



May 13, 2015

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

The Community Water Coalition (CWC) was pleased to initiate and lead a task force to identify potential riparian habitat projects for the Conservation Effluent Pool. A summary report was issued in July 2014. Before we reach the 1-year anniversary of this report, we request your action to propose a presently viable project along the Santa Cruz River as a Designated Riparian Project to receive an allocation of the Conservation Effluent Pool (CEP). This proposed project would provide combined benefits to two projects from the July 2014 CEP Taskforce Report; they are included as an addendum to this letter.

An allocation of 7,000 acre-feet per year to secure flow at the Agua Nueva wastewater reclamation facility outfall will demonstrate the value of the CEP and ensure instream flow along the Santa Cruz River to support this vibrant riparian community.

A similar project request is being submitted to County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry for an allocation of 2,000 acre-feet per year to secure flow at the Tres Rios WRF. This combined 9,000 acre-feet of CEP will ensure instream flow of the Santa Cruz River to benefit both City and County residents.

An allocation of CEP at the Agua Nueva location will not cost the City and will serve to benefit the City by promoting local recharge adjacent to Tucson Water facilities and enhancing recreational opportunities within the City for residents. The ongoing Santa Cruz Living River reports can serve as a mechanism to monitor and further assess benefits to both the riparian ecology and community.

Please note that allocation of CEP to this project will not compromise the ability to reapportion CEP flows to future projects. The IGA for the Implementation of the Conservation Effluent Pool states in Recital item K, "Effluent in the Conservation Effluent Pool shall be available to any Operator for use on a Riparian Project. If the quantity of Effluent in the Conservation Effluent Pool is insufficient to meet the demand

Coalition Members

ACE Charter High School
Center for Biological Diversity
Cienega Watershed Partnership
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
Community Food Bank
of Southern Arizona
Desert Watch
Native Seeds/SEARCH
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Primavera Foundation
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
Sierra Club - Rincon Group
Sky Island Alliance
Sustainable Tucson
Tucson Audubon Society
Tucson Mountains Association
Watershed Management Group

Business Affiliates

Borderlands Brewing Company
Concrete Done With Love
La Cocina
Wells Fargo Advisors – Jennifer Mills
Technicians for Sustainability

of Riparian Projects receiving Effluent, the Effluent shall be apportioned among the Riparian Projects.” And Article 3.4 also states that “If demand for Conservation Pool Effluent exceeds 9,000 acre-feet per year...the CEP Administrators may...recommend apportionment of Conservation Pool Effluent if demand exceeds supply.”

This proposal to maintain the effluent-dependent stretch of the Santa Cruz River will provide an immediate success as we overcome barriers for future projects. To clarify, the two primary barriers currently limiting the proposal of CEP projects are: 1) a lack of fiscal sponsorship for city-based projects; and 2) the County has yet to fully utilize their own share of effluent for riparian enhancement projects prior to requesting a CEP allocation.

Let us together demonstrate a critical success to realizing the value of the CEP, raise awareness of the importance of riparian habitat and instream flow in the community, and provide lessons learned for proposing future CEP projects.

Sincerely,



Randy Serraglio
Chair



Lisa Shipek
Treasurer



Louise Misztal
Secretary