

City/County Regional Water Study
May 21, 2008
Copper Room

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There is a lot we need to know about water

The sources for my discussion come from the CAP Leadership Training (5/14/08), reports from the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC), and online.

- Water supplies are finite
- We are in the worst drought in the last 100 years (2000-07)
- Reservoirs fell 50% below capacity
- Municipal use has replaced agriculture as the regions largest water user
- As of 2000, there is more than 40 potable water providers in TAMA

Ground water levels are declining in some areas which mean higher pumping costs, reduced water quality, land subsidence and damaged structures.

Safe yield is merely a goal. That means safe yield is not required nor enforced.

At the CAP Leadership Training, I learned that Mexico is a factor in the water puzzle. Simply put, USA is supposed to provide 1,500,000 af of CAP water to Mexico, then Mexico is supposed to supply water to USA via the Rio Grande. The 1944 Mexico Water Treaty is something we should know about.

Moving forward, we find the 2007 Recent Agreement amongst the 7 Colorado Basin States.

A Record of Decision from the Department of the Interior lists:

- Water supply
- Environmental protection
- Hydropower production
- Recreation

Further research discovers the NW Area Agreement 1979—It looks like Oro Valley, Marana, Flowing Wells, and Metro Water had an “agreement” with Tucson Water. This multi-party agreement positioned Tucson Water to become the regional municipal water provider.

In 1990 a government entity (Oro Valley) purchased the private water companies. The NW Area Agreement dissolved. The result meant Tucson Water would no longer be in the position to be the regional water provider.

Oro Valley’s Water Utility Commission Annual Report – April 2000

We learn that Oro Valley is financially preparing to construct a CAP connection, which means setting aside money for infrastructure – wells, transmission mains, booster stations, treated water storage, & pressure reducing valves.

The NW CAP Treatment & Delivery System is currently studying a route for CAP connection? This will make a difference to the region.

It looks like Oro Valley has an agreement with Kai Farms, a private business in Marana that involves long-term groundwater storage credits within TAMA.

And Oro Valley has an IGA with the city of Tucson where Oro Valley's wastewater is treated by Tucson Water to a Class A Reclaimed Water Standard for irrigation purposes. Oro Valley paid for building 2 booster pump stations that are owned and operated by Tucson Water to deliver Oro Valley reclaimed water. *Are Tucson residents subsidizing water for Oro Valley?*

How does the IGA between the city of Tucson and Oro Valley related to Potable Water and Effluent (2001) impact the regional water picture?

There is an IGA and a Supplemental IGA between the city of Tucson and Pima County related to which party would have contractual rights to control Effluent (June 25, 1979 & 2000)

Regulatory documents pertinent to this committee's study come from ADWR's 4th & 5th Management Plans and CAGR's Plan of Operation. The claim - these documents determine what Tucson's water future will look like.

Augusta Resources, Rosemont Mine, already has a permit to store water at the Lower Santa Cruz Recharge Project. *How do you feel about that?*

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