

WATER MATTERS

inside this issue



**Tucson Water
is Ready for
Colorado River
Shortages**

2-4

**Your Utilities:
Wastewater &
Environmental
Services**

5-6

**Main System:
Water Quality
Report**

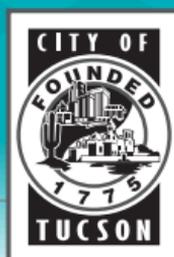
7-8

Water Director Tim Thomure provides insight into the Drought Contingency Plan and how Tucson is prepared for Colorado River shortages.

*(Letter from the Director,
pgs. 2-4)*



A proud part of the City of Tucson



LETTER

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Timothy M. Thomure

Dear Tucson Water Customers,

There has been a lot in the news lately about a shortage on the Colorado River: when it will happen, what it means for Tucson, and what the state is doing to prepare for it. It's important to know that Tucson is uniquely situated to manage Colorado River shortages now and in the future because of our community's long-standing investments in proactive planning, conservation, and water supply diversification. I have been actively representing our community in statewide negotiations on how we manage the river, and want to give you an update so you know what is happening with this key part of our city's water supply.

What is a shortage? The surface elevation of Lake Mead is the main indicator of how much water is in the lower Colorado River, which is shared by Arizona, Nevada, California, and Mexico. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages the entire Colorado River system, monitors and forecasts the elevation of the lake, and, based on that information, can declare the need to reduce the amount of water available to users (industry, farms, cities, and Native American tribes). This is called a declaration of shortage.

There are different tiers of shortage based on how low the lake gets. River users take cuts to their share of water based on the different tiers and the users' priority level. Cities and tribes have the highest priority for Colorado River water delivered by the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal, and would be the last to see cuts during shortage.

When could it happen?

Federal officials predict there is a 57 percent chance that in January 2020, water levels at Lake Mead will fall below 1,075 feet (above sea level), triggering a Tier 1 shortage. The chances increase every year after that, as do chances that the lake will fall even lower, triggering higher-tier shortages (Tier 2 at 1,050 feet and Tier 3 at 1,025 feet). Tucson would not take any cuts under any of these stages, thanks to our priority status and our access to water stored by the Arizona Water Banking Authority (azwaterbank.gov).

What is the City of Tucson doing about it?

Tucson has worked with other Colorado River water users and state officials to negotiate an agreement called the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). The point of the DCP is for Arizona users to voluntarily keep water in Lake Mead to prevent or delay shortages on the river, but especially to keep Lake Mead above 1,020 feet – a critical level below Tier 3 at which all Arizona users would face significant cuts.

On December 4, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council voted to support the DCP for the following reasons:

- It's a carefully crafted compromise that balances the needs of industry, farms, cities, tribes, and the environment.
- Tucson's share of Colorado River water is fully protected under the proposed Arizona plan through at least 2026.
- It does not pass any new costs onto the City or our customers.
- It honors principles that are important to Tucson: preserving cities' priority status, keeping as much water in Lake Mead as possible, and protecting Arizona's economy.

What can you do about it? The DCP agreement is now in the hands of the Arizona State Legislature. The Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has given all states a deadline of January 31, 2019, to adopt the DCP or the federal government will step in to protect the river. We hope you'll join us in contacting your legislators with your own position about how to best secure Arizona's future water supplies. You can learn more about the DCP online at Arizona Department of Water Resources: new.azwater.gov/lbdcfp.

Regardless of the DCP, Tucson Water is ready to weather shortages on the Colorado River. Our Colorado River water rights meet about 150 percent of our customers' current demands. This allows us to store excess water in the ground for future shortages, and gives us a buffer if we see cuts in the future. In addition, our actions to conserve water and diversify our water supplies (such as recycled water and rainwater) help us to remain flexible and secure in the face of shortages on the river.

In the coming months, we'll share more information about shortage, drought, what the City is doing, and what you can do to help ensure a secure water future for Tucson. We'll also be posting information at tucsonaz.gov/water/drought.

Timothy M. Thomure, PE, ENV SP
Director of Tucson Water

November 2018 – Main Water System Report

To ensure your water is clean, safe and secure, Tucson Water conducts approximately 14,500 individual tests a year on the water in the main distribution system – before it reaches your home. Test results for key parameters are reported by 10 water-quality zones for a water distribution system that covers some 390 square miles.

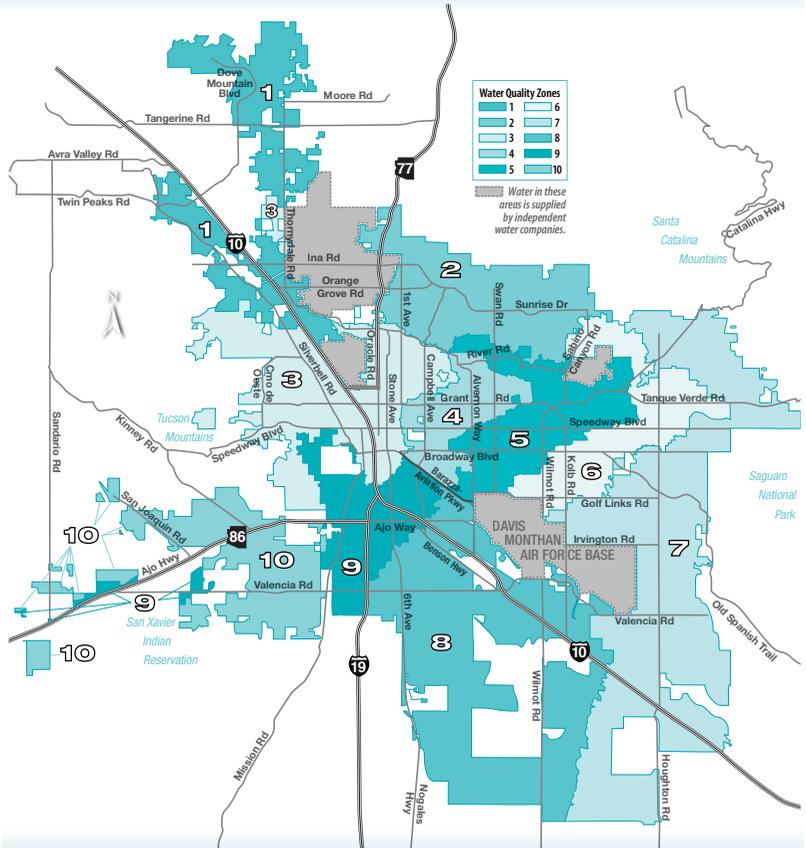
About 95 percent of the water we deliver comes from renewable supplies. These test results reflect the main distribution system, divided into 10 zones:

TEST RESULTS

Zones	Hardness (mg/L) 84,SP	Sodium (mg/L) 84,SP	Nitrate-N (mg/L) 84,SP	Fluoride (mg/L) 84,SP	pH Level (SU) 246,SP	Minerals (mg/L) 247,SP	Temperature (deg F) 247,SP
1	133	38	2.29	0.35	7.7	262	76.1
2	184	52	1.64	0.45	7.8	395	77.1
3	173	50	1.63	0.48	7.8	369	75.9
4	108	34	1.36	0.26	7.6	227	76.5
5	111	38	1.67	0.33	7.5	273	75.6
6	166	44	1.90	0.33	7.6	334	74.9
7	165	45	1.69	0.35	7.6	331	74.5
8	253	57	1.59	0.44	7.4	479	74.6
9	247	61	1.95	0.50	7.4	480	74.9
10	197	61	1.17	0.35	7.7	440	77.7
Avg	169	47	1.66	0.39	7.6	354	75.7

Due to rounding, system-wide averages may vary
mg/L = milligrams per liter
1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons

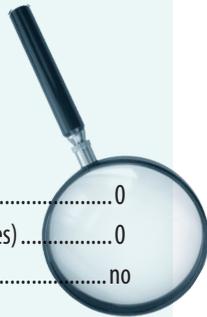
SU = Standard Units
SP = Sample Points
deg F = Degrees Fahrenheit



Bacteria Testing

The EPA standard is 0 positive test results across samples.

Total Coliform positive results (247 samples)	0
E. Coli positive results (247 samples)	0
Follow-up assessment required?	no



Chlorine Levels

Tucson Water adds disinfectant chlorine to kill bacteria, viruses and germs in water & pipes.

EPA Standard Maximum	4.0 mg/L
Utility Range	1.2 mg/L
Results: (247 samples)	1.0 mg/L
	0.8 mg/L



CITY OF TUCSON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Cleaner, safer neighborhoods

Brush & Bulky Expands in 2019

Tucson's Environmental & General Services Department, teaming up with City Police, Fire and Transportation and Tucson Clean & Beautiful, is expanding the Brush & Bulky program. **Brush & Bulky+** includes twice-a-year collection and offers these services to targeted corridors:

- Remove vegetation & trash from alleys and easements
- Clean up public rights-of-way
- Repair and replace street signs
- Remove illegally dumped materials
- Repair potholes
- Sweep streets

Customers will no longer receive B&B door hanger reminders – but can download the free Recycle Coach app or go online to view schedules at tucsonaz.gov/es/recycle-coachmy-waste.



PIMA COUNTY WASTEWATER RECLAMATION



PIMA COUNTY
WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

Like us on Facebook! 

 **Nextdoor.**

Depending on your income, you may be eligible for a reduction on your monthly sewer bill of

25%, 50% or 75%

To be eligible you must meet the following:

- Be a residential sewer customer
- Have a water/sewer bill in your name
- Meet combined household income requirements

Call **(520) 791-5443**

today to schedule an eligibility appointment!

For more information about the Sewer Outreach Subsidy Program, visit: www.pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation/subsidy

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

Environmental Services (ES) (520) 791-3171 or visit tucsonaz.gov/environmental-services

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) (520) 724-6609 or visit pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation