

Water Resources Research Center



College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Tucson Regional Water Planning Perspectives Study City/County Study Oversight Committee August 27, 2008

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Purpose of the Study

- Perspectives (hopes and concerns) for a regional water planning effort
- Study conceptualized prior to initiation of City-County effort.
- Short time frame for completion (Spring semester, 2008)
- Self-funded by the Water Resources Research Center using Technology Research Initiative Funds (TRIF) – Water Sustainability Program
- Co-authored by Aaron Lien, who graduated with a master's degree in planning in May 2008

Approach

- 43 interviews with 47 people
 - Local elected officials
 - Local jurisdiction managers
 - Business
 - Environmental
 - Water managers
 - Other
- No attribution to individuals
- Effort to capture all perspectives shared
- Report was distributed to all those interviewed before finalized.
- Many findings consistent with what's been discussed with this committee.

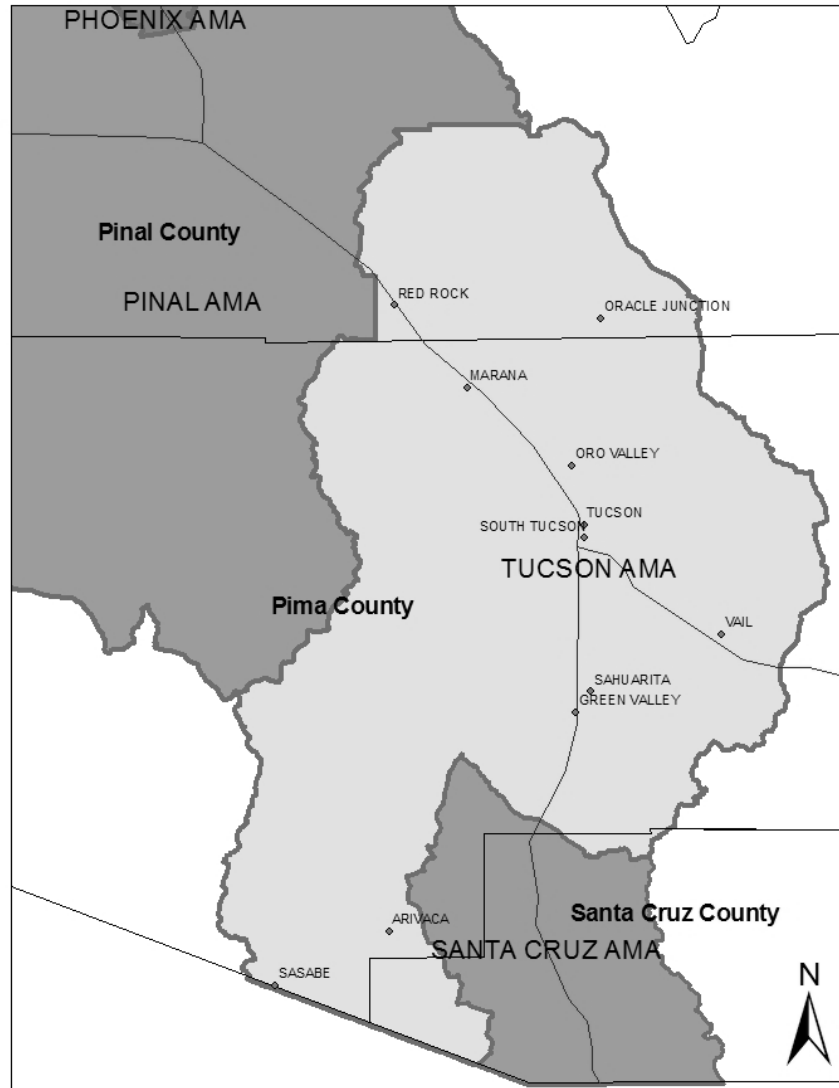
Findings

- Stakeholders from each category favored creation of a long-range regional plan based on a common set of facts.
 - Different visions of what the plan would be.
 - Water managers: Water augmentation plan
- Most stakeholders were not ready to take things off the table, although concerns were voiced about some items.
 - Retail water distribution systems
 - Local control and accountability

Findings

- Participation should be open and broad
 - Arizona Dept. of Water Resources and Central Arizona Project should assist
 - Objective facilitator may be needed
- Education is extremely important
 - Understanding the context
 - Common set of facts
- Ultimately, most believe the Tucson AMA should be the region of focus
 - Brings in players from outside the County
- Majority of interviewees did not favor the formation of a regional authority at this time.

Tucson Active Management Area



Some observations/questions

- Responses suggest the interviewees favor “water self-determination”. Sincere desire to work at figuring things out locally.
- Will people have the staying power to see through the various stages of regional water planning?
- Is the spirit of cooperation as represented in the responses resilient to bumps in the road?
- The process will be very important.