



## WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors — FY 2003-2004

The Wastewater Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) was established by the Pima County Board of Supervisors 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. In addition, the Department operates public facilities to address the needs of County residents for the sanitary disposal of solid waste.

The WMAC is charged with the evaluation of the Department's program and policy decisions, as well as short and long-term capital and operating program funding needs. The Committee holds monthly meetings to accomplish these functions. During Fiscal Year 2003-04, the WMAC discussed and acted upon a number of issues of importance to Pima County.

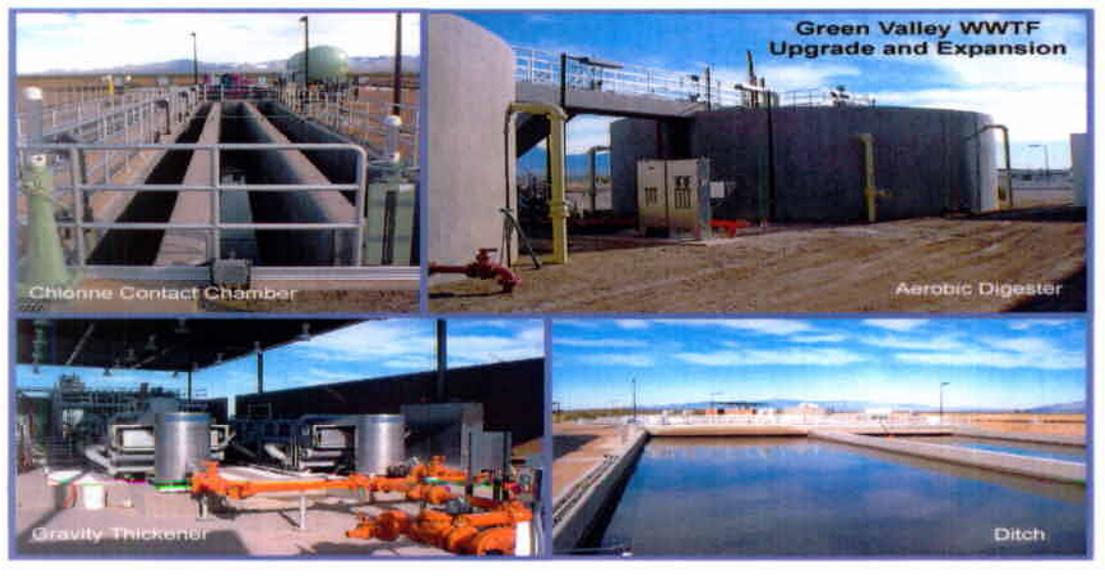
#### \$18 MILLION IMPROVEMENT TO GREEN VALLEY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Committee members received regular updates on the Green Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project.

The original Plant, which began operation in 1981, consists of two primary aerated lagoons, two secondary aerated lagoons, two effluent maturation ponds, and four percolation beds. The Plant has a design flow capacity of 2.1 million gallons per day (monthly average).

The WMAC learned about the newly completed Biological Nutrient Removal Oxidation Ditch (BNROD) Facility, which consists of a biological nutrient removal

oxidation ditch, secondary clarifiers, effluent filters, chlorine disinfection, sludge thickeners, aerobic digestion, biosolids water reduction by belt filters, biosolids drying beds and storage area, and an effluent pump station. The Facility has a design flow capacity of 2.0 million gallons per day (monthly average). This treatment train (with filtration) is classified as producing Class A+ reclaimed water and may be utilized for any of the applicable Class A+ uses under a valid Reclaimed Water Permit. All the effluent produced is provided to the Quail Creek Development for recharge and use on the golf course. The biosolids from the BNROD will be thickened, digested, dewatered, dried and used for land application or research applications to mine tailings.



On July 15, 2004, WMAC members will tour the new Green Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility which has been delivering reclaimed water to the Robson Ranch Quail Creek recharge basin since November 2003.

**WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
 2003-04 FINANCIAL PLAN**

During November and December of 2003, WMAC members analyzed the Department's 2003-04 Financial Plan, which included increases to the sewer user fee, administrative service charges, and the sewer connection fee. In addition, they reviewed proposed revisions to the Connection and User Fees Ordinances, which were included in the Plan.

The WMAC conducted a Public Hearing on January 6, 2004, to provide a forum for community members to comment on the Financial Plan. Following the hearing, the Committee recommended approval of 8% increases to the Sewer User and Administrative Service Fees, and a 3% increase to the Sewer Connection Fee in FY2003-04.

The WMAC also recommended approval of the establishment of an enhanced rehabilitation program in conjunction with an expanded CCTV Program, to proactively address the rehabilitation needs of the treatment and conveyance elements of the County's regional wastewater system. This program would be funded by 8% increases in the Sewer User Fee rates beginning in FY2003-04 and continuing each Spring for the next three fiscal years. This recommendation allowed the significant increases necessary to implement the enhanced rehabilitation program to be phased in over a four-year period.

WMAC members further recommended a monthly charge of \$.50 per User Fee account to be established in FY2003-04, and continue for the next eight years, establishing funding for potential future emergency circumstances (e.g., the Fall 2002 Speedway Sinkhole incident).

In addition to revising fees, the Committee recommended approval of changes to the Connection and Sewer User Fee Ordinances. These included substantial revisions to the Connection Fee Ordinance to improve clarity of language. Approval of several procedural and policy changes to the Ordinance were also recommended, including:

- Amending requirements for connection to the public sewerage system;
- Adding a section to clarify criteria for connection fees;
- Amending requirements for rebates for collection or conveyance system improvements; and

- Establishing requirements for rebates for treatment facility improvements.

The WMAC also recommended approval of some language changes to the User Fee Ordinance to implement the concepts previously discussed.

After a review of the Financial Plan and presentations by WMAC members, the Board authorized rate increases of 6% for Connection Fees and 4% for User Fees on April 13, 2004, with the new rates to take effect July 1, 2004.

In addition, based on the financial situation of the Department, the Board authorized the County

**2004 BOND AUTHORIZATION**

Committee members learned that, on May 18, 2004 Pima County voters approved the Wastewater \$150 Million Revenue Bond Initiative by about 68% — the most votes received by any of the Bonds.

Voter-Approved 2004 Bond Projects

Roger Road WWTP Infrastructure & Environmental Improvements	\$ 20,000,000
Miscellaneous Conveyance Rehabilitation Projects	15,000,000
Santa Cruz Interceptor, Prince to Franklin	25,000,000
Roger Road WWTP to Ina Road WPCF Plant Interconnect	23,000,000
Tanque Verde Interceptor, Craycroft to Tucson Country Club	5,000,000
Marana Regional Airport Sewer Connection	2,800,000
Ina Road WPCF Denitrification	17,000,000
Ina Road WPCF Central Plant & Electrical Upgrade	12,000,000
Ina Road WPCF Laboratory & Office Building	9,000,000
New Marana WWTP Expansion (1.0 mgd)	10,000,000
Miscellaneous Water Reclamation Facilities	4,000,000
Mt. Lemmon Sewer System	<u>7,200,000</u>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>\$150,000,000</u></b>

## OTHER WMAC ACTIVITIES

The Committee made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and received reports and regular updates on a broad range of significant Wastewater programs and activities, including Engineering, Capital Development, Field Operations, Treatment, Solid Waste and special research projects from Department staff and consultants. Members received updates on such topics as:

- **The status of current and future CIP projects**, including the Ina Road Facility Improvements, CCTV Project, Sanitary Sewer Inventory Project, Roger Road Facility Improvements, Randolph Park WRF (including the May 1, 2004 flooding event), Green Valley Plant Expansion, Avra Valley Treatment Plant Expansion, the Marana-Honea Heights Colonia Project, Pump Station SCADA Project; and the Managed Recharge Project – Santa Cruz River.
- **Current federal water/wastewater regulatory and legislative activities**, including a report on the June 2003 testimony of the Department Director, Kathleen Chavez, before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment on behalf of Pima County and WESTCAS.

- **Innovative Wastewater research programs**, including the Arid West Water Quality Research Project, the Constructed Ecosystems Research Facility, and the Biosolids Research Program.
- **Other important Departmental issues**, such as the Sahuarita Landfill IGA; Aspen-Mt. Lemmon recovery activities; preparation of the Department's first zero-based budget; refinancing of WWM's existing Sewer Revenue Bonds; 1997 Bond Authorization reallocations, WIFA's approval of \$18 million loan agreement; creation of the FY2004-05 Wastewater Management Work Plan; and the Kinder-Morgan gasoline pipeline installation.

**Staff Reports:** In addition to the regularly scheduled agenda items, Committee members received timely updates on such topics as: collection systems, AMSA Benchmarking Survey, new Federal Prison, Wastewater Department personnel changes; Community Relations activities (including the Department's Grease Campaign activities), and Intergovernmental Agreement discussions between the City of Tucson and Pima County.

## WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee was pleased to welcome one new member during this fiscal year — Mr. Steve Halverson, who was appointed by Supervisor Ann Day. Mr. Halverson replaced Mr. John Wood, who served on the Committee for one term. Mr. Vernon Watwood, who represented the City of Tucson Citizens' Water Advisory Committee for a portion of one term, also left during 2003-04. Mr. Wood and Mr. Watwood each will receive commemorative plaques for their service to the Committee, and will be greatly missed.

### District 1

Steve Halverson (April 2004 — March 2008)  
John Wood (June 2001 — April 2004)

### District 2

Armando Membria

### District 3

Brad DeSpain

### District 4

John Carlson

### District 5

Ann Marie Wolf

### Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC)

Bill Carnes

### Arizona Water and Pollution Control Association

Mark Stratton, Chair

### Citizens Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)

Vernon Watwood (December 2002 — April 2004)

### Ex-Officio

Kathleen M. Chavez, P.E.

Director, Wastewater Management Department

**WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCHEDULE**  
**Agenda Summary: July 2003 - June 2004**

**Financial/Capital Improvements**

- Financial Update – 2003-04 Budget Status Report
- 2003-04 Financial Plan/Proposed Rate Increase/Ordinance Changes
- Public Meeting – Presentation of 2003-04 Financial Plan Recommendation
- Facility Plan Update/New 2004 Bond Authorization
- Capital Improvement Program Update
- Operational Audit
- Comprehensive Management Audit
- Solid Waste 2003-04 Development Plan
- Update on 2004-05 Budget Approval
- New Consultant Selection & Consultation Procedures Presentation

**Operations**

- CCTV/Sanitary Sewer Inventory Inspection Projects
- Update on Northwest Outfall Rehabilitation/Santa Cruz Interceptor Installation
- Biosolids Contract
- Cast-in-Place Pipe/Pipe Bursting Sewer Rehabilitation/Miscellaneous Repair Projects

**Policy and Legislative**

- Connection and User Fees Ordinances
- State and Federal Legislative Update
- Tucson Water Resource Planning Tool Presentation

**WMAC Administrative Items**

- Election of Officers
- WMAC 2004 Work Plan
- WMAC Ordinance Revision

**Wastewater Management Advisory Committee**  
**2004-2005 Meeting Dates:**

July 15, 2004	January 20, 2005
September 16, 2004	February 17, 2005
October 21, 2004	March 17, 2005
November 18, 2004	April 21, 2005
December 16, 2004	May 19, 2005
	June 16, 2005

Agendas and minutes are available on the  
Wastewater Management Advisory Committee website:

[www.wwm.pima.gov/cdd/index.htm](http://www.wwm.pima.gov/cdd/index.htm)

Wastewater Management Department website:

[www.wwm.pima.gov](http://www.wwm.pima.gov)

Wastewater Management Advisory Committee meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of every month, Public Works Building, 201 North Stone Avenue, Tucson, Basement Conference Room B.

Committee Coordinators:

Susan Hunt 740-6552 ([susan.hunt@wwm.pima.gov](mailto:susan.hunt@wwm.pima.gov))

Ed Curley 740-6550 ([ed.curley@wwm.pima.gov](mailto:ed.curley@wwm.pima.gov))