

# **A Drinking Water Supply Manifesto**

**(A Statement of Policies)**

*It is time to start protecting and  
conserving our nation's purest water,  
our drinking water*

**John T. O'Connor, P.E.**

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# **Policy 1: Fix the Leaks**

## *Missouri Rural Water Association Rate Survey - 2010*

*'% of water loss'* from Missouri water systems ranges from 0% to 85%,  
averaging 12% for the larger cities and districts.

Many communities and water districts have not reported water losses.



# **Policy 1: Fix the Leaks**

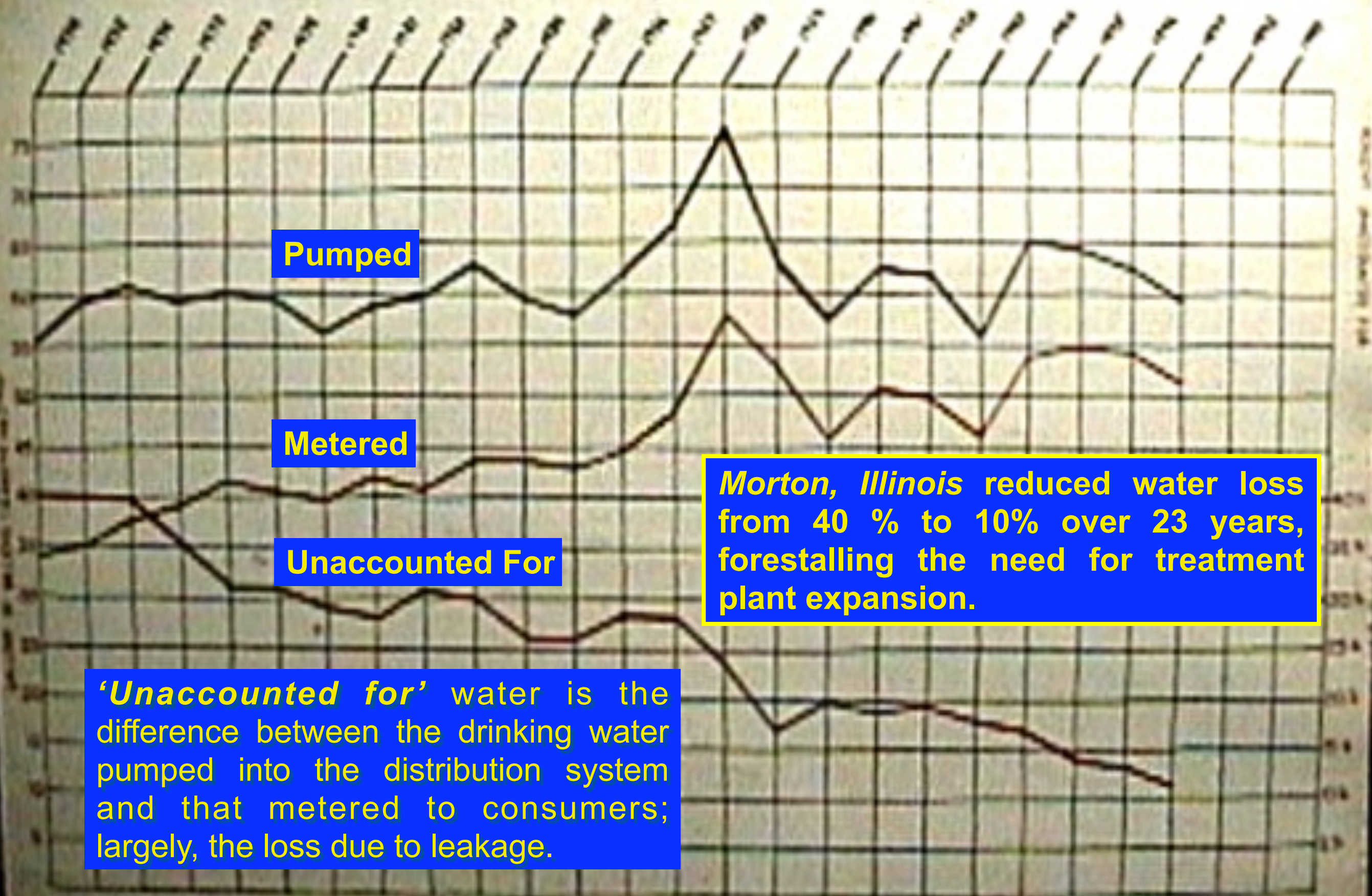
County	Connections	% Water Loss
Greene	5154	22
Polk	4156	22
Pulaski	1699	40
Cole	4971	5
Butler	5300	5
Jefferson	1812	3

*Selected high and low water loss data - Missouri Rural Water Association Rate Survey, 2010*

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ANNUAL WATER LOSS COMPARISON CHART



Pumped

Metered

Unaccounted For

*Morton, Illinois* reduced water loss from 40 % to 10% over 23 years, forestalling the need for treatment plant expansion.

*'Unaccounted for'* water is the difference between the drinking water pumped into the distribution system and that metered to consumers; largely, the loss due to leakage.



# Policy 1: Fix the Leaks

## Policy Statement:

Municipal utility management shall conduct routine *water use audits* to determine water losses and make continuing, concerted leak reduction efforts to minimize those losses.



# Policy 2: Reduce Peak Demand

*“Columbia proposing to nearly double water supply at treatment plant”*

Columbia Missourian, March 27, 2012

Yearly Average, mgd

12

Peak Capacity, mgd

32

Proposed, mgd

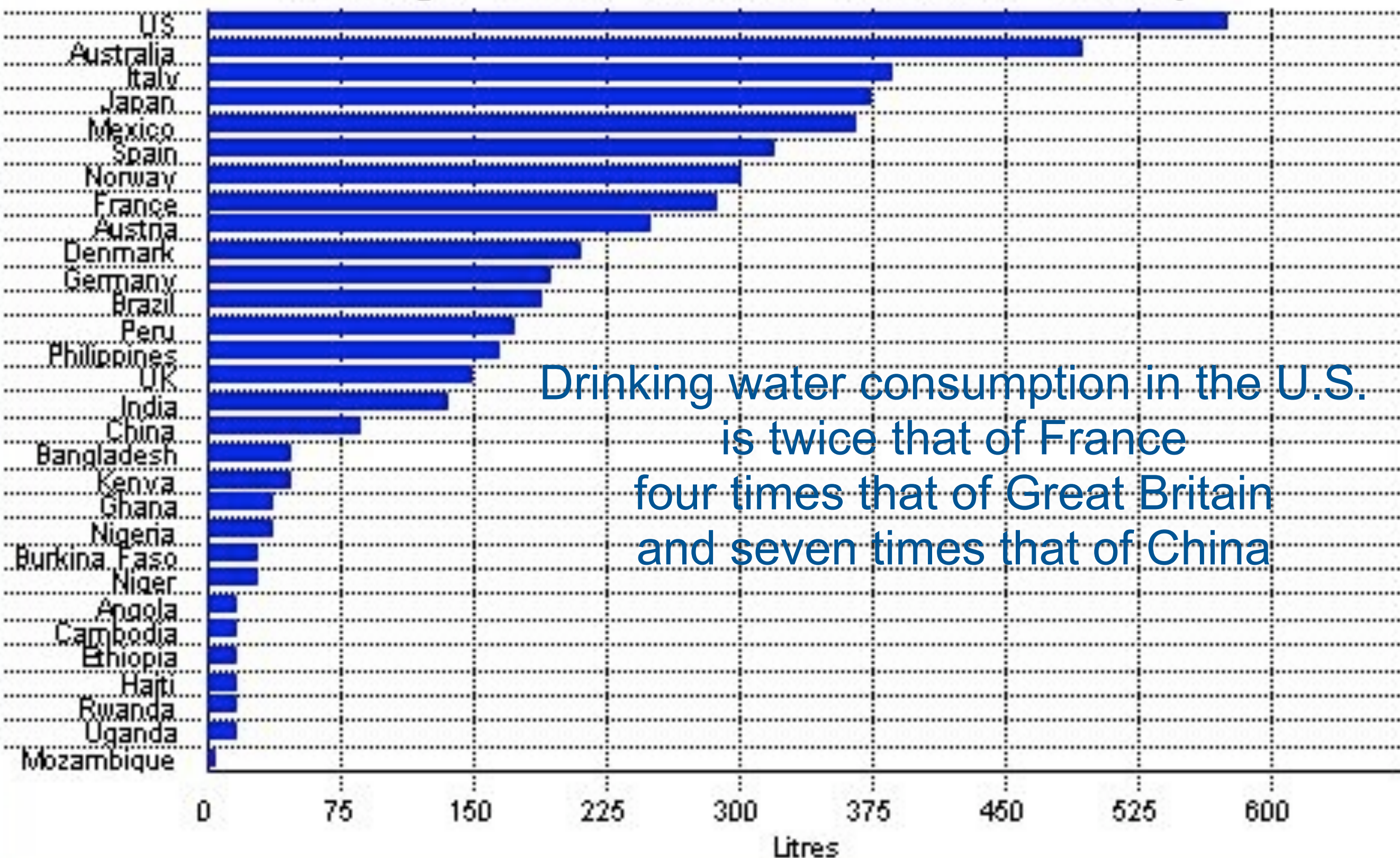
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If expansion is implemented, City would have to finance \$65 million and maintain 48 mgd in normally idle water production capacity.

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# Average Water Use Per Person Per Day



Drinking water consumption in the U.S.  
is twice that of France  
four times that of Great Britain  
and seven times that of China





# Water Usage: Room for Improvement?

How do we use twice  
the water as the French,  
four times the British, &  
seven times the Chinese?





# **U.S. suburban homeowners are** **‘grass farmers’**

**60% of water use is outdoors;      only 40% indoors**

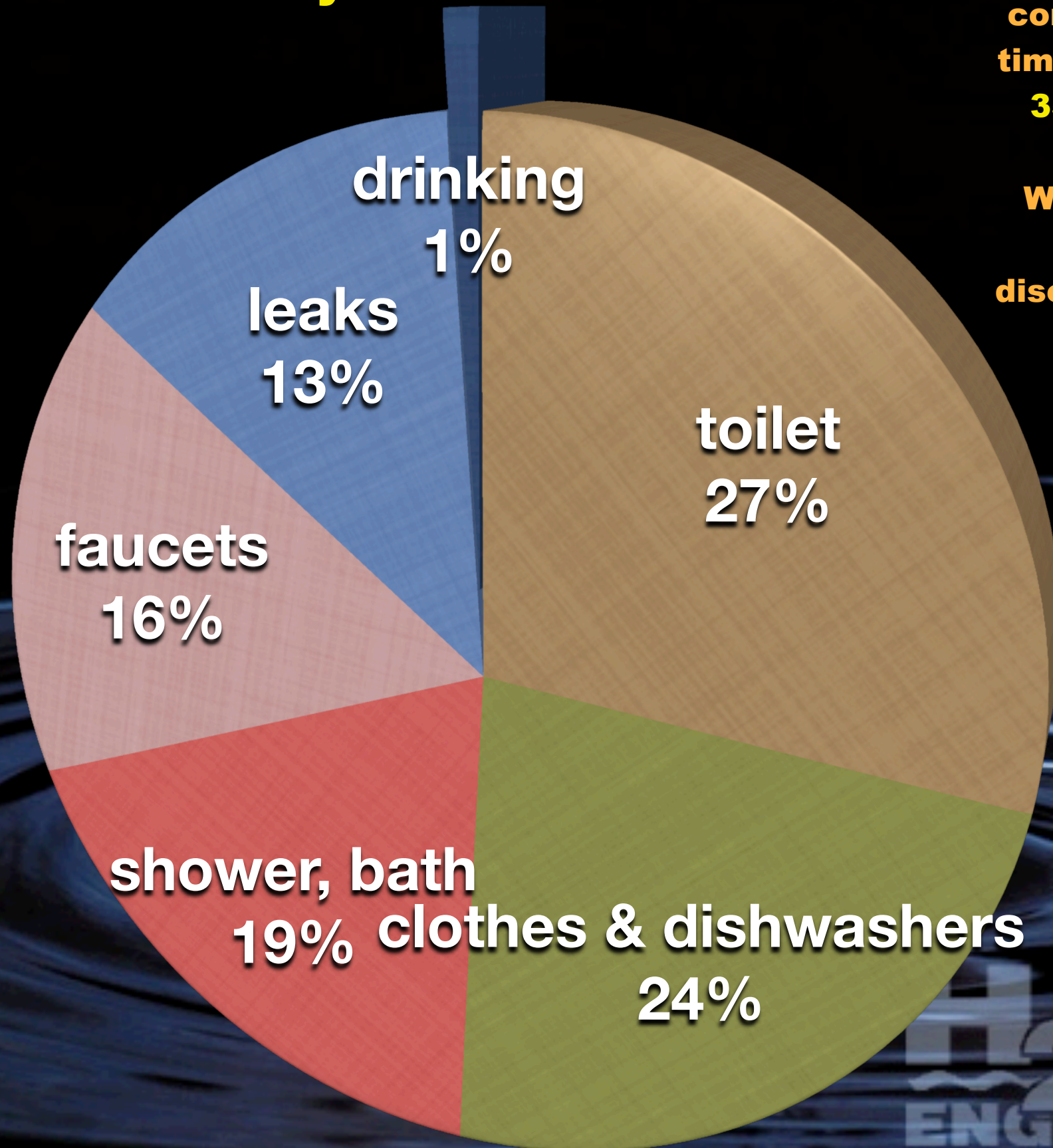


**Water utility revenues  
plummet during years of  
above average rainfall.**





## % Daily Indoor Water Use



**Some households  
consume two to five  
times as much as the  
350 gpd average?**

**Would progressive  
water pricing  
discourage excessive  
use?**



# Managing Water & WW Costs

## Reduce Hydraulic Loadings

Mandate efficiency of toilets, showers, faucets

Advocate Gray Water use for lawn, gardens, toilets

### U.S. Suburban Household Water Use (Family)

*Average Day: 350 gallons*

*Toilet flushing: 100 gallons*

*Gallons per flush: 3.5, 1.6, 1.28, 1.0*

### Federal Water Efficiency Standards (1992)

*Showerheads: 2.5 gallons per minute*

*Faucets: 2.5 gallons per minute*



# Managing Wastewater Costs

## Water Conservation Programs

**Offer Financial incentives to install water-efficient toilets**

**Pass Municipal ordinances allowing watering only on certain days**

**Ban ornamental fountains unless they run on re-circulated water**

**Require homes to have low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators**

**Recycle Gray Water**

*“If it’s yellow, let  
it mellow; if it’s  
brown, flush it  
down.”*





# Water Conservation - Household

**EPA's WaterSense  
Rainwater Harvesting  
Graywater Reuse  
Xeriscaping**







Office of Water Use  
Efficiency and Transfers  
[www.owue.water.ca.gov](http://www.owue.water.ca.gov)

# **Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance**

Landscape Graphic Courtesy of  
Sonoma County Water Agency,  
Ali Davidson Landscape Architect  
David Bunnett Illustrator



# **Conservation and Efficiency**

## **‘Virtual’ Water System Expansion:**

**Reduce Demand rather than Increase Supply**

Take the money that you were planning to spend on capacity expansion and allocate it to conservation programs and incentives (a.k.a., *Demand Side Management*).

Examine and update rates, policies, and ordinances regarding water use.



# Policy 2: Reduce Peak Demand

## Policy Statement:

Water utility management shall defend the financial interests of their community in controlling peak water demand through appropriate price structures (*full cost pricing*) and the advocacy of public policy constraints on excessive water use.



# Policy 3: Protect Source Water

Progressive U.S. communities, Columbia included, have established citizen **Source Water Protection Task Forces** to coordinate regional well and watershed protection programs with regulatory authorities.

## Sources of Potential Water Contamination (ref. NRDC, *A Citizen's Handbook on Groundwater Protection*)

*Industrial Impoundments:* Ponds, lagoons, and pits used for disposal of wastes.

*Land Disposal of Wastes:* U.S. landfills; most are on-site/industrial.

*Haz. Waste Injection Wells:* Hazardous waste disposed of legally in the U.S., injected into deep aquifers.

*Municipal Wastewater Disposal:* Seepage of biologically refractory contaminants into groundwater.

*Septic Systems and Tile Fields:* 20 million U.S. households use septic systems or cesspools.

*Accidental Spills and Leaks:* Storage tanks, pipelines, trucks, holding tanks, injection wells.

*Agricultural Practices:* Irrigation return-flows, pesticides, fertilizers, manure, sediments, nitrates, atrazine.

*Buried Storage Tanks:* Leaking gasoline, fuel, hazardous chemical storage facilities.

*Fracking, Petroleum, Mining:* Brine disposal pits, acid drainage from abandoned mines, methane.

*Salt water Intrusion:* Overpumping of freshwater aquifers, road de-icing chemicals.





# **Columbia's Source Water Supply**

**18 Water Supply Wells  
in Missouri River  
Alluvial Flood Plain**

**Yield / well  $\approx$  1 mgd**

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# Wetlands adjacent to Columbia's Well Fields



Missouri River

Department of Conservation Wetlands

Well Fields

Water Treatment Plant

Columbia's  
WasteWater

Treatment  
Wetlands

6/10/22  
5/19/23



## Department of Conservation Wetlands:

1,300 acres of unlined wetlands receive effluent from Columbia Wastewater Treatment Wetlands

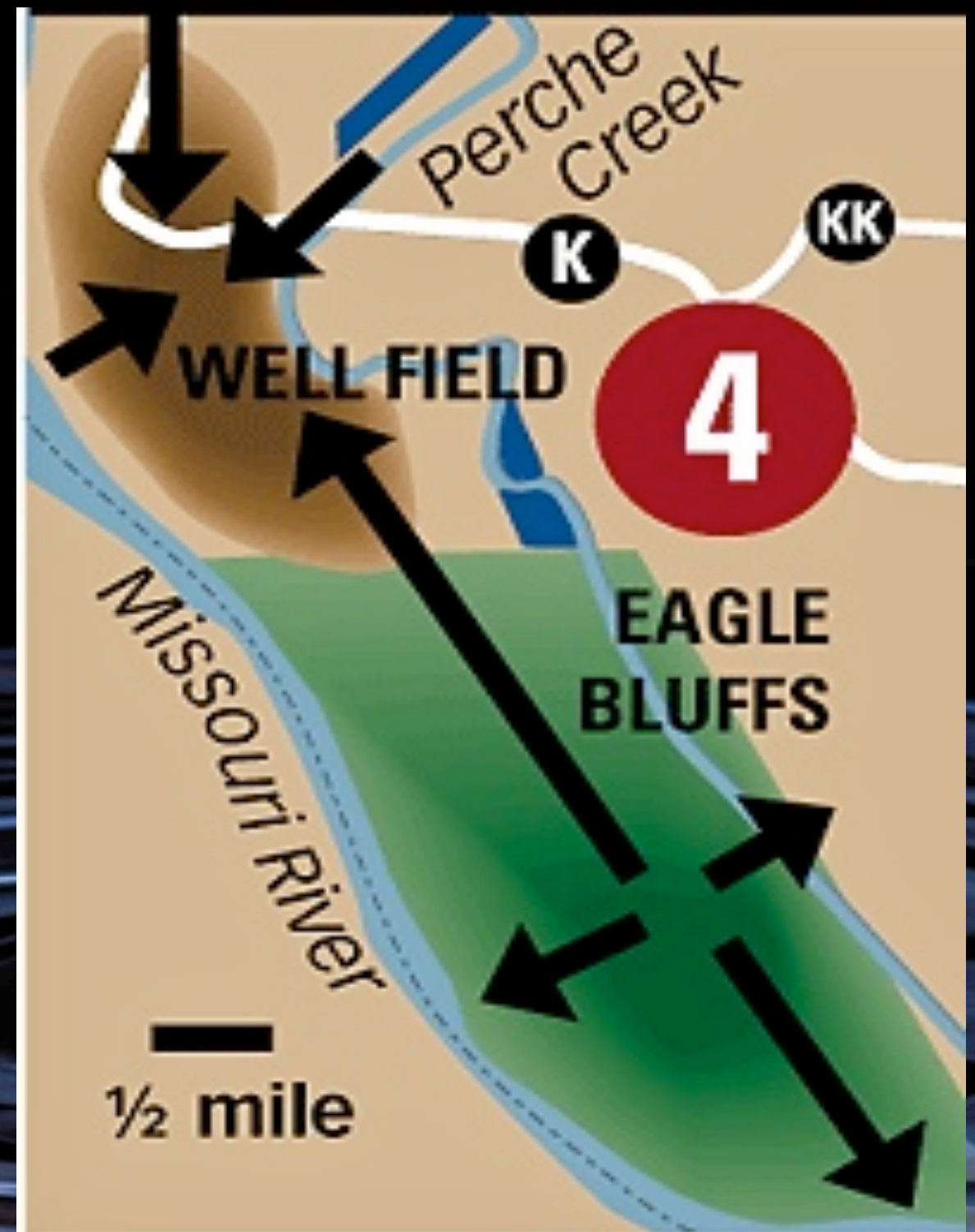
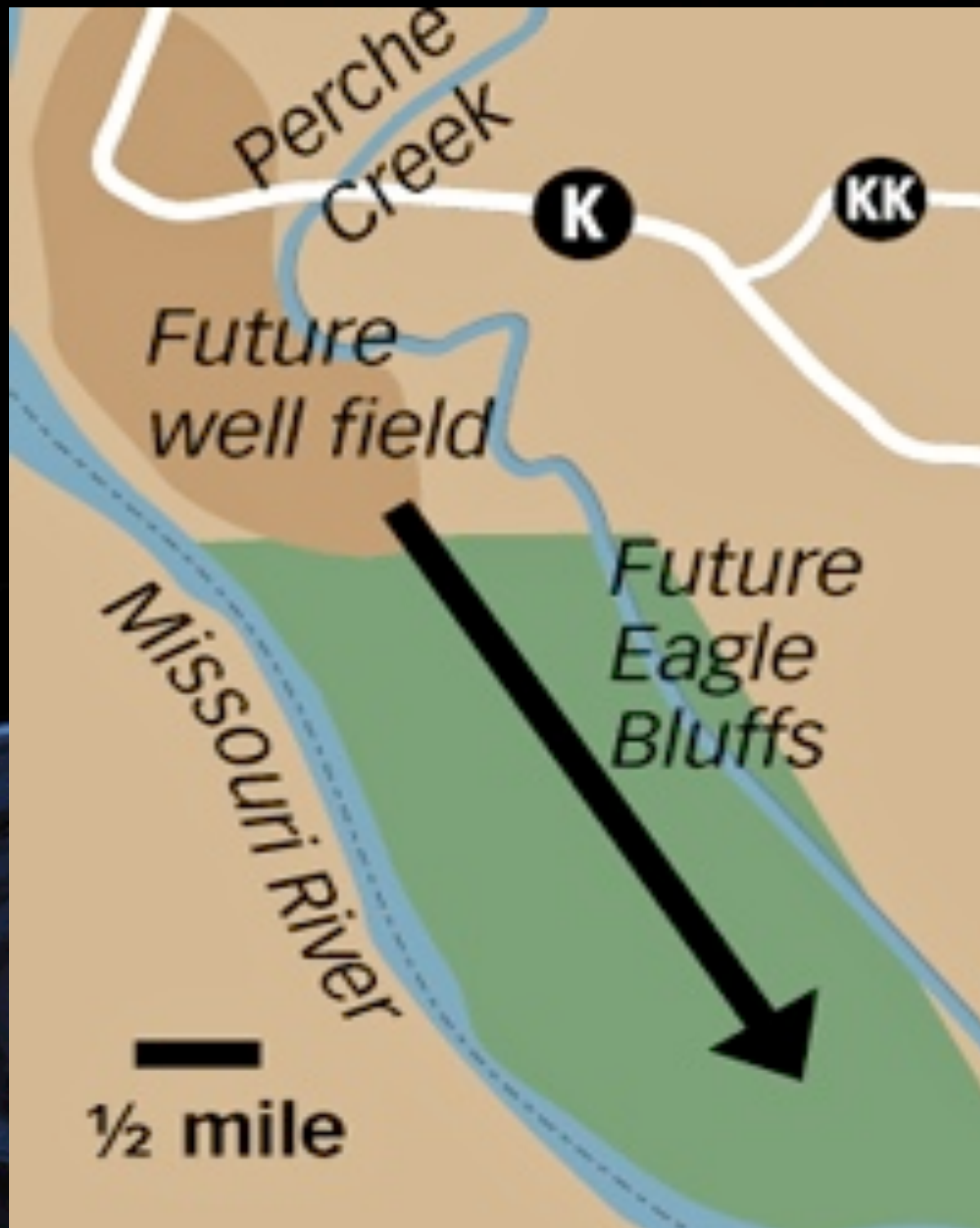


**Funding for this  
550 acre wetland  
mitigation project is  
being provided by the**

**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
in cooperation with the  
Missouri Conservation  
Department**



# Wetlands influence Groundwater Flow





# Chloride Concentrations

milligrams per liter

Rainwater

1

Well Water

15\*

Missouri River

19

Wastewater (treated)

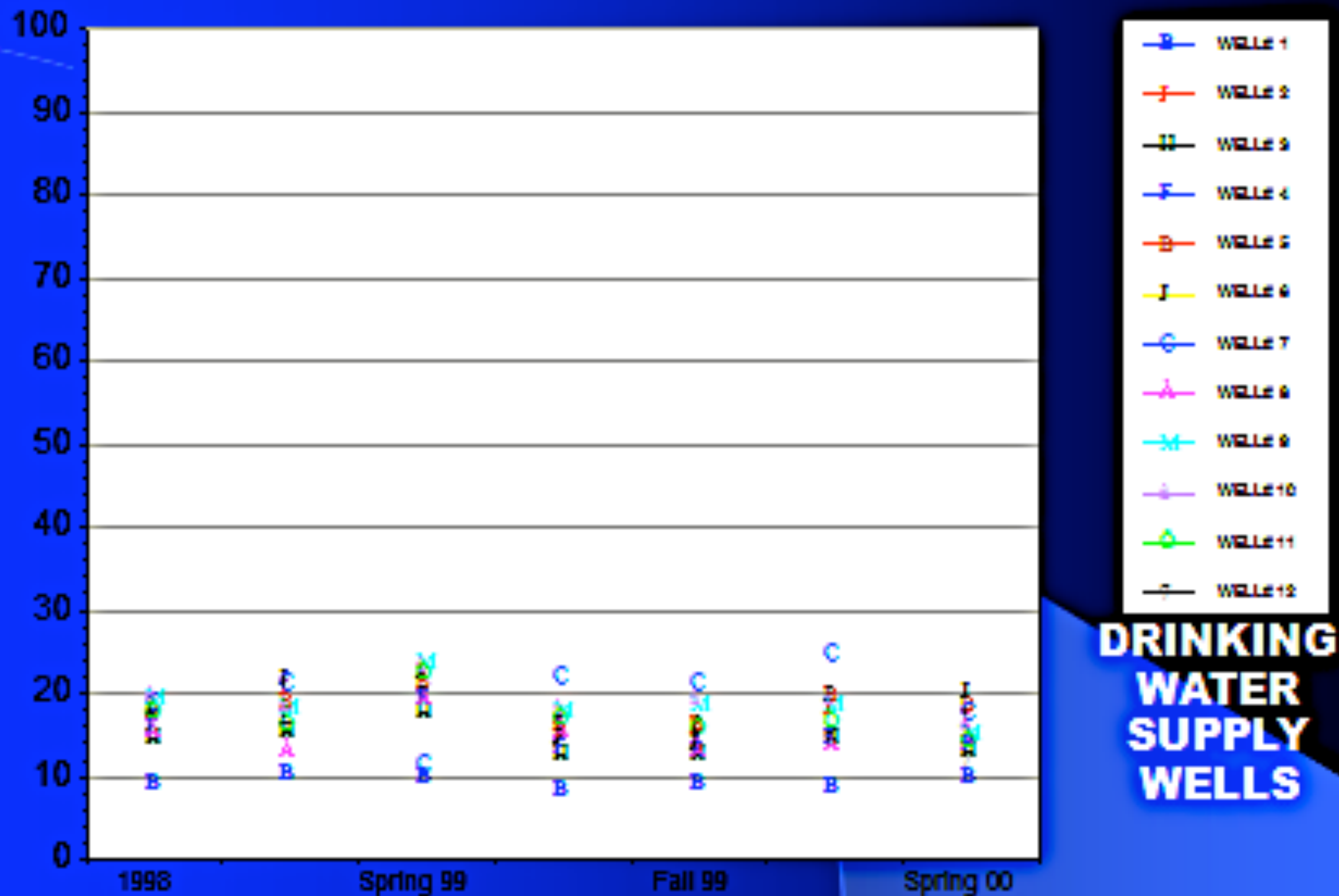
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\* prior to wetlands

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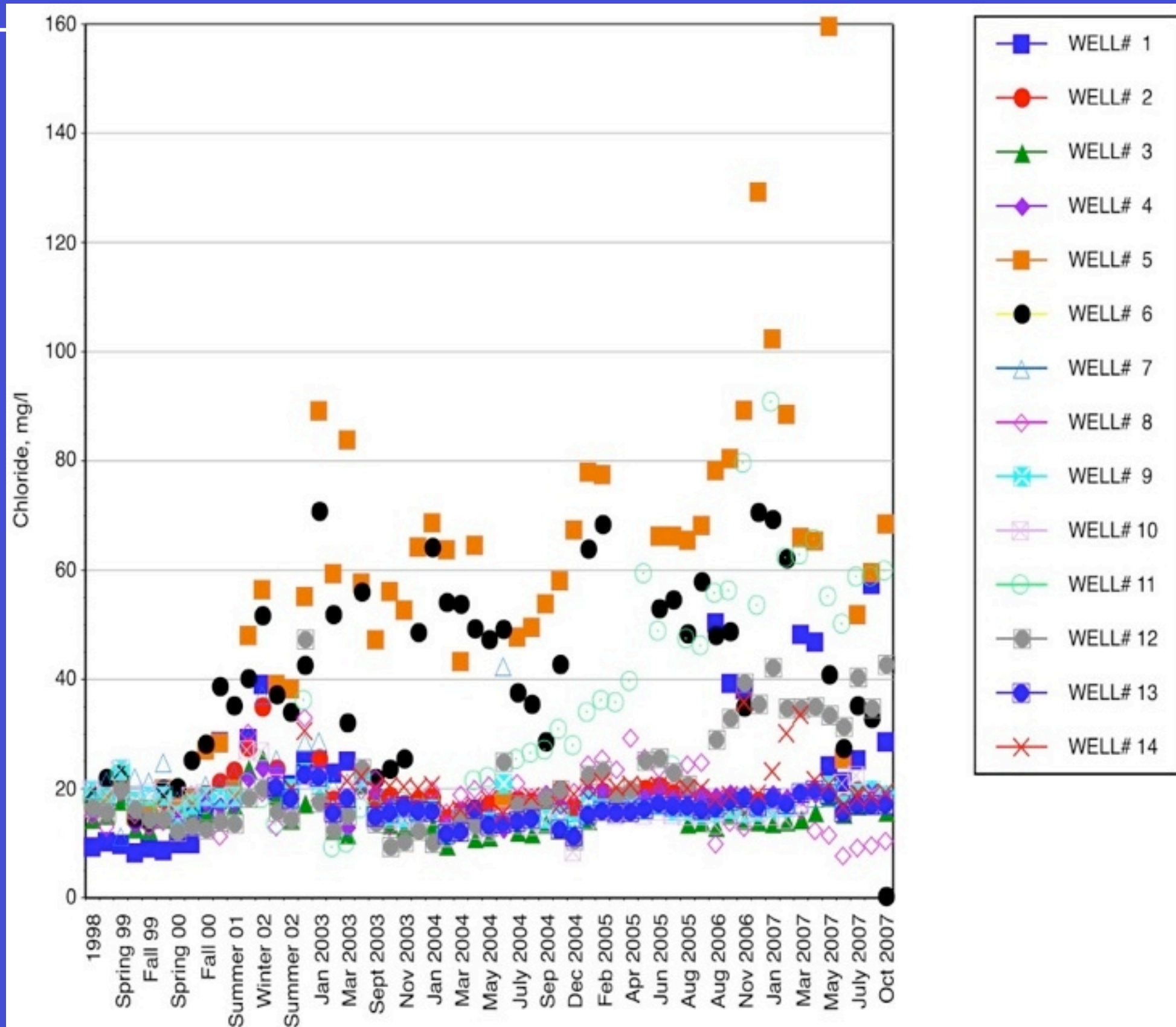


# Pre-Wetlands





# Chloride Levels after Wetlands





# USGS Report - 2007

Monitoring wells in McBaine bottoms indicate substantial changes since 1992 in **calcium, potassium, sodium, chloride, and sulfate**.

Changes began at beginning of operation of the two wetland operations

17 monitoring wells located near wetland cells designated as affected by wastewater effluent

Measurable traces of **pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and phenol products** found in monitoring wells throughout bottoms



# Emerging Health Concerns



**pharmaceuticals:** N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), 1,4-dioxane, bisphenol A, alkylphenol polyethoxy carboxylates (APECs), dioxin, disinfection by-products, ...



**cosmetics, hormones, nanomaterials**



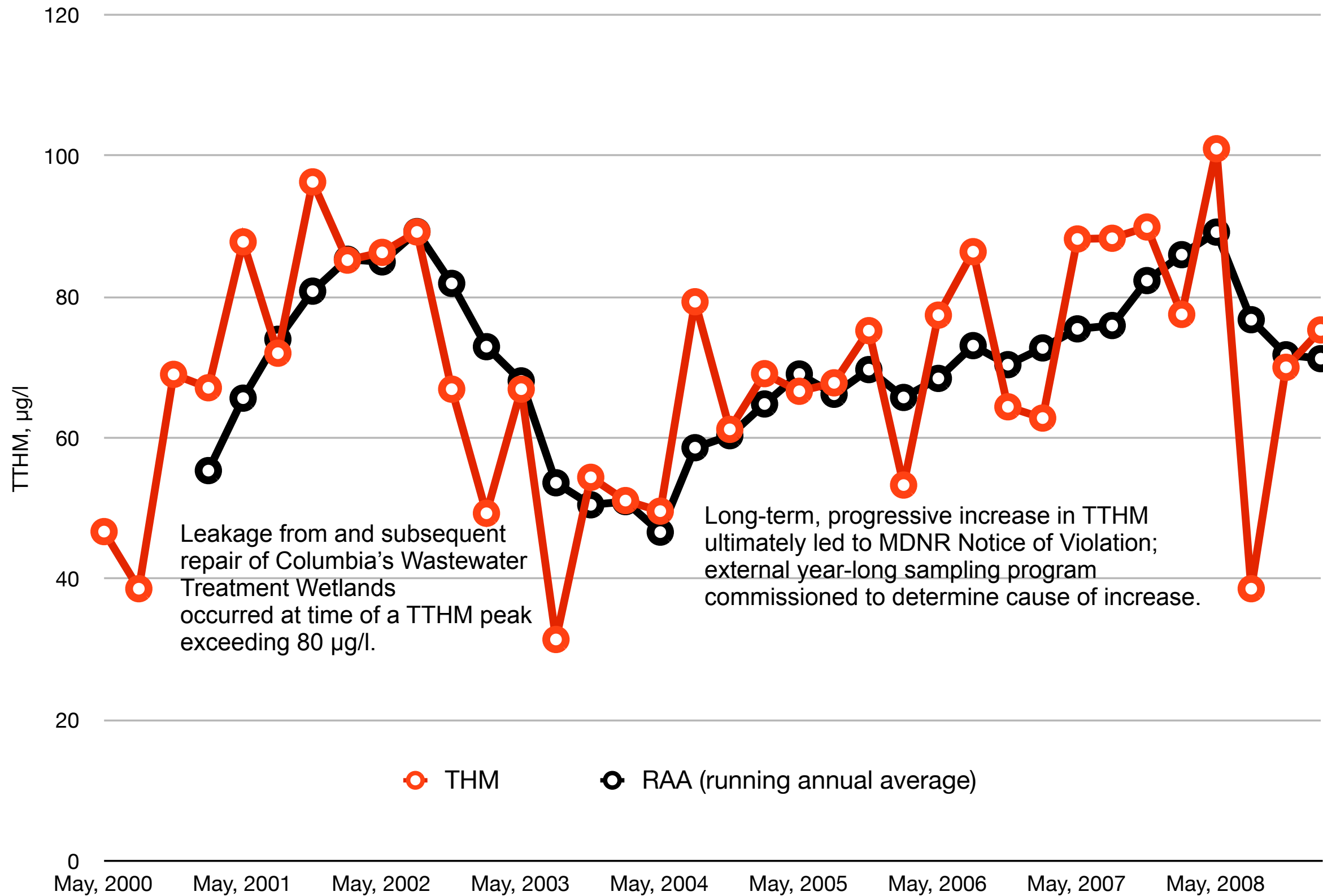
**endocrine disruptors**, a class of compounds that perturb the normal functioning of endocrine systems including those that affect growth, reproduction and behavior.

**Partial removal requires capital, energy-intensive processes:**

(GAC adsorption; ozonation; micro-, ultra-, nano-filtration; reverse osmosis; membrane bioreactors; advanced oxidation (hydrogen peroxide - UV)



## City of Columbia Total Trihalomethanes





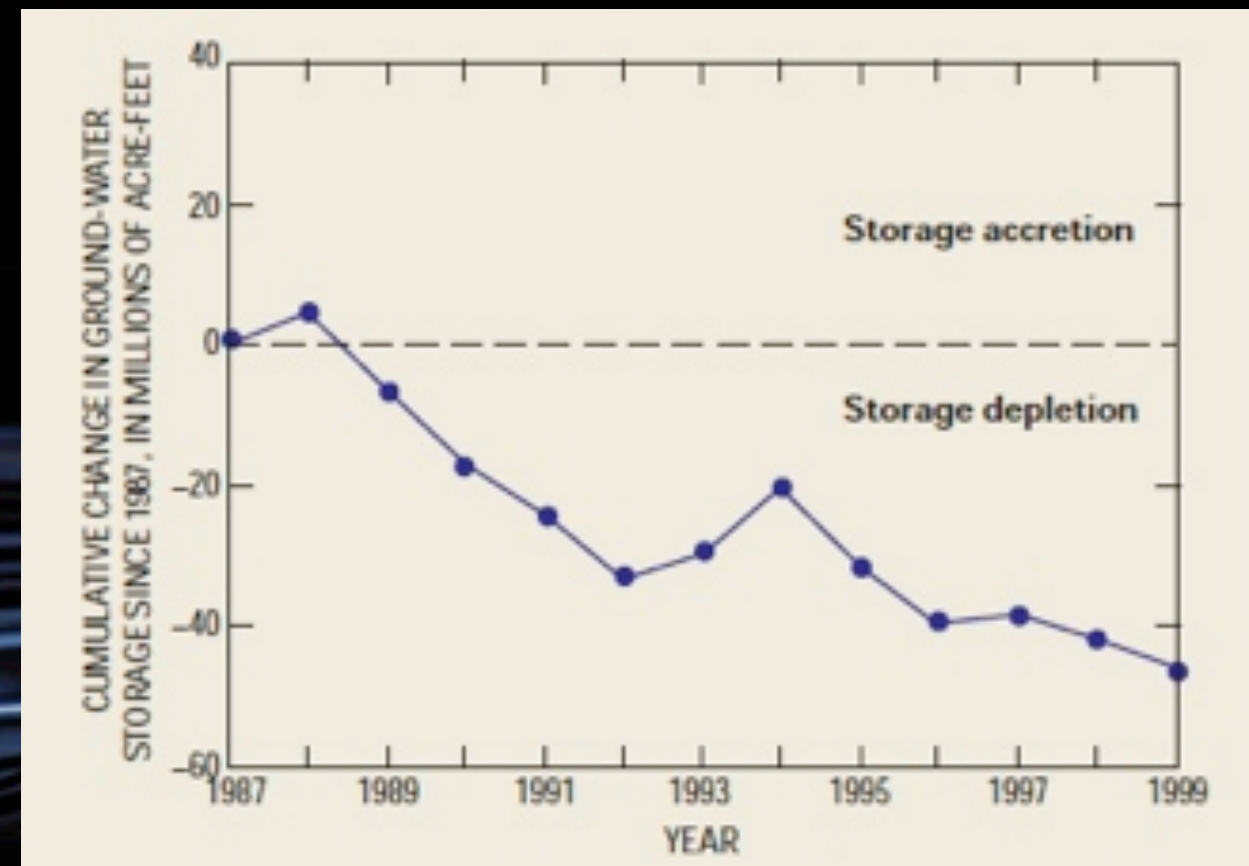
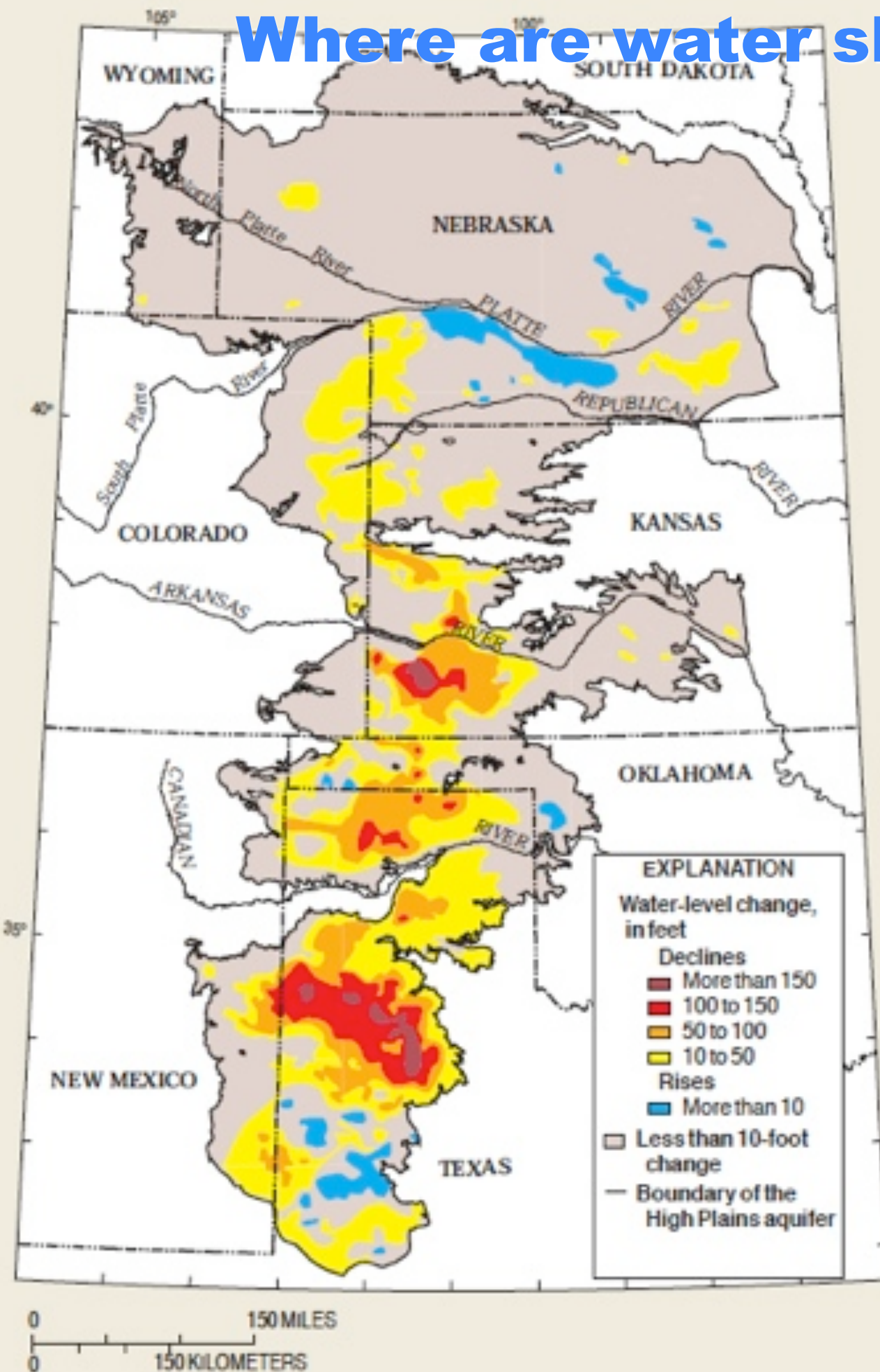




# Where are water shortages developing?

## High Plains Aquifer:

- \* water-level declines  $> 150$  ft.
- \* 220 million acre feet removed



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# **Policy 3: Protect Source Water**

## **Policy Statement:**

Waterworks professionals shall identify and confront all threats to the integrity of a community's drinking water sources. They shall actively defend the public's health and financial interests in avoiding source water contamination & depletion.



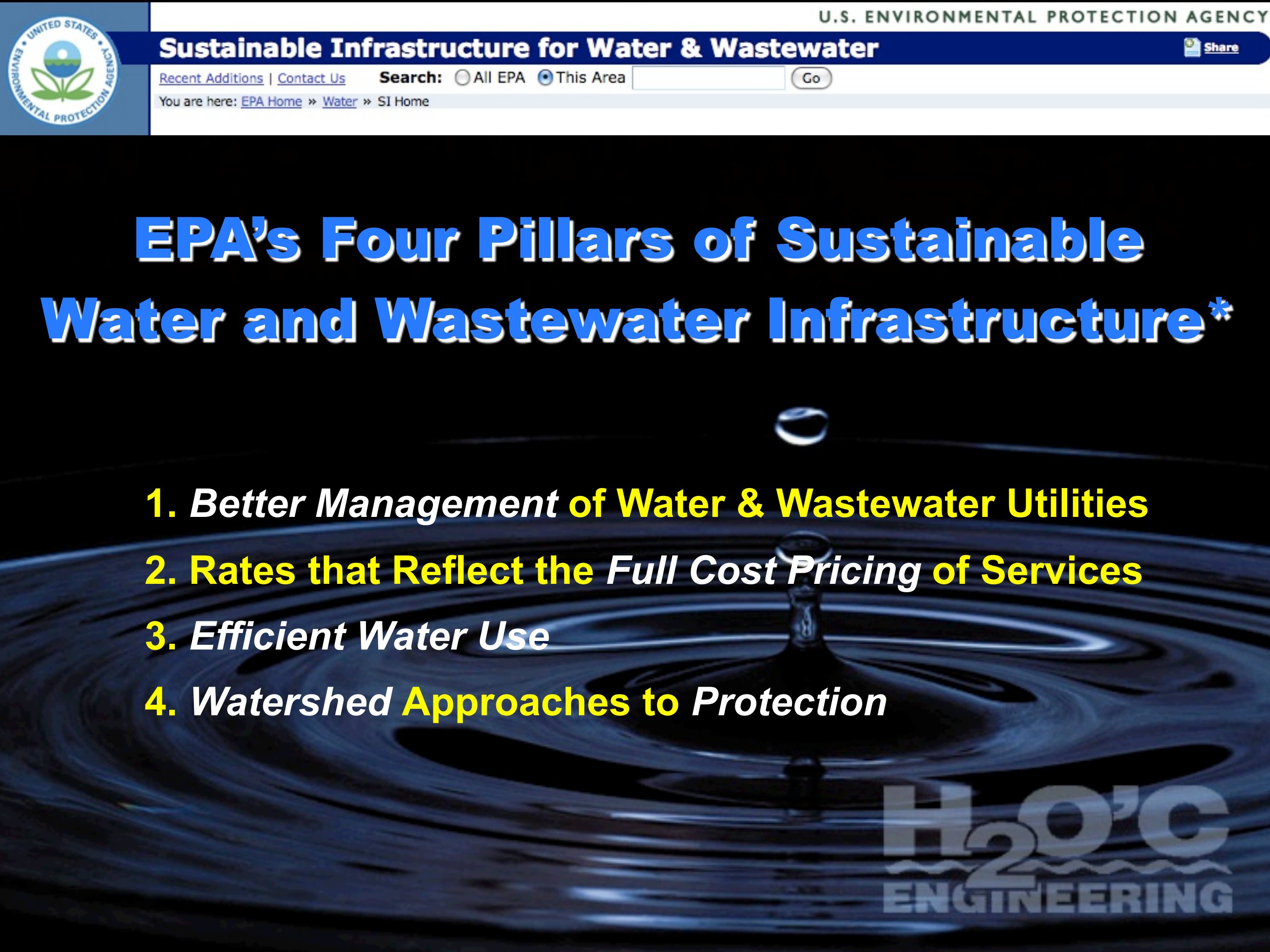
## **Policy 4: Work toward Sustainability**

*"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

Brundtland Report, United Nations. 1983.



# EPA's Four Pillars of Sustainable Water and Wastewater Infrastructure\*

- 
1. *Better Management* of Water & Wastewater Utilities
  2. Rates that Reflect the *Full Cost Pricing* of Services
  3. *Efficient Water Use*
  4. Watershed Approaches to Protection



# **AWWA Sustainability Policy**

*“AWWA advocates sustainability of drinking water utilities through the provision of adequate and reliable water supply of desired quality -- now and for future generations -- in a manner that integrates economic growth, environmental protection and social development.”*

Statement of Policy on Public Water Supply Matters,  
Adopted by the Board of Directors, Jan. 23, 2011.



# Environmental Sustainability

*"Improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems."*

**IUCN, UNEP, WWF (1991): Caring for the Earth.  
A Strategy for Sustainable Living.**

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# Implications of Sustainability

Ultimately, by Definition:

**All Energy Must be Renewable**

Which Means:

**No Dependency on Fossil Fuels**

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# **Policy 4: Work toward Sustainability**

## **Policy Statement:**

Waterworks professionals shall embrace, measure, and routinely report progress in reducing reliance on non-renewable fuels, chemicals, and materials.



# **Impediments to Sustainability**

## **Modern Water Supply is Energy-Intensive**

direct energy use (pumping)

indirect, embedded energy  
(concrete, chemicals, pipe materials)

source water depletion/degradation



# Water and Wastewater Energy



Water & wastewater utilities use an estimated 75 billion kWh/year.

U.S. water & wastewater systems spend about \$4 billion/year on energy.

Energy costs for water & wastewater can be 1/3 of a municipality's total.

Savings from even a modest 5-10% improvement can be substantial.



# **Water System Energy Requirements**

## **Rule o' Thumb**

**1.4 - 1.9 kWh / 1,000 gallons**

Not very much, really.

A typical US household uses about  
**30 kWh** of electricity per day.

The 350 gallons of water used daily by  
a typical household represents about  
**0.6 kWh.**



# **Water System Electrical Usage**

## **at a 3-4 mgd Lime Softening Plant**

	<b>kWh / month</b>
Well Pumps	64,228
Water Treatment	106,177
Distribution Pumps	4,927
Linden Water Tower	75
Antioch Water Tower	281
<b>TOTAL ELECTRICAL</b>	<b>175,688</b>



# **Carbon Emissions:**

## **Chemical and Electrical Use**

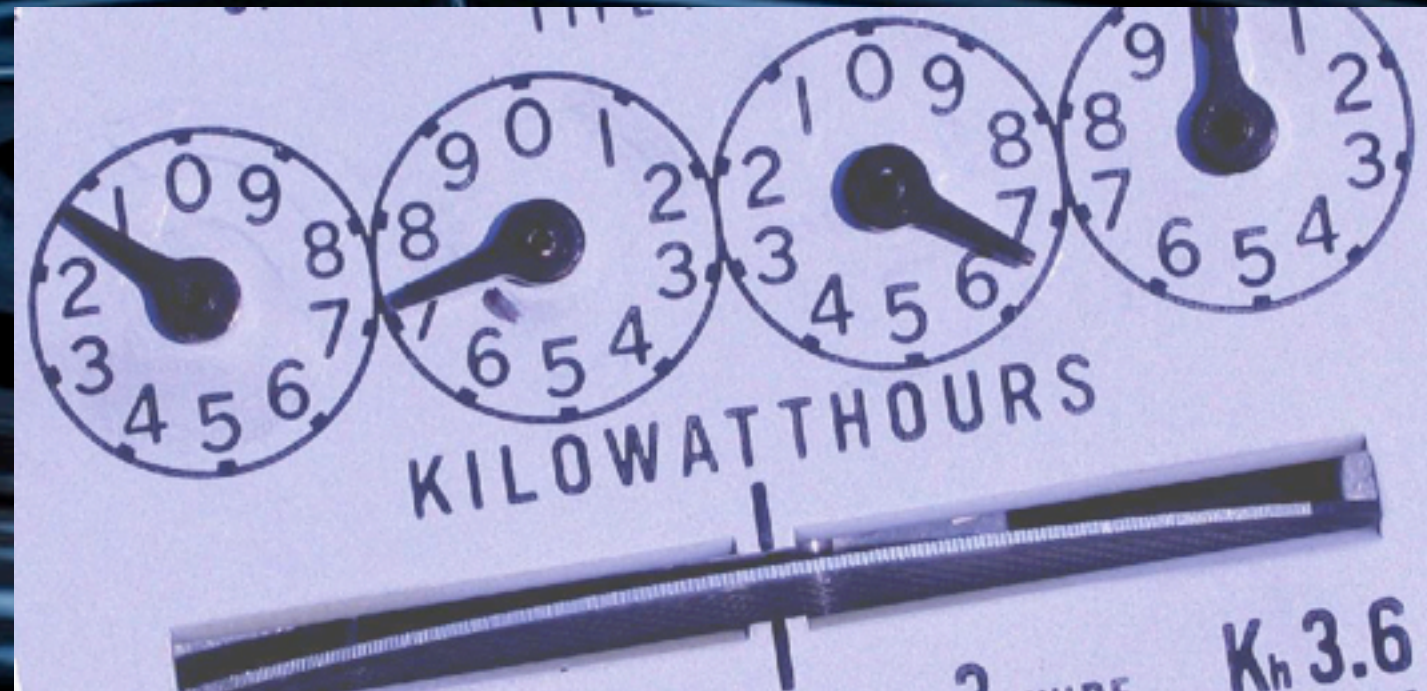
### **at a 3-4 mgd Lime Softening Plant**

	<b>Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> / month</b>
Electricity	155
Gasoline	0.3
Lime Softening	95
Recarbonation	0
Chlorination	0.1
Aeration	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>253.4</b>



# Energy Audit

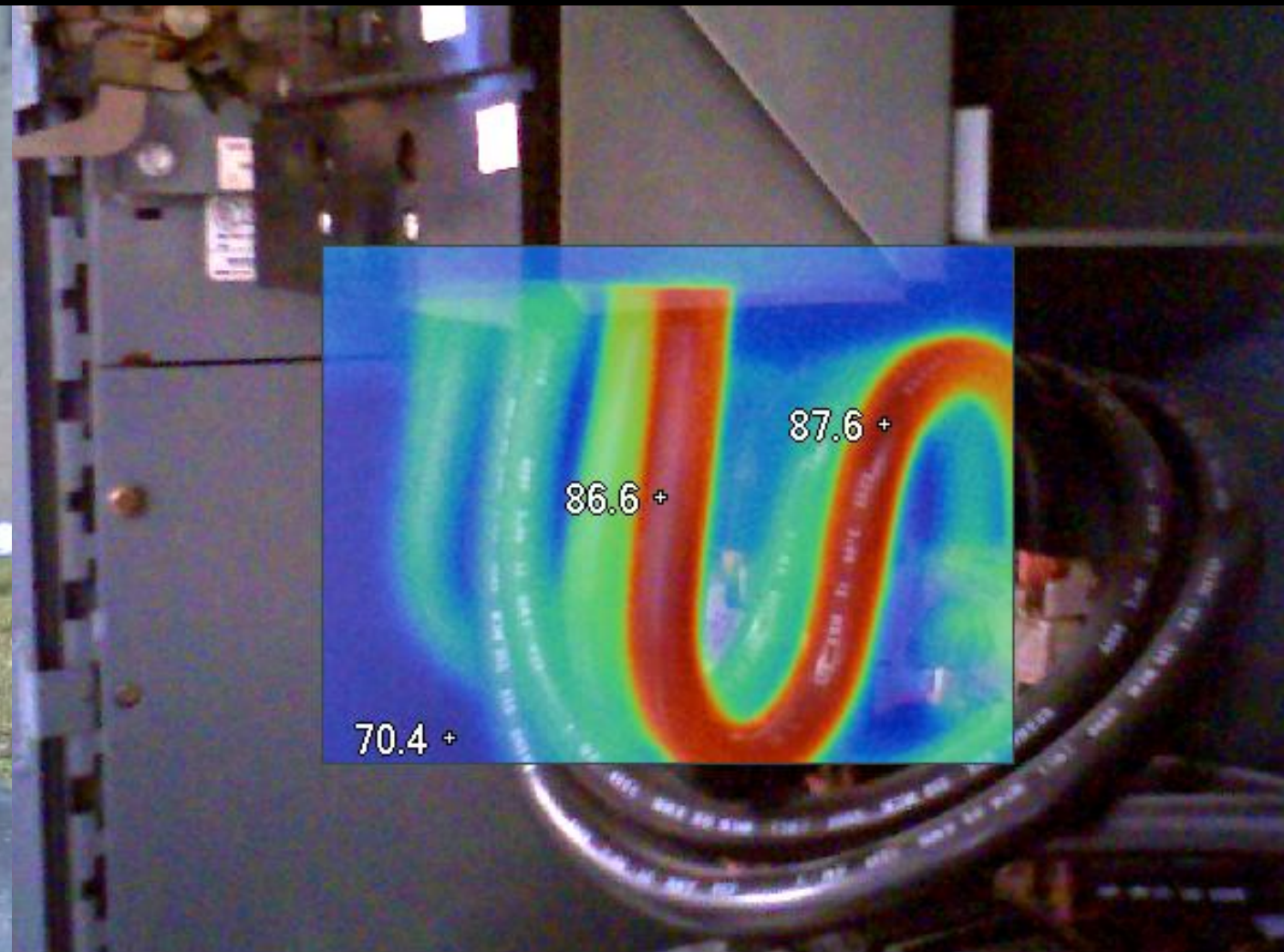
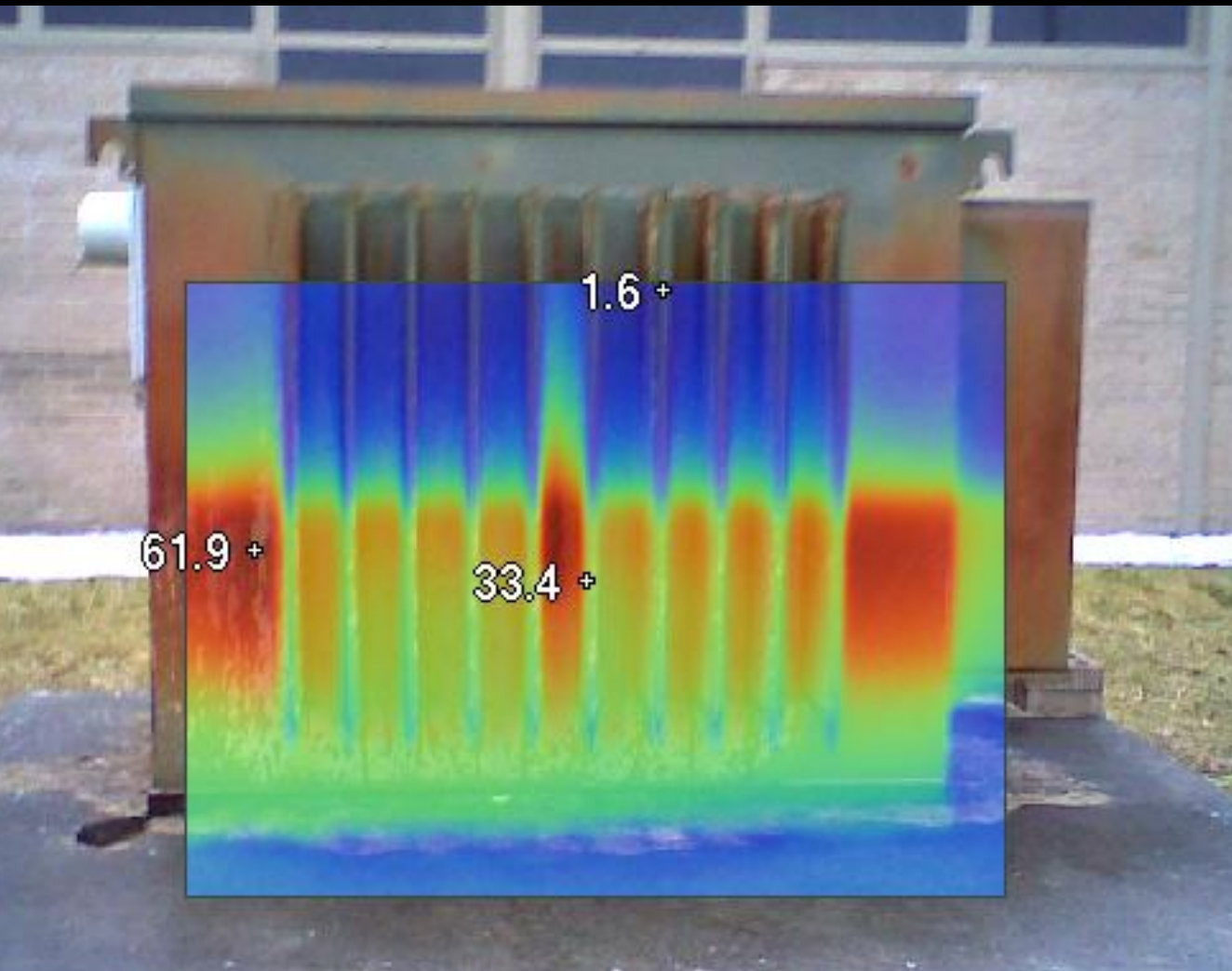
- 1) Establish a Baseline Energy Use
- 2) Estimate Energy Use for Major Systems
- 3) Identify Best Practice Opportunities
- 4) Quantify Benefits and Project Costs of Best Practice Opportunities
- 5) Prioritize Projects
- 6) Project Management





# Thermal Imaging

for locating energy losses





## Electrical Usage at Wells (kWh/month)

**Energy Audit Discovered Billing Anomalies:  
KCP&L Refunded > \$50,000 to City of Gladstone**

250,000

200,000

150,000

100,000

50,000

0

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

Average electrical usage for the wellfield:

**64,228 kWh/month (2,141 kWh/day)**





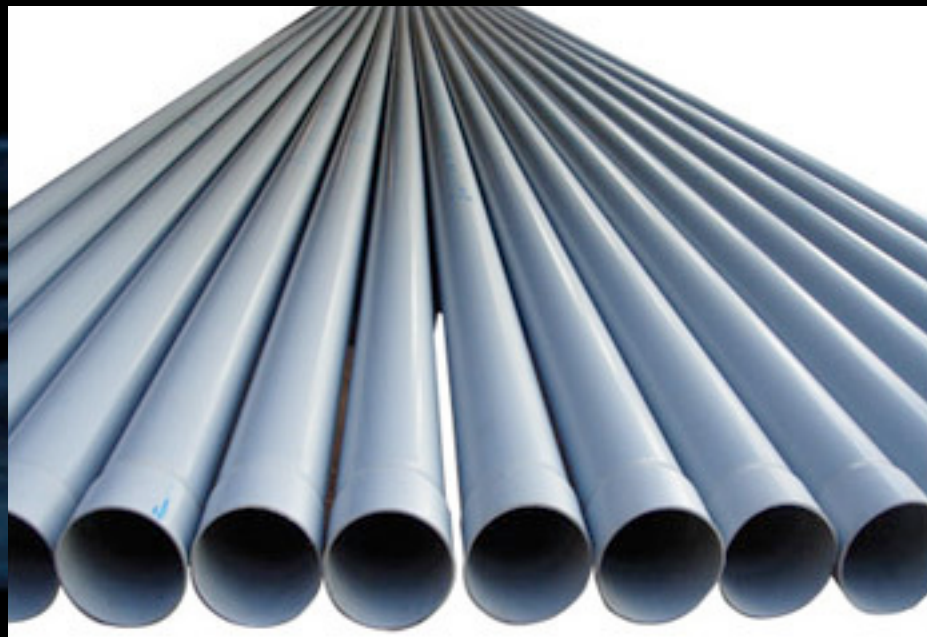
# Water Supply Energy Best Practices

- 1) Automate to Monitor and Control
- 2) Integrate System & Power Demands
- 3) Construct Distribution System Model
- 4) Water Audit/Leak Detection & Repair
- 5) Install Variable Frequency Drives
- 6) Manage Well Production & Drawdown
- 7) Sequence Well Operation
- 8) **Promote Water Conservation**
- 9) **Sprinkling Reduction Program**
- 10) Manage High Volume Users





# What are the Most Sustainable Options for Pipe Materials commonly used in Water Systems?





# **Pipe Sustainability Fight!**

**“HDPE pipe is the best product for developing a truly sustainable infrastructure. From its low energy cost to produce, ship and install... there is no other material that approaches the performance and versatility of HDPE pipe.”**

**- HDPE pipe trade association guy**

**“All municipalities want sustainable, long-lasting and cost-effective piping technologies. Ductile iron pipelines offer such sustainable features. Its raw material is scrap iron... recycle heat and process waters...”**

**- Iron pipe trade association guy**

**“PVC pipe combines the ageless durability that comes with a corrosion-free material with the overall strength... PVC is arguably the most sustainable and cost-effective of all pipe materials.”**

**- PVC pipe trade association guy**



# Can we get a Referee?

Difficult to find objective,  
accurate, up-to-date,  
research-based, scientific  
information



Embodied carbon comparison

Material	Embodied carbon* kg CO <sup>2</sup> /kg	Weight of 4" pipe (lbs/lf)	Weight of 4" pipe (kg/lf)	Embodied carbon kg CO <sup>2</sup> /kg for 4" pipe per lf
HDPE (DR-11)	1.60	2.30 typ.	1.04	1.66
PVC Sch. 40	2.50	2.10 typ.	0.95	2.38
Iron	1.91	13 typ.	5.90	11.27

\*Data taken from "Inventory of Carbon and Energy (ICE)", published by the Sustainable Energy Research Team (SERT), University of Bath.



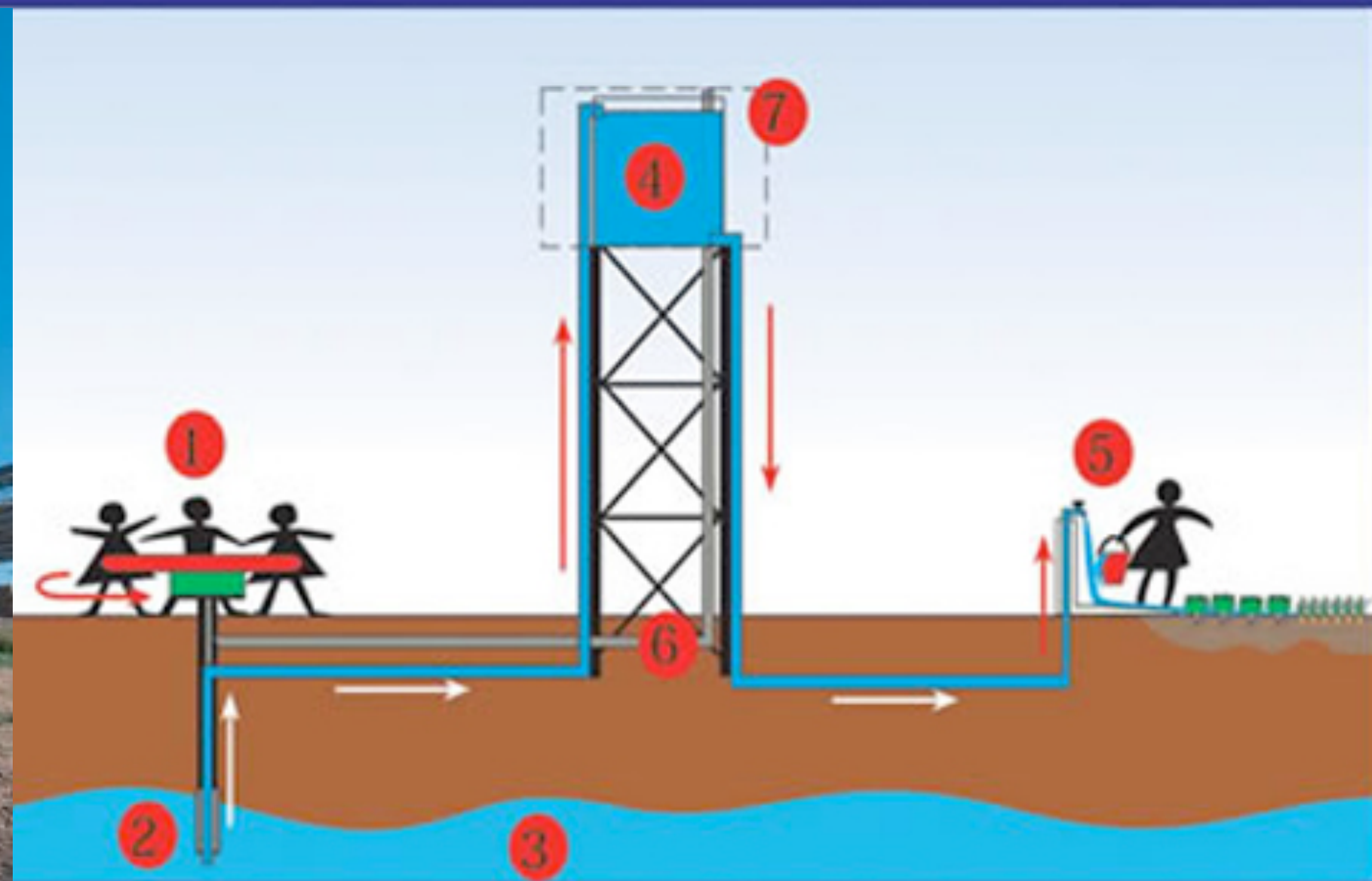
# Sustainable Water Systems





# Sustainable Water Systems

## The Play Pump



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# **The Drinking Water Supply Manifesto**

- Fix the Leaks
- Reduce Peak Demands
- Protect Source Waters
- Work toward Sustainability