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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: May 8, 2013

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry *W FOR*  
County Administrator

Re: **Water Sustainability Progress Report**

Attached is an April 29, 2013 staff report prepared regarding the wastewater and water infrastructure study and planning process completed in November 2011. The 2012 year-end progress report is also attached.

An area that remains unresolved is water supply to designated growth areas in the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. Despite assurances from the City of Tucson that refinements to the Tucson Water area service policy would resolve County concerns over previous commitments to serve designated areas in the unincorporated area, there has been no progress or action on water service modifications. The present policy is punitive to property owners in the unincorporated area that previously relied on the City to provide water service and who received assurances from the City regarding water service; yet service has been denied by the City of Tucson.

I understand there are some clarifying modifications to the water service policy that will go before the Mayor and Council in the near future. However, these modifications do not resolve the concerns. In fact, a landowner who had previously relied on the City for water service is now being forced to obtain water service through a wheeling agreement with a third party provider, Metro Water, at significant additional expense, despite the presence of a large Tucson Water transmission main adjacent to the landowner's property.

Unless these concerns are resolved in the near future, the County will be forced to consider alternative water service delivery models.

This problem has existed for a number of years without any positive steps toward resolution.

CHH/dph

#### Attachments

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation  
Kathy Chavez, Water Policy Manager, Regional Wastewater Reclamation



**PIMA COUNTY**  
**REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT**  
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April 29, 2013

**TO:** C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator  
**THRU:** John M. Bernal, P.E., Deputy County Administrator - PWA  
**FROM:** Jackson Jenkins, Director - RWRD  
**SUBJECT:** **2012 Year End Progress Report Action Plan for Water Sustainability (2012 – 2015)**

The Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study (WISP) was completed in November 2011 with the adoption of the Action Plan for Water Sustainability (Action Plan). Implementation of the WISP Action Plan began in March 2011.

Attached is a 2012 Year-End Progress Report on WISP Action Plan implementation describing the action items that have already been completed and the progress Pima County and the City of Tucson has made. Also included is the transmittal memo to the Mayor and Council.

This year-end report focuses on projects completed or still continuing by Pima County and the City of Tucson. The report includes the following items implemented by Pima County:

- CIP 1 – 7 – Pima County Development Services Department along with its many partners is in the process of completing the Integrated Infrastructure Planning project. Draft reports have been completed on the twelve subareas identified and with the exception of subareas 4, 6 and 12. The three remaining subareas are nearing completion.
- CIP 20 – A County representative continues to participate on the Safe Yield Task Force
- RFE 2 and 7 – C2E Conserve to Enhance (C2E) links water conservation efforts with restoration and enhancement to ensure water conservation translates to tangible benefits for the community. Recently C2E awarded up to \$10,000 grants apiece to four neighborhood projects.
- RFE 20 – Flood Control District completed its demonstration project by retrofitting the Kolb Road detention basin for environmental restoration

C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

**SUBJECT: 2012 Year End Progress Report – WISP Action Plan**

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- RFE 23 – Tres Rio del Norte (TRDN) Feasibility Study is nearing a conclusion and is expected to be completed by the end of 2013
- WS 9 – Partnering with the Bureau of Reclamation, the County developed a Demonstration Recharge Project in the Lower Santa Cruz River
- WS 10 – As part of ROMP, the Biosolids and Biogas Master Plan was completed

Pima County and the City of Tucson have made great strides in completing action items identified in WISP; however, one outstanding item that remains unresolved is Tucson Water's Water Service Area Policy (CIP 21). In spite of the City of Tucson's assurances to the Board that proposed refinements to the policy would resolve the County's concerns, Mayor and Council have yet to consider the refinements and the policy continues to impact constituents in unincorporated Pima County that have been refused water service and cannot proceed with proposals in designated growth areas.

Some of the County's projects that are continuing or are new in 2012 include:

- CIP 22 – Implement the County's Water Resource Element to Assess Water Resource Impacts of new Development
- RFE 15 – Public Lands Field Assessments and Remediation
- RFE 16 – Rosemont Environmental Monitoring
- RFE 19 – Standards Development: Detention Basin Retrofits
- RFE 21 – Loop-River Enhancement Project
- WS 7 – SHARP (Southeast Houghton Area Recharge Project)
- WS 14 & 18 – Extend Reclaimed Infrastructure to County Parks and Pursue Bond Funding
- WS 20 – Pima County Effluent Management Plan
- WS 30 – An update to Pima County's Drought Management Plan
- DM 7 – Develop Design Guidelines for Neighborhood Stormwater Harvesting

The 2012 Year-End Report and the transmittal memoranda from the City of Tucson and Pima County will be posted on the [WISP website](#). Staff will continue to implement the WISP Action Plan and will report on progress made on continuing action items in the 2013 Year End Progress Report.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Enc: 2012 WISP Year- End Report on the *2011 – 2015 Action Plan for Water Sustainability*

c: Kathleen Chavez, Water Policy Manager  
Arlan Colton, DSD Planning Director  
Carmine DeBonis, DSD Director  
Nicole Fyffe, Assistant to the County Administrator  
Linda Mayro, OSC Director  
Rafael Payan, NRPR Director  
Suzanne Shields, RFCD Director  
Eric Wieduwilt, RWRD Deputy Director