

of Donala's renewable Willow Creek Ranch surface water in the Pueblo Reservoir at a total annual cost of \$29,560, an increase of 3.2 percent. This series of annual contracts with Reclamation allows Donala to store its renewable water on a space-available basis if the reservoir has not already been filled with surface water owned by the water entities that are part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. Donala is not a member of this project and its stored water is part of a category called non-project municipal and industrial water. ([www.usbr.gov/projects/Project.jsp](http://www.usbr.gov/projects/Project.jsp))

Petersen stated that very high snow melt flows resulting from the current El Niño wet weather pattern are forecast in Colorado in 2016 and are reflected in the wording in this contract. The total amount of stored project water in the Pueblo Reservoir is expected to be so high in 2016 that the amount of storage volume available for non-project water like Donala's may be very limited or eliminated entirely. Donala's 2016 storage contract with Reclamation states that if Reclamation determines that there is no room for some or all of Donala's non-project water, Reclamation will evacuate Donala's water from storage at its sole discretion to make room for more storage of project water. This stored Donala water will be "spilled" (drained) from the reservoir into the Arkansas River and lost to Donala.

As a result of this 2016 forecast, Donala is currently using up as much of its stored water in the reservoir as possible—its groundwater wells are turned off—to limit the potential loss of unused stored water this summer if Reclamation makes room for the project's water entities that may have a very unusual opportunity to actually use all their owned permanent storage capacity. During this wet period, the market for use of this spilled reservoir water by Colorado agricultural interests downstream of the reservoir has dried up.

Petersen also stated that even if Donala was able to supply 499 acre-feet of Willow Creek Ranch surface water to use all its excess capacity non-project water storage allocation, the level of the Pueblo Reservoir would only rise about a tenth of an inch.

**Manager's report**

Petersen advised the board that

the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) had given tentative approval at the local level for a total project award of \$71,887 to Donala for repair flood damage to the secondary dirt access road to the Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility that goes under the adjacent railroad track trestle to the north of the plant perimeter fence. The cost share is 75-25 percent for the FEMA award, which means that FEMA will pay up to \$53,908 in reimbursement.

Petersen reported that the reconstruction will strengthen the adjacent banks of Jackson Creek and allow for a freer flow of water under the railroad trestle. Future flood waters will be directed onto a hardened road under the trestle, then redirected back into Jackson Creek just above its confluence with Monument Creek. Future flooding cannot be prevented in this area, but this design will prevent a total failure like the one last spring. The construction needs to be completed before the Preble's meadow jumping mice that may be living in the protected mouse habitat that surrounds the facility on three sides come out of winter hibernation.

**Note:** The vulnerability of this secondary access road has long been identified as a risk. When the facility was expanded in 2005, Donala gained approval for and constructed an at-grade railroad crossing so that the facility staff would not be entirely dependent on this vulnerable dirt access road. In addition, the width of this secondary dirt road between the existing railroad trestle supports is too narrow to allow disposal trucks through it that are large enough to transport waste sludge away from the plant economically nor the construction equipment that will be used during the facility's next planned future facility expansion to accommodate Triview Metropolitan District's continuing growth beyond its own currently owned wastewater treatment capacity. ([ocn.me/v5n8.htm#donala](http://ocn.me/v5n8.htm#donala), [ocn.me/v5n11.htm#dws](http://ocn.me/v5n11.htm#dws), [ocn.me/v5n12.htm#dwsd](http://ocn.me/v5n12.htm#dwsd))

Petersen distributed an email

from Donala customers Bob and Val Ferguson thanking Donala for the "great job you have done cleaning the property" of the former Gleneagle golf course maintenance building and "even cutting weeds along your side of the creek," which they said was "a first" since they moved here 12 years ago. This new Donala property is located on the west end of Palm Springs Drive. Donala recently purchased the property to increase the district's storage facility capacity. ([ocn.me/v15n10.htm#dwsd0917](http://ocn.me/v15n10.htm#dwsd0917))

The board approved a resolution appointing Office Assistant Ginnette Ritz as the designated election official for the May 3, 2016 election.

**Note:** The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance to a new U.S. flag presented to Donala by Director Dave Powell. Board President Bill George said this new agenda item will continue to a part of all future Donala meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

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The next board meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 21 in the district conference room at 15850 Holbein Drive. Information: 488-3603 or [www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org). Meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. *Jim Kendrick can be reached at [jimkendrick@ocn.me](mailto:jimkendrick@ocn.me).*

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