

Memorandum

Date: January 16, 2018
Subject: Water Subcommittee Recommendation
From: Sustainability Commission,
City of Tempe
To: Mayor and Council,
City of Tempe

The Water Subcommittee of the Sustainability Commission (hereafter referred to as “the Subcommittee”) was formed on April 17th, 2017 for the purpose of advising City Council on policy decisions that impact the social and environmental nexus of water in Tempe. Serving in this capacity, we have outlined a roadmap and strategic vision as tools that we believe encompass Tempe’s unique and diverse community while advancing a proactive water conservation agenda that resilience in the desert southwest requires.

The Subcommittee believes the way water is used should persistently reflect the true cost and interconnectivity of water in our community. We believe that the following roadmap is a critical step toward Tempe surpassing its residential water conservation goal of less than 110 GPCD by 2020. As such, we support the following strategies that embody efficiency, livability, and the common good of water.

The Roadmap

Tempe should take the following actions to promote the Sustainable use of water:

Measurement

- Develop conservation targets based on evidence-based assessments for Tempe’s long-term sustainability and resiliency needs
- Create sub-targets for each user class or a mechanism(s) that supports water conservation across each user group
- Continue to invest in staffing and technologies that support sophisticated tracking of Tempe’s water and water-related energy use

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- Devote staff or develop partnerships for data collection, analysis, stakeholder engagement, and evaluation of emerging technologies
 - For each user class, create user-friendly guides on the most effective conservation strategies and technologies to transition customers to sustainable use (e.g. for residential users, guidance on water controls, low use fixtures, landscaping changes and laundry to landscape)
 - Create programs committed to risk analysis & mitigation against water shortages, extreme heat, water quality problems, etc.
 - Adopt building codes, engineering codes and low impact development codes that support the reduction of potable water use and encourage sustainable development (e.g. rainwater harvesting that supports urban tree canopy)
 - Develop guidelines and a citywide performance measure on appropriate landscaping that balances shade, cooling, food production, carbon sequestration and water efficiency
 - Sponsor pilot projects such as grey water, rainwater harvesting, food forests, carbon sinks, or bioswales, which have the potential to help Tempe reach its conservation targets and support the city's strategic vision concerning water conservation
 - Make a commitment to monitoring the impact of policies and programs and providing clear justification for the conservation impacts of all funded programs

This roadmap expands upon the spirit that guided the Council's progress when they adopted the 2018 tiered rate structure. We hope these actions are taken to create a culture of sustainability in Tempe. In conjunction with the Office of Sustainability, these strategies will be aligned with the city's climate action plan and strategic management plan.

Water is a precious resource in the desert southwest – it is crucial that Tempe develop robust programs and policies that reflect an equitable and transparent assessment of water use for Tempe's ecosystem, including both human and environmental stakeholders. The Subcommittee recommends City Council advances and embeds the goals, values, and guiding principles presented with this memorandum along with the roadmap recommended above to ensure that Tempe leads Valley cities and the region in optimizing water use. From the

members representing the Tempe community on the Tempe Sustainability Commission, we would like to thank the Mayor and Council for your continued commitment to the advancement of sustainability in Tempe, and we are dedicated to supporting your efforts.

Sustainability Commission Members

- Commissioner John F. Kane (Chair)
- Commissioner Kendon Jung (Vice Chair)
- Commissioner Leah Gibbons
- Commissioner Anne Gill
- Commissioner Corey Hawkey
- Commissioner Alix Monty
- Commissioner Gretchen Reinhardt
- Commissioner Colin Tetreault
- Commissioner Arnim Wiek

Staff Assisting the Committee Members:

- Don Bessler, Public Works Director
- Grace Delmonte Kelly, PW Supervisor
- Marilyn DeRosa, Deputy PW Director – Engineering
- Braden Kay, Sustainability Manager
- Carla Sidi, Executive Assistant

Strategic Vision for Water and Tempe

| Goals | Values | Guiding Principles |
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| Ecosystem | We value water as vital to the integrity of the ecosystem, | Therefore, all of our actions must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● maintain surface waters and recharge the aquifers● uphold the quality of all water resources |
| Equity | We value the affordability and accessibility of safe water for all, | Therefore, all of our actions must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● provide for the quantity and quality of water sufficient for the livelihood of all populations, including underserved populations● account for intra-generational and inter-generational equity |
| Resource Efficiency | We value the wise use of water, because it is a limited resource, | Therefore, all of our actions must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● reduce water use, promote water reuse, and/or support the efficient use of water |
| Livability | We value the role that water plays in the quality of life in our community, | Therefore, all of our actions must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● improve community shared spaces or enhance the economic livelihood, social stability, educational opportunity, and cultural or recreation possibilities in Tempe |
| Democratic Governance | We value the fair distribution of the benefits and costs of water, | Therefore, all of our actions must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● be transparent● give balanced consideration to all stakeholders● base decisions on sound data at a macro and granular level |
| Resilience & Adaptability | We value the need to plan for multiple futures, | Therefore, all of our actions must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● prepare for the changing needs of the community and the evolving constraints of the ecosystem● consider the possibility of water shortages, water quality disasters, or other shock events● connect water management with mitigating climate change and the urban heat island effect |
| Interconnectivity | We value the leadership of Tempe in sustainable water management, | Therefore, all of our actions must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● recognize opportunities with local and regional partners● coordinate and plan with stakeholders throughout the watershed and/or the groundwater basin● elevate Tempe among local, regional and national leaders |