

By Bob Crossen

Cape Town, South Africa made headlines for Day Zero, a date indicating when it would no longer have water. It has fought back.

n Cape Town, South Africa, Day Zero is a moving target. What once was seen as an inevitable has been pushed later and later in the year. However, just by virtue of having such a date indicates a deadline for a startling thought; a day when water would not freely flow from the tap of residences in the coastal city. That such a day is possible has been a wake-up call, and it has stirred conversations about how communities in similarly drought-stricken regions of the world can fend off a similar fate.

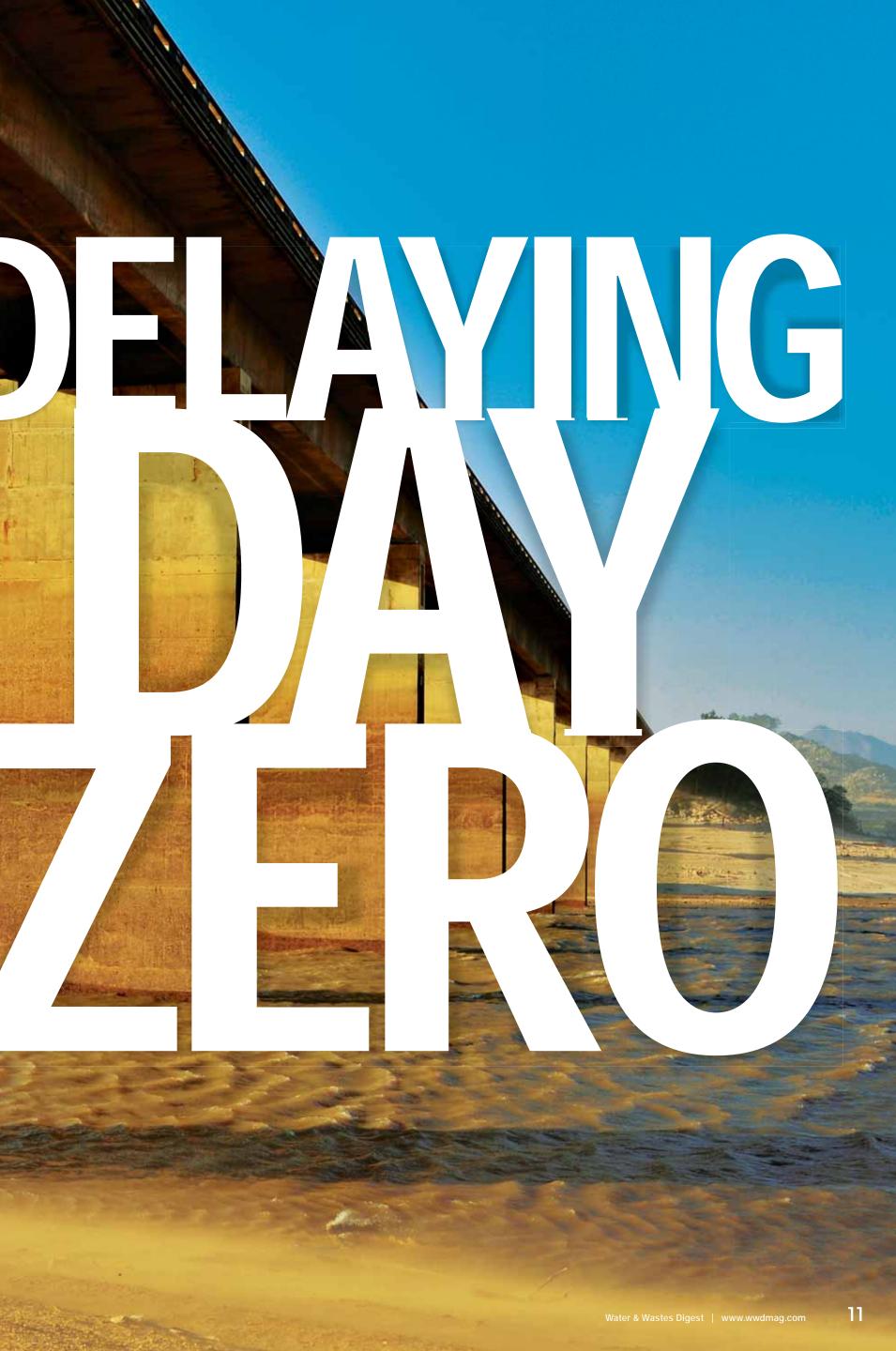
The News

When news first broke, April 22, 2018 was the date the city's reservoir would hit 13.75% capacity and running water would be shut off to residential homes. This was called Day Zero. Critical infrastructure, most notably hospitals, would continue to receive water, and citizens would be required to visit municipal water points throughout the city to receive a set amount of water at regular intervals.

Since then, the date was pushed back to May, then June, then July, and now late August. Some projections accounting for a better rainy season have indicated Day Zero could be as late as November, and in a statement March 7, Ian Nelson, Cape Town executive deputy mayor and alderperson, was cautiously optimistic about the city's water future for 2018.

"As this date falls deep within the normal rainfall period, it is no longer appropriate to project the date without any consideration of rainfall. Thus, provided we continue our current water savings efforts, Day Zero can be avoided completely this year," Nelson said in the news release. "I would therefore like to urge all Capetonians not to relax their water savings efforts. While we are feeling more confident of avoiding Day Zero this year, we cannot predict the volume of rainfall still to come. If winter rainfall this year is as low as last year, or even lower, we are still in danger of reaching Day Zero early next year."

As noted by Nelson, this looming deadline's movement is due in part to the advent of rain, but also to stricter water use for agricultural facilities and tighter control over water for residents. In the face of all this, the biggest question is how Cape Town is





battling back against water scarcity and what its plans are to stave off the imminent draw down of its reservoirs.

Volatility of Volume

Uncooperative weather patterns have instigated much of the situation in Cape Town. If it weren't for a prolonged drought, the city may not have been making headlines for running out of water. Graham Symmonds, chief knowledge officer for Fathom, said the presumption of rainfall is not an anomaly for communities where rainfall replenishment is a critical part of the water system. Symmonds noted that similar scarcity concerns have occurred elsewhere. The assumption that rainfall will refill reservoirs have come into question.

"It's not so much a water scarcity issue as much as it is water volatility, where you can't depend on the past as an indicator of the future," Symmonds said. "We're moving into patterns of climate that are impacting historic trends and all of our infrastructure has really been built on these historic trends, and when these trends get disrupted outside the range of the engineering boundaries, then we end up in these conditions where people are running out **Feature continued on p. 16**

For further drought analysis, visit Piotr Wolski's full report on GroundUp at www.groundup.org.za/article/ how-severe-drought-detailed-look-data/.



The drought is Cape Town's driest period on record since the 1930s. Weather pattern modelling from the University of Cape Town suggests 2017 could be among the driest period in the region's history.



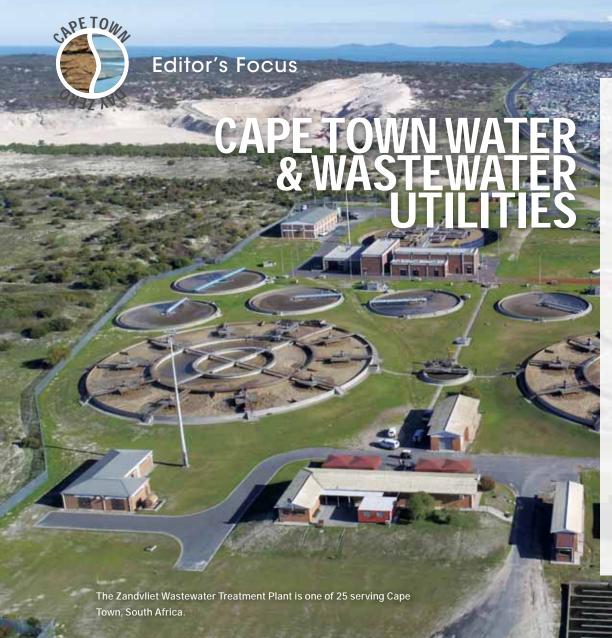
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Cape Town Water Treatment Plant Processes

Capacity: 1,650 million liters per day Typical treatment capacity: 1,200 million liters per day (normal conditions; no water restrictions)

Common treatment processes:

- Coagulation and pH level adjustment with powdered activated carbon;
- · Odor control where required with powdered activated carbon;
- Flocculation with aluminum and/or ferric sulphate;
- Settlement of suspended particulate matter;
- Filtration through sand filters;
- Stabilization with hydrated lime and carbon dioxide; and
- · Disinfection with chlorine.

Cape Town Wastewater Treatment Plant Processes

Current treated flow: 400 to 500 million liters per day (40% less than non-drought conditions)

Common treatment processes:

- 15 activated sludge plants (13 conventional activated sludge and 2 membrane bioreactors);
- 4 rotating biological contactors;
- · 2 oxidation pond systems; and
- 1 trickling filter plant.

Information on these facilities was provided through a media request to the city of Cape Town, South Africa, and were answered by Cape Town Councillor Xanthea Limberg, mayoral committee member for informal settlements, water and waste services, and energy. **3RUCE SUTHERI**



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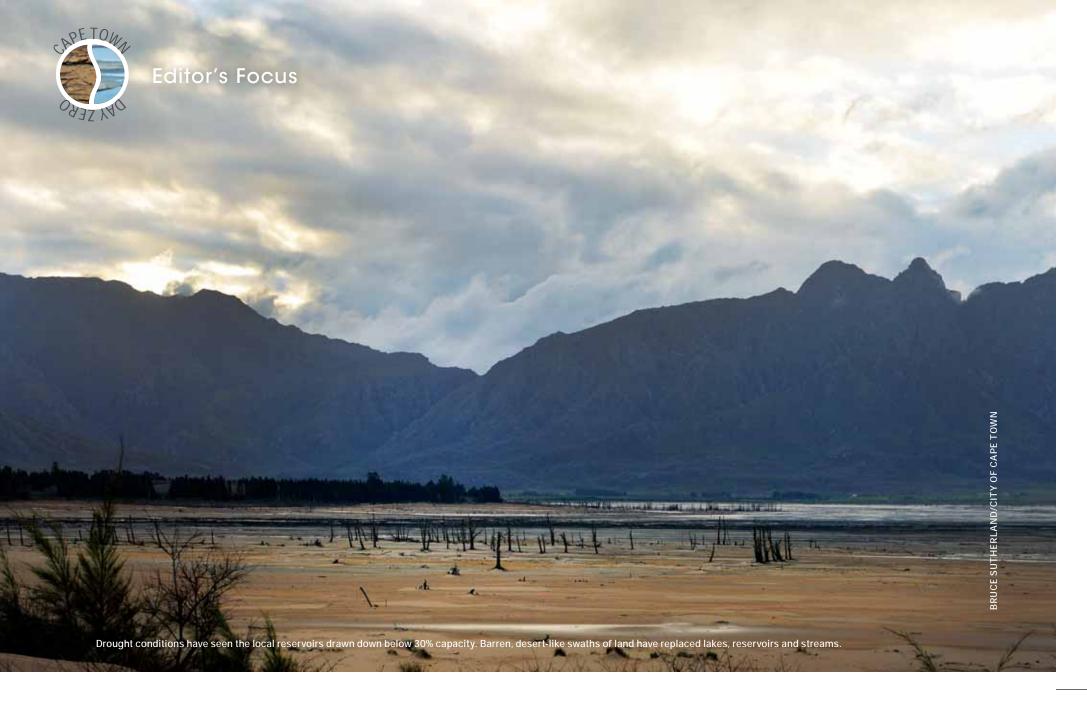
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WRITE IN 130



of water."

According to rainfall records analyzed by Dr. Piotr Wolski, a University of Cape Town Climate System Analysis Group researcher, 2012 to 2013 saw an 2013, rainfall has trended downward, with a small jump in 2016 before plummeting again in 2017. Rainfall numbers in charts posted by Dr. Wolski to GroundUp, a news agency created to distribute University of Cape Town research under Creative Commons licenses, used October as the end of the year as it marks the end of the rainy season.

Wolski took averages for one, two, three and 2017 had the lowest rainfall since 1981, a 36-year est period since 1933. Records only date as far back as 1920, and even then, only at one weather station, but those records suggest 2017 is still the driest year in recorded weather history. Using analydata can accurately depict.

Banking on Desalination

The most critical part of Cape Town's plan for a long-term water source for its residents relies make it potable.

South Africa have helped communities with similar to Cape Town's records. challenges, but notes capacity is a greater issue.

desalination plants, as well as promoting the installation of additional large-scale desalination plants to meet the growing water demands of the city."

uptick in rainfall before the drought began. Since in different stages of construction with delays ranging from financial backing to community stake in construction and operation of the finished facilities. The V&A Waterfront plant was set to come on line

in the second half of March 2018 with a projected 2 fusers may be used for ensuring efficient bring mixmillion liters of water per day to be treated and used ing with seawater." as the municipal water supply. As of the beginning of March, it was the only plant on schedule.

The Strandfontein desalination plant also was four year records, and determined the drought in projected to start moving water in late March at 2 million liters per day, but ran into delays. That inilow. Further analysis, he noted, shows it is the dri-tial flow was expected to increase to 7 million liters drought since 2012, which has led to wildfires that per day in May. The third plant, Monwabisi, is also intended to reach 7 million liters per day.

The Strandfontein plant is a temporary installation with a 24-month contract. If there is no renewal sis models, Wolski noted the extent of this drought at the end of the contract, the desalination equipperiod could be even more rare than the recorded ment will be removed by the contractor and the area will be rehabilitated to resemble the natural area it was prior to the temporary construction.

Additionally, there are two groundwater projects—Cape Flats and Atlantis—and a recycled water project–Zandvilet–in the works, but those three on desalination plants to treat salt water from the have also run behind schedule. Several other desali- Brown, and contain proposals affecting residents, ocean to remove or reduce its saline content and nation projects, including barges and ships, and government organizations and private businesses reclamation and aquifer programs are also listed (See sidebar page 17). Tomer Efrat, process engineering manager for among those for a long-term solution, but they are IDE Technologies, said the 10 desalination plants in still in development and planning stages, according the U.S. Southwest where companies first devel-

Concerns from citizens have also arisen as to the "The output from each of these plants is small and nature of discharge from desalination plants back only provides enough water for municipalities in the into the sea and the potential effects it may have on immediate vacinity of the plants," Efrat said. "The reli-public safety and human health. Efrat said releasing able and effective solution for Cape Town water needs brine back into the ocean could have an impact, but would be increasing the production of its current noted many desalination facilities treat the brine in

some way before discharge.

"The brine outflow of the Claude 'Bud' Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant, the largest desalination In Cape Town, there are four desalination projects plant in the western hemisphere, is blended with water discharged from the Encina Power Plant for dilution to a final salt concentration of about only 20% higher than the raw seawater salinity," Efrat said. "Other methods, such as innovated brine dif-

Learning From the West

The U.S. Southwest and California have been the poster child for water scarcity in the western world. California has seen its longest and most brutal have torn apart residences and set off mudslides. Californians have been especially water conscious since as early as the 1970s and 1980s, and that trend has only continued in the face of greater water scarcity.

Even in early 2018, the state is considering rules and regulations on wasteful water use as permanent additions to its initial 2014 resolution for drought emergency conservation regulations. These new proposals are at the behest of an executive order signed by California Gov. Edmund G.

Conservation and water has a storied history in oped zero liquid discharge to protect waterways

For a detailed look at water use in Cape Town's water use, visit its interactive map at https://citymaps. capetown.gov.za/waterviewer/



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from power plant discharge, particularly the Colorado River that serves seven states and Mexico. Protections of that river and rights to its water have been crucial in ensuring communities not only were served, but had the means to grow.

California has also led the charge in recycled wastewater or, as it is more commonly called, potable reuse. Orange County Water District has pioneered this approach since 2008 when the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) was made operational. The GWRS is the world's largest advanced water purification system for potable reuse. It treats wastewater to replenish the Orange County Water Basin, the primary groundwater source for Orange County, rather than discharge the wastewater into the Pacific Ocean. What started as a 70 million gal per day (mgd) facility was expanded to 100 mgd in 2015 with potential capacity of 130 mgd.

The Golden State is also home to the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant which first became operational in December 2015. This plant, which had been in the works for many years, has successfully provided potable water to residents. It has been recognized by the American Council of Engineering Companies and the Design-Build Institute of America for its successes (See sidebar, page 18). Efrat said it has established itself as a piece of the water scarcity puzzle in San Diego County, Calif.

case of how desalination can serve as part of a mix finished. of solutions to meet growing water demands," Efrat said. "The Carlsbad Desalination Plant provides

generates more than \$50 million annually to the service," Symmonds said. "They have half a dozen regional economy."

The benefits of these projects and policies are Town]. How is that going to affect the rates?" clear, but Symmonds noted that it has also resulted in an interesting problem for the state, an issue also noted by Meagan Mauter, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Because consumption has reduced, utility revenues have also dipped.

"Overall, the state did quite well of meeting the mandate of 25% reduction in consumption," Symmonds said. "[This] was a great boon for water resources. Interestingly, it put a huge hole in utility revenue. There's a bit of a conservation conundrum in many utilities. How do you incentivize conservation without destroying revenue?"

Symmonds said during the consumption mandate imposed by the California governor, affected utilities lost between \$500 and \$600 million in revenue collectively. That financial drop is difficult to swallow and creates tension with customers when the utility has to raise rates to balance its checkbook.

Financing a Solution

The successes of California's water conservation projects have come at the cost of serious investment. The first phase of the GWRS construction cost \$481 million and the Carlsbad Desalination Plant was estimated at \$1 billion. Finding the money to complete desalination projects in Cape Town has "San Diego County in California is a successful been one of the stumbling blocks to getting projects

"Building supply side stuff, it looks like it's a good idea, but it really does put a tremendous amount fresh drinking water to about 300,000 people and of pressure, going forward, on your O&M with debt

desal plants in construction right now [in Cape

Mauter said investment must take three things into account: cost, resilience and sustainability. By measuring them, Mauter said investors can find creative ways to finance projects and make them economically viable.

"Windhoek [Namibia] has a wastewater recycling plant that produced very high quality potable water for drinking and it is mixed in with other

Feature continued on p. 16

CALIFORNIA PROPOSED WASTEFUL WATER USES

- · Using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways Allowing more incidental runoff when irrigating turf and
- other ornamental landscapes · Using hoses without automatic shutoff nozzles to
- wash motor vehicles Using potable water in ornamental fountains or
- decorative water features that do not recirculate water
- Irrigating turf and ornamental landscape during and within 48 hours following measurable rainfall
- Hotels and motels laundering towels and linens daily without providing guests the option of using them again During a drought emergency, serving drinking water in
- restaurants and bars without it being requested As of Jan. 1, 2025, irrigating turf on public street
- medians and parkways unless the turf serves a community recreational or civic function, the turf is irrigated incidentally with trees or the turf is watered with recycled water by an irrigation system installed prior to Jan. 1, 2018.

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CLAUDE "BUD" LEWIS CARLSBAD DESALINATION PLANT

The Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant is the largest desalination plant in the western hemisphere, serving water to 400,000 people in San Diego County, Calif.—roughly 10% of the county's water supply. Designed, engineered and constructed through a public-private partnership between Poseidon Water and San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), the plant got its start in 2000.

"The water authority purchases the entire output for the plant for 30 years at a fixed price. At the end of 30 years, the San Diego Water Authority has the option to purchase the plant for a dollar," said Jessica Jones, Poseidon Water director of communications. "[SDCWA] take water delivery at the fence line, and they deliver the 50 million gal inland to their aqueduct, where they deliver the water to all of their 24 member agencies."

The plant did not become fully operational until December 2015, and since then has produced almost 27 billion gal of water that is not dependant on snowpack or rainfall for the region. The desalination plant developers' aim was to diversify the water supply with a drought-proof drinking water source. Stakeholders for the plant plodded through six years of permitting and regulations to pave the way for the facility.

"We had to receive five different permits for the state of California and the city of Carlsbad to be able to start construction on the plant," Jones said. "Then we began negotiations with the county water authority on our term sheet for our water purchase agreement, and that took another two years. And then we started construction. Construction took three years, and then we commissioned it in fall of 2015 and it became commercially operational in December 2015."

The regulatory and permitting period was one of the greatest barriers to getting the project moving. Jones said this was the largest desalination project that any of the permitting agencies had ever seen. As such, those agencies were scrupulous in their evaluation of the plant's proposals and design.

Project managers had to get a coastal development permit from the

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California Coastal Commission as well as an outfall lease from the California Land Commission. The Regional Water Quality Control Board had to sign off on its discharge permit, and the Department of Drinking Water also



issued a drinking water permit. The city of Carlsbad rounded out the permitting with local land-use permits.

The plot on which the facility is located is zoned commercial and industrial. Right next door is the Encina Power Station, a natural gas power station, and while that first may sound innocuous, it actually has been a boon for the desalination plant. The Encina Power Station pumps 600 million gal of seawater per day into its facility for cooling purposes. After the plant treats the water used for cooling, it sends that water to the Carlsbad facility.

"After they use that water for cooling, we bring 100 million gal of that water up the hill to our plant. We turn half into fresh drinking water, and the other half has double the salt content and it goes back down the hill and it is blended with the water leaving the power plant," Jones said. "So we disperse our salts that way, and then send them back out into the ocean."

While the co-location has been a bonus for both facilities, the Encina Power Station, originally constructed in 1954, is being decommissioned. A modern, air-cooled plant is planned to take its place on the backside of the power station property. As such, Poseidon Water is preparing for the day when it needs to pump its own source water for that discharge purpose with an additional pump station permit.



1. Sand pretreatment

- 2. Micronic pretreatment
- 3. Reverse osmosis
- 4. Post treatment:
- Limestone chips (25% desalinated water)
 Disinfection
- Flouridation
- 5. Energy recovery and brine discharge for non-desalinated water
- 6. Storage in product water tank
- 7. Delivery through pipeline

Download the Blippar app, open it and hover your phone over this page for more photos of this plant, courtesy of Poseidon Water.

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freshwater sources and delivered to customers." Mauter said. "That technology for wastewater reuse already exists. The technology for sea water desalination already exists."

Infrastructure investments are known for costly upfront capital expenses. Mauter said public policies can drive creative financing models to overcome the economic hurdles. Israel has wastewater reuse and sea water desalination plants in place, and to get the necessary investments, the plants guarantee a certain amount of water to investors.

When assessing the options for financing these large-scale projects, Mauter said the cost, resilience and sustainability of the project must all be measured by investors. While there may be a sweet spot where a project can hit all three, more often those factors are at odds with one another

"There are trade offs between those water efficiency investments. If you want it to be resilient and make sure you never run out of water, you're probably going to invest in seawater desalination. And if you want it to be sustainable, which is to say, not very energy intensive, you want it to not have a lot of air emission externalities associated with running seawater RO plants, for instance, that would draw down the aquifers and make those



three objectives," Mauter said. "If you want it to be groundwater resources not available in the future. the energy input or improving efficiency of recovery low cost, you're going to rely much more heavily on You are going to have to look at a strategy that pur- and disposal sues sustainability tradeoffs."

Looking Beyond Desalination

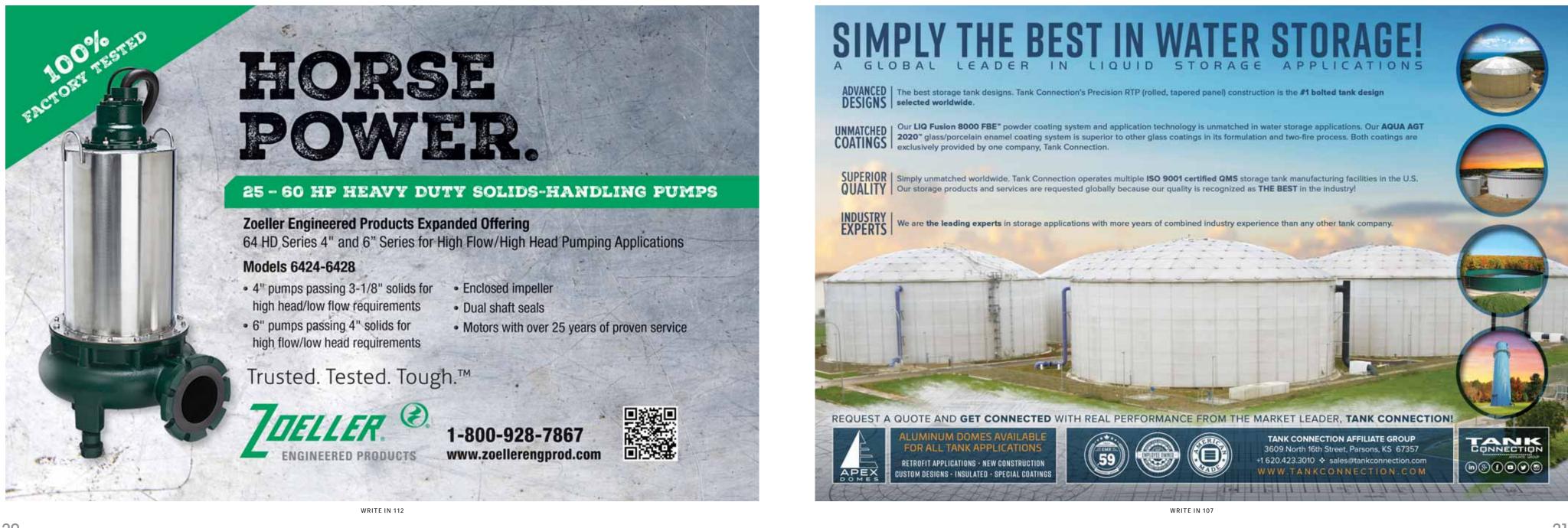
In addition to desalination construction, Cape Town has implemented emergency water policies similar to California. Residents are allotted 50 liters per day and the city has worked with private entities or unsustainable groundwater withdrawal practices to reduce water consumption, as well. Mauter said these are effective tools.

"Certainly, the technology for water conservation, whether that's mandating low flush toilets or whether that's constraining the days in which you are using water or are allowed to use water for certain activities, that is a source," Mauter said. "Right now, that is the extra source they are trying to tap, but given these uncertain climate futures and variability, that source isn't enough to ensure resiliency of their water supply."

Membrane-based reverse osmosis systems using high pressure to push water across the membrane are the standard option for treatment, Mauter said. High purity water in this system is found on the permeate side and a brine concentration can be found on the other. Because it uses such high pressure pumps, electricity consumption and its cost are a barrier to the technology's use. Mauter said she and her colleagues have been looking at ways to improve efficiencies in this regard, particularly by changing

"If you have the reject from a seawater RO plant or the reject from a brackish groundwater plant, then you would need to concentrate that brine if you weren't near the coast," Mauter said.

"There may be brackish groundwater sources that would be less costly to treat than seawater. Then you have questions about brine disposal and high recovery. So we look for new technologies that would look for higher recovery and lower energy



brine disposal."

Charl Myburgh, managing director of Tydan Control Valve and Singer Valve sales representative for South Africa, said other small efficiencies could also add up, especially by finding, fixing and reducing leakage rates.

"The easiest, most cost effective way to do this is through advanced pressure management," Myburgh said. "Pressure management is a scope of work that can be implemented under the wider water demand management strategy. With leakage figures ranging from 22% to 40% of total unaccounted water, pressure management can have an immediate impact on water savings by reducing leakage."

Options for this approach include dual stage pressure reducing valves also known as smart pressure reducing valves. Advancements in valves-like the single rolling diaphragm and anti-cavitation trim-could be put to use in Cape Town and other water scarce regions to reduce unaccounted water loss and save water

Whatever the solutions needed to stave off Cape Town's Day Zero, the industry is getting an education on true water scarcity and how projects big and small can affect a grander solution. "It's obviously an awful thing for Cape Town to go through, but the worse thing would be not to learn from it," Symmonds said.

Bob Crossen is managing editor for WWD. Crossen can be reached at bcrossen@sgcmail.com.

VALVE VITALITY

The city of Cape Town, South Africa, has identified 25 pressure management zones throughout the city that could benefit from dual-stage pressure-reducing valves or smart pressure valves. These valves adapt to changes per second, and a 1,000-mm pressure-reducin pressure as the system is put into use. ing valve requires only 0.6 lilters per second," Charl Myburgh, managing director of Tydan Control Valve and Singer Valves sales representative for South Africa, said implementing these ite fizzy cold drink per second to operate." valves could result in noticeable savings within 24 hours.

able to reduce the standard fixed outlet presdemand, such as during the evening between the hours of 22:00 and 04:00 without affecting

25 identified pressure management zones, pressure management is a great option to real-Myburgh said savings are estimated at around ize those savings quickly. And when the general 12 million liters per day, a competitive figure populace also buys into the idea, the results can to the estimated 18 million liters per day from be even greater. desalination plants under construction.

the likelihood of savings, particularly single roll- of a water conservation strategy and how water ing diaphragms (SRD) and anti-cavitation trim impacts the greater economy," Myburgh said. (AC trim). SRD provides additional stability under "One only has to ask the question: How expenlow-flow conditions, and AC trim can dissipate sive is water if you don't have it?"

an inlet pressure from as high as 20.7 bar to as low as atmospheric pressure.

"If we consider a range of valve sizes, a 200mm pressure-reducing valve requires a minimum flow rate of only 0.1 liter per second, a 600-mm pressure-reducing valve requires only 0.2 liters Myburgh said. "A 1,000-mm SRD pressure-reducing valve needs less than two cans of your favor-

When identifying zones for this kind of work, Myburgh said they should be discreet-other-"The dual-stage pressure-reducing valve is wise they become cumbersome to operate. Career municipal employees are vital in this sure to a lower outlet pressure at times of low case, as they hold institutional knowledge even the best modeling software or hydraulic engineer could not prepare for or find. Pairing that service delivery to the consumer," Myburgh said. legacy knowledge with newer technology can By installing these kinds of valves in the yield large water savings, and Myburgh said

"Emphasis should be placed on educating Advancements in valve design have increased communities on pressure management as part