December 2006 www.tucsonaz.gov/water

Your Water Connection
NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

Conservation Corner

How To Read Your Water Meter

Conservation Corner *continued from inside*

hundreds of cubic feet (Ccf). Look at the meter illustration on the previous page. It registers 148 Ccf. The last two digits on the meter dial are not used.

Verifying your Bill

Tucson Water reads your meter on about the same day each month and that date appears on your bill. To verify the reading next month, read the meter on the same day it was read the previous month and subtract your previous reading from this new reading. Multiply by 748 to get the number of gallons you've used.

Do you have a Leak?

If you think there's a water leak in your home, but can't locate it, use your meter to find out.

Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances, including evaporative coolers and refrigerator icemakers. Check the meter. If the dial is changing while you watch, you may have a significant leak. If you don't see any movement on the dial, wait 15 to 30 minutes and check it again. If the meter reading has changed, you have a leak.

To determine whether the leak is in your home or between the meter and the house, turn off your water at the house valve. If the meter dial continues to move, the leak is probably between the meter and the house. If it does not move, the leak is in the house.

For more help reading your water meter, please call Tucson Water at 791-3242.

Water 101

Work in 2006 Improved our Water Reliability

Tucson Water is committed to providing a reliable water supply and a reliable water system for its customers. This past year, we completed a number of projects and began others designed to help us continue to meet that commitment. Here are some of the highlights:

More Recharge in Avra Valley

We increased our use of Colorado River water, one of our renewable water resources, by increasing the amount of water we recharge at Clearwater each year to 80,000 acre feet. We also made great progress in the planning and design of Clearwater Phase II, where even more Colorado River water will be recharged beginning in 2008.

Reclaimed Water for 49ers

The reclaimed water line to 49ers Country Club was completed and water began flowing

Water 101 *continued inside*

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

Water 101

Work in 2006 Improved our Water Reliability

Water 101 *continued from front*

to keep the golf course irrigated. Now all but two golf courses in Tucson Water's main service area use reclaimed water.

Preparing for Drought, Planning for Conservation

The utility completed a comprehensive Drought Management Plan to be fully prepared in case our drought intensifies or other circumstances make it necessary to take measures to reduce water use. The Tucson Water Community Conservation Task Force also completed its study of water saving options for the future. The Task Force's recommendations will be presented to Tucson's Mayor and Council early in 2007.

New Water Meters

During 2006, we replaced more than 11,000 aging water meters with new, more accurate ones. This program will continue in 2007 until all the old meters in the Tucson Water system are replaced.

A Safer Workplace

Tucson Water received its fourth star from the prestigious 5 Star Safety Program. The goal is to reach the maximum 5-star rating within the next two years.

A New Eastside Facility

Planning began for a new office and service facility on Tucson's rapidly growing southeast side near Houghton and Golf Links Roads. The new facility will help reduce energy costs and improve our response times by basing some operations and customer service staff on the east side of the metro area.

Deciding the Water for the Future

Since October 1st, Tucson Water has been asking its customers to help make Decision H2O and determine what type of water we will deliver in the future. We're offering customers a chance to taste a 450 and a 650 mineral level blend, review cost and environmental considerations, and then tell us their preference. Tucson's Mayor and Council will make the final decision in early 2007. For more information, visit **www.DecisionH2O.com**.

Conservation Corner

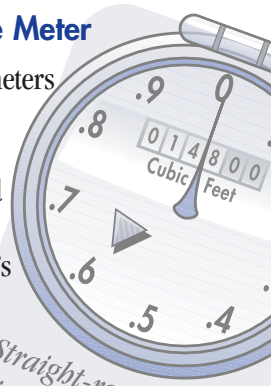
How To Read Your Water Meter

(and why you should want to)

How much water do you use in your home during a month? The answer is right on your water meter.

Your water meter is most likely located in the ground either at the front curb or in the alley behind your house. Reading it can let you verify the monthly reading on your water bill and can also help you determine if you have a water leak in your home.

Reading the Meter



Straight-reading meter This meter reads: 148 Ccf

Most water meters use straight reading dials, which are read the same way you read a car's odometer. The meter measures water use in cubic feet (one cubic foot equals 7.48 gallons) and your bill is calculated based on

Conservation Corner *continued on back*

On the Water Front

The Tucson region had some significant rain last summer, and it's hard to imagine that we're still in a serious drought – but it is a fact that Arizona and much of the western United States remain in a long-term, record-setting drought pattern.

The drought is an example of why Tucson Water is committed to providing a reliable water supply and water system for its customers. In a desert, water is our most precious resource and the job of making sure we always have enough quality water requires careful planning for the future. In 2006 many of our construction and planning projects were focused on this commitment.

We continued to implement our Water Plan 2000–2050 with the expansion of the Clearwater Facility. This will allow us to utilize all our Colorado River water within the next few years – a critical necessity for the future. If a shortage were to be declared on the river in the future, we could lose any Colorado River water we are not using, thus the need to increase the amount of water we recharge as soon as possible.

We also increased our use of our other renewable water resource – effluent. The eastside reclaimed water main will let us add a number of new reclaimed customers, including another golf course, and expand a water system that is a model for effluent reuse worldwide.

The Drought Management Plan and water conservation community planning that we completed this year are both vitally important to maintaining water reliability in the face of the drought and our commitment to reduced groundwater pumping.

We've also asked our customers to assist in planning for the future with the Decision H2O program. By telling us which of the two blends of water they prefer, they will help us make far-reaching decisions about our future water supply.

In all, 2006 was a successful year for Tucson Water and for the sustainability of our region. I want to congratulate our employees for their hard work this past year. I also want to thank our customers for their continued trust, support and assistance. By working together on our water issues we can ensure a sustainable community for ourselves and our children.

Dave Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

Clearwater Quality Report– November 2006

55*	Sodium (mg/L)
340.8	Mineral Content (mg/L)
161*	Hardness (mg/L)
7.69	pH (S.U.)
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
0.73	Chlorine level average (mg/L)
81.8	Temp (deg F)

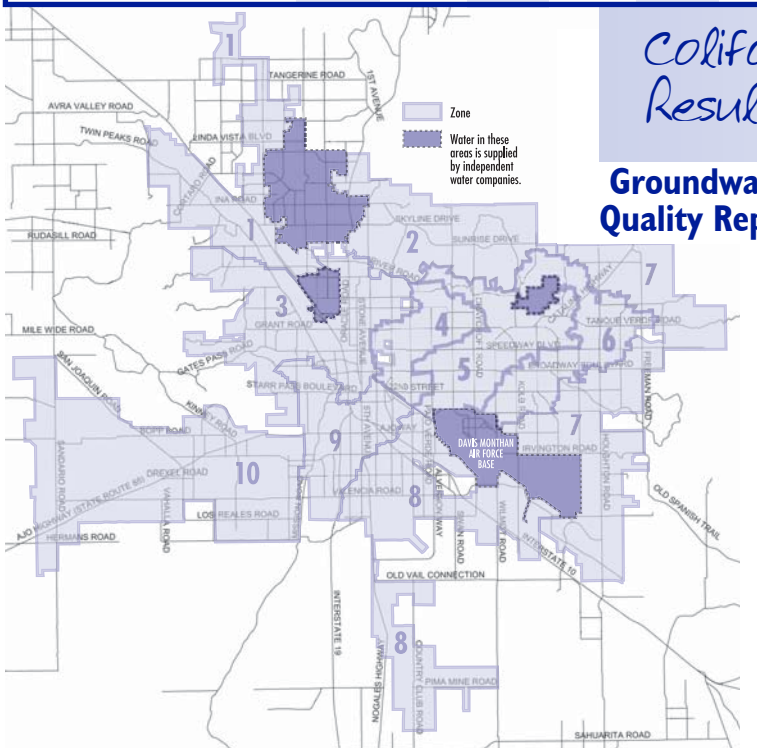
* Values for October 2006

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 2006

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)* 77 Sampling Points	Average	58	54	54	47	49	50	36	42	50	43	48
	Range	48-74	52-56	42-63	35-56	42-55	38-56	25-48	37-45	40-60	40-48	25-74
Mineral Content (mg/L)* 247 Sampling Points	Average	394	369	363	314	348	341	276	395	323	274	339
	Range	238-630	357-382	208-456	184-376	264-398	216-380	179-365	303-451	213-484	214-378	179-630
Hardness (mg/L)** 77 Sampling Points	Average	248	152	154	126	150	150	125	191	124	86	147
	Range	157-362	142-162	126-200	69-154	127-173	91-177	85-163	176-207	78-164	74-116	69-362
pH (S.U.) 247 Sampling Points	Average	7.6	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.8	7.9	7.8
	Range	7.4-8.2	7.9-8.1	7.7-8.1	7.8-8.1	7.5-8.0	7.7-8.1	7.7-8.0	7.4-7.8	7.4-8.0	7.8-8.1	7.4-8.2
Temperature (deg F) 247 Sampling Points	Average	79	84	83	83	82	83	82	81	83	84	82
	Range	75-81	79-88	74-88	69-87	78-87	78-88	78-87	77-84	76-89	80-87	69-89

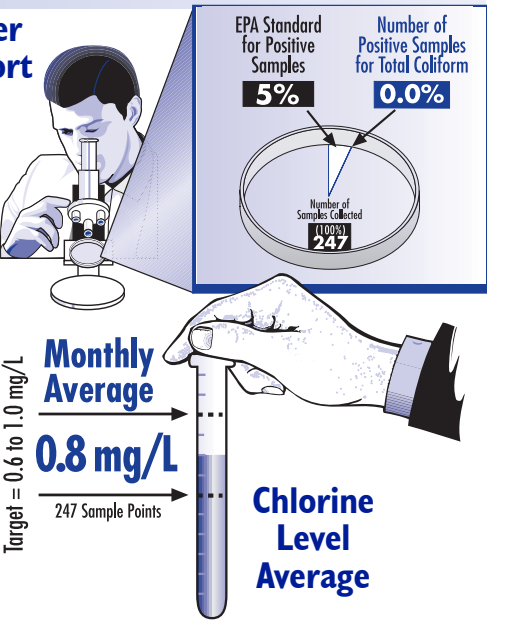


* mg/L means milligrams per liter; 1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons

** 17.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L) = 1 grain per gallon; Therefore, the system-wide hardness average as reported for October 2006: 147 mg/L divided by 17.1 = 8.6 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.

Coliform Bacteria Testing Results – October 2006



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**.