



May 28, 2008

Mr. James T. Barry, Chair  
City/County Water and Wastewater Study Oversight Committee  
P.O. Box 27210  
Tucson, Arizona 85726-7210

RE: Water Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study Committee makeup

Dear Mr. Barry;

This letter is a follow up the public meeting held on May 21, 2008. It is the Town of Marana's understanding at the May 21, 2008 Water Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study Committee Meeting an offer was extended to allow other regional partners to become "members at the table" not just "stakeholders."

Providing safe water services to residents within the Tucson Active Management Area (AMA) is the function of multiple water providers. Ensuring adequate renewable resources for the region is critical to maintaining the standard of living each community resident has come to expect. The joint City/County Committee is charged with developing a regional approach to guide Phase I and II of the process. However, regional representation is lacking from this Committee; therefore the Town of Marana requests the Committee panel representatives be reviewed to ensure equitable representation by all water and water reclamation facility providers within the region.

Various organizations are beginning to evaluate water supply and delivery options within Arizona. These include the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association Stakeholder Process and the Central Arizona Project Acquisition, Development and Delivery Water process. Both of which will impact the Tucson AMA and its water providers. Therefore, it is in the best interests of the region to identify its concerns and have a unified voice at the various meetings to protect regional water supplies.

Each phase has several challenges. However, since Phase I is the area which is currently in focus the following challenges should be addressed:

- The study requires an inventory of water and wastewater assets. The study website, <http://www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com>, states full disclosure of information to the public. The information requested within this study is critical infrastructure and therefore falls within Homeland Security Specifications. Combining this information into an easy access document which is open for all to see places each infrastructure system at risk and therefore it is prudent to discuss how risk mitigation will be maintained prior to assembling this information.

- 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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