

A RESOLUTION OF THE TUCSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Recommending the Mayor and City Council Affirm the City's Commitment to Addressing Groundwater Contamination on Tucson's Southside

WHEREAS, the Tucson Human Relations Commission is dedicated to promoting equity, justice, and human rights for all residents of Tucson; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the historical and ongoing impacts of groundwater contamination on Southside residents, including exposure to hazardous chemicals like trichloroethylene (TCE), per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and 1,4-Dioxane; and

WHEREAS, the Commission applauds the City's efforts to monitor and remediate contamination, but emphasizes the need for continued action and community-led solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that environmental equalities and public health are essential components of a thriving, equitable community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TUCSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

1. We recommend that the Mayor and City Council continue to prioritize the remediation of groundwater contamination on Tucson's Southside, with a concerted focus on removing hazardous contaminants and preventing further public exposure.
2. We urge the City to increase access and funding to healthcare for residents impacted by contamination, including free or reduced-cost services as a form of partial redress for historic environmental harm.
3. We support the continuation and expansion of community-centered health programs, such as the TCE program initiated at El Pueblo Clinic, to ensure comprehensive care for individuals and families affected by contamination.
4. We commend the City's facilitated open communication between the public and responsible entities, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), and corporate polluters, and encourage efforts to expand cooperation with county and state health officials to build trust and awareness and to ensure meaningful involvement between the community, all relevant parties, and elected officials.

5. We advocate for community-led solutions and decision-making processes that prioritizes and documents the voices, knowledge, and leadership of current and former Southside residents in addressing environmental inequalities and public health concerns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tucson Human Relations Commission urges the Mayor and City Council to take bold action to address the historical and ongoing impacts of groundwater contamination on Tucson's Southside, and to prioritize the health, well-being, and self-determination of affected residents.

Approved by the Tucson Human Relations Commission on June 11, 2025.