



Tucson – Pima County Joint Consolidated Code Committee



**201 N Stone Ave, 4th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, April 5th, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.**

<p>Committee members present: Dante Archangeli Ken Cawthorne Rick Bright (Vice Chair) Dennis Coon Jeff Hamstra Fred Knapp</p>	<p>Ex-Officio members & staff present: Matthew Carlton, City of Tucson Leslie Ethan, City of Tucson Jamie Galayda, Tucson Water Dan Ice, Pima County Building Official Koren Manning, City of Tucson Angie Ruiz, City of Tucson Candice Rupprecht, Tucson Water Carver Struve, City of Tucson Clayton Trevillyan, COT Building Official Ian Wan, City of Tucson</p>
<p>Committee members absent: Brent Woods (Chair)</p>	<p>Guests Present:</p>

LEGAL ACTION REPORT

1. Call to order, roll call, acknowledgement of staff and guests

Vice Chair Bright noted that there was a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were then made by all present. Vice Chair Bright requested that everyone state their name prior to speaking throughout the meeting.

2. Review and approval of minutes

Members unanimously approved meeting minutes from the November 14, 2017 meeting, the last time the Committee met. The motion to approve was introduced by Mr. Archangeli and seconded by Mr. Knapp.

3. Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation (RECI) Grant Application

Ms. Ethan presented on the Resilient Southwest Building Code Collaborative, which formed out of a November 2022 convening of eight Arizona cities. The Collaborative was formed to develop a partnership to improve consistency between jurisdictions on the adoption of advanced building codes and reduce the burden of implementation by the building industry.

The proposed work of the Collaborative has been submitted to the Department of Energy (DOE) for funding under a new grant program, the Resilient and Efficient Code Implementation (RECI), which was authorized through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The RECI funding is specifically intended to facilitate energy code updates, improve energy code compliance, advance new and innovative code policies and tools, increase equity in code-related policies and planning, and develop the next-generation building industry workforce.

Ms. Ethan briefed the committee on the status of the grant application and noted that a survey from the Resilient Southwest Building Code Collaborative would be sent by Mr. Struve following the meeting.

No official action was taken.

4. Building Water Use Regulation Code Changes

Mr. Wan introduced the topic by stating that Mayor & Council directed City staff to move forward with code amendments related to water conservation at their October 18, 2022 meeting. These include the prohibition of ornamental turf, a requirement for WaterSense fixtures, a requirement for separate meters for outdoor irrigation, low impact development standards and Net Zero water. Mr. Wan stated that the Committee’s discussion today

would primarily focus on WaterSense Fixtures but that PDS and Tucson Water are actively working on ornamental turf and separate meters for outdoor irrigation.

The WaterSense program was discussed, including anticipated reductions in water use and annual household savings. Recent outreach conducted by PDS through a Water Conservation Code Amendment Stakeholder Meeting was also covered. The outreach was held to receive feedback for establishing a process to verify the installed WaterSense fixtures, and to coordinate with local suppliers to ensure supply and provide education for users. Heard support and no expressed concerns.

Mr. Wan noted that the WaterSense changes would take place in the 2018 International Plumbing Code, Section 604 and Table 604.4. The following proposed draft language (underlined) was provided to the Committee for review and discussion:

Section 604.4 Maximum flow and water consumption. The maximum water consumption flow rates and quantities for all plumbing fixtures and fixture fittings shall be in accordance with Table 604.4 and such fixtures and fixture fittings shall be Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense Certified fixtures or meet or exceed the maximum flow or quantity required of WaterSense Certified fixtures, excluding fixture types that are not included under the WaterSense Program.

Mr. Wan stated that an updated code proposal will be developed based on the feedback received. The revised proposal will be presented at the next meeting of the TPCJCC, which will be scheduled sometime in May 2023. From there the revised proposal will be forwarded to Mayor & Council.

There was a discussion about artificial turf, and Mr. Wan stated that the proposed amendment would require removal of any turf that is not used for active recreation, but that artificial turf would be allowed. Concerns about the heat island effect and unanticipated water usage to cool artificial turf were expressed. Mr. Wan noted this is a trade off between turf giving off heat, and reduced water usage. He also noted that this item is set to be heard by the Planning Commission at their April 19th meeting.

Mr. Cawthorne asked about amending the IRC in addition to the IPC for WaterSense fixtures because they both have the same table (Table 604.4). Mr. Wan noted we have only looked at the IPC, but he will work with Mr. Trevillyan on future amendments.

Mr. Kuns noted the footnotes are not quite correct on table 604.4, and need to be revised. He sent over a marked-up copy and noted these need to be fixed before this becomes official code. Mr. Wan stated that they would take a look and make any needed adjustments.

There was a discussion about fixture suppliers since other suppliers could meet WaterSense standards, and this could be worked into the code language.

There was also a discussion of pipe size which could conceivably be reduced due to use reductions, and the need to flush sewer lines if flow was significantly reduced also occurred. Mr. Wan stated that coordination with Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department is forthcoming to discuss impacts to the sewer system due to reduced flows. Updates will be provided at the next meeting.

A consensus was reached that the next steps would be to arrange another meeting in a month to review the updates, and take official action. This will be a virtual meeting.

No official action was taken.

Summary of General Questions/Answers and Comments:

Q: There are stressed areas within the wastewater system in Tucson due to low sloping. Has this proposed amendment been discussed with Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department to see if the system will react to the reduction in flow rates. Potential flushing of pipes may require significant water usage.

A: Tucson Water communicated with Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) on April 17, 2023 to discuss the proposed code amendments and the impacts on sewer flow volumes. RWRD and

Tucson Water will continue to coordinate ongoing data analysis and performance measurements as updates and new initiatives occur. RWRD is in support with the proposed code amendments.

Comment 1: Include amending 2018 International Residential Code in addition with the 2018 International Plumbing Code.

Draft Language Comments:

Comment 1: Edit in Section 604.4: Maximum flow and water consumption to replace, “meet or exceed” with “within”.

Comment 2: Include in Section 604.4 Maximum flow and water consumption “Exception 6: Replacement of existing fixtures that do not require a permit”.

Comment 3: Include in Table 604.4 footnote “a” in the section labeled, “shower head” and below the table as a footnote.

Comment 4: Include in Table 604.4 footnote “b” in the section labeled “maximum flow rate or quantity” and below the table as a footnote.

Comment 5: Include in Table 604.4 footnote “c” in the section labeled “Lavatory, public (other than metering)” and below the table as a footnote.

Comment 6: Include draft language similar to Section 604.4 and Table 604.4 of the 2018 International Plumbing Code for Section P2903.2 and Table P2903.2 of the 2018 International Residential Code to amend current Maximum flow and water consumption to EPA WaterSense Program standards.

Comment 7: Include in Table P2903.2 footnote “a” in the section labeled “Shower head” and below the table as a footnote.

Comment 8: Include in Table P2903.2 footnote “b” in section “maximum flow rate or quantity” and below the table as a footnote.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Knapp motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hamstra. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.