



Entry Deadline:

April 1, 2010, 4:30 PM

**Award Ceremony on
June 5, 2010**

**at the Arizona-Sonora Desert
Museum**



The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum are partnering on the 10th Annual Xeriscape Contest for 2010, with entry categories for

- Homeowners
- Professionally-designed residential, commercial or public works landscapes

Nominations are also being sought for the Community Xeriscape Leader Award.

The Contest's primary purpose is to increase awareness of exemplary landscapes that are water efficient and to encourage others to utilize



these innovative practices to create beautiful landscapes and conserve water. To view a photo gallery of 2009 winners or to download contest entry forms, rules, and prize information, go to [www.](http://www.desertmuseum.org)

[desertmuseum.org](http://www.desertmuseum.org) or www.azwater.gov/TAMA, or call (520) 770-3816.

Your Water CONNECTION

News & Tips for Tucson Water Customers
February 2010 www.tucsonaz.gov/water

On the Water Front

Tucson Water is an 'enterprise fund' of the City of Tucson, which means that it operates much like a private business, where the costs of providing goods and services are financed primarily by customers. No General Fund financial support is provided to Tucson Water; it is operated and maintained as a self-supporting municipally-owned utility of the City. City departments provide support to Tucson Water; however, Tucson Water pays City departments for the services provided.



Tucson Water's authority and responsibility is derived from the City's Charter and ordinances and resolutions of the Mayor and Council.

Tucson's Mayor and Council adopt Tucson Water's annual budget, establish water rates and fee structures in accordance with State laws governing municipal water systems and bond covenants, establish water financial policies, and provide overall policy direction.

A Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC), established by a 1977 City ordinance, advises the Mayor and Council on matters related to Tucson Water. The CWAC is made up of 15, non-compensated members appointed

On the Water Front *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

Pima County –

City of Tucson Environmental Services –

The Corona de Tucson Wastewater Reclamation Facility

Irvington Landfill Closure Project

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) operates the Corona de Tucson Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF), located at 1100 West Sahuarita Road in Corona de Tucson, Arizona.

Just west of Houghton and south of Irvington Roads is the Irvington Landfill, a 40-acre, City owned landfill which operated from 1978 to 1988 and collected primarily construction waste. The Irvington Landfill is the last of three, inactive City landfills scheduled for final closure. When talking about landfills, 'closure' refers to specific actions taken to ensure the landfill will not negatively impact the surrounding environment.

Established in 1985, the facility was upgraded and expanded in 2007. At that time the facility's capacity was expanded from a 300,000 gallon a day capacity to 1.3 million gallons a day. The upgrade and expansion were designed to meet new performance standards required by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and assures adequate treatment capacity into the foreseeable future.

The Irvington Landfill closure project will be completed in February 2010, but the City will monitor the site for another 30 years. The project consists of construction of a three-foot-thick soil cap, waste relocation, installation of new gas monitoring wells, and construction of rock-lined storm water drainage channels. Additionally, extensive stabilization work will be done on the Mesquite Branch Wash, which runs along the west side of the landfill. The entire site will be seeded and trees will be planted and irrigated with a solar-powered system. Local contractors are being used and the project is on-time and within budget.

Corona de Tucson WRF was the first wastewater reclamation facility in Pima County to have an underground storage facility permit granted by the Arizona Department of Water Resources. The high quality effluent produced at this facility is discharged by gravity to three on-site recharge basins.

The Corona de Tucson WRF is operated seven days a week, 365 days a year. This facility is electronically monitored from a remote location. In the event of a malfunction, RWRD staff can frequently correct the problem by computer, or if necessary, send on-call staff to the facility for hands-on service.

The project is funded through General Obligation Bonds approved by voters in 2000. The City is closing the landfill under Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and United States Army Corps of Engineers' regulations. Regulations require that ground water and soil be assessed for potential impacts, and if found, systems put in place to address any contamination. Since monitoring began, no methane or ground water impacts have been found, but the site will continue to be monitored.

In addition to high-tech operations, the Corona de Tucson WRF is a favored site for birdwatchers. Bird watching hours are 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. daily. A list of attendees and group affiliations must be communicated in advance by fax (520) 762-0591 or by phone (520) 762-0593. Identification is required for access to the facility's bird watching area, and visitors are asked to follow all directions provided by Pima County staff.

If you would like more information about the Irvington Landfill closure project, please call Environmental Services at 791-5414.

This is the sixth article in a series that highlights the eleven wastewater reclamation facilities operated by the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department.

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/www.

Environmental Services (ES) - To ask questions, learn more about ES, call (520) 791-3171 or visit <http://tucsonaz.gov/esd> or www.tucsonrecycles.org.

Free WaterSmart Workshops

Each year more than 500 homeowners attend WaterSmart classes taught by local conservation experts through the University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension. Classes are free, popular, and seating is limited, so advance registration is strongly recommended. To register or for more info, contact Kathryn or Teri at (520) 626-5161. On the web, WaterSmart can be found at <http://ag.arizona.edu/pima/smartscape/>

All classes are sponsored by Tucson Water and taught at Pima County Cooperative Extension, 4210 N. Campbell Avenue in Tucson.

March 10, Wednesday

Basic Landscape Maintenance 9:00 am–12:00 noon

March 20, Saturday

Desert-wise Landscaping 9:00 am–12:00 noon

March 27, Saturday

New class TBA to be announced

April 3, Saturday

Residential Landscape Irrigation 8:30 am–12:00 noon

Landscape Water Budget 9:30 am–11:00 am

April 14, Wednesday

Desert Rain Gardens 9:00 am–11:00 am

Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use 12:00 noon–2:00 pm
(bring lunch!)

May 12, Wednesday

Desert-wise Landscaping 9:00 am–12:00 noon

May 15, Saturday

Residential Landscape Irrigation 8:30 am–12:00 noon

Landscape Water Budget 9:30 am–11:00 am

June 5, Saturday

Landscape Water Budget 9:30 am–11:00 am

June 9, Wednesday

Desert Rain Gardens 9:00 am–11:00 am

Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use 12:00 noon–2:00 pm
(bring lunch!)

On the Water Front *(Cont'd.)*

by the Mayor, Council members, and the City Manager. One of CWAC's principal responsibilities is to conduct an annual review and evaluation of Tucson Water's revenue requirements, including capital improvement program needs and water rate adjustments required to meet those requirements. Following this review, CWAC recommends a schedule of rate adjustments to the Mayor and Council, if rate changes are needed. After a public hearing, the Mayor and Council have final authority in establishing water rates and charges.

Tucson Water is committed to delivering high quality water and excellent service in a cost efficient, safe and environmentally responsible manner. As an enterprise fund, it is critical that our customers receive water and service at a fair price for now and the long term.

Jeff Biggs, Director, Tucson Water

Emergency Info Fast and Free



Whether it's a wildfire, severe weather alert, security concern, or utility outage, SafetyAlertGPC (Greater Pima County) can instantly send emergency information and response instructions to your cell

phone, pager, PDA, computer, or phone line. SafetyAlertGPC is Southern Arizona's free subscription service provided by a partnership of all eight Pima County governments, funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Sign up for SafetyAlertGPC by calling (520) 837-7381 or by going on line www.SafetyAlertGPC.com. Get connected today to receive critical alerts and response information by voice, text and e-mail.

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.



Residential Customers

Sign up Now for 2010 WaterSmart Workshops

Learn from local experts how to create colorful, low-water use landscapes for your home.

- Design a Xeriscape Landscape ■ Use Desert and Native Plants ■ Harvest Rainwater and Gray Water for Easy Irrigation ■
- Assemble a Drip Irrigation System ■ Tips for Smart Landscape Maintenance ■ and more ■

To register or get more info, click <http://ag.arizona.edu/pima/smartscape/> or call (520) 626-5161

FREE!
Limited Seating

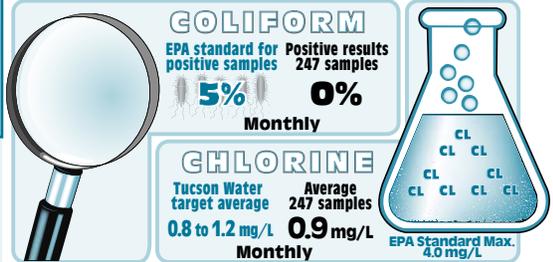
Water Quality Report - December 2009

Ensuring drinking water is clean and safe from the aquifer to your tap is the top priority of Tucson Water. More than 20,000 individual tests are performed annually, focusing on the water quality from these two main sources: **groundwater** and **the blend** of recharged Central Arizona Project (CAP) water and groundwater from the Clearwater Recharge and Recovery Facility (CRRF).

Groundwater Source Report - Groundwater comes from about 200 wells in the Tucson metropolitan area. This reporting area is divided into 10 zones:

Elements Sampled	ZONE AVERAGE										System Average
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Sodium (mg/L*) 86SP	51	61	59	58	56	57	54	53	53	59	56
Mineral Content (mg/L*) 247SP	388	463	452	448	424	438	378	465	443	315	429
Hardness (mg/L*) 86SP	157	203	196	194	186	190	185	227	208	190	195
pH (S.U.) 247SP	7.8	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.9	8.0
Temperature (deg F) 247SP	72	75	74	74	72	73	72	72	74	74	73

None of the water quality tests to the left have U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) primary standards set for them. However, the USEPA has primary standards for levels of coliform bacteria and the disinfectant chlorine for groundwater sources:



Clearwater Report - More than 50% of our total water supply is a blend of recharged CAP water and native groundwater from the CRRF. Using this recovered blended water means that we reduce groundwater pumping:

Sodium	58 mg/L	(Dec. 12)
Mineral Content	468.9 mg/L	(Dec. 9-Jan. 13 avg.)
Hardness	186 mg/L	(Dec. 12)
pH	7.86 S.U.	(Dec. 9-Jan. 13 avg.)
Coliform Bacteria	Negative	(Dec. 15)
Chlorine Level	0.98 mg/L	(Dec. 9-Jan. 13 avg.)
Temperature	72.6 F	(Dec. 9-Jan. 13 avg.)

There are several ways to obtain information about water quality. Go to www.tucsonaz.gov/water and click on the Water Quality Tab for maps, FAQs, definitions, reports, online monitoring station results, and more. Call (520) 791-4331 to schedule speakers, ask for an Annual Water Quality Report, or request brochures on water quality.

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

