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## NEWS RELEASE

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**Date:** July 18, 2012  
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### **Tucson Water Breaks Ground on Advanced Oxidation Process Facility**

Tucson Water officials and special guests broke ground this morning on an Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) water treatment facility. The new facility will remove 1,4-dioxane from the groundwater in the Tucson Airport Remediation Project (TARP) well field in southwest Tucson. The AOP treatment facility will cost approximately \$15 million to construct and will be a part of the TARP facility near Irvington Road west of I-19. Completion of the new facility is expected by fall 2013. The cost to construct the AOP facility is included in Tucson Water's long range capital plan.

New Tucson Water Director Alan Forrest hosted the groundbreaking ceremony, which included Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, City Council Member Richard Fimbres (Ward 5), Tucson City Manager, Richard Miranda, and Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias (District 5).

"This facility is an important investment in our community's water quality and reliability," said Mayor Rothschild. "Tucson Water's commitment to customers to make sure we have enough quality water for today and the future is a strategic approach that we fully support."

1,4-Dioxane was used as a stabilizer in industrial solvents in aircraft manufacturing facilities from the 1940s to the 1970s and has been found in groundwater at the TARP well field. The TARP facility has been in operation since 1994, and was designed to remove another compound, Trichloroethylene (TCE). The TARP facility was not designed to remove 1,4-dioxane. The 4500 square-foot AOP Facility will be constructed adjacent to the TARP Plant.



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AOP is a cost effective and leading technology that combines hydrogen peroxide with ultraviolet (UV) light to create a strong oxidant that removes 1,4-dioxane and other contaminants from water. Using the new AOP treatment facility and the existing TARP treatment plant, Tucson Water will purify 8 million gallons of water daily.

The AOP treatment facility is a pro-active approach on behalf of the City of Tucson and Tucson Water to respond to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health advisory levels. The EPA does not currently regulate 1,4-dioxane but does issue advisories as guidelines for water utilities. In January, 2011, the EPA issued a new drinking water health advisory for 1,4-dioxane of 0.35 parts per billion –significantly lower than the most recent advisory level of 3 parts per billion. Tucson Water Director Forrest pointed out that the water produced now from the TARP facility meets all federal drinking water standards and is safe for drinking, cooking, and bathing. However, the current method of blending water from uncontaminated sources with water from the TARP plant is not sustainable over the long term, thus the need for the new AOP facility. Tucson Water regularly takes samples at a number of sites in the area where water from the TARP facility is delivered to ensure complete safety.

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