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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: March 14, 2018

To: Carmine DeBonis Jr.  
Deputy County Administrator  
for Public Works

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

Jackson Jenkins, Director  
Regional Wastewater Reclamation

Re: **Mt. Lemmon Water Reclamation Facility Temporary Shutdown**

I appreciated receiving a copy of your notice to Supervisor Steve Christy regarding the temporary closure of the Mt. Lemmon Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) for assessment, maintenance and inspection. This may be an opportunity to review the significant cost incurred by our wastewater utility to provide limited service and to evaluate alternatives such as vault and haul.

Please provide an analysis of the cost of service as well as any future costs that may be necessary for rehabilitation and/or major maintenance of the Mt. Lemmon WRF, including how to apportion the full cost of any vault and haul option to those who may be connected to the system.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: The Honorable Steve Christy, District 4 Member, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Nanette Slusser, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works



WASTEWATER RECLAMATION  
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JACKSON JENKINS  
DIRECTOR

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Steve Christy, Pima County Board of Supervisors – District 4

FROM: Jackson Jenkins, Director 

DATE: March 13, 2018

SUBJECT: Mt. Lemmon Water Reclamation Facility Temporary Shut Down for Assessment and Maintenance Inspection

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Please be advised by this correspondence, that Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD), through its contractor KE&G, will conduct a temporary cessation of the Mt. Lemmon Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) for an assessment and maintenance inspection beginning on April 30, 2018. The project is expected to last from 7 – 10 days and there will be no disruption of sewer services in your District throughout this duration. RWRD's Community Relations Office is in the process of notifying the affected residents of a stakeholder's meeting currently scheduled for April 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Mt. Lemmon Community Center.

As you know, RWRD owns and operates the Mt. Lemmon WRF in the Summerhaven community. The service area is limited to 33 active connections primarily residential, with a few commercial customers such as restaurants, general store, and gift shops. The Mt. Lemmon WRF was commissioned in 1984, has operated continuously, and has never been taken off-line for inspection of the tankage and other equipment. In 2014, RWRD tasked *Brown & Caldwell* to assess different options for future wastewater treatment on Mt Lemmon. The main points of discussion at that time were upgrading the existing facility, building a new facility, or long-term vault and hauling the wastewater and putting it into the Conveyance System at the bottom of the mountain. The long-term vault and haul option was found to be expensive and had some risks associated with it. It was determined that an assessment of the existing facility would help define the path forward. Since the treatment tanks have never been empty, it is difficult to determine their true condition. Therefore, it was determined that a temporary shut down was necessary in order to perform a condition assessment of the infrastructure needs and to evaluate the extent of any potential repairs.

The first 24-hours of the project will more likely be the busiest; residents may experience a higher volume of traffic on the mountain, noise from the construction vehicles, and night lighting at the facility. RWRD will have a staff member housed at the facility 24-hours a day to monitor the project until it is complete. KE&G will transport five tanker trucks, two vacator trucks, and one water truck up the mountain early the morning of April 30<sup>th</sup>. The wastewater treatment tanks will be emptied into the tanker trucks and hauled off the mountain. We want enough tanker trucks on hand to avoid any truck having to come back up the mountain. The water truck will be used to wash down the tanks and the vacator trucks will be used to clean out the wash water. The consultant, Ross Lamberson, P.E. from Cascade Engineering will assess the condition of the steel tanks and concrete bottoms, construction crews will be on-hand to make any necessary repairs and apply new coatings as needed, and RWRD Operation and Maintenance staff will perform any potential maintenance functions.

Memorandum to Supervisor Steve Christy

*Re: Mt. Lemmon Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Temporary Shut Down*

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RWRD is currently assuming a budget of approximately \$50,000.00 to cover all of the analysis, expected repairs, and vault and haul costs. We know that some of the aeration equipment and other process equipment need work; however, we know virtually nothing about the condition of the steel and concrete until the structures are drained, cleaned, and assessed.

The daily flow of wastewater normally collected at the facility will be captured and transported down the mountain by RWRD throughout the assessment duration. The hauling should be minimal and the raw sewage will be properly discharged into manhole 8705-06 that is located on the west side of North Bear Canyon Road, between East Indian Canyon Road to the South and East Chof Ovi Drive to the North, adjacent to Parcel 3511 North Bear Canyon Road (a map is attached). Neighbors in this vicinity will not be affected by sewer service, but may experience light odor and see/hear construction traffic, light traffic control, heavy equipment, backup alarms, pumps, construction workers, and vehicles moving materials. Sixty-eight residents will be notified via letter of the project and the potential inconveniences in their neighborhood.

We chose April 30<sup>th</sup> for this work to avoid adverse weather conditions and peak traffic seasons. It also allows ample time for our JOC, consultant, and RWRD personnel to spool up to perform this work in a timely fashion. My office has scheduled a meeting with you today, March 13, 2018 at 2:30 PM and I look forward to discuss more in depth the extent of the project.

Again, there should be no disruption of sewer service and RWRD will be providing residents with advanced written notice regarding the project, the stakeholder's meeting, and contact information if they have questions or concerns. If you or your staff require additional information, please feel free to contact me at 724-6549. Thank you.

JJ:cgv

Attachment

c: C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator  
Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Ana Olivares, Director, Pima County Department of Transportation  
Dr. Jeff Prevatt, Deputy Director for Treatment Division  
Jaime Rivera, Deputy Director for Conveyance Division  
Beth Borozan, Chief of Staff District 4  
Jennifer C. Coyle, Special Assistant to Jackson Jenkins

