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Expansion Plans Move Forward to Meet Future Needs

The Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) is continuing its work on a regional expansion project that includes building a reservoir, expanding the treatment capacity of the Peace River Facility and constructing additional aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells. All projects are well underway to ensure that the expansion efforts are meeting the long-term water needs of our member governments.

Regional Reservoir

The feasibility study and preliminary geotechnical site investigation is complete for the regional reservoir expansion project being conducted by MWH Americas, Inc. Phase I of the basis of design is underway, and the project team will be working very closely with regulators to ensure that any potential permitting concerns are avoided.

Facility Expansion

Boyle Engineering Corporation has completed the expansion analysis of the Peace River Facility. The next step is to complete the Water Quality Master Plan, which includes an assessment and recommendations for maintaining high water quality within the boundaries of the Authority.

ASR Wells

CH2M Hill completed the groundwater flow modeling work and has presented the favorable results to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District). The project team is working with the District to locate the 47 permitted aquifer storage and recovery wells for the most efficient configuration.



Increased Rainfall and Expanded Facility Add Up to More Water

Many citizens in our region receive their potable water from the Peace River. This surface water source is our main alternative to groundwater supplies, which are no longer viable due to saltwater intrusion in the Floridan aquifer.

The Authority's Peace River Regional Water Supply Facility is used to treat and store this surface water for distribution of drinking water to Charlotte, DeSoto and Sarasota counties and the City of North Port. Both the amount of rainfall we receive and the Peace River's flow determine

how much water the Peace River Facility can harvest from the river and then supply to customers.

For more than 85 years, the historical average rainfall in our area has been 52.5 inches per year — 60 percent of that received from June through September. When there are above-average rainfall levels in the Peace River basin, there are also above-average Peace River flows. The Peace River flow as measured at Arcadia during the 2003 wet season averaged 81 percent above the historical average.

Because of this increased rainfall, along with the additional facility capacity and ASR capacity from the recent facility expansion, the Peace River has successfully recovered from the effects of the 1999-2001 drought, and the Peace River Facility has been able to store more than 2.5 billion gallons, enough to meet 190 days of demand.

The success of the newly expanded facility, along with continued rainfall, will ensure the Authority's ability to provide a more reliable water supply. Increased conservation also plays an important role in meeting future needs, as well as ongoing regional planning for future alternative water supplies among the Authority, regional water managers and water utilities.



Second Phase of Water Study to Look at Supply Alternatives

Greeley and Hansen, LLC has completed Phase I of the Regional System Planning and Engineering Study for the Water Planning Alliance. Phase I included an inventory and assessment of existing water, wastewater and reclaimed water systems.

The Phase I assessment shows that Alliance members:

- Have extensive water conservation programs in place
- Actively pursue reclaimed water projects to help offset water demand
- Have adequate regional supplies, inclusive of the Authority's Regional Expansion Program, to the year 2018 with the construction of the expansion of the Peace River Facility and Regional Reservoir

The results from Phase I form the basis for the Phase II "Future Supply Assessment and Prioritization."

The project team received approval to begin Phase II of the study. Activities for this phase include:

- Development of a comprehensive list of potential future water supply and reclaimed water projects
- Technical screening and evaluation of projects
- Evaluation of combinations of proposed projects
- Development and evaluation of alternative pipeline system facilities
- Preparation of a report summarizing the findings of Phase II

Phase II work will include participation from Water Planning Alliance members through meetings and coordination with the Alliance's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC is comprised of Alliance members and their appointed representatives from the academic and regulatory communities as well as the District.

Public involvement will be included in this phase of the project, and workshops will be held to provide a forum for public input on the potential future water supply projects.

The work for Phase II of the study is expected to be completed by December 2004. Funding for the Regional System Planning and Engineering Study was provided by the Southwest Florida Water Management District and by Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties.



Authority staff member Susan Hochuli, P.E., greets visitors at the Water Management District Conference held in September.

Did you know?

Meeting agendas and minutes are available at www.regionalwater.org

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