

## PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

### **A Resolution by Pima Association of Governments (PAG) to Encourage Policies that Will Result in the Greater Utilization of Water Harvesting**

**Whereas**, water harvesting is the practice of capturing and storing rainfall and using this water to irrigate plants or for other non-potable uses such as flushing toilets, washing clothes, and supplying water cooling towers, and;

**Whereas**, water harvesting can reduce the amount of municipal water supply that is needed for outdoor watering and other non-potable uses, and;

**Whereas**, outdoor watering represents up to one-third of the total residential use, and;

**Whereas**, many residential, commercial and industrial buildings do not have rainwater collection systems (gutters and downspouts, and earth catchments) installed, and;

**Whereas**, many existing rooftop rainwater collection systems (gutters and downspouts) are only connected to storm sewers and not to irrigation systems, and;

**Whereas**, using harvested water for irrigation can help residents save money on their water bill, and;

**Whereas**, implementing water harvesting can help prevent stormwater pollution because rainwater is not released to the streets where it can pick up pollutants and transport them to the washes, and;

**Whereas**, implementing water harvesting can help decrease flood flows potentially decreasing the need for additional expensive flood control structures, and;

**Whereas**, water harvesting can be achieved through a variety of methods including passive catchment and retention systems (ditches, depressions around trees, subsurface French drains) or active constructed systems (gutters, downspouts, storage tanks, irrigation systems), and;

**Whereas**, broad-based implementation of water harvesting could reduce municipal water demand, impede flooding and help minimize stormwater pollution.

#### **In Consideration Thereof, the PAG Regional Council:**

Identifies water harvesting as a practice that is beneficial to the proper management of water in a desert environment, and;

Encourages continued support of water harvesting projects, supports efforts to better inform the public concerning the value of water harvesting, and encourages member jurisdictions to consider and take appropriate action necessary to increase the use of water harvesting.

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