

MAXIMIZING WATER REUSE in INDUSTRY: A CONVERSATION on COLLABORATION

December 5, 2005

SUMMARY

On December 5, 2005, the Governor's Office hosted a workshop to encourage the industrial use of reclaimed wastewater. The purpose of the workshop was to explore opportunities for wastewater reuse and discuss the barriers that need to be overcome for increased reuse.

Large industries from around the state ranging from electronics to paper manufacturing to electric generation as well as other interested parties were invited to attend.

Three key topics became the focus of this discussion. The topics are as follows:

- barriers that need to be overcome to “embed” wastewater reuse as part of routine practice for planning and zoning for new industry;
- barriers that need to be overcome to convert existing industrial operations from potable to reclaimed water use; and
- general issues tied to using reclaimed water.

The workshop agenda included presentations from the City of Chandler and Intel, the City of Flagstaff and SCA Tissue and the City of Tempe and Salt River Project. The discussion centered around five themes: Education, Water Quality, Location of Wastewater Treatment Plants, Incentives to Use Wastewater and the Value of Wastewater.

The five themes are defined as:

Education: Education for the public and industry to overcome negative perception about reclaimed wastewater.

Water Quality: Concerns about increased levels of salinity due to cycles of concentration when water is used in cooling processes and the lack of information regarding the impact of remaining contaminants in wastewater, both to the industrial processes and on later reuse efforts when the water is recycled again.

Location: Existing concerns over where to site Wastewater Treatment Plants in relation to where the water is used, and managing both public perceptions (odor, noise) and the laws of gravity.

Incentives to Use: Evaluate the cost of using reclaimed water versus potable water and the investment needed by industry to “re-tool” to maximize the use. Are incentives or requirements needed to increase reuse?

Value of Water: The need to maximize every drop of water we have, there is not enough to waste!

The Governor's Office plans to continue discussions on “Maximizing Water Reuse in Industry” with many other interest groups and participants over the next year. The next workshop in this series is tentatively scheduled for March of 2006 and will focus on obtaining a reuse perspective from developers, home builders, and possibly water providers.