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## TUCSON REGION

### Supervisors OK water, wastewater goals

City plans on waiting 30 days before passing judgment on the study

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Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted the recommendations of a water and wastewater study Tuesday, saying it is critical to get beyond studying and start making a plan to secure water supplies and a strategy for growth.

But the Tucson City Council opted to wait another 30 days before acting on the recommendations in the city and county study to allow more community input on the results. The study has been under way since April 2008.

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The two bodies met Tuesday to consider the results of the nearly two-year effort of Tucson Water and the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department.

A committee came up with general water and wastewater goals and recommendations aimed at long-term planning, restoring riparian areas and environmental water uses, and ensuring and managing a reliable water supply.

The Board of Supervisors gave the county administrator six months to come up with a plan to implement a list of 50 goals, though some of them take

regional participation or city and county cooperation.

City Council members voted 6-0 to allow another 30 days for community input on the study, which council members said they received last week for the first time. Councilwoman Regina Romero was absent.

Supervisor Ray Carroll wanted supervisors to slow down and seek more input, but was outvoted 4 to 1.

"I think there are comments and committees that have been overlooked," Carroll said.

From mining and agriculture to the Tucson Regional Water Coalition, not all groups were included in the study, he said.

The committee that drafted the study said there were 35 public meetings where people could comment.

Supervisor Ann Day said she didn't want to get stuck in the process of reviewing the document instead of carrying out the action it requires.

"I don't want to see us study this issue to death," Day said.

It's time to change the growth model in the metro area, so the study needed to be adopted, said Supervisor Sharon Bronson.

"The time is now to move forward," she said.

But Councilwoman Shirley Scott said she was concerned the study seemed more philosophical than scientific. It also focused heavily on Tucson Water even though it's the council's job to run that department, she said.

She pushed to give more time for more community feedback.

Councilman Steve Kozachik said he also didn't want to get stuck in the study process, but agreed with Scott that the study was only recently completed and needed a cost-benefit analysis.

The largest unanswered question is the future cost of water, Supervisor Richard Elias said.

If the council agrees next month, the Pima Association of Governments will be tasked

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with bringing in all other water and wastewater providers in the region to further move the regional study into the third of a five-phase plan.

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