

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 28, 2009
To: Water Right File 95-9244
From: cpadilla
Re: Water System Conservation Plan Review

Specific conditions within the settlement agreement between the applicant and Sierra Club/Friends of the Aquifer will be listed on the permit. One of the conditions requires that the water right holder develop and implement a conservation plan under Section 3.2.1.3 of the Management Plan for the RPGWMA.

A **Water System Conservation Plan for NKWD** (prepared September 2007) was received by the department and includes the following list of components:

- 1. Measurable conservation planning goals;** meter upgrade and improvement program, conservation policy, conservation funding, reduce consumption per connection, reduce system loss, and annual review. The 6 conservation planning goals are detailed in the plan and include reasonable measures toward conservation that can be quantified and substantiated. For example, the plan will put in place mandatory irrigation hours, establishment of a conservation fund, and updates to the current leak detection program. There will be an annual review to chart success and to establish new goals.
- 2. Summary of existing system and water use conditions;** the plan includes a full analysis of the system as of 2007, which includes summary of water rights, overview of water system characteristics, average day demand per connection, average day demand (peak month) per connection, temperature and precipitation, and a 3 year capital improvement plan.
- 3. Current and future conservation measures;** current measures include water rates, metering program, public education, and hydrant locks. Future measures include meter upgrade and improvement program, identification of unaccounted-for water, leak detection program, waterline replacement program, pressure management, public education, and annual review. Review of conservation measures indicate that the district is interested in upgrading the accounting system by reducing errors that occur either by leakage or faulty/old metering equipment and to be diligent in tracking down unmetered connections. The measures that the district plans on taking toward conservation show that they are concerned with conserving the aquifer to the best of their ability.
- 4. Select water conservation measures;** the timeline the plan proposes began in 2006 and runs through fiscal year 2010.

and

- 5. Implementation mechanism, timetable, and assessment strategy;** summarizes the conservation measure, the implementation date, schedule, estimated annual cost and source of funding.

Annual Review 2008

In July of 2009 an Annual Review for 2008 was submitted to the department. The review reports progress with the districts metering program, reports a decline in water usage by NKWDs customers, and outlines the conservation fund established as part of the plan.

The goals set forth for fiscal year 2007/2008 included:

1. meter upgrade and improvement
2. conservation resolution
3. conservation funding

The annual review outlines how each goal was met for the year as follows:

Goal #1

On May 1, 2008 the district adopted Resolution 2008-15 to implement various provisions of the conservation plan. Part of the resolution "authorizes staff and District Engineer to collect information for the purpose of developing effective policies to implement the resolution including but not limited to installation and upgrading the metering system per the listed conservation measures."

New meters have also been installed at its Twin Lakes and Chilco water systems.

Goal #2

Resolution 2008-15 sets forth mandatory non-irrigation hours beginning June 1, 2008. Irrigation may not occur between 12pm and 6pm daily.

Goal #3

Resolution 2008-23 was adopted in July 2008 that creates a "Conservation Fund" to finance conservation efforts such as education, rebates for conservation devices, leak detection and repair, and other conservation related items.

Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Management Plan

Goal 5 of the management plan outlines some criteria that a conservation plan may include as follows:

- measurable conservation planning goals
- summary of existing system characteristics and water use conditions
- current and future conservation opportunities
- select water conservation measures
- implementation mechanisms, timetable, and assessment strategy

Summary

The water conservation plan for NKWD is in-line with the suggested criteria from the Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Management Plan. As of 2008, NKWD is in compliance with the management plan and the settlement agreement based on the annual review of the water conservation plan. It's my opinion that the water district has put forth great effort to comply with the management plan and is just as concerned with the conservation of the aquifer as the protestants in this matter.