

Conservation Corner

Partners in Conservation

Conservation Corner continued from inside

how to plan and maintain healthy and water-efficient landscapes.

The program is a voluntary collaboration between ADWR and local nurseries that uses a simple water drop system to identify plants with similar water requirements. (All of the labeled plants are Xeriscape plants currently on the Tucson



Very low water use, mostly native Sonoran and Chihuahuan desert plants



Active Management Area low water use/drought tolerant plant list.)

So far, fourteen local retail nurseries and all six Tucson-area Home Depot stores have signed up for the program, and ADWR is working with other nurseries to encourage them to participate.

Several wholesale nurseries in both Phoenix and Tucson are also participating in the program by adding the water drop symbols to the labels of plants to be sold in Tucson.



Moderate water use

For more information about the **Drop Your Water Use** program, please contact Christina Bickelmann, Water Conservation Specialist for the Tucson ADWR office, at (520) 770-3816, or email clbickelmann@azwater.gov.

Your Water Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

Water 101

Water 101 is a regular column where we explore an aspect of our water system in response to questions from Tucson Water customers. This month we're beginning a series of articles that will explore Tucson Water's Long Range Plan, known as "Water Plan 2000-2050." **If you have a question you'd like to have answered here, or if you have a suggestion for a topic, please call us at 791-4331 or email TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us.**

Planning for Our Water Future



Our growing desert community has some tough choices ahead about our water. Tucson

Water's Water Plan 2000-2050 lays out the challenges and opportunities we all face and the decisions we will have to make as a community to ensure a secure water future.

Because that future can't be fully predicted, Water Plan 2000-2050 was developed by Tucson Water with as much flexibility as possible to allow us to respond

Water 101 continued inside

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TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us

Water 101

Planning for Our Water Future

Water 101 continued from front

to changing needs that become apparent and community decisions that we make during the years ahead. Whatever paths we choose together, the Plan will guide our decision-making toward the following six goals:

- **Meet the water needs of our community.** We will need to wisely use all our available water resources to meet the needs of our present population. Additional population growth will mean seeking additional water resource options.
- **Maximize use of renewable water supplies.** Only by fully using our Colorado River water and effluent supplies will we be able to meet water demand and protect our environment and quality of life.
- **Provide water of a quality that meets customers' expectations and preferences.** The water that comes out of the tap at your home or business is always Tucson Water's main concern. We'll be working with you during the next few years to make sure our future water supplies meet your expectations for quality.
- **Limit groundwater pumping to environmentally sound levels.** We've made the decision as a community to protect our water table and our environment by not returning to the days when we drastically over-pumped our groundwater. Tucson Water's plan provides for limiting pumping to levels that will prevent subsidence and allow us to sustain our riparian areas and safeguard other important aspects of our desert environment.

- **Manage costs and water rate impacts.** Although meeting the water challenges of the future will ultimately mean we'll all pay more for our water, Tucson Water will continue to work in a cost effective manner and make sure the cost implications of the water decisions we make as a community are clear to you, our customers.
- **Meet all federal and state legal requirements.** There are many federal and state water quality and other legal requirements that Tucson Water meets today and must continue to meet in the future. The list of these requirements grows each year, but we must and will work to abide by them all.

For more detailed information about the planning goals of Water Plan 2000–2050, visit the Tucson Water website at www.tucsonaz.gov/water or call 791-4331.

Conservation Corner

Partners in Conservation

Water conservation isn't a new idea, but Tucson Water and its 'Partners in Conservation' are always looking for new ways to spread this important message. One great way to reduce your water use – and lower your monthly water bill – is by landscaping with native or desert-adapted plants. The Tucson office of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) is making this even easier with a newly developed program called **Drop Your Water Use**, which educates nursery customers on

Conservation Corner continued on back



On the Water Front

This new year will be a busy and exciting one for us here at Tucson Water and we will be seeing a lot of you, our customers.

Together we have a number of important decisions to consider and make. We'll be working hard to make sure you have the information you need to help you make those choices.

First it's likely we will have a Water Bond election this coming May. These bonds will finance some critically important capital projects. They will help us build the facilities to allow us to use all of our allotment of Colorado River water. Currently we use a little less than half of the water we are entitled to. New projects in Avra Valley, west of Tucson, will allow us to begin to recharge the rest of this water, letting it blend with native groundwater and be 'banked' for use in the near future.

The bonds will also let us expand our Reclaimed Water system so we can use even more of this treated wastewater for irrigation on parks, golf courses, schoolyards, and street medians saving many more millions of gallons of our precious drinking water.

We'll be providing more detailed information about these water bonds to you in the coming months. Volunteer members of our staff will be going out into the community to talk with you

about this issue and answer your questions. If you belong to a group or organization and would like us to visit you to talk about the bonds, please give us a call at 791-4331.

Early this year we'll also begin talking with you about our Water Plan 2000-2050, the comprehensive plan we've developed to make sure we have enough quality water for the future.

We'll start by holding a number of Town Halls and Open Houses at various locations within the metropolitan area. Watch for announcements of these opportunities to learn more and to have your Water Plan questions answered by professionals from our staff. You'll soon be able to find information about these events on our web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/water.

We're ready to work with you to make these important decisions about the future of our community.

Dave Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

Clearwater Quality Report- December 2004

49*	Sodium (mg/L)
235.3	Mineral Content (mg/L)
115**	Hardness (mg/L)
8.15	pH (S.U.)
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
0.65	Chlorine level average (mg/L)
74.9	Temp (deg F)

* Values for November 2004
** Values for October 2004

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at www.tucsonaz.gov/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

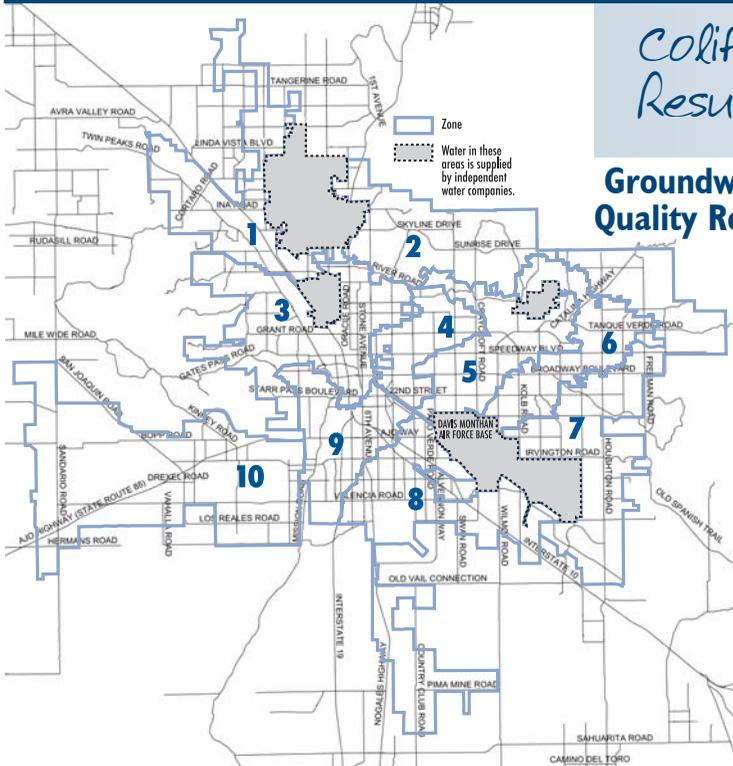
Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.



Groundwater Quality Report - October 2004

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)	Average	53	48	44	37	45	45	32	44	48	42	43
	Range	45-64	47-50	20-57	28-51	36-50	35-51	24-47	41-46	41-55	40-43	20-64
Mineral Content (mg/L)	Average	412	312	321	257	288	292	244	409	308	264	303
	Range	194-561	301-323	171-458	189-313	156-329	215-319	169-313	330-451	217-447	214-399	156-561
Hardness (mg/L)	Average	172	126	132	99	120	122	107	236	126	85	128
	Range	149-219	121-136	98-176	68-122	105-142	88-137	81-125	219-256	84-236	80-89	68-256
pH (S.U.)	Average	7.6	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.4	7.7	7.6	7.8
	Range	7.2-8.0	7.0-8.1	7.4-8.1	7.5-8.1	7.3-8.1	7.3-8.1	7.2-8.1	7.1-7.8	7.1-8.1	7.2-8.0	7.0-8.1
Temperature (deg F)	Average	80	84	82	83	82	84	82	81	84	85	83
	Range	76-82	78-87	73-86	80-87	60-89	78-88	78-88	78-84	79-88	81-87	60-89

Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - October 2004



Groundwater Quality Report



EPA Standard for Positive Samples

5%

Number of Positive Samples for Total Coliform

0.79%



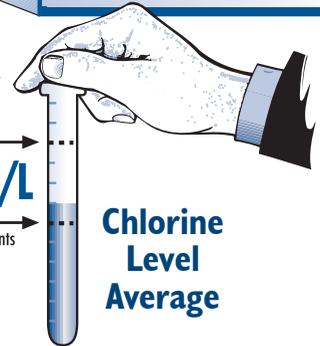
Monthly Average

0.7 mg/L

Target = 0.6 to 1.0 mg/L

268 Sample Points

Chlorine Level Average



"mg/L" means milligrams per liter;
1 mg/L = 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 website at www.tucsonaz.gov/water.