

# SAHBA

## the community builder

Southern Arizona Home Builders Association

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May 12, 2008

To Members of the City/County Water Oversight Committee:

As a member of the Tucson Regional Water Coalition, Southern Arizona Home Builders Association supports the Coalition's request to open the City/County study to a wider range of regional stakeholders immediately. SAHBA strongly believes that this study must be founded on the meaningful involvement of a diverse stakeholder group. Meaningful involvement fundamentally includes input on the proposed scope of work prior to initiating the study. SAHBA supports a public process that includes both public and private interests, and full representation for all who are impacted by decisions.

It has been reported that other jurisdictions and water providers are being encouraged to initiate water resources and infrastructure inventories concurrent with the City/County study. The proposed scope of work includes bringing other jurisdictions, water providers, and interested parties into the City/County study after these so-called inventories are complete. Notwithstanding our support of the above, there are several items in Phases I and II that go beyond data collection and inventorying, and include decisions affecting the larger region. We feel strongly that the Oversight Committee should recommend amending the scope to delay all items that involve more than data collection and inventorying until after the larger stakeholder group is assembled.

These items include:

- 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.

In summary, Phase I should include only an inventory of infrastructure and water resources assets. All other items in the proposed scope of work should be delayed until such time when all regional stakeholders may meaningfully impact decision-making processes.

Sincerely,



President