

Wastewater News

NEW DATE FOR DAY-AFTER-THANKSGIVING GREASE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING EVENT

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) would like to remind you to hold on to your grease until January 9, 2016!

After holding our Annual Grease Collection and Recycling Event on the day-after-Thanksgiving for the past 10 years, we have now moved it to the second Saturday in January. As we continue to celebrate the holidays throughout the months of December and January, many of us continue to collect grease while we prepare the many foods synonymous with the holiday season. In order to start off the New Year right, you can take all of your left over grease to one of the following locations:

East	O'Rielly Chevrolet	6160 E. Broadway Blvd.
Midtown	City Council Ward 3 Office	1510 E. Grant Road
Northwest	Pima Vocational High School	5025 W. Ina Road
South	Tucson Water Plant #2	1102 W. Irvington Road
Sahuarita	Sahuarita Town Hall Complex	375 W. Sahuarita Center Way

Join RWRD and our partners: EDGE Group, Greycle, Pima Association of Governments and the Town of Sahuarita for the Annual Grease Collection and Recycling Event on Saturday, January 9, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For more information about the collection event, please contact us at (520) 724-6500 or visit our website at www.pima.gov/grease.

SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS

Do you or someone you know qualify for a sewer bill reduction? You may be eligible for the Sewer Outreach Subsidy program if you meet specific income requirements.

The Pima County Board of Supervisors recognized that steadily increasing sewer rates posed a hardship for many of our customers, especially our low-income customers. As a result, the Board approved the Sewer Outreach Subsidy (SOS) Program, which lowers sewer bills for low income residential customers. To qualify for the SOS Program, you must be a residential sewer customer, have a water bill in your name and meet federal poverty income guidelines. Depending on your income, you may be eligible for a 75%, 50% or 25% reduction in your sewer bill.

To learn more, or to schedule an eligibility appointment, call the Pima County Community Action Agency at (520) 724-3794. You will be connected to an automatic phone messaging system. Please provide all of the information requested and you will receive a return phone call to schedule your appointment. You will be required to present the following documents at your appointment:

- Picture Identification
- Proof of income for the last 30 days
- Your wastewater utility bill

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department has partnered with the Pima County Community Action Agency (PCCAA) to administer the program.

SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECTS KEEP THE COMMUNITY SAFE!

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) monitors, repairs and maintains the county's public sanitary sewer system, which is comprised of more than 3,400 miles of sewer pipes. The goal of RWRD is to ensure these pipes (which would reach from Tucson to Nome, Alaska if lined up end to end) are able to safely contain and convey the community's wastewater to one of two metropolitan wastewater treatment plants and six sub-regional facilities.



To ensure the structural integrity of our system, RWRD utilizes closed circuit television (CCTV) technology to assess pipe condition. Wastewater technicians view the images and, based on their findings, carry out the appropriate maintenance and repair activities. Pipes that are severely damaged and in need of rehabilitation are addressed immediately. This assessment takes place every 10 years and the first assessment cycle is targeted for completion in December 2016.

The main goal of this program is to avoid a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO). An SSO is the backup of raw sewage into the street, the environment, or even into your home or other buildings through sinks, tubs, showers or toilets.

RWRD's maintenance process is continuous, and as you drive around Pima County, you will often see construction projects going on in the middle of streets, in alleyways and sometimes even in neighborhoods. Some examples of major sewer rehabilitation and repair projects include:

North Rillito Interceptor (NRI) Project (In Progress)

The NRI is a 10 mile long pipeline that transports wastewater from the City's far east side in the Woodland Road and Bear Canyon Road area, along the north bank of the Tanque Verde Creek and Rillito River, to the Ina Road Wastewater Treatment Facility. This project is being completed in six phases and is scheduled for completion by early 2017.

22nd Street Augmentation Project (Starting in Early 2016)

The 22nd Street Augmentation Project will install a new sewer pipe along 22nd Street from Alvernon Way to Swan Road, increasing sewer volume and improving the lifespan of the sewer infrastructure in the area. This project, scheduled to begin in early 2016, is necessary as the existing pipe is at or near its maximum flow capacity.

South Rillito Interceptor (SRI) Project (Completed)

The SRI runs parallel to the NRI along the south side of the Rillito River. The SRI project began near Columbus Boulevard and ran west for 3.9 miles along the south side of the Rillito River to the intersection of Roger Road and Tucson Blvd. This three-phase project, which was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, won the American Public Works Association (APWA) Arizona Chapter Project of the Year Award.

It is important to exercise caution when driving, bicycling or walking in or near construction areas. For your safety, please observe all traffic control signage and message boards and obey reduced speed limits. Also, watch for project updates via email, letters, flyers, open house invitations, news releases and other sources.

We understand traffic restrictions, road closures and occasional restriction of water use resulting from sewer rehabilitation projects can be very inconvenient. Please remember these projects are necessary in helping us to keep critical infrastructure intact; to convey wastewater in a manner that is safe to humans, plants, animals and wildlife; and to avoid potential environmental and public health disasters related to SSOs.



Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department Contact Information

General Information (during regular business hours)	520-724-6500
Roach Control Hotline (Automated line, please provide requested information and staff will return the call)	520-724-3401
Billing Section	520-724-6609
Sewer Emergencies	520-724-6500
To Report Odors	520-724-6500
Sewer Outreach Subsidy (Low-income bill assistance)	520-724-3794
Sewer Connection Information	520-724-6602
To Report Vandalism	911

You can also access this information and more from our website, www.pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation

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