



## PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

**Subject:**

Water Rights Acquisition, Protection and Management

**Policy  
Number**

F 54.9

**Page**

1 of 1

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to set forth conditions under which Pima County and the various County Departments will manage County owned or acquired water resources including surface water, groundwater, effluent, reclaimed water, recharge water and water storage credits.

**BACKGROUND:** In its ordinary course of business, the County has acquired and regularly acquires various water resource assets, along with any associated water rights, and generates reusable effluent or reclaimed water and related recharge credits. These assets become public property and are managed by the County for the public interest and welfare in the same manner as other public assets under County management. The County recognizes and hereby affirms that these various water resources including surface water, groundwater, effluent, reclaimed water, recharged water, rainfall runoff, other water resources and any related water rights and storage or use credits, are valuable public assets. The Board of Supervisors establishes this policy to insure that said water resource assets are properly managed and preserved for the public benefit. This policy does not apply to potable water purchased from water providers.

**POLICY:** It is the policy of Pima County to buy, sell, lease, exchange, use, improve, operate, manage and maintain County owned and acquired ground and surface water, wastewater, reclaimed water, stormwater, recovered water and associated rights and credits that inure to the benefit of the citizens of Pima County. The County proposes to manage, operate and maintain those resources, rights and credits in conjunction with other County facilities. These assets will be accurately monitored by creating and maintaining an inventory and management database of all County water and wastewater assets including effluent recharge credits and other County or Pima County Regional Flood Control District owned or acquired water resources. These water resources will be assigned to identified County Departments or the Pima County Regional Flood Control District for their use and management. These assigned entities will report changes in the status of these waters and annually report their utilization of these water resources. An annual accounting of these resources will be prepared for the County Administrator and Board of Supervisors.

The manner in which these water resource assets will be procured, managed, maintained, shared, delivered, apportioned, sold or exchanged shall be conducted in accordance with procedures established by the County Administrator. A Water Management Committee will be established which consists of staff from County Departments and the Pima County Regional Flood Control District. This committee will develop and propose a management and utilization plan for all County water resources and will recommend assignment of various water resource management functions to specific County organizational units. Additionally, this committee will advise and assist in the implementation of this policy and procedures established pursuant to this policy.

**RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS:** Real Property Services; Pima County Wastewater Management Department, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation; Facilities Management; Pima County Regional Flood Control District; Pima County Department of Transportation.

Effective Date: July 24, 2007