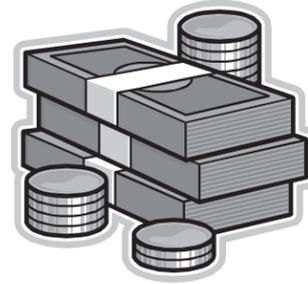




## Rate Increase Takes Effect July 1, 2013

The final of four sewer rate increases, pre-approved by the Pima County Board of Supervisors, takes effect on July 1, 2013.

Sewer bills are based on water use during the months of December, January and February; these are the months when outdoor water use is normally at a minimum. Water is measured in CCF which means 100 cubic feet; one CCF is equivalent to 748 gallons. The typical residential household uses approximately 8.0 CCF, or 800 cubic feet, of water each month.



The rate increase includes a 10 percent sewer-volume fee increase from \$3.203 to \$3.523 per CCF. There is also a 6.5 percent increase to the monthly service fee which will increase from \$11.86 per month to \$12.63 per month. These increases will raise the average monthly residential sewer bill from \$37.48 a month to \$40.81 a month based on 8 CCFs.



## Annual Recalculation of Sewer Bills

In addition to the rate increase, this month's bill also will reflect the annual recalculation of your sewer bill. As noted above, this recalculation is based on your water use during the previous months of December, January, and February. If you believe there was a different three-consecutive-month period between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013 when your water use was lower, please contact the Customer Service Section at 724-6609. Please be aware that if your home was vacant for an extended period, the month(s) during which it was empty cannot be used to recalculate your bill.

A customer service representative can help you determine if you are eligible for a reduced rate and assist you in filing for an appeal for that rate.

## Why do sewer rates continue to increase?

The principal factor behind recent rate increases is regulatory requirements that are being addressed through the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP).

ROMP is a project that allows the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department to meet new environmental standards mandated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Based on federal Clean Water Act standards, ADEQ has directed us to reduce nitrogen and ammonia levels in our effluent.

## Two phases of the ROMP project have been completed:

- The Plant Interconnect is a five-mile long sewer line that will allow for flow management between the Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) and the Ina Road WRF. The plant interconnect was completed in December 2010 and is already in use.
- The Water and Environment Sustainability Center (WESC) was completed in December 2012 and is in use. This facility houses a new state-of-the-art central laboratory complex as well as a training center.

## Ongoing ROMP projects are nearing completion:

- The upgrade and expansion of the existing Ina Road WRF, which began operation in 1977, will be complete by January 2014. Upon completion, the Ina Road WRF will increase capacity from 37.5 million gallons per day (MGD) to 50 MGD.
- A new state-of-the-art water reclamation facility will replace the existing Roger Road WRF, which began operating in 1952. That project is scheduled for completion by January 2015.

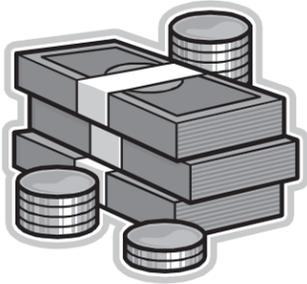
When ROMP is completed, the effluent (treated wastewater) produced at the Roger and Ina Road WRFs will be of a significantly higher quality. This cleaner effluent will replenish groundwater, create habitats, and be available for more irrigation uses.



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**Pima Animal Care Center**

This month we highlight the activities of the Pima County Animal Care Center. The work performed by PACC is critical to the well-being of our community, and we are happy to share information about their efforts.

**Spay and Neuter Your Pets**

The staff at PACC wouldn't do the work we do if we didn't love animals.

But as wonderful and cute as those dogs and cats are, there are simply too many of them. More than 23,000 stray, abused or abandoned animals every year come to Pima County's shelter.

While the shelter creates an opportunity for those animals to have another chance at happiness, there will be days this summer when more than 100 animals, including new litters, will arrive at our door.

When a female animal comes in with a litter of eight, we no longer just need one home. Now we need nine.

The single biggest thing you can do to help is to spay and neuter your pets.

It's the responsible thing to do, but it's also better for your pets.

Early sterilization helps reduce the risk for uterine infections, as well as testicular and breast cancer.

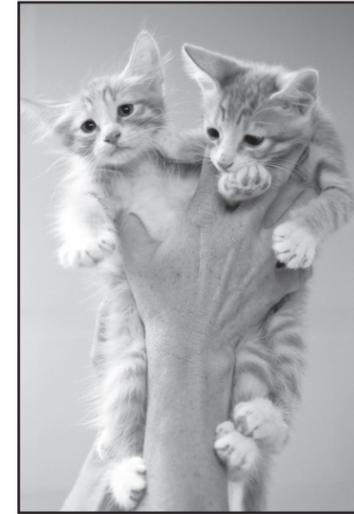
Your own life will be easier, too, since you won't have to worry about your females going into heat. And it reduces some undesirable inclinations, whether it's marking territory, yowling, wandering or being aggressive to other animals.

It's cheaper to license your dog as well. The annual cost for a spayed or neutered dog is only \$15.

On occasion, we hear the myth that spaying or neutering makes your pet gain weight. What makes pets fat is too much food and too little exercise. Monitor those two things and your pet will remain healthy and active.

With support from Pima County, the Animal Welfare Alliance of Southern Arizona offers low-cost spay/neuter services. For more information, please check out their link on our website, <http://www.awasa.org/> or call 520-319-1169.

If you have any questions, please talk to your veterinarian. And if you're looking for a pet, we've got all sizes, shapes and colors at our adoption center at 4000 N. Silverbell Road. Come see us when it's time to add to your family.



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Billing Section.....	520-724-6609
Sewer Emergencies ( <i>regular business hours</i> ) .....	520-724-3400
To Report Odors.....	520-724-3400
Sewer Outreach Subsidy ( <i>Low-income bill assistance</i> ) .....	520-243-6794
Sewer Connection Information .....	520-724-6602
To Report Vandalism .....	.911

You can also access this information and more from our website, <http://www.pima.gov/www/about/contacts.htm>

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**Ally Miller, District 1**  
**Sharon Bronson, District 3**  
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