

La Mesa Water Cooperative

WaterGram - July 2017

Well #3 Arsenic Removal Project

System tests extended; Committee homes in on site recommendation.

Results of a three-month test of competing arsenic removal systems dictate another round of testing to explore increases in efficiency and reductions in operating cost.

While the arsenic treatment equipment under test will be in an underground vault, the tank at the well-site will remain highly visible for another four months.

Consulting Engineers at Wilson & Associates encouraged a second round of tests, using other treatment media and adjusting water pH levels. The first round of tests pitted two adsorption systems –working like ramped-up filters – that promised simplicity of operation, quality results and cost-effectiveness. One used granular ferric hydroxide as the adsorption media; the other used titanium oxide.

While both systems reduced arsenic in the water to compliance levels, neither met performance projections for the life of the media –the key to cost effectiveness.

Both manufacturers point to the high silica content of well #3 water, and to its high pH level, to explain results. Silica is harmless, but adheres to the filtration media. Reducing the pH level of well water will negate some of the silica adherence and increase media efficiency.

The titanium oxide media will return for the second round, along with a competing media, granular ferric oxide.

Concurrently, a Site Selection Committee – Chair Dave Otter of the Water Coop, George Franzen of the La Mesa Homeowners' Association, and, John Ellis of Sundance Mesa Homeowners' Association – has narrowed its search to the existing site of well #3 in Sundance Mesa and the existing site of well #5 in La Mesa. The latter will require extension of a transmission line from well #3 at a projected cost of \$250,000. The Sundance Mesa Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) will have to be changed, and possibly additional land purchased, for the well #3 site to be used. The Committee will recommend a site to all three Boards (La Mesa Water Coop, Sundance Mesa HOA, and La Mesa HOA).

Bringing well #3 on line will bring Coop members more reliable service, and a safe dependable water source for years to come.

Residents are welcome to see the pilot test in operation (at 64 Camino Manzano) and ask questions by contacting Jock Embry, jock_embry@lamesawatercoop.org.

Information on this project

- The most recent information can always be found on the Coop web site lamesawatercoop.org.
Members Only page password: 87043
- E-mail alerts and reports are available to members via our voluntary e-mail information system. If you are not already on this list, you may sign up by sending an e-mail to: alerts@lamesawatercoop.org.
- Occasional updates are posted at the mail-boxes.
- You may also address questions and concerns to any Board member (see below).

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