

Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 4:18 PM

To: info@tucsonpimawaterstudy.com

Subject: E-mail from TucsonPimaWaterStudy.com - Comments

Email Address: dpittman@azbuilders.org

Comments/Questions: To Mayor Bob Walkup and the Tucson City Council:

I am writing to express my views concerning the Tucson/Pima County Water Study Phase II Report on behalf of the organization I represent, the Arizona Builders' Alliance, which is made up of 160 general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and service firms in the Commercial Construction Industry in metropolitan Tucson.

Clearly, the report contains a great deal of good work and much effort went into it by those who participated. However, it is unfortunate that municipalities and water companies outside of Tucson (from such areas as Marana, Oro Valley, Sahuarita and Vail) did not have a seat at the table during the Phase II process. I hope that changes in future discussions because water planning and usage is a regional issue that should include all affected parties.

The study recommends use of economic/cost analysis to influence future water policy, but in many cases such analysis is conspicuously absent from this report. For instance, it recommends as much as 10,000-acre feet of water be dedicated annually to a Conservation Effluent Pool to irrigate Sonoran Desert areas. Given the fact that a single acre foot of water costs \$5,000, the replacement cost of this 10,000-acre-foot water give away could reach as high as \$50 million annually. Given that water is a precious commodity can our community and Tucson Water ratepayers afford this? This kind of proposal needs a far greater public policy debate among all segments of our community before being considered.

Is the Conservation Effluent Pool associated with any Habitat Conservation Plans? If so, once allocated and made part of the federal permit process, will the City be able to reallocate that water back to distribute to area homes and businesses?

I believe much of the report contains a decidedly anti-growth message. If these difficult economic times show us anything, it is the importance of a robust business environment to the financial health of our people

and their governmental institutions. Job creation and economic development should be an integral part of all public policy, including water policy and usage.

On that note, the ABA is disturbed about the City of Tucson's current policy not to provide new water hook-ups to certain areas served by Tucson Water that are outside Tucson's City Limits. It has come to our attention that this policy has postponed the development of some 20 commercial operations, including a fire station. Aside from public safety concerns, not allowing these projects is costing the commercial construction industry in Tucson jobs and revenue, the benefits of which are not being circulated throughout our community. Given the current economic state we are experiencing, this policy is inexcusable and should be changed immediately.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my views on these subjects.

Sincerely,

David Pittman,
Southern Arizona Director
of the Arizona Builders' Alliance