



## Issues and Concerns

# The Water Connection - July 1995

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## Be Water Smart, Tucson! Conserve Water

The hotter it is, the more water Tucsonans use and our reservoir levels drop. The City of Tucson Water Department has information and programs on water conservation that will help you save water and lower your water bill. Watch for announcements in the newspaper about Water Smart workshops and for special programs about water conservation methods on local television news programs. The Water Department's Public Information Office has booklets and brochures available on subjects from coolers to xeriscaping. Call (520) 791-4331 for water conservation information.

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## Reclaimed Water Use Saves Groundwater

Reclaimed water is created by the City of Tucson Water Department by treating effluent. Reclaimed water, obviously, does not meet federal drinking water standards, but is an excellent substitute for valuable groundwater for watering parks, golf courses, and school yards in Tucson, directly saving the same number of gallons in precious groundwater. In 1994, the City of Tucson Water Department delivered 2.06 billion gallons of reclaimed water.

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## Tucson is Selling CAP Water To Farms

BKW Farms, near Marana, have traditionally pumped groundwater for all their crops. But today, the City of Tucson is selling thousands of acre feet of Central Arizona Project water to the Farms as part of a special Groundwater Savings Project agreement. This project allows the City to "bank" valuable groundwater credits. For every acre foot of groundwater not pumped by BKW, the City receives a stored water credit - the right to pump that acre foot of groundwater in the future. To date, the City has banked 2,000 acre feet of stored water credits through the agreement and expects to add another 5,000 by the end of 1995. An acre foot is approximately 325,000 gallons.

It's a good deal for BKW also because the CAP water is less expensive than pumping groundwater. BKW owners have commended the spirit of cooperation that has led to this agreement between the City of Tucson and the Farms.

Other similar projects with the Cortera Marana Irrigation District will give Tucson an additional 6,000 acre feet of stored water credits this year.

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## **Making Progress:**

### **Pima Mine Road Recharge Project**

The City of Tucson Water Department and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) are making progress on the surface recharge facility at Pima Mine Road south of Tucson. The recharge project will incorporate basin and in-channel recharge. The Water Department's hydrologists estimate up to 30,000 acre feet of CAP water could be recharged annually in shallow storage basins and in the Santa Cruz riverbed.

CAWCD is working on the project design which will include a two mile pipeline from the CAP canal terminus at I-19 and Pima Mine Road to the east side of the Santa Cruz River.

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## **Other City of Tucson Water Department recharge projects include:**

### **The Sweetwater Underground Storage and Recovery Facility**

In operation since 1988, this facility stores 6,500 acre feet of effluent each year for the reclaimed irrigation use system.

### **The Experimental Wetlands and Recharge Basin Project**

Wetlands are being designed to treat between 200 and 300 acre feet of backwash water from the Reclaimed Water Treatment Plant.

### **The Santa Cruz River Managed Underground Storage Facility**

stores 9,300 acre feet of effluent per year.