

To: info@tucsonpimawaterstudy.com

Subject: E-mail from TucsonPimaWaterStudy.com - Comments

Email Address: leonafdavis@gmail.com

Comments/Questions: After reading Tucson Water's 2008 Update as well as the Phase II Report from the City & County Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, Supply and Planning study, I would like to point out how altering Tucson Water's rate structure would meet several of the goals identified in one fell swoop. Per the 2008 report, one of the two variables affecting our water sustainability is GPCD, currently at an unnecessarily high 177 GPCD. In past years, Tucson Water has approached this issue through well-orchestrated but largely ineffective educational programs. The report states that water-use efficiency, brought about through these educational programs, has been instrumental in maintaining a low water usage rate. Alternatively, I would propose that creating a highly-tiered usage rate would drive an even more dramatic increase in water use efficiency.

As a conservationist and part of the water harvesting business community in Tucson, I have seen that even the most environmentally-minded Tucsonans are still primarily concerned with costs. Our current water rates are artificially low, and the tier system is too gradual to make a serious difference to any single family residence budget. If this structure were to change to include a low setup fee, low \$/CCF charge for 0-2 CCFs, and steeply tiered rates from there on up, it would finally make financial sense for ratepayers to practice conservation. No educational campaign would be nearly as effective as this kind of rate change. Additionally, this would be an example of a "conservation program" that would pay for itself, while keeping rates low for water-conservative ratepayers. Most importantly, the associated reduction in GPCD would further ensure Tucson Water's long-term sustainability as a water provider, both by ensuring sustained revenue and decreasing stress on all current water sources.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Leona Davis
leonafdavis@gmail.com
520-205-0067