

# Spring 2005 Water\$mart Workshop Schedule

February 2005

[www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water)

## Your Water. Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

Learn to be more Water\$mart at one of these FREE workshops conducted by the University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension Low 4 Program, sponsored by Tucson Water.

### February 3, 2005 (Thursday)

Tohono Chul Park (Desert Discovery Center)  
7366 N. Paseo Del Norte; Tucson

9:00am-12:00pm Desert Landscaping

### February 5, 2005 (Saturday)

Pima County Cooperative Extension  
4210 N. Campbell Avenue; Tucson

9:00am-12:00pm Hands-On Drip  
Irrigation\*

1:00pm-3:00pm Irrigation Timers

### March 26, 2005 (Saturday)

Pima County Cooperative Extension  
4210 N. Campbell Avenue; Tucson

9:00am-12:00pm Hands-On Drip  
Irrigation\*

### April 16, 2005 (Saturday)

Tohono Chul Park (Desert Discovery Center)  
7366 N. Paseo Del Norte; Tucson

9:00am-12:00pm Desert Landscaping  
1:00pm-3:00pm Harvesting Rainwater

\* Participants **MUST** register for Hands-On Drip Irrigation class by calling (520) 622-7701. Registration for the other classes is recommended but not mandatory.

## 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. Last month we began a series of articles about Tucson Water's Long Range Plan, known as *Water Plan 2000-2050*. This month, we'll take a look at the first *critical decision* that we as a community must make as we plan our water future. **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](mailto:TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us).**

## Choosing Pathways to Our Water Future

Tucson Water's *Water Plan 2000-2050* was developed to address a wide range of potential future water situations and determine a number of possible pathways that could lead to them. These different pathways each have a series of *critical decision* points, where we as a community must determine which alternative pathway we want to follow. The first set of *critical decisions* must be made before or during 2006. These decisions will determine how we use Colorado River water.

*Water 101 continued inside*

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or email to

[TW\\_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us](mailto:TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us)

# Water 101

## Choosing Pathways to Our Water Future

Water 101 *continued from front*

### Decision #1 – Mineral Control or Natural Blending

The first question we must answer is:

#### “What is an acceptable long-term mineral level for the Clearwater Blend?”

In 1999, Tucson Water’s customers determined they preferred a level of not more than 450 milligrams per liter\* (mg/L) of natural minerals in their blended water supply. Tucson Water agreed to maintain this level for as long as possible by blending groundwater with recharged Colorado River water.

Colorado River water is higher in mineral content (Total Dissolved Solids or TDS) than Tucson’s average groundwater. High mineral levels can affect the taste of the water and cause more mineral build-up in water-using appliances. The TDS of the Clearwater Blend, a mix of recharged Colorado River water and low-TDS groundwater, is slowly increasing and will reach 450 in about 2010. By 2006, our community must decide whether to accept this natural rise or treat the blend to limit TDS to 450 mg/L.

If customers choose to maintain the 450 mg/L mineral level, Tucson Water will design and construct an additional treatment facility to reduce mineral levels and maintain that lower level over time. If customers decide that higher mineral levels are acceptable, the blend will eventually reach a naturally occurring balance of approximately 600 mg/L by about 2020.

We’ll give you more information in the March 2005 *Water 101*.

\* One milligram per liter is the same as one teaspoon in 1,302 gallons.

For more detailed information about *Water Plan 2000–2050*, visit the Tucson Water website at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water) or call 791-4331.

### Conservation Corner

#### Save Water/Save Dollars Enter the Xeriscaping Contest!

**Xeriscaping** – landscaping with low-water-use vegetation and water saving techniques – is a great way to have a beautiful yard and use water wisely, and it’s a technique that Tucson Water enthusiastically encourages. Each year the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and Tohono Chul Park sponsor a **Xeriscaping Contest** to honor the best local use of xeriscaping in a number of categories.

Awards are given to recognize the work of professional landscapers as well as private homeowners who have used native and low-water-use plants, water harvesting, gray water and efficient irrigation systems in original ways.

This year’s entries are due by April 8 at 5:00 p.m. Awards will be given at a ceremony at Tohono Chul Park on May 18. **Applications are available online at [www.azwater.gov](http://www.azwater.gov), or by calling 742-6455 ext. 222. Please call Christina Bickelmann, Water Conservation Specialist for ADWR, at the same number if you have questions.**



# On the Water Front

Our *Water Plan 2000–2050* that looks at our water supply and quality in the decades ahead is now

available. Much of how we go forward with that plan depends on critical decisions that we all need to make together in the next few years.

While these issues are complicated, they are extremely important to our future as a community. An introduction to *Water Decision #1*, the mineral content we want in our water, is included in this newsletter. We're still working on one of the key parts of that question – the cost.

We must look not just at the cost of a treatment plant to reduce mineral content, but also at the costs associated with greater mineral build-up on hot water heaters and other water-using appliances, sinks, bathtubs, and showers. By looking at potential costs of the mineral content from a number of different angles,

**Last November Tucson Water opened an office in the new Patrick K. Hardesty Midtown Multi-Service Center at 1100 S. Alvernon Way, at 22nd Street. Our customer service center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., giving customers another convenient location for the following services:**

- account activations and terminations
- water bill payments
- automated payment plan requests
- schedule Zanjero Program (water audit) appointments
- ask questions regarding water bills and service
- access printed materials about conservation and other Tucson Water programs and services

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://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.



we can answer your questions and give you enough information so you can make an informed decision.

As we provide that information to you and begin to ask you what your preferences are, remember - no matter where you live in the region, if you are a Tucson Water customer, we want to talk with you about the Water Plan.

Watch for announcements of Town Halls and Open Houses that we're setting up around the region. If you belong to an organization which would like a presentation on the Water Plan, call 791-4331. You can view a copy of the entire Water Plan and a brief overview of it on our website, [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water). Or you can call us at 791-4331 for a copy of the Overview or other related information.

Dave Modeer

*Director, Tucson Water*

## Clearwater Quality Report - January 2005

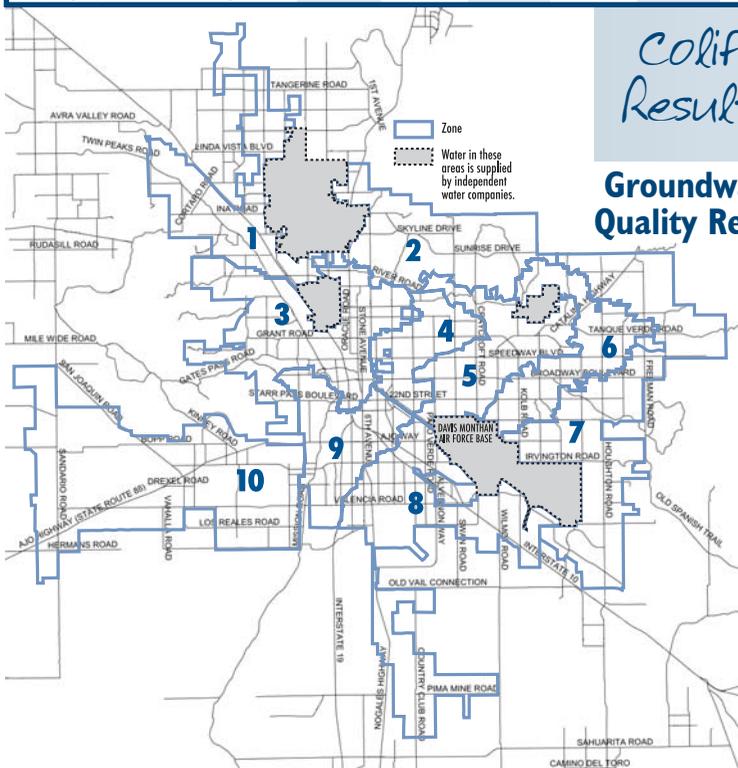
|       |                               |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| 54*   | Sodium (mg/L)                 |
| 215.9 | Mineral Content (mg/L)        |
| 136*  | Hardness (mg/L)               |
| 7.95  | pH (S.U.)                     |
| Neg*  | Coliform Bacteria             |
| 0.76  | Chlorine level average (mg/L) |
| 79.4  | Temp (deg F)                  |

\* Values for December 2004

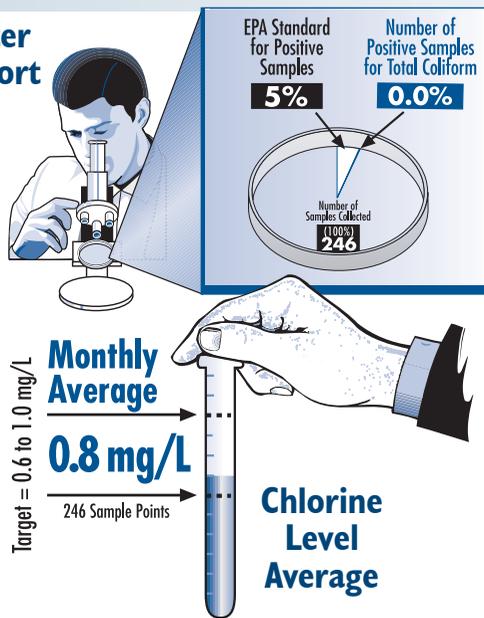
# Groundwater Quality Report - November 2004

| Water Quality Zone     |         | 1       | 2       | 3       | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7       | 8       | 9       | 10      | System Wide |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Sodium (mg/L)          | Average | 65      | 52      | 48      | 45      | 49      | 43      | 37      | 44      | 45      | 44      | 46          |
|                        | Range   | 46-98   | 48-56   | 17-62   | 33-52   | 41-57   | 27-53   | 24-57   | 40-51   | 39-52   | 42-45   | 17-98       |
| Mineral Content (mg/L) | Average | 435     | 326     | 337     | 289     | 299     | 297     | 243     | 400     | 329     | 238     | 313         |
|                        | Range   | 243-596 | 276-352 | 168-419 | 183-404 | 198-344 | 214-337 | 180-331 | 340-441 | 212-463 | 214-297 | 168-596     |
| Hardness (mg/L)        | Average | 240     | 150     | 152     | 126     | 126     | 125     | 121     | 232     | 143     | 84      | 143         |
|                        | Range   | 229-256 | 133-167 | 83-217  | 75-224  | 104-150 | 94-147  | 102-143 | 208-275 | 68-266  | 77-90   | 68-275      |
| pH (S.U.)              | Average | 7.4     | 7.8     | 7.7     | 7.6     | 7.6     | 7.8     | 7.7     | 7.3     | 7.4     | 7.4     | 7.6         |
|                        | Range   | 7.0-8.0 | 7.5-8.0 | 7.2-8.0 | 7.2-8.0 | 7.2-8.0 | 7.5-8.0 | 7.3-8.1 | 7.1-7.5 | 7.0-7.9 | 7.2-7.5 | 7.0-8.1     |
| Temperature (deg F)    | Average | 73      | 78      | 76      | 77      | 78      | 77      | 76      | 75      | 77      | 77      | 77          |
|                        | Range   | 70-77   | 71-83   | 70-81   | 69-82   | 72-83   | 69-81   | 68-82   | 69-78   | 72-81   | 72-80   | 68-83       |

## Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - November 2004



### Groundwater Quality Report



"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](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water).