

**CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(CWAC)**

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 8:00 a.m.

Hybrid 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 8:03 a.m.

2) Roll Call:

Those present and absent were:

Present:

Steven Washburn (Chair)	Representative, City Manager
William Ellett (V. Chair)	Representative, Ward 6
Ed Hendel	Representative, Mayor
Alan Forrest	Representative, City Manager
Andrea Gerlak	Representative, City Manager
Claire Zucker	Representative, City Manager
Raul Ramirez	Representative, Ward 1
Tom Prezelski	Representative, Ward 2
Lisa Shipek	Representative, Ward 3
John Kmiec	Ex-Officio (non-Voting) City of Tucson Water Department Director
James Doyle	Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department

Absent:

Hilari Varnadore	Representative, City Manager
Melissa Lal	Representative, Ward 4
Robert Jaramillo	Representative, Ward 5

- 3) Announcements—**Chair Washburn noted this was his first meeting and requested that the CWAC mission statement be distributed to members. Mrs. Rodriguez requested that Agenda Items 6 and 7 be swapped. She also noted that the UCAB 30th anniversary event is on the 21st and that an official invitation will be shared with members.

- 4) Review and approval of November 5, 2025, Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes –**
Motion: Member Zucker moved to approve the Legal Action Report & Meeting Minutes. Member Forrest duly seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. The motion passed on a voice vote, 6 – 0.

Member Preselski arrived at 08:10 a.m.

Member Shipek arrived at 08:13 a.m.

- 5) **Director's Report** - Tucson Water Director John Kmiec provided brief updates as follows:
- a) Mayor and Council items
 - b) Colorado River Update
 - c) Potable and Reclaimed Water Demands
 - d) Large Quantity Water Users

Committee members asked questions throughout the presentation. No action was taken on this item.

- 6) **Review and discussion of the annual Conservation Report and Storm to Shade Report** – (Item was taken out of Order) James MacAdam, Administrator, City of Tucson Water, presented the FY2025 Tucson Water Conservation Annual Report, highlighting program impacts, equity-focused initiatives, and future priorities. The conservation program achieved approximately 26.5 million gallons in annual water savings through rebates, audits, education, and low-income assistance programs, with over \$600,000 invested in incentives. Key accomplishments included installing high-efficiency toilets and rainwater systems, conducting nearly 700 water-efficiency checkups, and reaching more than 30,000 students and adults through outreach. The report emphasized continued progress toward equity goals, including toilet installations, plumbing repairs, and green stormwater infrastructure projects in priority communities. Since 2009, the program has conserved over 6 billion gallons of water. Staff also outlined drought response efforts, WIFA-funded initiatives, expanded commercial conservation programming, and enhanced outreach strategies as priorities moving into 2026.

Mr. MacAdam presented the FY25 Storm to Shade (S2S) Annual Report, highlighting progress in green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) construction, maintenance, and equity-focused investment strategies. In FY25, S2S completed 13 projects, with 5 under construction and 20 in design, while prioritizing investments. The program continued its partnership with the Pima County Regional Flood Control District to maximize project performance and flood-mitigation benefits. Maintenance efforts expanded significantly. Public outreach and interdepartmental coordination remained central components of the program. Looking ahead, S2S plans to construct additional GSI projects, incorporate new assets into its maintenance program, expand contractor training, and further integrate stormwater policy and asset management practices to support climate resilience and equity goals.

Committee members asked questions throughout the presentation. No action was taken on this item.

- 7) **Rates and Miscellaneous Fee Discussion** – (Item was taken out of Order) Colin Jones, Administrator, City of Tucson Water Department, introduced the item. Tucson Water rate consultants presented the FY27–FY30 Financial Plan, Cost of Service (COS) analysis, and proposed rate design framework to support Tucson Water’s long-term financial sustainability and capital program needs. The presentation outlined revenue requirements, two rate increase scenarios, and their impacts on cash reserves and debt

coverage. The COS analysis allocated system costs among customer classes using industry best practices, while the rate design emphasized improved revenue resiliency, conservation pricing signals, and alignment of fixed cost recovery with policy targets. Also discussed were reclaimed water pricing strategy, residential block rate performance, and the implementation timeline.

Mr. Jones provided an update on the Miscellaneous Fee Study, including a review of user-based fees. The presentation explained the rationale for ensuring that specific services—such as meter installations, plan reviews, and backflow compliance—are funded by the direct beneficiaries rather than subsidized through general utility rates. Using AWWA cost-of-service principles, the study evaluates labor, materials, equipment, and overhead to calculate cost-based fees per occurrence. Staff outlined the methodology, policy considerations, and next steps, including stakeholder engagement and a proposed implementation date.

8) **Subcommittee Reports** - Each subcommittee chair reviewed agenda items and discussions held at previous meetings and updated the committee on future subcommittee topics.

9) **Call to Audience** – None.

10) **Future Meeting / Agenda Items** – The committee discussed future agenda items to be added to the running list, which include Large Quantity Water Users memorandum presentation by CWAC members, Utilities' ability to serve water to large quantity water users, Rate Study, and Miscellaneous fees.

11) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.