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CITY/COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER STUDY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**October 2, 2008
Meeting Summary**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Marcelino Flores called the October 2, 2008 meeting of the City/County Water and Wastewater Study Oversight Committee (Oversight Committee) to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Manning House, 450 W Paseo Redondo, Tucson, Arizona.

Members Present:

Rob Kulakofsky
Sean Sullivan
Vincent Vasquez
John Carlson
Marcelino Flores
Bonnie Poulos
Mark Stratton
James Watson
Bruce Gungle

Representing:

WMAC
City Planning Commission
CWAC
Wastewater Management Advisory Committee (WMAC)
WMAC
County P&Z Commission
WMAC
City Planning Commission
County Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission

Alternate Present:

Bob Cook

Representing:

County P&Z Commission

Members Absent:

Daniel Sullivan
Jim Barry, Chairman
Tina Lee

Representing:

CWAC
Citizens Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)
CWAC

City/County Staff Present:

Nicole Ewing Gavin, City Manager's Office
Sabrina Cotta, City Manager's Office
Sandy Elder, Tucson Water
Ralph Marra, Tucson Water
Dennis Rule, Tucson Water
Jeff Biggs, Tucson Water
Chris Avery Tucson Water
Michael McCasland, Tucson Water
Melaney Seacat, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
Nicole Fyffe, Pima County Administrator's Office

A quorum of the Committee was established.

2. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Marcelino Flores announced to the committee that Vail and Ray Water Companies had filled out the water resource worksheet. Vince Vasquez asked if it would be available online. Nicole Ewing Gavin answered that it will be. Mark Stratton announced that SAWAU was still working on it.

Approval of the September 24, 2008 meeting summary was passed by a voice vote of 9 to 0.

Melaney Seacat announced that she had given a presentation about the City/County Water and Wastewater Study Oversight Committee and that a power point was posted on the study website for use by committee members for any future presentations.

Marcelino Flores announced that Jeff Biggs had been newly appointed as the Director of Tucson Water. He reminded committee members that he had distributed a report on the Arizona Indian Affairs Land and Water Forum and that it was good for gaining a native perspective on land and water.

3. **PRESENTATION: WATER RESOURCE AVAILABILITY IN THE TUCSON ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA**

Sharon Megdal, the Director of the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) presented on water resource and population scenarios for the Tucson metropolitan area. The Power Point presentation is posted to the study website (tucsonpimawaterstudy.com).

Rob Kulakofsky asked about the use of assuming 165 GPCD or 150 GPCD. Sharon Megdal answered that they were just assumptions and 150 GPCD was more ambitious about conservation.

Bruce Gungle asked about the boundaries for the study. Sharon Megdal responded that certain numbers are only available for the AMA, some for the county and some for the metro area.

4. **PRESENTATION: TUCSON WATER 2050 PLAN UPDATE**

Chris Avery, the Interim Deputy Director of Tucson Water, presented the Tucson Water 2050 Plan Update including future scenarios for water resources and population. The Power Point presentation is posted to the study website (tucsonpimawaterstudy.com).

5. **Q&A WITH PRESENTERS**

Bonnie Poulos stated that Pinal County could be bigger than Pima County in 2025 and asked how their groundwater pumping might hydrologically affect the Tucson AMA. Chris Avery stated that it may have affects further north near the Pinal County line but that Tucson's ground water was located in such a way that it would not be impacted.

Sean Sullivan asked if the future water resource scenarios give consideration to effluent for riparian restoration projects. Chris Avery stated that the Conservation Effluent Pool water is set aside for this purpose. Sean Sullivan asked about what viable options there are for new water

sources. Chris Avery said that Tucson Water's portfolio of water was conservative and stated there was a difference between water readily available and 'magic water'.

Bruce Gungle asked what Tucson Water was basing population projections on. Chris Avery stated that Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) data from PAG was the common set of data that was used by both city and county and that TAZ data used the latest census data and projections where then made on how and where the population was expected to grow. Bruce Gungle expressed concern that population numbers and GPCD numbers could be inflated and that it is important to look at what sustainable pumping is, safe yield being too narrow a definition.

John Carlson stated that the committee was studying a bigger area and wondered about usage patterns for other water entities. Chris Avery responded that there are common elements between general water usage in Tucson and that Phase I was looking at Tucson Water and Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department service areas. John Carlson then asked about the cost of using Sharon Megdal to do scenario planning in Phase 2. Sharon Megdal stated that would be possible and that she works closely with Tucson Water.

Rob Kulakofsky asked if there is a possibility of reducing the obligated service area for Tucson Water or de-annexation. Chris Avery stated it was a fairly certain obligated area and there would most likely be no de-annexation. Rob Kulakofsky then questioned what affect grey water systems have on quantities of effluent. Chris Avery stated that there would be some decrease in effluent but it is not seen as significant at this point in the overall system.

Marcelino Flores questioned if there was a hydrological limit to how much CAP water can be used. Sharon Megdal responded that recharge and recovery is heavily regulated to monitor this.

Bonnie Poulos expressed concern that given the current economic situation, the community may not be able to afford to make the infrastructure improvements needed. Chris Avery stated that GPCD includes lost and unaccounted for water, some due to infrastructure problems.

Sharon Megdal asked about water supply security for the GRD. Chris Avery responded that the cost of GRD water in the future will likely increase.

Tres English asked for a definition of sustainable pumpage. Chris Avery stated that 4% incidental recharge is allowed.

Bob Cook asked if the downward trend in GPCD could be related to rate increases. Chris Avery stated that their price elasticity models have not shown this and that this is a trend across the West. Bob Cook then asked why the Phoenix demand curve flattens over time and if it was due to build-out. Chris Avery responded that Phoenix's service area is limited because they are surrounded by other jurisdictions. Bob Cook asked about the lost and unaccounted for number and how deferred maintenance may affect this. Chris Avery stated that it was fairly consistent over time and with other cities. Tucson Water is looking at cost effective maintenance that helps bring the lost number down such as meters that tend to dial down in favor of customers over time. Bob Cook then questioned if Tucson Water considered CAGR changing the rules when putting together the scenarios. Chris Avery replied no. Bob Cook then questioned if Tucson Water would recalibrate population projections after the 2010 census came out. Chris Avery responded after the new TAZ population data came out they would.

Tracy Williams asked if Painted Hills would get water. Chris Avery stated that the General Plan update would address policy on extending water service to sensitive lands.

Colette Altaffer raised several red flags: the 4.9 million gallons of water used in the wastewater system, CAGRDR obligations that can't be fulfilled, communities not meeting the Assured Water Supply rules, and Lake Mead and Lake Powell dams silting up. Chris Avery responded that we are working on replacing potable with reclaimed for sewer flushing. CAGRDR water costs will increase but they will find water. Silting would be a temporary situation that would be addressed. Penalties for lack of compliance with AWS are severe; ask Prescott Valley.

Cindy Brewer asked why she was not hearing more about the role of rainwater harvesting (such as Charles Cole's system) and was not hearing much about water conservation on a personal level. Chris Avery responded that rainwater harvesting is important and becoming more prominent but that the cost of a system like Charles Cole's is astronomically more expensive than the average person's water bill, so you will not see this on a large scale. Conservation will be the topic at next week's meeting.

6. **CALL TO THE AUDIENCE**

Tracy Williams stated she wants to see the Pima County sewer camera results and questioned Chris Avery's magic water. She also stated she hopes the committee is not leaning towards privatization or regionalization of water.

Tres English questioned future assumptions about demand and stated that we should look toward an increase in GPCD because there will be a need to grow more local food.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Marcelino Flores at 8:10 p.m.



**City/County Water & Wastewater Study Oversight
Committee Meeting- 10/2/2008 Attendees**

	Last Name	First Name	Organization
1	Altaffer	Colette	
2	Bowen	Sheila	Town of Sahuarita
3	Cloninger	Tim	U of A
4	Cordy	Gail	
5	Daw	Sarah	UA Water Sustainability Project
6	Dickerson	Dennis	
7	Elder	Sandy	Tucson Water
8	English	Tres	
9	Ester	Charles	SRP
10	Fabre	Julie	
11	Garcia	Margot	
12	Godlewski	David	SAHBA
13	Marikos	Mark	University of Arizona -- Facilities Management
14	Megdal	Sharon	U of A WRRD
15	Moxley	Monica	Town of Sahuarita
16	Pierce	Les	Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association
17	Rule	Dennis	Tucson Water
18	Scadron	Arlene	
19	Williams	Tracy	