



CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(CWAC)

Wednesday, August 17, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes

1) **Call to Order / Opening Statement:**

CWAC Chair Rory Juneman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2) **Roll Call:**

Those present and absent were:

Present:

Rory Juneman, Chair	Representative, City Manager
Ed Hendel	Representative, Mayor
Mark Stratton	Representative, City Manager
Val Little	Representative, City Manager
Raye Winch	Representative, City Manager
Steven Washburn	Representative, City Manager
Raul Ramirez	Representative, Ward 1
Roxanna Valenzuela	Representative, Ward 2
Lisa Shippek	Representative, Ward 3
Robert Jaramillo	Representative Ward 5
James Doyle	Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
John Kmiec	Ex-Officio (non-Voting) City of Tucson Water Department Director

Absent:

Alison Jones, Vice Chair Representative, Ward 6

3) **Review and approval of June 1, 2022, Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes** - Member

Stratton moved to approve the Legal Action Report & Meeting Minutes. Member Jaramillo duly seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 9 – 0.



4) **Colorado River Update** – Director John Kmiec provided a brief update on the status of the Colorado River; those items reviewed were:

a) Potential System Conservation

- i) On June 15, the Secretary of the Interior challenged the seven basin states to identify new measures to conserve 2 - 4 MAF within a 60-day timeframe. Arizona and Nevada were willing to partner, but the deadline passed for agreements to be made with other states.
- ii) On August 16, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) provided a 24-month model of the system with predictions for lake elevations beginning January 2023.
 - (1) In a Tier 2a shortage condition, allocations reduced to 4,000 - 6,000 AF in 2023 according to the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)
 - (a) Arizona cuts are approximately 592,000 AF/21% of the annual apportionment
 - (2) Secretary of the Interior is still seeking to conserve 2 - 4 MAF among the Basin States.
 - (3) The city of Tucson has been working on the Tucson Drought Preparedness plan and subsequent cuts to future water allocations.

No actions were taken on this item.

5) **Mayor and Council policies and priorities** – James MacAdam and Candice Rupprecht presented five draft memorandums to increase conservation efforts; those items reviewed and discussed were:

a) Modifying the Building code requires using EPA Water Sense certified fixtures in new construction.

- i) This policy option would be modifying the current 2018 plumbing code to require using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense certified fixtures in new development. WaterSense is a federally authorized, voluntary program sponsored by the EPA that certifies water-efficient products and provides efficiency standards for plumbing fixtures, irrigation controllers, and sprinklers.

b) Low-Impact Development

- i) Low Impact Development (LID) means using green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) practices and principles in new residential construction. A LID ordinance, as proposed, would mandate the use of GSI in new housing development.

c) Requiring irrigation meters for commercial and multi-family properties over specified size/use thresholds.



- i) This policy option considers requiring irrigation meters for commercial and multi-family properties over specified sizes and/or use thresholds. This option could significantly impact the Commercial Rainwater Harvesting Ordinance's efficacy while potentially reducing long-term business costs.
- d) Requiring submetering for townhome and condo developments.
 - i) This policy option would require submetering for townhome and condo developments within Tucson. This is a proven approach to reducing water use in multi-family settings; and provides residents with greater control and knowledge of their water consumption and related expense.
- e) Implement a Net Zero Water approach for new development.
 - i) This policy option is implementing a Net Zero Water approach for new development. Net Zero Water is the concept of meeting all water demand for new development through a series of water demand offset measures. The offset measures can occur through onsite capture, reuse, water efficiency, or offsite mitigation measures. Ultimately, all offsets together create a water-neutral approach to growth that puts no further demand strain on the system. More stringent definitions of Net Zero Water require that every building within a development utilize only onsite capture and reuse measures and not be connected to the municipal water system.

6) Conservation Measures and Approaches – Chair Juneman opened the discussion with the committee members to comment on the memorandums presented in the previous agenda item and provide potential conservation ideas to the City of Tucson. Each committee member was called upon to contribute to the conversation.

- Consider an update to the City of Drought Response plan; based on the Colorado River and levels on Lake Mead, including local and regional conditions. Similar to Pima County Drought Response: considering local watershed conditions, annual rainfall, and water levels surrounding the Tucson basin. Taking into consideration local water shortages,
- NetZero/Net Blue approach to drive future conservation. Banning non-functioning turf for new developments and phasing in older existing developments.
- Offer Conservation Incentives to groundwater users in the Tucson Basin. Extending incentives to outside the customer base; for example, well users. Shared aquifer approach not all groundwater users are Tucson Water customers and can contribute to the conservation efforts.
- Support of flow devices; leak detection, conservation, and informational devices to assist customers in their onsite water usage

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P.O. Box 27210

Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

(520) 791-2666

Meeting Administrator

(520) 837-2105

Jessica.rodriguez@tucsonaz.gov



- Attention to water as a finite resource and growth is unsustainable. Consideration toward limitations on new developments and new connections to be selective and water conscious with subsidies. Exemptions for smaller developments seeking conservation measures, offering additional measures.
- Revisit policy considerations on growth, and take into consideration assumptions of long-term drought, desert living, and community growth relating to jobs and vitality. Revisit policy and codes according to drought conditions—discussing increased rates and burdens on the low-income community. Revisit the economic concept of Elasticity of Water; tie it into the Differential Water Rates funds.
- Perspective on the challenges, Supply cuts, rate discussions, and regulatory framework for water providers and companies. Growth-based economy to a new model. Understanding staff burdens and resources and the effects of new measures reducing or eliminating previous measures. Encourage utility to reframe cuts to supply and educate the public; next-level conservation efforts with the cost-efficient measure for the HET toilet programs. Key performance indicators over the next five years. Clear and qualifiable savings, easy and simple public understanding.
- Attention to jobs dependent on growth, incomes, and population percentages below the poverty line. Offer guidance on growth rather than discouraging growth. Net objective to save water, agriculture is the largest water user. Managing challenges affecting diverse interests, growth, agriculture, population, and water needs to provide a solution.
- Understanding building codes. Address barriers for composting toilets, and features cost savings compared to the water savings for low-flow toilets a high-cost feature. Provision of free applications.
- Limited on conservation budget; focus efforts on value, efficiency, and greatest return on investment continue to offer the greatest water savings; toilets, water-saving devices, and automated irrigation timers. Encourage the development community to embrace conservation concepts and city enforces codes proactively. New developers focus on compliance with current city codes.
- Retrofitting existing residences with efficient plumbing offers a more significant opportunity for water savings.
- Agricultural water use and impacts on the utility, municipal water discussion at the state level. Consider conservation measures as applies to southwest Arizona. Lack of jurisdiction at the City of Tucson level. Consider the role CWAC plays and offering additional perspectives, banning high water usage crops, apply pressure at the State level. CWAC participation with the City of Tucson on legislative issues.

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- Consider high water users statewide agriculture, mining, and commercial ratepayers within the utility and obtain a report.
- Tucson Water and Marana Water agriculture users seeking a report

Motion: Member Little motioned to support and approve the first four memorandums under the mayor and council policies and seek more information on net zero. Member Washburn duly seconded the motion. Discussion reminder these are drafts memorandums. Member Stratton offered a friendly amendment to include Rainwater harvesting for multi-family. Accepted by Member Little and Member Washburn New motion: to support and approve the first four items of the mayor and council policies, seek out more information on net zero, and include additional rainwater harvesting measures for multi-family. Member Hendel offered a friendly amendment to ban artificial turf and was recanted for additional conversation at Conservation & Education subcommittee. Member Hendel offered an additional friendly amendment to add positivity and intrigue regarding Netzero and support. Member Shipek echoed the friendly amendment for support and to learn more. Member Little declined the friendly amendment. Motion passed 9-0.

Direction to Conservation & Education subcommittee to have a discussion and follow up with full CWAC committee

- Ban on artificial turf
- Composting toilets
- Increase participation and maximize the low-flow toilet program
- Education on low-income assistance changes relating to differential water rates and education on debt relief enrollment. Tucson Water outreach on Differential Water Rates.
- Extending conservation incentives to ground users within the Tucson Basin vetting the possibilities with Tucson Water Staff
- Drought Response to local watershed conditions
- Encourage jurisdiction to work together on building regulations to achieve the highest conservation levels

7) Adjournment – Meeting ended at 10:01 a.m.

