

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPAC) SUMMARY REPORT

EPAC Items of Interest

EPAC met on Feb. 3. Jeff Prevatt, Research and Innovation Manager at Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department, discussed current research efforts and projects. He reviewed the creation of the Water Campus and highlighted the work being done, including its participation in the emergency response laboratory network. He also highlighted the capabilities of the Water & Energy Sustainable Technology (WEST) Center, its laboratories and its many public and private partners. He discussed innovations, including the Water Innovation Challenge grant that showcases effluent-to-potable reuse technology and strives to educate the public across Arizona that modern technology is creating recycled water that is safe to drink. Effluent will be cleaned, processed and used to make beer, culminating in a statewide beer brewing challenge. He showed a short video that explained the project. Possible opportunities to collaborate on clean fuels for vehicles in this challenge were suggested.

Colleen Crowninshield, PAG Clean Cities Manager, provided a brief overview of the Volkswagen Settlement and the partial consent decree where the State of Arizona will receive an estimated \$57 million over 10 years from an Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund to be used to fund Eligible Mitigation Actions. She referred to project eligibility requirements, the need for regional coordination on potential projects, and the short timeline of 90 days once the Trustee (Arizona Department of Administration) is officially designated. Updates will be given to members as the process unfolds.

B.J. Cordova, Membership and Communications Director at Tucson Clean and Beautiful, gave an update on Beat Back Buffelgrass Day. The event was scheduled for Jan. 21, but given the inclement weather, several pull events took place at other times. Information to date from about half the sites reporting indicated 166 volunteers, a total of 405 volunteer hours and 216 bags of buffelgrass collected. A wrap up meeting will be held in March.

EPAC Subcommittee and Program Updates

Air Quality

PAG's Air Quality staff completed the Regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory: 2012 to 2014, which estimated GHG emissions from eastern Pima County's and the City of Tucson's community and government from stationary *energy use* (electricity, diesel and natural gas), *vehicle travel*, (onroad, nonroad) *wastes* (solid waste disposal, wastewater reclamation) and *industrial processes*. The report is available at: <http://www.pagregion.com/info/787/Default.aspx>.

Air Quality staff is planning its biennial Air Quality Forum in May 2017. The focus will be on strategies to keep our air quality healthy. Anticipated presentations will cover current conditions and existing and innovative, emission reduction programs under development. More details will be provided when the agenda and speakers are finalized.

Watershed Planning

PAG is partnering to host the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Summit with Tucson Water on March 3. PAG will present an exercise using the Green Infrastructure (GI) Prioritization Tool which will be utilized in the Regional GI prioritization processes recommended in the recent *Supporting our Heritage of Desert Waters* Resolution.

PAG staff has created a scope of work for the PAG 208 Plan update. Once the consultant is approved the effort is anticipated to span through a 10 month planning, engagement, review and approval process.

Wet Dry Creek mapping methodology developed by PAG was formalized and provided on the PAG Water Resources web page. This is a tool that follows up on a recommendation in the January 2017 Regional

Council *Supporting our Heritage of Desert Waters* Resolution and is available for use for adaptive management of riparian areas.

Stormwater Management Working Group met once this fiscal year on January 12 to discuss permit updates with ADEQ and coordinated regional outreach for the public. Regional compilations of construction resources were updated on the PAG web page [PAG storm.com](http://PAG.storm.com)

The Watershed Planning Subcommittee (WPS) met once this fiscal year in November and one more meeting is expected this year.

Future EPAC Agenda Items

The next EPAC meeting will be convened in April.