



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 5, 2011

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Midyear Progress Report on Action Plan for Water Sustainability (2010 – 2015)**

Attached is a memorandum from Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department, transmitting the City/County Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Supply and Planning Study's (WISP) Midyear Progress Report Action Plan for Water Sustainability.

The midyear report and links to the action items it references can be found on the WISP website at <http://www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com/>

One City project, the Water Service Area Policy, is flawed in its current form. The City policy establishes a water service boundary and limits water service in certain areas outside the City limits. The City is conducting the first annual review of the policy. My staff has offered to work with City staff to address situations that should be exempt from the City's policy, such as:

1. Isolated parcels within the existing Tucson water service area to prevent wildcat development along the Tucson urban edge.
2. Areas within or adjacent to areas of poor water quality, whether manmade or natural.
3. Areas where the policy is affecting development of designated growth areas.
4. Projects that required land use changes and whose time consuming and complex processing, particularly in the current economic market, are so substantially complete that strict application of the Water Service Area policy is egregious.
5. Circumstances wherein regional economic development providing critical basic employment would be harmed.

Pima County will ask to have a formal role in the City's review process.

The original City/County Water Study Scope of Work envisioned Phases I and II as providing a foundation for an ongoing regional process for sustainable water planning.

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
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Toward this end, the Regional Water Assessment Task Force was convened to help the region shape its efforts to achieve a sustainable water future. A community meeting was held on September 26, 2011 to review the results of the *Regional Water Assessment Task Force Think Tank Report* and to gather additional input on possible steps forward. Key themes that emerged are:

- Need for more collaboration and cooperation in managing water resources at a regional scale.
- Current water resources should be fully utilized.
- New water supplies need to be acquired and developed.
- Conservation initiatives and education should be implemented at a regional scale.
- The era of cheap water is over, and rates will need to be increased to build new infrastructure, meet water quality standards, acquire new supplies and improve allocation of water resources.
- Regional water policy should be consistent with the natural limits of the region and should consider evolving climate conditions.

County staff will continue to follow the progress of this effort. More information regarding the Task Force's efforts is located on the Pima Association of Governments website: www.pagnet.org/Programs/EnvironmentalPlanning/Water/tabid/185/Default.aspx.

CHH/mjk

Attachment

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation
Kathy Chavez, Water Policy Manager, Regional Wastewater Reclamation



PIMA COUNTY
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October 6, 2011

TO: C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

FROM: Jackson Jenkins, Director

SUBJECT: Mid-Year Progress Report Action Plan for Water Sustainability (2010-2015)

The Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study (WISP) was completed in November 2010 **2011** with the adoption of the Action Plan for Water Sustainability (Action Plan). Implementation of the WISP Action Plan began in March 2011. Attached is a Mid-year Progress Report on WISP Action Plan implementation describing the eleven action items that have already been completed and progress towards completing many others. A year-end report will be submitted in March 2012.

This progress report includes a joint City/County Summary highlighting key successes to date and a separate document providing detailed information on the projects completed and underway to implement the first year action items listed in the WISP Action Plan. This detailed information is also hyper-linked from the online Action Plan at <http://www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com/>.

As noted in the Summary, some projects are City-led and some are County-led. Pima County staff is currently leading projects to implement 16 action items listed in the *2011 – 2015 Action Plan for Water Sustainability* across the four dimensions of Comprehensive Integrated Planning, Respect for Environment, Water Supply and Demand Management.

Pima County staff is also continuing to coordinate as needed with City of Tucson staff on Action Plan implementation projects as well as with partners engaged in the Regional Water Assessment Task Force. <http://www.pagnet.org/Programs/EnvironmentalPlanning/Water/tabid/185/Default.aspx>

Should you have questions, I am available at your convenience.

cc: John M. Bernal, Deputy County Administrator
Kathleen M. Chavez, Water Policy Manager
Melaney Seacat, Program Manager

Attachments: Summary
Detailed Action Items
City of Tucson Transmittal Memo