

Volume 2, Section 4

Recommendations for Phase II of the Study

Introduction

The Scope of Work for the Water Study approved by the Mayor and Council and Board of Supervisors in the Spring of 2008 sets forth the goals for Phase II of the study which is focused on establishing a common set of water resource development and conservation goals for the City and County service areas. The Committee transmitted a memo to the Mayor and Council and Board of Supervisors on December 2, 2008 describing the Committee's recommended plan for Phase II of the study. This section of the report updates the recommendations made in the December memo based on further discussion by the Committee.

The Committee is recommending that it continue to provide oversight to the study through Phase II as constituted by the Mayor and Council and the Board of Supervisors in the original scope of work. As in Phase I, the Committee will establish an open and inclusive public process with many access points for all interested stakeholders and the public. Phase II is specific and transitional and will not constitute the full regional dialogue envisioned for Phases III - V. However the proposed Phase II stakeholder process could provide a transition to the larger dialogue of these later phases. The Committee recognizes the importance of a regional dialogue on a sustainable water future and in order for this to take place, will disband as soon as Phase II is completed in September 2009.

Topics for Phase II

The scope of work for the Water Study approved by the Mayor and Council and the Board of Supervisors last spring includes seven areas of focus for Phase II of the study:

- A. Agreement on Population Growth, Water, Urban Form, Land Use Planning and Infrastructure
- B. Integrating Land Use Planning with Water Resources and Infrastructure for each Jurisdiction
- C. Increasing Reclaimed Water for Turf Irrigation
- D. Developing Renewable Water Sources for the City/County Area
- E. Developing a Consolidated Drought Management Plan
- F. Implementing Consistent Water Conservation Standards
- G. Respect for the Environment

The Oversight Committee proposes to organize the seven areas of focus into three "Issue Clusters":

1. Adaptive Management - Includes (C) Increasing Reclaimed Water for Turf Irrigation, (E) Developing a Consolidated Drought Management Plan, and (F) Implementing Consistent Water Conservation Standards
2. Comprehensive Planning - Includes: (A) Agreement on Population Growth, Water, Urban Form, Land Use Planning and Infrastructure, (B) Integrating Land Use Planning with Water Resources and Infrastructure for each Jurisdiction, and (G) Respect for the Environment
3. Water Resources and Environment - Includes (D) Developing Renewable Water Sources for the City/County Area and (G) Respect for the Environment

Issue Cluster	Scope Item	Products
1. Adaptive Management	C. Increasing reclaimed water for turf irrigation	Recommended programs, ordinances or IGAs to be implemented
	E. Developing a consolidated drought management plan	
	F. Implementing consistent water conservation standards	
2. Comprehensive Planning	A. Agreement on population growth, water, urban form, land use planning, and infrastructure	Recommended principles and policies to include in the City General Plan and County Comprehensive Plan
	B. Integrating land use planning with water resources and infrastructure for each jurisdiction	
	G. Respect for the environment	
3. Water Resources & Environment	D. Developing renewable water sources for the City/County service area	Recommended approaches to securing new water resources and evaluation criteria to use in considering new sources; recommend strategies to address environmental needs for water
	G. Respect for the environment	

The Committee envisions sustainability being an overarching theme that will guide analysis, discussions, and recommendations made within each of the Issue Clusters. Phase I will identify a wide range of possible principles of sustainability which can be used to evaluate options in Phase II.

Issue Cluster #1. Adaptive Management

The Scope of Work identifies the following questions to be addressed within this issue cluster:

- *How can we overcome the financial and institutional constraints for building reclaimed water infrastructure in order to maximize the use of this renewable source of water?*
- *How can we develop a consolidated drought management plan and improve our preparedness as a region for potential future droughts?*
- *How can we implement consistent water conservation standards to help sustain long-term water supplies? How do we ensure that water conservation protects our future water supply, not simply makes more population growth possible?*

Adaptive Management is a term borrowed from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report: Summary for Policy Makers*. As used in the IPCC report, adaptive management refers to programs to manage or reduce adverse impacts related to weather and climate change and variability. The Committee believes that the issues of conservation, drought preparedness, and use of reclaimed water fall under this category. Under this issue cluster, the Committee’s recommendations would most likely be focused on strategies, ordinances, programs, and funding considerations that the Mayor and Council and Board of Supervisors could consider implementing in furtherance of these goals, building on the current reclaimed, drought planning, and conservation efforts of the City and County.

Issue Cluster #2. Comprehensive Planning

The Scope of Work identifies the following questions to be addressed within this issue cluster:

- *Where should future population growth be located so that it is most beneficial to the environment, economy, and conservation of our resources?*
- *How can future population growth be located in such a manner so as not to disadvantage or adversely impact existing residents?*
- *How do we connect land use planning with water resources and infrastructure investments to influence where the future population growth increment will occur?*
- *How should we assess land use decisions relative to water supply and infrastructure?*

- *What is the appropriate balance between the reservation of water for consumption and growth, and the acknowledgment that our environment is also a consumer of water resources?*
- *What standards and goals should we set regarding reclaimed water use for the environment and prohibition of groundwater wells in areas near groundwater-dependent ecosystems?*

The Committee believes this issue cluster is the most complex and will generate the most interest from stakeholders. Therefore, it will likely require the most Committee time in Phase II. The City and County will soon initiate mandated updates to their Comprehensive and General Plans. The Committee believes these updates afford the most logical focus for implementing its recommendations on these issue areas. The Committee would identify and recommend policies and principles that could be included in both the City General Plan and County Comprehensive Plan updates.

Issue Cluster #3. Water Resources and Environment

The Scope of Work identifies the following questions to be addressed within this issue cluster:

- *How can we use regional collaboration efforts to acquire new, renewable water supplies?*
- *How do we ensure that the long-term future water supply not occur at the expense of our existing residents or the environment?*
- *What is the appropriate balance between the reservation of water for consumption and growth, and the acknowledgment that our environment is also a consumer of water resources?*
- *What standards and goals should we set regarding reclaimed water use for the environment and prohibition of groundwater wells in areas near groundwater-dependent ecosystems?*

The Committee recognizes that the Tucson region may need to secure new, renewable water sources at some time in the future and now is the time to begin these discussions. The Committee recognizes that securing new water resources is a complex undertaking involving many difficult decisions and is likely to be more successful when done using a collaborative, regional approach. It is more likely that significant sources of new renewable water resources can be secured for the Tucson region through a unified regional effort rather than through individual pursuits.

The Committee recognizes that there are costs, beyond just financial, associated with acquiring new water resources. Local and non-local environmental effects as well as social justice issues must be considered in evaluating new water resources. In addition to looking at new water resources, we must also look to maximize conservation as well as our use of local water sources such as rainwater/stormwater, greywater and effluent.

The Committee will not be in a position to identify what our new renewable water resources will be. The Committee, rather, can suggest approaches that may be used to engage in a regional and state-wide process as well as evaluation criteria that the Mayor and Council and the Board of Supervisors may use in considering which new water sources to pursue.

The Committee also recognizes the environment as a water user and in Phase II will make recommendations on steps that can be taken to allocate water to environmental needs and address groundwater pumping in environmentally sensitive areas.

Phase II Process and Timeline

In Phase I, the Committee was focused on receiving information on a wide variety of topics. In Phase II the Committee will devote more time to reviewing technical papers on specific issues related to the scope of work written by staff and outside experts, and deliberating on policy options and implementation strategies.

Interdisciplinary teams of City/County staff will develop the technical papers addressing the issues listed in the adopted scope of work for Phase II. The technical papers will include consensus recommendations from staff on areas for increased coordination and consistency between the City and County. Additionally, outside subject matter experts, for example the University of Arizona, Water Casa, the Pima Association of Governments, will also be engaged in developing technical reports for selected topics. The draft technical papers will be reviewed by City and County department directors and administration prior to being distributed to committee members and posted to the study website.

The technical reports are targeted to be no more than 50 pages in length and will vary as to format but will, at a minimum, include an inventory of existing information such as existing policies, programs, and ordinances, an analysis of opportunities and constraints and a set of recommendations for areas where the City and County can achieve greater consistency and enhanced cooperation in their water and wastewater policies and goals and in their water-related planning, programming and regulatory functions. The Oversight Committee's role will be to review the white papers and come prepared to discuss, provide input to staff on additional information needed and to work towards a consensus recommendation from the Committee on staff's proposed recommendations.

The Oversight Committee will also solicit comment from stakeholder groups and the public and will make recommendations to the Mayor and Council and the Board of Supervisors. The Committee intends to receive all Phase II technical papers in advance of its meetings so that meetings can be devoted to discussion and deliberation. Technical papers will be posted to the website two weeks prior to scheduled Committee meetings. The proposed schedule below is ambitious and the Committee recognizes that more time, additional meetings, or a reduced scope of effort may be required to complete Phase II.

<u>Issue Cluster</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Adaptive Management	Week of March 16, 2009	Committee meeting
Comprehensive Planning Principles	Week of April 13, 2009	Committee meeting
	Week of May 11, 2009	Committee meeting
New Water Resources & Environment	Week of June 15, 2009	Committee meeting
Draft Report Completed	August	Public comment period
Report Finalized	September	Committee meets to finalize Phase II Report

Public Involvement

The Committee envisions an open and comprehensive public process as part of Phase II that builds on the strategies employed in Phase I. The primary public forums will be:

- Committee Meetings – The Committee will review and discuss the technical reports, policy options, and implementation strategies at meetings that will be open to the public. Meetings will be held at times and places convenient to the general public. Agendas and technical reports will be distributed to the stakeholder mailing list and posted on the study website prior to the meetings. Meetings will include a call to the audience portion and all interested stakeholders will be provided an opportunity to comment on the technical reports and recommendations.
- Open Houses – A minimum of three open houses will be held throughout the study area once the draft Phase II report is completed. The purpose of the open houses will be to share the Committees recommendations with the public, answer questions, and receive comment and feedback prior to finalizing the report.

Steps that will be taken to notify the public and involve interested parties in the process will include, but not be limited to:

- Stakeholder Notification - The current database of approximately 1,000 contacts will be reviewed and expanded to ensure all interested parties and key stakeholders are being reached.
- ADA Accessibility – The Committee will ensure that all meetings are held in ADA accessible facilities.
- Website – The study website (www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com) will be maintained. All “technical reports” and draft reports will be posted to the website and there will be an on-line function for the public to provide comment.
- Contact Card & Brochure – A contact card with the study phone number /e-mail address/ mailing address, along with a brochure about the study will continue to be distributed at libraries and public meetings/events.
- Audio, Video and Text Records of Meetings – Meetings will be audio and video recorded and transcribed and all of these files posted to the study website.
- Record of Public Comments – All public comments that are received (at Committee meetings, and via e-mail, phone, mail, and website) will be transcribed, compiled, and posted to the study website.
- Television Coverage – The Committee will request that Channel 12 and Access Tucson continue to air Committee meetings as they have done for Phase I.