

**REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) PUBLIC MEETING
ON PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL USERS FROM WINTER QUARTER
AVERAGE TO ACTUAL WATER USAGE**

**Pima County Administration East Building
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Tucson, Arizona 85701**

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Bill Katzel, Rob Kulakofsky, Corin Marron (via phone), Armando Membrila, Jean McLain, Shaun McClusky, Scott Oldendorph, Asia Philbin, Mark Taylor (via phone), Ann Marie Wolf, Claire Zucker

Members Absent: John Lynch, Matt Matthewson

Others Present: Mary Allen (RWRD), Mandy Armenta (FRMD), Marla Berry (RWRD), Adam Bliven (RWRD), Beth Borozan (BOS), Melody Burton (FRMD), Isai Centeno (FRMD), Michelle Campagne (FRMD), Jennifer C. Coyle (RWRD), Supervisor Steve Christy, (BOS), Carmine DeBonis (County Administration), Andrew Greenhill (Tucson Water), Jason Grodman (RWRD), Michael Guymon (Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce), Michelle Hamilton (FRMD), Jackson Jenkins (RWRD), Meredith Litton (FRMD), Veronica Lopez (RWRD), Jeannette Montano (RWRD), Jeff Prevatt (RWRD), Jaime Rivera (RWRD), Chuck Wesselhoft (PCAO), Eric Wieduwilt (RWRD), nine members of the public.

A. Call to Order / Roll Call

Claire Zucker, acting Chair, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC), called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Fernanda Quintanilla, Program Coordinator, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD), took roll call and a quorum was present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Call to the Audience – There were no comments from the audience.

D. Proposed Modifications for Non-Residential Users from Winter Quarter Average to Actual Water Usage Presentation

1. Overview – Jeff Prevatt, Deputy Director, RWRD

Jackson Jenkins, Director, RWRD, introduced himself and explained the Department is looking to increase the fairness and equity of how all of the customer classes pay their sewer bills. Mr. Jenkins explained the billing methodology, the components involved, and how the Department is gathering feedback to help make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Jenkins directed the audience to the Finance and Risk Management Department staff who would be available during the meeting to answer any questions as to how the proposed changes would affect their personal sewer user account.

Mr. Prevatt gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding winter quarter averaging versus direct usage for non-residential sewer class. Mr. Prevatt explained winter averaging and how direct usage is more applicable for non-residential customers. Oftentimes non-residential properties have limited outdoor use and reduced holiday operations can bias winter averaging. Mr. Prevatt provided examples of various accounts and the inequities between winter quarter averaging versus actual usage.

Mr. Prevatt and Mr. Jenkins answered various questions from members of the public and the Committee. Mr. Jenkins explained that the Department would work with the County Administrator and the RWRAC to make a recommendation that would be publicly posted for constituents to view. Mr. Jenkins suggested the recommendation would likely be modified after taking into consideration the feedback the Department had received from the public.

Lauren Romero, Arizona Multihousing Association, represents 259 multihousing properties in Southern Arizona. Ms. Romero had obtained examples of various multihousing water bills with irrigation meters and reported that there is a significant increase in water usage during the summer months due to landscape upkeep. Ms. Romero found similar results in multihousing water bills without separate irrigation meters. Ms. Romero stated multihousing water usage is essentially the same as residential and should not be combined with the commercial class. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the purpose of reaching out to stakeholders in the public meetings and other outreach methods is to formulate a recommendation that may or may not go to the Board. Mr. Jenkins stated the target date would be to present the recommendation to the Board in December and if approved, would go into effect in July 2019.

2. Financial Implications – Michelle Campagne, Director, FRMD and Michelle Hamilton, Administrative Support Services Manager

FRMD staff was available to answer questions concerning specific financial implications.

E. Call to the Audience

Elizabeth Garber, co-owner of La Hacienda de Los Alfareros, stated she had tried multiple times to obtain an estimate for an irrigation water meter and was unable to get a price for a meter. Ms. Garber stated that multifamily housing units are not the same as commercial and should not be listed under the commercial class. Ms. Garber added that there should be an exception made for multihousing units.

Betsy Johnson, Property Manager of One South Church, stated she is concerned with how the Department would adjust her bill and to take into consideration cooling towers.

F. Adjournment

ACTION: Claire Zucker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shaun McClusky seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.