

December 1999

the WATER Connection

ON THE WATER FRONT



The weather experts have spoken and are predicting another dry winter for Tucson. It's just another reminder that we live in a desert where water is the most precious of our natural resources – a desert from which we continue to pump groundwater at 2-1/2 times the rate it is being replaced by nature.

Fortunately, Tucson Water is on schedule to complete the new water facility in Avra Valley, west of Tucson, where Colorado River water is being recharged and blended underground with native groundwater. This naturally blended water will be available to us by early 2001, and will be a very valuable and welcome supplement to our current water supply. It's also important to remember that using this blended water will allow us to begin shutting down groundwater wells in central Tucson. This will help prevent subsidence. Subsidence is the collapse of the earth above areas where the water table has dropped significantly and it can cause all types of problems – from broken sewer pipes to cracked roadways.

While Tucson Water is building the reservoir, pumps, wells, and pipelines to bring our blended water to the city, we are also working to increase our use of reclaimed water. Reclaimed water is sewage effluent that has been treated for reuse on grassy areas and trees. We can't drink it or wash with it, but it works great on golf courses and parks. Next time you're at a golf course, city park, or the city's Reid Park Zoo look for the purple reclaimed water signs. When you see a sign you'll know that, thanks to Tucson Water's reclaimed system, the water used to keep the area green is not precious groundwater.

There are currently 21 parks and 4 city-owned golf courses that we supply with reclaimed water which together account for about 70% of all the grassy areas owned by the city. Another 9 private golf facilities also use reclaimed water. Other private golf courses that have their own wells or are served by other water companies have not yet made the switch. I want you to know, however, that we are talking with several of these about supplying them with reclaimed water in the near future.

supplying them with reclaimed water in the near future.

A dry winter means we'll use more water outside than usual – so water wisely. You might want to attend one of our Water\$mart Workshops or call our Zanjeros for more tips on saving water in the desert. After all, that's where we live.

Thank you.

*David V. Modeer
Director, Tucson Water*

Neighborhood is 2nd to use water for 90 days 4th Street Blended Water Demonstration Complete This Month

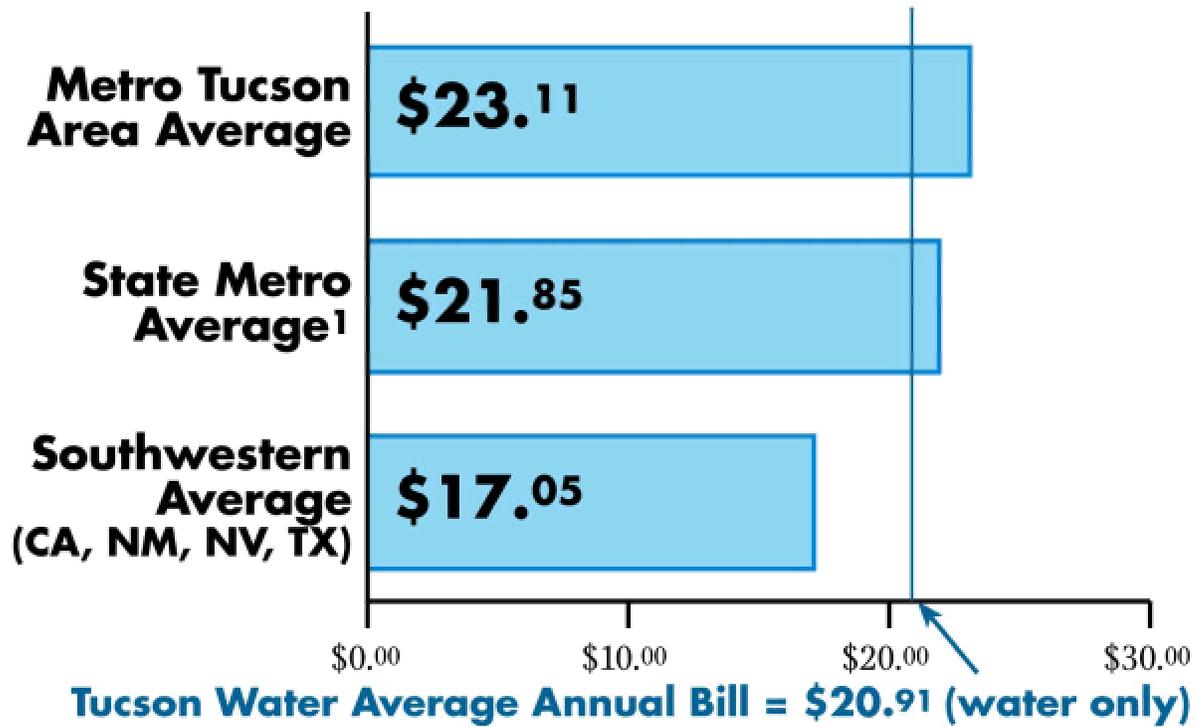


Volunteer neighbors on 4th Street near Craycroft Road are nearing the end of their participation in Tucson Water's Ambassador Neighborhoods Program. A blend of groundwater and recharged Colorado River water has been used in the neighborhood since late September. Volunteers have reported no problems with plumbing or appliances and are enjoying the taste of the water. Many of them think it tastes better than their regular groundwater. Several homes in this neighborhood experienced difficulties during the delivery of unblended CAP water in the early 1990's.

Early next year, the third volunteer neighborhood, on Michigan Street west of Interstate 10, will begin to receive blended water.

In 2001, Tucson Water plans to begin using this blended water to supplement our dwindling groundwater supplies. We'll then be able to start shutting down wells in the central part of the city allowing our declining water table to begin to recover naturally.

Rate Report Shows Water Bill Averages



¹ Bill comparison is based on Tucson Water's single-family average monthly usage.

Water\$mart Workshop Schedule

January 15, 2000

8:00 am - 11:00 am Hands-on Drip Irrigation Installation

Pima County Cooperative Extension
4210 N. Campbell Ave, Tucson

January 15, 2000

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape
Use

Casa del Agua (Water Conservation House)
4366 W. Stanley Pl., Tucson

February 5, 2000

8:30 am - 10:30 am Irrigation Timer Use

11:00 am - 1:00 pm Drip Irrigation Design and
Installation

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and
Design

Las Campanas Recreation Center
Bell Room
565 W. Belltower, Green Valley

February 19, 2000

8:30 am - 10:30 am Drip Irrigation Design and
Installation

11:00 am - 1:00 pm Irrigation Timer Use

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and
Design

Tucson Botanical Gardens
2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson

March 11, 2000

8:30 am - 10:30 am Irrigation Timer Use

11:00 am - 1:00 pm Drip Irrigation Design and Installation

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design

Tohono Chul Park
7366 N. Paseo Del Norte, Tucson

May 6, 2000

8:30 am-10:30 am Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design

11:00 am-1:00 pm Drip Irrigation Design and Installation

2:00 pm-4:00 pm Irrigation Timer Use

Civano Conference Center
10501 E. Seven Generations Way, Tucson

Seating is limited at workshops and reservations are required. Reserve early to ensure a seat. Contact Tucson Water at 791-4331 for reservations. The Saturday workshops are a joint program of the Pima County Cooperative Extension and Tucson Water.

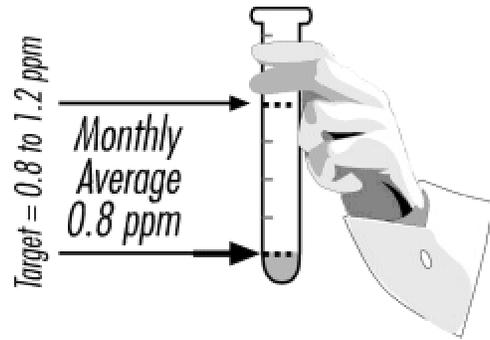
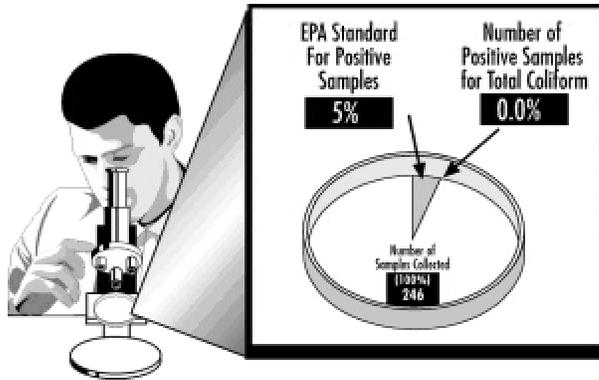
GROUNDWATER QUALITY REPORT - September 1999

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (ppm)	Average	48	41	47	33	33	32	30	42	48	41	39
	Range	34-52	37-43	23-94	24-47	24-43	25-41	19-39	37-49	40-95	40-42	19-95
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average	374	274	302	223	227	232	222	328	275	217	261
	Range	196-526	236-300	140-632	189-291	168-278	205-289	157-292	262-482	213-375	210-224	140-632
Hardness (ppm)	Average	176	122	131	92	97	104	101	162	101	77	113
	Range	72-289	95-139	59-332	57-122	55-117	72-133	60-141	102-296	57-131	73-81	55-332
pH (units)	Average	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.8
	Range	7.4-8.1	7.8-8.0	7.4-8.1	7.5-7.9	7.3-8.2	7.3-8.3	7.5-8.3	7.3-7.9	7.6-8.1	7.8-8.1	7.3-8.3
Temperature (deg F)	Average	83	86	84	84	83	83	85	85	87	88	85
	Range	77-89	80-91	76-93	77-88	75-92	77-89	81-91	79-93	79-93	85-91	75-93

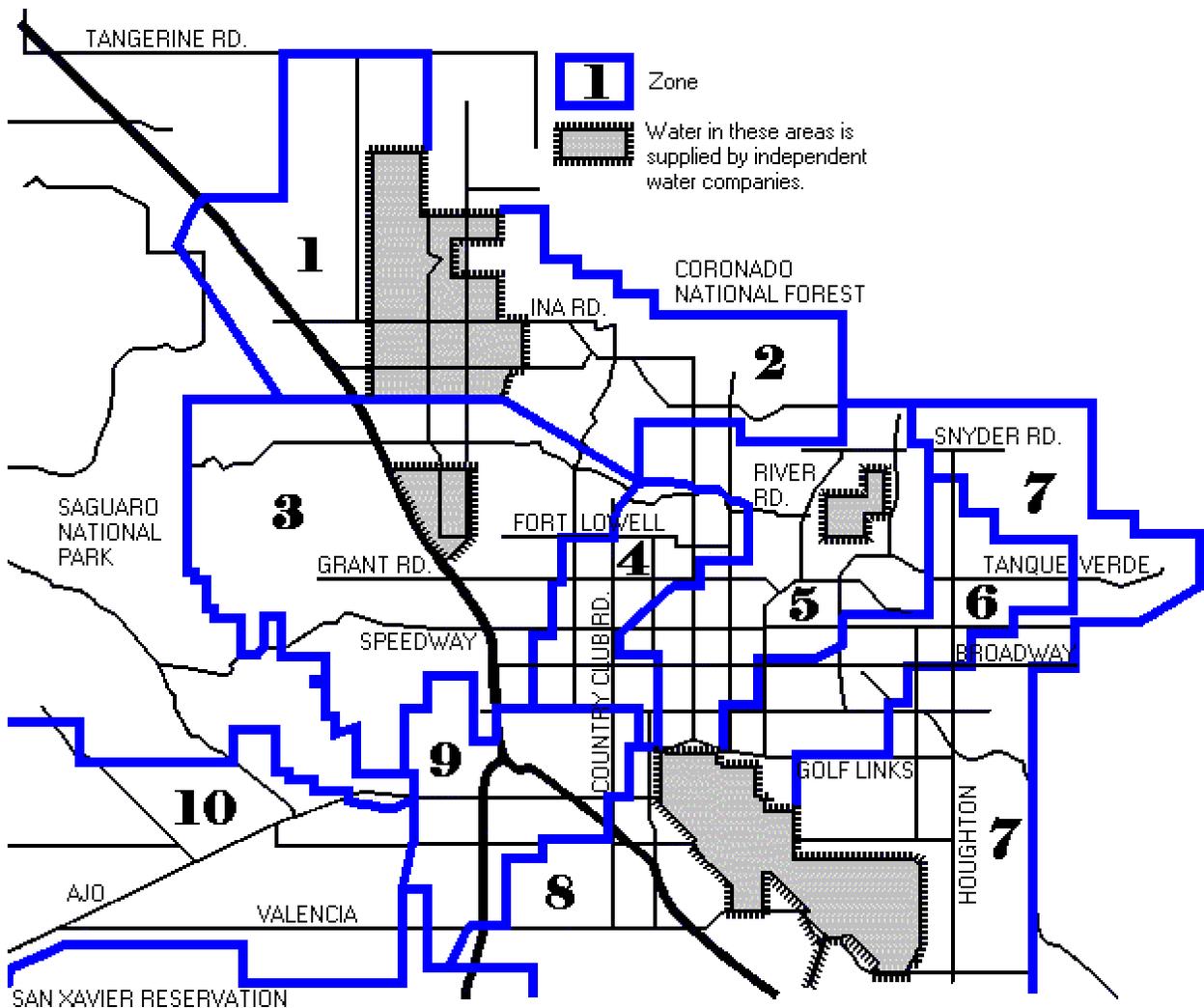
COLIFORM BACTERIA TESTING RESULTS - September 1999

Groundwater Quality Report

Chlorine Level Average



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



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.



The Water Connection 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

City of Tucson
TTY number: 791-2639

Si usted desea este
documento escrito en
español, por favor, llame al
791-4331.

