820717	--	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
3	Gambles Creek (Wimauma)	273535-0822017	--	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
4	Braden River (Lorraine)	272503-0822358	--	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
Little Manatee River Basin					
02300200	South Fork Little Manatee River near Duette	273525-0821057	9.4	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	Crest-stage, partial-rec-ord site
5	South Fork Little Manatee River (Parrish)	273640-0821421	--	Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
Tampa Bay and Coastal Areas					
02300078	Frog Creek near Terra Ceia	273450-0823139		Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	
02300080	Cabbage Slough near Terra Ceia	273517-0823159		Planning and design Natural flow Low-flow frequency	

Development of the regional observation and monitor-well program (ROMP), started in 1974, by the Southwest Florida Water Management District provides detailed hydrologic data on a systematic basis. When completed, the monitoring program should provide most of the data necessary to define the ground-water system.

Figure 32 shows the location and status of ROMP sites in the Basin as of 1978. About 50 percent of the sites should be completed by 1982. Figure 15 shows the projected decline in the potentiometric surface from May 1976 to May 2000. The regional plan provides adequate coverage of areas where the decline is greater than 5 feet.

Until ROMP is fully implemented, the existing ground-water data network could be modified as follows:

1. An expanded network of observation wells in the surficial aquifer, intermediate aquifers, and Floridan aquifer for continuous and periodic water-level measurements and periodic water-quality sampling could be established. A reasonable coverage of area aquifers would require about 10 nests of observation wells. Continuous records collected at selected sites would allow for monitoring seasonal water-level fluctuations. The location, depth, and type of observation wells could augment planned wells of the regional network. Concurrently, geologic and geophysical data, well inventory, and water-use inventory could be provided.
2. Observation wells operated and maintained by private industry and local governmental agencies could be evaluated for inclusion into the data network. Data previously collected could be evaluated and, where applicable, entered into computer storage.

SUMMARY

The hydropolitical Manasota Basin, Southwest Florida Water Management District, consists of Manatee and Sarasota Counties in₂ southwest Florida. The Basin borders the Gulf of Mexico and is about 1,300 mi² in size. Rangeland and agricultural land comprise about 72 percent of the Basin. Projected land-use changes by the year 2000 indicate slight decreases in rangeland and agricultural land and a substantial increase in urban land. An increase in strip mines from proposed phosphate mining in eastern Manatee County is also projected.

The source of all freshwater in the Manasota Basin is from rainfall on or adjacent to the Basin. The average annual rainfall is about 54 inches with about 60 percent of the rainfall occurring from June through September. The dry season generally occurs from October into May, which coincides with the fall and winter-spring growing seasons. Evapotranspiration is about 39 inches per year.

The Myakka and Manatee Rivers are the two major streams in the area. The Little Manatee and Peace Rivers drain parts of the Basin. Numerous small coastal streams originate within several miles of the coast and flow into bays and estuaries. Annual runoff in the gaged areas of the basin ranges from about 13 to 17 inches per year.

The flow-duration curve of Myakka River near Sarasota has a steep slope, indicating highly variable flow. Flow-duration curves for the Manatee River near Bradenton and the Little Manatee River near Wimauma generally flatten out at their lower end, indicating release of ground-water for storage. Flow-duration curves for streams in the area generally flatten out at their upper end, indicating detention and slow release of water from storage in numerous lakes and swamps.

Streamflow in the upland areas diminishes rapidly at the end of the rainy season and approaches zero during extended periods of little or no rainfall. Extended periods of low flow are common in the upper reaches of streams.

The principal natural lakes in the basin are the Upper and Lower Myakka Lakes. Both lakes occupy shallow depressions and have a total storage of about 1,500 Mgal. The two principal springs in the area are Warm Salt and Little Salt Springs. Both discharge highly mineralized water.

The surface water is generally of good quality except in tidally affected and coastal areas where the streams and canals are usually saline. The quality varies seasonally. During the wet season, streamflow is mainly surface runoff; dissolved solids concentrations and hardness are minimum; and the color of the water is maximum. During the dry season, when the base flow of streams is maintained by ground-water discharge, dissolved solids concentrations and hardness increase and color of the water decreases. The chemical type of surface water at low flow ranges from a calcium and magnesium bicarbonate type in the middle and upper reaches of streams to a sodium chloride or calcium and magnesium sulfate type in coastal and low-lying areas.

As of 1978, the Big Slough Canal at North Port, the Manatee River at Lake Manatee Reservoir, the Braden River at Ward Lake, and the Little Manatee River in northern Manatee County were used for water supply. The combined average diversion is estimated to be about 40 Mgal/d. There are additional sites on streams and two lakes that are suitable for impoundment for surface-water supply.

The Manasota Basin is underlain by a thick sequence of sedimentary rocks whose lithology and structure control the occurrence and movement of ground water. The hydrogeologic units are primarily the (1) surficial aquifer, (2) intermediate aquifers and confining beds, (3) Floridan aquifer, and (4) sub-Floridan confining unit.

The potentiometric surface of the Floridan aquifer varies seasonally. In May 1975, during a period of low water levels, the potentiometric surfaces ranged from about 10 feet below sea level to about 40 feet above sea level. The map of the potentiometric surface in May 1977 shows little change from 1975 and may indicate the aquifer is approaching equilibrium between recharge and pumpage. The decline in the potentiometric surface from May 1969 to May 1975 ranged from less than 5 feet at the coast to about 40 feet in northeastern Manatee County.

In September 1977, during a period of high water levels, the potentiometric surface ranged from about 20 feet above sea level near the coast to about 40 feet above sea level in the east. Seasonal fluctuation (May to September) of the potentiometric surface in 1977 ranged from less than 5 feet to about 30 feet.

The quality of ground water is generally good except in the western (coastal) and southern parts of the Basin where saltwater intrusion or flushing of residual seawater has been incomplete. The dissolved solids concentration of ground water generally increases with depth and areally from the northeast towards the west and south.

The quality of water in the surficial aquifer and intermediate aquifers is acceptable except near the coast and in tidally affected streams where it approaches that of seawater. The water in the Floridan aquifer is generally more mineralized than water from the surficial aquifer and intermediate aquifers. Water of good quality in the Floridan aquifer is generally limited to the northeast.

Concentrations of dissolved solids in the surficial aquifer and intermediate aquifers are generally less than 500 mg/L except in coastal areas where concentrations can exceed 5,000 mg/L. In the Floridan aquifer, concentrations of dissolved solids exceed 500 mg/L in the western and southern parts of the Basin.

In the surficial aquifer and intermediate aquifers, concentrations of sulfate and chloride greater than 250 mg/L are limited to the coastal and southern areas. In the Floridan aquifer, concentrations of sulfate exceeded 250 mg/L except in the northeast; concentrations of chloride greater than 250 mg/L are generally limited to the coastal and extreme southern parts of the Basin.

The intermediate aquifers and Floridan aquifer are highly developed sources of water. The surficial aquifer is undeveloped as a source of water except near the coast and southern parts of the Basin where water from deeper aquifers is not potable. The intermediate aquifers are widely used in the south, where they furnish most of the water used for domestic, home irrigation, and public water supplies, and a minor source of water to most irrigation wells. The Floridan aquifer is a major source of ground water, primarily for agricultural irrigation.

In 1975, total water use in the Manasota Basin was about 118 Mgal/d. The major water use is for irrigation, an estimated 44 Mgal/d in 1975. More than 90 percent of the irrigation water was from ground-water sources. Projected ground-water withdrawal for irrigation is about 52 Mgal/d by 2000. The estimated water use for public supply was 30.3 Mgal/d in 1975 and is projected to increase to 120 Mgal/d by 2000. By 1985, the projected water use for industrial supply (including proposed phosphate mining in Manatee County) is 34.4 Mgal/d.

The existing surface-water network consists of three continuous-record streamflow stations, one continuous-record stage (reservoir) station, and three crest-stage, partial-record stations. Currently, one streamflow station, Myakka River near Sarasota, and one discontinued station, Manatee River near Bradenton, have sufficient length of record (more than 20 years) to adequately define their streamflow characteristics. One additional streamflow station, Little Manatee River near Wimauma, a stream that drains part of the Basin, also has sufficient record.

Major land-use changes, such as phosphate mining, urbanization, stream impoundments, and diversion will change streamflow characteristics. Definition of such changes may require the collection of additional data.

In 1978, the long-term, ground-water data network consisted of 40 wells equipped with continuous water-level recorders and 4 wells where water levels are measured bimonthly. Under various investigations, water levels in an additional 58 wells penetrating the Floridan aquifer were measured semiannually, and selected wells in the Venice-Englewood area were measured continuously or periodically. Observation wells in the Verna well field penetrate the surficial aquifer, intermediate aquifers, and Floridan aquifer. Wells in the Venice-Englewood area penetrate the surficial aquifer and intermediate aquifers.

The major emphasis of the ground-water network is directed towards the Floridan aquifer; little hydrologic data are collected on the surficial aquifer or intermediate aquifers. Most wells in the network are privately owned and may penetrate one or more aquifers or water-bearing zones. Data obtained from these wells may represent a composite of the various aquifers, and access to these wells may be only temporary.

A ground-water quality network is nonexistent. Current water-quality data are provided as a byproduct of hydrologic investigations by the U.S. Geological Survey, other federal and local governmental agencies, and private industry.

Development of ROMP by the Southwest Florida Water Management District provides detailed hydrologic data on a systematic basis. When completed, the monitoring program could provide most of the data necessary to define the ground-water system.

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