



WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2002-2003 Annual Report

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 2002-03, the WMAC discussed and acted upon a number of issues of importance to Pima County.

The Committee was pleased to welcome one new member during this fiscal year --- Mr. Vernon Watwood, appointed by the City of Tucson Citizens' Water Advisory Committee. Mr. Watwood replaced Mr. Arthur Flagg, who served on the Committee for two terms. Ms. Tarke Sweet, who represented the Southern Arizona Water Resource Association on the Committee for two terms, also left during 2002-03. Mr. Flagg and Ms. Sweet each received commemorative plaques for their years of service on the Committee and will be greatly missed.



Department personnel work round-the-clock to repair Speedway sinkholes.

NORTHWEST OUTFALL INTERCEPTOR SEWER REHABILITATION AND SPEEDWAY SINKHOLE REPAIR

On September 7, 2002, the Department was faced with a catastrophic crushing of a portion of the 42-inch Northwest Outfall Interceptor Sewer and the formation of two sinkholes on West Speedway Blvd. WMAC members were very involved in evaluating the impact of this emergency on the West Speedway neighborhoods, Pima County residents and the environment.

On September 16, 2002, WMAC members toured the Speedway repair sites to obtain first hand knowledge of the situation. Members also received frequent status reports on the Department's repair of the sinkholes/ rehabilitation of the Northwest Outfall Interceptor Sewer, cleanup of the Santa Cruz River bottom and assistance to the West Speedway neighborhoods. For

example, members learned that the Wastewater Community Relations staff & Risk Management Department staff were a constant presence in the neighborhood throughout the project and helped to resolve such problems as traffic control, public transportation routes, trash pickup, mail delivery, and other utility service problems. Families most affected by the Department's response activities received emergency hotel accommodations and meals. With the reopening of Grande Avenue on September 30, Pima County began to provide impacted businesses with county-sponsored television commercials. Staff also went door-to-door in the neighborhood to keep residents notified of sewer repairs and public meetings.

In addition, the Department accelerated rehabilitation of the balance of the Northwest Outfall. Rehabilitation of this sewer

Northwest Outfall (continued).

line, which serves most of Metropolitan Tucson (south of Broadway) and runs through the West Speedway neighborhoods, began in December 2002. By the time the project was completed in April 2003, nearly five miles of this continuous sewer line had been rehabilitated — the longest such cured-in-place rehabilitation project in United States history.

**WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT
2003-04 FINANCIAL PLAN**

During November and December of 2002, 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. The Plan also included revisions to the Connection and User Fees Ordinances.

The WMAC conducted a Public Hearing on January 21, 2003, to provide a forum for community members to comment on the Financial Plan. Following the hear-

ing, the Committee recommended approval of 5% increases to the Sewer User and Administrative Service Fees, and a 12 % increase to the Sewer Connection Fee. The WMAC also approved the two additional 12% equity adjustments to the Sewer Connection Fees to reflect the actual cost of providing new treatment capacity. In addition to revising fees, the Committee approved policy changes to the Connection Ordinance. Some of the more significant changes were:

- Revising the standard for granting participating rate status for construction of off-site sewers;
- Clarifying GIS requirements for public sanitary sewer construction;
- Adding a fee for unauthorized connections to the County's sewer system; and
- Clarifying the Connection Fee rate for converted structures.

The Board of Supervisors adopted the Financial Plan on March 11, 2003, with the initial rate increases taking effect on April 11, 2003, and the equity adjustments taking effect on June 1 and September 1, 2003.

FINANCIAL PLAN — FUTURE PLANNING

As a part of their analysis of the Financial Plan, the WMAC evaluated the Department's future funding needs and provided recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The WMAC recommended that Wastewater Management prepare a proposal for reallocation of the remaining 1997 Bond Authorization, develop a plan for future funding of the Capital Improvement Program, and develop a reimbursement resolution for the Randolph Park WRF and the Northwest Outfall.

The Committee also emphasized its support of the maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing sewer system. To this end, the WMAC approved a recommendation that Wastewater Management evaluate the Department's equipment depreciation/maintenance costs and the need for additional dedicated funding for these items.

Wastewater Management Advisory Committee 2003-2004 Meeting Dates:

July 9, 2003
August 21, 2003
September 18, 2003
October 16, 2003
November 20, 2003
December 18, 2003

January 15, 2004
February 19, 2004
March 18, 2004
April 15, 2004
May 20, 2004
June 17, 2004

OTHER WMAC ACTIVITIES

Members made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and received reports on a number of other important issues (including the WMAC's structure and membership, and the Biosolids Contract).

The Committee also received regular updates on a broad range of other 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, Ina Road De-Nitrification Pilot Study, CCTV Project, Sanitary Sewer Inventory Project, Roger Road Facility Improvements, Green Valley WWTF Expansion, Avra Valley WWTF Expansion, the Marana Colonial and Valle de Las Rosas Sewer Construction Projects).
- **Current federal water/wastewater regulatory and legislative activities** (including the successful removal of the Santa Cruz River from the EPA's Impaired Waters List).
- **Innovative Wastewater research programs** (including the Arid West Water Quality Research Project, the Constructed Ecosystems Research Facility, and the Biosolids Research).

- **Other important Departmental issues**, such as Solid Waste's landfill/capacity issues, implementation of new security measures at the treatment facilities (including the year-long Security and Vulnerability Assessment Project), and the Wastewater Operations Trainee Program.

Staff Reports: In addition to the regularly scheduled agenda items, Committee members received timely updates on such topics as: Collection Systems, AMSA Benchmarking Survey, Proposed New Federal Prison, Wastewater's Departmental Reorganization, Community Relations Activities (including receipt of a national award for Wastewater's Grease Campaign), and Intergovernmental Agreement negotiations between the City of Tucson and Pima County.



**Wastewater Management's Award
 Winning "Grease Monster"**

Wastewater Management Advisory Committee:

District 1
 John Wood

Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC)
 Bill Carnes

District 2
 Armando Membriola

Arizona Water and Pollution Control Association
 Mark Stratton, Chair

District 3
 Brad DeSpain

Southern Arizona Water Resources Association (SAWARA)
 Joan Tarke Sweet (June 1998 to April 2003)*

District 4
 John Carlson

Citizens Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)
 Vernon Watwood
 Arthur Flagg (March 1998 to October 2002)

District 5
 Ann Marie Wolf

Ex-Officio
 Kathleen M. Chavez, P.E.
 Director, Wastewater Management Department

*SAWARA position eliminated effective May 16, 2003.

Wastewater Management Advisory Committee
Agenda Summary: July 2002 - June 2003

Financial/Capital Improvements

- Financial Update – 2002-03 Budget Status Report
- 2002-03 Financial Plan/Proposed Rate Increase/Ordinance Changes
- Public Meeting – Presentation of 2002-03 Financial Plan Recommendation
- Facility Plan Update/Potential New Bond Authorization
- Capital Improvement Program Update
- Solid Waste Landfill Revenue/Capacity/Expansion
- New Consultant Selection & Construction Contract Procedures

Operations

- Treatment Update/Homeland Security Issues
- CCTV/Sanitary Sewer Inventory Inspection Projects
- Update on Speedway Sinkhole Repair & Northwest Outfall Rehabilitation/Santa Cruz Interceptor Installation
- Tour of Ed Pastor Environmental Restoration Project
- Tour of Randolph Park Water Reclamation Facility Construction
- Biosolids Contract

Policy and Legislative

- State and Federal Legislative Update

WMAC Administrative Items

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

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)
Ed Curley 740-6500 (ed.curley@wwm.pima.gov)

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

www.wwm.pima.gov/cdd/index.htm

Wastewater Management Department website:
www.wwm.pima.gov

