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The Need for a Comprehensive Management Plan of the Water Resources in Kuwait: A Prelude for Continued Prosperity

Kuwait is located in an arid region and is, therefore, characterized by scarce natural water resources and extremely hot weather conditions. The population growth coupled with the change in the lifestyle led to a significant increase in water consumption patterns. This, in turn, necessitated that the Kuwaiti government pursue a rigorous plan to efficiently manage the available water resources to meet the increasing demand on water. Since the available water resources of the country can not match the increase in water demand on the long run, exploring alternative sources of readily usable fresh and brackish water became one of the corner stones of the water management plan of Kuwait. The only natural source of water in Kuwait (groundwater) is being uncontrollably exploited resulting in irreversible detrimental effects in terms of groundwater levels and quality. Alternative techniques such as artificial groundwater recharge are also being investigated to secure the much needed water for the various consumption slices of the country. Wastewater can also play an important role in meeting the increasing water demand in the country, particularly in the agricultural and industrial sectors since it is the only renewable source of water. The efficient implementation of a comprehensive water management plan requires generating public awareness of the negative consequences of irrational water usage on the prosperity and welfare of the citizens. The implementation of this plan may also require a serious revision of the water tariff system currently in place in Kuwait.

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