



City/County Water and Wastewater Study Oversight Committee



June 23, 2008

Mr. Brad DeSpain, Utilities Director
Town of Marana
Water Department
5100 West Ina Road
Tucson, Arizona 85743

Re: **Water Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study Committee**

Dear Mr. DeSpain:

Thank you for your letter of May 28, 2008. I will answer your several points as best I can.

The Tucson Mayor and Council (Council), Pima County Board of Supervisors (Board), and the City/County Water and Wastewater Study Oversight Committee (Committee) have clearly stated that the process Tucson and Pima County started must eventually evolve into a "regional" discussion.

The Council and Board, however, also clearly directed that Phases 1 and 2 were to be a cooperative effort focused on Tucson Water and the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department. At the same time, both bodies expressed a desire that other water and wastewater providers undertake their own concurrent Phase 1 studies. I have sent letters to these providers extending that invitation (the letters are posted on the study website at www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com).

The Council and Board directed the Committee to prepare a report with recommendations for how this effort can be conducted in an accessible, inclusive and transparent manner. The Committee submitted this report to Council and Board in late May (also available on the website).

Neither I, nor the Committee, have extended "an offer ... to allow other regional partners to become 'members at the table' not just 'stakeholders.'"

Mr. Brad DeSpain

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The Council and Board established the Committee as the focal point of public participation and only they can change the "table."

In its first report, the Committee committed to an October report to the Council and Board revisiting the issue of public participation for Phase 2. It is possible that both bodies might wish to restructure the public process. Your suggestions will be made part of the Committee's public record and will be considered as the Committee discusses the October report.

You raised a concern about how the Committee's work product and its publication on our website might conflict with "Homeland Security Specifications." I am assured by staff that Tucson Water and Regional Wastewater Reclamation are developing infrastructure presentations and reports with full awareness of these security issues and policies.

I believe your concerns about a mutually constructed recharge basin and revising of existing intergovernmental agreements are beyond the Committee's scope.

The Committee was happy to hear from Dorothy O'Brien, your Assistant Utilities Director, at our June 11 meeting. We hope to see her at future meetings.

Sincerely,



James T. Barry
Chair

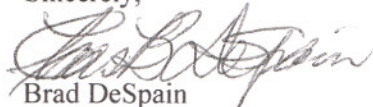
C: Tucson Mayor and Council
Pima County Board of Supervisors
City/County Water and Wastewater Study Oversight Committee
Mike Hein, Tucson City Manager
C.H. Huckleberry, County Administrator
Gilbert Davidson, Deputy Town Manager
Frank Cassidy, Town Attorney
Barbra Johnson, Public Works Director
Stephen Romero, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator
Dorothy O'Brien, Assistant Utilities Director

- Phase I seeks to define a “sustainable water population of the City/County service area.” A large part of the potential “sustainable water population” will lie outside the City water service area. The current committee does not represent these areas and therefore the Committee should not presume to understand the politics which would yield appropriate “sustainable populations” outside their area of jurisdiction.
- Phase I requires increased communication between Pima County Wastewater and the City of Tucson personnel. However, it does not include the remaining entities which discharge wastewater to Pima County and have paid for capacity within its Water Reclamation Facilities. Improving communication should be laterally within all clients.
- Phase I includes a mutually constructed recharge basin. Said basin should be co-owned by all participants who have provided funding for capacity within the County Water Reclamation Facilities and future regional water reclamation facilities. Pima County’s choice to discharge to a “managed facility” versus a ‘constructed facility” signifies a lack of commitment to providing regional replenished resources.
- Many Intergovernmental Agreements exist between the County and regional partners; if any are modified or updated then each IGA should be evaluated for its merit, accuracy and appropriateness.

As each Phase of the project is completed a summary report will be presented. Due to the complexity of the issues being addressed it seems appropriate to have each report be reviewed by an appropriate peer group. Peer review is a proven mechanism to help to ensure unbiased and constructive feedback culminating in a stronger product.

For the above stated reasons the Town of Marana is seeking to be represented as a Committee Member on Water Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study Committee and highly suggests adding the other water providers currently not at the table to ensure adequate regional representation.

Sincerely,



Brad DeSpain
Town of Marana
Utilities Director

Cc: Gilbert Davidson, Deputy Town Manager
Frank Cassidy, Town Attorney
Barbra Johnson, Public Works Director
Stephen Romero, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator
Dorothy O'Brien, Assistant Utilities Director
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