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- SCIENCE -

MARCH 14TH, 2015

10AM - 3PM

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County water providers to transition from providing potable water from non-renewable Denver Basin aquifers to a regional infrastructure to provide water from renewable ground water sources.

For this new study, it was assumed that the current economic production of non-renewable ground water by the eight study participants, 14,566 acre-feet per year, will drop to 4,847 acre-feet of economic non-renewable ground water per year (35 percent of current production) in 2035, and to zero by 2050. The current annual water demand in El Paso County for potable water is 16,284 acre-feet per year, and was assumed to grow to 25,024 acre-feet in 2035 and 29,960 acre-feet in 2050. The county's annual ground water production deficit in 2050 was assumed to be 9,397 acre-feet.

While groundwater wells will not be totally depleted in 2050, none will be economically useable by county water districts and municipalities as a primary supply at that time, and will be useable only for droughts and emergencies. It will take about six groundwater wells then to produce what one groundwater well can produce now, on average. The more renewable water that can be produced as soon as possible, the longer the existing ground water wells will be available for drought and emergencies.

There was a very lengthy technical discussion about numerous options for types of renewable water sources, bulk water piping, storage, potential locations of new joint transport and treatment facilities, state/federal grant and low-interest loan opportunities that will be addressed

in the next phase of this study.

Operations report

Petersen reported a problem with one of the two operational treatment trains at the Upper Monument Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility that treats the sanitary sewer flows of both Donala and the Triview Metropolitan District. Due in part to very cold weather and the higher than normal loads of fats, oils, and grease that occur between Thanksgiving and New Year's, one train is having issues with microthrix parvicella contamination. A vendor has offered to conduct a case study at no charge to treat the contamination with a product that would compete with the microthrix parvicella to "starve them out" as a method to eliminate the problem. At this meeting, only two weeks of the four-week study had been completed. The facility has a third currently unused wastewater treatment train that could be activated in about a week if the current contamination treatment process proves unsuccessful.


The board went into executive session at 3:30 p.m. to discuss a potential acquisition of water rights.

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on March 19 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. Information: 488-3603 or <http://www.donalawater.org/>.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

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