MEMORANDUM

Date: February 26, 2020

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members  From: C.H. Huckelberry
    Pima County Board of Supervisors    County Administrator

Re: Board of Supervisors March 3, 2020, Consent Calendar Item #1, Master Agreement
    No. MA-PO-20-120, to Provide for Biosolid Landfill Disposal Service; and Consent
    Calendar Item #5, Master Agreement No. MA-PO-20-121, to Provide for Biosolids
    Hauling Service

Background

In October 2019, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) solicited bids for
agriculture land application of biosolids. As a result of that competitive process, four firms
submitted bids. The highest scoring bid proposal was from Synagro, which was appealed
by the third place bidder, AvraGro. On December 17, 2019, the Board of Supervisors upheld
the appeal and directed staff to rebid the solicitation.

Following the appeal, AvraGro was requested to continue providing biosolids land application
services under the terms of their existing contract until a rebid could occur. Due to the
inability of AvraGro to perform in accordance with the contract terms and because of an
increase in the AvraGro price from $18.70 per wet ton to $31.88 per wet ton, RWRD was
required to amend an existing contract for emergency hauling and landfill disposal of
biosolids.

Given the circumstances requiring emergency landfill disposal and due to emerging land
application concerns associated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), biosolids
have been disposed of in lined landfills as of December 31, 2019 and are no longer applied
to agricultural land. Details regarding PFAS received and conveyed by the Pima County
Sewerage System including biosolid management measures taken by RWRD and efforts to
update the current Biosolids Master Plan are detailed in my February 5, 2020 memorandum:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Received and Conveyed by the Pima County Sanitary
Sewerage System

The Biosolids Master Plan update is expected to produce a final report in October 2020.
Recommendation

Based on above outlined factors, it is recommended that the biosolids hauling and landfill disposal Master Agreements be approved, and that agricultural land application solicitation not be rebid.

Please let me know if you have questions.

CHH/lab

c:  Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
    Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
    Yves Khawam, PhD, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works
    Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
    Mary Jo Furphy, Director, Procurement