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Water is a resource with financial and economic value

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Today's Opinion pieces by Robert Glennon (page A10) are compelling arguments for planning and cooperation among our region's water users — that's all of us.

We believe to do anything less could result in Tucson shriveling up like the parched places Glennon describes.

Water is a finite resource that must be addressed beyond moving the straw to another spot in the milkshake.

A draft report from the Tucson Water Coalition, comprised of 12 business groups, "Water as an Economic Resource," supports that notion and reiterates that water is a scarce resource with economic value.

The report, prepared at the request of the Tucson/Pima County Water & Wastewater Infrastructure, Supply & Planning Study, was presented to the study group earlier this month. The report encourages recognition of water as an economic resource in discussions, said Ron Shoopman, president of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, a water coalition member.

And it encourages a wider discussion. Shoopman said the study group is "talking to themselves" and excludes Marana, Oro Valley and other interested parties.

The report will be translated into language that can be applied to everyday living. Shoopman said he hopes it will be part of inclusive, informed discussions on water.

So do we.

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