

NOTICE OF THE PRELIMINARY DECISION TO ISSUE A SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO AN INDIVIDUAL AQUIFER PROTECTION PERMIT

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) welcomes comments on the proposed issuance of a Significant Amendment to an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) for the following:

Permittee: City of Tucson, Tucson Water Department

Facility: City of Tucson - South Houghton Area Recharge Project (SHARP)

9900 East Drexel Road,
Tucson, Arizona 85747

Permit No.: 511628

LTF No.: 104849

*Notice published in Daily Territorial on
May 21, 2026*

PN No.: 25-82

Details

The South Houghton Area Recharge Project (SHARP) is a managed underground storage facility operated by Tucson Water. Located at 9900 East Drexel Road, the facility uses four basins to recharge the regional aquifer with high-quality reclaimed water.

Proposed Changes:

This significant amendment authorizes the expansion of the facility to:

- Add a fourth recharge basin (Basin 304).
- Increase recharge capacity from 4,000 to 8,000 acre-feet per year.
- Authorize a daily flow rate of up to 7,141,460 gallons.

Source Water & Pollutants:

The facility recharges Class A Reclaimed Water. This includes treated effluent from the Tucson Reclaimed Water Treatment Plant, water from Sweetwater Recharge Facilities, and remediated groundwater from the Tucson Airport Remediation Project (TARP).

To protect groundwater quality, the permit requires monitoring for:

- Nutrients: Nitrogen compounds (Nitrate, Nitrite)
- Microbial: *E. coli*.
- Inorganics: Metals (Arsenic, Lead, Mercury, etc.), Fluoride, and Cyanide.
- Organics: Volatile and Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs/SVOCs).

How to Review the Documents

You can view the documents online by finding this notice in the list on [azdeq.gov/PublicNotices](https://www.azdeq.gov/PublicNotices).

The documents are also available at the ADEQ Records Center. Call 602-771-4380 to make an appointment, or visit the Records Center located at 1110 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona. Learn more at [azdeq.gov/records](https://www.azdeq.gov/records).

How to Submit Comments

Written comments regarding the proposed action can be submitted three ways:

- Email comments to abujaber.wisam@azdeq.gov
- Mail comments to ADEQ, Water Quality Division, Attn: Wisam Abujaber, Groundwater Protection Value Stream 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The comment period begins May 21, 2026. Comments must be received or postmarked by June 19, 2026 to be considered.

You may request a public hearing on the proposed action by email or mail. A public hearing request must be in writing and must include the reasons for such request. If there is a significant degree of public interest, the Director will hold a hearing.

ADEQ will take reasonable measures to provide access to department services to individuals with limited ability to speak, write or understand English and/or to those with disabilities. Requests for language translation, ASL interpretation, CART captioning services or disability accommodations must be made at least 48 hours in advance by contacting the Title VI Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Joaquin Marruffo Ruiz, at 520-628-6744 or Marruffo.Joaquin@azdeq.gov. For a TTY or other device, Telecommunications Relay Services are available by calling 711.

ADEQ tomará las medidas razonables para proveer acceso a los servicios del departamento a personas con capacidad limitada para hablar, escribir o entender inglés y/o para personas con discapacidades. Las solicitudes de servicios de traducción de idiomas, interpretación ASL (lengua de signos americano), subtítulo de CART, o adaptaciones por discapacidad deben realizarse con al menos 48 horas de anticipación comunicándose con el Coordinador de Anti-Discriminación del Título VI, Joaquin Marruffo Ruiz, al 520-628-6744 o Marruffo.Joaquin@azdeq.gov. Para un TTY u otro dispositivo, los servicios de retransmisión de telecomunicaciones están disponible llamando al 711.