



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE  
130 WEST CONGRESS, 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
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**CITY/COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER STUDY  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**October 8, 2008  
Meeting Summary**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jim Barry called the October 8, 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  
Daniel Sullivan  
Jim Barry, Chairman  
Tina Lee

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  
CWAC  
Citizens Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)  
CWAC

Alternate Present:

Bob Cook

Representing:

County P&Z Commission

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  
Eric Wieduwilt, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department  
Ed Curley, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department

A quorum of the Committee was established.

2. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Daniel Sullivan announced that tomorrow the Pima Association of Governments would be voting to amend the 208 Plan related to the ROMP and to Marana's interest in becoming a Designated Management Agency.

Nicole Ewing Gavin announced that there is an Urban Land Institute forum coming up December 3 about "Crafting Tomorrow's Built Environment" that may apply to the study.

Jim Barry asked the Committee about cancelling next week's meeting on account of the presidential debate. The meeting will go on as scheduled. Jim Barry reminded the committee about the sustainability meetings at the end of October and the need for speakers. Marcelino Flores said that his office and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs would possibly like to speak at the sustainability meetings.

Sean Sullivan requested an inventory of restoration projects, how much effluent is needed for them, and how much effluent is in the CEP.

3. **PRESENTATIONS: CITY/COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

Melaney Seacat provided an overview of Pima County's policies, regulations, projects and partnerships related to water conservation. The information can be viewed on the study website ([tucsonpimawaterstudy.com](http://tucsonpimawaterstudy.com)).

John Carlson asked about the legal grounds for enforcing the County water policy. Melaney Seacat responded that the Comprehensive Plan Amendment looks at several factors and the standards are still under development. John Carlson asked if the County had legal authority to deny a request. Melaney Seacat replied that it was a tool to provide information to the Board of Supervisors in decisionmaking.

Bonnie Poulos stated that the resolution that passed does not have concrete paths to follow. Melaney Seacat said she would have to defer to the experts. Bruce Gungle responded that the policy requires those looking to rezone to do studies to fill in data gaps, but did not prescribe decision making.

Dennis Rule, Strategic Planning Administrator, and Mitch Basefsky, Public Information Officer for Tucson Water, presented on Tucson Water's conservation programs and the water conservation planning process. The Power Point presentation is posted to the study website ([tucsonpimawaterstudy.com](http://tucsonpimawaterstudy.com)).

5. **Q&A WITH PRESENTERS**

John Carlson stated that the slope of the sewer line was not big enough in some areas to carry its capacity and questioned how close Tucson Water and Pima County wastewater work together on this issue. Mitch Basefsky stated that Tucson Water and Pima County are in discussions on this issue.

Bruce Gungle questioned why, if it was illegal for water to run off property commercial entities were allowed to power wash sidewalks (e.g. Main Gate area). Mitch Basefsky stated that power washing with high pressure, low flow devices was encouraged, but that power washing is allowed. The key to the water waste ordinance is that water must be used for its intended purpose (e.g. running in the street is not an intended purpose).

Marcelino Flores asked for a definition of non-essential use in relation to the Drought Response Plan. Mitch Basefsky replied the best way to define it was to define what it wasn't. Essential use is for public health, sanitary uses, cooking, drinking and evaporative coolers in the summer. Non-essential is everything else. Marcelino Flores questioned if there was an appeal process. Mitch Basefsky stated there was and if a person could demonstrate a public health issue with a riparian project that could be appropriate.

Jim Barry asked for a definition of essential outdoor uses. Mitch Basefsky gave firefighting and washing an oil slick off a public walkway as examples.

Marcelino Flores asked if during drought planning the reliability of CAP was considered due to the fact that Tucson was uphill and at the end of a line. Mitch Basefsky stated that Tucson Water pays attention to issues in the Colorado River basin and that its stages are driven by the Colorado River Water. Dennis Rule stated that regarding concerns over the operational reliability of the canal, those who run the canal have emergency plans in place. Most disruptions to service would require a short time until full delivery commenced again. Marcelino Flores questioned if CAP had water quality concerns. Mitch Basefsky replied that Tucson Water tests the water raw and after treatment through an EPA certified lab that is part of Tucson Water.

Bonnie Poulos asked if Tucson Water could provide a shopping list for homeowners of other high-tech water saving technology and equipment such as low flow shower heads and on-demand water heaters. Mitch Basefsky replied yes and that Tucson Water offers low flow shower heads, and that Tucson Water has good relationships with manufacturers and stores that sell these products but a lot are not cost effective for Tucson Water to offer. Tucson Water conducts a lot of analysis to estimate how much savings is likely from various conservation devices. If conservation affects water revenue, the utility first focuses on finding efficiencies, cutting back on programs, etc. Conservation is not a driver of rates. Bonnie Poulos asked about how Tucson Water deals with the issue of evaporation off the CAP canals. Dennis Rule responded that Tucson Water does not operate the canal and the canal itself is narrow, deep and quick moving and an estimated two to three percent evaporation loss is fairly minimal. A standing reservoir will see six to eight percent evaporation.

Tina Lee asked if ADWR mandates conservation as part of Sustainable Yield. Mitch Basefsky stated that they go back and forth in considering mandates and the latest iteration is a best practice suggestion, not mandate.

John Carlson requested a list of all the water conservation strategies considered by the Task Force. Mitch Basefsky stated they were online and would be provided in hard copy.

Sean Sullivan requested a diagram of the current rate structure. Mitch Basefsky said that he would get it to the committee. Sean Sullivan then asked about the timeline for implementing results of water audits. Mitch Basefsky responded that they are asked to implement them over time. However, during stage II of the drought management plan they must do it immediately. Sean Sullivan asked if there was an ordinance already passed for Mayor and Council to

enforce stage III drought requirements. Mitch Basefsky responded that it would need to be drafted and approved but that there would be a lag time of two to three years between stage II and stage III and there would be time to develop and pass an ordinance.

Daniel Sullivan stated that new conservation requirements have economic impacts and questioned what the response of the builders has been. Mitch Basefsky stated that on the conservation task force there was a broad range of interests represented.

Tracy Williams asked why the WASH ordinance and other water management strategies were not included in this discussion. Mitch Basefsky answered that Tucson Water does not manage the washes and stormwater. Tracy Williams then asked about the unintended consequences of less water in the sewer systems and about injecting potable water into the system. Dennis Rule answered that Tucson water is working towards developing reclaimed access points for water needed to wash out the sewer lines. Tracy Williams asked who to contact regarding a sink hole in the Feldman Neighborhood. Chris Avery responded that Tucson Water had taken care of it and would forward her the email.

Bob Cook stated that he hopes Tucson Water can profit from conservation and that rainwater harvesting is the lowest hanging fruit. He also stated that deferred maintenance was catching up with us and that the budget plan based on 2% growth may no longer hold as we move forward. He is encouraged by the thinking about the future.

6. **CALL TO THE AUDIENCE**

No comments made.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Jim Barry at 7:43 p.m.



**City/County Water & Wastewater Study Oversight  
Committee Meeting- 10/8/2008 Attendees**

|    | <b>Last Name</b> | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Organization</b>                   |
|----|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | Basefsky         | Mitch             | Tucson Water                          |
| 2  | Brooks           | Chris             |                                       |
| 3  | Cloninger        | Tim               | U of A                                |
| 4  | Cole             | Charles J.        |                                       |
| 5  | Curley           | Ed                | PCRWRD                                |
| 6  | Daw              | Sarah             | UA Water Sustainability Project       |
| 7  | Dickerson        | Dennis            |                                       |
| 8  | Elder            | Sandy             | Tucson Water                          |
| 9  | Ester            | Charles           | SRP                                   |
| 10 | Fabre            | Julie             |                                       |
| 11 | Freeman          | Nancy             |                                       |
| 12 | Freitas          | Chuck             |                                       |
| 13 | Garcia           | Margot            |                                       |
| 14 | Hudson           | Mac               | Ward 1                                |
| 15 | Lachowicz        | Holly             |                                       |
| 16 | Pierce           | Les               | Arroyo Chico Neighborhood Association |
| 17 | Proctor          | Ron               | Sustainable Tucson                    |
| 18 | Roe              | Alice             |                                       |
| 19 | Rule             | Dennis            | Tucson Water                          |
| 20 | Thomas           | John              | Tucson Water                          |
| 21 | Williams         | Tracy             |                                       |
| 22 | Zucker           | Claire            | PAG                                   |