MoST SCIENTIFIC MEETING Monitoring Sea-water intrusion in coastal aquifers and Testing pilot projects for its mitigation

WHEN: 11 October 2021

WHERE: IDROVORA CA' BIANCA, CHIOGGIA, VENEZIA

Management and modelling of the water table in the Ca' Pasqua pilot site

Andrea Artuso, Anna Botto, Matteo Camporese, Giada Castagna, Lorenzo Frison e Paolo Salandin

with the contribution of all the Italian partners (DICEA and DAFNAE, University of Padova, CNR-IGG, Regione Veneto, and Consorzio di Bonifica Adige Euganeo)



Outline of the presentation

- Case study presentation
- Research questions
- •The management of the Ca' Pasqua pilot site
- •The numerical modeling of the Ca' Pasqua pilot site updates















Case Study and Research question

- Saltwater intrudes inland for 20 km from the coastline
- Depth of fresh-saltwater interface varies from 2 to 30 meters below the ground surface.

Brenta-Bacchiglione





An *apriori* proper estimation of the water table dynamics of the pilot site is essential to mimic saltwater intrusion and to assess properly the effectiveness the fresh-water mitigation countermeasures (the drain)















The management of the Ca' Pasqua pilot sitehydraulic scheme





The management of the Ca' Pasqua pilot site-«Casetta» hydraulic basin



The management of the Ca' Pasqua pilot site-«Casetta» pumping station





The management of the Ca' Pasqua pilot site-«Casetta» operating levels





The management of the Ca' Pasqua pilot site-«Trezze» operating levels

TREZZE



The management of the Ca' Pasqua pilot site-Intake strucuture levels



Canal Morto river water level 10,25 m Pipe intake level 9,65 m



Outflow level 8,35 m Pipe out take level 8,16 m

A PEAD pipeline starts from the intake structure for a length of about 35 m and crosses the embankment, in order to bring the fresh water of the canal to the neighboring countryside.







The management of the Ca' Pasqua pilot site-Water levels scheme



REALIZED INTAKE STRUCTURE







Finished construction of the intake work from the Canal Morto.

In the intake work there are two stainless steel guillotine gate valves placed at different heights in order to derive the most suitable water both in terms of flow rate and concentration of salinity.



LAYING THE DRAIN FOR SUB IRRIGATION

For a length of 220 m, a 160 mm diameter drain pipe will have to fill an existing paleo riverbed using the water taken from the Morto channel.



European Regional Development Fund

LAYING THE DRAIN FOR SUB IRRIGATION

At the beginning of the drain pipe, two wells contain operating devices and a flow meter. A data logger has been purchased and it is soon to be installed.



Numerical modeling of the pilot site

Topography and Stratigraphy updating



European Regional Development Fund

• Definition of the **bathymetry** (RAS mapper in HEC-RAS) with PAI 2000 sections and integration with the **inland interpolated DEM**.



Numerical modeling of the pilot site

Topography and Stratigraphy updating





- Definition of the **bathymetry** (RAS mapper in HEC-RAS) with PAI 2000 sections and integration with the **inland interpolated DEM**.
- Stratigraphycal models: information.

new boreholes

Italy - Croatia MOST











Numerical modeling of the pilot site Building up a physical and a finite difference numerical model

- Definition of the main materials (tradeoffs): silt, medium sand, coarse sand silty clay (caranto is considered an impermeable layer)
- Further material have been added for specific purposes – levees and rivers conductivity

Mesh type: finite difference cell centered 400*72*15 N° nodes: 468368 N° cells: 432000 X length=444.73 m; Y length=1289.57 m; Z length= 22.96 m

Vertical element dimension > 1 m





- 4.8 - 3.6 - 2.4 - 1.2 - 8.8817842e-016 - 1.2 - -2.4 - 3.6 - 4.8 - 6.0



Numerical modeling of the pilot site Forcings actions updates



min

CONSORZIO DI BONIFICA

ADIGE FUGANED

Council of Italy

REGIONE DELVENETO

- Lagoon level light blue
- Brenta and Bacchiglione river levels red HEC-RAS model
- Net recharge green, contribution of the potential and corrected Evapotranspiration
- Trezza levels=Canal morto black
- Casetta levels= ditch network and guard ditches
- Measurements -magenta





Numerical modeling of the pilot site Forcings actions: insights on Casetta and Trezze













REGIONE DEL VENETO





Numerical modeling of the pilot site Boundary conditions: new developments



• **Lagoon =** daily resolution HH=12:00 Type of boundary conditions: CHD, Dirichlet

- **Brenta =** HECRAS hydraulic models , daily resolution Type of boundary conditions: CHD, Dirichlet
- Bacchiglione = see HECRAS hydraulic model, daily resolutions
 Type of boundary conditions: CHD, Dirichlet

• **Canal Morto = TREZZE levels** Type of boundary conditions: CHD, Dirichlet

• Guard ditch 1 and 2 = CASETTA levels Type of boundary conditions: GHB, Neuman

• **Ditch network = CASETTA levels** Type of boundary conditions: **GHB**, **Neuman**













































Improvements on the water table DYNAMICS: possible strategies

- VADOSE ZONE modelling (Brooks and Corey WRC)
- Better Characterization of the PARAMETERS → PEST inverse model















Conclusions

- Numerical modelling can be a useful tool to mimics the processes therein only if a proper knowledge of the physical characterization and dynamics is acquired.
- Water table analysis is a preliminary essential step to improve the definition of the saltwater intrusion phenomenon.
- The pilot site is characterized by a **complex equilibrium** of water levels for **reclamation and irrigation** purposes depending on the season.
- Preliminary water table modelling results show a **good connection** between simulations and filed measurements.
- Conductivity parameters may play a role (PEST analysis) as well as the modelling of the vadose zone.







