



Changes Planned for Pima County's Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The Pima County Wastewater Management Department is planning for the future conveyance and treatment of the community's sewage. New environmental rules require that the department reduce nitrogen concentrations in the community's effluent. (Effluent is wastewater that has been treated and is safe to return to the environment.)

Pima County owns and operates ten wastewater treatment facilities. The two largest plants are the Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant (located on Sweetwater Drive near I-10) and the Ina Road Water Pollution Control Facility (located on the southwest corner of Ina Road and I-10). Today, the Roger Road plant has a capacity of 41 million gallons a day. The Ina Road Plant has a capacity of 37.5 million gallons a day. In addition to these large plants, there are eight smaller facilities with much smaller capacities located throughout the Tucson metropolitan area.

The Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) is the road map to how and where Pima County will treat its wastewater flows and meet the new environmental standards which must be met by the year 2014 at the Ina Road Water Pollution Control Facility and by the year 2015 at the Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant. A team of engineers, treatment plant operators, technicians, and other specialists studied a variety of treatment process

options and have developed a plan to meet the nitrogen removal requirement.

After several months of in-depth study and discussion about a variety of alternatives, a preferred option has been selected. The department is doing



a final analysis of the preferred option which is outlined below:

The existing Roger Road Plant will be replaced by a new advanced treatment facility that will be constructed in the vicinity of the existing plant. The new

treatment facility will treat up to 32 million gallons a day (mgd) of sewage and will discharge effluent into the Santa Cruz River to maintain the river's riparian habitat. Effluent will also be provided to the City of Tucson for its reclaimed water system and Sweetwater Wetlands facility.

The Ina Road treatment facility will be expanded to treat 50 mgd of sewage. Discharge to the Santa Cruz River from the Ina Road Plant will continue.

The treatment process (known as the Bardenpho process) selected by the team will greatly reduce the level of nitrogen in the community's effluent. The Bardenpho process has a long-proven track record for nitrogen removal and works well under a large variety of conditions.

Technical analysis of the plan outlined above will continue. However, we also want to hear from the public. If you would like to make a comment about the plan or voice questions or concerns, please call 622-2020 and leave your comment on our automated phone line. If you would like a call back, please be sure to leave your name and phone number. Please speak slowly and clearly so we can understand your comments and contact information. Comments will be transcribed and forwarded to the Pima County Board Supervisors.

Odor Control

State of the art odor control technologies will be included in the designs for both the Roger Road and Ina Road facilities. When both facilities are constructed, odors, which have been problematic for many years, should no longer be an issue. However, the Wastewater Management Department does not want to wait for the completion of the facilities (2014/2015) to reduce odors. In addition to the ROMP, Wastewater Management is also developing a system-wide odor control plan that will provide both interim and long-term relief from sanitary sewer and treatment plant odors. To this end, we are seeking comments and input from the community about odors from our plants and sanitary sewer lines. We look forward to hearing your comments about odor issues on the same comment line we are using for the ROMP comments: 622-2020. Your comments about odors will be transcribed and forwarded to the department's consultant who will use information from your calls to help in the development of the odor control plan. Again, please speak clearly and leave contact information if you would like to hear from a Wastewater Management Department representative. Comments we receive on the comment line will also be included in a final report. The report, which will be presented to the Pima County Board of Supervisors, will outline the recommended system wide odor control plan.

Day-After-Thanksgiving Grease Collection

The second annual Day-After-Thanksgiving Grease Collection event will take place on Friday, November 24. Pima County is partnering with Greycle, LLC and Clean Cities (Pima Association of Governments) to help keep our environment clean during this holiday season,

but to do this we need your help. Please save used cooking oils and grease and bring them to one of the locations listed below. The collected oils and grease will be turned into biodiesel, a cleaner burning fuel that pollutes less than petroleum-based diesel. All cooking grease and oils will be accepted and recycled; however we are especially interested in collecting used peanut oil that many people use to cook their Thanksgiving turkey. Please take care in handling your cooking grease and oil. Allow them to cool before carefully pouring them into a tin can or the container they came in. Seal them well and bring them to our drop off event.



Never pour or flush oils or grease down drains. Build up of oils and grease in the sewer system can result in the back up of raw sewage into streets, buildings or the environment.

This year, four drop off locations will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please take the time to drop off saved cooking grease at the location most convenient for you:

EAST SIDE LOCATION:
O'Rielly Chevrolet
6160 E. Broadway

SOUTH SIDE LOCATION:
Arizona Petroleum
1015 S. Cherry

CENTRAL LOCATION:
Pima County Wastewater
3390 N. Richey Rd

NORTHWEST SIDE:
Pima County Wastewater
5025 W. Ina Rd

Some of our customers will receive this newsletter after November 24. If you would like to recycle your cooking grease after the event, please call (520) 628-4300 or visit Greycle's website at <http://www.grecycle.com/> for a drop off location.

If you cannot get your used (cooled) cooking grease to the recycle event or a drop off site, please dispose of it in your household trash. Thanks to all who do not pour grease down drains! Your efforts help to protect the public health and environment are appreciated.

Roach Control Update

Last November Pima County began a new program that treats our sewer system with an insecticide that is effective for two years. This November marks the end of the first year of the two-year treatment cycle. By November 2007, the entire system (60,000 manholes) will have been treated and we will repeat the treatment process all over again.

For residents who are experiencing problems with sewer roaches, an automated roach hotline is available to report problems and request service. **The roach hotline number is 319-4601.**

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Please call 740-6500 during regular business hours.
If you have a sewer emergency outside of normal work hours,
please call 295-4595.

Important Phone Numbers

Roach Control Hotline	319-4601
Billing Section	740-6609
Emergencies	740-6500
After Hour Emergencies	295-4595
To Report Odors	740-6532
To Comment About Odors	622-2020
To Comment About the Regional Optimization Plan.....	622-2020
To Report Vandalism	911

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