



MAYOR

Regina Romero

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Mayor Romero, State and City Leaders Inaugurate Central Tucson Project Groundwater Treatment Pilot Demonstration Remedy

Tucson, AZ.—On Wednesday, Mayor Regina Romero joined Tucson Water Interim Director John Kmiec, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Misael Cabrera and other dignitaries and guests to mark the inauguration of the Central PFAS Groundwater Treatment Pilot Demonstration Remedy.

The pilot system, located and already operating at City of Tucson retired supply well C-007A, is designed to remove PFAS from groundwater in the area north of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and protect Tucson's central wellfield, an important part of the area's long-term drinking water supply, from per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances. ADEQ is leading the implementation of the CTPP pilot demonstration remedy with assistance from Tucson Water and will continue to move forward with implementing a full-scale groundwater treatment remedy.

In her remarks, **Tucson Mayor Regina Romero** praised the collaborative partnership between the city and ADEQ but did not shy away from reminding those present about the importance of learning from past experiences.

*"I am grateful for this collaboration with ADEQ to continue protecting our region's long-term water security. The Central Tucson Project Groundwater Treatment Pilot Demonstration Remedy is an important piece of infrastructure to protect our drinking water," **Romero said.***

"We are all too aware of the painful history of water contamination issues in our region, especially those impacting disadvantaged communities. As Mayor, my commitment is twofold: One, to ensure that our residents continue to have clean drinking water. And two, to make sure city taxpayers and ratepayers are not stuck holding the tab for a problem created by the federal government."

ADEQ Director Misael Cabrera weighed in on the importance of securing Tucson's water supply. *"The security and availability of healthy drinking water for the second largest metropolitan area in Arizona is critical."* Cabrera added, *"That's why, with support from Governor Doug Ducey and the Arizona legislature, ADEQ prioritized limited Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund monies to swiftly and proactively take steps to protect Tucson's water supply from additional impacts from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and help ensure current and future Tucson residents have drinking water safe from these contaminants."*

Tucson Water Interim Director, John Kmiec emphasized the utility's partnership with the State of Arizona and access to resources. *"Tucson Water greatly appreciates ADEQ's actions to investigate and begin the protection of this critical portion of our community's water supply. We also thank them for finding the funding to be able to start to clean up PFAS contamination in our community with projects like this one and the assistance recently provided to bring the TARP remedy back into action with the funding of the outfall to the Santa Cruz river,"* said Kmiec.

In addition to local and state efforts, U.S. Senator Mark Kelly has also championed legislation to address PFAS contamination in Southern Arizona. *"As we continue to tackle PFAS clean-up across Arizona, I'm proud to support strong local programs like the Central Tucson PFAS Project that will provide clean sources of drinking water to thousands of Tucson families,"* said Senator Kelly. *"And now, thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Arizonans will see even more investments made in a safe and secure water future for their families."*

Highlighting the importance of protecting Tucson's water supply, U.S. Congressman, Raúl Grijalva also reiterated his commitment for continued action on PFAS issues. *"The Central Tucson PFAS Project Groundwater Treatment Pilot Demonstration Remedy will begin to bring Tucson residents peace of mind to drink and utilize their water without fear of contamination. I'm proud to support this critical project and will continue to work to secure federal funding for Arizona's water infrastructure, push the Senate to act on PFAS, and hold federal agencies like the Department of Defense as well as industrial sites, landfills, and airports accountable for their continued inaction on contaminated water."*

U.S. Congressman Tom O'Halleran described the importance of preserving Tucson's water resources. *"The Central Tucson PFAS Project Groundwater Treatment Pilot Remedy will be critical to ensure that all who reside in Tucson and the surrounding communities have access to clean and safe water. These efforts took an added urgency over the summer when the City of Tucson said they would not be able to guarantee the safety of its water supply. This is one of the many reasons that I was proud to support the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs*

Act, which included \$10 billion in funding to help localities ensure the safety of their groundwater, free from chemicals and pollutants including PFAS.”

U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema also emphasized the role of the federal government to support local efforts through federal funding. *“We’re proud to support the City of Tucson’s efforts ensuring the health and security of drinking water in southern Arizona by delivering historic investment from our bipartisan infrastructure law to clean up chemical water contamination, keeping Arizona families and communities healthy,”* said Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema, author of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*.

In her remarks, **Mayor Romero** reiterated her gratitude for continued support from the federal delegation. *“Last but not least, I want to thank our Congressional Delegation for all of their efforts to secure federal dollars to fund PFAS remediation, including in the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.”*

About the Project:

In March 2020, the City of Tucson asked the State of Arizona for assistance in stopping PFAS in groundwater from reaching the central drinking water wellfield located downgradient of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The central wellfield serves as the primary drinking water source for more than 65,000 people year-round, as the secondary drinking water supply for 600,000 people year-round, and is a key source for Tucson’s future drinking water supply.

ADEQ dedicated \$3.3M from the limited state Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund to address the City of Tucson’s request to prevent PFAS from impacting additional drinking water supply wells. ADEQ then designed and completed construction of the pilot demonstration remedy in December 2021 with assistance from Tucson Water.

Attachment: Central Tucson PFAS Project Fact Sheet

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