



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 10, 2015

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Sahuarita Landfill Closure and Opening Transfer Station**

Attached is a November 6, 2015 memorandum from the Director of Environmental Quality regarding a change in operating conditions associated with the Sahuarita Landfill.

The landfill itself will be closed, and a transfer station will be opened in December 2015 or January 2016. At that time, appropriate fees will be adjusted as indicated in the November 6 memorandum. This marks the permanent closure of sanitary landfills operated by Pima County.

In northern Pima County, we are proceeding with the final cap and closure of the Tangerine Landfill and beginning to examine alternative public uses for the 80-acre site. These uses include multi-faceted public recreation consistent with uses associated with closed public landfill facilities. We will, in the near future, be processing contract amendments with our present operator, Tucson Recycling and Waste Services, to haul and stockpile final closure material for the Tangerine Landfill.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator for Administration
Ursula Nelson, Director, Environmental Quality
Larry Henk, Managing Member, Tucson Recycling and Waste Services



PIMA COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2015

TO: C. H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

FROM: Ursula Nelson
Director, PDEQ *UN*

RE: SAHUARITA LANDFILL AND TRANSFER STATION

The Sahuarita Landfill, owned by Pima County and operated by Tucson Recycling and Waste Services (TRWS), will be closed to public use at the end of December or early January and a transfer station will be opened in its place. There will be no interruption in service. The entrance to the transfer station will be the same as the landfill entrance at 16605 S. La Canada. The new Sahuarita Transfer Station will have the same hours and accept all of the same materials for waste disposal, recycling and disposal of ABOP (antifreeze, batteries, oil, paint) materials.

TRWS is constructing the transfer station in accordance with the terms of their contract with Pima County and at no additional cost to us. At the transfer station, the customer will unload their waste from their vehicle onto a large concrete pad. A front-end loader will then deposit the solid waste into large open top trailers and the waste will be transported by trucks to a permitted landfill for final disposal. Using the new Sahuarita Transfer Station will be a more pleasant experience for customers because the drop-off and recycling areas are paved, so less dust and mud will be created.

In agreement with the fee ordinance previously adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the fee for use by residential waste haulers will increase to \$17.50 per vehicle (from \$15) as long as the waste is less than one ton in weight. If the waste weighs more than one ton, the cost will be \$39 per ton (previously it was \$32.50 per ton). Commercial haulers' fee will increase to \$42.95 per ton (from \$32.50 per ton) with a \$17.50 minimum.

PDEQ Solid Waste Management Division will continue its responsibilities regarding ongoing environmental monitoring and record keeping, conducting any needed improvements/repairs to the landfills resulting from erosion or other factors, maintaining and pumping leachate collection systems, and managing the county waste tire collection activities. These tasks are ongoing permit

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requirements that do not cease. They will continue to be included in our budget and work plan throughout the 30-year post closure period following formal landfill closure.

We will be developing a press release to notify the public about this change. TRWS will post the information at the landfill and mail information to their commercial customers.

I am available at your convenience to discuss this issue or provide additional information.

UKN/vb

cc: John M. Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for PW
Nanette Slusser, Assistant Deputy County Administrator for PW Policy
Dave Eaker, Deputy Director for SW Division, PDEQ