

CHAPTER FIVE

PLAN REVISIONS

Even with built-in flexibility, the Utility's drought plan will require occasional review and revision. Significant community investments in system reliability and use of renewable resources have enabled the Utility to maintain a robust water system that has demonstrated little impact from drought to date. Because of that, the Plan is based on best available information and judgment, rather than on actual drought impact experience.

Over time, if drought conditions persist or become more severe, the Plan will likely require adjustments. Climatological studies indicate there may be long-term changes in store for global weather patterns and there is general consensus in the scientific community that average temperatures are increasing in the Southwest. It is unclear how these changes may impact precipitation patterns over the long term. However, changes in weather patterns will make forecasting more difficult and thorough planning more important. To ensure that the Plan remains an effective management tool, Tucson Water's System Assessment Team will review the plan annually and recommend any necessary revisions or updates needed to meet the challenges of new or changing conditions.

Based on the relationships between well field and distribution system health, the annual review will also be useful to system planners and operations staff from a maintenance and infrastructure development standpoint. The System Assessment Team will consist of System Planning and Development, Water Resources Management, and Operations staff. The team will review the plan at the beginning of each water year (October) and provide the Water Director with any recommended changes by no later than December.

Minor updates to the Plan will be approved by the Water Director and be appended to the drought plan. However, if significant revisions or updates are recommended the drought plan will be formally revised with revisions approved by the Mayor and Council and forwarded to the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). The plan will be formally revised no less than every five years in accordance with ADWR requirements.