

## Brenda Garcia

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**From:** Angie Gelsinon [angie@kaneenpr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 02, 2009 12:38 PM  
**To:** Nicole Ewing-Gavin  
**Subject:** FW: E-mail from TucsonPimaWaterStudy.com - Comments

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@tucsonpimawaterstudy.com  
[mailto:noreply@tucsonpimawaterstudy.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 4:20 PM  
To: info@tucsonpimawaterstudy.com  
Subject: E-mail from TucsonPimaWaterStudy.com - Comments

Email Address: jmarques@ci.sahuarita.az.us

Comments/Questions: December 1, 2009

Ms. Melanie Seacat  
Tucson Pima Water Study  
PO Box 2344  
Tucson, Az. 85701

Subject: Tucson Pima Water Study  
Draft Phase II Staff Report

Dear Ms. Seacat:

The Town of Sahuarita has completed its review of the "Draft Phase II Report" prepared by City of Tucson and Pima County staff as part of the City/County Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study. Overall, the effort approaches water and growth as it relates to the general study area and contemplates additional steps to include a regional dialogue to assure comprehensive water resource and land use planning. With respect to the inclusion of other jurisdictions and water companies, the Town offers the following comments.

The report notes Phases I and II provide a "foundation for the future regional process that is recommended in the scope" (p. 2). Later with respect to water resource planning, the report acknowledges, "The City of Tucson and Pima County should evaluate options for working with regional stakeholders...[but], ultimately this goal needs to be advanced through a regional process. Such a process might be convened by an existing regional entity..." (Recommendation 2.1, p. 32). While the study was commissioned under the direction of Tucson's Mayor and Council and the County Board of Supervisors, the Town agrees the goal of a regional dialogue for both water resource and land use planning would achieve greater participation if the effort were convened by a regional entity.

The report recommends "the City and County should continue to work with PAG to do growth and urban form scenario modeling on a regional level (including Marana, Oro Valley, Sahuarita, South Tucson, the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, the San Xavier District and others)..." and notes an "emerging regional visioning process" (Recommendation 2.4, p. 11). The Town agrees a regional process would be beneficial and should include all jurisdictions.

The report notes "The City and County should work together with other jurisdictions to support regional solutions to address the hydrological disconnect between where water is being pumped and where it is being replenished" (Recommendation 3.5, pl 13). The Town agrees we need regional solutions to stormwater management that include as much capture as possible without degrading the environment or other property.

The report describes negative impacts from groundwater pumping and disassociated recharge and notes replenishment may not occur in the area of pumping, or the "pumping/recharge disconnect". The report also notes the County adopted an amendment to the Water Element section of the Pima County Comprehensive Plan, which considers "whether the proposed development will have access to renewable water supplies, where pumping is proposed in relation to where recharge is proposed, and whether groundwater dependent ecosystems would be impacted" (p. 12). Further, the report recommends "Outside of the Tucson Water Obligated Service Area, in unincorporated Pima County, the City and County should work together to conduct comprehensive water resource planning to identify sustainable water resources to serve these areas" (Recommendation 3.1, p. 12). The Town agrees the availability of renewable water supplies should be considered in the development process and believes a regional approach is needed to ensure recharge occurs within reasonable proximity to groundwater pumping and to ensure groundwater dependent ecosystems are protected. Further, water resources planning should be considered on a regional basis to develop a more complete perspective of the current and future availability of groundwater and other water resources within the region.

The report recommends "The City and County will work with stakeholders to develop a regional collaboration for riparian restoration. This effort should include exploring or continuing to pursue:...Enhancing the value of in-lieu mitigation funds..." (Recommendation 2.2, p. 18). While the Town agrees protection of riparian areas is critical, the use of in-lieu mitigation funds must be well thought-out, structured and prioritized on a regional basis to ensure destruction of riparian habitat does not occur in exchange for funding restoration elsewhere.

Recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 (p. 19) are good and could be considered for development of policies on a regional basis.

As reflected in the staff report, regional dialogue is critical to the success of proper management and planning of water resources and land use. Without a truly regional approach that includes the other jurisdictions and water providers, the effort limits the City and County to actions and goals that cannot achieve a sustainable future for our region. The Town appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Phase II staff report and looks forward to the opportunity to actively participate in this regional planning effort as the study advances.

Sincerely,

James R. Stahle  
Town Manager

Do you wish to receive emails and posted mail information from the Water Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study?

No