

Audit Troubled Water Agency

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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 diminish the regular maintenance money? Are these inflated costs or was there 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 three major alternative water projects performing as promised?

- We're still waiting for the desal plant to come on line and spending millions doing so.
- The reservoir, and 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 when these cracks originally appeared December of 2006) there are major cracks in this brand new facility.
- The 65 mgd (million gallons per day) Water Treatment Facility has not been able to produce more than 45-50 mgd average. Why?

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. 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. We will be forced to increase groundwater pumping again. There go the wetlands and lakes.

We believe it is time for an independent performance audit of Tampa Bay Water. They do their own. We need to ask Florida's auditor general to obtain the truth about Tampa Bay Water. Our water supply is critical for a safe and healthy economic future.

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