



On the Water Front

What's in our water? Water quality is important to all of us – we all drink it and use it every day for cooking, washing, and many other things. For the past several years, Tucson Water has been reporting the quality of our water to you. We have a water quality information telephone line that you may have seen advertised on our cars and service vehicles. We also print our Groundwater Quality Report each month in this newsletter and include the latest news about water quality.

Most of this information comes from our water quality monitoring program. Our chemists and water quality technicians test our 200 groundwater wells monthly for hundreds of organic and inorganic materials.

This month you will be receiving our second annual water quality report, required of all water providers by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that provides specific information about the quality of our water during the past year.

Within the next few years, new drinking water regulations from the United States Environmental Protection Agency will create some tough decisions for us to make about the water we rely on. I want you to know that Tucson Water is planning and preparing today to be ready when these new regulations become law. We will always keep you informed about the quality of our water and we'll be working to make sure we have enough clean, safe water for today and for the future.

David V. Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

Your Water Connection

News & Tips for Tucson Water Customers

In This Issue:

- 💧 **Water\$mart Businesses Taking Off**
- 💧 **What's in the Water - Annual Groundwater Quality Report**
- 💧 **Groundwater Quality Update**
- 💧 **It Takes A Team To "Beat The Peak!"**
- 💧 **Water Bill Changes**
- 💧 **Frank Walker Keeps Our Water Safe**

July 2000

<http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/>

WaterSmart Businesses Are Joining the Team

Commercial Water Conservation Program Taking Off

Many of Tucson's businesses are joining the Team to save water this summer. Becoming a WaterSmart Business is easy – just agree to follow the water saving guidelines provided by Tucson Water's Water Conservation Office.



Monthly Water Bill Changes

On May 22, Mayor and Council approved a 4.5% water sales revenue increase to become effective in late November 2000. During the month of July, the Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) will host public meetings to discuss potential water rate schedules reflecting the revenue increase. For more information, see the Tucson Water website at www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/ or call 791-4331.



Businesses that join the water saving team receive signs designating them as a Water Smart Business. When you see the sign, you'll know that business is working to conserve water by using low flow fixtures, smart irrigation practices, or other methods. Be part of the team and help Tucson Beat The Peak.



Remember, It Takes a Team To Beat The Peak!

The summer rains might be on the way, but we still need to conserve our groundwater. Since during the hot months most of our water is used outside, Tucson Water has asked that all customers water outside just twice a week. Please follow this schedule to help us Beat The Peak.

What's in the water?

Annual Water Quality Report Tells it All

Chlorine, mineral content, hardness, pH – each month in this newsletter Tucson Water reports the levels of these constituents and more to you in our Groundwater Quality Report. Once a year we also publish a complete water quality report that contains detailed information about the results of our year-round water quality monitoring program.

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires that all public water providers publish and deliver such an annual report to all customers. The format of the report is set by guidelines provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. If you have not already received this year's report, it should be in your mailbox soon.

For more information about the quality of your water, you can also call the Tucson Water Water Quality Phone Line at 791-4227.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Homeowners with ODD number addresses	Commercial Industrial with all addresses	Homeowners with EVEN number addresses	BEAT THE PEAK! NO OUTDOOR WATERING	Homeowners with ODD number addresses	Commercial Industrial with all addresses	Homeowners with EVEN number addresses

Groundwater Quality Update

• New EPA Arsenic Regulations Recommended

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a recommendation that the maximum contaminant level of arsenic in drinking water be reduced from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb. The EPA will seek public comment on its proposal and other alternatives (3, 10, and 20 ppb) for 90 days. A final decision will be made within a year and large utilities like Tucson Water will be given three years to comply with the final level. Almost one-third of Tucson Water's wells, or 62 of 200 wells, tested at 5 ppb or above last September. These wells provide approximately 36% of our overall pumping capacity.

Arsenic is a naturally existing element found in rocks, vegetables and the human body. At high levels of concentration, arsenic has been linked to increased human cancer rates.

Tucson Water is currently working with the American Water Works Association Research Foundation on two studies looking at the costs and issues involved with arsenic removal from groundwater and testing a variety of different arsenic removal technologies.

As a reminder for all of our Tucson Water customers, the water we deliver meets or

exceeds all drinking water regulations and is safe to drink. How Tucson Water eventually meets these new standards and the cost of the selected treatment process has yet to be determined.

• Improving Our Water System

Tucson Water and Currier Construction are nearing completion of a 4.8 million-gallon water reservoir north of Sabino High School. Water from the new reservoir will serve much of the northeast side of Tucson. It will provide increased water pressure and a reliable water source to fight fires. According to Tucson Water Planning and Engineering Administrator, Steve Pageau, the project cost is approximately \$3 million.



– Tucson Water Employee Spotlight Frank Walker Keeps Our Water Safe



Frank Walker

Who tests your water to make sure it's safe? Frank does. He's one of the chemists who works continually to monitor our drinking water at the Tucson Water Quality Laboratory. Frank works in the section of the lab that analyzes drinking water and wastewater for inorganic contaminants. He recently performed

many of the tests to determine current arsenic levels in our groundwater. Frank has been a Tucson Water employee for nearly seven years and is married with two children. When he and his family aren't playing tennis, they enjoy hiking and bowling.

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at
<http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/>

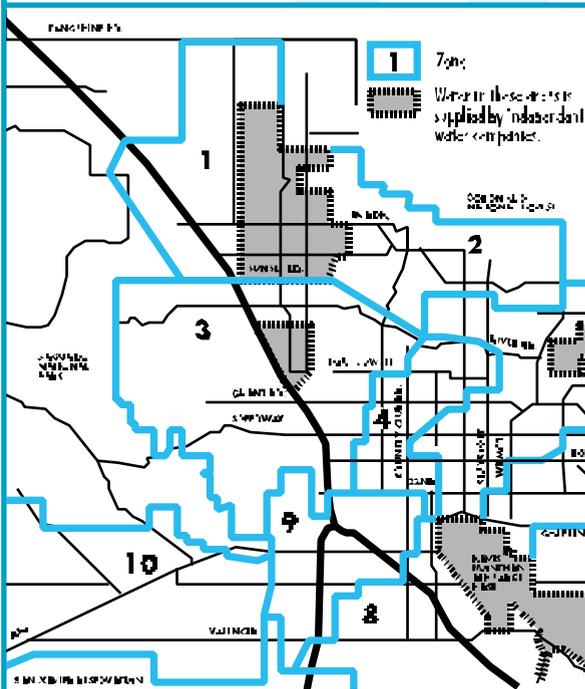
The Water Connection is produced by Tucson Water.
To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish,
call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Customer Information,
P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210
City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639



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

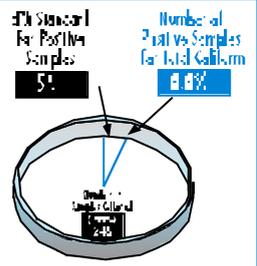
GROUNDWATER QUALITY REPORT - April 2000

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (ppm)	Average Range	49 30-68	43 33-51	45 21-94	34 27-61	32 24-41	31 25-39	30 18-38	41 36-54	47 33-99	39 33-41	38 18-99
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average Range	400 175-536	309 224-361	317 177-649	230 182-441	227 162-327	226 190-285	224 157-298	305 234-435	262 209-433	217 210-227	263 157-649
Hardness (ppm)	Average Range	173 65-254	138 92-173	133 54-325	92 65-168	93 63-131	99 60-132	102 59-144	133 85-256	88 56-150	70 55-77	109 54-325
pH (units)	Average Range	7.7 7.5-8.3	7.9 7.6-8.0	7.9 7.3-8.2	7.9 7.6-8.1	7.7 7.0-8.1	7.7 7.2-8.2	7.7 6.9-8.2	7.8 7.5-8.1	8.0 7.7-8.3	8.0 7.9-8.1	7.8 6.9-8.3
Temperature (deg F)	Average Range	77 71-81	78 75-82	78 72-83	81 76-86	79 72-85	77 73-82	78 72-82	80 72-86	83 75-90	83 76-87	79 71-90



COLIFORM BACTERIA TESTING RESULTS - April 2000

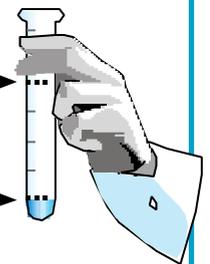
Groundwater Quality Report



Chlorine Level Average

Target = 0.8 to 1.2 ppm

Monthly Average
0.8 ppm



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.