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TAWWA/WEAT

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014

ISSUE 94

# SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

## e-Newsletter

## NASA'S GRACE SATELLITES SHOW COLORADO RIVER BASIN'S BIGGEST WATER LOSSES ARE GROUNDWATER (2005-2013)

By Brett Walton - Circle of Blue (reprinted with permission) [www.circleofblue.org](http://www.circleofblue.org)

Photograph ©J. Carl Ganter/Circle of Blue

Friday, 13 December 2013

During presentations this week at the annual fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union, researchers at the University of California, Irvine, announced that the region's most visible signs of drought – shrinking reservoirs – are dwarfed by groundwater losses.



*The Mojave Desert is a sandy backdrop to the irrigated fields along the Colorado River in Arizona. Water storage in the iconic basin has declined since 2005, chiefly because a long-term drought has prompted farmers to pump more groundwater.*

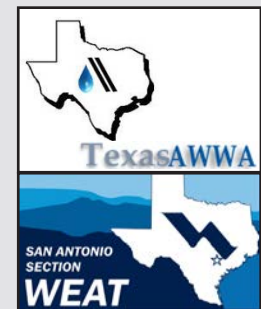
As a first-ever declaration of water shortage in the Colorado River Basin approaches, water managers are paying keen attention to shrinking supplies in two bellwether reservoirs – Mead and Powell – which are both less than half full. But ongoing research from the University of California, Irvine, suggests that the bigger problem lies underfoot.

Surface water losses from the reservoirs are just a small part of the Basin's overall water loss since 2005, said Jay Famiglietti, professor and director of UCI's Center for Hydrologic Modeling.

"There's that saying, 'The fox is in the hen house,'" Famiglietti told Circle of Blue. "While no one is looking, groundwater is disappearing."

Stephanie Castle, a graduate student who works with Famiglietti, presented UCI's most recent findings on Wednesday, December 11, in San Francisco at the annual fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union, the world's largest Earth sciences conference. Like earlier studies of California's Central Valley and the Tigris-Euphrates Basin in the Middle East, the UCI research team assessed fluctuations in water storage using data from NASA's GRACE mission, a pair of satellites that translate changes in gravity into changes in water volume. (continued on page 2)

### SAVE THE DATE



#### TAWWA/WEAT MARCH MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2014

Place: San Antonio Water System  
Tower II, 1st Floor, Room C145  
2800 US Hwy 281N

Speaker: Cliff Bond  
Texas Board of Professional  
Engineers

Topic: Ethics

#### TAWWA/WEAT APRIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014

Place: San Antonio Water System  
Tower II, 1st Floor, Room C145  
2800 US Hwy 281N

Speaker: Jim Joyce, PE  
V&A Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Topic: Identifying Odor and Corrosion  
Hot Spots in your Collection  
System

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Whether at home or traveling throughout America, whenever I turn on the faucet to brush my teeth or to get myself a drink of water or a number of different activities, I never pause to think whether or not the water is safe to drink. We all take for granted, and it's a tribute to the water/wastewater professionals in this country, that the water is safe to drink a vast majority of the time.

In the days before the Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, there was one report where the hotel warned the guests not to drink nor wash their faces with the tap water, which is troubling. The picture on the right displays the "dangerous face water."

Closer to home, 300,000 customers in Charleston, West Virginia lost potable water service for a week on January 9, 2014 after 7,500 gallons of the chemical MCHM spilled into the Elk River just upstream of the WTP's intake. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 250 customers experienced nausea



Stacy St. Clair  
@StacyStClair  
Water restored, sorta. On the bright side, I now know what very dangerous face water looks like. #Sochi #unfiltered  
9:57 PM - 3 Feb 2014

and developed a rash after drinking and/or washing with tap water. Customers were still complaining of a licorice smell to the water last week.

We all need to remain vigilant in our efforts to produce safe drinking water!

We appreciate everyone that came out this past Saturday to the Basura Bash and wish everyone good luck and fun at this Friday's Sporting Clay Tournament!

Sincerely,

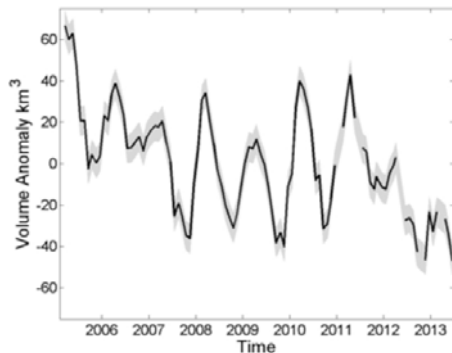
Steven Renneker

President, South Central Texas Chapter of AWWA

## NASA'S GRACE SATELLITES SHOW COLORADO RIVER BASIN'S BIGGEST WATER LOSSES ARE GROUNDWATER (CONT.)

### MONTHLY ANOMALIES

Deviations from the average of total water storage for the Colorado River Basin via the NASA GRACE mission for March 2005 – June 2013 are shown below.



For more information, please contact Jay Famiglietti, @JayFamiglietti, professor and director of the Center for Hydrologic Modeling at UC Irvine.

During the 2005-2013 drought period, the Basin lost 5.7 cubic kilometers (4.6 million acre-feet) of water per year, or more than 47 cubic kilometers (38 million acre-feet) over the 100-month study period. Much of this is attributed to excessive groundwater pumping, and much of this was used for irrigated agriculture.

Presented at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2013, S. Castle et al., H31N-04. Quantifying Changes in Accessible Water in the Colorado River Basin, and Castle et al., 2014, paper in preparation.

### BASIN LOSSES

From March 2005 to June 2013, the Colorado River Basin lost 5.7 cubic kilometers (4.6 million acre-feet) of water per year, or more than 47 cubic kilometers (38 million acre-feet) over the 100-month study period. The cumulative losses are equal to 1.3 times the storage capacity of Lake Mead, the nation's largest reservoir. Most of the water losses are attributed to groundwater pumping, mainly for irrigated agriculture.

The GRACE satellites measure total water storage – the water in mountain snowpack, reservoirs and rivers, soils, and aquifers. By subtracting the known quantities from other data sets, the value for each component can be reckoned. The research team is still analyzing those data, but preliminary results strongly suggest that groundwater is the prime culprit for the losses.

Castle told Circle of Blue that she compared the GRACE data to groundwater monitoring wells that are operated by state and federal agencies in the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins. The water levels in the monitoring wells were consistent with what the satellites were detecting.

Though Castle acknowledged that water agencies in Arizona and Nevada – which, along with California, make up the three Lower Basin states – are storing water underground in a process called "water banking," those savings accounts are relatively small when compared with the broader picture of water use in the region.

"There is some good local recharge in Arizona's Active Management Areas," Castle said. "But they are a small portion of the state."

### CAUSE FOR CONCERN

A sustained dry period, dating to 2000, has left the Lower Basin in a precarious position. In August, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced that next year it will cut the amount of water that is released from Lake Powell – this will be the first time this has happened under an operating agreement that was signed in 2007.

If the federal government's river-flow forecast holds true, the lower release from Powell will set up the Lower Basin for a shortage that could be declared as early as 2015 or 2016. Such a declaration is based on how much water is in Lake Mead. Arizona and Nevada would be the only states to endure water restrictions at this first shortage tier. Moreover, water managers in Arizona told Circle of Blue in August that they would weather cuts in water deliveries from the river by pumping more groundwater.

## SPEAKER FOR MARCH MEETING:

### Cliff Bond - Texas Board of Professional Engineers

Clifton A. Bond is the Supervising Investigator, Compliance & Enforcement Department, Texas Board of Professional Engineers. Mr. Bond retired from the U.S. Air Force after serving almost 21 years in three stateside assignments (Sheppard AFB, Texas; Kirtland AFB, New Mexico; and Kelly AFB, Texas) and two overseas assignments (Clark AB, Republic of the Philippines; and AFOSI District Headquarters Ankara, Turkey). He has ten years of experience as a Federal Law Enforcement Investigator responsible for criminal, fraud, counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and technology transfer investigations for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Since retiring from the Air Force in 1994, he has been employed by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, first as an investigator and as the Supervising Investigator since 1999.

## SPEAKER FOR APRIL MEETING:

### Jim Joyce, PE - V&A Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Jim Joyce, PE is Senior Technical Director for V&A Consulting Engineers, Inc. Mr. Joyce has 35 years of engineering experience in the field of wastewater odor and corrosion control and pioneered the use of cost-effective biological and odor control technologies. Mr. Joyce holds bachelor's degrees in Biology, Civil Engineering, and a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Virginia Tech. He is a member of ASCE, WEF, the Water Environment Federation Air Quality Committee, and Collection Systems Committee. He is Past President of the Water Environment Association of Texas and is currently serving as one of the two United States representatives on the International Water Association (IWA) Sewer Solids and Process Work Group Committee, studying the biological and physical relationships of odor generation and corrosion processes in sanitary sewers.

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## BASURA BASH RIVER CLEAN-UP

This past Saturday, February 22, 2014, about 10 members of the local TAWWA/WEAT chapters and their families contributed to the Basura Bash River Clean-up in the Olmos Basin. Thank you to CP&Y for sponsoring the event and to all who came out to volunteer! The next Basura Bash will be held this spring at the Olmos Basin. We hope you'll join the fun and help keep Olmos Park beautiful!



*Thank you to all the local members and their families for volunteering!*

## OLMOS BASIN ALLIANCE

The Olmos Basin Alliance (OBA) is a newly formed advisory committee to address the problem of man-made trash in Olmos Basin Park and the surrounding areas. The OBA includes representatives from the San Antonio River Authority, City of San Antonio, Bexar County, among many others. If you're interested in finding out more about the OBA or receiving the OBA's Good Neighbors to Nature newsletter, please contact Karen Bishop at 210-302-3642, or [kbishop@sara-tx.org](mailto:kbishop@sara-tx.org). More information can also be found on the OBA's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/OlmosBasinAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/OlmosBasinAlliance).

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SPEAKERS AND SPONSORS:

Thank you to Linda Bevis with SAWS for speaking about the SAWS Winwood Pump Station GAC. Also, thanks to IPR for sponsoring the January meeting!

Thank you to our February speaker, David Sloan with Freese and Nichols, who spoke about the Big Spring Direct Reuse Project. Also, thank you to Newman Regency Group for sponsoring the February Meeting!



*Speaker David Sloan - Freese and Nichols*

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# TAWWA/WEAT South Texas Chapter now on Facebook!

The South Texas Chapter of TAWWA and San Antonio Section of WEAT are now on Facebook!

Please go to the link below and "Like" South Texas Water Professionals to be connected and stay informed about upcoming events and activities.

The screenshot shows the Facebook profile for "South Texas Water Professionals". At the top, there is a navigation bar with "facebook" and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there is a header section with the text "South Texas Water Professionals is on Facebook." and a "Sign Up" button. The profile picture is a map of Texas with a water drop icon. The cover photo is a landscape with mountains and a water drop icon. The bio reads: "Community A joint effort of WEAT and TAWWA dedicated to spreading information and knowledge about the water business in South Texas." There are 24 likes and 2 people talking about this. The page features several posts, including one from Alissa Lockett about a scholarship application deadline and another from Roberto Macias about a seminar. The page also has a "Like" button and a "Log In" button. At the bottom of the page, there is a "visit us at" button with the URL [www.facebook.com/SouthTexasWaterProfessionals](http://www.facebook.com/SouthTexasWaterProfessionals).

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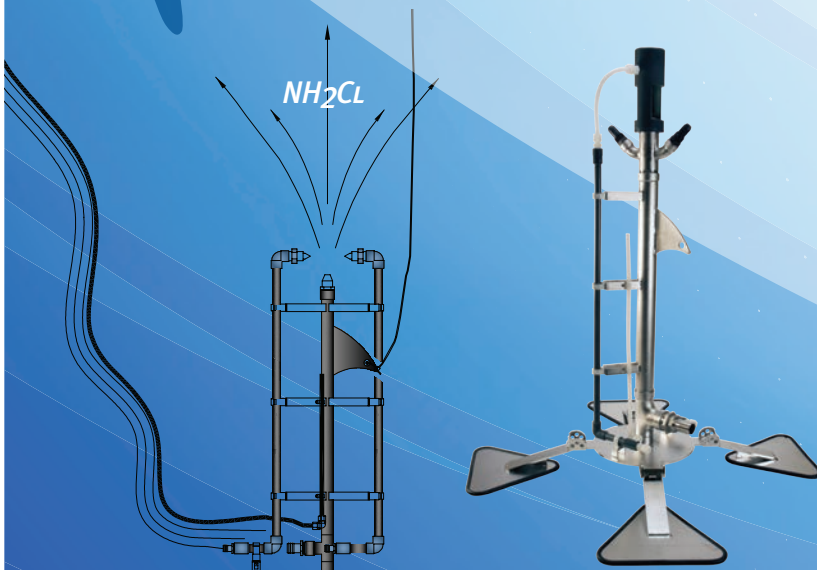
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# SAVE THE DATE SUMMER SEMINAR 2014

Please join  
the South Texas  
AWWA/WEAT Joint Chapter  
in discussing the emerging issues  
in the water/wastewater industry.

**Friday, July 25, 2014  
8 AM - 4 PM**

**San Antonio Water System  
Tower II, 1st Floor  
Rooms CR-145 & CR-154  
2800 US Hwy 281 North  
San Antonio, TX 78212**

If you would like to be a sponsor for this event,  
please contact Josh Marazzini  
at [jmarazzini@cpyi.com](mailto:jmarazzini@cpyi.com) for more details.



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# TAWWA / WEAT SOUTH TEXAS SECTION MARCH MONTHLY MEETING



## When:

Thursday, March 20, 2014  
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

## Where:

San Antonio Water System  
Tower II – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Room C145  
2800 US Hwy. 281 North  
San Antonio, Texas

## Speaker:

Texas Board of  
Professional Engineers  
(TBPE)

## Topic:

“Engineering Ethics”



The price for lunch is **\$12.00** with RSVP; **\$15.00** without RSVP.

**\*\* THIS MONTH'S MEETING IS SPONSORED IN PART BY  
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Please RSVP by noon, Wednesday, March 19, 2014 to:  
Lauren Hawa, Secretary, South Texas Chapter, AWWA  
Email: Lauren.Hawa@freese.com Phone: 210-298-3849

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## LOGIC PUZZLE

		First Names				Deli Meats				Soft Drinks			
		Evangeline	Isabel	Luis	Tiffany	bologna	corned beef	pastrami	salami	cherry cola	cola	diet cola	orange soda
Wake-up Calls	6:00am												
	6:30am												
	7:00am												
	7:30am												
Soft Drinks	cherry cola												
	cola												
	diet cola												
	orange soda												
Deli Meats	bologna												
	corned beef												
	pastrami												
	salami												



## CLUES

- The one with the 6:30am wake-up call always orders salami.
- The one who loves salami has an earlier wake-up call than Isabel.
- The one who loves salami is not Evangeline.
- The one with the 7:00am wake-up call is Tiffany.
- Either the one who drinks cola or the one who drinks diet cola always orders pastrami.
- The one who drinks cola is not Tiffany and doesn't ever eat bologna.
- The one who drinks diet cola doesn't ever eat corned beef.
- The one who loves salami has an earlier wake-up call than the one who loves corned beef.
- The one who drinks orange soda is Luis.
- Of the one who loves salami and the one who drinks cherry cola, one has the 6:30am wake-up call and the other has the 7:30am wake-up call.

Wake-up Calls	First Names	Deli Meats	Soft Drinks
6:00am			
6:30am			
7:00am			
7:30am			

Answer to logic puzzle on page 12.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Topic/Presenter	Event Host	Location
February 25-28, 2014	Young Professionals Summit	AWWA/WEF	Savannah, Georgia
February 28, 2014	TAWWA Consumer Outreach Program Webinar, Part II	TAWWA	Webinar
February 28, 2014	2nd Annual Sporting Clays Tournament	TAWWA/WEAT	San Antonio Gun Club
April 14-17, 2014	Texas Water	TAWWA/WEAT	Dallas, TX
March 20, 2014	Monthly Meeting: "Ethics"	TAWWA/WEAT	SAWS
April 10, 2014	Monthly Meeting: "Identifying Odor and Corrosion Hot Spots in your Collection System"	TAWWA/WEAT	SAWS
July 25, 2014	Summer Seminar	TAWWA/WEAT	SAWS

### CALLING ALL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS!

In an attempt to better serve the Young Professional (YP) members, we are asking that all members under the age of 35, or less than 10 years in the industry, please e-mail Heather Lindner at: [heather.lindner@hdrinc.com](mailto:heather.lindner@hdrinc.com) with their name, e-mail, and phone number.

If there are others in your offices who are not yet TAWWA/WEAT members, but might also be interested in participating in YP events and functions, please pass this request on to them.

Thanks!

### LOGIC PUZZLE ANSWERS

6:00am	Evangeline	Pastrami	Cola
6:30am	Luis	Salami	Orange soda
7:00am	Tiffany	Bologna	Diet cola
7:30am	Isabel	Corned beef	Cherry cola



### ARE YOU RECEIVING THIS E-NEWSLETTER IN ERROR?

Please e-mail Lauren Hawa ([Lauren.Hawa@freese.com](mailto:Lauren.Hawa@freese.com)) to be removed from the list.