



CITY OF  
WICHITA

# ***CITY NEWS***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Equus Beds Legislative Recognition Reception**

The Wichita City Council will host a Recognition Reception for the South-Central Kansas Legislative Delegation from 5:30 pm to 7 pm Thursday, March 22, at the WATER Center, 101 E. Pawnee.

The reception will honor the delegation for its successful support of a \$1 million state appropriation for the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. The appropriation was part of the Kansas Water Authority budget approved by the legislature this past session.

The Equus Beds project was one of the top legislative priorities of the Wichita City Council. It is anticipated that the City of Wichita will seek annual renewal of the \$1 million allocation until completion of the project in about seven years.

The Equus Beds ASR project has completed the first of four phases at a cost of \$27 million. Completion of all four phases will bring the total cost to about \$229 million. Federal funding up to \$30 million has been authorized for the project. So far, \$1.5 million in federal funds have been appropriated. The remaining costs are paid by Wichita Water Utilities customers.

The innovative water storage project captures excess water flow from the Little Arkansas River north of Wichita, treats it to near-drinking water standards, and pumps it into the Equus Beds aquifer for later use. A total of 65 billion gallons can be stored in the

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underground water formation and is expected to meet Wichita's water needs until the year 2050.

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