

SAHBA / Tucson Regional Water Coalition



Southern Arizona Home Builders Association

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SAHBA and the Tucson Regional Water Coalition were encouraged by the Oversight Committee's responsiveness to stakeholder concerns and recommendations during last week's meeting. The Committee seemed to reach general consensus that Phase I should be strictly defined by "data collection and inventorying" of each utility's assets. Discussion centered on stakeholder recommendations that items in the scope of work entailing subjective determinations going beyond data collection should be delayed until the larger regional stakeholder group is assembled.

Discussion on the study's public process also included statements that the formal recommendation on public participation would urge the City and County to reevaluate stakeholder participation in October 2008 near the completion of Phase I. SAHBA's statement mentioned—and Committee members agreed—the need to include all regional stakeholders in Phase II, particularly on issues in the scope of work that go beyond data collection and have broader implications such as:

- Finalizing the Conservation Effluent Pool and IGA amendments.
- Agreement on Population Growth, Water, Urban Form, Land Use Planning and Infrastructure.
- Determining a population based on current water resources.
- Integration of Land and Water Planning.
- Implementation of Consistent Water Conservation Standards.
- Acquisition of new water resources.
- Common Environmental Standards and Goals with respect to water resources.

The Tucson Regional Water Coalition asks that the Committee's report on the study's public process include a statement recommending Council and the Board of Supervisors assemble a larger regional stakeholders group at the conclusion of Phase I. We ask that your report specify that Phase I should include only data collection and inventorying of assets, and that all bulleted items above be delayed until the larger group is assembled. Finally, we ask that the Committee's recommendation define regional stakeholders to include but not be limited to: local jurisdictions and tribal governments, private water companies, environmental groups, state agencies, business and economic development interests, neighborhood and citizen's groups, industry experts, developers, homebuilders, as well as agricultural and industrial water users.

We appreciate your consideration of these concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Alex Jacome
Government Liaison

