

Aquifer Injection

Work Group Meeting, White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Christopher Larson, PE, SEH April 29, 2025



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Aquifer Injection



Capture wastewater coming through White Bear Lake area for treatment and aquifer injection.



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Permitting Requirements

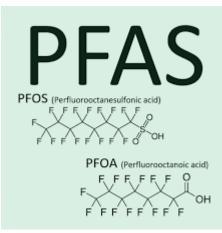


- United State Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 – Class V Injection Well Permit Required
- Minnesota Department of Health Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725 prohibits injection wells – variance required.
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reuse requirements for aquifer injection not defined – risk-based assessment
- Department of Natural Resources
- Pilot Testing



Raw Wastewater - Water Quality





- 250 mg/L Biological Oxygen Demand
- 250 mg/L Total Suspended Solids
- 7 mg/L Phosphorus
- 40 mg/L Total Nitrogen
- 500 mg/L Chloride
- PFAS



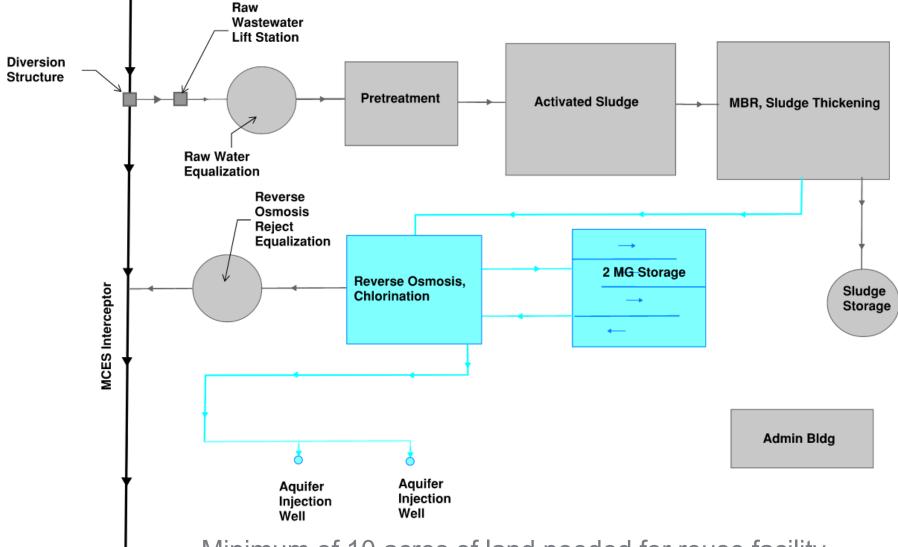
Reuse – Aquifer Injection Water Quality Goals



- Disinfected tertiary treatment
- Match existing groundwater quality
 - No chloride
 - No contaminants
- Membrane Bioreactor
 Wastewater Treatment
- Reverse Osmosis
 - Remineralization



Wastewater Reuse – Aquifer Injection



Minimum of 10 acres of land needed for reuse facility

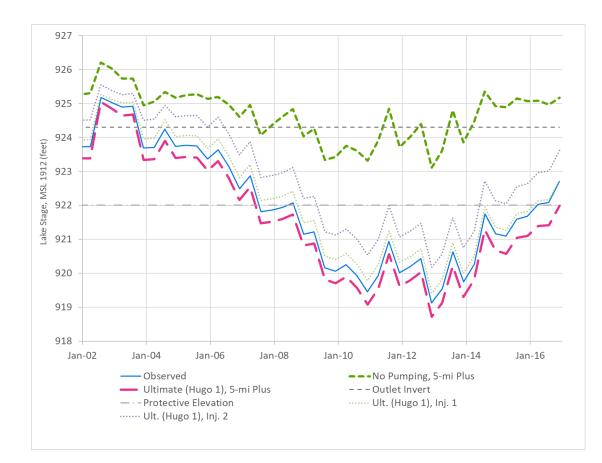
Aquifer Injection – System Layout





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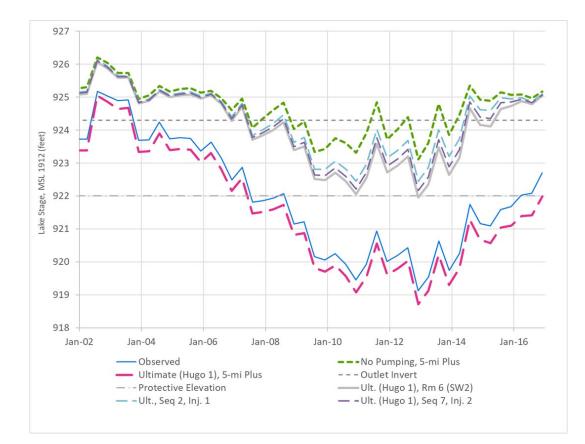
Lake Level Modeling - Injection



- Ultimate (Hugo 1)
- Injection well(s) adjacent to White Bear Lake, 1 MGD or 2 MGD



Lake Level Modeling – Injection plus Surface Water



- Ultimate (Hugo 1)
- Injection well adjacent to White Bear Lake, 1 MGD
- Replace 6 permits, 4 communities (SW 2)
- Injection well(s) adjacent to WBL, 2 MGD
- Replace 4 permits, 2 communities (SW 7)

SEH

Aquifer Injection – Capital Cost Opinion

Component	Unit	Est. Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Effluent Diversion	LS	1	\$910,000	\$910,000
0.5 MG Equalization Tank	LS	1	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
2.5 MGD Wastewater Treatment Plant	LS	1	\$75,000,000	\$75,000,000
2 MGD RO Reuse Treatment Plant	LS	1	\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000
2 MG Storage	LS	1	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
0.5 MG Reject Water Equalization	LS	1	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
12" Aquifer Injection Watermain	LF	5,400	\$500	\$2,700,000
Injection Wells	EA	2	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
Subtotal				\$108,600,000
40% Contingency				\$43,400,000
Construction Subtotal:				\$152,000,000
Land Acquisition				\$2,000,000
Pilot Testing				\$3,000,000
15% Engineering				\$22,800,000
			15% Construction Admin	\$22,800,000
			Total:	\$202,600,000



Wastewater Reuse – O&M Cost Opinion

Item	Annual Cost
Labor (3 FTE)	\$450,000
Membrane Replacement (5 yr for RO and 7 yr for MF)	\$125,000
Chemicals	\$150,000
Electricity	\$225,000
Natural Gas	\$100,000
Equipment Repair	\$200,000
Lab Testing	\$200,000
Total Annual O&M:	\$1,450,000



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Aquifer Injection Conclusions



- Aquifer injection is expensive
- Modest lake level
 improvements
- Significant regulatory hurdles
 - Direct lake augmentation might be easier
- Collect wastewater samples



Questions?



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