



DECEMBER 2009

The Regional Optimization Master Plan

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) regulates the conveyance and treatment of the community's wastewater. ADEQ has directed Pima County to meet new stringent quality standards for our effluent. Effluent is the treated wastewater that is the result of the wastewater treatment process.

The new standards - which will significantly reduce ammonia and nitrogen levels in the effluent - are based on mandates set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

RWRD operates eleven wastewater reclamation facilities (WRFs) in Pima County. The two largest facilities, the Roger Road WRF and the Ina Road WRF discharge effluent into the Santa Cruz River. These are the two facilities that are impacted by the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP).

The ROMP is the mechanism by which the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) will meet the environmental regulations set forth by ADEQ.

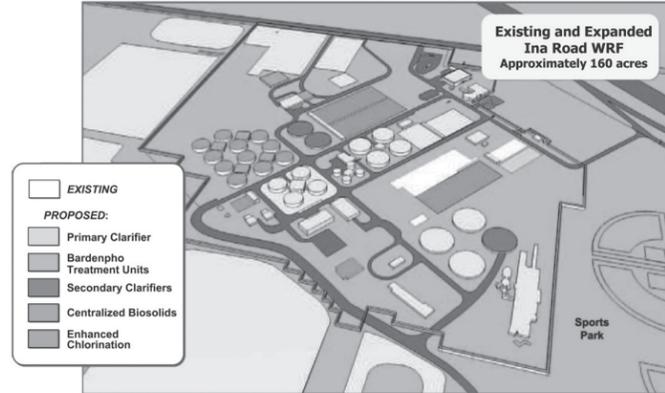
Construction is actively underway on the first phase of ROMP, the Plant Interconnect. The Plant Interconnect is a large sewer line that will convey some flows now treated at the Roger Road WRF to the Ina Road WRF. The Plant Interconnect is scheduled to be completed in December 2010.

The second project that will be completed under the ROMP is the Ina Road WRF expansion and upgrade. The expansion of the Ina Road WRF will increase the facility's capacity from 37.5 million gallons a day (MGD) to 50 MGD. Upon completion, the Ina Road WRF will meet the new mandated standards. This project is currently in the final design stage. Construction of some of the project components is scheduled to begin in January 2010.

The next phase of the ROMP will be the construction of a new Water Reclamation Campus (WRC) to replace the existing 41 MGD Roger Road WRF. The new facility will have a capacity of 32 MGD. The procurement process for this facility is underway. After the new facility begins operating, the existing Roger Road facility will be decommissioned. The new facility, which will be located just north of the existing plant, will meet the new mandated standards.

Plans are also underway for additional components of the ROMP program. These include a new power plant at the Ina Road WRF and a central laboratory complex at the Water Reclamation Campus site.

The total cost for the ROMP will be \$720 million dollars. The financing for ROMP will come from several sources; including sewer user fees, sewer connection fees, and other long-term debt financing methods.



The expansion and upgrade of the Ina Road Treatment facility is in the final design stage.

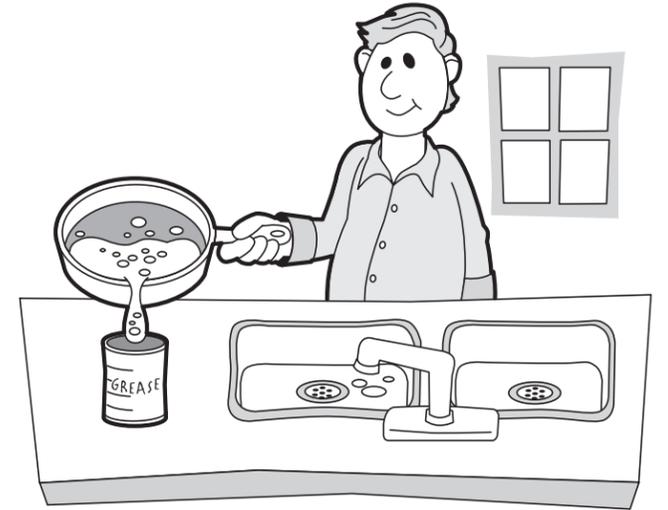
Safeguarding our Sanitary Sewer System

Do not pour grease down your drain! The waste you flush or pour into the sanitary sewer system is carried through an extensive underground network of pipes to one of Pima County's wastewater treatment facilities.

You can help safeguard our sewers by taking care not to flush harmful substances or products down drains and toilets.

Ordinary **kitchen cooking grease** can wreak havoc on your private property by clogging pipes beneath your home and in the public sanitary sewer system.

Over time grease build-up clogs pipes, reduces sewage flow, and acts as a magnet for other debris. Eventually this build-up can clog pipes and cause a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO). An SSO is the backup of raw sewage into the street, the environment or even into homes and other buildings.



The right way to dispose of grease!

Never pour grease down your drain! After cooking with grease or oil, allow it to cool and then pour it into a can. Wipe grease from pots, pans and plates with a paper towel before washing them. Both the can and greasy paper towels can be safely discarded in the household trash.

Don't put automotive fluids, pesticides, solvents, and other similar substances down the drain. Dispose of any household hazardous materials through the City/County Household Hazardous Waste Program.

Wastes are collected at the Household Hazardous Waste site at **2440 West Sweetwater Drive** and at a variety of collection events in the Tucson metropolitan area. For facility hours and for dates and locations of community collection events, call **888-6947** or go to <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw>.

"Disposable Wipes" should not be flushed! Some manufacturers of wipes indicate on the packaging that wipes are biodegradable and flushable. Unfortunately, wipes rarely biodegrade in the sanitary sewer system. Their presence in the sewer system can cause clogs and equipment failure in the conveyance of sewage. If too many wipes accumulate in the sewer system, they can block pipes which can lead to the overflow of raw sewage. When disposable wipes make it through the sewer system to a wastewater reclamation facility, they are removed and taken to a landfill. The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department asks that you refrain from flushing wipes down toilets. Instead, discard them in the trash.

Contact Us

Access our website at www.pima.gov/wwm/

Important Phone Numbers

Billing Section.....	740-6609
Roach Control Hotline (Automated line, please leave a message)	443-6501
Sanitary Sewer Overflows	443-6500
Sewer Outreach Subsidy (Low-income bill assistance).....	243-6794
Sewer Vandalism Reporting	443-6500
Report Sewer or Treatment Plant Odors	443-6500

Our staff responds to sewer overflows and emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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C.H. Huckelberry