PIMA COUNTY

Why Do Sewer Rates Continue to Increase?

You may have noticed an increase in sewer rates in your July utility services bill.

This increase is the third of four increases approved by the Pima County Board of Supervisors. These rate increases will help finance the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP).

The ROMP will allow the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department to meet environmental regulatory requirements to reduce the amount of nitrogen and ammonia in treated wastewater or effluent. Effluent standards are established by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and United States Environmental Protection Agency.

To date, the ROMP is meeting construction deadlines and is frequently ahead of schedule. The first completed component of the ROMP, the Plant Interconnect Project, between the Roger Road and Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facilities (WRF), was finished in December 2010. This five-mile long gravity sewer line allows efficient diversion of flows between the two WRFs. Ultimately, it will be used mostly to send additional flows to the Ina Road facility, which is being upgraded and expanded.

The second completed component of the ROMP is a new state-of-the-art laboratory, which became operational in December 2011.

The upgrade and expansion of the existing Ina Road WRF, which is scheduled to be completed by January 2014, is the third ROMP component.

The final component of the ROMP is a new wastewater reclamation facility being built adjacent to the existing Roger Road WRF. This new facility, which will treat 32 million gallons of effluent a day, is slated to be complete by January 2015. Once this new facility is operational, the existing Roger Road WRF will be decommissioned.

These critical investments to the community's wastewater infrastructure are designed to improve the quality of Pima County's effluent, an important water source in our desert community.

CITY OF TUCSON

Look What's New – with Plastic Recyclables

City of Tucson Environmental Services is excited to announce big changes to the Blue Barrel Recycling Program. The biggest change is that as of July 1 you will be able to recycle many more types of plastic items in a Blue Barrel.

Plastic items such as yogurt containers, clear plastic clamshells, CD jewel cases and more can now be recycled. In the past, ESD could only accept #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs. Now, no more looking for numbers – if it's a plastic container, it goes in the Blue Barrel.

Here are just a few examples of new recyclable plastics:

- *Butter and margarine tubs; sour cream and cottage cheese too!*
- *Lotion and hand wash pump bottles*
- *Plastic tubes such as squeeze hand lotion tubes*
- *Spray bottles*
- *CD jewel cases*

Look inside this month's utility services bill for a list of all the new plastic items that can be recycled. Keep plastic containers that can be recycled out of the garbage, out of landfills and out of our environment.

Please never put plastic bags, film plastic or Styrofoam™ in a Blue Barrel. Plastic bags can be recycled at your grocery store, and many package mailing stores will take packing peanuts for reuse.

Your utilities services statement includes fees for your water, wastewater, and environmental services.

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) – For more information about the regional wastewater system, call (520) 740-6500 or visit pima.gov/wwm.

Environmental Services (ES) – Learn about how ES is protecting our groundwater and the environment at tucsonaz.gov/esd and (520) 791-3171.