



Issues and Concerns

The Water Connection - February 1995

The Water Connection is a new monthly newsletter from Tucson Water which is designed to keep you up to date about what's going on at your water department. You'll read lots of good news here as we move to change the way things have been done in the past. You'll also read some bad news here from time to time, because I believe that the people of Tucson should know what's going on at their water department. You'll also find information on studies, options, and improvements at Tucson Water and what they mean to you. I believe we should all work together to solve our water issues.

Kent McClain, Director, Tucson Water

Making Progress:

Progress on the Reclaimed Water Program Saves Groundwater

In 1994 Tucson Water delivered 2.06 billion gallons of reclaimed water to parks, golf courses, and schools yards in Tucson, directly saving the same number of gallons in precious groundwater.

The May, 1994 City Bond Election gave Tucson Water \$33 million to expand this important system, and progress is underway on that project now. Tucson Water's goal is to construct the pipelines and reservoirs to deliver reclaimed water to the Northwest part of the City by the spring of 1996 and to the south-central city by that summer. Currently, 70 miles of reclaimed water pipelines exist, separate, of course from the City's potable water system.

As the project proceeds, reclaimed water will be used at Sunnyside Schools, the U of A, and on several new private golf courses, including Sabino Springs. More users will be added as the system is enlarged.

Additional potential users of reclaimed water will be identified by the Regional Effluent Utilization Plan, a joint City-County study that should be completed this spring.

What's Reclaimed Water?

Waste water from the homes and businesses of the Tucson Metropolitan area is treated by Pima County at three plants to create effluent. The County sells some effluent and discharges the rest into the Santa Cruz River. Tucson Water buys some of this effluent and treats it again to make it cleaner and create reclaimed water. Reclaimed water is used to water turf, grass, trees, etc. at parks, golf courses, and other public areas. Reclaimed water, obviously, does not meet federal drinking water standards, but is an excellent substitute for valuable groundwater for watering plants.

Things Have Changed At Your Water Department

There are some new faces at your water department and with those new faces have come new attitudes, new approaches to Tucson's water issues, and, as you will see, plenty of experience with providing customers with quality water.

Kent McClain, Director of Tucson Water...

was selected for the job in August, 1994. He has more than 30 years of experience in city government, management, and operations and was the Arizona cities representative to the group that helped develop Arizona's Groundwater Management Act of 1980. McClain has managed watershed acquisitions, well and water system construction, and treatment plants, directed planning for future water sources and water conservation programs, and overseen operations of both potable and reclaimed water systems. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

James Stump, Deputy Director of Tucson Water...

has been involved in water utility management for 15 years. He has had responsibility for water treatment and distribution systems, construction of water systems projects, developing water billing systems and water rate structures, and implementing utility budgets. Stump earned his masters degree in Public Administration at the University of Michigan.

Jennifer Gillaspe is Tucson Water's new Water Operations Administrator...

and was formerly an Assistant Operations Manager for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation where she was responsible for operations, maintenance, and repair of water systems including the Central Arizona Project. She serves on the Governor's Riparian Area Advisory Committee and holds a bachelor of science in geotechnical engineering from the University of Arizona.

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Source: City of Tucson, Water Department

Last Revision: November 26, 1997