

## OUR TIME TO SHINE

Dear Members of the AZ Water Association,

Water is well known as being essential to life. And, during the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, workers in the water and wastewater industry are being recognized as essential to protecting public health and maintaining civil society. We are just as essential as the water that we treat, deliver, and recycle to the environment. We must and will succeed.

The ongoing challenges of the coronavirus are many. Risks to human health and wellbeing are present across the globe, especially to our most vulnerable populations. Impacts to the global and our local economies are profound, and yet to be fully understood. And, the stresses of social distancing and concerns for our fellow human beings are wearing on our collective mental health. Yet, our industry perseveres.

Providing safe, reliable water service to our communities is essential to slowing the spread of the coronavirus. The single most important action that individuals can take is simply to wash their hands with soapy water. Something most people take for granted. Further, the proper treatment and disinfection of our drinking water and our wastewater are essential to maintaining healthy cities and communities. This is our time to shine – and we will demonstrate our capability, dedication, and passion for serving our communities throughout this ongoing crisis.

Just as you are committed to meeting the challenges of the coronavirus, we, your Board of Directors, are committed to serving you. We have taken action to reduce risks to our members by postponing the Annual Conference, restricting in-person events, and conducting the business of the Association in a virtual environment. And, we are exploring a wide range of additional opportunities to inform and support you over the coming weeks and months.

The following links provide access to frequently updated guidance to help you along the way:

- American Water Works Association (AWWA) guidance: [www.awwa.org/resources-tools/resource-topics/coronavirus](http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/resource-topics/coronavirus)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance: [www.epa.gov/coronavirus](http://www.epa.gov/coronavirus)
- Water Environment Federation (WEF) guidance: <https://wef.org/news-hub/current-priorities/coronavirus>

In addition, the State of Arizona and the cities of Phoenix and Tucson have robust sources of information for use at the local level at:

- State of Arizona guidance: [www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-home](http://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-home)
- City of Phoenix guidance: [www.phoenix.gov/resources](http://www.phoenix.gov/resources)
- City of Tucson guidance at: [www.tucsonaz.gov/covid-19/covid-19-updates](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/covid-19/covid-19-updates)

We thank you for your continued efforts to ensure that our communities have access to safe, reliable water and to protect our environment through effective water reclamation. Whether you are an operator, scientist, engineer, or customer service professional – all of your skills are essential to seeing our communities through this crisis. AZ Water is committed to providing you with current information as we navigate new ways to serve our membership. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for resources and upcoming events.

– The AZ Water Association Board of Directors

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