



The Wastewater Advisory Committee (WMAC) was established by the Pima County Board of Supervisors in 1986 to act as its official advisory body on wastewater management matters. As the regional sewerage management agency for the majority of Eastern Pima County, the Wastewater Management Department provides wastewater collection, treatment and disposal services.

The WMAC is charged with advising the Department on program and policy decisions, as well as short- and long-term operating and capital program funding needs and the annual Financial Plan. The Committee holds monthly meetings to accomplish these functions. During Fiscal Year 2005/06, the WMAC discussed and acted upon a number of issues of importance to Pima County as described in this report.

## 2006 Metropolitan Facility Plan Update

WMAC members received regular progress reports on the 2006 Metropolitan Area Facility Plan Update. The Plan establishes capital improvement needs for the next 20 years based on the regulatory, expansion and rehabilitation requirements of the metropolitan area treatment and conveyance facilities. The Facility Plan identifies \$1.4 billion (2005 dollars) in system improve-

ments that need to be constructed over the next 20 years to meet these needs.

Committee members learned that after initial publication of the draft Facility Plan in May 2005, Department staff initiated a comprehensive outreach program to present the contents of the Plan to all local governments and jurisdictions and other major stakeholders. These included the City of South Tucson, City of Tucson Department of Urban Planning and Design, City of Tucson Rio Nuevo Project, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Cortaro/Marana Irrigation District, Flowing Wells Irrigation District, Marana Water Utility, Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District, Oro Valley Water Utility, Pima Association of Governments (PAG) Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC), PAG Watershed Planning, Pima County Public Works Department Heads, Southern Arizona Home Builders Association, Town of Marana, Town of Sahuarita, Tucson Audubon Society, Tucson Regional Economic Organization and Tucson Water Utility. Members also learned that the Department, PAG and Tucson Water jointly adopted a data set of population and flow forecasts for 2005-2025 to be utilized in all long-range water/wastewater planning for the community.

The Facility Plan was endorsed by the WMAC in February 2006 and approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 21, 2006.



◀ *Permeate Tank at the Randolph Park Water Reclamation Facility holds effluent before UV disinfection*

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## 2006 Financial Plan

WMAC members reviewed the Department's 2006 Financial Plan, held a public meeting and made recommendations on financial alternatives to the Department and the Board of Supervisors.

During the period from February 2006 to May 2006, WMAC members analyzed the Financial Plan, which builds on the findings and recommendations of the FY2004/05 Black & Veatch Management Audit, the 2005 Black & Veatch Rate Study, the 2005 Financial Plan and the 2006 Metropolitan Facility Plan Update. In addition the WMAC reviewed proposed changes to the User Fee and the Connection Fee Ordinances and increases in User Fees and Connection Fees.

On June 7, 2006, the WMAC conducted a public meeting. Following the public meeting, the Committee recommended approval of a series of four 10% user fee rate increases over two years at six month intervals, beginning in July/August of 2006. The WMAC also recommended approval of a series of two 12% connection fee rate increases on a 12-month interval, beginning in July/August of 2006.

The WMAC also recommended that Department staff investigate the possibility of the development of a program to assist low-income residents with payment of monthly sewer bills.

On July 11, 2006, after review of the Financial Plan (including rate increases) and a presentation by the WMAC Chair, the Board of Supervisors approved a series of two 6% increases in User Fees over the next year – in August 2006 and January 2007, and a series of four 6% increases in Connection Fees over the next two years – in August 2006, January 2007, July 2007 and January 2008. The subsequent User and Connection Fee Rates and Ordinances were effective August 11, 2006. The Board of Supervisors also requested that the Department develop a program to assist low-income residents with payment of monthly sewer bills and present it to the Board by January 2007.

These new rates will enable the Department to meet increased Operations and Management (O&M) and required regulatory costs, fund increased debt service for the 2004 Revenue Bonds and establish an emergency/reserve program.

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## 2004 Bond Program



The 2004 Bond Authorized Projects ongoing or completed in FY2005/06 were:

- Marana WWTF 0.5 million gallon per day (MGD) expansion
- Carrillo Neighborhood sewer system rehabilitation
- Roger Road WWTP rehabilitation projects
- Mt. Lemmon WWTF planning
- Miscellaneous conveyance system rehabilitation and repair projects
- Santa Cruz Interceptor, Prince to Franklin, land acquisition

The WMAC learned that the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority authorized a low-interest loan of \$8.5 million to the Department to finance part of the 2004 Bond Authorization. Additionally, the Committee endorsed the Department's recommended changes to the 2004 Bond Implementation Plan, reallocating \$25 million in bond funding for Ina Road to be used for funding a portion of the (\$35.5 million) Avra Valley Facility expansion. These changes were approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 4, 2006.

- ◀ *Construction during the Avra Valley WWTF expansion from 1.2 to 2.2 million gallons a day*

## Director's Report



Michael Gritzuk, Department Director, provided WMAC members with regular updates on the status of Department activities. At the September 2005 WMAC meeting, Mr. Gritzuk presented his first Director's Report and reviewed directions and initiatives for the Department. This report addressed the status of issues facing the

Department that were identified in the Black & Veatch Management Audit and, in addition, reviewed Mr. Gritzuk's first 90 days as Director of the Department. WMAC members were informed that high priorities for the Department were development of a comprehensive Countywide odor control master plan, development of a regionalization master plan (to develop the optimal treatment/conveyance facility configuration for the Metropolitan Sewerage System), the CIP Program, the CMOM Program, staff development (including creation of a multi-skilled career program for O&M staff), development of a salary survey, development of an employee recognition program, improvement of employee working conditions and implementation of proactive vector control services. Mr. Gritzuk subsequently presented this report on October 4, 2005, to the Board of Supervisors.

WMAC members also received regular updates, as a part of the Director's Report, on financial issues facing the Department (including increased funding for staff training/development, improved compen-



▲ *New odor control at the Ina Road WPCF, part of a 12.5 mgd expansion of the facility*

sation for O&M staff, Skills-Based Pay Program, and the QualServe survey). Members also received updates on activities in Community Relations (including development of the Department's Internal Communications Plan and establishment of the Odor Control Study Citizen Involvement Committee), Conveyance/Development Services Division activities (including the Vector [Roach] Control Program and the Sanitary Sewer Inspection and Inventory Project), Treatment Division activities (including the Roger Road Odor Control Program and cost saving improvements made at the treatment facilities), Planning & Engineering activities (including CIP projects and preparation of the 2006 Metropolitan Facility Plan Update), and Financial Services Division activities (including budget updates and implementation of the Synergen Program). Members received additional information in written monthly reports prepared by Department staff.

◀ *Construction during the Corona de Tucson WWTF expansion from 300,000 gallons per day to 1.3 million gallons per day*

## Conveyance & Rehabilitation



**CMOM Program:** WMAC members learned that the Department has developed a new Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) Plan for its Field Operations Division. The Plan will facilitate compliance with the new Arizona Administrative Code (R18-9-C305) and the ongoing rehabilitation of the regional conveyance system to maintain capacity and reduce sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

**Sanitary Sewer Overflow Reduction:** The Field Operations Division ended calendar year 2005 with a new record in SSO reduction – a 35% reduction over calendar year 2004. Members also learned that one-third of SSOs are caused by vandalism to manholes. The County Attorney's Office has hired a full-time investigator to pursue these types of SSOs.

◀ *Cleanup of a sanitary sewer overflow*

## Arid West Water Quality Research Project

In December 2005, WMAC members received an update on the research activities of the Department's Arid West Water Quality Research Project (AWWQRP – a \$5 million Environmental Protection Agency research grant). This included a review of Phase I projects, completed research and outreach activities. The members also learned that AWWQRP is developing a *Research Implementation Guide* (User's Guide) that translates research findings, along with case studies, into practical strategies and methods for use by both the regulated community and regulators.

Since that presentation, Phase I has ended and Phase II of the AWWQRP has begun. Close-out of Phase II and completion of the User's Guide is scheduled for October 2006. Both Phase II AWWQRP research and the User's Guide documents will be distributed to stakeholders throughout the western 17 states, as well as to interested parties nationally.

▶ *Scientists collect data for the Arid West Water Quality Research Project at a stream near Nogales*



## Wastewater Management Advisory Committee

In FY2004/05, the Board of Supervisors expanded the membership of the committee from eight to thirteen members. In FY2005/06, the Committee was pleased to welcome Adam Bliven who was appointed by Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Sheila Bowen who was appointed by Supervisor Ramon Valadez, Rob Kulakofsky who was appointed by Supervisor Richard Elias, and Les Wolf who was appointed by Supervisor Ann Day. A new Chair and Vice Chair were selected by the Committee in July 2006. Mr. Bliven is the new Chair and Ms. Bowen the new Vice Chair. The Committee greatly appreciates Mr. Stratton's and Mr. Carlson's past years of service as Chair and Vice Chair of the WMAC. Two members left the committee this fiscal year, Mr. Bill Carnes, who represented PAG's Environmental Planning Advisory Committee, and Bill Thornton, who was appointed by Supervisor Ray Carroll in FY2005/06. Mr. Thornton sadly passed away in April 2006. Mr. Carnes will receive a commemorative plaque for his service to the Committee and will be greatly missed.



**District 1**  
Steve Halverson  
Les Wolf

**Environmental Planning  
Advisory Committee**  
Vacant

**District 2**  
Amando Membrila  
Sheila Bowen

**Arizona Water Pollution  
Control Association**  
Mark Stratton

**District 3**  
Adam Bliven, Chair  
Brad DeSpain

**Citizens' Water Advisory  
Committee**  
John Carhuff

**District 4**  
John Carlson

**Ex-Officio**  
Mike Gritzuk, P.E., Direc-  
tor, Wastewater Manage-  
ment Department

**District 5**  
Rob Kulakofsky  
Ann Marie Wolf

*Former WMAC Chair Mark Stratton (upper left), former Vice-Chair John Carlson (upper right), the new WMAC Chair Adam Bliven (lower left), and the new Vice-Chair Sheila Bowen (lower right).*

## Six SIGMA Business Improvement Program

WMAC members learned about the Six Sigma Business Improvement Program that the Wastewater Management Department has implemented. Members learned that the focus of Six Sigma is on the customer (both internal and external), and that the Program is data-driven and evaluates an entire process to make it better. They also learned that the Department's Six Sigma Program includes an employee suggestion form that employees complete and send to the Department Director, and that suggestions from employees have been used to create an improvement matrix.

The Department hired its first Six Sigma "Black Belt" in February, 2006. In June 2006, in conjunction with

the University of Arizona's Office of Continuing Education and Outreach, the Department began training eleven of its staff as Six Sigma "Green Belts." As a part of this training each candidate must complete a process improvement project in order to be certified as a Six Sigma "Green Belt."



# Wastewater Management Advisory Committee Activities

## July 2005 – June 2006

The WMAC received regular updates, between September 2005 and June 2006, on the status of current and future Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), including completion of the 12.5 MGD expansion of the Ina Road Facility (approximately \$90 million), and ongoing projects for the Marana Facility Expansion (\$28.4 million), the Avra Valley Facility Phase I and Phase II Expansions (\$35.5 million), the 1.0 MGD expansion of the Corona de Tucson Facility, Marana/Honea-Heights Project and Ina/Roger Road rehabilitation projects. Updates were also provided on the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Project, Sanitary Sewer Inspection and Condition Assessment Project and future CIP projects including the Santa Cruz Interceptor, Phases II and III (\$35 million).

At the October 2005 WMAC meeting, members received an update on the Department's CMOM Program and the work program for achieving International Standards Organization (ISO) certification for its CMOM Program and Conveyance System. Additionally, members received an update on various activities of the Treatment Division and learned about cost improvements made at the Ina Road and Roger Treatment Facilities. They also received an update on the Planning and Engineering Division and staff training on the CIP Project Management Manual. This meeting was held in conjunction with a tour of the Randolph Park Water Reclamation Facility.

WMAC members received regular updates, between November 2005 and June 2006, on preparation of the Department's Budget for FY2006/07 and progress of the 2006 Financial Plan

At the December 2006 WMAC meeting, members learned that the Board of Supervisors authorized an amendment to the Connection Fee Ordinance on December 6, 2005, which established a "one rate" connection fee system. Additionally, members endorsed the Department's participation in the Water Environment Federation's "Water is Life, Infrastructure Makes It Happen" program. Members also received an update on the Arid West Water Quality Research Project. Between December 2005 and March 2006, members received regular updates on federal and state legislative/regulatory activities.

At the January 2006 WMAC meeting, Committee members learned that the Department had successfully completed/resolved all of the issues that were identified in the Black & Veatch Management Audit Report, that the Countywide Odor Control Study would begin the first quarter of 2006, and that the Department had contracted with the American Water Works Association to conduct a QualServe Self Assessment Survey.

At the February 2006 meeting, Committee members received an update on the 2006 Metropolitan Facility Plan Update and PAG 208 Plan revision and consolidation, and they learned that the Facility Plan and PAG 208 Plan were being completed in coordination with each other. Additionally, the WMAC endorsed the Department's recommended changes to the 2004 Bond Implementation Plan.

At the April 2006 meeting, members learned that the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) was launched on April 19, 2006, with the first of a series of sixteen workshops for local stakeholders, including Tucson Water. In addition, members were informed that the Odor Control Study would include a lot of stakeholder involvement including the formation of a citizen involvement committee. This meeting was held in conjunction with a tour of the Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant.

On June 7, 2006, the WMAC held a public meeting on the 2006 Financial Plan to receive public comments and make recommendations on the Financial Plan to the Board of Supervisors. On July 11, 2006, the Board of Supervisors adopted rate increases based on the Financial Plan and adopted the WMAC recommendation that a program to assist low-income residents with payment of monthly sewer bills be developed.

### Wastewater Management Advisory Committee FY2006/07 Meetings

September 21, 2006	February 15, 2007
October 19, 2006	March 15, 2007
November 16, 2006	April 19, 2007
December 21, 2006	May 17, 2007
January 18, 2007	June 21, 2007

Agendas and minutes are available on the Wastewater Management Advisory Committee web page: [www.pima.gov/wwm/wac/index.htm](http://www.pima.gov/wwm/wac/index.htm)

General Wastewater Management Department activities can be viewed on the Department's website: [www.pima.gov/wwm](http://www.pima.gov/wwm)

Wastewater Management Advisory Committee meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of every month, in the Pima Association of Governments' 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, Transamerica Building, 177 North Church Avenue, Tucson.

### Committee Coordinators:

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Ed Curley 740-6500 ([ed.curley@wwm.pima.gov](mailto:ed.curley@wwm.pima.gov))