



## Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC)

### Legal Action Items of Friday, October 6, 2017

#### ATTENDEES

##### Members

Sarah Reitmeyer, PDEQ  
Marie Light, PDEQ, WPS Chair  
Sue Mormon, Pima County Planning  
Adam Bliven, PCRWRD, Chair  
Janine Spencer-Glasson, Town of Marana, Vice Chair  
Marilyn Hanson, Town of Marana citizen  
Elisa Hamblin, Town of Oro Valley  
Austin Carey, Town of Oro Valley citizen  
MJ Dillard, Town of Sahuarita  
Heidi Lasham, Town of Sahuarita  
Corin Marron, Carollo Engineers, RWRAC rep.  
Amanda Smith, Sonoran Institute  
Nicole Gillett, Tucson Audubon Society  
Kathy Chavez, Pima County OSC  
Becca Cammack, Tucson Airport Authority

Jay Hillman, DMAFB  
Howard Myers, SAHBA  
Jeff Yockey, TEP  
Jaimie Galayda, City of Tucson

##### Other Attendees

Chris Norman, TEP  
Mitch Basefsky, Central Arizona Project  
Craig Cannizzaro, Westland Resources  
Doug Greenland, Cortaro-Marana Irrigation Dist.  
Erin Lansey, HDR Engineering  
Ellen Alster, PCDOT

##### Staff

Lee Comrie  
Mead Mier  
Chrystal Spires

#### 1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Adam Bliven at 9:35 a.m.

#### 2. In-kind Form

Members were asked to sign the in-kind form.

#### 3. EPAC Chair, PAG Staff Reports and EPAC Member Updates

Staff updates were provided on PAG's environmental program activities. Of note, updates on the Arizona VW Settlement can be found at <http://vwclearinghouse.org/>. PAG is

welcoming water providers to partner with Tucson Conserve2Enhance. EPAC members gave respective update.

Corin Marron, EPAC's Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee representative, announced that a sewer rate increase of 16 percent is being proposed for commercial customers based on water quality monitoring results. A public meeting is planned for Oct. 16.

The EPAC bylaws indicate a two-year term of service for the positions of chair and vice chair. Since the existing term for these positions is coming to an end, nominations were requested, and should be sent to Lee Comrie at [lcomrie@pagregion.com](mailto:lcomrie@pagregion.com)

#### **4. Status of the Colorado River & Lake Mead Protection Efforts**

Mitch Basefsky, Communications Representative for Central Arizona Project (CAP), provided a status report on the hydrology of the Colorado River and its improvements this year. Efforts of many of the Lower Basin's largest users to reduce the overdraft of Lake Mead resulted in a recent declaration by the Bureau of Reclamation that there would be no shortage in 2018. This is the third year that protection efforts at Lake Mead have helped Arizona postpone a mandatory shortage reduction of more than 20 percent of the Colorado River water imported annually by the CAP system. Adaptation strategies leading to this success include storage and recovery, augmentation with cloud seeding and desalination projects, lower basin drought response actions and innovative conservation efforts. Additional strategies being considered are a Lower Basin and intrastate drought contingency plan.

The presentation is available [HERE](#).

This item was provided to inform and follow up on EPAC's Top Issues List. No action was taken.

#### **5. TEP (Tucson Electric Power) 2017 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and Rate Case Update**

Jeff Yockey, TEP's Manager of Environmental and Long-Term Planning, gave an overview of TEP's 2017 IRP. This plan describes the Company's long-term strategy to build a more responsive, sustainable resource portfolio by reducing its reliance on coal, while expanding low-cost renewable resources and investing in efficient, flexible natural gas plants and energy storage. TEP's goal is to deliver 30 percent of retail load from renewable energy by 2030, using its diversified portfolio, with integration assistance from energy storage and natural gas reciprocating internal combustion engines. He also provided a brief update on "Phase II" of the company's rate case proceeding dealing with net metering for distributed solar resources. TEP's Rate Case Phase II Public Hearing is scheduled for late October.

The presentation is available [HERE](#).

This item was provided to inform and follow up on EPAC's Top Issues List. No action was taken.

## **6. Top Environmental Issues List**

Lee Comrie, PAG Sustainability Coordinator, reviewed EPAC's Top Environmental Issues List for 2017 (<http://www.pagregion.com/documents/environment/TopEnvIssues2017.pdf>), requested suggested updates for 2018 and the process for finalizing the list.

This item was provided to prepare for potential action at the December meeting.

## **7. Brief Update on the Water Innovation Challenge Grant and the Arizona Pure Water Brew Challenge**

Corin Marron, Carollo Engineering, presented the grant's findings and results of the Arizona Brew Challenge. This grant was used to help people understand and trust the advanced technology used to create purified drinking water from renewable reclaimed water. ADEQ is updating its reclaimed water rules to allow for safe potable reuse of reclaimed water in early 2018.

This item was to inform the PAG 208 Plan Update. No action was taken.

## **8. 208 Plan Update**

Mead Mier, PAG Sustainability Coordinator, introduced the initial efforts to streamline and modernize the PAG Areawide Water Quality Management Plan in FY 2017-18. PAG is the region's designated water quality planning agency and is required to update the 208 Plan as needed (last updated in 2006). The updated plan will fold in recent plan amendments and include streamlined procedures and an online portal which private and public parties will be able to use to achieve conformance and provide facility updates. PAG staff's next steps are to assess population and effluent flow projections and evaluate fees. PAG staff will meet with the Designated Management Agencies this fall to review the facility inventory edits, provide feedback on the proposed fees and inform ways to streamline PAG procedures. Members asked clarifying questions and provided recommendations to include the Living River Report results and new State Reclaimed Water Rule Revision. Review of this plan update and EPAC action is anticipated by spring. A clear list of changes will be provided and members will be asked to verify that no local ordinances conflict with the procedures.

The presentation is available [HERE](#).

FAQ resulting from the May Watershed Planning Subcommittee introductory 208 Update meeting is available [HERE](#).

This item was for information for future action, and no immediate action was taken.

## **9. Call to the Audience**

No one spoke.

## **10. Request for Future Agenda Items**

Suggestions included an update on the Reclaimed Water Rule Revision, Sonoran Institute's Living River assessment and Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.