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To: info@tucsonpimawaterstudy.com
Subject: E-mail from TucsonPimaWaterStudy.com - Comments

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Comments/Questions: I am a resident of Santa Cruz County who lives in the Santa Cruz County Active Management Area (SCAMA), adjacent to and south of, the Tucson Active Management Area (TAMA).

SCAMA's southern border is also the US-Mexican border, where the Santa Cruz River flows into our county and AMA. Based on this flow and additional tributaries from the mountains, we are required to ensure that the water outflow from SCAMA to the TAMA is greater than the inflow. We are required to ensure we sustain our water resources. SCAMA is the ONLY AMA in Arizona that is sustaining its water resources.

The SCAMA must sustain its water resources IF the TAMA can have an assured water supply from the Santa Cruz River. No one debates this requirement.

As stated in the "2005 Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan" on pages 61 and 62, a population growth of some 31,000 people will put Santa Cruz County at the point where we will not be able to sustain our water resources. This has put a "natural" limit on a sustainable population capacity for this part of Santa Cruz County within the SCAMA boundary, over 90% of the county's population.

This realistic and mandated "limit" is critical for long-term growth planning, in particular for the determination of other infrastructure requirements, such as for development, utilities, transportation, schools and other public services.

I am VERY concerned that our northern neighbor is NOT maintaining its water resources in a responsible manner. The Water Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study, created by the best team possible, needs to be implemented in a manner that controls water resources, in particular, by setting sustainability limits on growth in both residential and business sectors.

Personally, I have intervened in an ongoing water rate case for the Arizona-American Water Company, the largest water company in our state, before the Corporation Commission. I proposed using a steep, multi-tier

rate schedule with very low rates for the lowest consumers and very high rates for the highest consumers of water with ten rate tiers. The lowest residential rates, for the first 4,000 gallons, is \$1.50/1000 gallons, that increases at \$0.50/1000 gallons in 4,000 gallon steps, to \$6.00/1000 gallons for those who consume over 36,000 gallons. The lowest rate is adequate for low income families, such as those on fixed incomes, while the highest rates will send a clear "price signal" to those who use excessive water. The ten steps permit a consumer to be able to see how to lower their water bill. Similar conservation-oriented schedules must also send price signals to the business community. Water should never be considered as "free".

Furthermore, the largest water consumers should NOT be allowed to use groundwater but have easier access to CAP water, in particular, the local copper mines. They are in business and installation of an infrastructure to permit this should be encouraged, as their pumping of groundwater must cease. In fact, I proposed one Alternative in the ongoing Environmental Impact Statement for the Rosemont Copper Mine to require that mine to use only CAP water for its production activities.

Our groundwater tables must be sustained and used for local consumption; not for large commercial enterprises, it's way to valuable.

We in Santa Cruz County fully support this kind of Study that lays out hard choices about our future. These decisions must be made for long-term planning and not for today's economic benefits.

Thank you for an opportunity to provide an input to your Study, the most important planning mechanism to sustain the wonderful City of Tucson and Pima County.

Sincerely,

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