

Water 101

Tasting the Future

Water 101 continued from front

water at or below 450 mg/l for as long as possible by designing the Clearwater project to maximize the amount of groundwater in the naturally occurring blend. We will reach that 450 mg/l level in about 5 years.

Now, looking to the future, we have a choice to make. Should we allow the mineral content of the blend to continue rising to the natural level of Colorado River water, or maintain the 450 mg/l level by removing minerals from the water with a special treatment process?



You can help make that decision. This Fall, Tucson Water will set up water sampling kiosks at Tucson Mall and Park Place, and two mobile kiosks will be visiting other locations around the community. We'll be asking customers to tell us their preference after tasting 450 mg/l and 650 mg/l water and reviewing estimated costs and other factors associated with these different waters. The input we receive will have a big impact on our community's future.

Your Water Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

Water 101

Tasting the Future

Tucson Water is preparing to talk with customers about an important decision that will affect the water we will deliver in the future. The decision has to do with how our water will taste as we expand our use of Colorado River water and reduce groundwater pumping, which will cause the mineral content of our water to gradually increase.

We expect the mineral content, including calcium and magnesium, to rise over time to about 650 milligrams per liter (mg/l). To put this in perspective, the average mineral level across Tucson Water's entire service area is now about 320 mg/l, although some customers receive groundwater that has a mineral content as high as 600 mg/l.

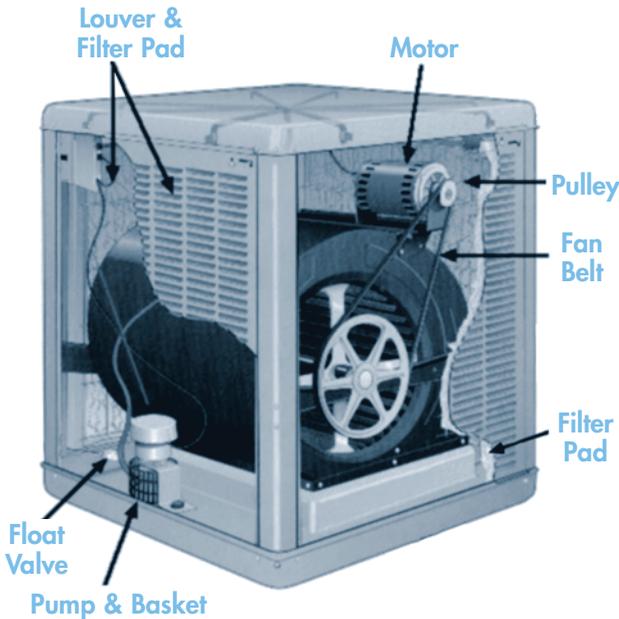
In the late 1990s, customers and Tucson Water worked together to determine an acceptable blend of recharged Colorado River water and groundwater that makes up about 50 percent of the water we all use today. At that time, Tucson Water pledged to maintain the mineral content of the blended

Water 101 continued on back

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or e-mail to TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us

Service Swamp Coolers to Save Water, and Money

While September signals cooler weather in most parts of the country, here in Tucson our evaporative coolers are still working overtime and will be for several more weeks. Many of them were switched on in May and may not have been turned off since. If



that's true for your household, now's the time to think about servicing your swamp cooler to make it run more efficiently. A well maintained swamp cooler will keep you comfortable while saving water and reducing your monthly bill. Here are a few late-season service tips:

- Make sure the float valve is operating properly. A sticking valve will cause water to run continuously, overflowing the bottom tray. If you hear water running, or if water is running off your roof, your float valve may not be working properly.
- Check other working parts: pump, belt tension, motor.
- Check pad condition for salt and other mineral accumulation. The cleaner the pad, the more efficient the cooler.
- If your cooler has a “bleed-off valve” to drain part of the re-circulating water to prevent excessive mineral buildup, make sure it is adjusted properly to drain no more water than is necessary. Once the weather cools off (usually in November), there are a few things you should do to ready your cooler for the off-season:
 - Add some vinegar to the bottom tray to dissolve mineral buildup.
 - Drain water from the bottom tray. Gently scrape out mineral buildup and cooler pad fibers with a wire brush and/or putty knife. Remove and inspect the cooler pad holder/trough for clogged holes.
 - Dry the tray thoroughly and inspect for cracks. To help prevent rusting, coat the tray with 1/4-inch of sealant.
 - Disconnect and drain the water line from the cooler to prevent lines from freezing.
 - Cover the entire cooler with plastic to protect it, and (depending on how your cooler is installed) to help prevent cold air from entering your house.



On the Water Front

We're about to begin a process that will determine what the water of the future will be like. This decision is important to all of us today and will also be important to future generations of Tucsonans.

Tucson Water is committed to providing a reliable water supply to you and helping play a role in ensuring the sustainability of our community. As you probably know, we're also dedicated to collaborating with you, our customers, when important decisions about our water must be made. We've talked with you many times in the past about water issues and have worked to provide information to you so we could, together, make informed decisions about our most precious natural resource.

Now we need to decide what the water of the future will taste like, how much it may cost, and how it will affect our home appliances and our environment. As you've read already in this newsletter, we want to learn your preferences about these issues so we can provide that input to our Mayor and Council next year.

Beginning in October, Tucson Water employees will be at major shopping malls and at many other locations around the region. They'll be asking you to tell them your preference between two different types of water. The process of tasting the waters and reviewing some information about each will only take a few minutes.

I encourage you to spend the time to look at the options, tell us what you prefer, and let us answer any questions you may have. This is a decision that we all should be involved in, since it will help determine the type of water that both we and future generations of Tucson Water customers will use. As we have seen in the past, working together on issues like this gives the best results.

As always, you can count on us to deliver a reliable supply of safe, clean water that meets or exceeds the many federal standards for drinking water. Now we need your help to continue to meet another commitment we stand behind...involving you, our customers, in decisions of this magnitude. Thank you in advance for your time and interest.

Dave Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

Clearwater Quality Report- July 2006

53	Sodium (mg/L)
347	Mineral Content (mg/L)
142	Hardness (mg/L)
7.99	pH (S.U.)
Neg	Coliform Bacteria
0.82	Chlorine level average (mg/L)
87.9	Temp (deg F)

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.

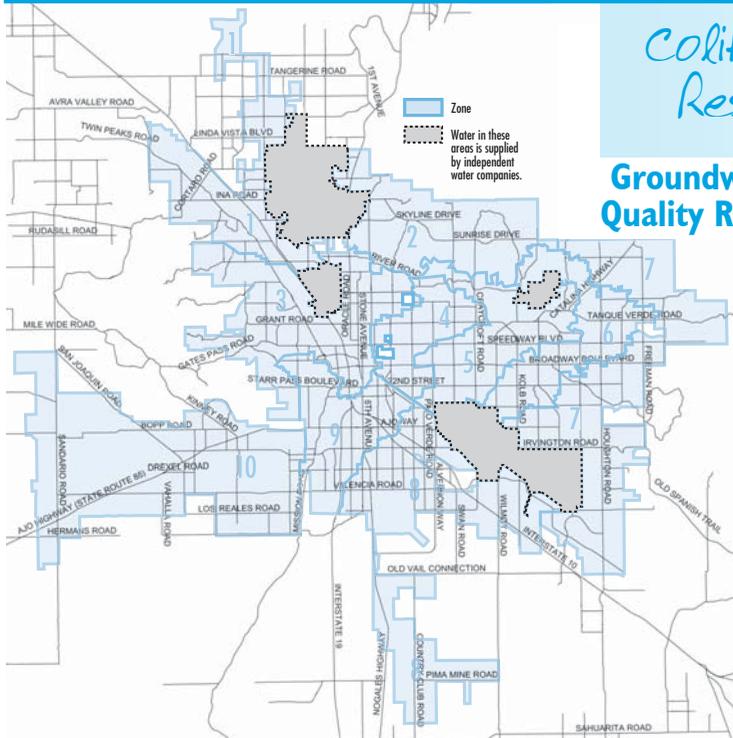
City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

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



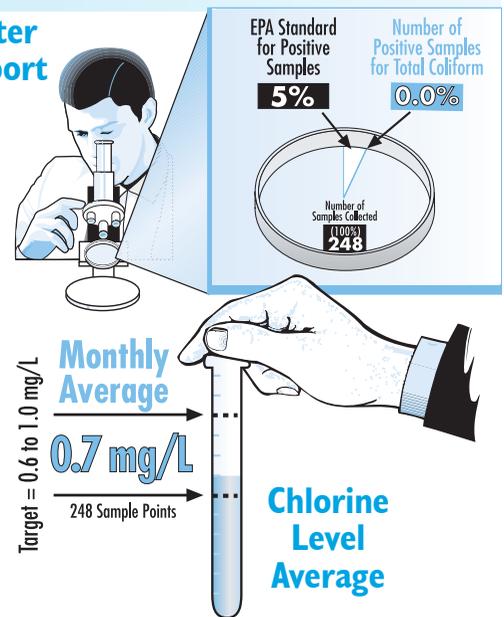
Groundwater Quality Report - June 2006

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)* 86 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	46	54	59	45	43	44	39	45	57	49	48
	Range	30-66	50-57	43-70	29-58	30-54	29-51	27-49	40-49	42-80	43-56	27-80
Mineral Content (mg/l)* 248 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	326	366	386	282	303	314	278	362	314	274	323
	Range	167-456	351-385	196-484	185-374	176-371	225-363	196-817	305-413	218-451	217-374	167-817
Hardness (mg/L)** 86 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	135	160	182	130	138	144	133	203	131	120	150
	Range	65-206	150-169	118-237	91-158	94-177	105-164	94-166	163-272	76-170	76-169	65-272
pH (S.U.) 248 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	7.6	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.7
	Range	7.4-8.0	7.8-7.9	7.6-7.9	7.7-7.9	7.3-8.0	6.9-8.0	7.1-7.9	7.4-7.9	7.5-7.9	7.7-8.0	6.9-8.0
Temperature (deg F) 248 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	84	89	86	88	87	87	87	88	88	87	87
	Range	76-89	87-93	78-94	82-96	80-93	73-92	82-93	82-94	80-96	84-89	73-96



Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - June 2006

Groundwater Quality Report



* mg/L means milligrams per liter; 1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons

** 17.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L) = 1 grain per gallon; Therefore, the system-wide hardness average as reported for May 2006: 145 mg/L divided by 17.1 = 8.5 grains per gallon.

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.tucsonaz.gov/water.