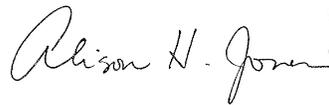


DATE: June 2, 2021**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Council Members**FROM:** Mark Taylor
Citizens' Water Advisory
Committee Chair**FROM:** Alison Jones
Citizens' Water Advisory
Committee Chair**SUBJECT:** Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Deferment Recommendation

CWAC recommends deferring a decision on differential water rates until at least the Fall of 2021 to allow time for further analysis, discussion, and public participation about the details of any options that are being considered by the Mayor and Council. CWAC takes its responsibility regarding providing advice to Mayor and Council on water rates very seriously. In the past, increasing water rates has been proposed to address a specific need. In this case, it is not clear to CWAC what need Mayor and Council wish to address. Initially, we understood that it was to encourage annexation, thereby increasing state-shared revenues. Later it was stated during a study session that annexation was not the reason for promoting differential rates. All members of CWAC feel strongly that any additional revenues generated by differential rates, if adopted, should stay within the utility. We still do not know how Mayor and Council plan to use the additional revenues. We encourage Mayor and Council to be more definitive for their reason(s) for differential rates and how those additional revenues will be used now and in the future.

CWAC is concerned about the impact of differential rates on low-income families in unincorporated Pima County. CWAC supports investigating potential solutions regarding the impacts to low income users. In addition, whether or not differential rates are imposed, CWAC supports simplifying and reducing the barriers to enrolling in the Low Income Assistance Program which is critical to so many families in the City of Tucson and in Pima County.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that members of CWAC are volunteers who have expertise in hydrogeology, engineering, water rights, finance, real estate, and other disciplines. Some of them have served on the committee for a long period of time. The committee was dismayed that Vice Mayor Cunningham addressed CWAC in a very disrespectful manner during our June 2 meeting. We have always managed to have a civil discourse in our meetings as we discuss the demands and challenges of one of the best water utilities in the State of Arizona. Volunteerism is a noble and unselfish act, worthy of at least a modicum of respect.

Honorable Mayor and Council Members
CWAC's Deferment Recommendation
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The CWAC committee appreciates the opportunity to provide its perspectives regarding these important issues affecting Tucson Water Customers.

Respectfully submitted,

Citizens Water Advisory Committee

Cc:
Timothy Thomure, Interim Assistant City Manager
John Kmiec, Interim Director, City of Tucson Water
Silvia Amparano, Deputy Director, City of Tucson Water
Christopher Avery, City Attorney