

To: Hutton, Ronda; Barfield, David [KDA]; Oleen, Aaron [KDA]
Cc: Hunter, Karen [KDA]
Subject: RE: Wichita ASR Project

From: Galen Fast [<mailto:Galen.Fast@waldinger.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:58 AM
To: Hutton, Ronda [KDA] <Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov>
Subject: Wichita ASR Project

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Rhonda,

I own/manage farm property above the Equus Beds Aquifer, near the ASR program. I also live in the City of Wichita and benefit from the partnership to utilize the area groundwater and surface water for our daily consumption. Both sides of this issue are important to me, and are critically important to the greater community of central Kansas.

I attempted to attend the meeting scheduled for today (March 26) for informational purposes, and discovered the meeting cancelled. This was unfortunate there was not a mechanism for public notice of the cancellation. Researching the cancellation has led me to provide this comment to you regarding the scope of this proposal.

I LOVE the theory of how the ASR project is designed to replenish the aquifer levels with what we consider floodwater. The idea benefits everyone. I've been saddened the project has not worked as well as hoped, and am optimistic the overall project will continue to improve. The viability of the Aquifer is critical for both sides of this issue. As an informed citizen of both sides I find:

- Rural citizens/farmers are very well educated on the critical nature of our water supply. They may/or not be intimate with the current proposal specifics because it is detailed and technical in nature, and the process is bureaucratic.
- City dwellers have EASY access to endless water and are very uninformed on the critical nature of our water. We make some efforts during summer/draught years to be conservative with our lawn irrigation, but pay LITTLE attention to our water use beyond that. We are completely unaware of the draught proposal that is the subject of this study and proposal. I personally attest to this fact, live it, and without notification by our rural water association, would not even know there is a proposal or concern.
- Education to citizens that benefit from the ASR, and the COW (City of Wichita) water supply is non-existent. We as benefactors of the COW water need an extensive education process of the dilemma we face for our water supply. The fact that our overall use has remained pretty stable despite the significant expansion of our water needs brings some comfort to the process, but also brings complacency to the residents that benefit.
- COW metropolitan water use is largely unmonitored by those who use the water. Drive past any street or business with grass- 75% of them do not follow proper irrigation practices. If the farmers watered crops the way we generally water our lawns, we couldn't even have these discussions because the water table would be too low for us to draw from. Education and incentive is money WELL SPENT.
- Industrial water use is growing and will continue to grow in the Wichita Metro. I am pro-business. I know many industrial users have conservation practices in place, but others still "pump and dump" because the economics of our inexpensive water supply. Education and incentive is money WELL SPENT.

- We propose to spend significant money to add to our water supply. Let's do a better job and spend significant money to reduce our water use footprint.

Thoughtful consideration is highly important during this process.

Regards,

Galen Fast
Wichita, KS