



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

March 5, 2013

Town of Marana Biosolids Contract

Background

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) is responsible for managing an industrial pretreatment program through its Industrial Wastewater Control (IWC) Group. Ordinances 13.20 and 13.24 identify methods for billing, as well as specific rates for the various high-strength discharges. From time to time, these rates are evaluated to confirm that the respective strength of sewerage has not changed; or if it has, the rates may be recalculated and adjusted.

The last evaluation was conducted in 2008. Therefore, it is appropriate and timely for the IWC Group to perform another update evaluation for all high-strength dischargers. It would also be appropriate for IWC to add another discharge class to the ordinance(s) for wastewater biosolids. In the timeframe 2008/2009, the Town of Sahuarita Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) discharged approximately 1.8 million gallons of biosolids (sometimes referred to as sludge) into the Pima County RWRD system for additional processing. From January 2012 through April 2012, the Town of Marana discharged 785,000 gallons of biosolids from the "North" Marana WRF (that the Town took possession of from Pima County on January 3, 2012) into the Pima County RWRD system for additional processing. Both of these respective Towns were billed a processing charge of 14 cents per gallon, which is the septage (septic tank material, porta-potti material, etc.) dischargers rate.

Since there currently does not exist a biosolids rate, the closest similar rate is that for septage. Due to the potential and likelihood that the RWRD will receive future external biosolid discharges, we believe it is prudent to create such a discharge class. Current evaluation indicates that a rate of 10 cents per gallon for biosolids will cover all associated operations and maintenance costs related to providing this service.

As the IWC Group embarks on the reevaluation of all high-strength users, the sampling, analysis and recalculation effort will likely take several months to complete. RWRD will plan to finalize its evaluation early in Fiscal Year 2013/14 in order to recommend ordinance revisions and updates to Ordinances 13.24 and 13.20 for Board of Supervisors consideration. In the interim, RWRD has offered once again to process the "North" Marana WRF biosolids for the proposed new biosolids rate of 10 cents per gallon. It would be

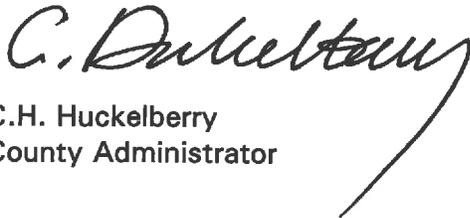
The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
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beneficial for RWRD to do so and gain another source of revenue during these slow economic times.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the upcoming March 5, 2013 agenda item to modify and renew the Town of Marana biosolids/sludge processing contract.

Respectfully submitted,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk – February 21, 2013

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation