

## TAMPA BAY WATER NEEDS AN INDEPENDENT PERFORMANCE AUDIT!!!

What appears to be happening with the cracks in the reservoir might not be due to sinkholes, but could it be a result of questionable quality of the soil cement that was used to construct the base? Why was \$500,000 put in Tampa Bay Water's budget last year for "maintenance" for the reservoir? Did someone know this was coming? Isn't taking \$200,000 to "fix" the reservoir going to hurt the regular maintenance money put aside? Are these inflated costs or prior knowledge of defects? What is going on?

The biggest question...after almost 10 years since Tampa Bay Water was formed, why do we not have any of the 3 major alternative water projects performing as promised?

1. Desal plant – need I say anything further. We're still waiting for this to come on line and spending millions doing so.
2. Reservoir – rain and drought – didn't anyone figure this into the equation when designing this? A year ago, this reservoir was not able to distribute its water below a certain point without pumping the water, which was NOT part of the original design. The pumps have since been retrofitted. Now we discover (just now when these cracks originally appeared December of 2006) there are major cracks in this brand new facility. Why was this kept quiet for so long?
3. 65 mgd (million gallons per day) Water Treatment Facility – has not been able to produce more than 45-50 mgd average. Why?

The point is that after a decade, three attempted projects and millions of taxpayer dollars later (we realize money does come from fees generated as well), why do we NOT HAVE ONE FULLY FUNCTIONAL ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE????? We need this water. All of our local and regional water plans for future development of Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties are based on the alternative water supply plans of Tampa Bay Water and specific amounts of water being produced. We've been allowing growth for years based on the timing of these facilities being fully on line.

So, we've got the growth, but we're not keeping up with the water. What this means is that we will be forced to increase groundwater pumping again. There go the wetlands and lakes, this time all over Hillsborough County, not just the north. You, too, Pasco!

We are in a drought...a bad one. We believe it is time for an independent performance audit of Tampa Bay Water. They have successfully avoided one for years...they do their own. They pay an outside auditor to come in. This is not independent. We need to ask Florida's Auditor General to step in with an audit so we can obtain the REAL truth about Tampa Bay Water. Our water supply is critical for a safe and healthy economic future.

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