

5 of 7 DOCUMENTS

THE JOURNAL RECORD

The Journal Record

May 16, 2017 Tuesday

Federal grants shore up water research

BYLINE: Sarah Terry-Cobo**SECTION:** NEWS**LENGTH:** 482 words

OKLAHOMA CITY - Federal grants are shoring up research projects that examine creative ways to reuse water.

Ada, Bartlesville, and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board received a total of \$436,193 to pay for three studies examining the feasibility of putting undrinkable wastewater to work. The money advances several ongoing projects in the state, said OWRB director Julie Cunningham.

The Bureau of Reclamation provided \$23.6 million in grants money to entities in seven states in the western U.S. The U.S. Department of Interior announced the funding Friday. The money is part of the agency's water reclamation and reuse program.

The Water Resources Board received \$150,000 to advance preliminary results from its produced water working group. Gov. Mary Fallin established the task force in December 2015 to examine alternatives to using deep underground injection wells to dispose of oil-field wastewater.

The working group's study showed the near-term solutions are to increase use of evaporation techniques and to transfer wastewater from the Mississippi Lime play westward and southward to the SCOOP and STACK plays to reuse in the drilling and hydraulic fracturing process.

Cunningham said the next step is to dig into the feasibility of transporting wastewater as well as to conduct more scientific research on how clean the water can get using existing techniques. The project must have a 50-percent non-federal match. She's created a consortium of partners, with the Environmental Defense Fund providing \$70,000, the Ground Water Protection Council providing \$50,000, the University of Texas' **Bureau of Economic Geology** providing \$14,000 and her agency chipping in \$16,000.

Owen Mills, the Water Board's director of water planning, said his agency's research aligns with the Bureau of Reclamation's drought contingency planning goals.

Ada City Manager Cody Holcomb got \$136,193 for a feasibility study to examine using treated municipal wastewater to irrigate a golf course and other property. The city will work with an engineering firm and contractor to study what infrastructure and treatment processes are necessary for a water reuse project. The city wouldn't otherwise have the money for a study like this, he said.

He credits the Chickasaw Nation for the tribe's partnership with the city and its ability to encourage collaboration on water use projects. Ada relies on the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer for its raw water, so every gallon he can treat and reuse is one less gallon he has to draw from underground.

"It's always good when you have multiple government agencies that can work together for a common goal," Holcomb said. "Because of our partnership with the Chickasaw Nation, we can sit down with a common interest and common goals and develop solutions that work for all of us. "

[Click here for more from this resource.](#)

Copyright © 2017 BridgeTower Media. All Rights Reserved.

LOAD-DATE: May 22, 2017

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: General news

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Copyright 2017 Dolan Media Newswires
All Rights Reserved