

And I guess that's something probably we wouldn't know again. But if, in that time, if the six years had gone by, or the three years, I'm sure...I'm sure that the water master may consider that data as outdated and would require new studies. And so, those are the things that I don't mean to hold it up here, but we really haven't been able to have that dialogue and it has continued to be a concern of mine, and so, Senator Beutler, if you wish to respond to that.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I don't...I'm not sure I'll be beginning or ending at the appropriate place, but let me just say a few things. First of all, it wouldn't surprise me if, over a long period of time, 20, 30, 40 years, things will develop irregularly I think. First, you'll have a need here and maybe a need there. Maybe there will be two or three or maybe as many as four or five situations that will have to be studied over time. The worst case scenario? It could run into several million dollars, doing all these studies. The best case scenario, I don't know, but I'm sure it'll be a substantial amount of money. I think most of that money could be supplied by the Environmental Trust. I really do, a bit at a time over a period of time. You hypothesize...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the situation of a master. That, of course, means that you've assumed a federal lawsuit is pending. In the event that there's a federal lawsuit, whether it's now or whenever it is, both of the parties will want to have accurate objective data with respect to ground water use. And that cost will be the the same, whether you do it now or whether you do it then. There is the question of when it becomes outdated. I'm not expert enough to know that although I doubt whether the relationships change very much over time in terms of the hydrologic relationship between different...that exists within different areas. Usage will change, of course, but that's not the point of these studies that we're talking about that are so expensive. The point of the studies that are so expensive is to establish...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.