



Recently, the City of Phoenix Water Services Department discovered that water hauling companies were filling tankers from metered fire hydrants and delivering that water to northern Maricopa County communities in the New River/Desert Hills area for a fee. As specified in Phoenix City Code 37-11, “fire hydrants are provided for the primary purpose of extinguishing fires.” Under Phoenix City Code 37-13, hydrant water can also be used for construction purposes “where an existing service connection is not available.” Therefore, water from fire hydrants is used for the primary purposes of firefighting and construction within the City’s service area.

In addition, continuing to provide water to these hauling companies poses risk to the City and our residents. Some of these include:

- **Service Area.** The customers served by the water hauling companies are outside of Phoenix’s 540 square mile service area. These communities do not have customer accounts, do not pay service and environmental charges, and are not directly billed by the City. Phoenix is under no obligation to serve outside of our designated service territory. And the City has no intention to “inherit” these communities as part of our service area, which would cost our ratepayers millions of dollars in infrastructure costs to serve. We suggest these communities follow-up with Maricopa County to explore their options.
- **Protection of Water Supplies.** Phoenix is acutely aware of the challenges posed by lingering drought and climate change. To prepare, we’re doing everything we can to conserve the water supplies that underlie our public health, economic opportunity, and quality of life for our residents. Phoenix’s water resources and water supply allocations are from the Colorado, Salt and Verde Rivers, and are dedicated to the consumption of Phoenix’s legal customer base. The City’s 100 year assured water supply, as designated by the Department of Water Resources, is based on our service area under both normal and drought conditions. And providing water outside our service area infringes on those future demands.
- **Customer Fees.** Phoenix’s customers pay substantial fees to connect to the City’s system. These fees include, but are not limited to a Development Occupation Fee, the Water Resource Acquisition Fee, and Impact Fees. Persons receiving water through a water hauling company are not paying those fees, so our customer base is subsidizing these communities.
- **Water Infrastructure.** Water infrastructure, including pipes and treatment facilities, are funded by our developers and rate payers, not taxes. The communities served by water hauling companies do not pay their fair share for the building and maintaining of water and wastewater infrastructure, yet they are reaping the benefits.
- **Water Quality.** Fire hydrants are used primarily for firefighting and construction purposes. While our water is safe, high quality and completely potable coming out of a fire hydrant, and the haulers are regulated by Maricopa County for potable water transportation, the City cannot guarantee it is safe for consumption once it has been removed from our system and transported by water haulers.

When the City first discovered this water hauling practice, we started issuing temporary permits to allow us time to assess the scope of this hauling, analyze its risks to the City, and develop a gradual phase-out. Over the last six months, the water hauling companies were notified that this service would be cut-off. On July 1, 2017, an official letter from the City was sent to the water haulers with an



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effective cut-off date of December 31, 2017, giving the haulers six months to make alternative water supply arrangements.

Ultimately, we are only eliminating Phoenix water as a source for water for these communities. According to the water hauling companies, there are other sources available to them elsewhere.