

7. REGIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES AND COORDINATED EFFORTS

Disperse population growth in Southern Arizona remains steady so that local governments much address many concerns at a regional level. Impacts of environment, water, air quality, and transportation policies don't stop at jurisdictional boundaries, they require cross-jurisdictional solutions. Shrinking budgets at all levels of government make cooperation critical for optimum regional solutions and foster more cost-effective delivery of services through economies of scale.

Pima Association of Government (PAG_
www.PAGregion.com

History and purpose

Pima Association of Governments (PAG) was established in 1973 as a federally recognized metropolitan planning organization for Pima County. The federal government mandated that such bodies be established to plan regionally and to review federal grants that would have a regional impact. PAG is a nonprofit organization which provides a forum for elected officials to discuss and coordinate their plans for solving problems that cross jurisdictional boundaries, and its staff provides and analyzes data in support of that planning.

PAG works to develop regional cooperation and to build consensus among jurisdictions to work together on regional programs. Major PAG planning efforts include:

- PAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and PAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): PAG conducts long-range transportation planning with its members. Long-range planning identifies anticipated available funding to meet long-term transportation needs. Short-range planning addresses short-term capital improvement needs.
- Regional Transportation Authority Plan (RTA): The Regional Transportation Authority members jurisdictions and regional stakeholders developed a self-funded, 20-year regional transportation plan. The plan is funded by a half-cent transaction privilege tax (a sales tax on rides). Members of the PAG Regional Council serve as Members of the RTA Board. Each governing body has different officers.
- Watershed Planning Program: The goal of the PAG program is to preserve or improve water resources in the county's watersheds and to protect the water supply from storm water pollution through research, planning and technical assistance.

Members

PAG members include Pima County, City of South Tucson, City of Tucson, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Tohoo O'odham Nation, Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley, Town of Sahuarita, and the Arizona State Transportation Board (ASTB). PAG is governed by a Regional Council comprised of chief elected officials from each of PAG's member jurisdictions and a representative from the Arizona Transportation Board. PAG also involves appropriate federal, state, and local agencies in its planning.

Pima Association of Governments: Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)
www.RTAmobility.com

History and purpose

The Arizona Legislature passed legislation in 2004 to establish the Regional Transportation Authority of Pima County, granting it legal authority to implement a regional transportation plan. The Regional Transportation Authority is a mechanism by which jurisdictions within a common geographic boundary can plan and implement transportation projects or programs serving regional needs with funding from a dedicated tax. It has authority beyond a mere coordinating body. No one jurisdiction may veto a plan that the voters approve.

In 2005, the RTA developed a \$2.1 billion, 20-year regional transportation plan after extensive public outreach. On Nov. 30, 2005, the RAT Board adopted the plan and placed it on the Pima County ballot for May 16, 2006. The plan and an accompanying half-cent transaction privilege tax were approved by Pima County voters in May of 2006. The plan and tax are effective through June 30, 2026. Any significant changes to the plan must be submitted to the voters.

Membership

RTA members include Pima County, City of South Tucson, City of Tucson, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Tohono O’odham Nation, Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley, Town of Sahuarita, and the Arizona State Transportation Board (ASTB). The RTA is governed by the RTA Board which is comprised of chief elected officials from each of PAG’s member jurisdictions and a representative from the Arizona Transportation Board.

PAG staff manages the RTA through a memorandum of understanding. The RTA is the fiscal manager of the \$2.1 billion RTA plan. Most of the projects in the RTA plan are implemented by RTA member jurisdictions.

Pima Associate of Governments: Water Quality Management Planning Agency
www.PAGregion.com

Pima Association of Governments (PAG) is the federal and state designated water quality management planning agency for Pima County, except for tribal lands. Under the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 208, the planning agency is required to have an area-wide wastewater management plan. That plan was completed in 1978 and most recently updated in 2006 and amended in 2011.

Pima County Wastewater Management Department (PCWWM) is the federally designated management agency for eastern Pima County except for the Town of Sahuarita which is its own Designated Management Agency. In 2013, the Town of Marana became the DMA for much of its planning area. PCWWM collects, treats and disposes of wastewater in the area which includes Tucson, South Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, and some of the developed unincorporated areas. PCWWM is financially self-sufficient and uses no tax dollars but funds the system using sewer user and sewer connection fees.

An intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the City of Tucson and Pima County in 1979 gave Pima County the right to use up to 10 percent of the effluent (treated wastewater) produced at the two major wastewater treatment plants in the City of Tucson. Tucson has rights to use 90 percent of the effluent. In 2000, a supplemental IGA gave the county control of effluent produced at nonmetropolitan treatment facilities.

Pro-Neighborhoods

www.proneighborhoods.org

History and purpose

PRO Neighborhoods is an organization funded by a private/public partnership in Pima County. It was formed in 1994 to build strong neighborhood communities by nurturing skills of grassroots groups. It works with neighborhoods in all jurisdictions of Pima County in both incorporated and unincorporated areas to discover and utilize their own human and physical resources to grow stronger. It provides technical assistance and workshops on how to involve people, raise funds, organize, and develop other skills to help the community.

This organization works with Tucson's Department of Housing and Community Development and Pima County's Department of Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation. Partners in funding and overseeing this organization are the City of Tucson, Pima County, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, and the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona.

Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

sonorandesert.org

The internationally acclaimed Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan was created by a wide variety of jurisdictions and private and non-profit entities and is an example of regional cooperation. The County Administrator's office headed up the planning and currently, the Division of Sustainability and Conservation of Pima County's Public Works Department is the contact point for the implementation of the plan.

TUCSON REGIONAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, INC. (TREO)

www.TREOAZ.org

tradeandindustrydev.com

TREO is a non-profit organization that promotes economic and business development in the Tucson region. It is a collaborative effort of government and private partners. Funded by its partners and other grants, TREO handles federal and state tax incentive programs to support local business. It's focus is on business recruitment, especially new entrepreneurial endeavors and high quality jobs. Current partners include: City of Tucson, Pima County, City of South Tucson, Town of Marana, Oro Valley and Sahuarita, University of Arizona, Pima Community College, and many private businesses and non-profits.

Regional Water Planning and Management

www.adwr.state.az.us

For centuries most of Pima County's water has come from underground and non-renewable sources. Completion of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal in the 1990s, now allows water to be taken from the Colorado River, a renewable source, to our area. There are currently no other economical ways to bring more water to our area, so conservation and reuse are necessary to help sustain long term water supply.

Authority and responsibility

Over time a complex decentralized governmental structure has evolved to deal with water in our region. There is no regional water management agency. Responsibilities are divided among the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWDC), Pima Association of Governments (PAG), Pima County Wastewater, Tucson Water, several municipal water utilities and numerous private water companies.

ADWR does overall planning. All of urban Pima County is in the Tucson Active Management Area (AMA). There is a long term plan for the AMA and state law requires that anyone who wants to drill new wells other than for individual use, must show a 100 year Assured Water Supply that can be done in several ways. For more details see www.adwr.state.az.us. ADWR also oversees water recharge projects and drilling of wells by individuals.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has responsibility for water quality matters and, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, issues water quality permits, including those for wastewater treatment, water reuse, and safe drinking water. The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) has jurisdiction over private water companies, but not municipal utilities.

DAWCD manages the CAP canal and oversees allocation and pricing of CAP water, which is used throughout much of southern Arizona.

Who provides water?

The City of Tucson operates a water utility that provides water to thousands of customers both inside and outside the city limits. A 2010 policy limits the growth of the service area and Tucson no longer provides service on demand by new developments outside its declared service area. Water for new developments comes from other sources.

Sahuarita has no municipal water utility, but water is provided by seven private water companies. Marana has a municipal water utility, but residents also get water from the City of Tucson and private water companies. Oro Valley has its own water utility. The largest private water companies in Pima County are Flowing Wells Water Company and Metropolitan Water Company. There are at least 50 other private water suppliers in Pima County and some entities such as Davis Monthan Air Force Base, University of Arizona, and the Winterhaven Neighborhood have their own wells and water systems. The Tohono O'odham Nation manages water within its jurisdiction and has a

large allocation of CAP water, based on a legal ruling. Most agriculture on the Nation is irrigated with CAP water while many residents get their water from individual wells.

The CAWCD sells CAP water to many water providers under long-term contracts and allocations. It also provides water for agriculture and industry.

Wastewater

PAG does regional planning in a number of areas, including wastewater. It is led by representatives of each of the local governments within Pima County. An intergovernmental agreement between Tucson and Pima County in the 1970s forms the basis for division of responsibility. Pima County is responsible for treating wastewater and Tucson, for providing water. Pima County is legally prohibited from being a water provider. Tucson owns most of the water that goes through the treatment plant, but Pima County retains a share. In addition, the Tohono O'odham Nation has rights to a significant portion of treated wastewater as a result of a legal decision in a trade for its rights to some CAP water. Tucson and Pima County also agreed to allocate a portion of the treated wastewater.

Pima County is the regional wastewater management agency for the area and is the only county in Arizona with that authority. It has wastewater treatment plants in several locations, most notably along the Santa Cruz River at Roger Road and Ina Road. There are also some private wastewater treatment plants, mostly at golf courses where the water is reused on turf.

Water Recharge, Reuse, Water Harvesting and Water Conservation

Recharge systems store water underground for later use. The City of Tucson operates recharge basins to store CAP water for long-term water security. Pima County has recharge basins for treated wastewater, from which the water is sent for use on turf. ADHS has strict water quality rules to assure that contaminants from treated wastewater do not reach drinking water supplies.

Both Tucson and Pima County have policies for conserving water on golf courses by requiring that new golf courses use reclaimed water where feasible. Many of the the regional golf courses use reclaimed water on turf, as do some City of Tucson parks. Reclaimed water for household use occurs elsewhere, but not in Pima County.

Water harvesting is a way to catch rainwater from roofs and other surfaces for use on the property. Tucson has requirements for water harvesting on new commercial property and encourages it on private homes. This reduces the demand for drinking water or irrigation uses.

Water conservation is an important element in maintaining a long-term water supply. Tucson was a pioneer in the southwest in consumer education for conservation and in implementing a water rate structure to encourage conservation. An association of water providers, Water Casa, has worked for conservation and water harvesting as have other municipalities. www.watercasa.org

Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs)

An IGA provides a way for public entities to agree to or contract for services or for a joint exercise of common powers. The parties to an IGA may agree to joint or cooperative action or may form

a separate legal entity, including a nonprofit corporation, to contract for or perform contract services or exercise powers jointly held by the contracting parties. In practice, there are hundreds of these agreements which are relatively limited in scope. They allow for the sharing of costs to the public. Among the many examples of IGA's are contracts for cost sharing of recreational facilities or programs, joint road maintenance project contracts, contracts between local cities and University of Arizona for educational services and joint purchasing or equipment maintenance agreements.

The State of Arizona eliminated the filing requirements for IGAs with their local county recorders in 2009, so there is no central depository of all IGAs in Pima County.