

Pima County –

Ina Road Wastewater Facility Upgrade and Expansion Project

The Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) program is well underway. You may recall from last month's article that the ROMP is a program that has been developed to meet environmental standards for effluent discharges into the Santa Cruz River. Effluent is highly-treated wastewater.

Projected to be complete by October 2013, the Ina Road Upgrade and Expansion Project will increase capacity from 37.5 million gallons a day (MGD) to 50 MGD at the Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF). The facility will comply with an Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requirement to reduce nitrogen and ammonia concentrations from the effluent that is discharged into the Santa Cruz River. ADEQ is the agency that regulates Pima County's wastewater activities.

The upgraded and expanded Ina Road wastewater treatment facility will also have a new centralized biosolids handling facility. Biosolids are the semi-solid materials remaining from the sewage treatment process.

The overall construction budget for the Ina Road WRF Upgrade and Expansion Project is approximately \$277 million. Construction of this multi-faceted project is ongoing.

Funding for the Ina Road facility expansion, as well as the other two major ROMP components – the Plant Interconnect and the new Water Reclamation Campus – will come from sewer connection fees and long-term debt financing methods.

This is the second in a series of articles on the ROMP project. Additional updates will appear as the multi-year ROMP project progresses.

Your Utilities Services statement includes fees for your water, wastewater, and environmental services.

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) - For more information about the regional wastewater system, call (520) 740-6500 or visit www.pima.gov/www.

City of Tucson Environmental Services –

Recycle Plastic Bags at Local Stores – Not in Your Blue Barrel

In September 2009, Tucson-area grocery stores and other large retailers began offering plastic bag recycling. During the program's first year, the Arizona Food Marketing Alliance and the Arizona Retailers Association reported that approximately 316 tons of plastic and other film bags were returned to stores and recycled. This means that more than 41 million plastic bags were recycled in year one.

Based on this year one reporting to the Environmental Services Department (ES), ES projects an upward trend in plastic bag recycling as more Tucsonans become aware of the opportunity. Here are some tips for increasing our recycling rate and keeping plastic bags out of Blue Barrels and our landfills:

- ⊛ **Look for the plastic bag recycling bins at your grocery store and other large retailers.**
- ⊛ **Please recycle only clean, dry plastic bags and film plastic. Remove receipts or any other items.**
- ⊛ **Collect these to put in store recycling bins:**
 - grocery bags
 - newspaper bags
 - dry cleaning bags
 - bread bags
 - furniture wrap
 - electronic wrap
 - produce bags case wrap – e.g., snacks, water bottles
 - toilet paper, napkin, and paper towel wraps
 - plastic retail bags – remove hard plastic and string handles
 - plastic food storage bags – clean and dry, e.g. Ziploc® bags
 - plastic cereal box liners – do not include if it tears like paper

Remember that these types of plastics can only be recycled in retailer or grocer bins – **not** in a Tucson Blue Barrel.

Environmental Services (ES) - Learn about how ES is protecting our ground water and the environment at www.tucsonaz.gov/esd or (520) 791-3171.