



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 1, 2011**

**Contact: Fernando Molina**

**Office: 520-837-2185**

**Cell: 520-349-0982**

### **Reclaimed Water Line Failure Analysis**

Tucson Water released the findings of an investigation into the failure of a 36” reclaimed water line on April 19, 2011. The report was based on an internal investigation conducted by Tucson Water, and an external review conducted by consultant CH2M Hill.

The line failure was the result of several actions taken by Tucson Water. The primary reason for damage was due to areas of the waterline left uncovered while undergoing a pressure testing inspection. Pressure from the reclaimed water used to fill the line for testing allowed the uncovered areas of pipe to move, resulting in pipeline separation. The investigation also revealed that during the course of conducting the pressure test, the reclaimed water line was filled at a rate greater than the industry standard. Costs related to the repair are estimated to be approximately \$312,000.

The report also provides a series of recommendations to reduce the risk of this type of failure in future pressure testing of pipelines. One is to develop a plan for backfilling excavations for large diameter pipelines prior to pressure testing.

Tucson Water is committed to the continued and future use of reclaimed or recycled water to offset its total water demand for the community.

The report is [available online](#) on the Tucson Water website.

###