

CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(CWAC)

Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 8:00 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting – Microsoft Teams

**Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes**

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

CWAC Chair Steven Washburn called the meeting to order at 8:01 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

Hilari Varnadore

Representative, City Manager

Andrea Gerlak

Representative, City Manager

Claire Zucker

Representative, City Manager

Alan Forrest

Representative, City Manager

Raul Ramirez

Representative, Ward 1

Tom Prezelski

Representative, Ward 2

Robert Jaramillo

Representative, Ward 5

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:**

Lisa Shipek

Representative, Ward 3

Melissa Lal

Representative, Ward 4

**3) Announcements — None.**

**4) Review and approval of March 4, 2026, Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes –**

**Motion:** Member Ellet moved to approve the Legal Action Report & Meeting Minutes.

Member Zucker duly seconded the motion. **Discussion:** None. The motion passed on a voice vote, 9 – 0.

**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

Member Prezelski arrived at 08:43 a.m.

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

- 6) **Water Resources Update – Beth Scully, Water Program Superintendent**, City of Tucson Water, provided an update on the Source Water Division and Planning Unit. The presentation included the status of Tucson Water’s Designation of Assured Water Supply (DAWS), water resource planning efforts, One Water 2100 implementation projects, and other active Source Water projects. The update explained that Tucson Water is located within the Tucson Active Management Area and has demonstrated assured water supplies since 1998. Tucson Water’s DAWS modification application was originally submitted in January 2023, with an updated application submitted on April 30, 2025. Administrative completeness was received on September 9, 2025, and the designation and order remain pending.

The presentation also reviewed DAWS demand comparisons, noting that the 2024 DAWS estimate reflects a lower total projected demand than the 2014 DAWS estimate. The 2024 DAWS estimates total demand in 2034 at 130,794.81 acre-feet per year, with a total 100-year volume of 13,079,481 acre-feet. The Source Water Planning Team, established in 2023, supports implementation of the One Water 2100 Plan through long-term water resource planning focused on partnerships, ecosystem services, fiscal responsibility, innovation, and planning for future generations.

Ms. Scully highlighted One Water 2100 strategies currently in action, including demand management through advanced metering infrastructure, turf removal, expanded beneficial use of Colorado River water, groundwater remediation and well installation, advanced water purification, recycled water connections, and large-scale stormwater projects. Additional Source Water efforts include large-scale stormwater capture, PFAS evaluations, the Recycled Water Master Plan, water supply research, and drought response and preparedness planning. No action was taken on this item.

- 7) **Legislative Update – Laura Dent**, Director of State and Federal Relations, City of Tucson, presented a high-level update on Tucson Water’s on the current state legislative session, major policy themes, water-related bills, and the City of Tucson’s broader legislative and administrative engagement. The presentation was given in three main areas: legislative work, administrative engagement, and narrative/education. Framing legislative advocacy as more than tracking bills; educating decisionmakers, shaping the City’s policy narrative, and engaging with state agencies.

A summary activity during the 57th Legislature, 2nd Session. At the time of the presentation, the Legislature had been in session for 80 days, with 2,122 bills, resolutions, and memorials posted. Of those, 42 bills and memorials had passed, 16 had been vetoed, and 8 had been signed. The City had taken positions on 45 bills, while Tucson Water was tracking 58 water-related bills.

The major legislative themes identified include tax conformity, Proposition 123, revenue bills and affordability, water, land use and zoning, and data centers/power demand. Mrs. Dent provided CWAC a broad view of the policy environment, showing that water issues are

being considered alongside larger state debates about growth, revenue, infrastructure, and resource demand.

The presentation also included the update to the City's State Legislative Agenda, which was approved by Mayor and Council on November 18, 2025. The agenda emphasizes climate resilience, environmental justice, sustainability, green infrastructure, stormwater capture, heat mitigation, and support for policies that strengthen Tucson's long-term water management efforts, including conservation funding.

The water bill section highlighted that Tucson weighed in on 17 water bills during the session. Three active bills are flagged as remaining concerns: HCR2016, which would freeze rates, fees, and taxes for four years unless approved by 60% of voters in an even-year election; HB2985, which would require the Arizona State Land Department to begin a stakeholder process to allocate CAP water; and SB1785, which addresses ADWR's Area of Impact policy for recovery wells.

The presentation also notes several bills that did not move forward. It labels HB2099, HB2328, and HB2492 as "bad bills that died," related to long-term storage credits, municipal water supply/rates, and urban growth boundaries. It also identifies two "good ideas that also died": HB2116, related to a Colorado River litigation fund appropriation, and HB2722, related to water and residential lease communities.

Beyond legislation, Mrs. Dent shared administrative engagement, including interaction with the Arizona Department of Water Quality and Tucson's Pure Water work. This suggests that Tucson Water's policy work is not limited to the Legislature but also includes regulatory and agency-level engagement.

The final substantive section of the presentation focused on narrative and education, including Colorado River negotiations, position statements and updates, decisionmaker education, and participation in panels and conferences. The closing message is that Tucson Water's legislative role includes explaining complex water issues, maintaining relationships, and ensuring decisionmakers understand Tucson's water priorities and long-term planning efforts. No formal action was taken on this agenda item.

- 8) **Subcommittee Reports** - Each subcommittee chair reviewed agenda items and discussions held at previous meetings and updated the committee on future subcommittee topics. The committee discussed Claire Zucker as the RWRAC representative.
- 9) **Call to Audience** – Raye Winch comments were read from the chat "Is that advanced metering at customer level or also at larger pipe level?" Comments were also made about subcommittee participation and attendance.
- 10) **Future Meeting / Agenda Items** – The committee requested a final legislative update at the end of session.
- 11) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.