



Figure 2.6: Aquifer Systems
 Source: *Water Resources Atlas of Florida, 1998.*

to be confined. Where the Floridan system is either at the land surface or covered only by a veneer of sand or sandy materials, its ground water is unconfined or semiconfined and vulnerable to contamination. The Floridan system underlies the Tampa Bay area and is its principal source of water, supplying more than 10 times the water pumped from either the intermediate or surficial aquifers (Fernald and Purdum, 1998). The top of the Floridan ranges from approximately sea level to 400 feet below sea level, and its thickness ranges from 1,000 to 1,300 feet (Wolansky and Gabode, 1981).

Generally, in the Tampa Bay area the intermediate aquifer system is absent or only a few feet thick, but thickens in a southerly direction to more than 300 feet in central and south Manatee County. The intermediate