

TRANSCRIPT OF JULY 23, 2008

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: All right. I'm going to do a Call to the Audience so that we get that done, give people a chance. Tracy?

TRACY WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for acknowledging my birthday and everyone. I just want to say it's a pleasure to be here this evening, and I want to compliment all the Committee members for your due diligence and perseverance.

Tonight I want to speak to you about the process -

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Tracy, let me interrupt one second. Michael -

MR. GRITZUK: I'm done?

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: - thank you very much. You're done. Thank you.

TRACY WILLIAMS: Thanks, Mike.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: You did a great job.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Thank you. Tracy, go ahead.

TRACY WILLIAMS: This process is very important for the citizens of Tucson, as well as Pima County and the whole region, and we need it to be a process that has a lot of integrity. And I want to bring to your attention that you all chose to use *Robert's Rules of Order* as part of your governing document, or how you're going to conduct yourselves.

And I recall *Robert's Rules of Order* in my days of being a City Commissioner is a Strike Three, You're Out. If you miss three meetings in a row, you should relinquish your position so that somebody else in the community could sit in because, if you're not at these meeting, if you're a Committee member and you're not here, you're not going to be able to participate intelligently in the conversation and, therefore, if you come six weeks down the road and you haven't shown up and you try to undermine the group energy, then what kind of integrity is that?

So, I hope, Jim, you know, I've talked to you about this last week, my concern of certain Committee members not being able to be committed, and I think that you all need to put that on your agenda to talk about, indeed, what are you going to do if Committee members decide they can't show up for whatever reason? I'm sure there's many legitimate reasons. But, I don't want one single person, or even two or three people to undermine this effort. And, indeed, a lot of us in the community are

taking the time to show up and that shows our interest, and I think we deserve the same from the Committee members, and so I hope you'll put that on your Agenda.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Did you want to read that letter or you going to not do that?

TRACY WILLIAMS: It'll be covered.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Okay. Colette?

COLETTE ALTAFFER: Tracy's asked me - so she wouldn't have to stand here - to cover that letter.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Okay.

COLETTE ALTAFFER: And I'm going to just paraphrase what was in that letter just to try and - and for the sake of expediency. This is really about the presentation on June 25th in which we were discussing the aquifer and sort of the condition of the aquifer, and there was actually quite a bit of information in that.

What's really interesting is - is the shape of the aquifer; it's like a gigantic basin that's rock-lined, and over countless millennia that basin has been filled with a mixture of sand and gravel, clay and water, and then somewhere along the line we came along and we built a sprawling infrastructure on top of that which creates an interesting situation and an interesting irony, is that on - that aquifer is really supporting us in two ways: One is we need the water in that aquifer to support a population; but, at the same time, if we take too much of that water out, we are looking at impacting the infrastructure that population is living in, driving on, et cetera; that to the degree that as - as the presenters pointed out, we could potentially make this valley unliveable. And so that brings us to this whole issue of these entities that have been coming repeatedly and demanding a seat at the table during this first Phase I.

If you'll notice many of these communities have been built over the shallow ends of this aquifer, and on top of it. They, unlike Tucson, don't have access to their CAP allotment. Now, Tucson has tried to plan for the possibility of subsidence, and trying to reduce that subsidence, but these other communities don't have that ability at this point, simply because of costs. And so it sort of explains to us why they're here demanding a seat at the table because regionalization is a really good option for them in terms of taking advantage of Tucson's efforts to plan for its future in a way that sort of gets them off the hook.

And what really troubles us is when they hide behind the smoke screen of Homeland Security as an argument for not coming to the table with their books open. And so what we would like you to consider as part of your report is that if anybody

is going to have a seat at this table, they do so with the understanding that all books are open; there will be no closed processes. And, second of all, because the citizens of Tucson stand to lose the most, by any kind of a regionalization process, that that table be balanced every time there is a representative from another entity, there be a representative from the local neighborhoods. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Thank you. Charles? Are you still here? Yeah, there you are. I'm sorry.

CHARLES COLE: Charles Cole, West Sweetwater Drive, Tucson. I wanted to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for distributing at the last meeting those copies of the - the article from *Fine Homebuilding* magazine, the Peter Pfeiffer, architect in Austin, Texas, wrote about the rainwater harvesting and cistern systems he's been building over there for ten years. That is the article that - for - was the model that our builder used in building our harvesting and cistern system at our house off the grid here in Tucson.

And I just wanted to remind you all that I invite any of you who are really interested in this subject to come and see our system at our house; ask you, perhaps, to let me give a 15-minute Power Point presentation maybe for everyone at one of the future meetings, perhaps, September 10th, when you're talking about new water resources. I'm going to start having conflicts in my schedule after that.

But, the potential here is really amazing. Just at our house alone what we have - what - what we've done - and what I find when I talk to people about this, as they stand back and they look at me and think, "This guy's a whacko." Then they get interested enough and come and look at what's possible to do, and they walk away thinking, "Good heavens, why isn't everyone in Pima County doing this?" Obviously, it's the thing to do. And it takes seeing to be believing. And this is why I'm inviting you to come and look at it, or asking you to have us give a few pictures to explain it to people here.

From that baseline, you can take off talking to engineers - I know several of you are engineers yourself - and start throwing in ideas and really come up with some pretty spectacular potential. But, at our house for adding \$35,000 to our mortgage, we built the system that provides all our water the last three years, year-round for total household uses. It's water without pharmaceuticals, without TCE, and without chlorine, and it's purified with ultraviolet radiation and extensive filtration. And there's no reason why housing developments, new communities, especially off the grid, resorts, et cetera, can't do this sort of thing. It doesn't require extensive public infrastructure; it simply requires a person

who's building it to provide for themselves; and it 's - it's phenomenal.

So, I do hope that we'll all communicate further about this sort of thing and that you'll be interested in looking into these possibilities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Thank you, Charles. It's 9:00 o'clock -

CHARLES COLE: Telephone number: 743-3402. Don't hesitate to call. 743-3402. Sorry to interrupt.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: That's all right. It's 9:00 o'clock. I'll entertain one more speaker if anybody wants to speak in 30 seconds. Go ahead. Thirty seconds starting now.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Oh boy. Well, let me just offer the proposition that we have more water than we know what to do with. We just don't do with it right. We have 25,000 acre-feet a year that goes down the Santa Cruz River that the Corps of Engineers say we don't use it. We let it go to the Colorado River and then pay a \$100 an acre-foot to bring it back up here for us; that's - that's illogical, and the Indian Reservation could have a dam. We could have pressure plate dams on the Santa Cruz. We could have a catch basin at the old gravel pit on the northwest side; all those things much cheaper and would be much more effective.

And we say we don't have enough water, but we just granted 7,000 or 8,000 acre-feet a year to a Rosemont Mine for a 20-year operation. I live in - I was born in Tucson. That's exactly what Green Valley said when they started their operation down there; it was 20 years and then they're going to pack their bags and leave and they've been here for over 50 years. So, that's more than double the amount of water that's there's - going to be used by this mine and they turn it into a toxic soup. If we can accept that, we've got lots of water to spare. I think there's a lot of hypocrisy going on here and I think we need to clear it up.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Does anybody want to adjourn?

* * * * *

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that, to the best of my ability, the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription of the audio recording of (Call to the Audience) excerpts of the City/County Water & Wastewater Study Oversight Committee Meeting held on July 23, 2008.

Transcription completed: August 29, 2008.

DANIELLE L. KRASSOW-TISDALE