



Board of Supervisors Memorandum



MAYOR & COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

January 12, 2010

**City/County Water and Wastewater Study Final Report Presentation
and Request for Adoption of Resolution**

The City/County Water and Wastewater Study, Phases I and II, is now complete and a joint meeting of the Mayor and Council and Board of Supervisors has been scheduled to present the Phase II Report and request adoption of a joint resolution endorsing the report recommendations. The Phase II Report is being transmitted with this memorandum, and the report, along with the appendices, is available on the study website (www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com).

Background

In February 2008, the Mayor and Council and Board of Supervisors approved a scope of work for a joint Water Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study. The purpose of the Study was to improve City/County collaboration on water and wastewater issues and to define and plan for a sustainable water future for the region. The scope set forth a five-phase scope of work, with a City/County effort initiating the process. To provide independent review and oversight of staff work, the Council and Board appointed a Joint City/County Oversight Committee (Committee), consisting of four members each from the Citizens Water Advisory Committee and the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Oversight Committee and two members each from the jurisdictions' Planning and Zoning Commissions, for a total of 12 members. At the explicit direction of the Council and the Board, staff and the Committee implemented a broad-based public process for engaging the community in Phases I and II. Detailed documentation of the entire Study and public process is available on the study website (www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com).

Phase I was completed in April 2009 with both governing bodies endorsing the Phase I Report. The goal of Phase I was to assemble basic information on City and County water and wastewater systems and resources and to identify the elements that must be addressed as part of water sustainability. A key outcome from Phase I was improved cooperation and fact sharing between the two largest water utilities in the region, a necessary basic foundation in moving toward a sustainable water future.

Key findings from Phase I included:

- Our water and wastewater systems are generally reliable, well maintained and newer than those found in many other cities. However, these systems are aging, and both water and wastewater rates will need to increase in the future to fund the rehabilitation of our systems and to meet increasingly stringent water and wastewater quality standards.
- Due to past investments in acquiring and delivering Central Arizona Water Project (CAP) water, Tucson Water has a reliable and renewable water supply that can meet the needs of current residents and provide for a significant amount of growth (approximately 360,000 additional customers).
- Faced with a variety of uncertainties, we need to be prudent with our water resources. Global warming, climate change, and long-term drought could affect local water demand, rainfall amounts and future flows of the Colorado River.
- Any expansion of the Tucson Water service area must be done thoughtfully and with deliberation. The recent past shows that demand-based service expansion is not sustainable or prudent. Planning for and directing growth to areas where it is most appropriate should guide future water service decisions.
- Additional water resources will likely be needed in the future and the time to plan for this is now. Obtaining new water resources, which will be more expensive than what we are familiar with today, will require regional cooperation.
- Sustainability requires that we think more broadly about water resource management, beyond just clean, safe water for people, to considering environmental and economic needs for water and allocating water for these purposes.

Phase II Highlights

Phase II began immediately following Phase I in the spring of 2009. The scope of work for Phase II called for the City and County to reach agreement on a set of water resource development and conservation goals, including:

- Agreement on population growth, water, urban form, land use planning and infrastructure.
- Integration of land use planning with water resources and infrastructure.
- Increasing the use of reclaimed or recycled water on turf irrigation to substitute for groundwater use.
- Develop renewable water sources for the City/County area.
- Develop a consolidated drought management plan.
- Implement consistent water conservation standards.
- Respect for the environment.

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Fourteen technical papers were prepared by staff and outside parties during Phase II on these topics. All technical papers are posted to the study website as part of the Phase II Report Appendix. The technical papers were presented at Committee meetings for review and comment by Committee members and the public. The Phase II report being transmitted today is a synthesis of the technical paper findings along with Committee and public input on these topics.

The Phase II Report includes perspectives from both City and County staff and the Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee portion of the report addresses the following:

- The need for a new paradigm in water planning
- Defining sustainability
- Addressing uncertainty
- Principles intrinsic to achieving water sustainability
- Recommendations for future phases
- Individual Committee member statements

The staff portion of the report sets forth 19 City/County shared goals and 56 recommendations organized around four critical aspects of water sustainability:

- Comprehensive, integrated planning
- Respect for the environment
- Water supply
- Demand management

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Mayor and Council and Board of Supervisors adopt the attached joint Resolution endorsing the City/County Water and Wastewater Study Phase II Report and direct staff to begin implementation of the recommendations as outlined in the report and listed in the implementation matrix attached to the Resolution.

Next Steps

Following adoption of the Resolution presented for Mayor and Council and Board of Supervisors consideration today, City and County staff will proceed with the implementation of the goals and recommendations assigned to City and County staff as outlined in the report and listed in the implementation matrix attached to the Resolution. Staff will prepare more detailed action plans associated with each recommendation and will establish a process for providing regular updates to the City Council and Board of Supervisors, as well as the four Citizen Oversight Committees (Regional Wastewater

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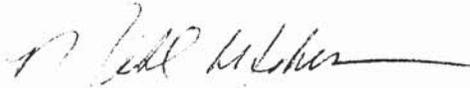
Reclamation Advisory Committee, the Citizen's Water Advisory Committee, Pima County Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Planning Commission) to monitor progress on Phase II implementation and provide a venue for public participation.

The majority of the recommendations that resulted from Phase II of the Study require implementation by the City and County; however, some issues need to be addressed at a regional level. These regional items are identified in the implementation matrix attached to the Resolution. Staff proposes that Pima Association of Governments (PAG) convene an expanded, regional water and wastewater study process (described as Phases III – V in the original scope of work), that would include all PAG member jurisdictions, all regional water and wastewater providers, and other stakeholder organizations such as the Southern Arizona Water Users Association, the Tucson Regional Water Coalition, the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, and others, as well as interested members of the general public.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism, commitment, and tremendous effort put forth by members of the Citizen Oversight Committee, City and County staff, and members of the public who for almost two years worked diligently and tirelessly to complete this Study. This combined jurisdictional, staff, committee, and public effort is unprecedented in our history.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Letcher
Tucson City Manager



C.H. Huckelberry
Pima County Administrator

Attachments