Tucson Regional Water Coalition

Prosperity - Sustainability - Community

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 9, 2021

The Honorable Sharon Bronson
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Alliance of Construction Trades

Arizona Builders Alliance

Arizona Multi-Housing Association

Arizona Small Business Association

Arizona Transportation Builders Association

Marana Chamber of Commerce

Metropolitan Pima Alliance

Greater Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce

Safe and Sensible Water Committee

Southern Arizona Home Builders Association

Southern Arizona Leadership Council

Tucson Association of Realtors

Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Tucson Metro Chamber

RE: 8/10/21 Mtg, Agenda Item #20: Historical Perspective Regarding Regional Water and Sewer Rates Established by Pima County and City of Tucson's Mayor and Council

Chairwoman Bronson:

The Tucson Regional Water Coalition (TRWC) is a broad-based non-partisan organization comprised by the region's leading business organizations and supported by the thousands of County residents our member companies employ. TRWC actively participates in water management and policy development issues on the State and regional level. TRWC seeks to advance objectives that will benefit area employers that grow our local economy.

TRWC and member organizations have participated in the stakeholder process as the City of Tucson moves towards implementing a differential fee structure whereby residents of unincorporated Pima County would be charged a higher rate simply because they do not live within City limits or another incorporated community. TRWC is on record, with the Council, questioning the legal authority for the City to implement such a fee and have yet to see the fee justified by a "Cost of Service" analysis.

Further, we are concerned this action is inconsistent with the historical actions and representations by the City and County to bring the CAP allocation to our region for the benefit of all residents as outlined in the background material. Fee equity is an important matter which should be approached comprehensively and discussed at a regional level. Differential Rates are counterproductive to regional collaboration.

On behalf of the TRWC, we would like to encourage the Board of Supervisors to act on the recommendations proposed by Staff. TRWC believes this is a sound plan and will further ensure Water and Wastewater is managed for the benefit of our entire region, as it has been historically done.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Godlewski
Co-Chair

Christopher (Kip) Volpe
Co-Chair

cc: Members of the Board
Mr. Huckelberry, Mr. DeBonis, Ms. Castañeda