



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 7, 2016

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **2016 Wastewater Facility Plan**

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) has completed its 2016 Wastewater Facility Plan; an update to the 2006 Metropolitan Area Facility Plan. To maintain compliance with changing federal, state and local regulations associated with wastewater discharge permits, facility expansion plans and numerous environmental regulations, RWRD must periodically revisit and, if necessary, update the Facility Plan to help project long-term capital expenditures needs. The 2016 Wastewater Facility Plan is a multiyear effort completed entirely in-house with time and resources provided by RWRD.

RWRD has undergone significant changes since the last plan update in 2006. The Regional Optimization Management Plan (ROMP) has served as one of the RWRD's primary planning documents for the past several years. ROMP construction allowed RWRD to meet new, more stringent Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) regulatory requirements for the reduction of ammonia, nitrogen and phosphorous nutrients in effluent discharges.

The beginning of 2014 marked the end of operations for the Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility as flows were diverted to the completed Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility. Additionally, the Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility has been expanded and renamed the Tres Ríos Water Reclamation Facility (TRWRF). Both facilities are now equipped with high-end technology that produces effluent to ADEQ standards.

Growth in the region is inevitable and creates demand for new sewer services. The amount, distribution and timing of growth within the RWRD's service area will affect the extension of the collection system, location of new treatment facilities and improvements to existing treatment facilities. With the expansion of TRWRF, future capacity demands in the Tucson metropolitan area have been met for at least 15 or more years. The planning of system expansions in sub-regional service areas includes monitoring of development activities and future-planned projects that may affect system capacity in these service areas.

Regulations and facility permits are constantly changing and evolving based on local conditions and national/regional initiatives. Changes to water quality standards, including current and emerging contaminants and more stringent environmental regulations, are expected to evolve in the near future. The 2016 Wastewater Facility Plan discusses these

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anticipated changes and the potential impacts on the conveyance and treatment operations of the systems.

The 2016 Wastewater Facility Plan is comprehensive in nature and incorporates many aspects of RWRD planning. The document includes information regarding our regional wastewater treatment and conveyance, system capacities and conditions; service area demands and population projections; resource management and sustainability efforts, for which RWRD is recognized as an industry leader; and important information on current regulatory requirements, trends and challenges the wastewater industry is facing today and preparing for tomorrow. The 2016 Wastewater Facility Plan reviews the evolving growth areas that will likely require expansion of regional wastewater systems to serve expanding populations.

A copy of the 2016 Wastewater Facility Plan is attached for your information. The Plan may also be viewed on the RWRD's website:

<http://webcms.pima.gov/government/wastewaterreclamation/>

CHH/lab

Attachment

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John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Nanette Slusser, Assistant County Administrator for Policy, Public Works
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation
Greg Hitt, Senior Program Manager, Regional Wastewater Reclamation
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