

Caring for Our Water System Investment

Water 101 continued from front

galvanized steel and cement/asbestos mains with PVC pipe and cleaned and lined 48 miles of cast iron mains.

Tucson Water's water system management team includes professionals who develop forecasting models that show the future needs for new infrastructure and projected needs for maintenance. This gives us the information we need to plan in advance for improvements or replacement of portions of the water system, which are funded with a combination of water sales and water revenue bonds. The Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) reviews Tucson Water's system, project, and financial plans prior to their submittal to the Mayor and Council for approval.

To find out more about how Tucson Water manages your water system, call 791-4331 or get a copy of the 2008 Update to the Long Range Water Plan from the Tucson Water web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/water/waterplan-2008.htm. CWAC meetings are also open to the public and you can find more information about the Committee at www.tucsonaz.gov/water/.

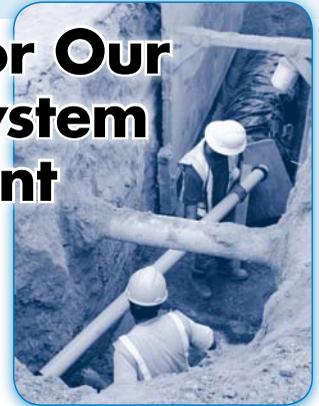


Your Water Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

Water 101

Caring for Our Water System Investment



Tucson Water serves 775,000 customers in a 350-square-mile area, with more than 4,300 miles of distribution and transmission infrastructure – the pipes, mains, wells, basins, reservoirs, connections, valves, booster stations, and meters that bring drinking water to your home. These facilities represent more than \$1 billion in community investment – and Tucson Water takes the responsibility of operating and maintaining this investment very seriously.

During the past fifteen years, Tucson Water customers have invested more than \$110 million to maintain, replace, expand, and repair our water system. This includes replacing aging equipment and adding new reservoirs to improve our water reliability to ensure that you have water 24/7.

The replacement and rehabilitation of water mains are an important part of a reliable water supply. Tucson Water has replaced 172 miles of

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

10 years!

Sweetwater Celebrates

Happy 10th Birthday to the Sweetwater Wetlands! Besides being a water treatment facility, the Sweetwater Wetlands is also a teeming urban wildlife habitat and an educational facility. For 10 years, the Wetlands' plant life, algae, and microbes thriving in settling basins and polishing ponds have filtered backwash water from the adjacent Tucson Water Reclaimed Water Treatment Plant. Ultimately gravity pulls the cleaned backwash water to four recharge basins, where it slowly filters through sediments and is stored in the aquifer deep within the ground. During peak water demand, this stored reclaimed water is pumped out of the ground and used to irrigate school playgrounds, golf courses, street medians, and parks. Using reclaimed water conserves billions of gallons of drinking water!

Visitors can amble along the walking trails that wind around Sweetwater's streams, marshes, and ponds to view the many residents of the wetlands. The man-made marshes attract more than 200 different species of birds, both native and international species on migratory journeys from North, Central, and South America and beyond. From bobcats to bullfrogs, a wide range of animals, insects, birds, aquatic life and plants make the lush wetlands their full or part-time home.

This wetlands area, unique to Tucson, offers 17 acres of outdoor classroom for the study of ecology, water management, and wildlife. Arizona Game & Fish Department, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the University of Arizona, local school districts, and Tucson Water are using the Sweetwater Wetlands for education and research. Visitors can learn more about how the Wetlands' combines water resource management with an urban wildlife habitat by getting a free copy of the ***Sweetwater Wetlands Activity Book and Field Guide*** and by taking a tour.

The Wetlands is located near Interstate 10 and West Prince Road. The Wetlands is free and open to the public from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tuesdays to Sundays, and 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Mondays during the summer. Amenities include free parking, public restrooms, an observation deck, paved and unpaved trails, and interpretive signs. To schedule a guided tour, download the activity book, get directions and find out more, call Tucson Water at (520) 791-4331 or go to www.tucsonaz.gov/water and click on the Sweetwater Wetlands link.

Homeowners: Sign Up Now to be Water\$mart

Each year hundreds of customers attend Water\$mart classes taught by local experts through the University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension and sponsored by Tucson Water. Classes are free and seating is limited, so advance registration is strongly recommended. To register or for more info, contact Teri at (520)626-5161. On the web, Water\$mart can be found at: http://cals.arizona.edu/pima/smartscape/workshop_water.html

September 27, 2008 (Saturday)

9:00 am – 12:00 noon Hands-On Drip Irrigation
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Irrigation Timer Use
Pima County Cooperative Extension, 4210 N. Campbell Ave.

October 8, 2008 (Wednesday)

9:00 am – 11:00 am Desert Rain Gardens
The Nature Conservancy, 1510 E. Ft. Lowell Road
12:00 noon – 2:00 pm Principles of Xeriscape
Pima County Cooperative Extension, 4210 N. Campbell Ave.

October 25, 2008 (Saturday)

9:00 am – 12:00 noon Hands-On Drip Irrigation
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Irrigation Timer Use
Pima County Cooperative Extension, 4210 N. Campbell Ave.

Conservation Corner

– Water Waste Enforcement Update

Ordinance Brings Water Savings

Between July 2007 and June 2008, two Water Cops were on full-time duty investigating violations of Tucson Code 27-15, the Water Waste Ordinance, looking for water waste and unreasonable use of water. They investigated 342 different commercial sites including apartment complexes, office buildings, strip malls, industrial complexes, and schools. The most common violations were related to watering grass and irrigation system problems.

Water wasters may receive

written violation notices with a specified time frame to correct the problem, but if the water waste continues, then a citation is written. With continued violations, wasters may also incur fines of \$2500 or more from citations and court fees.

The Water Waste enforcement program is making a difference - 100% of those violators who ended up in court, corrected their water waste problems by removing turf, updating old irrigation systems, adjusting irrigation run times, fixing leaks, and landscaping with low water use and native plants.

The Water Cops and the enforcement program are making a difference in our community by educating all of us, stopping waste, and saving one of the desert's most precious resources – water.



– We Count on You

Report Water Waste When You See It

Do you consistently spot pools of water in the street or in parking lots? Do you see misting systems operating when no one is present?

Report the water waste to our team of residential and commercial conservation inspectors:

- Call customer service at 791-3242
- Provide a description of the problem. Be specific with the address, time of day, commercial vs. residential property, etc.

Clearwater Quality Report – Most recent water quality data (July 6 – August 6, 2008)

60	Sodium (mg/L) (July 23)
343.0	Mineral (mg/L) (July 6 – August 6 avg.)
169	Hardness (mg/L) (July 23)
7.92	pH (S.U.) (July 6 – August 6 avg.)
Neg	Coliform Bacteria (July 18)
0.86	Chlorine level (mg/L) (July 6 – August 6 avg.)
61.8	Temp (deg F) (July 6 – August 6 avg.)

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.

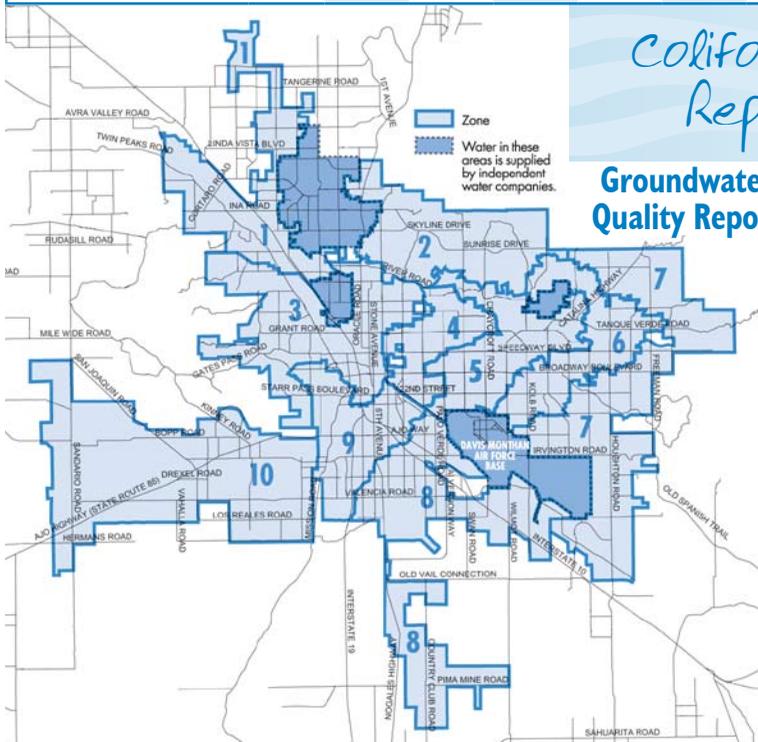
City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

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



Groundwater Quality Report - July 2008

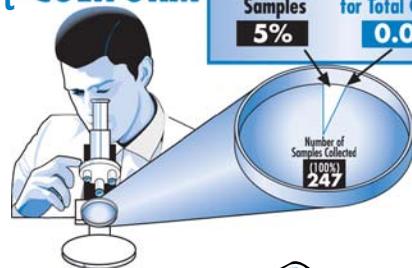
Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)* 77 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	49 38-59	54 50-61	50 20-66	38 26-52	50 33-64	53 43-60	35 23-58	42 39-44	51 35-63	46 39-59	47 20-66
Mineral Content (mg/L)* 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	376 141-555	420 413-425	381 193-471	322 188-420	367 166-428	393 277-425	298 178-420	404 298-444	340 205-502	275 206-430	361 141-555
Hardness (mg/L)* 77 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	194 172-213	161 143-183	158 82-224	108 64-151	150 92-189	163 120-186	120 80-192	209 175-248	132 69-194	101 73-167	148 64-248
pH (S.U.) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	7.8 7.4-8.0	8.0 7.9-8.1	7.9 7.7-8.1	7.9 7.7-8.1	7.9 7.6-8.1	8.0 7.9-8.1	7.9 7.6-8.1	7.6 7.4-7.8	7.9 7.4-8.0	7.9 7.8-8.1	7.9 7.4-8.1
Temperature (deg F) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	86 81-90	89 86-93	88 77-94	88 83-93	89 78-97	88 86-93	88 83-94	88 83-93	90 84-94	90 88-94	88 77-97



Coliform Bacteria Testing Report - July 2008

Groundwater Quality Report COLIFORM

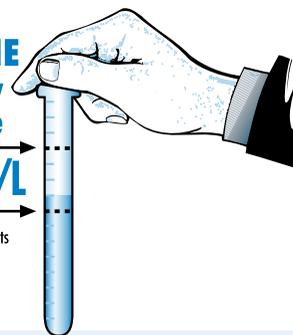
EPA Standard for Positive Samples: **5%**
 Number of Positive Samples for Total Coliform: **0.0%**



CHLORINE
 Monthly Average

0.9 mg/L

Target = 0.8 to 1.2 mg/L
 247 Sample Points



* 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 July 2008: 148 mg/L divided by 17.1 = 8.65 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.