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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: August 9, 2017

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C.H. Huckelberry", is written over the typed name and title.

Re: **The Region's Largest Renewable Resource Provider**

Pima County is the only county in Arizona to operate a regional wastewater reclamation system. This system is designed to be a regional system and operate primarily with large, regional-scale facilities to convert sewage into reusable water at the lowest possible cost.

Attached for your review is the 2016 Effluent Generation and Utilization Report. This is an annual report I requested to be prepared by our Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) to highlight the benefits of a regional wastewater system. Wastewater reclamation is often viewed as a public health issue, but it is also a significant issue associated with renewable resources and conservation.

The report indicates that last year, RWRD treated over 60,000 acre-feet of sewage and converted it to renewable water. This reusable water has been used to provide source water to the City of Tucson's reclaimed water distribution system and to discharge clean water to the Santa Cruz River, improving its livability and biodiversity. I previously reported on the Regional Flood Control District's Living Rivers Project, which relies heavily on the discharge of clean water as the river's water source.

Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, RFCD, Transportation Department and the Kino Sports Complex (KSC) all use a substantial amount of water whose genesis was sewage. It is important to understand that in the case of KSC, turf irrigation water is not only supplied through reclaimed water, but through Arizona's largest urban water harvesting project. Last year alone, over 100 million gallons of urban stormwater were harvested to provide turf irrigation at KSC.

The table in Section VI of the 2016 Effluent Generation and Utilization Report illustrates the various generation and uses of reclaimed water throughout the region. While nearly 34,000 acre feet is delivered to in-channel recharge to the Santa Cruz River, various owners of this effluent only receive a 50 percent credit for this recharge or nearly 16,000 acre-feet. This arbitrary standard imposed by the Arizona Department of Water Resources is, unfortunately, creating an incentive to remove discharged effluent from the Santa Cruz River; an action

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that if allowed, will destroy the riparian habitat and diverse water-based ecological systems now established downstream of points of discharge.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works  
Nanette Slusser, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works  
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation  
Linda Mayro, Director, Office of Sustainability and Conservation