



ON THE WATER FRONT



This month is very important for two reasons. First, summer is here, a season when peak water use tops 150 million gallons a day. Tucson Water is spreading the word about water conservation, but as our water table drops, it is becoming more and more difficult for us to meet our customers' demand for water during the summer months.

Second, a partial solution to this water shortage and the environmental problems it brings has been developed and is being demonstrated in a Tucson neighborhood. In June, the Ambassador Neighborhoods Program begins in the Alandale neighborhood on Tucson's eastside. The neighbors on Alandale Place volunteered to use a blend of recharged Colorado River water and groundwater for 90 days this summer. They are helping us demonstrate that we can successfully combine these two water sources and deliver a blend that will be acceptable to all our water customers.

Please watch closely as our neighborhood ambassadors on Alandale use this new blended water. We hope to begin delivering water like this, blended naturally in the earth, to all customers in early 2001.

Also, please use your water wisely and try to conserve wherever you can.

If you need advice or assistance in conserving, call our Water Conservation Hotline at 791-4556.

David Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

Save Us From Water Waste!

The 1999 "Beat The Peak" campaign has begun. This summer, Tucson's favorite water conservation mascot, Pete the Beak, encourages Tucsonans to slash their water use by 10%. Because about 60% of the water we use during the summer months is used outdoors, the potential to save water is greatest in this area. Pete suggests limiting outdoor watering to when the humidity is highest – early in the day (in the wee hours of the morning) or late in the evening (under the stars). As desert dwellers, we all can learn more about drought tolerant plants and native vegetation from local nurseries.



Water wasters are the enemies of our community! Inside your home, Pete says you can save water and reduce your water bill by turning off the water while brushing your teeth and fixing leaks as soon as they appear. Make sure you do all you can to save us from water waste. It's the little things that will make the difference!

City of Tucson Employees are Working to Conserve Water

While Pete the Beak and the rest of Tucson Water are asking you, our customers, to conserve water this summer, City of Tucson employees are also working to use less water. A training program is underway to remind all City employees of the importance of water conservation and teach them the importance of conserving water not just at home but also at work. Tucson Water is also working with other City of Tucson departments to conduct water conservation audits of all City buildings and is making recommendations about how water can be conserved at these facilities.

***Ambassador Neighborhoods Program Update* Neighborhood Water Demonstration Project Begins On East Side**

demonstrate that Tucsonans can use a portion of our renewable Colorado River water resource without any of the problems some experienced with CAP water delivery in the early 1990s. The neighbors on Alandale will use this water for 90 days. A second neighborhood in central Tucson will then receive it for the same amount of time. All in all, four neighborhoods in Tucson will use this water before the project is complete in mid-2000. You can find more information at the Tucson Water web site (www.ci.tucson.az.us/water) or by calling 791-4331.

Coliform Bacteria Testing Results

March 1999

Click this box to see the graphic representation of the March 1999 Groundwater Quality Report. (When you are finished there, you will need to use your browser's BACK button to return to this page)

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

One part per million (ppm) is the same as one second of time in 11.6 days.

Why should bacteria count matter to me?

Millions of people around the world suffer from waterborne diseases caused by bacteria. This is rare in the United States, where most water utilities disinfect the water and monitor and test for microorganisms. Tucson Water adds a sufficient level of chlorine to keep the groundwater we use safe for drinking, cooking and bathing.

What's a coliform, anyway?

Coliforms are bacteria which are not harmful themselves but may indicate the presence of other, potentially harmful bacteria.

Why should the chlorine level in my water matter to me?

Chlorine kills bacteria and germs that can grow in drinking water and prevents waterborne disease. Chlorine is the most widely used water disinfectant in North America. Tucson Water continually tests water at more than 240 locations to make sure chlorine levels stay within the target range.

Groundwater Quality Report

March 1999

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (ppm)	Average	50	37	49	33	33	34	30	41	48	39	39
	Range	37-77	34-42	24-93	26-57	25-42	24-41	20-64	35-56	37-89	37-40	20-93
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average	376	269	347	218	230	242	226	332	283	216	269
	Range	184-539	246-292	188-626	149-311	163-299	188-289	159-296	246-484	211-545	198-225	149-626
Hardness (ppm)	Average	165	114	157	89	98	107	109	163	102	73	116
	Range	62-252	95-133	61-312	37-115	64-130	76-132	75-217	94-283	66-259	68-76	37-312
pH (units)	Average	7.8	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	8.0	7.9
	Range	7.3-8.3	7.8-8.3	7.2-8.4	7.6-8.8	7.1-8.3	7.1-8.2	7.3-8.2	7.3-8.1	7.3-8.2	7.8-8.3	7.1-8.8
Temperature (deg F)	Average	72	73	71	72	72	73	73	72	75	71	73
	Range	64-78	69-80	66-76	63-84	66-79	66-78	66-80	64-81	63-84	63-84	63-84

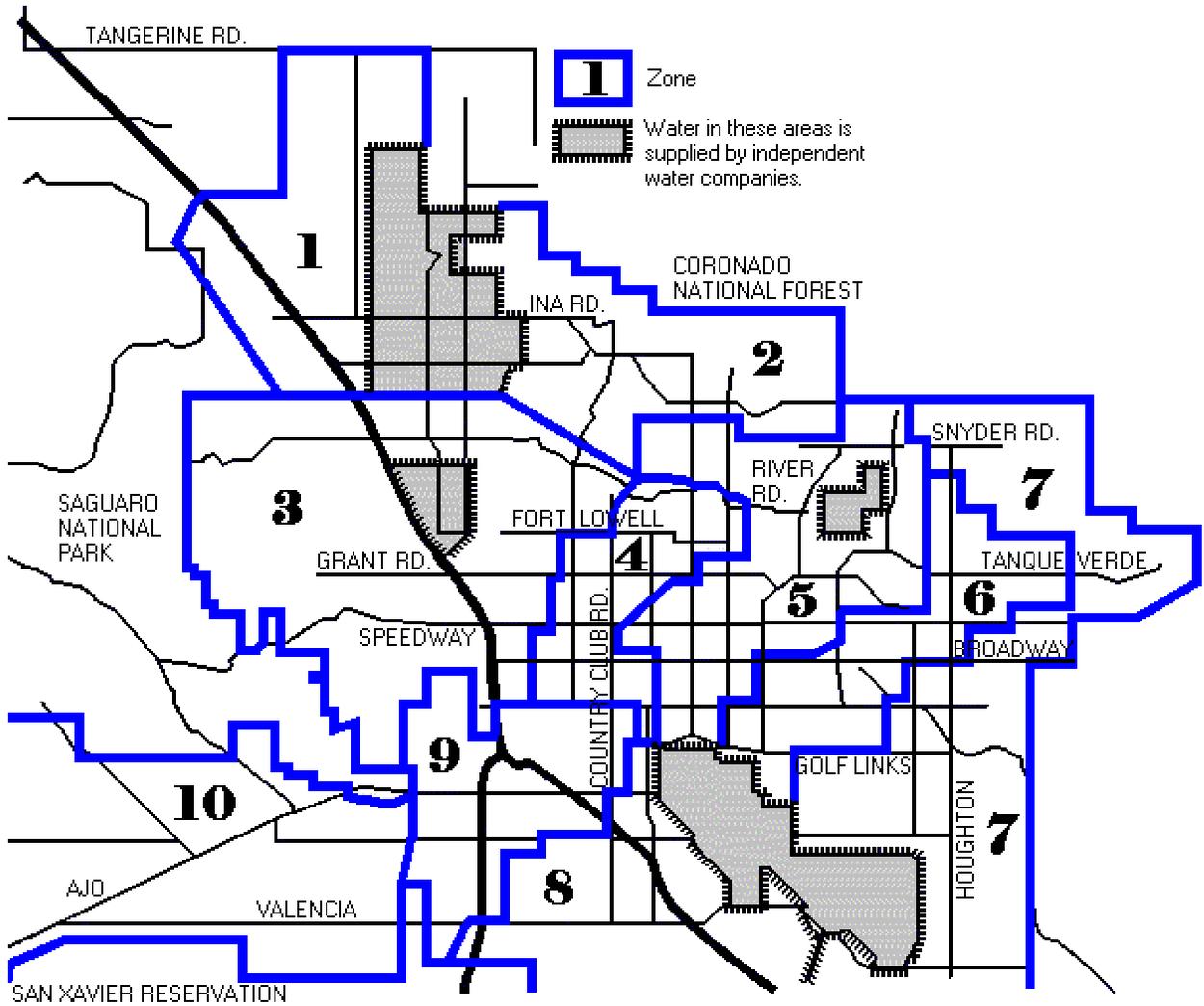
What does all this mean to me?

Sodium. The American Heart Association recommended standard for daily sodium intake is 3,000 milligrams. In general, the amount of sodium ingested from drinking water is a small part of a person's overall dietary intake. People on severely restricted sodium diets may want to consult their health care provider about sodium levels in their water.

Mineral content measures the amount of total dissolved solids, or **TDS**, in the water. Mineral content can often affect the taste of the water. For example, many people can detect a salty taste when TDS is above 500 parts per million. The federal government has recommended an aesthetic standard of 500 ppm or less for mineral content in drinking water.

Hardness measures the ease with which soap can be lathered. The softer water is, the more easily it produces a soap lather. Water hardness also determines the degree of water spotting on dishes, plumbing fixtures and bath areas. In addition, most home water conditioners are set based on the hardness of the water entering the home. For the most part, Tucson's groundwater is considered moderately hard.

pH. Swimming pool chemistry, some fish aquariums and ponds, and certain water conditioner systems require you to control the pH of the water. pH is a measurement of acidity. Waters with a pH below 7.0 are considered acidic. The federal secondary, or aesthetic, standard for pH is 6.5 to 8.5.



The information shown on this map was collected at 245 sampling points for sodium, mineral content, hardness, pH and temperature.

	<p><i>The Water Connection</i> is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Customer Information P.O. Box 27210 Tucson, AZ 85726-7210</p>	<p>City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639</p> <p>Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.</p>
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