



CITY OF  
TUCSON



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## NEWS RELEASE

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**Date:** February 9, 2012  
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### CITY OF TUCSON AND TOWN OF ORO VALLEY TO DEDICATE WATER FACILITY

On Friday, February 10, the Mayors of the City of Tucson and the Town of Oro Valley will dedicate new facilities designed to increase the use of renewable Central Arizona Project (CAP) water. The facility was designed to implement an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) signed in June 2011 by the Tucson Mayor and Council and Oro Valley Town Council that increases the amount of CAP water being used in the region. Under terms of the IGA, the Town of Oro Valley will pay the City of Tucson to utilize Tucson Water facilities to recharge and recover CAP water in the Avra Valley. Extracted water will be delivered using Tucson Water pipelines to an interconnection located at the Tucson Water Naranja Reservoir, located in northwest Tucson.

“This agreement is another historic step for the region, as it demonstrates that local jurisdictions are able to resolve critical issues” stated Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild. According to Mayor Rothschild, it is good for the environment, as up to 4,000 acre feet of groundwater will no longer be pumped from the regional aquifer. The agreement also provides opportunities for economic development, as it establishes a model by which renewable supplies can be delivered to locations outside of the Tucson Water service area via existing infrastructure. The use of Tucson Water infrastructure to move wholesale volumes of water, a practice known as “wheeling,” allows other local jurisdictions to use renewable supplies without having to make the significant investments in infrastructure that would be otherwise needed. A similar wheeling agreement has been made with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and other water utilities have expressed interest in doing so as well.

Sandy Elder, Interim Tucson Water Director, stated that this project is an outcome of the extensive public process that took place as part of the City/County Water and Wastewater Study and moves the region toward a more sustainable water future. “Tucson Water is committed to long-term water reliability. However, water reliability is not just about developing new sources of water, but also developing and maintaining the infrastructure needed to distribute the water supplies.”

The dedication ceremony will take place on Friday, February 10, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Naranja Reservoir, 11330 North Vista del Sol.

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