



## Regional Optimization Master Plan

The Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) is a program that has been developed to meet environmental standards for effluent discharges into the Santa Cruz River. Effluent is wastewater that has been cleaned to the point that it safely can be returned to the environment. The ROMP requires that the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) decrease the levels of nitrogen and ammonia in effluent discharged from the Roger Road and Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facilities (WRF).

The ROMP project will expand and upgrade the Ina Road facility and will replace the existing Roger Road facility with a state-of-art treatment facility. The expansion and upgrade of the Ina Road facility must be completed by January 30, 2014. The new facility that will replace the existing Roger Road plant must be operational by January 30, 2015.

The Plant Interconnect, a major component of the ROMP, is scheduled to be completed in December 2010. The Plant Interconnect is a five-mile long gravity line interceptor that will convey some flows now treated at the Roger Road WRF to the Ina Road WRF.

The cost of the ROMP is budgeted at \$720 million. When the costs of debt servicing are included, the total cost of the ROMP Program will exceed \$1 billion. Funding for the ROMP will come from sewer user and connection fees, and other long-term debt financing methods.

## Conserve water to save on your sewer bills

Now is the time to conserve water to save on your future sewer bills. Sewer bills are based on an average water usage during the months of December, January, and February. These three months represent the period when outside water usage is normally at a minimum. These months are used to calculate new sewer charges that will take effect in July.



If you have questions about your bill, please call Pima County's Finance Department Customer Service section at 740-6609 weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

In Pima County, the funds needed to provide sewer services are generated by the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department through the assessment of fees. The sewer user fees we collect are used for the costs of providing wastewater treatment services to the residents of Pima County.

## Sewer Outreach Subsidy Program

Over the past few years, sewer bill increases have been significant. These increases in sewer bills have been necessary to help fund the ROMP program. (Please see article above.) Understanding that the increased rates can pose a particular hardship to Pima County's low income residents, the Pima County Board of Supervisors authorized a program to help low-income customers.

The Sewer Outreach Subsidy (SOS) Program has a tiered rate structure based on federal poverty guidelines. Depending on income and household size, customers may qualify for a 25%, 50%, or 75% discount on their monthly sewer fees including the flat monthly service fee of \$10.46.

To be eligible for the SOS Program, customers must meet the following guidelines:

- Be a residential sewer customer
- Have a water/sewer bill in their name
- Meet federal poverty income guidelines



## Federal Poverty Guidelines – based on 2009 household income

### 100% Poverty Level = 75% Reduction

Persons in family:	Annual income:	Monthly income:	Persons in family:	Annual income:	Monthly income:
1	\$10,830	\$903	5	\$25,790	\$2,149
2	\$14,570	\$1,214	6	\$29,530	\$2,461
3	\$18,310	\$1,526	7	\$33,270	\$2,773
4	\$22,050	\$1,838	8	\$37,010	\$3,084

Add \$3,740 for each additional person over 8

### 125% Poverty Level = 50% Reduction

Persons in family:	Annual income:	Monthly income:	Persons in family:	Annual income:	Monthly income:
1	\$13,538	\$1,128	5	\$32,238	\$2,686
2	\$18,213	\$1,518	6	\$36,913	\$3,076
3	\$22,888	\$1,907	7	\$41,588	\$3,466
4	\$27,563	\$2,297	8	\$46,263	\$3,855

Add \$4,675 for each additional person over 8

### 150% Poverty Level = 25% Reduction

Persons in family:	Annual income:	Monthly income:	Persons in family:	Annual income:	Monthly income:
1	\$16,245	\$1,355	5	\$38,685	\$3,225
2	\$21,855	\$1,822	6	\$44,295	\$3,692
3	\$27,465	\$2,290	7	\$49,905	\$4,160
4	\$33,075	\$2,757	8	\$55,515	\$4,627

Add \$5,610 for each additional person over 8

Income is considered the combined income of all persons who live in the home, including (but not limited to): salary, child support, alimony, interest earnings, rental income, supplemental security income, social security, veteran disability, and retirement benefits.

Persons who meet the federal poverty guidelines are encouraged to apply for the SOS Program. The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department has contracted with the Pima County Community Action Agency (PCCAA) to administer the program.

An appointment with PCCAA is required to determine eligibility. To schedule an appointment, please call PCCAA's automated phone line at (520) 243-6794. Please provide the information that is requested and speak clearly and loudly. Your call will be returned and an appointment will be scheduled. At your appointment, you must provide the following documents: a picture ID, proof of income for the last thirty days, and your current wastewater utility bill.

### Contact Us

General Information.....	740-6500
Roach Control Hotline ( <i>Automated line, please provide requested information</i> ) .....	443-6501
Billing Section.....	740-6609
Sewer Emergencies ( <i>regular business hours</i> ) .....	443-6500
After-Hour Sewer Emergencies .....	443-6048
To Report Odors.....	443-6500
Sewer Outreach Subsidy ( <i>Low-income bill assistance</i> ).....	243-6794
To Report Vandalism.....	911

To contact us during regular business hours, please call 740-6500. To report sanitary sewer emergencies outside of normal work hours, please call 443-6048.

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