



Sewer Outreach Subsidy Program Help for Low-Income Individuals and Families

On May 1, the Pima County Board of Supervisors approved a low-income subsidy program that will take effect on July 1, 2007. This action was in response to concerns about the ability of low-income residents to pay steadily increasing sewer rates needed to meet rising costs associated with operations and maintenance, rehabilitation of aging sewer infrastructure, and projects to meet increasingly stringent environmental standards.

The Sewer Outreach Subsidy program has a tiered rate structure based on federal poverty guidelines. For instance, individuals earning \$10,210 annually are at 100% of the federal guideline and would qualify for a 75% reduction in their flow rate charges: a reduction of \$10.55 for the average \$19.78 residential sewer bill. A family of four earning \$20,650 per year is also at 100% of the federal guideline and would qualify for the same rate reduction. This discount does not apply to the flat monthly service fee of \$5.72 that all customers pay. It also does not discount sewer connection fees.

Program Tiers - Federal Poverty Level Guidelines:

- 75% rate reduction – 100% or below
- 50% rate reduction – 101% -125%
- 25% rate reduction – 126% -150%

To be eligible for a discount on the monthly sewer user fees, customers must meet the following guidelines:

- Be a residential sewer customer.
- Have a water/sewer bill in your name.
- Meet income guidelines.

The Pima County Wastewater Management Department (PCWMD) is partnering with the Pima County Action Agency (PCAA) to administer the program.

It is estimated that about 14% of the households in Pima County are at the poverty income level and would qualify for the program.

For more information call Pima County Community Action Agency at 243-6794 or visit our web site at www.pima.gov.wwm/.

Rate Increase Goes Into Effect

On May 1, the Pima County Board of Supervisors voted to increase the monthly flow volume rate on the sewer bills by 6%. A typical sewer bill calculated on 10 CCFs of water usage (one CCF is equivalent to 100 cubic feet of water) will increase from \$18.98 to \$19.78 per month. This rate increase goes into effect on July 1.

Recalculation of Sewer Bills

In July of each year, your sewer bill is recalculated based on the amount of water use in December, January, and February. These three months represent the period when outside water usage is normally at a minimum.

If you have questions about your bill, please call our Customer Service section at 740-6609 weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. If you have any concerns, a representative will explain the appeal process to you. Under Pima County Ordinance 13.24 you have 60 days after receipt of a bill to appeal a new rate, a new usage class, or a new discharge factor.

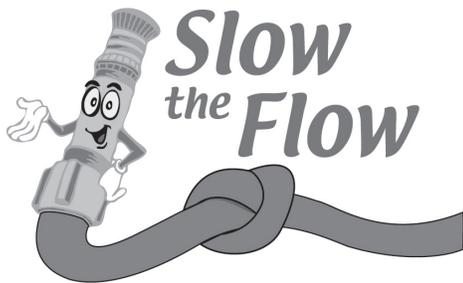
In Pima County, the funds needed to provide sewer services are generated by the Wastewater Management Department through the assessment of fees. During the 2006/2007 fiscal year, all the sewer user fees collected were used for the costs of providing wastewater treatment services to the residents of Pima County.



Pima County Declares Stage One Drought

On April 24, 2007, Pima County Administrator, Chuck Huckelberry, declared a Drought Level-Stage One throughout unincorporated areas of Pima County.

Declaration of a Stage One Drought, Water Alert, provides a mechanism for Pima County to implement a variety of activities to ensure the community is aware of drier-than-normal conditions and is taking appropriate steps to use water efficiently and effectively.



While this declaration recognizes that persistent drought conditions are present, it does not mean that a water shortage currently exists.

The effect of this declaration is that the public is being asked to implement voluntary reductions in water use.

To learn more about the drought, visit Pima County's drought website at www.pima.gov/drought/.

Regional Optimization Master Plan

The PCWMD is working to meet new environmental requirements mandated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

ADEQ has mandated that PCWMD decrease the amount of nitrogen and ammonia in our effluent. Effluent is highly treated wastewater that is the result of the wastewater treatment process.

ADEQ has established a deadline of January 1, 2014 to have the process upgrade at the Ina Road Water Pollution Control Facility in operation. January 1, 2015 is the deadline for the completion and operation of a new water reclamation facility adjacent to the current Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The first phase of this compliance effort, a preliminary engineering study, has been completed, has received

County Board of Supervisors approval and was submitted to ADEQ in January 2007.

With a number of community partners (City of Tucson, Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley, and others) PCWMD has developed the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP). The ROMP will change how we manage and treat the community's sewage.

Today the Roger Road plant has a capacity of 41 million gallons a day (mgd). The Ina Road facility has a capacity of 37.5 mgd. When the ROMP is completed, the Ina Road facility will be upgraded and expanded to treat 50 mgd. The Roger Road plant will be decommissioned after the new 32 mgd water reclamation facility is in operation. Both plants will have state-of-the-art odor control features built into the new and upgraded facilities.

Preliminary estimates for the ROMP project are \$501 million (in 2006 dollars).

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Please call 740-6500 during regular business hours.
If you have a sewer emergency outside of normal work hours,
please call 295-4595.

Important Phone Numbers

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| Roach Control Hotline | 319-4601 |
| Billing Section | 740-6609 |
| Emergencies..... | 740-6500 |
| After Hour Emergencies | 295-4595 |
| To Report New Odors or Chronic Odors..... | 326-4333 |
| To Comment About Odors | 622-2020 |
| To Comment About the Regional Optimization Plan..... | 622-2020 |
| To Report Vandalism | 911 |

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