



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

December 22, 2008

Ron Shoopman
Tucson Regional Water Coalition
4400 East Broadway, Suite 307
Tucson, Arizona 85711

Re: **Your December 17, 2008 Letter on the City/County Water and Wastewater Study**

Dear Mr. Shoopman:

Thank you for your December 17, 2008 letter. I have attempted to respond to your concerns as they are numbered on your attached letter.

1. You raise a concern about the City and County finalizing the Conservation Effluent Pool (CEP). In the scope of this study, Mr. Hein and I recognized that the CEP and intergovernmental agreements were near final, and directed staff to complete the agreements as soon possible. This was not a task for the Committee. However, we will continue to report our progress to the Committee. I see no need to delay the finalizing of these agreements. I would also oppose any efforts to reduce this minimal environmental contribution as it will certainly not offset the environmental losses from groundwater overdraft.
2. You state that the Coalition is concerned that economic analysis methods have not yet been used to inform the Committee's deliberations. To my knowledge, the Committee has had little in the way of deliberations during Phase I of the study. I agree that when the Committee begins deliberations during Phase II, that the economics of various policy recommendations should be analyzed.

Mr. Ron Shoopman

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3. You continue to raise concerns regarding the membership of the Committee. The Committee is overseeing the City/County Water and Wastewater Study, not a regional water study. Therefore, the membership of the Committee was not intended to be regional in representation. It is important that the City and County reach an agreement on certain issues in preparation for a larger regional discussion that I continue to hope will occur soon. Perhaps the forum being proposed for a regional land use visioning process could also include water as a way to begin to discuss the issue of water regionally.

Thank you for your comments and your continued interest in this City/County Water and Wastewater Study.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/va

Attachment

c: Mike Hein, City Manager, City of Tucson

TUCSON REGIONAL WATER COALITION



Chuck Huckelberry
130 West Congress
10th Floor
Tucson, AZ. 85701

December 17, 2008

Arizona Builders Alliance
Alliance of Construction
Trades
Marana Chamber of
Commerce
Metropolitan Pima Alliance
Northern Pima County
Chamber of Commerce
Safe and Sensible Water
Committee
Southern Arizona Home
Builders Association
Southern Arizona
Leadership Council
Tucson Association of
Realtors
Tucson Metropolitan
Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Utilities
Contractors Association
Tucson Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce

Dear Chuck,

The Tucson Regional Water Coalition continues to monitor the City/County Water and Wastewater Study. The Coalition reviewed the recently released Chapter 4 (DRAFT) of the Phase I Report and we are encouraged by the focus on investing in our region's wastewater and reclaimed infrastructure, as well as effluent recharge basins. We believe the draft document provides a good starting point for a future values discussion regarding maximum utilization of effluent in the Tucson AMA.

It is often stated but bears repeating that effluent is the only drought-resistant, expanding water supply available to the region. The Coalition believes that effluent will soon become the most vital component of the region's renewable water supply portfolio. Given the critical importance of this water supply, the Coalition asks that the study group attempt to understand the economic value of available effluent to all competing uses in the region before allocating any portion. Specifically, the Coalition feels it is premature to finalize the Conservation Effluent Pool (CEP) before understanding and monetizing the opportunity costs and ecological benefits of committing 10,000 acre-feet or more to environmental restoration projects.

1

The Coalition is concerned that the City/County Study group has yet to embrace economic analysis methods to inform their deliberations. We believe application of these methods is particularly important to achieve a higher level of transparency.

2

Finally, the Coalition believes that the current make-up of the Oversight Committee is unrepresentative of the region. Finalizing the CEP and other important values-laden discussions require input from a broader range of interests and should be informed by the best available information.

3

Sincerely,

Ron Shoopman,
Tucson Regional Water Coalition