



MEMORANDUM

Planning & Development
Regional Flood Control District



DATE: April 7, 2010

TO: Economic Funding and Incentives Working Group
of Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability

FROM: Evan Canfield HEC
Chief Hydrologist

SUBJECT: Gray water regulation in Arizona

Background:

At the March 1 meeting of the working group, I agreed to gather information on regulation of Gray Water use in Arizona.

Summary from Arizona Statutes:

Definition

R018-9-701 .4 Gray water Definition: 'Gray Water' means wastewater collected separately from a sewer flow that originates from a clothes washer, bathtub, shower and sink but does not include wastewater from a kitchen sink, dishwasher or toilet.

Gray Water Use Permits

R18-9-711 Type 1 Reclaimed Water General Permit For Gray Water – for residential direct use of gray water for flows less than 400 gallons per day, generally for use in irrigation. If used for citrus or nut trees, it can be discharged to the surface, otherwise, it should be discharged to the subsurface. No notice of intent, plan review or permit application requirement. (statute attached)

R18-9-719. Type 3 Reclaimed Water General Permit for Gray Water – for irrigation up to 3000 gallons a day. Notice of intent, plan review, and permit fee (currently \$1500) are required. Filtration of gray water may be required. The Type 3 permit may be used for non-residential application. (statute attached)

While the regulations allow individual towns, cities and counties to restrict the use of gray water, I did not find cases of further restriction.

Tax Credit

This credit is effective for taxable years from and after December 31, 2006. It ends before January 1, 2012. Therefore, the credit is available for tax years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. The credit is equal to the lesser of 25% of the cost of the system or \$1,000. (info attached). It can be used for both gray water and rainwater harvesting systems.

www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/reclaimed.html

Additional Regulation

City of Tucson Gray Water Ordinance – Requires single-family and duplex residences permitted after June 1, 2010 to be gray water ready with a stub-out for gray water (clothes water, lavatories, showers and bathtubs) for outside irrigation.

<http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/docs/graywaterord.pdf>

City of Tucson Commercial Rain Water Harvesting Ordinance – Requires half of the landscaping water for commercial properties be obtained via water harvesting. Includes requirement to establish a water budget and prepare a water harvesting plan.

<http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/docs/rainwaterord.pdf>