

# Your water CONNECTION

## July is Smart Irrigation Month



If plants look wilted or the ground is soggy, it may be time to fix an irrigation

leak or adjust a watering schedule. Here are three tips to irrigate efficiently, save money, and save water:

1. Adjust your irrigation/watering schedule for the hot summer months. Water early in the day between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. before it gets too hot or windy. Some irrigation system clocks allow you to set a “water window” which restricts watering to certain times of the day.
2. Stop leaks with some easy system maintenance: replace tubing and broken emitters, and clean out clogged emitters.
3. Install a rain sensor that turns off a home irrigation system when monsoon rains meet your landscape’s water needs. The sensor will tell the irrigation clock to start up again when the usable rainfall is depleted.

For more smart irrigation info

[tucsonaz.gov/water](http://tucsonaz.gov/water)

(520) 791-4331

For more information, materials in accessible formats, foreign language interpreters, and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact Tucson Water at (520) 791-4331 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD.



New rates for drinking water service will go into effect on July 5, 2011 with all customer groups – single family, multi-family, commercial, industrial, construction and fire sprinkler service – seeing different rates for varied levels of use. Overall, water rates will rise by 8.2%. In addition, the conservation fee that is dedicated to funding programs to encourage water efficiency will increase by \$0.02 per Ccf (where 1 Ccf equals 748 gallons).

The average residential customer will see a rate increase of approximately \$2.46 per month for a single-family home consuming 10 Ccf or 7,480 gallons of drinking water per month. Most of Tucson Water’s customers are in this single-family class; over 80% of customers in this category use 15 Ccf or less of water, on average, a month.

As an enterprise fund, Tucson Water must generate revenues to cover the cost of its operations. Rising energy rates for natural gas, electricity, and fuel, along with the cost of purchasing our full allocation of Colorado River water have a large impact on Tucson Water. By purchasing and storing our full allocation, Tucson Water is securing our water future.

Tucson Water delivers a reliable source of quality water to customers at a fair rate while working to reduce costs, improving efficiency, making key infrastructure investments, and keeping our \$1 billion water system in working order.

With rate changes, the average cost of water per gallon is still less than a penny. We hope that you’ll agree that’s a great deal for available, safe, clean and high-quality water in our desert community.

— Andy Quigley, INTERIM DIRECTOR, TUCSON WATER



## PIMA COUNTY

## Regional Optimization Master Plan Construction Update

The Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) is on track and well under way. ROMP is a program of upgrades to Pima County's two largest wastewater treatment facilities and was developed to meet environmental standards for treated wastewater set by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). ADEQ regulates the way Pima County treats and conveys sewage.

The new standards require the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) to reduce ammonia and nitrogen levels in the effluent the county discharges into the Santa Cruz River from the Ina Road and Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facilities (WRF). Effluent is treated wastewater.

The ROMP is made up of multiple construction projects:

- The **Plant Interconnect** is a five-mile sewer "gravity line," completed in December 2010. The Plant Interconnect will convey some wastewater flows from the existing Roger Road service area to the expanded Ina Road WRF.
- Construction is under way on the **Ina Road Upgrade and Expansion Project**. This upgraded and expanded facility will be operational by January 2014. The enhancements to the facility will increase treatment capacity from 37.5 million gallons a day (MGD) to 50 MGD.
- Preliminary construction activities are under way at the new **Water Reclamation Campus (WRC)**. The WRC will be a state-of-the-art wastewater reclamation facility and will be operational by January 2015. The new 32 MGD WRC will replace the existing 41 MGD Roger Road WRF.
- A new **laboratory** adjacent to the WRC site is also under construction. The laboratory will serve all eleven Pima County treatment facilities.

*This is the third in a series of articles on the ROMP project. Updates will appear as the multi-year project progresses.*

**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 [pima.gov/wwm](http://pima.gov/wwm).

## CITY OF TUCSON

## Environmental Services is Working to Protect Groundwater

Protecting Tucson's groundwater is an important part of what the Environmental Services (ES) Department does to make sure our environment is safe and clean. ES spends funds from the Groundwater Protection Fee to protect the community from environmental threats and public health and safety issues that can arise from



the 23 old landfills in the City that the City, at one time, hauled to, owned, or operated. ES is responsible for maintenance, monitoring, and remediation at 16 of these landfills, addressing the groundwater, soil, stormwater, and methane gas issues that can occur at these sites.

Old landfills can contaminate our groundwater, potentially damaging our most precious natural resource. ES monitors 432 groundwater wells annually to assess the movement of contaminants in our groundwater at 16 landfill sites. ES also operates three groundwater treatment systems, cleaning 1.5 million gallons of contaminated groundwater daily.

ES has recently created a new web page at <http://dot.tucsonaz.gov/es-projects> that provides information about old landfills, describes work being done, links to a map and the monitoring reports.

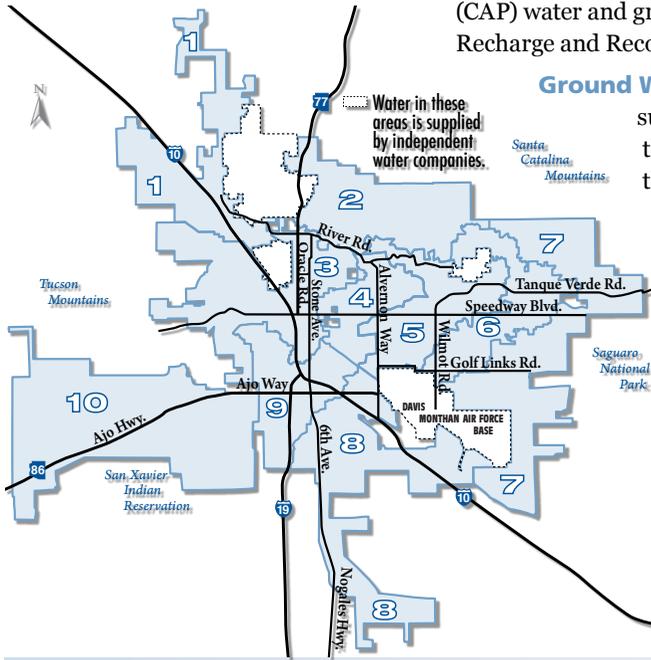
Environmental Services (ES) – Learn about how ES is protecting our ground water and the environment at [tucsonaz.gov/esd](http://tucsonaz.gov/esd) and (520) 791-3171.

# Water quality report

May 2011



More than 20,000 individual water quality tests are performed annually on the drinking water derived from two sources: 1) ground water and 2) the blend of recharged Central Arizona Project (CAP) water and ground water from the Clearwater Recharge and Recovery Facility (CRRF).



**Ground Water Source Report** – Less than 50% of our total water supply comes from pumping native ground water wells in the Tucson metropolitan area. These test results reflect the main distribution system, divided into 10 zones:

## test results

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

Zones	Sodium (mg/L*) 84 SP	Mineral Content (mg/L*) 247 SP	Hardness (mg/L*) 84 SP	pH Level (S.U.) 247 SP	Temperature (deg F) 247 SP
1	56	397	201	7.9	81
2	65	490	236	8.1	82
3	63	469	223	8.0	82
4	60	444	216	8.0	83
5	59	440	207	7.9	81
6	60	452	223	7.9	81
7	50	385	187	8.0	82
8	54	448	226	7.8	82
9	58	451	198	8.0	83
10	55	401	172	7.9	81
<b>Avg</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>82</b>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has primary standards for levels of coliform bacteria and the disinfectant chlorine.

## coliform

EPA standards for positive samples

Positive results  
247 samples



## chlorine

EPA Standard  
Max. 4.0 mg/L

Actual Average  
247 samples 0.9 mg/L

Tucson Water target average  
0.8 to 1.2 mg/L

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

<b>Sodium</b>	<b>66 mg/L</b>	<b>(May 16, 2011)</b>
<b>Mineral Content</b>	<b>490.1 mg/L</b>	<b>(May 9–June 13, 2011 avg.)</b>
<b>Hardness</b>	<b>244 mg/L</b>	<b>(May 16, 2011)</b>
<b>pH</b>	<b>7.93 S.U.</b>	<b>(May 9–June 13, 2011 avg.)</b>
<b>Coliform Bacteria</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>(May 6, 2011)</b>
<b>Chlorine Level</b>	<b>1.0 mg/L</b>	<b>(May 9–June 13, 2011 avg.)</b>
<b>Temperature</b>	<b>81.0 F</b>	<b>(May 9–June 13, 2011 avg.)</b>

To obtain water quality information, go to [tucsonaz.gov/water](http://tucsonaz.gov/water) and click on the Water Quality Tab for maps, FAQs, definitions, reports, online monitoring station results, and more. Or call (520) 791-4331 to schedule speakers, ask for an Annual Water Quality Report, or to request brochures.

# Q & A with Water Conservation Mascot *Pete the Beak*

Since 1976, Tucson Water's duck mascot, Pete, has encouraged customers of all ages to Beat the Peak (BTP) to conserve drinking water during the hot, dry summer months, when demand is at its highest and our community water supplies tapped. In a special interview we caught up with Pete to ask him the scoop on BTP:

## ***Pete, how do you promote water conservation?***

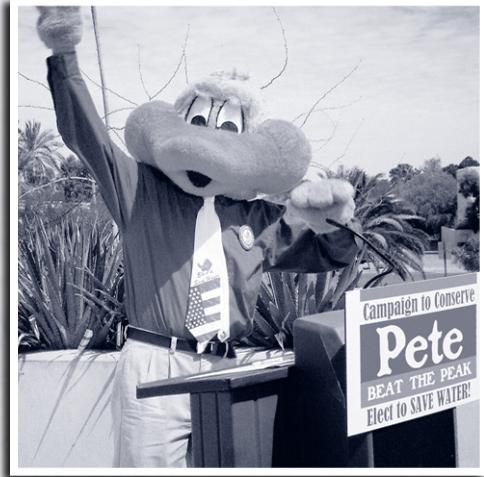
I've been a pirate, a super hero, a celebrity chef, a 'Conservation Idol' judge and more to make it fun to learn about water and conserving it. Because conservation has to keep up with the times, I went online in 2009 with a My Space page so parents and kids could get instant tips and games. I make personal appearances around our community to educate Tucsonans about saving water.

## ***What one thing do you want to remind folks about water conservation?***

Saving water is easy. Each person making just one small change can save gallons of water and that adds up! It can be as simple as taking a shorter shower, turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth, running a full load of dishes or clothes, or fixing a pesky toilet leak.

***Are we saving water?*** Yes! Tucson is one of the top water-saving cities in the Southwest. That's a big deal living in the desert, where we average less than 12 inches of rainfall a year. The amount of water used per person has been dropping for more than ten years.

***What's new about Beat the Peak?*** As we move to 100% reliance on renewable water supplies, it's important to be water efficient and beat the peak all year round - not just during the summer. Since BTP started back in the '70s,



the reasons why we need to conserve have changed with Tucson Water's investments in new water supplies and new facilities, pipes, mains, reservoirs, and meters.

## ***What are a few ways to use water efficiently?***

Use a rebate to replace an old, pre-1991 toilet with a high-efficiency model that uses 1.3 gallons or less per flush. Water plants and irrigate with gray water from hand-washing sinks, showers, bath tubs and clothes washing machines. Landscape with low water use plants

and keep your home irrigation system in tip-top condition so there are no leaks or over watering.

***How can I find out more?*** Contact [tucsonaz.gov/water](http://tucsonaz.gov/water) or (520) 791-4331 to get free information about water efficiency incentives, rebates, tips, class schedules, demonstration programs, brochures, and videos.

