

On The Water Front



Every summer for the last 32 years, Tucson Water's mascot, Pete the Beak, reminds us of the importance of saving water. A year ago, Tucson Water launched new conservation efforts and built on existing programs based on input from town halls, customer surveys and recommendations from our Community Conservation Task Force. Conservation rebates and incentives for the home and workplace were launched, tested and evaluated. Our current programs include:

- **Residential High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebate Program** for Tucson Water customers with a toilet manufactured prior to 1991 and using 3.5 gallons/flush or more. Seven hundred forty-nine (749) HET fixtures – using 1.3 gallons per flush or less – have been rebated.
- **Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Program** offers free, high pressure, low water use rinse sprays to commercial kitchens. Fifty-five (55) local kitchens now have rinse smart equipment installed.
- **Irrigation System Upgrade Program for Commercial and Multi-family** customers to install new water-saving equipment. A local apartment complex applied for and received rebates for approved equipment.
- **Commercial, Industrial and Multi-family High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebate** program. Fifteen (15) HET fixtures have been approved for rebate.

In July, three new conservation programs are being considered: community distribution of high efficiency toilets to low income residential and multi-family customers; incentives for installing home gray water systems; and revision of landscape design standards for new multi-family construction. Watch for details in upcoming *Your Water Connection* newsletters and on Tucson Water's website. Like all rebate and incentive programs, there will be specific forms and processes required to qualify.

Jeff Biggs, Director, Tucson Water

Your Water Connection

News & Tips for Tucson Water Customers

June 2009

www.tucsonaz.gov/water

Pete the Beak Goes Virtual:



“Just Click 2 Save H₂O”

Pete the Beak, Tucson Water's Conservation mascot, wants everyone to know that fun and important water saving information can now be found on Pete's MySpace page at www.myspace.com/petethebeak.

With a quick log in on  Pete's MySpace page, kids 8 to 15 will be able to join Pete's Conservation team by completing a Water Conservation quiz, creating and uploading conservation videos, signing up to receive Twitter messages from Pete, downloading music and videos, playing with interactive coloring books, viewing Pete on YouTube, and more. Adults also will be able to link to valuable water saving information through Pete's page.



twitter



Broadcast Yourself™

Tucsonans have supported Pete's rally to conserve water message for more than 30 years. Thanks to community support and smart choices, our per person water usage over the past six years has dropped by more than 10%! But, as we face the hot, dry summer months and

Virtual Pete 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

Important Archeological Work Underway Prior to Construction Project

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) is in the process of preparing for the expansion and upgrade of the Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF). The expansion of the Ina Road WRF is part of the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP). The ROMP is a state-mandated project that will improve the quality of effluent (treated sewage) that is discharged to the Santa Cruz River by the Roger Road WRF and the Ina Road WRF.

Today, the Ina Road WRF has the capacity to treat 37.5 million gallons a day (mgd) of the community's wastewater. When the facility is fully upgraded and expanded in 2014, it will have a capacity of 50 mgd. In addition to the increased capacity, the effluent generated by the Ina Road facility will be of a higher quality and will be an important non-potable water source for our community.

Before construction of the upgrades and expansion at the Ina Road WRF can begin, Pima County must perform an in-depth archeological study of the site. Recent archeological work has uncovered significant findings, including an Early Agricultural Period village which includes segments of several ancient irrigation canals contributing to a complex irrigation-based agricultural system. Additional findings include the remains of several "bordered" agricultural fields fed by the canals and approximately 35 pit houses and numerous smaller pit features associated with the field systems.

Professional archeologists are taking great care to study and record important findings that are providing a new understanding of early agricultural culture and our region's history.

Your Utilities Services statement includes fees for your water, wastewater, and environmental services.

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) –

For more information about the regional wastewater system, call (520) 740-6500 or visit www.pima.gov/wwm.

Don't Hang Up on Your Old Cell Phone – Recycle It!

Twenty-five years ago Motorola introduced the first cellular phone — a large chunky model that weighed two pounds. With miniaturization of digital components and the development of smaller batteries, current cell phones weigh about four ounces. Who could have predicted how dependant we would become on these devices? And, how could we have predicted the massive numbers of phones replaced each year?

Cell phones are used, on average, for only eighteen months with about 130 million phones retired in the U.S. in 2006. With "texting and Twittering," new web-capable smart phones will probably accelerate that rate. Talk about instant obsolescence! Most of these old phones sit in drawers, closets or unfortunately, landfills. Most people don't realize cell phones contain toxic substances and their rechargeable batteries are considered hazardous waste. They need to be reused or disposed of properly.

Most phones can be reused and given directly to people who need them. In Tucson, cell phones are collected by some non-profits and given to people so they can access 911 emergency communications. If you want to find out how to put your old phone to re-use, call the Recycling Infoline at 791-5000 or use Tucson Clean and Beautiful's on-line Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Directory at www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb/rd. In addition, most cell phone dealers will collect used phones for reuse or recycling. Go to The Wireless Recycling Network at www.recellular.com for participating national partners. Don't hoard your old

phones, and don't throw them in the trash. Put them to good use by donating them.

Environmental Services –

To ask questions, learn more about ES, or schedule a Los Reales tour, call (520) 791-3171 or visit www.tucsonaz.gov/esd or www.tucsonrecycles.org.

Pete the Beak Goes Virtual:

“Just Click 2 Save H₂O”

Virtual Pete continued from Front

the continuing drought conditions along the Colorado River, all of us need to continue to save water. Some ways that Pete wants us all to get on line with conserving water this summer include:

- 1) Tapping into free info to save \$ and water.** For children and teens, Tucson Water has free guided tours, activity books, cool MySpace quizzes and more. During the school year, there are educational programs that include classroom and field trip activities. Adults can opt for free tours, register for a free WaterSmart class, and apply for water conservation incentive and rebate programs for home and business.
- 2) Harvesting, storing and using rain to water plants.** Create berms and ditches and use gravity to guide rainwater to plants. Use gutters and cisterns to collect rainwater for landscape irrigation.
- 3) Using gray water to irrigate.** Re-use water from your clothes washer, shower, tub, or bathroom sink to irrigate the landscape rather than having it go down the drain. Hook up a hose to your clothes washer or grab a container to collect shower water and use it on plants.
- 4) Landscaping with native and low water use plants.** Once established, these plants need little water to thrive in the desert. Ask for advice at your local nursery or opt for a free WaterSmart class to find out more.

Each summer, Pete the Beak reminds us to get on board with making the right choices to conserve water. No matter our age, drop by drop, we can each make a difference in saving water and creating a more sustainable community.

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.



Find Conservation Information Here!

- ◆ Click on Pete the Beak's MySpace page: www.myspace.com/petethebeak with links to YouTube and Twitter.
- ◆ Register for a WaterSmart Workshop: (520) 626-5161.
- ◆ Take advantage of rebates and incentives: www.tucsonaz.gov/water/rebate.htm Be sure to follow application guidelines and equipment requirements for rebate approval.
- ◆ Schedule a home water audit with a Tucson Water Zanjero (water manager): (520) 791-3242, press 0.
- ◆ Reserve your seat for a guided tour of key water facilities: (520) 837-2183 or the Public Information Office at (520) 791-4331.
- ◆ Download or request a free water conservation brochure: www.tucsonaz.gov/water/pubs-br.htm or (520) 791-4331.
- ◆ Report suspected water waste to Tucson Water's conservation inspectors: (520) 791-3242, press 0. Please provide a specific address and description of the problem.

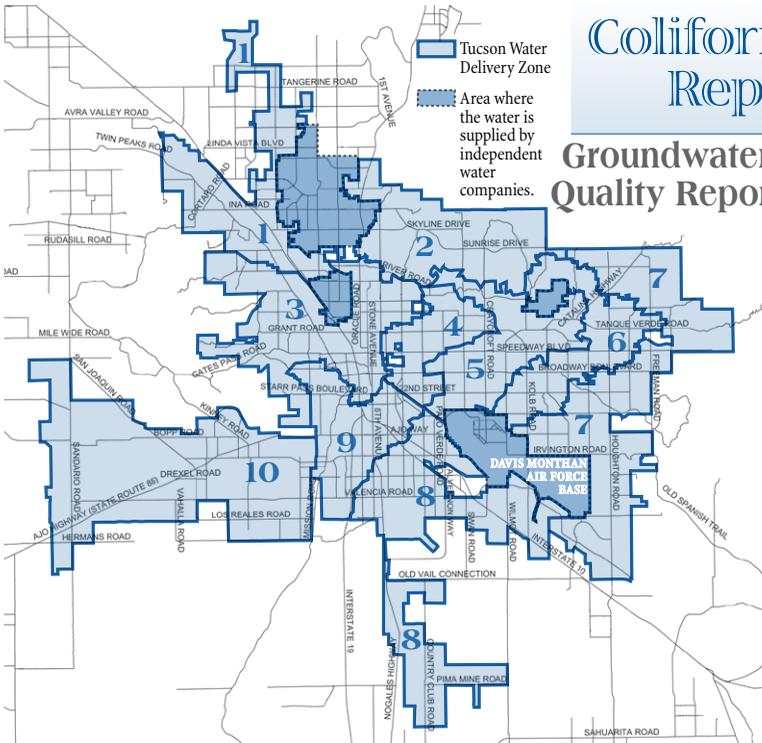
Clearwater Quality Report—

Most recent water quality data (April 12 – May 11, 2009)

64	Sodium (mg/L) (April 16)
465.4	Mineral (mg/L) (April 12 – May 11 avg.)
227	Hardness (mg/L) (April 16)
7.86	pH (S.U.) (April 12 – May 11 8 avg.)
Neg	Coliform Bacteria (April 12)
0.96	Chlorine level (mg/L) (April 12 – May 11 avg.)
83.5	Temp (deg F) (April 12 – May 11 avg.)

Groundwater Quality Report - April 2009

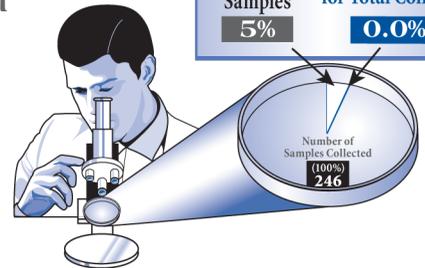
Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)* 77 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	59	64	62	54	58	59	41	49	54	41	55
	Range	46-75	59-68	55-67	32-67	50-68	43-65	27-63	41-64	39-68	38-42	27-75
Mineral Content (mg/L)* 246 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	462	487	470	429	427	460	322	461	450	268	430
	Range	314-573	435-511	383-518	184-513	169-513	328-503	177-493	397-529	211-536	206-460	169-573
Hardness (mg/L)** 77 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	270	234	228	183	207	210	154	235	226	110	206
	Range	237-334	219-250	194-265	73-240	184-246	151-235	113-231	195-274	88-316	81-152	73-334
pH (S.U.) 246 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	7.5	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8
	Range	7.3-7.8	7.9-8.1	7.7-8.0	7.7-8.0	7.5-8.1	7.6-8.0	7.7-8.0	7.4-7.9	7.4-7.9	7.5-8.0	7.3-8.1
Temperature (deg F) 246 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	77	77	78	79	77	77	77	76	78	77	77
	Range	73-80	72-81	74-81	70-85	69-83	73-80	73-81	71-81	69-84	71-82	69-85



Coliform Bacteria Testing Report - April 2009

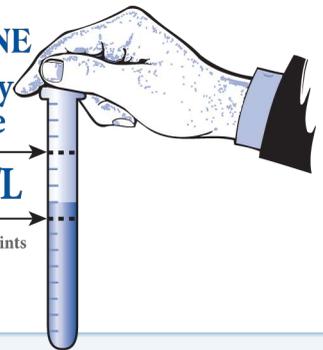
Groundwater Quality Report COLIFORM

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



CHLORINE Monthly Average

Target = 0.8 to 1.2 mg/L
0.9 mg/L
 246 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 April 2009: 206 mg/L divided by 17.1 = 12.05 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.