

I write in full support of the City/County Action Plan for Water Sustainability. I perceive the question about the future of Tucson's water supply as similar to another question: "Why hasn't NASA built a research station on the moon?" There are, of course, many reasons, but one of them is that it would be foolish to build if there is no way to provision the future residents with water. Building extensively is good for certain businesses, but it doesn't make good sense under all circumstances.

Residents of Tucson and Pima County are fortunate to have governments with foresight and an attitude to move forward with caution on water issues. This is reflected in formation of the TucsonPimaWaterStudyGroup, acceptance of their Phase I and II reports, and Tucson's rainwater harvesting ordinance. The data in the Phase I and II reports indicate that with increasing population, increasing demand for water, and climate change that is bound to reduce the available water supply, we are on track for a future water crisis that could hit within the lifetimes of many people who are reading this. The reports also show that some new alternatives for possibly importing water from far away could result in residents receiving a 10-fold increase in their water bills in a few decades. This would not be good for the local economy.

The time for cautious and imaginative planning is now. That is exactly what is in the Action Plan. This forward-looking action plan should be enacted so our water professionals can get to work on improving wise use of water resources. I urge you to resist the efforts of those people who would block this Action Plan and who recommend racing ahead with cheap housing developments that would make no more sense than building on the moon. And if small increases in building costs are necessary to do it

right, these are worth it. The costs of doing it wrong are far greater if Tucson collapses owing to having a water supply that is insufficient to sustain its future residents.

I might add that the companies that were involved in building our rainwater harvesting system at home in the Tucson Mountains found it good for their businesses to provide the labor, the gutters, the equipment rental, the digging, the underground 26,000 gallon concrete cistern, the pipes, pump, pressure tank, and water treatment equipment and filters plus maintenance for our development. This is not hypothetical, it's up and running. It's a form of smart building, and it's good for Tucson, including businesses.

Respectfully submitted, Charles J. Cole, 6381 W. Sweetwater Dr., Tucson, AZ 85745.