



Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce  
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February 3, 2010

The Honorable Robert Walkup  
Mayor, City of Tucson  
255 West Alameda Street  
Tucson, AZ 85701

**Re: City adoption of the recommended Phase II report of the City/County Joint Water/Wastewater Study**

Dear Mayor Walkup:

During these hard times, the Chamber commends you for the leadership and the vision you have provided our community. During your tenure as Mayor, you have worked hard to bring this region together, amid a climate of hostility and protectionism. As we work towards the future, joint committees between jurisdictions will be ever-more present. The City's initiative to extend an olive branch to the County deserves recognition.

Over the past two years we have been actively engaged in the Tucson City/Pima County Joint Water/Wastewater Study. As a member of the Tucson Regional Water Coalition, we have submitted numerous comments on the effort, both applauding the work and striving to ensure that the process was open and inclusive. Unfortunately, it has not been. Water is a regional issue and should be planned for in that manner. I encourage you to consider including surrounding municipalities and water companies into the discussion before adopting any new policies concerning water.

Also contained within the Phase II report before you, is an allocation of reclaimed water to the Conservation Effluent Pool, or CEP. This allocation of reclaimed water has a minimum estimated value of \$50 million. Can our city make that decision in the dark, hidden behind the auspice of a simple water/wastewater study? What benefit does the City think it will receive from handing over that water to the County? How many jobs can be created from that nearly 10,000 acre-feet of renewable resource? Once that reclaimed water allocation is allotted to the CEP, it is likely it will be federalized by the County's pursuit of a USFG Section 10 permit and will be lost forever.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the Phase II report is the commentary that is extensively found throughout the report. Rhetoric and editorial opinions by staff and committee members alike does not have a place in a document that will shape the future of water policy in our community. Only the numbered recommendations from the report should be implemented by the City council.

The Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce asks the City Council to approve a modified Phase II report, which would require that the financial impact of water decisions are considered before implementing new policies, growth decisions are made as a region and ensures the control of Tucson water resources remains solely under the City Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Medler  
Government Affairs Manager

cc: Members of City Council