

Mesa Water Receives Permits for Groundwater Export

In September 2000, a group of Texas panhandle landowners led by Dallas oilman T. Boone Pickens filed a sworn, written application for High-Impact Production Permits with the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District. The group, known as Mesa Water, Inc., wants to withdraw up to one acre-foot per acre per year of Ogallala groundwater for sale in other parts of Texas, for a total export of up to 150,000 acre-feet per year.

Mesa Water finally received its permits, which were renamed High Impact Permits to Produce Water Upon Designation of Destination User(s), in June 2002. The permits will allow the water produced by Mesa Water to be sent to one or more municipal governments, persons, or entities in Texas engaged in providing water for municipal use. The permits state that the landowners may not pump groundwater under the permits until they have provided the names of each destination user, the place the water is being shipped, and the use of the water. The landowners are also required to provide a drought management plan prior to commencement of pumping from the well field, and they are required to comply with these drought plans. Mesa Water will also have to establish a network of monitoring wells and provide data from these wells to the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District.

Visit www.panhandlegroundwater.org

Washington Group Wins Construction Project in Southern Nevada

Washington Group International recently received two contracts totaling \$27 million for water-resources related projects in Southern Nevada. The company was awarded a \$22.3 million contract to construct a pumping station at a reservoir in North Las Vegas, and a \$4.7 million contract to construct a weir that will be part of a wetlands protection project in the Las Vegas Wash south of Las Vegas. Both contracts were awarded by the Southern

Nevada Water Authority.

The pumping station will be built at an existing reservoir and is designed to pump water out of the reservoir and into water mains serving North Las Vegas and Las Vegas. The weir project is designed to slow the flow of water through the Las Vegas Wash, which flows from the city into Lake Meade.

Visit www.wgint.com

Cadiz, Inc. Gets ROD from Interior for Storage and Supply Project

On August 29, 2002, the Department of the Interior announced that it had signed a Record of Decision (ROD) that will allow the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program to go forward. The Cadiz project has been developed by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, in cooperation with the Santa Monica-based Cadiz Inc., to use the groundwater basin underlying part of the Cadiz and Fenner Valleys in San Bernardino County to store Colorado River water for later use. The project also includes potential for export of native or indigenous groundwater under specified conditions to Metropolitan's customers for use in dry years.

Before it can proceed, the Cadiz project needs a right-of-way from Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the 34.6-mile pipeline and power distribution facilities that would cross public lands between Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct and Cadiz Inc.'s private lands. The ROD sets forth Interior's decision to issue a right-of-way grant and temporary use permit which will require Metropolitan to comply with a wide array of some 130 terms and conditions to mitigate the project's impacts. If the Metropolitan Board agrees to these conditions, Interior could then issue the right-of-way grant and permit to the Water District. The right-of-way grant and permit will be effective when it is officially approved and signed by Metropolitan, as well as by the Department of the Interior.

In issuing the decision, Rebecca Watson,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, said the Department acknowledges the concerns raised by Senator Dianne Feinstein and others regarding the project's potential impacts on groundwater resources as well as the Senator's request for a cap on the amount of water that could be transported across the right-of-way.

"Whether the Department of the Interior has the authority to cap the groundwater resources of California raises serious legal questions," Watson said. "We believe that the management plan, which is based on science and a strong monitoring program, will assure the necessary protection of the natural resources for which we are responsible."

The Cadiz Record of Decision, the FEIS/EIR, and the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan are available online at www.mwdh2o.com and www.ca.blm.gov/news/pdfs/cadiz_2002/

Geomatrix Opens New Arizona Office

Geomatrix Consultants, Inc. recently opened their first Arizona office in the Scottsdale region of the Phoenix metropolitan area. Laurie LaPat-Polasko is the Principal Scientist in charge of the new office. This is the thirteenth office of Geomatrix Consultants, based in California but with offices throughout the United States and in Ontario.

Visit www.geomatrix.com

Tetra Tech Awarded \$25 Million from Los Angeles Water and Power

Tetra Tech announced that it was awarded a new \$25 million, 3-year consulting and engineering contract from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Tetra Tech's services will help the City of Los Angeles address its many water and energy-related challenges, and will improve homeland defense at the City's infrastructure.

Under the indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract, Tetra Tech may provide a broad scope of engineering and applied science services.

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