



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 8, 2015

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Cost Effective Evaluation of Wastewater Services**

Just as Library staff have been tasked with ensuring they are delivering services in the most cost effective manner, which has given rise to the proposal to curtail Sunday hours at under-used branches and possibly close four branches, the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department has been tasked with a cost effectiveness evaluation.

Based on limited funding and limited opportunity for rate increases, one of the areas under evaluation, which likely will be proposed, is developing an alternative delivery method of providing wastewater services in Summerhaven on Mount Lemmon. Today, there are approximately 30 connections to the Mount Lemmon Wastewater Treatment Facility (MLWTF), which requires a special permit from the US Forest Service for spray disposal of generated effluent in another water basin. The aggregate cost of providing wastewater services to part-time residents and a few businesses in Summerhaven cost County sewer ratepayers in excess of \$350,000 per year. This is excessive at approximately \$12,000 per year per connection, while sewer user fees per connection are only a few hundred dollars.

We will be considering a number of options, including discontinuing operation of the MLWTF. As more information becomes available regarding necessary cost reduction measures in our wastewater operations, I will share it with the Board.

CHH/anc

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