



**Working Document from September 22, 2011 Meeting**

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*On September 22, 2011, the Plan Tucson Team held a Water Policy Working Group meeting to review goal concepts for the Water Element contributed by participants at the August 19 Environmental Integrity Focus Area meeting. For the September meeting, each goal concept was provided on a separate card, and participants worked as one group, discussing each goal concept and deciding whether it was a major goal or a sub-goal. Once the goal concepts were arranged to reflect the group's decisions, participants were given an opportunity to add goals or sub-goals.*

*The first part of this document reflects the results of this group exercise, while the second part provides a transcription of comments made during the discussion. It should be noted that the goal and sub-goal statements are neither exhaustive nor final. The Water goals will be further reviewed and refined as the Plan Tucson Policy Working Group process continues.*

*A separate Water Policy Working Group meeting will be held to review the policy concepts for Water that were provided at the August 19 Environmental Integrity Focus Area meeting.*

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**Suggested Water Goals, Sub-Goals and Possible Policies:**

*(Note: In some case, participants questioned whether a goal concept was really more a policy concept. This will be revisited in future meetings regarding Water.)*

- 1) Analyze economic impacts and ensure financial stability:
  - Analyze economic impact of future water uses
  - Identify sufficient financial resources to support water goals
  - Protect basic water access for all residents, regardless of financial resources
  - Maintain financial stability of Tucson Water for water supply and system reliability
  - Leverage existing analysis completed by City of Tucson and regional entities as a cost effective approach to policy development
  
- 2) Support water conservation education for the public:
  - Integrate information about rainwater harvesting, stormwater pollution control and erosion into conservation messages
  - Educate the public on the water situation in the Tucson area
  - Connect the public in a personal way to water
  
- 3) Manage Tucson's water supply efficiently:
  - Promote rainwater harvesting at the individual and governmental levels
  - Support installation of grey water systems
  - Make greater use of renewal resources
  - Revise development codes to allow for more water harvesting off parking lots
  - Maintain a diverse water supply portfolio

- 4) Balance human and environmental water needs:
  - Dedicate a water supply for urban landscapes in perpetuity
  - Dedicate a water supply for riparian restoration and preservation and consider existing riparian habitat when designing pumping strategy
  - Provide sufficient water to ensure local secure food supply and sustainable local economy.
  - Ensure that water is available to maintain quality of life in the face of rising temperatures and declining rainfall due to climate change
  - Reduce dependence on groundwater, especially in sensitive areas
  - Allow recreational activities in areas preserved for watershed management and natural resource preservation
  
- 5) Restore aquifer for ecosystem and human health:
  - Recharge groundwater
  - Expand protection of rural open space to protect groundwater recharge potential
  - Consider aquifer health when choosing how to expand service areas
  - Prevent subsidence
  - Remove unnecessary hardscape to promote groundwater recharge
  
- 6) Permanently protect and manage water quality:
  - Ensure safe drinking water

**Possible Guiding Principles or Higher Level Goals:**

- 1) Develop a regional plan for supply of water that connects providing water to sewer services.
- 2) Align water policy with climate change mitigation and adaption goals.
- 3) Determine priorities for water use and consumption
- 4) Re-establish reliability and sustainability of water supply

**General Comments from Meeting:**

*(Note: Transcribed from flip chart notes taken during meeting discussion.)*

- This is an iterative process.
- Goals should accommodate different sectors' needs.
- Need to maintain sustainability
- Everybody has an idea of what water should be used for

- Use common language for policies; consistent with Water/Wastewater Study: “Clumps” in water/wastewater = buckets of similar policies. There are 4 now. Need to align with Water/Wastewater study
- Include importance of secure food supply and relationship to nature
- Relocalization of people/economy
- Stress relationship of water to people
- Is this about basic water policy or does it take into account social and other aspects?
- On a trajectory/continuum – complex
- If you have a limited quantity of water, we’re going to have to prioritize
- Water demands on the decline – using more recycled water
- Withdrawals exceeded groundwater quantity during WWII
- The City’s General Plan in pretty good shape regarding water; water sustainability is a bigger problem regionally – Udall Report
- Combine storage/quantity and quality of groundwater system
- High energy use for current methods of supplying water
- Discussion about Tucson Water’s financial health/stability; manage utilities so they are reliable and affordable
- City provides water / county provides sewer in some places. Other places often have some provider
- Regional approach – people look at other places
- Subsidence is an issue