



## Pima County vehicles get GPS oversight

Rhonda Bodfield Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Thursday, August 18, 2011 12:00 am

County employees with a heavy right foot or a penchant for long lunches might want to tamp it down, now that Pima County is moving forward with installing GPS devices on the roughly 1,400 vehicles in its fleet.

The vehicles, which altogether drove more than 12.6 million miles last fiscal year, will be retrofitted with the devices primarily to cut down on speeding, to reduce idling and to dissuade personal use, said Lauren Eib, the county's risk manager.

The units started being installed in April, and workers so far have gotten to about 400 vehicles.

Some 900 vehicles are allocated to just three departments: parks, transportation and wastewater.

The county will pay a \$25-a-month service fee for each unit, so the annual costs are projected at about \$400,000.

Eib maintains that's a good deal.

She said the county could save as much as \$1 million a year in fuel costs recovered from personal use, noting industry statistics indicate about 15 percent of motor pool miles are for personal use that isn't reimbursed.

She said a pilot program showed that 95 county vehicles in April idled about 580 hours - with an hour of idling consuming about one gallon of gas. Some of that can't be avoided - workers who work outside in the heat sometimes need to cool off with air conditioning, for example. But for some employees, who sit in their cars writing reports in the parking lot rather than go into the office, it might not be the wisest choice, Eib said.

And with the county seeing about 55 auto-related incidents a year that result in bodily injury or property damage - with a payout of about \$720,000 over the past four years - getting the employees to focus more on safe driving may save about \$72,000 annually in accident costs, she estimated. The severity of an accident doubles for every 10 miles over 50 miles per hour, she said.

Right now, the system can track where employees are, almost down to the parking space.

It can tell if employees are braking or accelerating harshly, and it can monitor seat-belt use.

In September, it will start monitoring their speeds and will identify those employees who drive more than 10 miles over the posted speed limit.

Eib said she typically uses her own personal vehicle, but the three times she has checked out a fleet vehicle with the device, it made her more conscious of her driving.

Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry said he has not sought any exemptions for himself or for any other staff members, although he said supervisors, as elected officials, will have the ability to opt out of the program.

Supervisor Ramón Valadez said he is not opposed to having one installed in his car, but he said it's probably not necessary. "People always know where we're at. There's no anonymity," he said, noting he frequently gets recognized at the grocery store.

Employee reaction has been mixed, said Maya Castillo, the president of the Pima chapter of Service Employees International Union, which represents county employees except for courts, corrections and the Sheriff's Department.

Castillo said employees for the most part understand the concerns about security and insurance liabilities. "I do know some employees who are concerned - and perhaps rightly concerned - that the GPS will be used to unfairly target certain employees if it's monitored for some and not for others."

Castillo said she's been so immersed in negotiating health insurance that she hasn't had a chance to work through those concerns yet, but she said it will be one of her top priorities in the next fiscal year.

To address privacy concerns, Eib said aside from risk management, only department managers or supervisors will have access to the system's findings. Employees won't be able to monitor the driving behavior of their colleagues.

Eib said the system is actually for the employees' safety as well. Work demands place some employees in remote desert areas. The GPS equipment allows the county to locate vehicles if an employee doesn't come back, and allows the employee to notify risk management in case of an emergency. And while she said the county has not experienced much if any vehicle theft, the system can prevent the loss of vehicles through theft.

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# Federal study looks at Colorado River water

By Philip Franchine

www.gvnews.com

Local agencies will soon get to join a long-awaited federal study on how Colorado River water can best benefit the region once it is piped south of Pima Mine Road.

The Bureau of Reclamation is seeking approval in September from the Green Valley water district, the town of Sahuarita and the non-profit Upper Santa Cruz Providers and Users Group (PUG) to act as partners on local water needs, BOR study manager Eve Halper said Friday.

The study won't be complete for three to four years, and is aimed at long-range planning to get water upstream for recharge as far as possible, possibly as far south as the historic Canoa Ranch.

In the meantime, two local companies say they are moving ahead on separate pipelines to bring Colorado River water south from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) at Pima Mine Road.

Community Water Co. of Green Valley and Farmers Investment Co. agree that their projects would be shorter, with FICO recharging at Sahuarita Road and CWC hoping to do so east of WalMart. The study will address broader issues including other recharge sites, Halper said.

The study will provide guidance to future pipeline operators on tricky legal and regulatory issues, plus a framework for a quasi-public agency to operate a pipeline, BOR program manager Eric Holler said.

"The easy part is figuring the size of the pipeline, but getting through the permitting process with ADWR (Arizona Department of Water Resources); deciding if you want to build it bigger; identifying a water source and how much it may cost; what are the legal relationships between PUG and whoever will operate the pipeline; where you get the money to build and how to pay it back, it's the legal aspects of this that we have some expertise in and where we can help," Holler said.

Holler said it would be more efficient to build one pipeline rather than two, but added "that's not to say you can't have multiple pipelines."

FICO is opposed to Rosemont's role in the CWC pipeline.

"They made it clear they want to get moving on the project," Holler said of the PUG study.

The study would examine how much water is available locally, how fast the water supply is dropping, and the best way to use Colorado River water. That

*"They made it clear they want to get moving on the project."*

**Eric Holler**

BOR program manager

water, which travels through canals and pipes, has a high level of dissolved solids and is inferior to groundwater, so the primary focus is on using to recharge the local aquifer, but other options are irrigating golf courses or the pecan groves, or for drinking water, Holler said. The study will look at how to best extend the life of the local aquifer, how to prevent subsidence, and how to provide possible environmental benefits, such as enhancing riparian eco-systems.

Local officials, including Bob Hedden, board chairman of the Green Valley water district, have long been seeking a way to develop guidelines for a pipeline operator on such issues as: who would pay to build a pipeline; how much to charge users; who controls the pipe, and how to allocate maintenance costs, among others.

A study such as this one typi-

cally would cost about \$1 million and would take three to four years, but this one couldn't start until a budget is approved by Congress, so it is hard to predict, Holler said. BOR hopes to recover equal costs from the partners, but that may not all be in cash. The proposed agreement calls for in-kind contributions by the partners and Sahuarita Town Manager Jim Stahl said the town would contribute staff time but not cash.

## Two pipes

CWC has been approved by the BOR to build its pipeline and CWC President Arturo Galdon said he expects water to be flowing by 2013 through his company's planned 36-inch diameter pipeline, which is being funded by Rosemont Copper Co.

A spokesman for FICO said that project is proceeding and that 36-inch pipe should be set in the "not-too-distant future." Both pipelines will go alongside Nogales Highway, which is being realigned by the town of Sahuarita at Sahuarita Road.

Galdon said the CWC pipeline would temporarily connect with the CAP system at Pima Mine Road east of the Santa Cruz River, but eventually would connect near Interstate 19 and

Pima Mine Road and would include either a section under the river bed or a section that would be part of the Pima Mine Road bridge that the town is planning to rebuild. Either option would add about \$1 million to the cost of the project, Galdon said.

The Sahuarita Town Council on Monday is expected to approve a \$534,000 design contract for the Pima Mine Road bridge over the Santa Cruz River. The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

In addition to two lanes of traffic, the Pima Mine Road bridge now holds a 24-inch pipeline going from the CAP system near I-19 to a recharge station east of the river. CAP engineers have proposed replacing the 24-inch pipeline there with a 36-inch pipe to match the rest of their system because that section is a bottleneck.

Town Public Works Director Farhad Moghimi said he has not received any specific proposal from CAP but he expects to be scheduled to appear before the CAP board meeting on Sept. 1. A CAP spokesman said the agenda has not been set but the public policy meeting begins at 9 a.m. and the board meeting at 10 a.m. at the Manning House, 450 West Paseo Redondo in Tucson.

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Preventing damage by treating mineral-rich CAP flow is costly

## Hard-water trend raises hard choices for Tucson

Tony Davis Arizona Daily Star | Posted: Tuesday, August 23, 2011 2:00 pm

Editor's note: This story first appeared Sunday as an exclusive for our print readers.

Cloudy water. White flakes in the teakettle. Spots on glasses and chalky residue on dishes.

More than 400 such calls have streamed into Tucson Water over the past 20 months.

Calls are rising along with the mineral content in city water. Tucson Water started blending mineral-rich Central Arizona Project water with groundwater a decade ago. As the CAP share of the water blend increases, levels of salty minerals rise.

This fall, the City Council will consider whether it should try to stop that trend by spending \$350 million to \$415 million on three treatment plants to hold down the water's mineral content to about 450 parts per million. That's a little less than their current levels.

If the city does nothing, mineral levels will ultimately increase by almost 35 percent to reach the natural level of Colorado River water. That would force consumers to pay more often to repair or replace hot-water heaters and other appliances and fixtures that can be damaged by buildup or corrosion from hard water.

Tucson Water and the city's water advisory committee recommend against building the treatment plants for now because of the cost. Malcolm Pirnie, a private consulting firm for the water utility, concluded that paying off the plants' construction costs and \$10-million-a-year operating costs would raise the average household's water bill by \$11 to \$12 a month. Repairing or replacing fixtures would cost about \$7 a month over time, the consultant concluded.

No matter what the city does today, the issue isn't going away, said three University of Arizona water-quality experts.

Tucson imports about 200,000 tons of salts annually via the CAP that will slowly find their way into the city's aquifer.

"There is no quick fix. The salt content in the CAP is high. If you leave it in the water, it causes problems. ... What we really need is a low-cost technology that will take salts out of the water," said Ian Pepper, director of the UA's Environmental Research Lab. "But that's not the end of the problem. If you remove it from the water, what do you do with the salt?"

He wouldn't say which choice he thinks the city should make today, but Martin Yoklic, a UA research scientist, and Robert Arnold, a UA environmental engineer, support waiting for economic reasons.

"All the solutions to these challenges are expensive," Yoklic said, "and we don't have money now."

### Fixtures' life shortened

The minerals most commonly found in Colorado River water, known as dissolved solids or salts, are calcium, magnesium and calcium carbonate. They can reduce the life of water heaters, evaporative coolers, faucets, garbage disposals, clothes washers and dishwashers, concluded a 2006 study done for Phoenix-area cities and the federal government.

A decade ago, the mineral concentrations in the blended city water were less than half the federal government's recommended drinking water standard of 500 parts per million. But they are projected to hit 600 parts per million in 2025 and 630 parts per million by 2050, said Jeff Biggs, a Tucson Water administrator.

Much of the Phoenix area already gets 650 parts per million, and many residents there complain about the taste of the water. In Yuma and West Texas, the mineral content is as high as 1,200 parts per million.

Already, a local plumber and an air-conditioning business owner say they're getting more calls related to the impacts of harder water.

"We've been seeing a lot more minerals in evaporative coolers," said Al Coronado, a plumber since 1981. "The cooler itself is not going bad. The water distribution system gets clogged up and the cooler pads become more calcified."

Because of the harder water, Coronado said he also sees more burst waterlines. And toilets sometimes don't function as well because they become calcified, which eliminates the toilet's swirling action, he said.

Jim Beard, who owns an air-conditioning business, has stopped installing tankless hot-water heaters because harder water means homeowners must service them more often, "and nobody does," he said.

Larry Cummings, owner of Arico Plumbing, and Ramon Rangel, owner of 360 Plumbing, said they haven't noticed major damage to fixtures. But their customers are bothered by calcium buildup on faucets, shower doors, shower heads and cooler pads.

#### **No market for salt**

If CAP water isn't treated, its salt eventually will reach the city's underground aquifer, UA's Arnold said. That's because water is sprayed onto plants, and water used indoors goes into sewage plants that discharge wastewater into the Santa Cruz River - where it seeps into the aquifer.

Over time, he said, our water could become salty enough that it may not taste as good and it could cause problems for irrigating crops and plants.

The salt buildup could also affect the future use of reclaimed water on golf courses, he said. The minerals in CAP water concentrate heavily in the wastewater used on the courses.

In Scottsdale, salts in reclaimed water have been high enough that golf courses complained it was retarding turf growth. The courses paid to expand a treatment plant to get good water.

If Tucson Water were to remove salts, it would have to build evaporation ponds to store the saline wastes, then scrape away solids every two years and haul them to a landfill, said Fernando Molina, Tucson Water's spokesman.

"We looked to see if there was any kind of market for the salt," Molina said. "In a cold climate we could sell it to de-ice roads. But there's no use for it here."

There no rush to make a decision, but in the next 10 to 15 years the city will have to build some kind of treatment plant, said Councilman Paul Cunningham, a Democrat.

"It's a balancing game between ensuring that we can deliver water at an economical price and that the water supply we have is safe and clean," Cunningham said.

Councilwomen Karin Uhlich, a Democrat, said many Tucsonans fear a repeat of the damage caused to pipes and fixtures when CAP water was introduced to Tucson in 1993. Molina said that's unlikely because the city has been gradually adding CAP water; In the 1990s, "We overnight opened the valves and a different type of water went through the system."

Councilman Steve Kozachik, a Republican, said he would vote against building mineral treatment plants because it would push water rates, which recently rose, even higher.

But if Tucson's choice is to pay now or pay later, it should just build treatment plants now, Uhlich said.

"Our ability to get low-interest rates for bonding might be better now than in the future," she said. "Why have our water quality shift to the lower standard if it doesn't make sense?"

Questions?

If you are a Tucson Water customer and have a concern or question about minerals in your water, call 791-4331 or email [TW\\_Web1@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:TW_Web1@tucsonaz.gov)

Contact reporter Tony Davis at [davis@azstarnet.com](mailto:davis@azstarnet.com).



## How to deal with Hard water

Posted: Tuesday, August 23, 2011 2:00 pm

- Acid cleaners such as white vinegar, lemon juice, oxalic acid or phosphoric acid can remove scum, film and lime deposits from china, porcelain, tile, stainless steel, fiberglass and glass surfaces. If you use vinegar in your dishwasher, the National Soap and Detergent Association recommends removing flatware and other metal items.
- Abrasive cleaners like scouring powder can remove or lighten stains, but can scratch finishes.
- All-purpose cleaners such as 409 can remove moderate hard water deposits or soap scum. Grand Canyon Janitorial Supplies, at 3670 E. Speedway, sells its own product that is geared for showers, but can also remove mineral deposits from dishwashers, water heaters and washing machines among other fixtures.
- To reduce spotting and filming on dishes, turn the water heater down to 130 degrees. Increase detergent levels from the recommended amount by one tablespoon at a time.
- Turn down the heat in your hot-water heater.
- If your swamp cooler has a bleed-off valve, keep it adjusted properly to insure fresh water circulation. If there isn't a bleed-off valve, flush the cooler with fresh water once or twice a year. Change pads twice a year.
- Water softeners can remove calcium and magnesium from water that can cause scale buildup. But they typically replace those minerals with sodium, which can raise blood pressure and will ultimately find its way into the environment.
- Reverse osmosis-based treatment systems use membranes to block the flow of minerals into the water. But critics say they can waste water.

SOURCES: Tucson Water, UA environmental-chemical engineering professor Robert Arnold, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Grand Canyon Janitorial Supplies.

## Hopis sue Flagstaff over water for snowmaking deal

Aug. 29, 2011 12:04 PM  
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF - The Hopi Tribe has followed up on a threat to sue the city of Flagstaff for maintaining a contract to sell treated wastewater for snowmaking at an Arizona ski resort.

The tribe filed the lawsuit earlier this month in Coconino County Superior Court. It seeks to invalidate the contract that requires Flagstaff to send 552 acre feet of treated wastewater per year to the Arizona Snowbowl. The tribe also wants the court to declare that spraying the San Francisco Peaks with manmade snow is a health hazard, will create a public nuisance, and infringe on the tribe's rights to water and religious freedom.

The harm to the tribe, its members, the environmental resources and the public "outweigh any benefit of making snow from reclaimed wastewater," the lawsuit states.

City spokeswoman Kimberly Ott declined comment Monday.

The tribe put the city on notice in February that it would sue over the contract if the city officials did not cancel it or pay the tribe \$40 million in damages. The city issued no response, Ott said.

Spraying artificial snow on the mountain that at least 13 American Indian tribes regard as sacred has been a contentious issue for years. The tribes claim it would infringe on their religious rights. Hopis, for example, consider Hart Prairie at the base of the ski resort the spiritual birthing place of the Kachina, which brings the world water, snow and life.

The owners of the Snowbowl say their business cannot survive without snowmaking.

The tribe's claims against the city of Flagstaff are similar to those made in two federal lawsuits. Area tribes fought the snowmaking plan based on religious grounds but lost the years-long battle at the U.S. Supreme Court in 2009.

A separate lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service that calls the treated wastewater a health threat is pending in the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. The owners of the Snowbowl have intervened in that case and asked the court to issue a decision by the end of the year, which was denied. The Snowbowl owners contend they're losing several million dollars a year in revenue and rising construction costs because of litigation.

The equipment won't be in place this year for skiers to head down the slopes on artificial snow, though the owners have started laying some of the pipeline for transporting water. Critics of the plan have continued their protests by chaining themselves to construction equipment and blocking access to the roadways.

partment was among the first to remove two of the vehicles.

# Farmer's market changes locations and day of operation

**MARANA** — The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and Marana Health Center are partnering to open a new Marana Farmers' Market. The new market will be open from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m., on Tuesdays, starting on Sept. 6, at the new Marana Health Center, 13395 N. Marana Main St. The weekly market will feature fresh, local fruits and vegetables, eggs, honey and garden seedlings.

The Community Food Bank has operated the Marana Farm

Stand on Mondays at the Marana Heritage Farm since 2008, but increased demand for local produce has led CFB staff to consider more central locations in Marana. The last day of the Marana Farm Stand at the Marana Heritage Farm will be from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m., on Monday, Aug. 29.

Local summer produce selections at the Marana Farmers' Market will include melons, apples, pears, pomegranates, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes,

basil, peppers, eggplant, okra, onions, garlic, sweet potatoes and more.

The Marana Farmers' Market accepts credit and debit cards, SNAP (food stamps), cash, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Cash Value Vouchers for fruits and vegetables, and AZ Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupons for WIC and senior Food Plus participants.

For more information, contact Sara Rickard at (520) 882-3313.

work Sept. 5

Nunez served as captain for the Tucson Police Department's eastside patrol division for two years and was human resources commander for a year prior to that. Nunez was with TPD for 27 1/2 years, including 11 as a commander.

"From a personal standpoint, I am thrilled to have Captain Nunez assume his new position on the MPD team," said Marana Police Department Chief Terry Rozema. "He has a reputation for being a knowledgeable, competent, hard-charging, workhorse who simply goes out and gets the job done. Having worked with Reuben for more than two decades, I know his experience, enthusiasm and leadership will



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# SB 1171 is challenged by Pima County

By Chuck Barth

**MARANA** — Pima County has filed suit in Arizona Superior court against Marana, challenging the constitutionality of Senate Bill 1171. Passed by both chambers of the state legislature and signed into law by Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, the law clears the path for Marana to provide wastewater service to its residents.

"The county, instead of talking reasonably, showing us their books so we can all comply with the law that is 1171, they are taking the route of spending more taxpayer dollars to fight it out in court," said Marana Deputy Town Manager Del Post. "We were disappointed that they have chosen to ignore the law... and challenge the law... we're not surprised. I think Mr. Huckelbert caught an authorization from

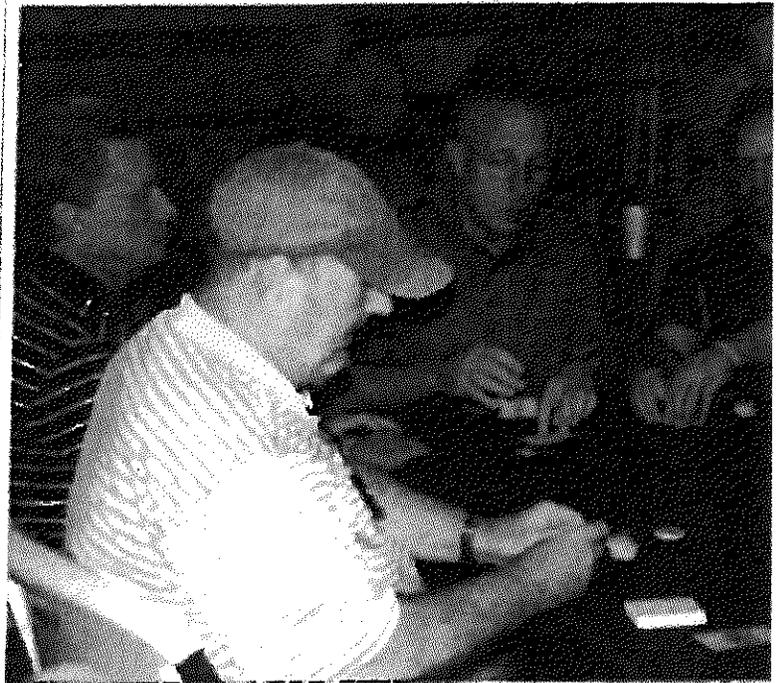
the County Supervisors early on to challenge SB 1171. So we're not surprised, just disappointed. However we remain committed to the battle. We're committed to Marana being in the drivers seat when it comes to controlling our own destiny."

Marana staff questioned the choice of suing the town, as opposed to challenging the state that passed the law in the first place.

"I guess it's just the way things have evolved," Post went on to say. "The law says we have the right to be in the wastewater management business, Marana agreed early on to allow the county to perform these wastewater services for us with an agreement that at such a time we deemed necessary or appropriate for the town to take those assets back.

See **WASTEWATER**, page 7

## FUNDRAISING POKER



The Rotary Club of Marana held its No Limit Texas Hold'em Pot Rock N' Java. Marana resident Roy Morris won the tournament event will help fund Marana Rotary Club's international and local Rotary is doing, visit [www.maranarotary.org](http://www.maranarotary.org).

## Pinal County and Marana may develop together

By Chuck Barth

**MARANA** — Pinal County and Marana have plans for development that may fit like a glove for both parties.

Tim Kanavel, the Economic Development Manager for Pinal County spoke to the Marana Chamber of Commerce's Legislative and Economic Development briefing last Wednesday morning. He sees a three-prong road to development that involves Marana closely.

"Two areas that have been talked about in Marana's future are the Pinal Air Park and the area around and including Red Rock," said Kanavel. "Annexing these areas would bring an inland port into Marana and begin the development of three strong economic parts: rail, trucking on I-10 and I-8 and air cargo."

He called the proposed rail yards near Red Rocks a "train

building facility." It would be linked to the seaport of Los Angeles by all three modes of transport.

At the same time, the Interstate would link the area with Mexico, Canada and the rest of the country. Another rail yard is in the planning stage for the area around the intersection of Interstate 10 and 8.

As far as air cargo is concerned, Kanavel sees a great opportunity.

"Evergreen aviation has been sold to a Virginia company," said Kanavel. "This paves the

way for more development at the air park."

Marana has expressed interest in annexing Pinal Air Park and pulling together funding to upgrade the facility.

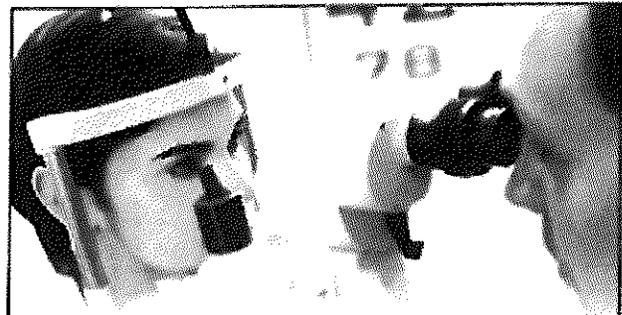
"We have a broad, bold vision for that area," according to Marana Deputy Town Manager Del Post. "It truly is the location, the rail availability, the airport infrastructure that's already in place, is an incredible opportunity for the future. Plus we've got more trucks coming across the Mexican-American border every day now."

## SB 1171 is challenged by county

**WASTEWATER**, from page 1

Marana received a copy of the suit last week Thursday. The town has 20 days to respond. The interview with Post took place late Friday afternoon.

Due to publication deadlines a response from the county was not available.



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