



AUDIENCE: Town of Kearny Residents and Water Use Stakeholders

COMMUNICATION PLAN ID: S010

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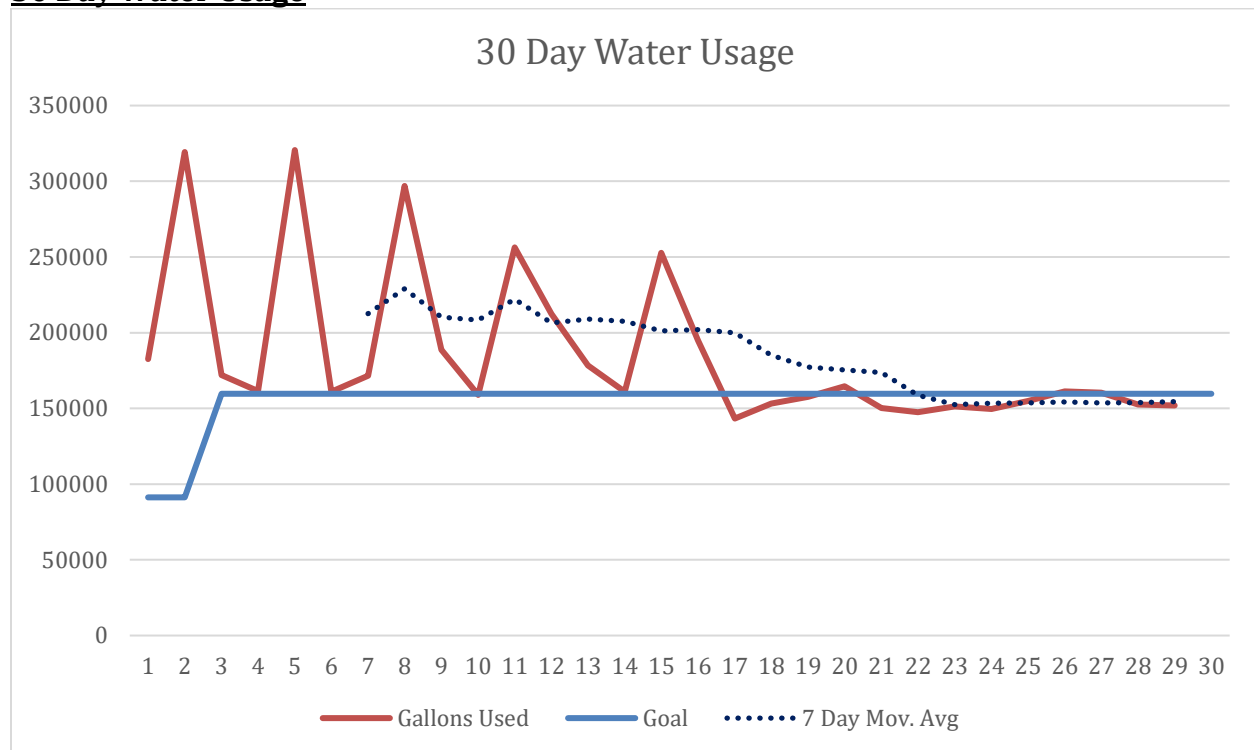
SUMMARY: The Town of Kearny has received a reduced allotment of water from the Gila River Water Commissioner based on the Globe Equity Decree of 1935 necessitating water restrictions. This weekly communication serves as a regular update to the residents regarding the situation.

4.22.2026

CURRENT USAGE RATES:

The data indicates further progress. We will be updating these graphs and content every Wednesday until the emergency is lifted.

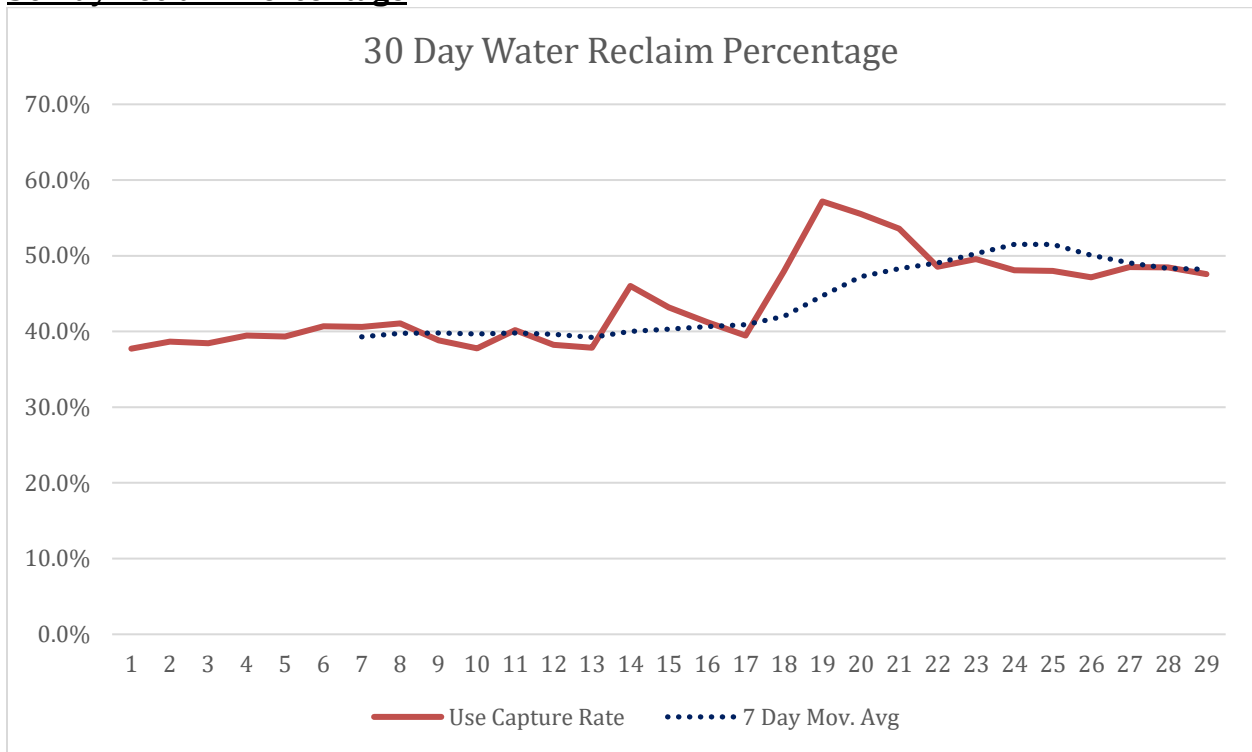
### 30 Day Water Usage



The 30-day water usage trendline is based on a 7-day rolling average. The trend continues to drop, and we are at our goal of reducing water usage by 30%! Let's keep that average daily usage line below the "Goal" line. Thank you to everyone who is working to reduce their usage, what we are doing is working.



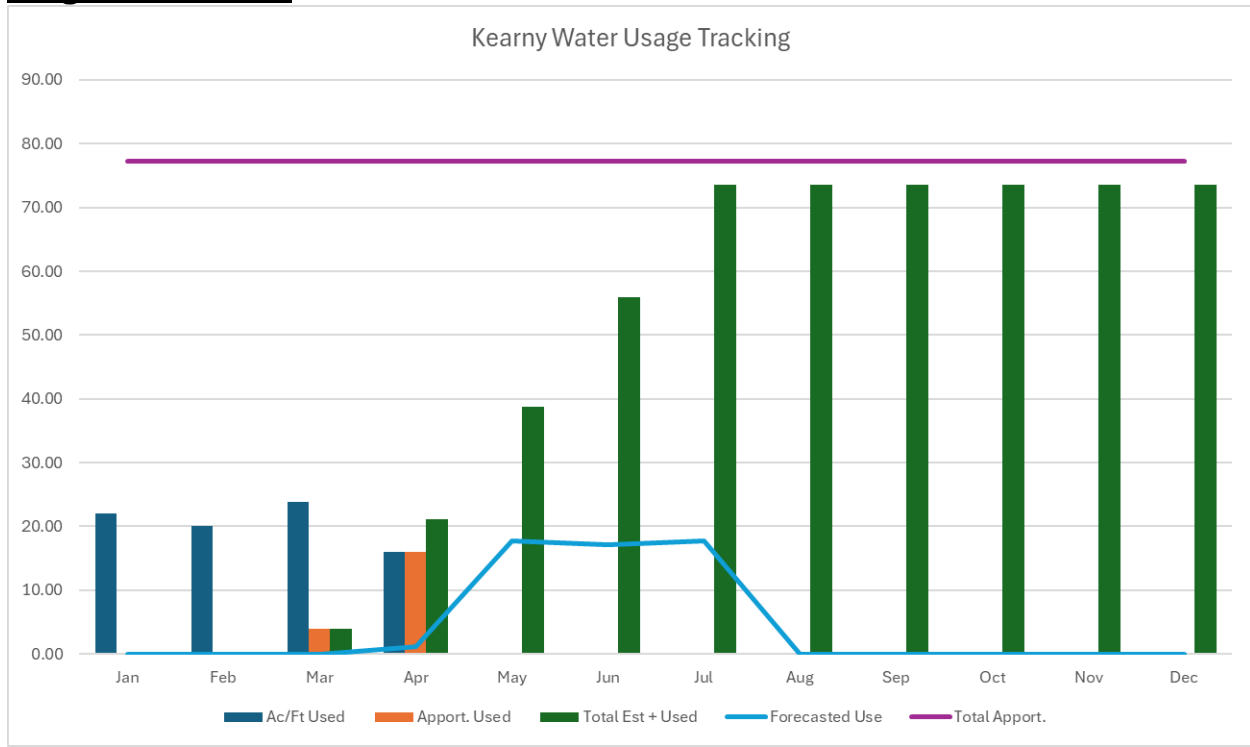
### 30 Day Reclaim Percentage



The 30 Day Reclaim Percentage graph shows how much water we are re-capturing at the wastewater treatment plant vs how much water is being removed from the ground (supplied to residents). This percentage helps us understand how much water is being used for life sustaining activities vs other activities such as irrigation or outdoor washing, a good portion of it is also used at the corral area. This is not a perfect performance indicator as many of you are capturing grey water for use on your landscaping, an effort which we at the Town fully appreciate and encourage. Our goal for this measurement is 60-70%, we feel we are in full compliance with the emergency decree at those capture rates. Even though we are slightly below the 50% mark we feel that you are all doing what is necessary and are using a lot of your grey water for plants.



## Long Term Outlook



The longer-term outlook has changed. If we continue to conserve at the same level we are today we will make it to August! This update is based on the change in the theoretical usage rate now being calculated based on our actual daily average, well done Kearny! Please continue to reduce wherever you can, just because we are at our goal does not mean that we cannot do more and exceed it. More sacrifice now continues to means less sacrifice later.

## 2026 OFFICIAL USAGE

Month	Unofficial Usage (ac/ft)	Official Usage (ac/ft)	Notes
March	7.5	4.0	<p>We had the total at 7.5 ac/ft based on the daily call sheets that are reported online, the daily call sheets are estimates based on historical usage. The official amount is based on our reporting of the actual amount of water used in the month and the amount of priority water available based on our water rights. We report our usage at the end of each month.</p> <p>For the month of March, we used more water than normal based on the last few years (it was hot),</p>



however there was enough priority water available to us to offset the additional usage. This resulted in a lower Official usage number.

#### What this Means:

The Official usage is what our apportionment is charged against. The Unofficial usage is based on the estimated usage provided by the GRWC on a daily basis. Any Official usage numbers that are lower than the Unofficial usage numbers are a good thing.

#### KEY EXTERNAL MEETINGS HELD THIS WEEK:

Little change in the landscape of stakeholders, all meetings continue weekly.

1. ASARCO – update on water usage data, ASARCO continues to seek a solution. Providing legal and technical support.
2. Resolution Copper – Resolution continues to seek Hydrologist support for the town.
3. Media interviews – Az Family News, Arizona Republic, Az Central, Royal Norman’s Podcast, KTAR. These reports are/will be publicly available once published.
4. Patrick Adams (Senior Advisor for Water Policy, Office of Governor Katie Hobbs) – working with GRIC on water issues facing Arizona, they will be discussing with GRIC if Kearny’s issues can be included and resolved through the ongoing water discussions.
5. Representative Crane’s Chief of Staff – chasing down an EPA grant from 2022-2023 for water infrastructure, Congressman Crane has directly discussed the matter with Administrator Zeldin at the EPA who are responsible for administering those funds.
6. County Attorney Miller – discussion regarding his office supporting any legal efforts we may pursue.
7. Senator Rogers – providing advocacy in support of Kearny among the constituents along the Globe Equity Decree as well as legislative support.
8. Gila River Water Commissioner – update on ToK water situation and usage. Please do not direct questions to her office, direct them to Town Hall.
9. County office of Emergency Management

#### ADDITIONAL MESSAGING:

##### PROGRESS –

This was a great week. We are now at our goal of 30% reduction and holding steady for 2 weeks. We have stretched our water out to August and once we get the additional well online we should be into September comfortably. Ongoing negotiations with our community partners are progressing but the discussions are nuanced and high stakes, we will update you with any outcomes as soon as we can.

##### WWTP –

Our Public Works Director put out a communication early this week regarding the impact of reduced water usage and chemical odor control methods on our waste water treatment plant. His message follows:



While a single household using bleach won't take down a whole city, a "perfect storm" of low water flow and high chemical concentrations can seriously stress the system.

### **The "Bleach vs. Biome" Problem**

Wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) aren't just giant filters; they are living ecosystems. They rely on "activated sludge"—a soup of billions of beneficial bacteria that eat the waste in your water.

- **The Concentration Risk:** Normally, household bleach is so diluted by thousands of gallons of water that it's harmless by the time it reaches the plant. However, if many people are conserving water and "super-bleaching" their toilets, the plant receives a much harsher, more toxic "chemical shock".
- **Killing the Workers:** Excessive bleach can kill the very microbes responsible for breaking down nitrogen and organic matter. If those bacteria die, the plant can't "clean" the water, leading to foul odors and environmental contamination.
- **Who's Monitoring?** Yes, experts are watching! Treatment plant labs constantly monitor "biochemical oxygen demand" (BOD) and perform microscopic analysis to ensure their microbial "workforce" is healthy and active.

### **The "Low Flow" Infrastructure Risk**

Reducing your flushes saves water, but it creates a "sticky" problem for the pipes under your street:

- **Pipe Sludge:** Sewer systems are designed for a certain "scouring velocity"—the speed needed for water to push solids along. Low flow leads to stagnant water, which causes solids (like toilet paper) to settle and create blockages.
- **Septic Sewers:** When water sits still too long, it goes "septic," creating hydrogen sulfide gas. This gas smells like rotten eggs and—more dangerously—it's highly corrosive, eating away at metal and concrete pipes from the inside.

### **Better Ways to Manage the "Smell"**

Since the plant is already having "issues," you can be a hero by switching up your routine:

1. **Skip the Bleach:** Use **white vinegar** or **baking soda** to manage smells. They are much gentler on the plant's bacteria than chlorine.
2. **Enzyme Boosters:** If you're worried about the pipes, occasional "septic-safe" enzyme cleaners can help break down solids without killing the good bacteria.
3. **Dilute your "Cheapo" Bleach:** If you must use it, use much less. A tiny splash is often enough for a toilet tank; a "generous amount" of high-concentration bleach is what starts to melt your toilet's rubber flapper and gaskets.

**Are you noticing a "rotten egg" smell near your floor drains or just inside the toilet bowl itself?** This can tell us if the issue is just the bowl or a deeper sewer gas problem.

This is a fantastic "citizen science" initiative! Your observations about low flow and high chemical concentration are spot-on. I've drafted the formal guidance you requested. It highlights **safe deodorizers** and **system-wide impacts** specifically for the Kearny community.

Since you're active on local pages like **What's Going On in Kearny** and **Kearny Rants and Raves**, feel free to copy-paste this directly.



## Safe & Sustainable Water Conservation in Kearny

Kearny is currently facing a significant water crisis, with taps potentially running dry by August 1st. While residents are doing an amazing job by "letting it mellow" to save every gallon, how we manage those odors matters for our long-term infrastructure.

### The Bleach Warning

Using generous amounts of bleach (even the scented kind) in toilets that aren't flushed frequently can be harmful:

- **Kills Beneficial Bacteria:** Our Town Wastewater Treatment plant relies on a living "biome" of bacteria to clean the water. High concentrations of bleach can kill these "workers," leading to system failure and worse smells town-wide.
- **Infrastructure Damage:** Undiluted bleach can corrode rubber seals and metal parts in your toilet and public sewer pipes, especially when water flow is low.

### The "Golden Rules" for De-Stinking Your Toilet

To keep your home fresh without harming Kearny's water reclamation facility, please use these safer alternatives:

- **White Vinegar & Baking Soda:** This "science fair" combo is the gold standard. Sprinkle baking soda in the bowl followed by a splash of vinegar. It neutralizes odors naturally without toxic chemicals.
- **Enzyme Cleaners:** Use "septic-safe" or "RV-safe" enzyme treatments. Products like [Bio-Green](#) or [Odoreze](#) use natural bacteria to "eat" waste and odors.
- **3% Hydrogen Peroxide:** A small splash is a biodegradable disinfectant that breaks down into just water and oxygen.
- **Dish Soap & Water:** A few drops of dish soap can create a surface tension barrier that helps "trap" smells under the water.

### Help Our Sewer Lines

When you do flush, the town needs that water to move solids through the pipes. Low flow can cause "septic" conditions and gas buildup.

- **Refill Wisely:** If using bucket water to flush, pour it in **fast**. The force of the water (not just the volume) is what clears the trap and keeps solids moving through the street lines.
- **Don't Store Gray Water:** If you're collecting shower or sink water, use it within 24 hours. Stagnant gray water grows its own bacteria and will make your bathroom smell worse before you even use it to flush.

Thank you for your question! We appreciate your efforts to help the community!

Eric Armenta  
Public Works Director



## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT:



This week's spotlight shines on none other than Bill and Becky Dunn. Long time residents of Kearny, Bill and Becky have been hauling in water from their place in Kelvin to keep the landscaping in the commercial district alive. What a great example of seeing a need and taking initiative to solve a problem.

### ONGOING INFORMATION

Reduction Goal: 30% +

Current Reduction (7-day average): **32.3%**

### WELL REHABILITATION (USDA PROJECT)

Background –

The Town of Kearny owns wells outside the Globe Equity Decree. These wells have historically not produced enough water to sustain the community; they can however supplement water in times of drought. The Town of Kearny began a USDA project to rehabilitate the town's storage tanks, booster pump station, and two wells numbered 3 and 4 which were historically the highest producers in the well field. The two wells being rehabilitated are 1200 feet deep. The wells have been in disrepair and out of service for 20



years. This year, because of the water emergency, the town reactivated well 4 which in its current state is producing 26 GPM, for prospect, wells 2 and 2A produce 500 GPM.

Well 3 is completely non-functional at this time and is the first to be rehabilitated as part of the USDA project.

Historically Well 3 has produced 30 GPM.

Well 3 Project Status -

Phase	Status	Notes
Engineering	Complete	
RFQ/Bid Process	Complete	
Bid Award	Complete	
Contract Signing	Complete	Completed week of 4.20.26
USDA Approval	Ongoing	In review
Procurement of Parts	Partial	The Town pre-ordered long lead time components 2 months ago to reduce the project completion timeline  Contractor has on-hand stock for electrical components
Work Begins	Started	Pull pump, piping and all electrical components
Well Rehabilitation	Not Started	Clean out existing well, install new casing, install new pump
Electrical Rehabilitation	Not Started	Electrical equipment installation
Permitting	Started	Town staff is advancing the final permit with APS and County officials ahead of project completion
Commissioning	Not Started	
On-Line	Not Started	July



## FAQ

Question	Response
May I water my lawn or landscaping?	No – strictly prohibited
May I wash my vehicle?	No – strictly prohibited using Kearny water
May I wash my driveway or outside surfaces like sidewalks?	No – strictly prohibited
May I fill my pool?	No – strictly prohibited
What about a small pool like a “kiddie” pool, can I fill that?	No – strictly prohibited
Can we use water for dust control, at the corrals or on dirt roads?	No – strictly prohibited Exception: Use of lake water is allowed for this purpose, you must pump it and haul it yourself
How can I reduce my water usage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fix all leaks</li> <li>- Shower smart, keep them short</li> <li>- Re-wear clothing to the extent possible to reduce laundry</li> <li>- Low flow shower heads</li> <li>- Flush less frequently</li> </ul>
Are other towns impacted by the shortage? Hayden, Winkleman, others?	Not at this time. Our water rights are junior (not as old) to those used by our neighbors. We feel the pain first.
How is our water allowance calculated?	The amount of water in San Carlos reservoir determines our water apportionment. The lake has less than 2% capacity as of 4.14.2026.
What is “the plan”?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce water usage at least 30%</li> <li>- Continue repairing wells located north of the town to supply some of the water we need</li> <li>- Stretch our apportionment to the monsoon season</li> <li>- Continue to work with our community partners like ASARCO, GRIC, Resolution Copper, SCIP, and others to find a solution</li> </ul>
What CAN we use the water for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sanitation, showering, dishes</li> <li>- Life supporting activities</li> </ul>
What is the Town doing about this?	This emergency is our entire focus. Water law is very complicated; our situation is similar to the Colorado River situation. They have been negotiating that deal for years and have no success. Any solution to our emergency is going to take time.