

Conservation Corner –  
Save Water/\$ave Dollars

## Xeriscape Contest Lets Homeowner's Water Savings Shine

**Enter by March 29, 2004**

Your yard could be a winner by using native plants and watering wisely. The Arizona Department of Water Resources, Tohono Chul Park, Tucson Water and other agencies are co-sponsoring the annual Xeriscape Landscape Contest. There are award categories for both resident and professional landscaping. Get an entry form by calling 742-6455 ext. 216 or visit [www.tohonochulpark.org](http://www.tohonochulpark.org) or [www.water.az.gov](http://www.water.az.gov).



*The Tosline family won a Xeriscape Contest award in 2003 in part for the water efficient design of their front yard.*

## Your Water Connection

*News & Tips for Tucson Water Customers*

Water 101

### Planning for Tucson's Water Future

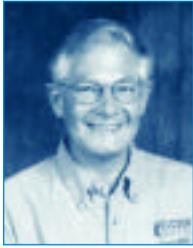
During 2004, Tucson Water will be updating our Long-Range Water Resource Plan and looking at our community's water needs for the next 50 years. The plans we make must be flexible enough to meet any unexpected future challenges that we cannot predict today.

Planning for our water future begins by gathering a lot of information. First, we must understand how our community's demand for water will grow over time. We use information on expected population growth from the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) and the U.S. Census Bureau. From that we can estimate how much water we will need to meet the needs of our customers.

We also identify all our current and potential water supplies. As you know, Tucson used to rely exclusively on pumped groundwater to meet our

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February 2004 <http://www.cityoftucson.org/water/>



# On the **Water Front**

Water is the most important natural resource we have in Tucson. Without it our community could not exist. Without enough

water, the livability of our city, our quality of life, would be diminished beyond anything we can imagine.

Tucsonans have traditionally been good stewards of this precious resource. We have, in general, used water wisely and made good decisions about how to utilize the water resources we have.

It's our job at Tucson Water to provide enough quality water for you and your family and other residents of the Tucson area. That requires quite a 'balancing act' between cost, the environment, the water resources we have and the high quality of service we want to continue to provide to you.

The use of our Colorado River water, through the Clearwater Facility, has made that balancing act a bit easier in recent years and has given us the opportunity to let our environment begin healing itself after decades of damage from overpumping groundwater. In essence, our water supply situation is stabilized for the time being in an environmentally responsible and cost-effective manner.

But it's also our responsibility to look to the future. Tucson Water scientists and planners have been working to develop a long-range water resource plan. This plan involves looking at our water supply and water quality situation for the next fifty years and factoring in expected population growth. Working with tools we've developed during the past year, we will be able to evaluate what our water situation will be in the decades ahead and develop a series of alternatives to address the water supply and quality challenges of the future.

Over the next year, we'll be talking with you, our customers, about what we've learned and the various options and decisions we need to work together on. I encourage you to take the time, as you have in the past, to look carefully at the materials and information about this Long Range Water Resource Plan. We want your input as we move forward together to make sure we have enough quality water for the future.

David V. Modeer  
Director, Tucson Water

## Clearwater Quality Report - January 2004

46*	Sodium (ppm)
294.5	Mineral Content (ppm)
103*	Hardness (ppm)
7.95	pH (units)
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
0.79	Chlorine level average (ppm)
82.8	Temp (deg F)

\* Values for December 2003

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at  
<http://www.cityoftucson.org/water>

Your 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: Tucson Water, Customer Information, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210.

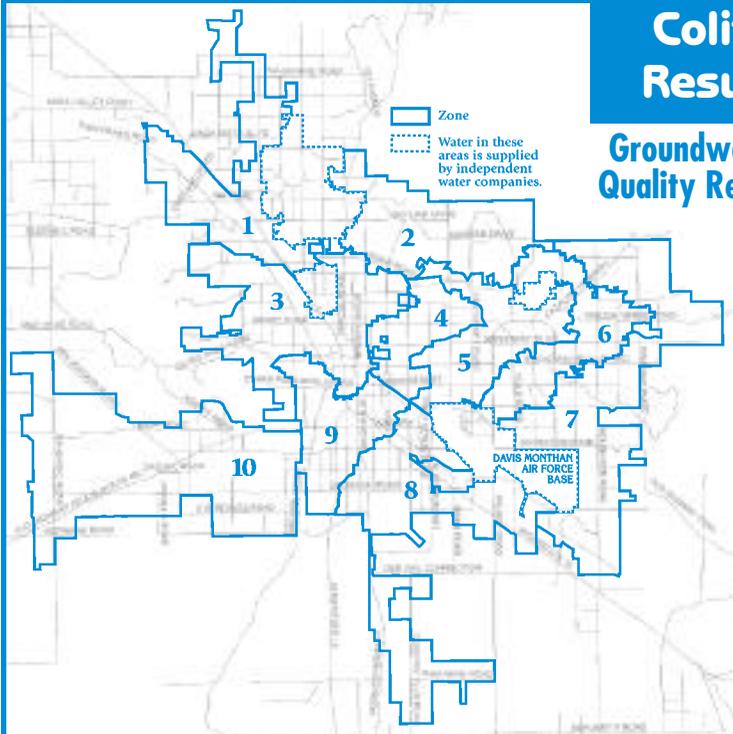
City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

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



# Groundwater Quality Report - November 2003

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (ppm)	Average Range	62 48-87	49 46-51	50 38-57	44 32-50	46 42-50	44 32-50	37 22-50	46 43-48	45 39-48	43 41-46	46 22-87
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average Range	379 187-572	309 279-346	325 207-392	266 183-314	274 194-305	269 211-303	232 179-292	381 282-438	336 205-461	227 205-357	295 179-572
Hardness (ppm)	Average Range	247 146-351	135 112-158	157 80-218	106 76-139	114 109-121	114 101-128	114 109-123	181 109-274	150 74-271	83 78-96	133 74-351
pH (units)	Average Range	7.8 7.3-8.4	8.0 7.5-8.3	7.8 7.5-8.3	7.9 7.5-8.1	7.9 7.5-8.2	7.9 7.5-8.3	7.8 7.3-8.3	7.5 7.4-8.0	7.5 7.3-7.9	7.8 7.4-7.9	7.8 7.3-8.4
Temperature (deg F)	Average Range	76 73-79	79 69-85	78 74-81	80 73-84	77 70-84	77 67-84	76 70-83	77 71-82	77 72-84	79 70-83	78 67-85



## Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - November 2003

### Groundwater Quality Report

EPA Standard for Positive Samples: **5%**

Number of Positive Samples for Total Coliform: **0.4%**

Colony Count: **249**

Monthly Average: **0.7 ppm**

Target = 0.6 to 1.0 ppm

246 Sample Points

**Chlorine Level Average**

**“PPM” means one part per million;  
1 ppm = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons**

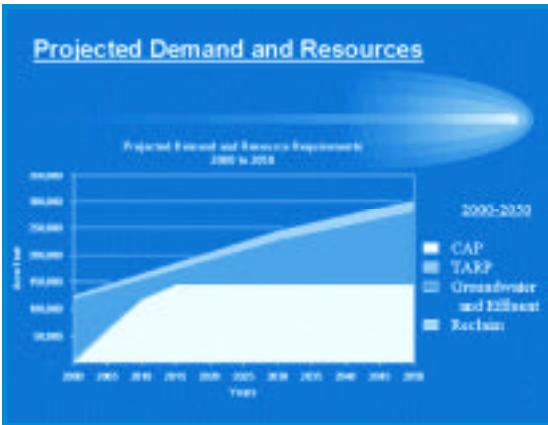
To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

With the exception of chlorine and coliform bacteria, none of the water quality parameters reported here have U.S. Environmental Protection Agency primary standards set for them. For more information about primary and secondary water quality standards, visit Tucson Water’s web site at [www.cityoftucson.org/water](http://www.cityoftucson.org/water).

# Planning for Tucson's Water Future

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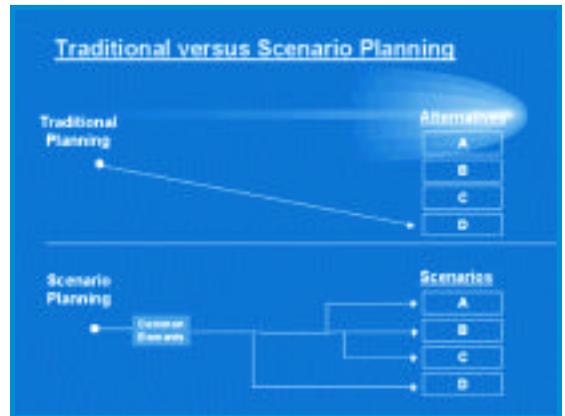
water needs. In recent years our reliance on groundwater has been offset by the use of two renewable water supplies: Colorado River water (via the Clearwater facility) and recycled wastewater (reclaimed water). We will need to expand our use of both of these resources supplies to meet future water needs.



In addition, Tucson Water researches what Tucson may look like in the future, and what facilities, such as pipelines, reservoirs and pumping stations, will be needed to deliver water to our customers. We also estimate the costs of obtaining the water supplies and building needed water delivery systems, so that we can anticipate the need for future rate increases, bonds and other financing.

## Scenario Planning

Using this information, we create alternative pathways to the future using a technique called "Scenario Planning." Because none of us can know everything about the future, the Scenario Planning process creates pathways to a number of potential futures, any of which may be possible. This allows us to identify the common needs of all these potential futures and begin planning projects that will be useful no matter what the future holds. It's a process that maximizes our ability to act on what we know today and still have flexibility to meet the unanticipated challenges of the future that may come.



We'll be giving you more details about the Scenario Planning process in the months to come, and asking for your input to help us answer a number of questions about how we can best use the water supplies we have available to us.