

TRANSCRIPT OF JUNE 11, 2008

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

CHARLES COLE: My concern is with the -

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Make sure you give us your name -

CHARLES COLE: Oh, Charles Cole -

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Oh, never mind. We've got it here. We've got it. Go ahead.

CHARLES COLE: Charles Cole, 6381 West Sweetwater Drive. We built a house five years ago up on the eastern foothills of the Tucson Mountains and we're off the water grid, and we were told at the time that we would never be on it; in an area where wells are unreliable.

What I'm here for is to plead with you to please take very seriously, study the option of future water supplies, present water supplies from the rainfall, harvesting rainfall; that's what we did when we built our house. We designed it so that we'd capture the rain off the roof. We have a cistern of almost 26,000-gallon capacity. With the rainfall even less than normal in the last few years, the cistern's been gradually filling; it now overflows in good rains, and it can provide 100% of the water that we need year-round for all household purposes. We capture the rainfall, we store it temporarily, we treat it, and we utilize it in the house for all purposes, including watering in the xeriscape, and the - the potential is tremendous.

Just start imaging anywhere, especially off the grid, where there are housing developments and malls, and so and so forth that, with the proper planning and design, the rainfall can be captured off all the roofs that are involved and the water treated and then used for all purposes in local communities or - or what have you.

So, my wife and I offered to - for anyone who's interested, come and see our system. We're not selling anything. We have nothing to do with water supplies and water systems, and we're welcome to demonstrate to people what we're doing; it's - to a lot of people it sounds like a wild idea, but we've proven that not only is it possible, but it 's also practical and - and it really works, and there's a lot of potential for that for the future, particularly in Pima County and off the grid.

We'd also - we extend our invitation to everyone on the

Board. We hope you'll really take this seriously. I'm available to consult with anyone who wants to. There are a lot of ideas that could be put to play here. Telephone number: 743-3402, 743-3402. Please don't call in the next two weeks. We're overloaded with commitments and deadlines, but after the 1st of July, we'll be able to be available for whatever you might like. We could also do a short slide presentation at one of your meetings some night if you wanted to, so we're available. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Thank you, Charles. I think that we had somebody here before talking about your - your system. Dorothy O'Brien?

DOROTHY O'BRIEN: Good evening, Mr. Chairperson, Members of the Committee, and the audience. My name's Dorothy O'Brien. I am the Assistant Utilities Director for the Town of Marana.

As has been discussed tonight, the Town of Marana is a developing community within the northwest region. We commend you on regional planning for both water and wastewater and would very much like to be a part of this effort.

As what you heard today, the - Judge Christian Hoffman ruled in favor of the Town of Marana in its suit against Pima County, and we will - we will be in both the wastewater business, as well as the water business and, as a regional partner, we would love to be a part of the Committee in the future. I know that Phase I has already committed. But, as Phase II and other areas open up, we would very much like to be not just a stakeholder, but also a member of the Committee. And, if there are any questions regarding anything going on, feel free to give us a call. We'd be happy to assist. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Thank you. Tracy?

TRACY WILLIAMS: Good evening. My sources for my discussion this evening come from the City of Tucson website, the Arizona Water Institute, Water Resources Research Center, Metro Water, CAP, and online.

The Arizona Water Institute reports, "Our water supply is uncertain. The climate change, dry, makes water resources in the southwest unreliable. Conservation in one state alone cannot mitigate region-wide problems affecting large multi-state watersheds. Just because we have an allocation of CAP water, doesn't mean there will be wet water available."

Now, infrastructure. Outdated infrastructure is more sensitive to hazardous events; that means it's more fragile. Various demands on the Colorado River may be incompatible. Short-term decisions may have long-term consequences.

Now, climate change is something that concerns all of

us and, with climate change, we have surface temperature changes, evaporation rates, reduced snow pack, earlier and shorter runoff seasons, increased water temperatures, and decrease in our water supply.

Now, with this comes various risks, hazards and vulnerabilities; those include: fires, as we've seen on our very previous Mt. Lemmon; floods, like in San Manuel, Winkelman, and the Butterfield Ranch at Pantano Wash; the loss of threatened and endangered species, which would be owls, bats, snakes and cactus; and, in general, reduced water supplies.

Now, as Larry Dozier talked about, the CAP add, A-D-D, water process - and I'm taking this very recently from March 4th, 2008, page 7 - "Our long-term water demands and CAP's three-county service area are projected to exceed current available supplies. There is not a comprehensive strategy to acquire and deliver enough water to meet the future demands." Now, that sentence right there is very startling to me as a citizen. I'm going to read it again. "There is not a comprehensive strategy to acquire and deliver enough water to meet these future demands." More information is needed on - and these are very simple questions and I will, of course, email them to you - how much water is needed? When is the water needed? Who will acquire, develop, and deliver the water? Where will the water be shared? And how will the water be paid for? And those questions come right off the CAP website, and I think that we deserve some answers. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Thank you. Laura Mays?

LAURA MAYS: Hello, my name is Laura Mays, and I live at 1349 North Fifth Avenue. I'm here on behalf of the Feldman's Neighborhood Association.

I moved to Tucson ten months ago for sustainable reasons strictly; before that, I lived in Phoenix, Arizona, for 37 years. And, at the top of my list of concerns around sustainability is water, so I am very excited and pleased that the City of Tucson and Pima County are now talking about this. For about four years now I've been working with a couple of different groups doing rainwater harvesting systems. Rainwater is the thing that I'm the most excited about.

About a year before I moved here, I joined a group called "Watershed Management" as a volunteer and we've done a lot of commercial sites, and we're currently working on residential sites. I'm applying for their apprenticeship program so that I can learn even more about rainwater harvesting, take it back to my community, the Feldman's Neighborhood Association, where we will start our own residential co-op in my neighborhood.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: (Inaudible; not speaking into a

microphone.)

LAURA MAYS: That's just how excited I am about rainwater; it obviously came through so, yeah.

There's lot of benefits about rainwater and I - and I won't amuse - amuse you with more than just a couple. The thing that I'm most excited about rainwater is it will, if - if we all start utilizing it, it will start to build up our aquifers and then we will also not have to use our aquifers as much by pulling it out of the ground. And the thing that I'm most excited about rainwater harvesting and utilizing it is that we will not find ourselves as dependent or reliant on the CAP.

And your presentation was really lovely, but I still am not feeling comfortable with the dependence and reliance we do have on the CAP, and especially with what was projected, the - the more use of it in the future. So, I say: "Let's count our rainwater as part of the inventory, let's utilize it and then - to quote Lisa Shipeck (ph.) - 'Let's leave no drop behind.'" Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Thank you. Bob, let me see if there's anybody out here in the - anybody in the audience - call to the audience. All right, Bob.

BOB COOK: I'm Bob Cook. I live at 2101 North Tucson Boulevard. I'm here representing Sustainable Tucson, and I have a short statement to read from one of our corps team members who is out of town for a month and she wanted me to read this, Madeline Kiser. She's spoken before the Committee before.

"Dear Committee Members: As we've been discussing these past three weeks, these past weeks, the decisions you reach and the recommended - recommendations that you make will be greatly influenced by the data you examine and by the expert witness and testimony you choose to turn to. In particular, for some of us, the effects of climate change on both surface and groundwater remain a concern, as does the question of how much these effects are or are not entering into the data informing your decisions.

In August, the California Groundwater Resources Association will hold a symposium, Climate Change, Implications for California Groundwater Management. Some of the subjects it will include - some of the subjects it will include, the potential changes in overall ground sup- - ground- - groundwater supply due to climate change, and the need to include scenarios of climate change in groundwater modeling. Moreover and importantly, the tone of the conference is one which suggests - which suggests that this is a unique time, an urgent time, a time of potential crisis.

The conference flier appears with a quotation from

Governor Schwarzenegger, 'I say the debate is over. We know the science, we see the threat, and we know the time for action is now,' unquote. The policy recommendations that result from this basic understanding about climate change will ultimately differ, likely significantly from those made by experts who see climate change and its effects in a more neutral light.

So much of our discussion these weeks about data has to do with how audible to the public is this range of scenarios we might face, worst to best, and what kind of preparations we might need to make if, in fact, we'll face harsher versus milder scenarios. So far in our cities, regions, and states, public debate over water, as presented by experts, what is audible is that the times we're facing don't seem to be exceptional or potentially dangerous; that through accommodation of new high-tech solutions, such as desalinization, the use of effluent, cloud seeding, and other sources, we will basically be unable to continue our current way of life. But, how true is this?

Once, again, therefore, I'd like to recommend that all underlying data and the paradigm which ties it together be subjected to third-party review by a range of experts from outside our state, include those - including those whose training and expertise is in holistic, adaptive water management and to complement more traditional engineering and economic management approaches used in this state. Respectively, Madeline Kiser."

I'd just like to add to that, that I just received - I think some of us have been reading this, this past week - this is the first major study by the U.S. Climate Science Change Program; this is our "A" Team of scientists in the United States who are studying the national and regional impacts of climate change and the name - the title of the subject - of the study is: *The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity in the United States*; it was just released a couple weeks ago, and I suggest that we enter this into the record for the Committee; be part of our resource bank and take this seriously, because most climate modeling has been on a global basis, the IPCC reports all deal with climate modeling on a global basis, because climate modeling is the most computer-intensive types of modeling because of the very extensive data sets that are required; doing regional modeling has been very, very expensive to date. This is the first report that we've seen as citizens of this country regarding what the possible impacts are. So, I - I just underline this issue that this question about climate change is here for us to take serious attention to. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JIM BARRY: Okay. One last Call to the

Audience.

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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 June 11, 2008.

Transcription completed: August 24, 2008.

DANIELLE L. KRASSOW-TISDALE