

Pima County –

Plant Interconnect Project Construction Complete

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) must meet new environmental standards mandated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). ADEQ regulates the way Pima County conveys and treats the community's sewage.

The Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) is the program that has been developed to meet the new environmental standards, which will result in a higher quality effluent. Effluent is wastewater that has been cleaned and is safe to return to the environment.

ROMP's three major components include:

- the plant interconnect project;
- the upgrade and expansion of the existing Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF);
- and the construction of a new state-of-the-art wastewater reclamation facility to replace the outdated Roger Road WRF.

The plant interconnect project is the first project in the state-mandated ROMP. Construction on the plant interconnect started in April 2009 and was completed in December 2010. This interconnect is a five-mile long gravity sewer line that conveys some flows now treated at the Roger Road WRF to the Ina Road WRF. The sewer line – which is 66 inches in diameter in some reaches and 72 inches in other reaches – will allow PCRWRD to divert flows as needed between the two facilities.

The plant interconnect project was funded in part through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known as stimulus funding. Other funding came from low-interest loans through the State of Arizona's Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA). The ARRA provided \$2 million and WIFA provided \$8 million in low interest rate loans toward this important component of the ROMP project. The \$2 million from the ARRA does not have to be repaid.

This is the first in a series of articles on the ROMP project. Additional updates will appear as the multi-year ROMP project progresses.

Your Utilities Services statement includes fees for your water, wastewater, and environmental services.

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) - For more information about the regional wastewater system, call (520) 740-6500 or visit www.pima.gov/www.

City of Tucson Environmental Services –

Focus on Brush & Bulky

In October 2010, the Environmental Services Department (ES) began an in-depth review of the Brush & Bulky program with two goals - to improve on our efficiency and to provide an outstanding customer experience.

Step one of the review process was informal conversations with residents from each ward to obtain basic information. (Each Ward office identified interested residents to participate in these meetings.) These dialogues prepared ES for the next step, a phone survey with more customers to gather information about their understanding of the Brush & Bulky (B & B) program, their utilization, their "likes" and "dislikes" and any suggestions for improvement. To read what neighborhood representatives had to say, go to the ES website at www.tucsonaz.gov/esd for summary information from the dialogues. In the coming weeks, ES will be conducting a review of B & B's operations and looking at other cities to see how they deliver brush and bulky-type services. This review is expected to be complete by the end of January 2011.

In spring 2011, ES plans to go before the Mayor and Council to present the findings and make

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recommendations regarding pilot changes for different service delivery options. In the fall, ES plans to try service delivery techniques in certain B & B service areas. None of these options will result in an additional cost to customers.

The Brush & Bulky Program is a much-valued service. Our customers need an outlet to easily dispose of unwanted materials and keep our neighborhoods clean. Make sure you check the ES website to find your 2011 collection dates so you don't miss your next pick-up. And, you can always call to order a special Brush & Bulky collection anytime you need one. Remember, **one call hauls it all!**

Environmental Services (ES) - Learn about how ES is protecting our groundwater and the environment at www.tucsonaz.gov/esd or (520) 791-3171.