



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: 6/17/2025

*\*= Mandatory, information must be provided*

Click or tap the boxes to enter text. If not applicable, indicate "N/A".

### **\*Title:**

Proposed Revision to Pima County Code, Title 13, Chapter 20, Sanitary Sewer Construction, Connections and Fees

### **\*Introduction/Background:**

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) provides service to approximately 328,396 residential, commercial, and industrial accounts in metropolitan Pima County. Title 13, Chapter 20 of the Pima County Code states that the Wastewater Utility Fee (WUF) represents the County's allocation to owners of the capital cost to provide wastewater conveyance and treatment capacity and is based on the potential volume of discharge created by water service to a property. Title 13, Chapter 20, Section 400 also contains the WUF calculation for commercial, industrial and multi-family dischargers with water meters size greater than four (4)-inches in size. The purpose of this code text amendment is to propose a three percent (3%) rate increase to the WUF (previously known as connection fees) annually beginning in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 through Fiscal Year 2028-2029. The rate increase is necessary to recover the full cost of capacity provided and will ensure the County generates sufficient revenues to meet all operating and maintenance expenses, debt service payments, and required reserves.

### **\*Discussion:**

Each year, the Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD), in connection with RWRD and the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Financial Subcommittee, prepares a financial plan for the utility. The Financial Plan reviews the financial needs of the Enterprise Fund to ensure the County generates sufficient revenues to meet all operating and maintenance expenses, debt service payments, and required reserves for the next four (4) fiscal years. The Financial Plan is then presented to the RWRAC for consideration and expression of support to the Board of Supervisors.

On January 15, 2025, the RWRAC Financial Subcommittee was presented with the initial draft Rate Workbook, which contained proposed rate increase values. The FY 2025-2026 draft Rate Workbook presented a proposed increase in the wastewater utility fee of 3% annually for a 4-year period (FY 2026 -2029). The Rate Workbook also proposes a rate increase for both the sewer user fee and sewer volume fees of 3% beginning in FY 2025-2026 followed by an annual 1.75% increase for the next three (3) fiscal years for both fees. The information was presented to the full RWRAC at the January 23, 2025, for review and discussion. Based on the timeline requirements for ensuring the rate increase inclusion in the Board of Supervisor FY 2025-2026 budget approval process, the committee members discussed the revised rate increase proposal, providing continued support of the rate increase proposal as presented. The motion of support passed with a vote of nine (9) affirmatives, two (2) against, and two (2) members absent.

### **\*Conclusion:**

Pima County has not raised sewer rates since June 1, 2017, even though operation and maintenance (O&M) costs have been increasing. A significant portion of the increased departmental costs are inflationary driven (e.g. chemicals, electricity) as unit prices have been increasing for the past eight (8) years since the last Sewer rate increase and are beyond departmental control - as well as increased salaries and benefits costs as a result of the 2023 Class and Compensation Study. Delay in raising rates will put the Enterprise fund in a financially unhealthy position. A rate increase is needed to generate sufficient revenues to

meet all operating and maintenance expenses, debt service payments, required reserves, and to maintain an adequate debt service ratio to obtain favorable bond ratings.

**\*Recommendation:**

Recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the requested three percent (3%) to Wastewater Utility Fee for four (4) consecutive years beginning in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 through Fiscal Year 2028-2029.

**\*Fiscal Impact:**

A three percent (3%) to the Wastewater Utility Fee for four (4) consecutive years will generate an additional \$4,435,382 in revenue annually for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 through Fiscal Year 2028-2029, while maintaining the department’s debt service ratio above the 1.3 baseline value.

**\*Board of Supervisor District:**

☐ 1    ☐ 2    ☐ 3    ☐ 4    ☐ 5    ☒ All

Department: Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department    Telephone: (520) 724-6500

Contact: Jackson Jenkins, Director    Telephone: (520) 724-6549

Department Director Signature:		Date:	<u>5/29/25</u>
Deputy County Administrator Signature:		Date:	<u>6/3/2025</u>
County Administrator Signature:		Date:	<u>6-4-2025</u>

## Timeline of Action Items

### Proposed FY 2025-2026 Rate Increases

### Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department

\* Hyperlinks to the noted postings are denoted by blue, underlined text.

Action Item/Dates of Importance	Due Date
<b>RWRAC Monthly Meeting - RWRAC votes to recommends to the Pima County Board of Supervisors the approval the proposed rate increase.</b>	<b>Thursday, January 23, 2025</b>
County Administration Memo to BOS re: Pima County Sewer Rate Increase	Friday, February 14, 2025
Daily Territorial Public Hearing submission deadline (#1)	Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Metropolitan Pima Alliance - RWRD presentation	Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Public Hearing Notice Runs in Daily Territorial (#1)	<a href="#">Thursday, February 20, 2025</a>
Stakeholder letters (Proposed revision to the Pima County Ordinance, 13.20.250, to Sunset Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Town of Marana Development Services</li> <li>•Town of Oro Valley Community &amp; Economic Development</li> <li>•City of Tucson Planning &amp; Development Services</li> <li>•Southern Arizona Homebuilders Association</li> <li>•Town of Sahuarita Community Development</li> </ul>	Thursday, February 20, 2025
Daily Territorial Public Hearing submission deadline (#2)	Friday, February 21, 2025
RWRAC Letter of Support - RWRAC recommends to the Pima County Board of Supervisors the approval the proposed rate increase.	Tuesday, February 25, 2025
Public Hearing Notice Runs in Daily Territorial (#2)	<a href="#">Tuesday, February 25, 2025</a>
Public Meeting Notice/Agenda to COB (#1)	Monday, March 3, 2025
Pima County Facebook Posting (#1)	<a href="#">Thursday, March 6, 2025</a>
Pima County Public Works Facebook Posting (#1)	<a href="#">Thursday, March 6, 2025</a>
Pima County Instagram Threads Posting	<a href="#">Thursday, March 6, 2025</a>
Pima County Nextdoor Posting (#1)	<a href="#">Thursday, March 6, 2025</a>
Public Hearing #1 Kirk-Bear Canyon Library 8959 E. Tanque Verde Rd. Tucson, AZ 85749 (10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)	<a href="#">Friday, March 7, 2025</a>
KVOA News 4 Tucson Article - March meetings in Pima County to discuss sewer fee increases	<a href="#">Friday, March 7, 2025</a>
Public Meeting Notice/Agenda to COB (#2)	Friday, March 7, 2025
Pima County Facebook Posting (#2)	<a href="#">Friday, March 7, 2025</a>
Pima County Instagram Posting	<a href="#">Friday, March 7, 2025</a>
Pima County Bulletin	<a href="#">Friday, March 7, 2025</a>
Pima County Public Works Facebook Posting (#2)	<a href="#">Sunday, March 9, 2025</a>
Daily Territorial Public Hearing submission deadline (#3)	Monday, March 10, 2025
Real Estate Daily News - Pima County Wastewater seeks input on first proposed rate hikes in eight years	<a href="#">Monday, March 10, 2025</a>
Pima County Facebook Posting (#3)	<a href="#">Monday, March 10, 2025</a>
Pima County Facebook Posting (#4)	<a href="#">Monday, March 10, 2025</a>
Pima County Nextdoor Posting (#2)	<a href="#">Monday, March 10, 2025</a>
Public Hearing #2 Water Campus 2955 Calle Agua Nueva Tucson, AZ 85745 (5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)	<a href="#">Wednesday, March 12, 2025</a>
Public Hearing Notice Runs in Daily Territorial (#3)	<a href="#">Wednesday, March 12, 2025</a>
Pima County FYI Newsletter article - Pima County Wastewater seeks input on first proposed rate hikes in eight years	<a href="#">Friday, March 14, 2025</a>

**Timeline of Action Items**  
Proposed FY 2025-2026 Rate Increases  
Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department

Action Item/Dates of Importance	Due Date
Southern Arizona Homebuilders Association - RWRD presentation	Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Public Meeting Notice/Agenda to COB (#3)	Thursday, March 20, 2025
Pima County Nextdoor Posting (#3)	<a href="#">Tuesday, March 25, 2025</a>
Public Hearing #3 Abrams Public Health Center 3950 S. Country Club Rd. Tucson, AZ 85714 (8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.)	<a href="#">Thursday, March 27, 2025</a>
RWRD revision of Ordinance(s) as per the RWRAC recommendation	Friday, April 4, 2025
Forward revised ordinance to PCAO for review and signature	Friday, April 4, 2025
May Water Bill Insert	Thursday, April 17, 2025
PCAO review and signature of revised Ordinance(s)	Friday, April 18, 2025
Copy of revised Ordinance(s) accessible online - Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee Agendas, Minutes & Information	<a href="#">Friday, April 18, 2025</a>
Copy of revised Ordinance(s) accessible online - Wastewater Reclamation	<a href="#">Friday, April 18, 2025</a>
Copy of revised Ordinance(s) accessible at Public Works Building 3rd Floor, RWRD.	Friday, April 18, 2025
Copy of revised Ordinance(s) accessible online - Public notices and proposed pima county taxes and fees	<a href="#">Monday, April 21, 2025</a>
Pima County FYI Newsletter article - Pima County Wastewater seeks public comment on proposed rate increases	<a href="#">Friday, April 25, 2025</a>
The Pipeline article - Pima County Wastewater seeks input on first proposed rate hikes in eight years.	<a href="#">Wednesday, April 30, 2025</a>
<b>RWRAC Monthly Meeting - RWRAC recommends to the Pima County Board of Supervisors the approval the FY2025 Financial Plan.</b>	<b>Thursday, May 22, 2025</b>
Daily Territorial Public Hearing submission deadline (Board of Supervisors Meeting)	Wednesday, May 28, 2025
BOSAIR Packet Submission	Friday, May 30, 2025
Public Hearing Notice Runs in Daily Territorial (Board of Supervisors Meeting)	<a href="#">Friday, May 30, 2025</a>
Pima County Website Notification of Board of Supervisors Meeting	Monday, June 2, 2025
<b>Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting - Anticipated review of recommended rate increases</b>	<b>Tuesday, June 17, 2025</b>
Rate Increase Effective	Thursday, July 17, 2025



**ORDINANCE 2025- \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA,  
RELATING TO WASTEWATER SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTIONS AND  
FEES; AMENDING THE PIMA COUNTY CODE, TITLE 13, CHAPTER 20, SANITARY SEWER  
CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTIONS AND FEES, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-20**

**The Board of Supervisors of Pima County finds that:**

1. On August 19, 2019, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 2019-20.
2. Pima County is authorized by A.R.S. § 11-264(A) to operate a sewage system. A.R.S. § 11-264(A) provides Pima County with authority to set sewer system usage fees relating to operating the sewage system through Chapter 13.24 of the Pima County Code.
3. It is in the best interest of the County to amend certain provisions of the Pima County Code previously adopted in Ordinance No. 2019-20 to allow for the following:
  - a. WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE (SEWER CONNECTION FEE). Proposed annual increase of three percent (3%) to the wastewater utility fee for four (4) consecutive years.
  - b. WASTEWATER UTILITY FEES DISCOUNTS SUNSET. Proposed sunset of the wastewater utility fees discounts. Discounts already in approved agreements or discounts related to improvement plans under review will be honored. No new discounts would be issued on future developments.
  - c. Refinement of code language, update of code definitions and acronyms.
  - d. Addition of code definition.
  - e. Revision of the Service Lateral repair section.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA:**

**Section 1.** Pima County Code Chapter 13.20 (Sanitary Construction, Connections and Fees), Sections 13.20.100 (Acronyms and definitions), 13.20.150 (General Purpose and Applicability), 13.20.200 (Capacity), 13.20.250 (System Improvement Design), 13.20.300 (Agency Agreement), 13.20.350 (Private Sewage Connection, Ownership, and Repair), 13.20.400 (Sewer Connection Fee), 13.20.450 (Protection of the Existing Public Sewer), 13.20.500 (System Improvement Construction), and 13.20.600 (Fees) are amended as follows:

**Chapter 13.20**

**SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTIONS AND FEES**

**13.20.100 Acronyms and ~~definitions~~ Definitions.**

For the purpose of this chapter the following acronyms and definitions are provided.

A. Acronyms.

2025 Pima County Code Amendment – Title 13 (Public Services), Division II (Sewers)

...

3. "BCS" means ~~building connection sewer~~ Business Connection Sewer.

...

5. "GPD" means ~~gallons per day~~ Gallons Per Day.

6. "HCS" means ~~house connection sewer~~ House Connection Sewer.

...

~~9. "PSCS" means public sewage conveyance system.~~

9. 10. "SIP" means ~~sewer improvement plan~~ Sewer Improvement Plan.

10. 11. "WSA" means ~~wastewater service agreement~~ Wastewater Service Agreement.

#### B. Definitions.

1. "Accept", "~~accepted~~ Accepted", or "~~acceptance~~ Acceptance" means the written notice from the County agreeing to the concept presented in the plans, studies, or reports required as part of a review submittal.

2. "Agency" means a Unit of federal or state government or a federally recognized Indian tribe. The term "Agency" does not include school districts.

~~3. 2.~~ "Applicant" means a ~~person~~ Person requesting permission: to construct a system improvement; to connect a property or a ~~unit~~ Unit to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer; or to conduct construction activities in the vicinity of the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

~~4. 3.~~ "Approve", "~~approved~~ Approved", "~~approval~~ Approval", or "~~approvable~~ Approvable" means the County's written notice confirming that a submittal complies with the Department's current "Engineering Design Standards" and "Standard Specifications and Details for Construction".

~~5. 4.~~ "~~Area under development~~ Under Development" means the property for which ~~wastewater~~ Wastewater service is requested by the ~~applicant~~ Applicant plus the rights-of-way and utility easements that abut this property.

~~6. 5.~~ "Assigned" or "~~assignable~~ Assignable" means a ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee ~~credit~~ Credit may be ~~transferred~~ Transferred to a third party by the ~~applicant~~ Applicant as authorized pursuant to a written WSA with the County.

~~7. 6.~~ "Augment" or "~~augmentation~~ Augmentation" or "~~augmenting~~ Augmenting" means the construction of a system improvement for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

~~8. 7.~~ "Base ~~pipe size~~ Pipe Size" means the minimum pipe size required to convey the predicted peak dry-weather flow from the ~~area under development~~ Area Under Development without exceeding a flow depth ratio of 0.75 d/D (where d is the depth of flow and D is the diameter of the pipe) based on the Manning equation, using an "n" value of 0.013.

~~9. 8.~~ "~~Building connection sewer~~ Business Connection Sewer" means the ~~private sewer~~ Private Sewer connecting a non-residential building to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer. See "service lateral."

~~10. 9.~~ "Capacity ~~allocation~~ Allocation" means a formal commitment ~~by the Department of PSCS for Public Sewer~~ and treatment capacity for a proposed development.

~~11. 10.~~ "Clearance" means the written ~~acceptance~~ Acceptance of a third-party construction activity within proximity of the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

~~12. 11.~~ "Commercial/~~industrial~~ Industrial" means a property zoned or used for recognized commercial or industrial uses. Commercial/~~industrial~~ Industrial uses include, but are not limited to: restaurants; bars; laundromats; hotels; motels; offices; in-home businesses with ~~rest room~~ restroom facilities provided primarily for customer use; service stations; barber shops; beauty salons; hospitals; nursing homes; schools; churches; penal institutions; car washes; medical and dental laboratories; pet clinics; bakeries; industries; manufacturing; machinery; and meat packing.

~~13. 12.~~ "Construction ~~documents~~ Documents" means plans, specifications, submittals, special provisions, and any other documents required by the County for construction of a system improvement or a connection to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

~~14. 13.~~ "Construction ~~permit~~ Permit" means an authorization for the construction of a system improvement or a connection to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

~~15. 14.~~ "Contractor" means a ~~person~~ Person, acting as an ~~applicant's~~ Applicant's agent and who is, at all times while performing activities regulated by this chapter, licensed by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors and bonded and insured to act in the capacity of a ~~contractor~~ Contractor for the type of activity performed.

~~16. 15.~~ "County" means ~~the constitutional entity governing~~ a political subdivision of the State of Arizona governing ~~Pima County, Arizona~~ Pima County, Arizona.

~~17. 16.~~ "Credit" or "~~wastewater utility fee credit~~ Sewer Connection Fee Credit" means a reduction against the ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee for eligible construction costs and engineering fees, not including easement costs, incurred by a ~~developer~~ Developer at the request of the County.

~~18. 17.~~ "Department" means the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department or any successor County department.

~~19. 18.~~ "Developer" means a ~~person~~ Person contracting with the County to design and construct a system improvement or connection to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

~~20. 19.~~ "Development" means one or more properties in common ownership which are under consideration for service or served by the Department.

~~21. 20.~~ "Director" means the Director of the Department ~~or any successor County department~~, including the Director's delegates, and any ~~person~~ Person who is, by operation of law, authorized to carry out the Director's functions.

~~—21. "Discount" or "wastewater utility fee discount" means a fee reduction applied against the wastewater utility fee for constructing a qualified system improvement.~~

~~22. "Downstream" means the existing Off-site sanitary sewer system, a lower pipe elevation than the referenced Area Under Development where the Development makes connection to the existing sanitary sewer.~~

~~23.~~ 23. "Easement" means a nonpossessory right created by grant, reservation, agreement prescription or necessary implication, which one has to enter upon, cross over, or use land of another for a specific purpose.

~~24.~~ 22. "Flow-through" means wastewater originating from future ~~development~~ Development that would flow through a sanitary sewer located within an area under development Area Under Development or municipality.

~~25.~~ 23. "House ~~connection sewer~~ Connection Sewer" means the private sanitary sewer connecting a residential building and the PSCS Public Sewer. The term "HCS" does not include sewers connecting multi-family buildings to the PSCS. See "~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral."

~~24.~~ "Large agency" means a unit of federal or state government or a federally recognized Indian tribe. The term "large agency" does not include school districts.

~~26.~~ 25. "Multi-family" means more than one residential ~~unit~~ Unit on a single lot. This includes duplexes, townhomes, condominiums, and apartments. Multi-family connections are commercial connections.

27. "Non-income Generating" means a dwelling that is homeowner occupied at the discretion of the Department Director and is not managed or owned by a limited liability company (LLC), real estate investment company, property management company, or other entity primarily to generate revenue through rental income or leasing.

~~28.~~ 26. "Off-site ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement" means a necessary system improvement outside of the boundaries of the property necessary to connect an area under development Area Under Development in order to connect to the PSCS Public Sewer.

~~29.~~ 27. "Over-sizing" or "~~over-sized~~ Over-sized" means a department-requested increase in a new pipe size to accommodate system improvement capacity beyond that determined by the department as necessary to serve the ~~area under development~~ Area Under Development.

~~30.~~ 28. "Owner" means a ~~person~~ Person who holds an indicia or proof of ownership for a property.

~~31.~~ 29. "Person" means an individual, association, company, commission, corporation, estate, firm, governmental body, interstate body, joint stock company, municipality, partnership, political subdivision of the state, state, trust, or the United States Government. ~~any other entity that has legal rights and is subject to obligations.~~

~~32.~~ 30. "Private ~~connection~~ Connection" means [noun] the point at which a ~~private sewage conveyance system~~ Private Sewer is permanently connected to the PSCS Public Sewer; or [verb] the permanent connection of a ~~private sewer system~~ Private Sewer to the PSCS Public Sewer.

~~33.~~ 31. "Private ~~sewage conveyance system~~ Sewer" means a ~~non-publicly owned sewer connecting a structure or structures to the PSCS Public Sewer.~~ The term includes sewer laterals and private gravity systems and private pumping systems, privately-owned sanitary sewer or sanitary sewer system and related facilities designed to convey Sanitary Sewage from one or more residences or other buildings (including commercial and industrial-use structures) to the Public Sewer System. The term includes, but is not limited to, House Connection Sewers and privately-owned pump stations.

~~34.~~ 32. "Property" means a parcel or parcels of land under common control or ownership.



~~35. 33. "Public sewage conveyance system Sewer"~~ means all parts of the public sanitary sewerage sewer system that convey or support the conveyance and operation of sewage Sewage (both residential and ~~commercial/industrial~~ Commercial/Industrial).

~~36. 34. "Public sewerage system Sewer System"~~ means the ~~entire infrastructure owned by the County to manage wastewater including, but not limited to, all PSCS; wastewater pumping systems; odor control facilities; treatment and disposal facilities; and all appurtenances required to collect, transport, treat, store, reclaim, discharge, or recharge the liquid or solid phases of wastewater.~~ full Wastewater system owned by Pima County, including all gravity mains; pumping systems; treatment and disposal facilities; and all appurtenances required to collect, convey, treat, monitor, measure, control, store, reclaim, discharge, or recharge the liquid, gaseous, and solid phases of Sewage.

~~35. "Qualifying system improvement" means an off-site system improvement constructed by the applicant that is capable of serving other downstream properties in addition to the area under development.~~

~~37. 36. "Residential"~~ means one residential structure on a single lot which is zoned as single family residential and which may include detached structures.

~~38. 37. "Responsible party Party"~~ means for a property, the owner of the property at the time it was initially connected to the PSCS Public Sewer or the owner at the time of any subsequent increase in ~~water meter size~~ Water Meter Size.

~~39. 38. "Right-of-way"~~ means a general term, denoting a strip of land, property, or interest therein, acquired for or dedicated to transportation and to other public works purposes.

~~40. 39. "Schedule of values Values"~~ means the Department's compiled list of material and labor costs in the current local market used to estimate the cost of sanitary sewer improvement construction. The Department will periodically update the listed costs.

~~41. 40. "Seller"~~ means the entity financially responsible for the design and construction of contributed ~~Public Sewage Conveyance System~~ Public Sewer infrastructure.

~~42. 41. "Service lateral Lateral"~~ means the ~~private sewer Private Sewer~~ line between a residential, commercial, industrial, or ~~multi-family~~ Multi-family building and its connection to the PSCS Public Sewer. The term includes, but is not limited to, "~~house connection sewer~~ House Connection Sewer" and "~~building connection sewer~~ Business Connection Sewer."

~~43. 42. "Sewage"~~ means waste discharged from toilets, baths, sinks, lavatories, laundries, drains, and other plumbing fixtures in residences, institutions, public and business buildings, industrial sources, mobile homes, and other places of human habitation, employment, or recreation.

~~44. "Sewer"~~ means a system of pipes for conveyance for Sewage into which there is no intentional admission of stormwater, surface water, groundwater, or materials toxic to Wastewater treatment processes, unless authorized by the Department.

~~45. 51. "Wastewater utility fee Sewer Connection Fee"~~ means an allocation to each ~~user~~ User of the ~~user's~~ User's estimated share of the capital cost to provide ~~wastewater~~ Wastewater conveyance and treatment capacity.

~~46. 43.~~ "Sewer ~~improvement plan~~ Improvement Plan" means the set of design drawings prepared by an Arizona registered professional engineer or architect and intended for the construction of a system improvement.

~~47. 44.~~ "Small ~~activity construction~~ Activity Construction" means minor construction activity impacting the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ such as:

- a. Certain ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral taps into the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~;
- b. Single manhole construction;
- c. Manhole adjustment or reconstruction; and
- d. Change of pipe or material that does not affect the grade or location of the existing ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~.

~~48. 45.~~ "Special ~~facility~~ Facility" means a system improvement intended to be ~~transferred~~ Transferred into the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~, and which requires additional operation and maintenance expenditures above those generally associated with gravity ~~sanitary~~ sewers. The definition of "~~special facility~~ Special Facility" includes, but is not limited to, pump station systems or odor control systems.

~~49.~~ "Stop Construction Order" means a verbal or written order given to the Contractor's senior on-site representative.

~~50.~~ "Surcharge Fees" means charges imposed by the County on Property Owners to offset the financial burden associated with the construction of the System Improvement. Surcharge Fees must be paid either before or at the same time as the Sewer Connection Fee for each Unit that is being connected.

~~51. 46.~~ "System ~~improvement~~ Improvement" means new ~~sewage~~ Sewage conveyance components that are owned, designed, permitted, constructed, and tested by a third party and which are intended for ~~transfer~~ Transfer to County ownership.

~~52. 47.~~ "Temporary ~~connection~~ Connection" means a connection to the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ that is intended only for provision of short-term ~~sanitary~~ sewer service to a non-permanent facility. Permission to make or maintain a ~~temporary connection~~ Temporary Connection is not a valid permanent connection.

~~53. 48.~~ "Transfer" or "~~transferred~~ Transferred" means a legal conveyance of a ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement or ~~private sewage conveyance system~~ Private Sewer, following County's agreement to receive, from a private party to County ownership and includes compliance with AAC R18-9-A304, Notice of Transfer.

~~54.~~ "Undeveloped Properties" means a parcel or property that does not have a septic system or has never been connected to the Public Sewer.

~~55. 49.~~ "Unit" means an element of property ~~development~~ Development, either dwelling, ~~fixture~~, or building, which can be identified as an individual ~~sewage~~ Sewage discharge point for purposes of wastewater flow calculations and ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee assessment.

~~56. 50.~~ "User" means a ~~person~~ Person who discharges ~~sewage~~ Sewage to the ~~public sewerage system~~ Public Sewer System.

~~51. "Wastewater utility fee " means an allocation to each user User of the user's User's estimated share of the capital cost to provide wastewater Wastewater conveyance and treatment capacity.~~

~~57. 52. "Wastewater" See "sewage Sewage".~~

~~58. 53. "Wastewater service agreement Service Agreement" means a written and fully executed contract between the County and applicant Applicant concerning provision of sanitary sewer service to an area under development Area Under Development.~~

~~59. 54. "Water meter size Meter Size" means the size of meter supplied by a municipal corporation, special taxing district, or private water company for purposes of determining wastewater utility fee Sewer Connection Fee. For private wells/private water systems, system flow capacity is used to determine water meter size Water Meter Size based on City of Tucson's Water Meter Sizing Guidelines.~~

#### **13.20.150 General purpose and applicability Purpose and Applicability.**

For the entirety of Chapter 13.20, the following statements apply.

A. Documents incorporated by reference.

...

B. System ~~improvements~~ Improvements and ~~private connections~~ Private Connections must be in full compliance with the following:

...

C. The Director is authorized to develop a variance process for the ~~applicant~~ Applicant to address deviations from the "Engineering Design Standards" and "Standard Specifications and Details for Construction."

D. The Department has authority to assess fees for customer services pertaining to the review, permitting, and inspection of ~~system improvements~~ System Improvements and ~~private connections~~ Private Connections to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer, and for all costs and services to support the provisions in Chapter 13.20.

E. The Department has authority to charge for system infrastructure through a ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee.

~~F. The Department has the authority to fund and construct system infrastructure and to seek reimbursement in the form of a Surcharge. See "Surcharge Fees".~~

~~G. F. The Department has authority to charge for special facility~~ Special Facility operation and maintenance costs.

~~H. G. For unique situations, the Director has the authority to apply interpretations of Chapter 13.20.~~

#### **13.20.200 Capacity.**

A. Purpose and applicability. This section provides requirements for managing the capacity of the conveyance and treatment systems meeting the requirements of AAC R18-9-C305. 2.05 General Permit; Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance of a Sewage Collection System, and

R18-9-E301. 4.01 General Permit: Sewage Collection Systems. The Section applies to new or increases in potential discharge to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

B. Determination of capacity availability. The Department manages ~~PSCS the Public Sewer~~ and treatment capacity needs using three types of analysis. If capacity is not available, the Department will advise the ~~applicant~~ Applicant of ~~applicant's~~ Applicant's options for constructing additional capacity.

...

2. A Type II Response provides a more precise analysis of capacity availability existing at the time the analysis is performed and is based on the estimated demand for the proposed ~~development~~ Development. It is not an allocation of capacity.

3. A Type III Response provides a definitive response regarding the capacity requested for the ~~applicant's development~~ Applicant's Development and is required for all new or potential increases in discharges to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer. This may be an allocation of capacity.

a. When a Type III Response allocates capacity for the ~~applicant's development~~ Applicant's Development, it expires within one-hundred and eighty (180) calendar days. If an ADEQ ~~construction authorization~~ Construction Authorization or building permit is issued within that period, the allocation expires two (2) years following the issuance date.

b. If capacity is not fully available, the ~~applicant~~ Applicant will enter into a WSA to construct the ~~system improvements~~ System Improvements required to achieve the necessary capacity.

c. Single family ~~residential development~~ Residential Development for only one residence is exempt.

d. The Type III Response is required before ~~approval~~ Approval of a ~~private sewer~~ Private Sewer connection or a SIP.

#### **13.20.250 ~~System improvement design~~ Improvement Design.**

A. Purpose and general requirements.

1. This section provides requirements for the design of a ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement. These requirements are intended to protect public health and welfare as well as the environment. They also ensure adequate County access for operation, maintenance, and repair of the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

2. The Department has absolute discretion to determine whether all or part of a ~~developer~~ Developer proposed ~~sewerage~~ sanitary sewer system will become part of the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

3. The Department may require an ~~applicant~~ Applicant to provide a ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement for capacity and ~~flow-through~~ Flow-through service for future connecting ~~developments~~ Developments. The Department may also require an ~~applicant~~ Applicant to ~~augment~~ Augment the ~~downstream~~ PSCS Downstream Public Sewer in order to provide capacity for the ~~applicant's~~ Applicant's ~~development~~ Development, and future connecting ~~developments~~ Developments.

4. A ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement required for service to the ~~area under development~~ Area Under Development will be provided at the sole expense of the ~~applicant~~ Applicant.



5. As a condition of ~~approval~~ Approval, off-site ~~easements~~ Easements recorded by separate instrument must be identified on the final sealed SIP by the docket and page or sequence number.

6. An ~~approved~~ Approved SIP is valid for the term of the ADEQ ~~construction authorization~~ Construction Authorization, or two (2) years from date of ~~approval~~ Approval, whichever is later.

B. Final plats, ~~easements~~ Easements, and ~~rights-of-way~~ Rights-of-way.

1. Prior to recording the ~~system improvement easements~~ Sewer Improvement Easements, the County will review and ~~accept~~ Accept final subdivision plats or final ~~easements~~ Easements descriptions by separate instrument. Documents will delineate ~~easements~~ Easements or ~~rights-of-way~~ Rights-of-way for the proposed ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

2. Easements and ~~rights-of-way~~ Rights-of-way will conform to those shown in the SIP.

C. Wastewater ~~service agreements~~ Service Agreements.

1. The Department may require an ~~applicant~~ Applicant to enter into a WSA. The WSA will fully document any additional construction requirements, compensation commitments, or other unique considerations.

2. An ~~applicant's~~ Applicant's failure to fully comply with the terms and conditions of the WSA will render void any County Type III Response or commitment to provide ~~wastewater~~ Wastewater service to future connections within the ~~area-under-development~~ Area Under Development.

3. Reimbursement - ~~wastewater utility fee credit~~ Sewer Connection Fee Credit. The County may enter into a WSA with an ~~applicant~~ Applicant for ~~credit~~ Credit to cover the incremental cost of a ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement incurred for a ~~department~~ Department-required ~~augmentation~~ Augmentation (~~over-sizing~~ Over-sizing or deepening) beyond the size/depth required to serve the ~~area-under-development~~ Area Under Development or for a ~~department~~ Department-required extension of the ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement for purposes of providing service for ~~potential future development~~ Development not a part of or owned by the ~~Area Under Development~~.

a. The incremental construction cost for ~~over-sizing~~ Over-sizing is the difference in eligible construction costs and engineering fees between the ~~base pipe size~~ Base Pipe Size designed to serve the ~~area-under-development~~ Area Under Development and the ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement size actually constructed at the direction of the Department. The Department will determine the required ~~over-sized system improvement~~ Over-sized System Improvement. Eligible construction costs and engineering fees for oversizing-related incremental construction costs do not include reimbursement for those items listed in § 109-5.03, Non-Allowable Charges, of the Pima Association of Governments issued "Standard Specifications and Detail for Public Improvements" as it may, from time to time, be amended.

b. The incremental construction cost for deepening of the ~~sanitary~~ sanitary sewer is the difference in eligible construction costs and engineering fees between the design depth required to serve the ~~area-under-development~~ Area Under Development and the ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement depth actually constructed at the direction of the Department. The Department will determine the required ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement depth.

c. For ~~flow-through~~ Flow-through extensions, the ~~credit~~ Credit value will be determined based on eligible construction costs and engineering fees for the required length of extension. The

Department will determine the required extension ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement to provide ~~flow-through~~ Flow-through.

d. The value of ~~credit~~ Credit will be calculated using the Department's ~~schedule of values~~ Schedule of Values.

e. In the event ~~applicant~~ Applicant can demonstrate, in a form and manner acceptable to the Department, that the ~~schedule of values~~ Schedule of Values undervalues the actual, reasonable aggregate cost of the constructed ~~over-sized system improvement~~ Over-sized System Improvement by twenty-five (25) percent or more, the Department will allow the use of actual construction costs to calculate a ~~credit~~ Credit value.

f. Credits will only be applied as an offset to the ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee. Under no circumstances will the County issue cash refunds for ~~credits~~ Credits.

g. The ~~credits~~ Credits will be valid for ten (10) years from the execution of the WSA by the BOS.

h. A ~~credit~~ Credit is ~~assignable~~ Assignable.

i. The value of ~~credits~~ Credits applied to offset the ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee for connections within an ~~area under development~~ Area Under Development cannot exceed the total ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee, less applicable discounts, to be collected from that ~~area under development~~.

4. Effective July 01, 2025, Discounts will no longer be issued to future or new Developments. Existing WSA's will proceed under the existing Discount process but will Expire December 31, 2034.

~~—4. Discount for qualifying system improvement. The County may enter into a WSA with an applicant to provide a mechanism for discounting the wastewater utility fee Sewer Connection Fee for the construction of a qualifying system improvement.~~

~~—a. For residential areas under development, one dwelling within the area under development will qualify for wastewater utility fee Sewer Connection Fee discount status for each twenty-five (25) feet of qualifying system improvement constructed. See § 13.20.600 for discounts.~~

~~—b. For commercial/industrial/multi-family areas under development, one unit will qualify for a discount for each twenty-five (25) feet of qualifying system improvement constructed. See § 13.20.600 for discounts.~~

~~—c. The qualifying system improvement must have a minimum length of twenty-five (25) feet and is measured from the point of connection to the PSCS Public Sewer to the closest edge of the area under development for any dwelling units or commercial/industrial/multi-family projects to be awarded the discount.~~

~~—d. Discounts are assigned to an area under development.~~

~~—e. Discounts cannot be transferred outside of the area under development and do not expire.~~

~~—f. The value of the awarded discount cannot exceed the total wastewater utility fee Sewer Connection Fee to be collected from the unit or area under development as set forth in § 13.20.400.~~

~~—g. Discounts may be used in conjunction with credits.~~

5. ~~Special facility~~ Facility.

a. A ~~special facility~~ Special Facility must meet all ~~engineering design standards~~ Engineering Design Standards, ~~department~~ Department specifications for unique components, and operational requirements of the Department.

b. A ~~wastewater service agreement~~ WSA may be required to address unique circumstances of the ~~special facility transfer~~ Special Facility Transfer or operation.

**13.20.300 ~~Large agency agreement~~ Agency Agreement.**

A. Applicability. This section applies to ~~a large agency~~ an Agency that has or will enter into an agreement with the County for provision of ~~wastewater~~ Wastewater service to ~~property~~ Property owned or managed by the ~~large agency~~ Agency. Such ~~wastewater~~ Wastewater may include management or ownership of all or a portion of the ~~sewerage~~ sanitary sewer facilities located within the boundaries of the ~~property~~ Property owned or managed by the ~~large agency~~ Agency.

B. Wastewater service. Wastewater service will be provided to ~~a large agency~~ an Agency through a written agreement containing the following elements:

1. Compliance with the PCC as set forth in Chapter 13.20 - Construction, Connections, and Fees;
2. Authorization of County to access, without unreasonable restrictions, the County-owned or managed ~~sewerage~~ sanitary sewer facilities for construction, repair, inspection, maintenance, and operation purposes;
3. Agreement to obtain a Type III Response from the Department prior to any new construction of structures or installation capable of direct or indirect discharge to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer;
4. Agreement to pay all appropriate fees, including, but not limited to a ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee for all potential discharges to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer from ~~wastewater~~ Wastewater sources located within the ~~large agency's~~ Agency's boundaries;
5. Provisions for the County's enforcement of Chapter 13.36 Industrial Wastewater within the ~~large agency's~~ Agency's ~~private sewage conveyance system~~ Private Sewer or, in the alternative, the ~~large agency's~~ Agency's agreement to enact and enforce its own ~~commercial/industrial wastewater~~ Commercial/Industrial Wastewater pretreatment program that is fully compliant with 40 Code of Federal Regulations, part 403 and applicable to all discharges to the ~~private sewage conveyance system~~ Private Sewer and ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer located within the ~~large agency~~ Agency boundaries;
6. Periodic coordination with the Department concerning the ~~large agency's~~ Agency's ~~development~~ Development planning;
7. Provisions for the County's use of the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer located within the boundaries of the ~~large agency~~ Agency for ~~flow-through~~ Flow-through purposes; and
8. Such other requirements as may be necessary to properly define the relationship between the parties.

**13.20.350 ~~Private sewage connection, ownership, and repair~~ Sewage Connection, Ownership, and Repair.**

A. Private ~~connection~~ Connection to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

1. No ~~private connection~~ Private Connection may be approved and constructed until the location (point) and method of connection are reviewed by the County, a Type III Response is acquired, and the ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee is paid or other means of payment are established by the Director.

2. The County may require ~~flow-through~~ Flow-through public ~~sanitary~~ sewers to serve one or more future ~~developments~~ Developments.

3. Private ~~connection approvals~~ Connection Approvals are valid for two (2) years.

4. Issuance of a building permit does not constitute evidence that the County has ~~approved~~ Approved the private ~~connection~~ Private Connection.

5. Temporary ~~connections~~ Connections, in lieu of ~~private connection~~ Private Connection, are allowed with written permission granted by the County.

a. A ~~temporary connection~~ Temporary Connection will be charged appropriate fees.

b. Temporary ~~connections~~ Connections may remain in place for two (2) years, unless otherwise extended by the Director.

c. User fees will apply to all discharges from the ~~temporary connection~~ Temporary Connection. See Chapter 13.24 of this title for sanitary sewer user fees.

d. Temporary ~~connections~~ Connections fees may be applied toward ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fees when converting the ~~temporary connection~~ Temporary Connection to a permanent connection provided the ~~applicant~~ Applicant applies to establish a ~~private connection~~ Private Connection.

B. Service ~~lateral~~ Lateral and ~~private sewage conveyance system~~ Private Sewer ownership and maintenance responsibility.

1. All ~~service laterals~~ Service Laterals and private sewage systems, including the portions of ~~service laterals~~ Service Laterals traversing public ~~rights-of-way~~ Rights-of-way, are owned by the ~~owner's~~ Owners of the properties being served.

2. It is the ~~owner's~~ Owner's responsibility to maintain the ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral and ~~private sewage conveyance system~~ Private Sewer, including that portion of the ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral located within the public ~~right-of-way~~ Right-of-way.

C. Single family ~~residential service lateral~~ Residential Service Lateral repair by the Department.

1. The Department may repair portions of a ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral provided:

a. The ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral serves only an existing, single-family residence;

b. The portion of the ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral being repaired or replaced lies entirely within a public ~~right-of-way~~ Right-of-way;

c. Department funds are available for the repair;

d. The damage to the ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral was not caused by the ~~owner~~ Owner or its agents;



e. The ~~owner~~ Owner has demonstrated, through video or other appropriate methods, that the damage or blockage is located within public ~~right-of-way~~ Right-of-way; and

f. The ~~owner~~ Owner agrees, in writing, to provide to the Department all property access necessary for conducting the repair activities.

2. Unless the damage was caused by County actions, the Department is not authorized to repair any portion of a ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral serving commercial, industrial, or ~~multi-family~~ Multi-family building(s), nor is the Department authorized to conduct any ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral repair activity, regardless of ownership, outside of a public ~~right-of-way~~ Right-of-way.

3. The County will not be responsible for any damages resulting from Department's failure to perform or to timely perform an evaluation or repair of a ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral pursuant to this Section unless the initial ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral damage was primarily the result of County activities.

4. Following Department repair activity, pursuant to this Section, the repaired or replaced ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral will remain the ~~owner's property~~ Owner's Property.

D. Transfer of private sewage systems. Upon request, the Director has the discretion to ~~transfer~~ Transfer a ~~private sewage conveyance system~~ Private Sewer provided:

1. The system complies with all requirements of the current version of the "Pima County Engineering Design Standards" and meets operational requirements of the Department;

...

3. The Director has determined that the ~~transfer~~ Transfer is consistent with current and planned service responsibilities.

#### **13.20.400 ~~Wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee.**

##### **A. General requirements.**

1. Persons making new connections to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer or increasing their potential to discharge to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer through an increase in ~~water meter size~~ Water Meter Size must pay a ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee to the County. The ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee represents the County's allocation to ~~owners~~ Owners of the capital cost to provide ~~wastewater~~ Wastewater conveyance and treatment capacity and is based on the potential volume of discharge created by water service to a ~~property~~ Property. It is not a permitting fee.

2. For an existing connection to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer, an additional ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee must be paid prior to installation of a larger ~~water meter size~~ Water Meter Size or, for ~~users~~ Users receiving water from private wells, an increase in well-supplied water capacity.

B. Determining the ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee for new ~~private connections~~ Private Connections to the ~~PSCS~~ Public Sewer.

1. The ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee for ~~applicants~~ Applicants requesting service for new connections are based on ~~water meter size(s)~~ Water Meter Size(s). Sufficient documentation is required to allow the County to determine the appropriate ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee.

2. For property served by a well, ~~applicant~~ Applicant-provided documentation will be used to determine equivalent ~~water meter size~~ Water Meter Size.

3. ~~Wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fees are shown in § 13.20.600.

C. ~~Determining the wastewater utility fee for existing private connections to the PSCS. Applicants must submit sufficient documentation to allow the County to determine the appropriate wastewater utility fee when a proposed change in water service may result in an increase in the existing water meter size(s), an increase in well-supplied water capacity, or a change in the structure's use from residential to commercial/industrial/multi-family. Facilities with an active private water meter(s) connected to the Public Sewer and a valid Sewer Connection Fee record can relocate the same size water meter within the same parcel without incurring additional Sewer Connection Fees. In the instance there is an increase in the existing Water Meter Size, well-supplied water capacity for Residential or Commercial/Industrial/Multi-family, the difference in the fees paid and the current fee required per 13.20.600 will be assessed. There will be no reimbursement of Sewer Connection Fees for a reduction in Water Meter Size. If no Sewer Connection Fee records are found, the Department may Accept an account who has paid for Wastewater User Fees since 2010 and charge the difference in Water Meter Sizes based on the current Sewer Connection Fee schedule.~~

D. For unique situations not addressed above, the Director will have the discretion to calculate the ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee.

E. ~~Wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee refund.

1. Upon request, the County will refund the ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee paid for a proposed new connection of a ~~property~~ Property if no physical connection to the PSCS Public Sewer is ultimately made; or if the physical changes in a private water supply system necessary to increase flow are not installed.

2. Refund of the ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee payment negates the ~~applicant's~~ Applicant's permission to connect to the PSCS Public Sewer, ~~applicant's~~ Applicant's permission to increase discharges to the PSCS Public Sewer, and all ~~capacity allocations~~ Capacity Allocations issued for the ~~property~~ Property.

F. Actions to collect an outstanding ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee.

1. In the following circumstances, the ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee will be considered outstanding when a ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee has not been paid at the time of building permit issuance or if there is an increase in the potential to discharge resulting from: an increase in the number of water meters serving a ~~property~~ Property; an increase in ~~water meter size(s)~~ Water Meter Size(s); or an increase in the delivery capacity of a private water supply system.

2. The ~~responsible party~~ Responsible Party, at the time the outstanding ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee ~~was due~~ discovery, is responsible for payment of the outstanding ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee, regardless of subsequent changes in ~~property~~ Property ownership.

3. The amount due includes the outstanding ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee plus interest on that amount calculated from the date the ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee should have been paid.

4. Interest is assessed at the current prime rate plus one (1) percent.
5. Errors or omissions in reporting a ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee to the Department by the ~~responsible party~~ Responsible Party within sixty (60) calendar days of the finalized building permit will not be charged interest or other expenses.
6. The Department will provide written notification to the ~~responsible party~~ Responsible Party that required fees and interest are outstanding. The required notice is deemed to have been given when the written notification, addressed to the ~~responsible party~~ Responsible Party, has been deposited in the U.S. mail, postpaid.
7. Payment in full or arrangements for a payment plan must be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the notice date.
8. Should payment in full or arrangements for a payment plan not be made within sixty (60) days, the Director is authorized to take all appropriate actions deemed necessary to collect the unpaid amount plus costs of recovery including, but not limited to:
  - a. Attorney fees and costs and staff administrative efforts; and
  - b. Recording of a lien on the subject ~~property~~ Property or filing suit in the appropriate state court in Pima County.

#### **13.20.450 Protection of the ~~existing PSCS~~ Existing Public Sewer.**

- A. Purpose and general requirements. This section provides for the protection of the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ from: direct or indirect damage due to third-party activities; encroachment in the ~~easement~~ Easement; and interference with Department access to the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~. This section does not apply to authorized activities that modify the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~.
- B. All discharges to the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ must comply with the limits and prohibitions of Chapter 13.36 of this title.
- C. Discharges of swimming pool water to the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ in excess of fifteen (15) gallons per minute are prohibited unless prior notice has been given to the Department and the Department has determined the proposed discharge will not harm the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ or cause any portion of the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ to exceed its design capacity.
- D. Discharges of stormwater, surface water, and groundwater to the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ are prohibited without prior authorization.
- E. If the ~~applicant~~ Applicant is only requesting access to the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ for evaluation purposes, then the Department may issue a public access manhole permit.
- F. All public or private construction projects within a public ~~right-of-way~~ Right-of-way or utility ~~easement~~ Easement occurring in such proximity as to cause harm to impede access to or impact the subsurface support of the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ must acquire ~~clearance~~ Clearance. If necessary, the project may require permitting by the County prior to the start of construction. As a condition of a ~~clearance~~ Clearance, the Department may require an inspection observation permit issued by the Department for personnel to witness construction activity occurring in the vicinity of the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~.

#### **13.20.500 System ~~improvement construction~~ Improvement Construction.**

A. Purpose and general requirements. This Section provides requirements for permitting, constructing, and inspecting of ~~system improvements~~ System Improvement, and inspection of ~~small activity construction~~ Small Activity Construction. Prior to any ~~system improvements~~ System Improvement construction activity, or connection to the PSCS Public Sewer, an appropriate County construction permit Construction Permit is required.

1. Liability. An ~~applicant~~ Applicant and its ~~contractor~~ Contractor are jointly and severally liable to the County for any damage to the PSCS Public Sewer caused by activities of the ~~applicant~~ Applicant or its ~~contractor~~ Contractor when constructing a ~~system improvements~~ System Improvement or when conducting construction activities in proximity to or on the PSCS Public Sewer.

2. Discharges prohibited. Unauthorized discharge to the PSCS Public Sewer from a new or modified ~~system improvements~~ System Improvement is prohibited prior to ~~transfer~~ Transfer of the ~~system improvements~~ System Improvement to the County. An ~~applicant~~ Applicant or ~~applicant's contractor~~ Applicant's Contractor that allows unauthorized sewage Sewage flow into or through a ~~system improvements~~ System Improvement, prior to ~~transfer~~ Transfer to the County, may be required to clean the affected length of the ~~system improvements~~ System Improvement and take any other actions as directed by the Department to restore the interior of the ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement to a like-new condition.

3. Indemnification. As a condition of any permit to work within a public ~~right-of-way~~ Right-of-way or utility ~~easement~~ Easement, the ~~applicant~~ Applicant will indemnify, defend and hold harmless the County, its officers, ~~departments~~ Departments, employees, and agents from and against any and all suits, actions, legal or administrative proceedings, claims, demands, or damages of any kind or nature arising out of the exercise of the permit which are attributed to any act or omission of the ~~applicant~~ Applicant, its agents, employees, or anyone acting under its direction, control, or on its behalf. In the event suit will be brought and the County is named as a defendant, all costs for counsel, either house counsel or retained counsel, and any other court costs associated with defending itself will be paid by the ~~applicant~~ Applicant.

4. Warranty. The ~~seller~~ Seller shall warrant all contributed infrastructure of the Public ~~Sewage Conveyance System~~ Sewer be free from any failures or defects due to poor workmanship, design, or materials. Contractors installing ~~public sewage~~ Public Sewer infrastructure, contracted through Pima County, are not under obligation to warrant design. Work that does not comply is considered defective. Should any failure or defect appear within a period of two (2) years from the date of ~~transfer~~ Transfer to County, ~~seller~~ Seller agrees to make necessary repairs as determined by County in accordance with County-approved ~~sewer improvement plans~~ Sewer Improvement Plans, and in accordance with Pima County Engineering Design Standards, and Standard Specifications and Details for Construction, at the sole cost of ~~seller~~ Seller. Should the ~~seller~~ Seller fail to promptly correct any failure or defect, County may take whatever actions it deems necessary to remedy the failure or defect and the ~~seller~~ Seller will promptly reimburse County for any expenses or damages it incurs if ~~seller~~ Seller does not correct the failure or defect. Aside from ~~seller's~~ Seller's obligation to make corrections within that two (2)-year period, nothing contained in this section shall be construed to establish a period of limitation with respect to ~~seller's~~ Seller's liability for any failures or defects found under the contract.

B. ~~System improvement construction permit~~ Improvement Construction Permit.

1. A ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement will be permitted, inspected, and tested following Department procedures prior to ~~transfer~~ Transfer to County ownership.



2. A ~~system improvement construction permit~~ System Improvement Construction Permit is valid for two (2) years or the term of the ADEQ construction authorization, whichever expires first.

3. The ~~system improvement construction permit~~ System Improvement Construction Permit may not be renewed.

4. Work that does not meet the ~~approved construction documents~~ Approved Construction Documents, engineering design standards, standard specifications and details for construction, or submittals is subject to rejection.

5. During the construction of the ~~system improvement~~ System Improvement, the ~~contractor~~ Contractor will provide OSHA-compliant access to the trench, installed pipe, and appurtenances to allow for inspections by the Department or, as appropriate, the local governmental jurisdiction, prior to closing the excavation. Failure to provide access may cause re-excavation of work at the ~~contractor's~~ Contractor's expense.

6. ~~Stop construction order~~ Construction Order. "~~Stop Construction Order~~" means a verbal or written order given to the contractor's senior on-site representative.

a. The County is empowered to issue a ~~stop construction order~~ Stop Construction Order for a specific construction activity, task, or entire project when just cause requires the County to:

...

ii. Prevent the introduction of unallowable (in type and/or quantity) foreign material into the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ to the detriment of the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ or its ability to convey or treat sewage Sewage;

iii. Prevent the immediate introduction of any surface water to the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~;

iv. Prevent damage to ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ from construction activities.

b. The ~~contractor's~~ Contractor's failure to comply with a ~~stop construction order~~ Stop Construction Order will result in a judicial action for injunctive relief.

C. ~~Small activity construction permit~~ Construction Permit.

1. All ~~small activity construction~~ Small Activity Construction on the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~ must be permitted, inspected, and tested consistent with Department procedures.

2. During construction, the ~~contractor~~ Contractor will provide OSHA-compliant access to the trench for inspection of the ~~service lateral~~ Service Lateral tap, manhole, and pipe work.

3. Work that does not meet the ~~approved construction documents~~ Approved Construction Documents, standard specifications and details for construction, or submittals is subject to rejection.

4. ~~Stop construction order~~ Construction Order. When just cause requires the County to protect public health or safety or the state of the environment or to prevent damage to the ~~PSCS Public Sewer~~, the County is empowered to issue a ~~stop construction order~~ Stop Construction Order. The ~~contractor's~~ Contractor's failure to comply with a ~~stop construction order~~ Stop Construction Order will result in a judicial action for injunctive relief.

### **13.20.600 Fees.**

~~A. Wastewater utility fee Sewer Connection Fee Discount. - See § 13.20.250~~

<b><i>Type of Development</i></b>	<b><i>Discount Amount</i></b>
Residential	\$1,100 per 25 feet of Qualifying System Improvement per lot
Commercial/Industrial/Multi-family	\$1,100 per 25 feet of Qualifying System Improvement

~~A-B. Wastewater utility fee Sewer Connection Fee. - See § 13.20.400~~

**Residential Wastewater Utility Fee**

<b>Water Meter Size</b>	<b>Fee per Water Connection</b>	<b><u>FY 2025-2026 Fee per Water Connection</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2026-2027 Fee per Water Connection</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2027-2028 Fee per Water Connection</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2028-2029 Fee per Water Connection</u></b>
5/8", 3/4", or 1"	\$4,188	<u>\$4,314</u>	<u>\$4,443</u>	<u>\$4,576</u>	<u>\$4,714</u>

**Commercial/Industrial/Multi-Family Wastewater Utility Fee**

<b>Water Meter Size</b>	<b>Fee per Water Connection</b>	<b><u>FY 2025-2026 Fee per Water Connection</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2026-2027 Fee per Water Connection</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2027-2028 Fee per Water Connection</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2028-2029 Fee per Water Connection</u></b>
5/8" or 3/4"	\$4,188	<u>\$4,313.64</u>	<u>\$4,443.05</u>	<u>\$4,576.34</u>	<u>\$4,713.63</u>
1" inch	<del>\$8,734</del>	<u>\$8,996.02</u>	<u>\$9,265.90</u>	<u>\$9,543.88</u>	<u>\$9,830.19</u>
1½" inch	<del>\$27,841</del>	<u>\$28,676.23</u>	<u>\$29,536.52</u>	<u>\$30,422.61</u>	<u>\$31,335.29</u>
2" inch	<del>\$71,884</del>	<u>\$74,040.52</u>	<u>\$76,261.74</u>	<u>\$78,549.59</u>	<u>\$80,906.08</u>
3" inch	<del>\$167,385</del>	<u>\$172,406.55</u>	<u>\$177,578.75</u>	<u>\$182,906.11</u>	<u>\$188,393.29</u>
4" inch	<del>\$374,601</del>	<u>\$385,839.03</u>	<u>\$397,414.20</u>	<u>\$409,336.63</u>	<u>\$421,616.73</u>

Greater than 4_ inches	<del>Case by Case</del> Basis	<u>Case by Case</u> Basis	<u>Case by Case</u> Basis	<u>Case by Case</u> Basis	<u>Case by Case</u> Basis
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The ~~wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee for ~~commercial/industrial/multi-family~~ Commercial/Industrial/Multi-Family dischargers with ~~water meters size~~ Water Meter Size greater than four (4)-inches in size will be calculated on a case-by-case basis using the formula

~~Wastewater utility fee~~ Sewer Connection Fee (in dollars) = C x G x I

where:

"C" represents the cost of capacity factor of ~~sixteen dollars and fifty cents~~ twenty-one dollars and thirty-four cents (\$21.34) per gallon per day to convey and treat ~~wastewater~~ Wastewater; "G" represents the discharge potential resulting from the water connection in gallons of ~~wastewater~~ Wastewater discharged during a peak flow day; and "I" represents a system inflow and infiltration rate factor of 1.175.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rex Scott, Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby Yu, Deputy County Attorney

**ORDINANCE 2025- \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA,  
RELATING TO WASTEWATER SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTIONS AND  
FEES; AMENDING THE PIMA COUNTY CODE, TITLE 13, CHAPTER 20, SANITARY SEWER  
CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTIONS AND FEES, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-20**

**The Board of Supervisors of Pima County finds that:**

1. On August 19, 2019, the Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 2019-20.
2. Pima County is authorized by A.R.S. § 11-264(A) to operate a sewage system. A.R.S. § 11-264(A) provides Pima County with authority to set sewer system usage fees relating to operating the sewage system through Chapter 13.24 of the Pima County Code.
3. It is in the best interest of the County to amend certain provisions of the Pima County Code previously adopted in Ordinance No. 2019-20 to allow for the following:
  - a. WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE (SEWER CONNECTION FEE). Proposed annual increase of three percent (3%) to the wastewater utility fee for four (4) consecutive years.
  - b. WASTEWATER UTILITY FEES DISCOUNTS SUNSET. Proposed sunset of the wastewater utility fees discounts. Discounts already in approved agreements or discounts related to improvement plans under review will be honored. No new discounts would be issued on future developments.
  - c. Refinement of code language, update of code definitions and acronyms.
  - d. Addition of code definition.
  - e. Revision of the Service Lateral repair section.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA:**

**Section 1.** Pima County Code Chapter 13.20 (Sanitary Construction, Connections and Fees), Sections 13.20.100 (Acronyms and definitions), 13.20.150 (General Purpose and Applicability), 13.20.200 (Capacity), 13.20.250 (System Improvement Design), 13.20.300 (Agency Agreement), 13.20.350 (Private Sewage Connection, Ownership, and Repair), 13.20.400 (Sewer Connection Fee), 13.20.450 (Protection of the Existing Public Sewer), 13.20.500 (System Improvement Construction), and 13.20.600 (Fees) are amended as follows:

**Chapter 13.20**

**SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTIONS AND FEES**

**13.20.100 Acronyms and Definitions.**

For the purpose of this chapter the following acronyms and definitions are provided.

A. Acronyms.

2025 Pima County Code Amendment – Title 13 (Public Services), Division II (Sewers)

...

3. "BCS" means Business Connection Sewer.

...

5. "GPD" means Gallons Per Day.

6. "HCS" means House Connection Sewer.

...

9. "SIP" means Sewer Improvement Plan.

10. "WSA" means Wastewater Service Agreement.

B. Definitions.

1. "Accept", "Accepted", or "Acceptance" means the written notice from the County agreeing to the concept presented in the plans, studies, or reports required as part of a review submittal.

2. "Agency" means a Unit of federal or state government or a federally recognized Indian tribe. The term "Agency" does not include school districts.

3. "Applicant" means a Person requesting permission: to construct a system improvement; to connect a property or a Unit to the Public Sewer; or to conduct construction activities in the vicinity of the Public Sewer.

4. "Approve", "Approved", "Approval", or "Approvable" means the County's written notice confirming that a submittal complies with the Department's current "Engineering Design Standards" and "Standard Specifications and Details for Construction".

5. "Area Under Development" means the property for which Wastewater service is requested by the Applicant plus the rights-of-way and utility easements that abut this property.

6. "Assigned" or "Assignable" means a Sewer Connection Fee Credit may be Transferred to a third party by the Applicant as authorized pursuant to a written WSA with the County.

7. "Augment" or "Augmentation" or "Augmenting" means the construction of a system improvement for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the Public Sewer.

8. "Base Pipe Size" means the minimum pipe size required to convey the predicted peak dry-weather flow from the Area Under Development without exceeding a flow depth ratio of 0.75 d/D (where d is the depth of flow and D is the diameter of the pipe) based on the Manning equation, using an "n" value of 0.013.

9. "Business Connection Sewer" means the Private Sewer connecting a non-residential building to the Public Sewer. See "Service Lateral."

10. "Capacity Allocation" means a formal commitment by the Department for Public Sewer and treatment capacity for a proposed development.

11. "Clearance" means the written Acceptance of a third-party construction activity within proximity of the Public Sewer.

12. "Commercial/Industrial" means a property zoned or used for recognized commercial or industrial uses. Commercial/Industrial uses include, but are not limited to: restaurants; bars; laundromats; hotels; motels; offices; in-home businesses with restroom facilities provided primarily for customer use; service stations; barber shops; beauty salons; hospitals; nursing homes; schools; churches; penal institutions; car washes; medical and dental laboratories; pet clinics; bakeries; industries; manufacturing; machinery; and meat packing.

13. "Construction Documents" means plans, specifications, submittals, special provisions, and any other documents required by the County for construction of a system improvement or a connection to the Public Sewer.

14. "Construction Permit" means an authorization for the construction of a system improvement or a connection to the Public Sewer.

15. "Contractor" means a Person, acting as an Applicant's agent and who is, at all times while performing activities regulated by this chapter, licensed by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors and bonded and insured to act in the capacity of a Contractor for the type of activity performed.

16. "County" means Pima County, a political subdivision of the State of Arizona governing Pima County, Arizona.

17. "Credit" or "Sewer Connection Fee Credit" means a reduction against the Sewer Connection Fee for eligible construction costs and engineering fees, not including easement costs, incurred by a Developer at the request of the County.

18. "Department" means the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department or any successor County department.

19. "Developer" means a Person contracting with the County to design and construct a system improvement or connection to the Public Sewer.

20. "Development" means one or more properties in common ownership which are under consideration for service or served by the Department.

21. "Director" means the Director of the Department or any successor County department, including the Director's delegates, and any Person who is, by operation of law, authorized to carry out the Director's functions.

22. "Downstream" means the existing Off-site sanitary sewer system, a lower pipe elevation than the referenced Area Under Development where the Development makes connection to the existing sanitary sewer.

23. "Easement" means a nonpossessory right created by grant, reservation, agreement prescription or necessary implication, which one has to enter upon, cross over, or use land of another for a specific purpose.

24. "Flow-through" means wastewater originating from future Development that would flow through a sanitary sewer located within an Area Under Development or municipality.

25. "House Connection Sewer" means the private sanitary sewer connecting a residential building and the Public Sewer. The term "HCS" does not include sewers connecting multi-family buildings to the PSCS. See "Service Lateral."

26. "Multi-family" means more than one residential Unit on a single lot. This includes duplexes, townhomes, condominiums, and apartments. Multi-family connections are commercial connections.

27. "Non-income Generating" means a dwelling that is homeowner occupied at the discretion of the Department Director and is not managed or owned by a limited liability company (LLC), real estate investment company, property management company, or other entity primarily to generate revenue through rental income or leasing.

28. "Off-site System Improvement" means a necessary system improvement outside of the boundaries of an Area Under Development in order to connect to the Public Sewer.

29. "Over-sizing" or "Over-sized" means a department-requested increase in a new pipe size to accommodate system improvement capacity beyond that determined by the department as necessary to serve the Area Under Development.

30. "Owner" means a Person who holds an indicia or proof of ownership for a property.

31. "Person" means an individual, association, company, commission, corporation, estate, firm, interstate body, joint stock company, municipality, partnership, political subdivision of the state, state, trust, or the United States Government.

32. "Private Connection" means [noun] the point at which a Private Sewer is permanently connected to the Public Sewer; or [verb] the permanent connection of a Private Sewer to the Public Sewer.

33. "Private Sewer" means a privately-owned sanitary sewer or sanitary sewer system and related facilities designed to convey Sanitary Sewage from one or more residences or other buildings (including commercial and industrial-use structures) to the Public Sewer System. The term includes, but is not limited to, House Connection Sewers and privately-owned pump stations.

34. "Property" means a parcel or parcels of land under common control or ownership.

35. "Public Sewer" means all parts of the public sanitary sewer system that convey or support the conveyance and operation of Sewage (both residential and Commercial/Industrial).

36. "Public Sewer System" means the full Wastewater system owned by Pima County, including all gravity mains; pumping systems; treatment and disposal facilities; and all appurtenances required to collect, convey, treat, monitor, measure, control, store, reclaim, discharge, or recharge the liquid, gaseous, and solid phases of Sewage.

37. "Residential" means one residential structure on a single lot which is zoned as single family residential and which may include detached structures.

38. "Responsible Party" means for a property, the owner of the property at the time it was initially connected to the Public Sewer or the owner at the time of any subsequent increase in Water Meter Size.

39. "Right-of-way" means a general term, denoting a strip of land, property, or interest therein, acquired for or dedicated to transportation and to other public works purposes.

40. "Schedule of Values" means the Department's compiled list of material and labor costs in the current local market used to estimate the cost of sanitary sewer improvement construction. The Department will periodically update the listed costs.

41. "Seller" means the entity financially responsible for the design and construction of contributed Public Sewer infrastructure.

42. "Service Lateral" means the Private Sewer line between a residential, commercial, industrial, or Multi-family building and its connection to the Public Sewer. The term includes, but is not limited to, "House Connection Sewer" and "Business Connection Sewer."

43. "Sewage" means waste discharged from toilets, baths, sinks, lavatories, laundries, drains, and other plumbing fixtures in residences, institutions, public and business buildings, industrial sources, mobile homes, and other places of human habitation, employment, or recreation.

44. "Sewer" means a system of pipes for conveyance for Sewage into which there is no intentional admission of stormwater, surface water, groundwater, or materials toxic to Wastewater treatment processes, unless authorized by the Department.

45. "Sewer Connection Fee" means an allocation to each User of the User's estimated share of the capital cost to provide Wastewater conveyance and treatment capacity.

46. ~~Sewer improvement plan~~ "Sewer Improvement Plan" means the set of design drawings prepared by an Arizona registered professional engineer or architect and intended for the construction of a system improvement.

47. "Small Activity Construction" means minor construction activity impacting the Public Sewer such as:

- a. Certain Service Lateral taps into the Public Sewer;
- b. Single manhole construction;
- c. Manhole adjustment or reconstruction; and
- d. Change of pipe or material that does not affect the grade or location of the existing Public Sewer.

48. "Special Facility" means a system improvement intended to be Transferred into the Public Sewer, and which requires additional operation and maintenance expenditures above those generally associated with gravity sanitary sewers. The definition of "Special Facility" includes, but is not limited to, pump station systems or odor control systems.

49. "Stop Construction Order" means a verbal or written order given to the Contractor's senior on-site representative.

50. "Surcharge Fees" means charges imposed by the County on Property Owners to offset the financial burden associated with the construction of the System Improvement. Surcharge Fees must be paid either before or at the same time as the Sewer Connection Fee for each Unit that is being connected.

51. "System Improvement" means new Sewage conveyance components that are owned, designed, permitted, constructed, and tested by a third party and which are intended for Transfer to County ownership.

52. "Temporary Connection" means a connection to the Public Sewer that is intended only for provision of short-term sanitary sewer service to a non-permanent facility. Permission to make or maintain a Temporary Connection is not a valid permanent connection.



53. "Transfer" or "Transferred" means a legal conveyance of a System Improvement or Private Sewer, following County's agreement to receive, from a private party to County ownership and includes compliance with AAC R18-9-A304, Notice of Transfer.

54. "Undeveloped Properties" means a parcel or property that does not have a septic system or has never been connected to the Public Sewer.

55. "Unit" means an element of property Development, either dwelling or building, which can be identified as an individual Sewage discharge point for purposes of wastewater flow calculations and Sewer Connection Fee assessment.

56. "User" means a Person who discharges Sewage to the Public Sewer System.

57. "Wastewater" See "Sewage".

58. "Wastewater Service Agreement" means a written and fully executed contract between the County and Applicant concerning provision of sanitary sewer service to an Area Under Development.

59. "Water Meter Size" means the size of meter supplied by a municipal corporation, special taxing district, or private water company for purposes of determining Sewer Connection Fee. For private wells/private water systems, system flow capacity is used to determine Water Meter Size based on City of Tucson's Water Meter Sizing Guidelines.

#### **13.20.150 General Purpose and Applicability.**

For the entirety of Chapter 13.20, the following statements apply.

A. Documents incorporated by reference.

...

B. System Improvements and Private Connections must be in full compliance with the following:

...

C. The Director is authorized to develop a variance process for the Applicant to address deviations from the "Engineering Design Standards" and "Standard Specifications and Details for Construction."

D. The Department has authority to assess fees for customer services pertaining to the review, permitting, and inspection of System Improvements and Private Connections to the Public Sewer, and for all costs and services to support the provisions in Chapter 13.20.

E. The Department has authority to charge for system infrastructure through a Sewer Connection Fee.

F. The Department has the authority to fund and construct system infrastructure and to seek reimbursement in the form of a Surcharge. See "Surcharge Fees".

G. The Department has authority to charge for Special Facility operation and maintenance costs.

H. For unique situations, the Director has the authority to apply interpretations of Chapter 13.20.

#### **13.20.200 Capacity.**

A. Purpose and applicability. This section provides requirements for managing the capacity of the conveyance and treatment systems meeting the requirements of AAC R18-9-C305. 2.05 General Permit; Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance of a Sewage Collection System, and R18-9-E301. 4.01 General Permit: Sewage Collection Systems. The Section applies to new or increases in potential discharge to the Public Sewer.

B. Determination of capacity availability. The Department manages the Public Sewer and treatment capacity needs using three types of analysis. If capacity is not available, the Department will advise the Applicant of Applicant's options for constructing additional capacity.

...

2. A Type II Response provides a more precise analysis of capacity availability existing at the time the analysis is performed and is based on the estimated demand for the proposed Development. It is not an allocation of capacity.

3. A Type III Response provides a definitive response regarding the capacity requested for the Applicant's Development and is required for all new or potential increases in discharges to the Public Sewer. This may be an allocation of capacity.

a. When a Type III Response allocates capacity for the Applicant's Development, it expires within one-hundred eighty (180) calendar days. If an ADEQ Construction Authorization or building permit is issued within that period, the allocation expires two (2) years following the issuance date.

b. If capacity is not fully available, the Applicant will enter into a WSA to construct System Improvements required to achieve the necessary capacity.

c. Single family Residential Development for only one residence is exempt.

d. The Type III Response is required before Approval of a Private Sewer connection or a SIP.

#### **13.20.250 System Improvement Design.**

A. Purpose and general requirements.

1. This section provides requirements for the design of a System Improvement. These requirements are intended to protect public health and welfare as well as the environment. They also ensure adequate County access for operation, maintenance, and repair of the Public Sewer.

2. The Department has absolute discretion to determine whether all or part of a Developer proposed sanitary sewer system will become part of the Public Sewer.

3. The Department may require an Applicant to provide a System Improvement for capacity and Flow-through service for future connecting Developments. The Department may also require an Applicant to Augment the Downstream Public Sewer in order to provide capacity for the Applicant's Development. and future connecting Developments.

4. A System Improvement required for service to the Area Under Development will be provided at the sole expense of the Applicant.

5. As a condition of Approval, off-site Easements recorded by separate instrument must be identified on the final sealed SIP by the docket and page or sequence number.

6. An Approved SIP is valid for the term of the ADEQ Construction Authorization, or two (2) years from date of Approval, whichever is later.

B. Final plats, Easements, and Rights-of-way.

1. Prior to recording the Sewer Improvement Easements, the County will review and Accept final subdivision plats or final Easements descriptions by separate instrument. Documents will delineate Easements or Rights-of-way for the proposed Public Sewer.

2. Easements and Rights-of-way will conform to those shown in the SIP.

C. Wastewater Service Agreements.

1. The Department may require an Applicant to enter into a WSA. The WSA will fully document any additional construction requirements, compensation commitments, or other unique considerations.

2. An Applicant's failure to fully comply with the terms and conditions of the WSA will render void any County Type III Response or commitment to provide Wastewater service to future connections within the Area Under Development.

3. Reimbursement - Sewer Connection Fee Credit. The County may enter into a WSA with an Applicant for Credit to cover the incremental cost of a System Improvement incurred for a Department-required Augmentation (Over-sizing or deepening) beyond the size/depth required to serve the Area Under Development or for a Department-required extension of the System Improvement for purposes of providing service for potential future Development not a part of or owned by the Area Under Development.

a. The incremental construction cost for Over-sizing is the difference in eligible construction costs and engineering fees between the Base Pipe Size designed to serve the Area Under Development and the System Improvement size actually constructed at the direction of the Department. The Department will determine the required Over-sized System Improvement. Eligible construction costs and engineering fees for oversizing-related incremental construction costs do not include reimbursement for those items listed in § 109-5.03, Non-Allowable Charges, of the Pima Association of Governments issued "Standard Specifications and Detail for Public Improvements" as it may, from time to time, be amended.

b. The incremental construction cost for deepening of the sanitary sewer is the difference in eligible construction costs and engineering fees between the design depth required to serve the Area Under Development and the System Improvement depth actually constructed at the direction of the Department. The Department will determine the required System Improvement depth.

c. For Flow-through extensions, the Credit value will be determined based on eligible construction costs and engineering fees for the required length of extension. The Department will determine the required extension System Improvement to provide Flow-through.

d. The value of Credit will be calculated using the Department's Schedule of Values.

e. In the event Applicant can demonstrate, in a form and manner acceptable to the Department, that the Schedule of Values undervalues the actual, reasonable aggregate cost of the constructed Over-sized System Improvement by twenty-five (25) percent or more, the Department will allow the use of actual construction costs to calculate a Credit value.

- f. Credits will only be applied as an offset to the Sewer Connection Fee. Under no circumstances will the County issue cash refunds for Credits.
  - g. The Credits will be valid for ten (10) years from the execution of the WSA by the BOS.
  - h. A Credit is Assignable.
  - i. The value of Credits applied to offset the Sewer Connection Fee for connections within an Area Under Development cannot exceed the total Sewer Connection Fee.
4. Effective July 01, 2025, Discounts will no longer be issued to future or new Developments. Existing WSA's will proceed under the existing Discount process but will Expire December 31, 2034.
5. Special Facility.
- a. A Special Facility must meet all Engineering Design Standards, Department specifications for unique components, and operational requirements of the Department.
  - b. A WSA may be required to address unique circumstances of the Special Facility Transfer or operation.

#### **13.20.300 Agency Agreement.**

A. Applicability. This section applies to an Agency that has or will enter into an agreement with the County for provision of Wastewater service to Property owned or managed by the Agency. Such Wastewater may include management or ownership of all or a portion of the sanitary sewer facilities located within the boundaries of the Property owned or managed by the Agency.

B. Wastewater service. Wastewater service will be provided to an Agency through a written agreement containing the following elements:

- 1. Compliance with the PCC as set forth in Chapter 13.20 - Construction, Connections, and Fees;
- 2. Authorization of County to access, without unreasonable restrictions, the County-owned or managed sanitary sewer facilities for construction, repair, inspection, maintenance, and operation purposes;
- 3. Agreement to obtain a Type III Response from the Department prior to any new construction of structures or installation capable of direct or indirect discharge to the Public Sewer;
- 4. Agreement to pay all appropriate fees, including, but not limited to a Sewer Connection Fee for all potential discharges to the Public Sewer from Wastewater sources located within the Agency's boundaries;
- 5. Provisions for the County's enforcement of Chapter 13.36 Industrial Wastewater within the Agency's Private Sewer or, in the alternative, the Agency's agreement to enact and enforce its own Commercial/Industrial Wastewater pretreatment program that is fully compliant with 40 Code of Federal Regulations, part 403 and applicable to all discharges to the Private Sewer and Public Sewer located within the Agency boundaries;
- 6. Periodic coordination with the Department concerning the Agency's Development planning;
- 7. Provisions for the County's use of the Public Sewer located within the boundaries of Agency for Flow-through purposes; and

8. Such other requirements as may be necessary to properly define the relationship between the parties.

### **13.20.350 Private Sewage Connection, Ownership, and Repair.**

#### **A. Private Connection to the Public Sewer.**

1. No Private Connection may be approved and constructed until the location (point) and method of connection are reviewed by the County, a Type III Response is acquired, and the Sewer Connection Fee is paid or other means of payment are established by the Director.

2. The County may require Flow-through public sanitary sewers to serve one or more future Developments.

3. Private Connection Approvals are valid for two (2) years.

4. Issuance of a building permit does not constitute evidence that the County has Approved the Private Connection.

5. Temporary Connections, in lieu of Private Connection, are allowed with written permission granted by the County.

a. A Temporary Connection will be charged appropriate fees.

b. Temporary Connections may remain in place for two (2) years, unless otherwise extended by the Director.

c. User fees will apply to all discharges from the Temporary Connection. See Chapter 13.24 of this title for sanitary sewer user fees.

d. Temporary Connections fees may be applied toward Sewer Connection Fees when converting the Temporary Connection to a permanent connection provided the Applicant applies to establish a Private Connection.

#### **B. Service Lateral and Private Sewer ownership and maintenance responsibility.**

1. All Service Laterals and private sewage systems, including the portions of Service Laterals traversing public Rights-of-way, are owned by the Owners of the properties being served.

2. It is the Owner's responsibility to maintain the Service Lateral and Private Sewer, including that portion of the Service Lateral located within the public Right-of-way.

#### **C. Single family Residential Service Lateral repair by the Department.**

1. The Department may repair portions of a Service Lateral provided:

a. The Service Lateral serves only an existing, single-family residence;

b. The portion of the Service Lateral being repaired or replaced lies entirely within a public Right-of-way;

c. Department funds are available for the repair;

d. The damage to the Service Lateral was not caused by the Owner or its agents;

e. The Owner has demonstrated, through video or other appropriate methods, that the damage or blockage is located within public Right-of-way; and

f. The Owner agrees, in writing, to provide to the Department all property access necessary for conducting the repair activities.

2. Unless the damage was caused by County actions, the Department is not authorized to repair any portion of a Service Lateral serving commercial, industrial, or Multi-family building(s), nor is the Department authorized to conduct any Service Lateral repair activity, regardless of ownership, outside of a public Right-of-way.

3. The County will not be responsible for any damages resulting from Department's failure to perform or to timely perform an evaluation or repair of a Service Lateral pursuant to this Section unless the initial Service Lateral damage was primarily the result of County activities.

4. Following Department repair activity, pursuant to this Section, the repaired or replaced Service Lateral will remain the Owner's Property.

D. Transfer of private sewage systems. Upon request, the Director has the discretion to Transfer a Private Sewer provided:

1. The system complies with all requirements of the current version of the "Pima County Engineering Design Standards" and meets operational requirements of the Department;

...

3. The Director has determined that the Transfer is consistent with current and planned service responsibilities.

#### **13.20.400 Sewer Connection Fee.**

##### **A. General requirements.**

1. Persons making new connections to the Public Sewer or increasing their potential to discharge to the Public Sewer through an increase in Water Meter Size must pay a Sewer Connection Fee to the County. The Sewer Connection Fee represents the County's allocation to Owners of the capital cost to provide Wastewater conveyance and treatment capacity and is based on the potential volume of discharge created by water service to a Property. It is not a permitting fee.

2. For an existing connection to the Public Sewer, an additional Sewer Connection Fee must be paid prior to installation of a larger Water Meter Size or, for Users receiving water from private wells, an increase in well-supplied water capacity.

##### **B. Determining the Sewer Connection Fee for new Private Connections to the Public Sewer.**

1. The Sewer Connection Fee for Applicants requesting service for new connections are based on Water Meter Size(s). Sufficient documentation is required to allow the County to determine the appropriate Sewer Connection Fee.

2. For property served by a well, Applicant-provided documentation will be used to determine equivalent Water Meter Size.

3. Sewer Connection Fees are shown in § 13.20.600.

C. Facilities with an active private water meter(s) connected to the Public Sewer and a valid Sewer Connection Fee record can relocate the same size water meter within the same parcel without incurring additional Sewer Connection Fees. In the instance there is an increase in the existing Water Meter Size, well-supplied water capacity for Residential or Commercial/Industrial/Multi-family, the difference in the fees paid and the current fee required per 13.20.600 will be assessed. There will be no reimbursement of Sewer Connection Fees for a reduction in Water Meter Size. If no Sewer Connection Fee records are found, the Department may Accept an account who has paid for Wastewater User Fees since 2010 and charge the difference in Water Meter Sizes based on the current Sewer Connection Fee schedule.

D. For unique situations not addressed above, the Director will have the discretion to calculate the Sewer Connection Fee.

E. Sewer Connection Fee refund.

1. Upon request, the County will refund the Sewer Connection Fee paid for a proposed new connection of a Property if no physical connection to the Public Sewer is ultimately made; or if the physical changes in a private water supply system necessary to increase flow are not installed.

2. Refund of the Sewer Connection Fee payment negates the Applicant's permission to connect to the Public Sewer, Applicant's permission to increase discharges to the Public Sewer, and all Capacity Allocations issued for the Property.

F. Actions to collect an outstanding Sewer Connection Fee.

1. In the following circumstances, the Sewer Connection Fee will be considered outstanding when a Sewer Connection Fee has not been paid at the time of building permit issuance or if there is an increase in the potential to discharge resulting from: an increase in the number of water meters serving a Property; an increase in Water Meter Size(s); or an increase in the delivery capacity of a private water supply system.

2. The Responsible Party, at the time the outstanding Sewer Connection Fee discovery, is responsible for payment of the outstanding Sewer Connection Fee, regardless of subsequent changes in Property ownership.

3. The amount due includes the outstanding Sewer Connection Fee plus interest on that amount calculated from the date the Sewer Connection Fee should have been paid.

4. Interest is assessed at the current prime rate plus one (1) percent.

5. Errors or omissions in reporting a Sewer Connection Fee to the Department by the Responsible Party within sixty (60) calendar days of the finalized building permit will not be charged interest or other expenses.

6. The Department will provide written notification to the Responsible Party that required fees and interest are outstanding. The required notice is deemed to have been given when the written notification, addressed to the Responsible Party, has been deposited in the U.S. mail, postpaid.

7. Payment in full or arrangements for a payment plan must be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the notice date.

8. Should payment in full or arrangements for a payment plan not be made within sixty (60) days, the Director is authorized to take all appropriate actions deemed necessary to collect the unpaid amount plus costs of recovery including, but not limited to:

- a. Attorney fees and costs and staff administrative efforts; and
- b. Recording of a lien on the subject Property or filing suit in the appropriate state court in Pima County.

#### **13.20.450 Protection of the Existing Public Sewer.**

A. Purpose and general requirements. This section provides for the protection of the Public Sewer from: direct or indirect damage due to third-party activities; encroachment in the Easement; and interference with Department access to the Public Sewer. This section does not apply to authorized activities that modify the Public Sewer.

B. All discharges to the Public Sewer must comply with the limits and prohibitions of Chapter 13.36 of this title.

C. Discharges of swimming pool water to the Public Sewer in excess of fifteen (15) gallons per minute are prohibited unless prior notice has been given to the Department and the Department has determined the proposed discharge will not harm the Public Sewer or cause any portion of the Public Sewer to exceed its design capacity.

D. Discharges of stormwater, surface water, and groundwater to the Public Sewer are prohibited without prior authorization.

E. If the Applicant is only requesting access to the Public Sewer for evaluation purposes, then the Department may issue a public access manhole permit.

F. All public or private construction projects within a public Right-of-way or utility Easement occurring in such proximity as to cause harm to impede access to or impact the subsurface support of the Public Sewer must acquire Clearance. If necessary, the project may require permitting by the County prior to the start of construction. As a condition of a Clearance, the Department may require an inspection observation permit issued by the Department for personnel to witness construction activity occurring in the vicinity of the Public Sewer.

#### **13.20.500 System Improvement Construction.**

A. Purpose and general requirements. This Section provides requirements for permitting, constructing, and inspecting of System Improvement, and inspection of Small Activity Construction. Prior to any System Improvement construction activity, or connection to the Public Sewer, an appropriate County Construction Permit is required.

1. Liability. An Applicant and its Contractor are jointly and severally liable to the County for any damage to the Public Sewer caused by activities of the Applicant or its Contractor when constructing a System Improvement or when conducting construction activities in proximity to or on the Public Sewer.

2. Discharges prohibited. Unauthorized discharge to the Public Sewer from a new or modified System Improvement is prohibited prior to Transfer of the System Improvement to the County. An Applicant or Applicant's Contractor that allows unauthorized Sewage flow into or through a System Improvement, prior to Transfer to the County, may be required to clean the affected length of the System Improvement and take any other actions as directed by the Department to restore the interior of the System Improvement to a like-new condition.

3. Indemnification. As a condition of any permit to work within a public Right-of-way or utility Easement, the Applicant will indemnify, defend and hold harmless the County, its officers,



Departments, employees, and agents from and against any and all suits, actions, legal or administrative proceedings, claims, demands, or damages of any kind or nature arising out of the exercise of the permit which are attributed to any act or omission of the Applicant, its agents, employees, or anyone acting under its direction, control, or on its behalf. In the event suit will be brought and the County is named as a defendant, all costs for counsel, either house counsel or retained counsel, and any other court costs associated with defending itself will be paid by the Applicant.

4. Warranty. The Seller shall warrant all contributed infrastructure of the Public Sewer be free from any failures or defects due to poor workmanship, design, or materials. Contractors installing Public Sewer infrastructure, contracted through Pima County, are not under obligation to warrant design. Work that does not comply is considered defective. Should any failure or defect appear within a period of two (2) years from the date of Transfer to County, Seller agrees to make necessary repairs as determined by County in accordance with County-Approved Sewer Improvement Plans, and in accordance with Pima County Engineering Design Standards, and Standard Specifications and Details for Construction, at the sole cost of Seller. Should the Seller fail to promptly correct any failure or defect, County may take whatever actions it deems necessary to remedy the failure or defect and the Seller will promptly reimburse County for any expenses or damages it incurs if Seller does not correct the failure or defect. Aside from Seller's obligation to make corrections within that two (2)-year period, nothing contained in this section shall be construed to establish a period of limitation with respect to Seller's liability for any failures or defects found under the contract.

B. System Improvement Construction Permit.

1. A System Improvement will be permitted, inspected, and tested following Department procedures prior to Transfer to County ownership.

2. A System Improvement Construction Permit is valid for two (2) years or the term of the ADEQ construction authorization, whichever expires first.

3. The System Improvement Construction Permit may not be renewed.

4. Work that does not meet the Approved Construction Documents, engineering design standards, standard specifications and details for construction, or submittals is subject to rejection.

5. During the construction of the System Improvement, the Contractor will provide OSHA-compliant access to the trench, installed pipe, and appurtenances to allow for inspections by the Department or, as appropriate, the local governmental jurisdiction, prior to closing the excavation. Failure to provide access may cause re-excavation of work at the Contractor's expense.

6. Stop Construction Order.

a. The County is empowered to issue a Stop Construction Order for a specific construction activity, task, or entire project when just cause requires the County to:

...

ii. Prevent the introduction of unallowable (in type and/or quantity) foreign material into the Public Sewer to the detriment of the Public Sewer or its ability to convey or treat Sewage;

iii. Prevent the immediate introduction of any surface water to the Public Sewer;

iv. Prevent damage to Public Sewer from construction activities.

b. The Contractor's failure to comply with a Stop Construction Order will result in a judicial action for injunctive relief.

C. Small activity Construction Permit.

1. All Small Activity Construction on the Public Sewer must be permitted, inspected, and tested consistent with Department procedures.

2. During construction, the Contractor will provide OSHA-compliant access to the trench for inspection of the Service Lateral tap, manhole, and pipe work.

3. Work that does not meet the Approved Construction Documents, standard specifications and details for construction, or submittals is subject to rejection.

4. Stop Construction Order. When just cause requires the County to protect public health or safety or the state of the environment or to prevent damage to the Public Sewer, the County is empowered to issue a Stop Construction Order. The Contractor's failure to comply with a Stop Construction Order. will result in a judicial action for injunctive relief.

**13.20.600 Fees.**

A. Sewer Connection Fee. - See § 13.20.400

**Residential Wastewater Utility Fee**

<b>Water Meter Size</b>	<b>FY 2025-2026 Fee per Water Connection</b>	<b>FY 2026-2027 Fee per Water Connection</b>	<b>FY 2027-2028 Fee per Water Connection</b>	<b>FY 2028-2029 Fee per Water Connection</b>
5/8", 3/4", or 1"	\$4,314	\$4,443	\$4,576	\$4,714

**Commercial/Industrial/Multi-Family Wastewater Utility Fee**

<b>Water Meter Size</b>	<b>FY 2025-2026 Fee per Water Connection</b>	<b>FY 2026-2027 Fee per Water Connection</b>	<b>FY 2027-2028 Fee per Water Connection</b>	<b>FY 2028-2029 Fee per Water Connection</b>
5/8" or 3/4"	\$4,313.64	\$4,443.05	\$4,576.34	\$4,713.63
1"	\$8,996.02	\$9,265.90	\$9,543.88	\$9,830.19
1½"	\$28,676.23	\$29,536.52	\$30,422.61	\$31,335.29
2"	\$74,040.52	\$76,261.74	\$78,549.59	\$80,906.08
3"	\$172,406.55	\$177,578.75	\$182,906.11	\$188,393.29
4"	\$385,839.03	\$397,414.20	\$409,336.63	\$421,616.73

Greater than 4"	Case by Case Basis	Case by Case Basis	Case by Case Basis	Case by Case Basis
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The Sewer Connection Fee for Commercial/Industrial/Multi-Family dischargers with Water Meter Size greater than four (4)-inches in size will be calculated on a case-by-case basis using the formula

Sewer Connection Fee (in dollars) = C x G x I

where:

"C" represents the cost of capacity factor of twenty-one dollars and thirty-four cents (\$21.34) per gallon per day to convey and treat Wastewater; "G" represents the discharge potential resulting from the water connection in gallons of Wastewater discharged during a peak flow day; and "I" represents a system inflow and infiltration rate factor of 1.175.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rex Scott, Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby Yu, Deputy County Attorney

**JACKSON JENKINS**  
DIRECTOR



PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

April 25, 2024

The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
33 N. Stone Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**RE: Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Financial Plan –  
Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee's Letter of Support**

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Board:

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) was established by the Board of Supervisors (Board) to act as the official advisory body on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) planning and rate structure formulation to County government; annually review the proposed Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's (RWRD) CIP and recommend to the governing body an annual and five-year Capital Program; and annually review the revenue requirements of the sanitary sewerage system and recommend to the governing body rate adjustments as required.

Each year, the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD) prepares a Financial Plan, which addresses the financial needs of RWRD based on the projected expenses and projected CIP for the current fiscal year and for four subsequent fiscal years.

The 2024 Financial Plan recommends the following:

1. Issuing \$296 million of new sewer revenue obligations to fund future CIP projects as follows:
  - a. \$54 million in Fiscal Year 2024-25,
  - b. \$67 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26,
  - c. \$82 million in Fiscal Year 2026-27, and
  - d. \$93 million in Fiscal Year 2027-28.
2. Using unrestricted cash to prepay debt as follows:
  - a. \$18.2 million in Fiscal Year 2024-25,
  - b. \$22.4 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26
  - c. \$22.3 million in Fiscal Year 2026-27, and
  - d. \$19.1 million in Fiscal Year 2027-28.
3. Maintain the current sewer revenue rates for Fiscal Year 2024-25. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2025-26, request an annual increase of 3% per year to the Sewer Utility Fee and an annual increase for four (4) years of 1.75% each to the Sewer Volume Fee and the Service Charge.

In August 2023, both Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's reaffirmed the County's current sewer debt rating of AA for the Sewer Revenue Obligations. The issued reports explained the analysis of the County's financial condition for its sewer debt. The bond ratings reflect the rating agencies' evaluation of the financial stability of the County and its ability to repay debt. As ratings increase, the interest rates offered by lenders decrease, reducing the overall debt cost to the County.

The RWRAC Financial Subcommittee discussed the FY 2024/2025 Financial Plan key assumptions, inflationary pressure on increased cost, and the impact of increased salaries and benefits due to implementation of the Pima County class and compensation study. These items were discussed to inform discussions about the potential need for increased user fee rates at the January 26, 2024, and February 15, 2024, meetings.

**Re: Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Financial Plan – Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee's Letter of Support**

Page 2 of 2

The full RWRAC committee reviewed the Rate Workbook at their February 22, 2024, meeting, where committee members were presented with two (2) scenarios for consideration which implemented user fee rate increases and discussed CIP projections through Fiscal Year 2027/2028. During the meeting, committee members voted to recommend to FRMD that the financial plan be based on the scenario with a gradual 1.75% sewer volume rate increase, beginning in FY2025/2026 and continuing for 4 consecutive years. In conjunction to that rate increase, an increase of 1.75% to the service charge would be instituted during the same time period. The sewer utility fee (previously known as connection fees) would also be increased by 3% annually. The motion passed nine (9) to two (2).

The draft FY 2024/2025 Financial Plan was reviewed and discussed during the March 28, 2024, RWRAC meeting. The RWRAC Financial Subcommittee met on April 9, 2024, to discuss and resolve any remaining questions regarding the financial plan. The meeting resulted in a unanimous vote by the subcommittee members to accept the financial plan as presented and recommend that the RWRAC support the plan.

During the April 25, 2024, RWRAC meeting, the RWRAC Financial Subcommittee Chair recommended to the full committee that the RWRAC support the FY 2024/2025 Financial Plan. After discussion amongst the committee and staff, the committee passed a motion unanimously, in support of the Financial Plan recommendations.

Therefore, the RWRAC recommends to the Pima County Board of Supervisors the approval of the RWRD FY2024/2025 Financial Plan.

The RWRAC appreciates the opportunity to provide our recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and we are available at your convenience for any questions or further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Claire F. Zucker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Claire Zucker, Chair  
Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee

c: Jan Leshner, County Administrator  
Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works  
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department  
Ellen Moulton, Director, Finance and Risk Management Department  
Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board  
Members, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee



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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: February 14, 2025

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lester   
County Administrator

Re: **Consideration of Proposed Pima County Sewer Rate Increase**

The Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department, along with the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD), annually prepares a financial plan addressing the financial needs of RWRD based on projected expenses and capital improvements for the current fiscal year and the following four fiscal years.

The focus of the financial plan is to determine the optimal sewer rates needed to ensure that there is sufficient revenue to meet all operating and maintenance expenses, debt service payments, required reserves, and to maintain an adequate debt service ratio to maintain favorable bond ratings.

## Annual Financial Evaluation

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025 Financial Plan recommended the adoption of a series of rate increases to be implemented at the start of FY 2025/2026 as follows:

- A three percent (3%) increase to the wastewater utility fee; and
- Annual increases for four (4) years of 1.75% the sewer volume fee; and
- Annual increases for four (4) years of 1.75% the service charge.

The increases were recommended to ensure sufficient revenues to meet all operating and maintenance expenses, debt service payments, and required reserves. The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) reviewed the FY 2024/2025 Financial Plan and unanimously supported the plan and the recommendations (Attachment 1).

Reevaluation during the FY 2025/2026 budget planning process determined that the previously proposed rate increases would be insufficient to maintain the needed 1.3 debt service ratio due to inflationary pressure and increased costs to operations and maintenance expenses, resulting in the following updated rate increase recommendation:

- A three percent (3%) increase in the wastewater utility fee annually for four (4) years (FY 2026 - 2029); and
- A three percent (3%) increase to sewer volume rate in FY 2025/2026, followed by an annual 1.75% annual increase for the next three (3) years; and
- A three percent (3%) increase to the service charge in FY 2025/2026, followed by an annual increase of 1.75% for the next three (3) years.

The proposed fee increase was presented to the full Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) at the January 23, 2025, meeting for review and discussion. The committee members discussed the revised rate increase proposal and voted to support it as presented with nine (9) in favor, two (2) opposed, and two (2) members absent.

#### Next Steps and Public Notice Requirements

State statute establishes public notice and hearing requirements for rate increases, which requires one public hearing. To ensure that residents and customers have an opportunity to review the proposed increase and the supporting documents and provide input, the following public hearings have been scheduled:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Friday, March 7, 2025	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.	Kirk-Bear Canyon Library 8959 E. Tanque Verde Rd. Tucson, AZ 85749
Wednesday, March 12, 2025	5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Water Campus 2955 Calle Agua Nueva Tucson, AZ 85745
Thursday, March 27, 2025	8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Abrams Public Health Center 3950 S. Country Club Tucson, AZ 85713

Notice of these public hearings will occur in print media, social media and through press releases. Input from these hearings will contribute to the subsequent updating of the proposed ordinance.

Upon being updated, notification of the revised ordinance will be posted on the Pima County webpage, and the ordinance will be available for review leading up to a June 17, 2025, Board of Supervisors public hearing on the recommended rate increases.

The three public meetings and one public hearing exceed the number of meetings required by state statute and ensure the public will have ample opportunity to participate in rate process.

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

Re: **Consideration of Proposed Pima County Sewer Rate Increase**

February 14, 2025

Page 3

Along with the public meetings, RWRD will also be meeting with development industry stakeholders such as the Southern Arizona Homebuilders Association and others to discuss the proposed rate increases.

JKL/anc

Attachment

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator  
Art Cuaron, Director, Finance and Risk Management Department  
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department



# ATTACHMENT 1

**JACKSON JENKINS**  
DIRECTOR



PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

April 25, 2024

The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
33 N. Stone Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**RE: Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Financial Plan –  
Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee's Letter of Support**

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Board:

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) was established by the Board of Supervisors (Board) to act as the official advisory body on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) planning and rate structure formulation to County government; annually review the proposed Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's (RWRD) CIP and recommend to the governing body an annual and five-year Capital Program; and annually review the revenue requirements of the sanitary sewerage system and recommend to the governing body rate adjustments as required.

Each year, the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD) prepares a Financial Plan, which addresses the financial needs of RWRD based on the projected expenses and projected CIP for the current fiscal year and for four subsequent fiscal years.

The 2024 Financial Plan recommends the following:

1. Issuing \$296 million of new sewer revenue obligations to fund future CIP projects as follows:
  - a. \$54 million in Fiscal Year 2024-25,
  - b. \$67 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26,
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In August 2023, both Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's reaffirmed the County's current sewer debt rating of AA for the Sewer Revenue Obligations. The issued reports explained the analysis of the County's financial condition for its sewer debt. The bond ratings reflect the rating agencies' evaluation of the financial stability of the County and its ability to repay debt. As ratings increase, the interest rates offered by lenders decrease, reducing the overall debt cost to the County.

The RWRAC Financial Subcommittee discussed the FY 2024/2025 Financial Plan key assumptions, inflationary pressure on increased cost, and the impact of increased salaries and benefits due to implementation of the Pima County class and compensation study. These items were discussed to inform discussions about the potential need for increased user fee rates at the January 26, 2024, and February 15, 2024, meetings.

**Re: Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Financial Plan – Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee's Letter of Support**

Page 2 of 2

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Therefore, the RWRAC recommends to the Pima County Board of Supervisors the approval of the RWRD FY2024/2025 Financial Plan.

The RWRAC appreciates the opportunity to provide our recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and we are available at your convenience for any questions or further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Claire F. Zucker", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Claire Zucker, Chair  
Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee

c: Jan Leshner, County Administrator  
Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works  
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department  
Ellen Moulton, Director, Finance and Risk Management Department  
Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board  
Members, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee

**JACKSON JENKINS**  
DIRECTOR



PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

February 20, 2025

Ms. Koren Manning  
Interim Director  
City of Tucson Planning & Development Services  
255 W Alameda Street  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**SUBJECT: Proposed revision to the Pima County Ordinance, 13.20.250, to Sunset Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts**

Dear Ms. Manning:

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) would like to inform the City of Tucson Planning & Development Services that the Department will be pursuing a sunset to the Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts from the current Pima County Ordinance 2019-20, section 13.20.250.C.4. This section allows 'Discounts' for qualifying system improvements in which the County may enter into a Wastewater Service Agreement with an applicant to provide a mechanism for discounting the wastewater utility fee for the construction of a qualifying system improvement. These sewer lines are required to provide sanitary sewer service for new development seeking access to the sanitary sewer lines. The construction of these sewer lines is primarily for the benefit of the Development project and not driven by the County.

The sunset clause would allow current development in the system with existing and pending Wastewater Service Agreements to proceed under the existing Discount process while future/new development would not qualify to create these types of discounts.

Sunsetting the Discounts from the ordinance will not affect the issuance of Credits when RWRD requests an upsizing or deepening of the proposed developer funded line.

RWRD is available to discuss this information with the City of Tucson. If there are questions regarding the above or further information is desired, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jackson Jenkins,  
Director, RWRD

**JACKSON JENKINS**  
DIRECTOR



PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

February 20, 2025

Mr. Jason Angell  
Development Services Director  
Town of Marana Development Services  
11555 W Civic Center Drive  
Marana, Arizona 85653

**SUBJECT: Proposed revision to the Pima County Ordinance, 13.20.250, to Sunset Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts**

Dear Mr. Angell:

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) would like to inform the Town of Marana Development Services that the Department will be pursuing a sunset to the Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts from the current Pima County Ordinance 2019-20, section 13.20.250.C.4. This section allows 'Discounts' for qualifying system improvements in which the County may enter into a Wastewater Service Agreement with an applicant to provide a mechanism for discounting the wastewater utility fee for the construction of a qualifying system improvement. These sewer lines are required to provide sanitary sewer service for new development seeking access to the sanitary sewer lines. The construction of these sewer lines is primarily for the benefit of the Development project and not driven by the County.

The sunset clause would allow current development in the system with existing and pending Wastewater Service Agreements to proceed under the existing Discount process while future/new development would not qualify to create these types of discounts.

Sunsetting the Discounts from the ordinance will not affect the issuance of Credits when RWRD requests an upsizing or deepening of the proposed developer funded line.

RWRD is available to discuss this information with the Town of Marana. If there are questions regarding the above or further information is desired, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jackson Jenkins,  
Director, RWRD

**JACKSON JENKINS**  
DIRECTOR



PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

February 20, 2025

Mr. Greg Mohl  
Board Chair  
Metropolitan Pima Alliance  
2 E Congress St 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**SUBJECT: Proposed revision to the Pima County Ordinance, 13.20.250, to Sunset Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts**

Dear Mr. Mohl:

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) would like to inform the Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA) that the Department will be pursuing a sunset to the Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts from the current Pima County Ordinance 2019-20, section 13.20.250.C.4. This section allows 'Discounts' for qualifying system improvements in which the County may enter into a Wastewater Service Agreement with an applicant to provide a mechanism for discounting the wastewater utility fee for the construction of a qualifying system improvement. These sewer lines are required to provide sanitary sewer service for new development seeking access to the sanitary sewer lines. The construction of these sewer lines is primarily for the benefit of the Development project and not driven by the County.

The sunset clause would allow current development in the system with existing and pending Wastewater Service Agreements to proceed under the existing Discount process while future/new development would not qualify to create these types of discounts.

Sunsetting the Discounts from the ordinance will not affect the issuance of Credits when RWRD requests an upsizing or deepening of the proposed developer funded line.

RWRD is available to discuss this information with MPA. If there are questions regarding the above or further information is desired, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jackson Jenkins,  
Director, RWRD

Cc: Allyson Karpuk, MPA Executive Director

**JACKSON JENKINS**  
DIRECTOR



PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

February 20, 2025

Mr. Paul Melcher  
Director  
Town of Oro Valley Community & Economic Development  
11000 N La Cañada  
Oro Valley, Arizona 85737

**SUBJECT: Proposed revision to the Pima County Ordinance, 13.20.250, to Sunset Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts**

Dear Mr. Melcher:


Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) would like to inform the Town of Oro Valley Community & Economic Development that the Department will be pursuing a sunset to the Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts from the current Pima County Ordinance 2019-20, section 13.20.250.C.4. This section allows 'Discounts' for qualifying system improvements in which the County may enter into a Wastewater Service Agreement with an applicant to provide a mechanism for discounting the wastewater utility fee for the construction of a qualifying system improvement. These sewer lines are required to provide sanitary sewer service for new development seeking access to the sanitary sewer lines. The construction of these sewer lines is primarily for the benefit of the Development project and not driven by the County.

The sunset clause would allow current development in the system with existing and pending Wastewater Service Agreements to proceed under the existing Discount process while future/new development would not qualify to create these types of discounts.

Sunsetting the Discounts from the ordinance will not affect the issuance of Credits when RWRD requests an upsizing or deepening of the proposed developer funded line.

RWRD is available to discuss this information with the Town of Oro Valley. If there are questions regarding the above or further information is desired, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Jackson Jenkins,  
Director, RWRD

**JACKSON JENKINS**  
DIRECTOR



PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

February 20, 2025

Ms. Anna Casadei  
Community Development Director  
Town of Sahuarita Community Development  
375 W Sahuarita Center Way  
Sahuarita, Arizona 85629

**SUBJECT: Proposed revision to the Pima County Ordinance, 13.20.250, to Sunset Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts**

Dear Ms. Casadei:


Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) would like to inform the Town of Sahuarita Community Development that the Department will be pursuing a sunset to the Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts from the current Pima County Ordinance 2019-20, section 13.20.250.C.4. This section allows 'Discounts' for qualifying system improvements in which the County may enter into a Wastewater Service Agreement with an applicant to provide a mechanism for discounting the wastewater utility fee for the construction of a qualifying system improvement. These sewer lines are required to provide sanitary sewer service for new development seeking access to the sanitary sewer lines. The construction of these sewer lines is primarily for the benefit of the Development project and not driven by the County.

The sunset clause would allow current development in the system with existing and pending Wastewater Service Agreements to proceed under the existing Discount process while future/new development would not qualify to create these types of discounts.

Sunsetting the Discounts from the ordinance will not affect the issuance of Credits when RWRD requests an upsizing or deepening of the proposed developer funded line.

RWRD is available to discuss this information with the Town of Sahuarita. If there are questions regarding the above or further information is desired, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Jackson Jenkins,  
Director, RWRD



**JACKSON JENKINS**  
DIRECTOR



PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

February 20, 2025

Mr. David Godlewski  
President & CEO  
Southern Arizona Homebuilders Association  
2840 N Country Club Rd Ste 100  
Tucson, Arizona 85716

**SUBJECT: Proposed revision to the Pima County Ordinance, 13.20.250, to Sunset Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts**

Dear Mr. Godlewski:

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) would like to inform the Southern Arizona Homebuilders Association (SAHBA) that the Department will be pursuing a sunset to the Wastewater Utility Fee Discounts from the current Pima County Ordinance 2019-20, section 13.20.250.C.4. This section allows 'Discounts' for qualifying system improvements in which the County may enter into a Wastewater Service Agreement with an applicant to provide a mechanism for discounting the wastewater utility fee for the construction of a qualifying system improvement. These sewer lines are required to provide sanitary sewer service for new development seeking access to the sanitary sewer lines. The construction of these sewer lines is primarily for the benefit of the Development project and not driven by the County.

The sunset clause would allow current development in the system with existing and pending Wastewater Service Agreements to proceed under the existing Discount process while future/new development would not qualify to create these types of discounts.

Sunsetting the Discounts from the ordinance will not affect the issuance of Credits when RWRD requests an upsizing or deepening of the proposed developer funded line.

RWRD is available to discuss this information with SAHBA. If there are questions regarding the above or further information is desired, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jackson Jenkins,  
Director, RWRD

**JACKSON JENKINS**  
DIRECTOR



PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
33 N. Stone Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**RE: Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee's Letter of Support of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's Proposed Rate Increase**

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Board:

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) was established by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to act as the official advisory body on the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) Financial Plan and to annually review the proposed Financial Plan and recommend to the governing body an annual, five-year, and ten-year financial program. The RWRAC also has the responsibility of reviewing proposed Wastewater fee adjustments and ordinance changes.

The RWRAC began its review of the Department's proposal to modify the sewer volume rate, service charge, and the wastewater utility fee (previously known as connection fees) at the RWRAC Financial Subcommittee in January 2024. The full RWRAC committee reviewed the Rate Workbook on February 22, 2024, and after considering two scenarios voted to recommend to the Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD) that the financial plan be based on the scenario with a gradual 1.75% sewer volume rate increase, beginning in FY 2025-2026 and continuing for 4 consecutive years. In conjunction with that rate increase, an increase of 1.75% to the service charge would be instituted during the same time period. The wastewater utility fee would also be increased by 3% annually during that timeframe. In a vote of nine (9) to two (2), the RWRAC passed the motion to recommend to the Pima County Board of Supervisors the proposed rate increases as presented in the FY 2024-2025 Rate Workbook and Financial Plan. A Letter of Support was forwarded to the Board on April 25, 2024 (see attached).

On January 15, 2025, the RWRAC Financial Subcommittee was presented with the initial draft Rate Workbook, which contained revisions to the previously proposed rate increase values. FRMD revised the rate increase, determining that the initial values were insufficient to maintain RWRD's debt service ratio above the 1.3 level in response to inflationary pressure and increased costs to operations and maintenance expenses. The FY 2025-2026 draft Rate Workbook presented a proposed 3% sewer volume rate increase beginning in FY 2025-2026, followed by an annual 1.75% annual increase for the next three (3) years. In conjunction to that rate increase, a 3% increase to the service charge would be instituted in FY 2025-2026, followed by an annual increase of 1.75% for the next three (3) years. The wastewater utility fee would be increased by 3% annually for the noted 4-year period (FY 2026 -2029). Extensive review by the Financial Subcommittee resulted in forwarding this scenario to the full RWAC committee for consideration. The information was presented to the full RWRAC at their January 23, 2025, meeting, for review and discussion. Based on the timeline requirements for ensuring the rate increase inclusion in the Board of Supervisor FY 2025-2026 budget approval process, the committee members discussed the revised rate increase proposal, providing continued support of the rate increase proposal as presented. The motion of support passed with a vote of nine (9) affirmatives, two (2) against, and two (2) members absent.

Therefore, the RWRAC recommends to the Pima County Board of Supervisors the approval of the RWRD FY 2025-2026 proposed 3% sewer volume rate increase, followed by an annual 1.75% annual increase for the next three (3) years. In conjunction with that rate increase, a 3% increase to the service charge would be instituted in FY 2025-2026, followed by an annual increase of 1.75% for the next three (3) years. The wastewater utility fee would also be increased by 3% annually for the noted 4-year period (FY 2026 - 2029).

The RWRAC appreciates the opportunity to provide our recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and we are available at your convenience for any questions or further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Claire L. Zucker", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Claire L. Zucker, Chair  
Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee

c: Jan Leshar, County Administrator  
Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator  
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department  
Art Cuaron, Director, Finance and Risk Management Department  
Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board  
Members, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee

**JACKSON JENKINS**  
DIRECTOR




PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

March 5, 2025

**TO:** Jan Leshar, County Administrator

**THRU:** Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator – Public Works

**FROM:** Jackson Jenkins, Director - RWRD 

**SUBJECT:** Pima County Sewer User Fee Rate Increase

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As part of the requirement to raise the Pima County Sewer User Fee, the Wastewater Utility Fee and to sunset our discount ordinance language, we are required to hold at least one public meeting. In this case, we have elected to conduct three (3) public meetings to allow customers and stakeholders the opportunity to learn more about these potential changes, to ask questions, and to voice any thoughts or opinions they may have regarding this matter.

The level of public participation as well as the summary of the feedback received at these meetings will be reviewed by the RWRAC committee and shared with the Board of Supervisors before this item becomes an agenda item for BOS consideration.

The dates, times and locations of these respective meetings are:

- March 7, 2025 ~ Kirk Bear Canyon Library, 8959 E. Tanque Verde Road @ 10:30 am
- March 12, 2025 ~ RWRD Water Campus, 2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva @ 5:00 pm
- March 27, 2025 ~ Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S. Country Club Road @ 8:00 am

Attached to this memo is a copy of the Power Point presentation which will be used for each of the public meetings. RWRD and F&RMD will jointly present at these meetings.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Attached

c: Art Cuaron, Director, Finance and Risk Management Department  
Michele Milensky, Division Manager, F&RMD  
Jaime Rivera, Deputy Director, RWRD TS&E  
Jeff Prevatt, Deputy Director, RWRD Treatment  
Steven Richey, Deputy Director, RWRD Conveyance  
Marla Berry, Administrative Manager II, RWRD  
Jenette Lee, Project Coordinator, RWRD



# **PIMA COUNTY REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT**

**FY 2025 – 2026 Proposed Rate Increases**

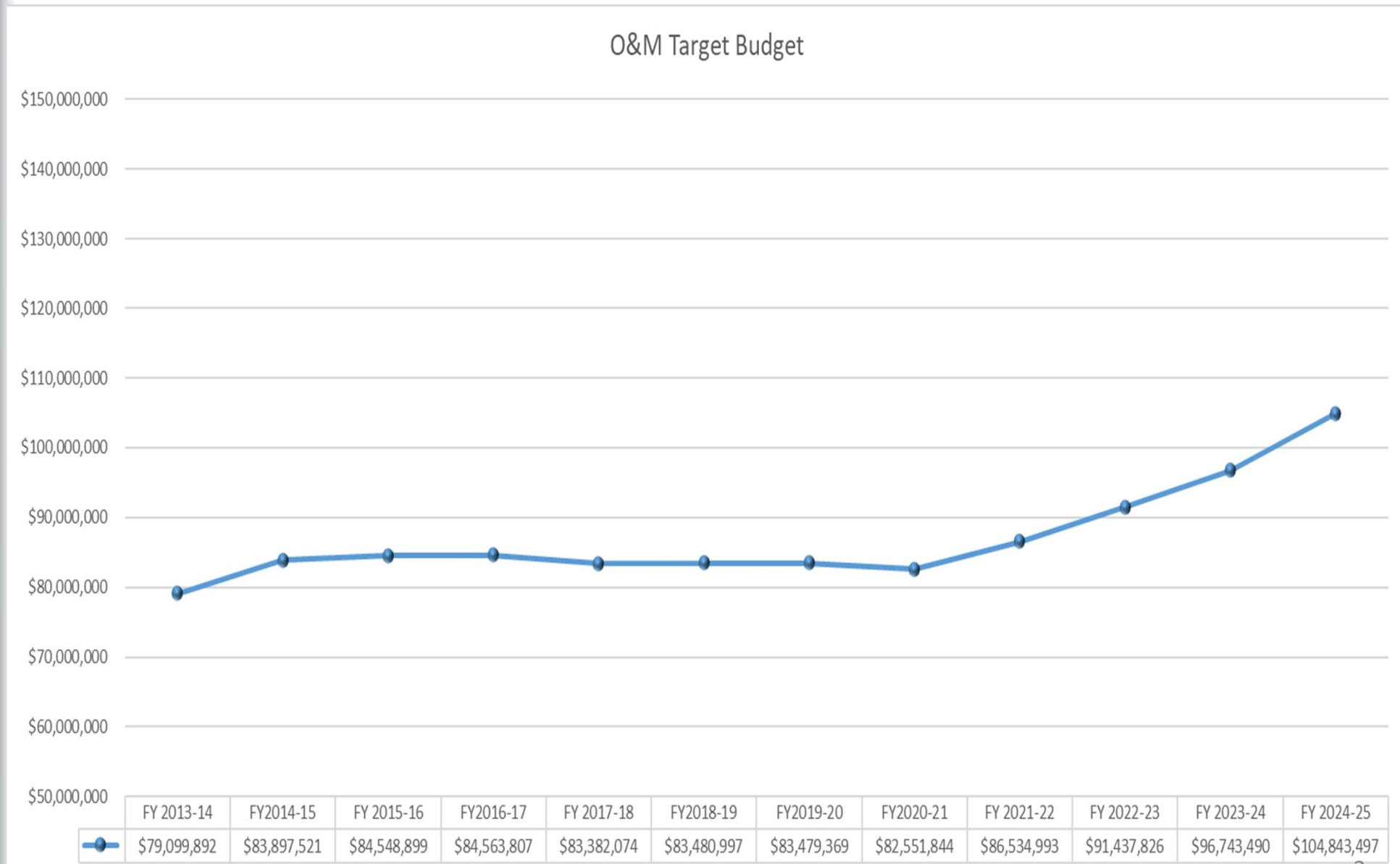


# RWRD's Mission

Our mission is to protect the public health, safety, and the environment by providing quality service, environmental stewardship, and renewable resources.

We design, manage and maintain 3,500 miles of the sanitary sewer (conveyance) system and two metropolitan and five sub-regional water reclamation facilities

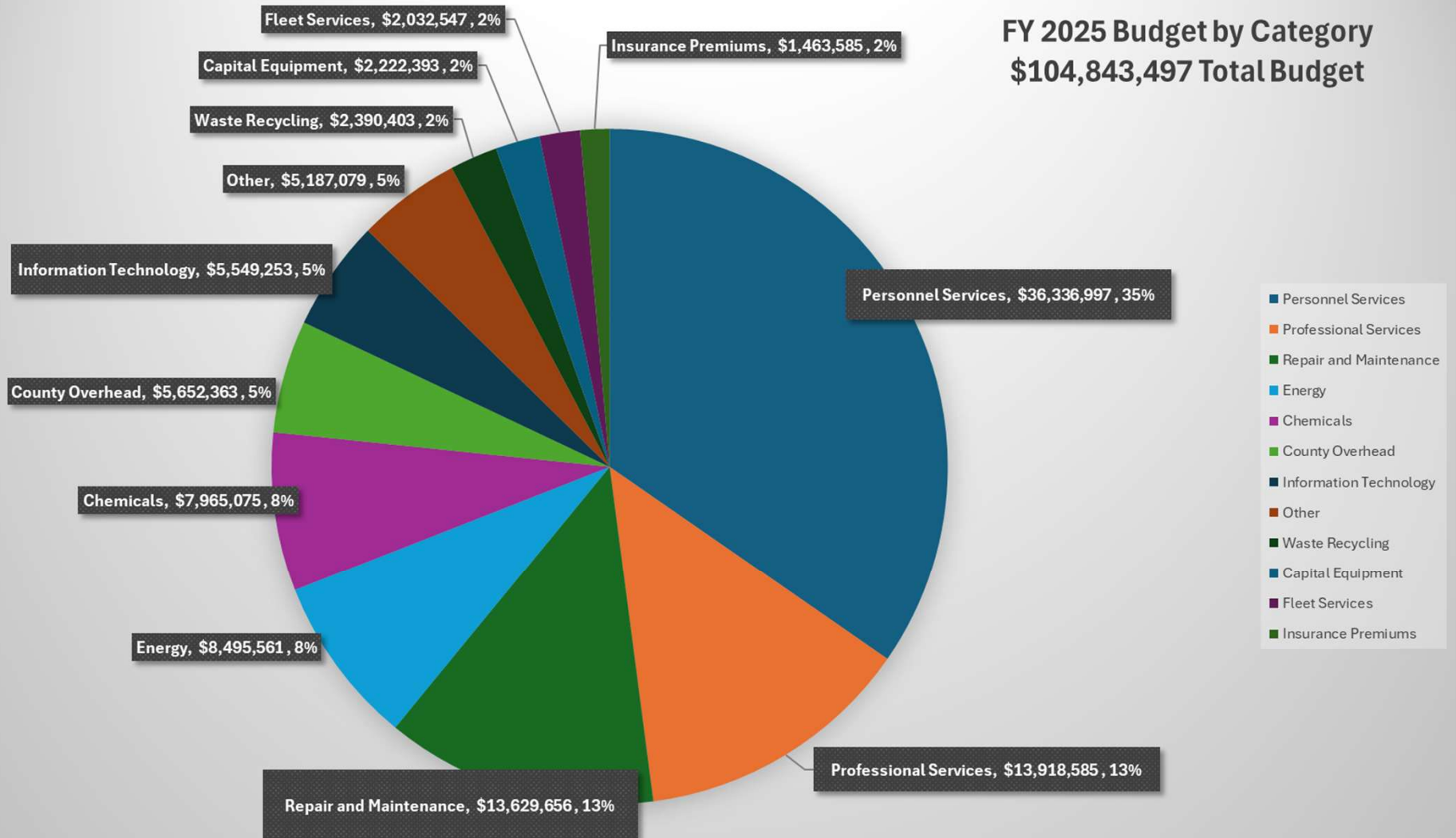
# O&M Target Budget History





# FY 2025 Budget

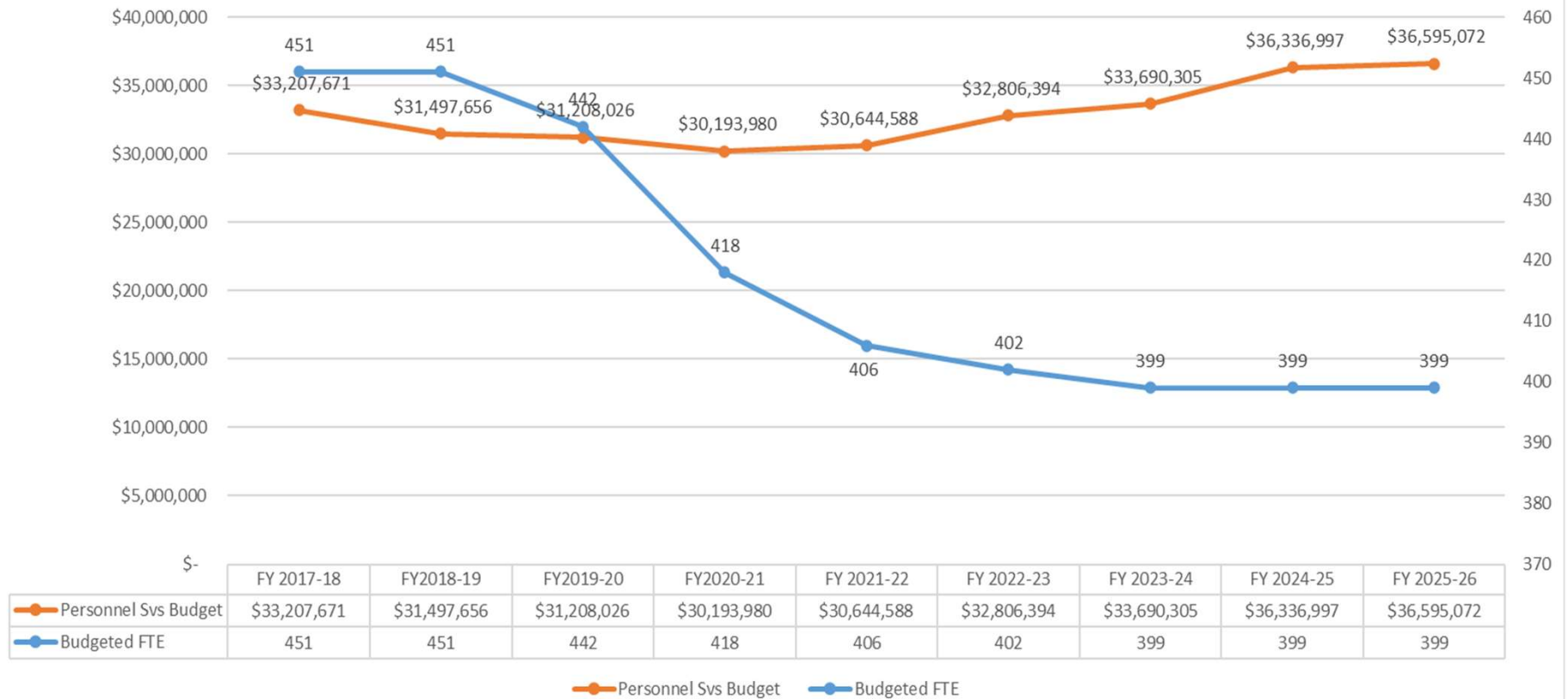
**FY 2025 Budget by Category**  
**\$104,843,497 Total Budget**



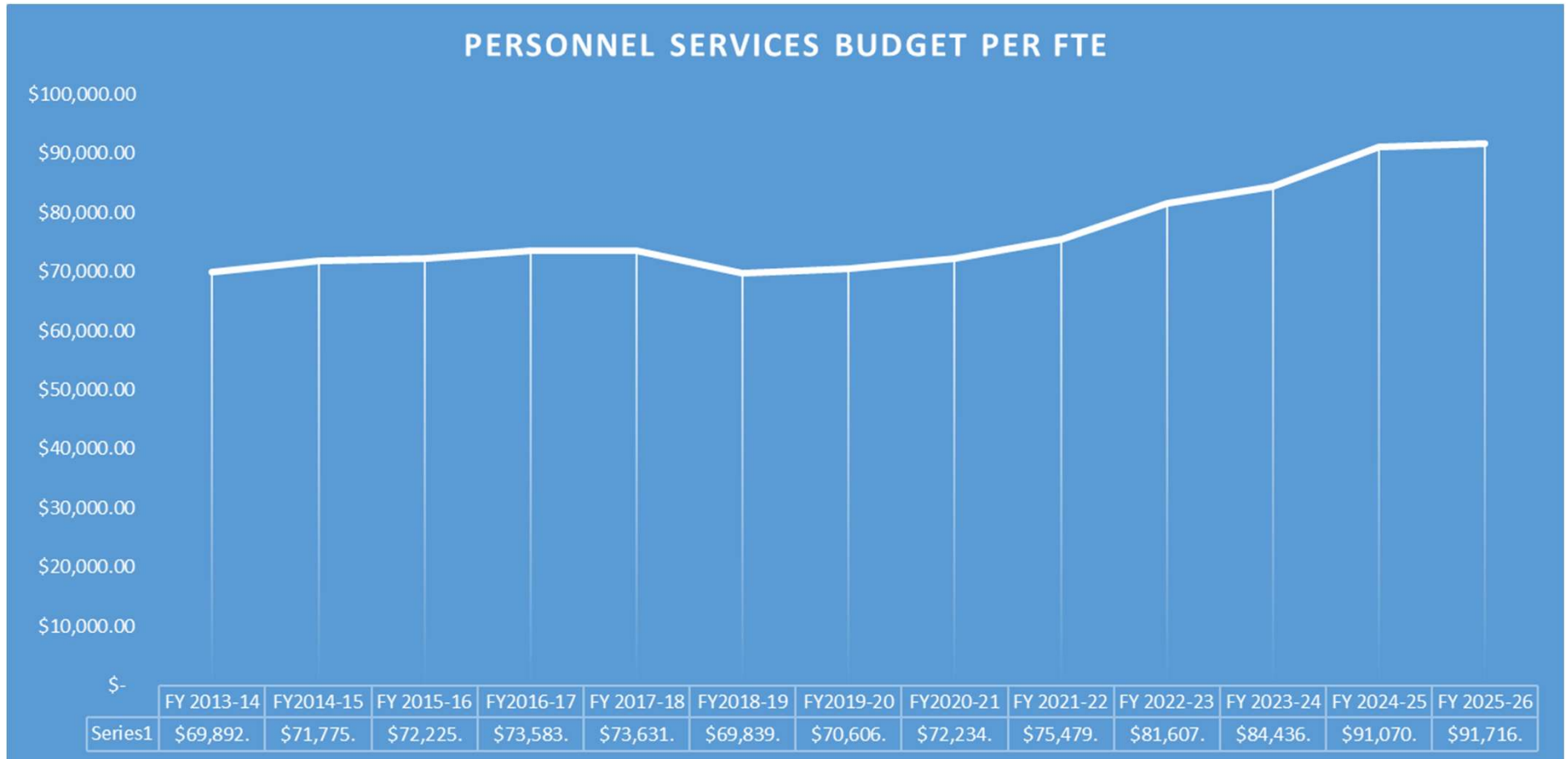


# Budgeted Positions

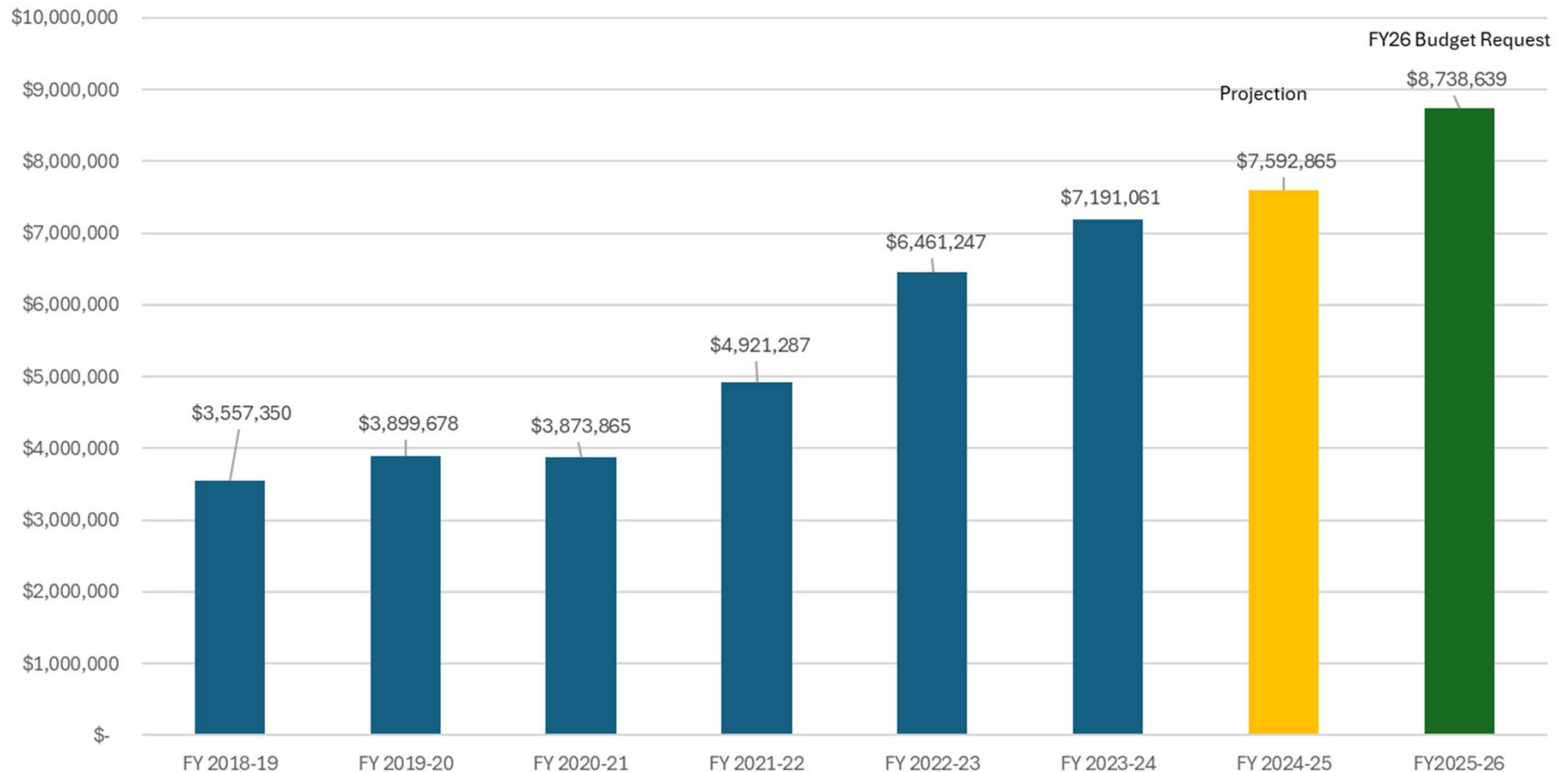
Budgeted FTEs and Personnel Services Budget



# Cost per FTE



# Chemical Expenditures



FY 2025 Adopted Budget \$7,965,075  
FY 2026 Requested Budget \$8,738,639  
Difference \$773,564 or 9% increase

2 new odor control stations will be added to the system in FY 2026 increasing budget request by \$500K 7

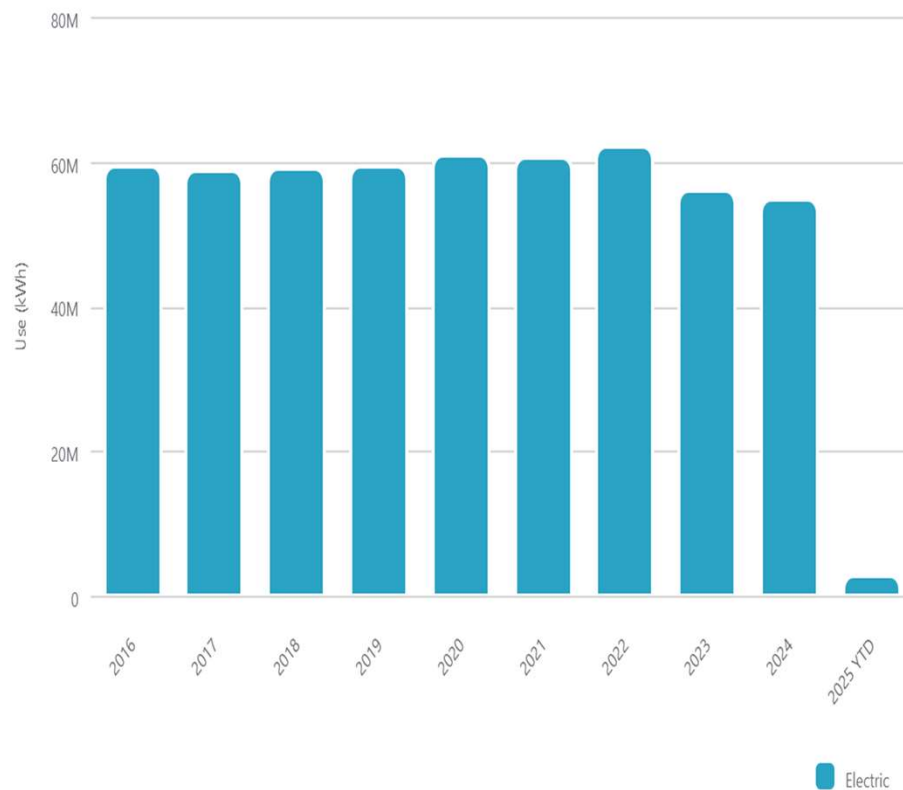
# Chemicals

## Tres Rios Chemical Usage/Costs

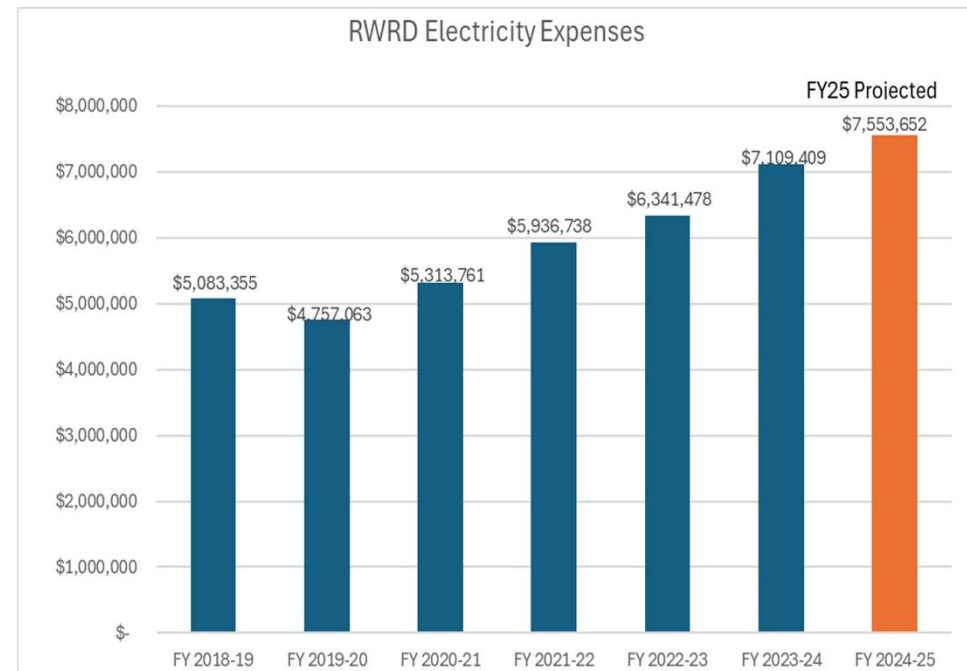
- **HypoChloride: Average Annual Usage (last 6 years) 612,421 gallons.**
  - Price FY19 \$.78/unit. Price FY24 \$1.79/unit – 129% increase in price
- **Ferric Chloride: Average Annual Usage (last 6 years) 221,556 gallons.**
  - Price FY19 \$1.88/unit. Price FY24 \$3.95/unit – 110% increase in price.
  - Using less ferric due to change in treatment process in FY 2022
- **Sodium Bisulfite: Average Annual Usage (last 6 years) 1,943,319 lbs.**
  - Price FY19 \$.12/unit. Price FY24 \$.22/unit – 83% increase
- **Magnesium Chloride: Average Annual Usage (last 3 years) 198,110 gallons.**
  - Price FY22 \$1.01/unit. Price FY24 \$1.28/unit – 27% increase
  - The use of this chemical began with process change in FY 2021 and FY 2022
  - The process change allowed to reduce the use of ferric chloride, a more expensive chemical
- **Polymer: Average Annual Usage (last 6 years) 68,356 lbs.**
  - Price FY19 \$1.55/unit. Price FY24 \$1.75/unit – 13% increase in price
- **Conveyance Odor Control – Switching from HypoChlorite to Thioguard**
  - Price of hypochlorite increased from \$.83 in FY 19 to \$2.80/gallon in FY24 – 237% price increase
  - Price of Thioguard increased from \$2.65 in FY19 to \$3.52/gallon in FY24 – 33% increase

# Electricity Usage vs. Expense

Calendar Year Electric Use

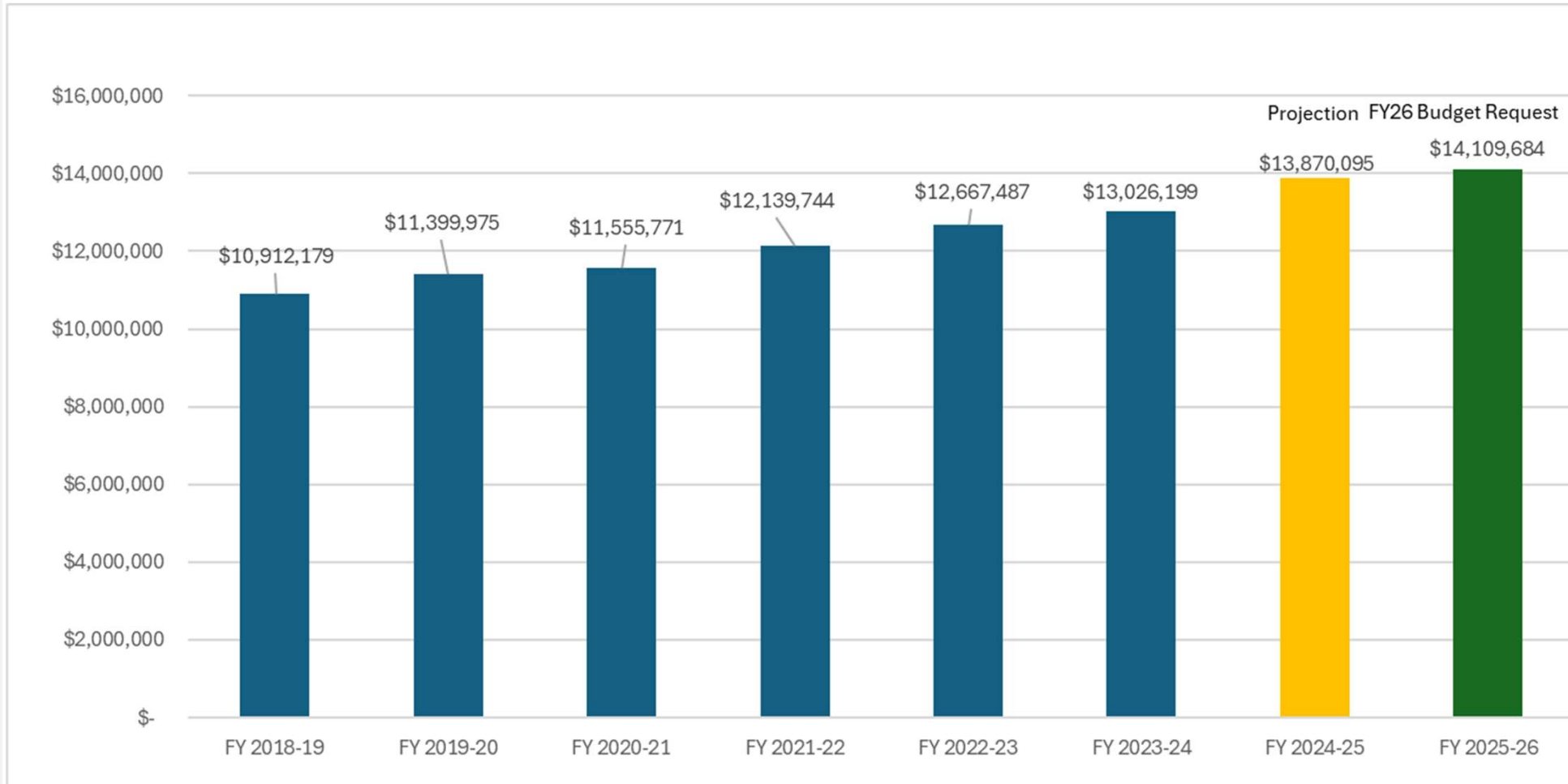


RWRD Electricity Expenses



The calculated rate per kilo watt hour has increased from 9 cents per kWh to 13 cents per kWh. A 52% increase in the rate paid by RWRD.

# Professional Services



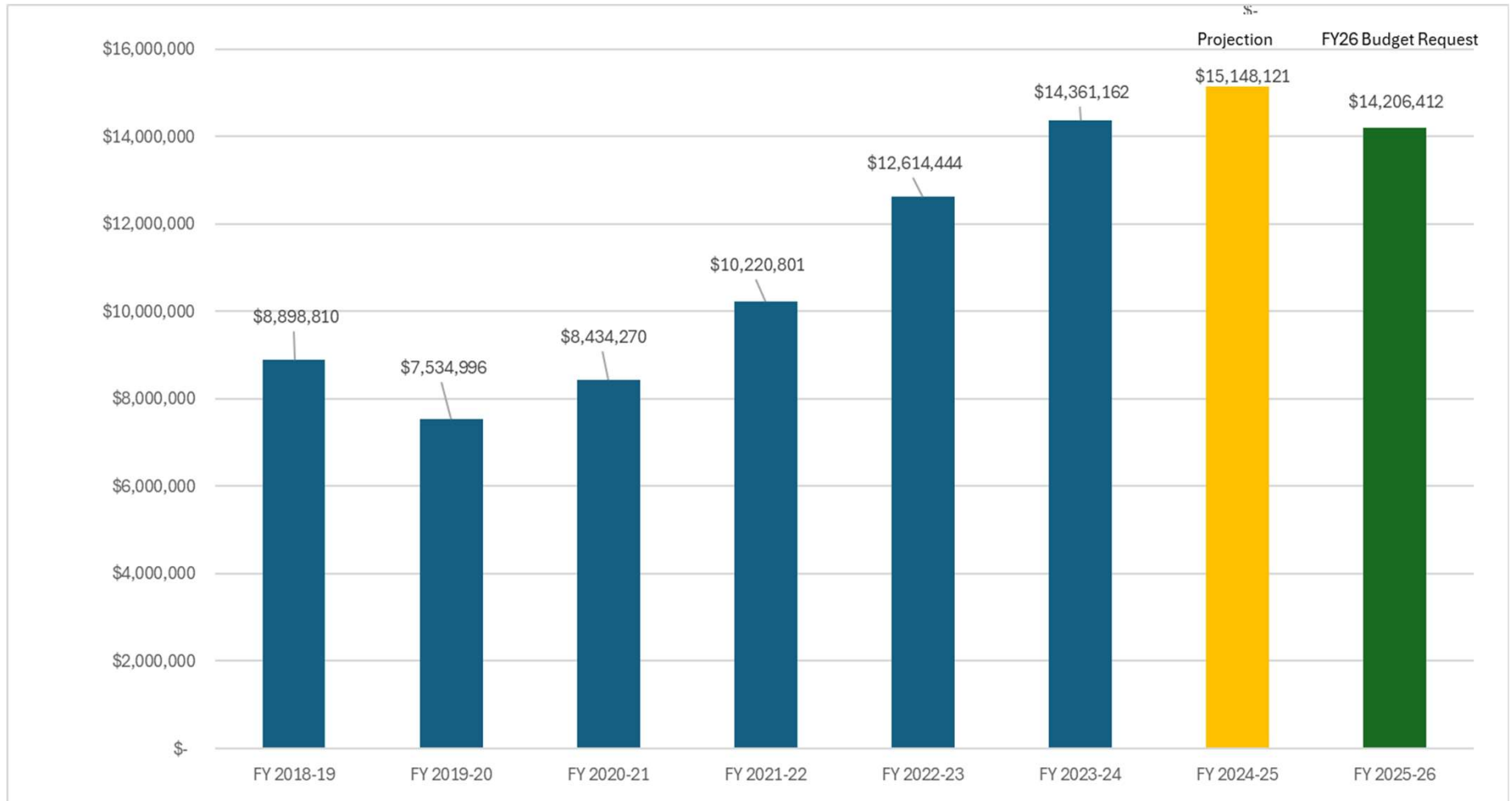
**FY 2025 Adopted Budget \$13,918,585**

**FY 2026 Requested Budget \$14,109,684**

Since FY 2019, the expenditure has increased by 22%

Jacobs Contract to operate Agua Nueva	\$5,860,156
Tucson Water billing sewer user fees	\$4,337,362
ProPipe Contract for CCTV services	\$1,900,000
All other water company billing contracts	\$1,000,000
Southwest Gas Corporation for Biogas	\$ 350,000
AZ Bluestake, Sonoran Institute, Hydrological Analysis	

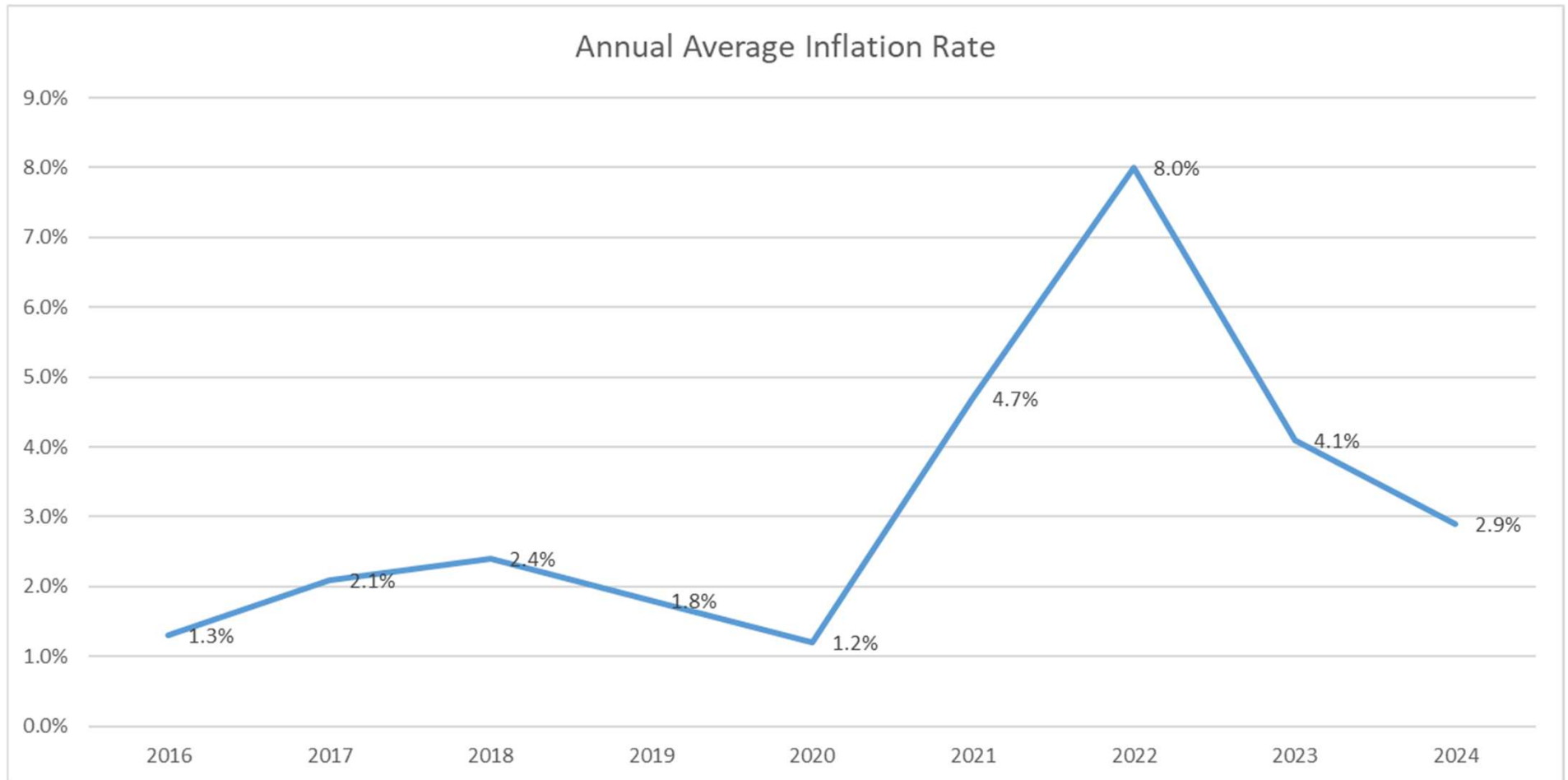
# Repair & Maintenance



FY 2025 Adopted Budget \$13,356,108  
FY 2026 Requested Budget \$14,206,412  
Difference \$850,304 or 6% Increase

FY25 Projected Expenditures is \$1.7M over budget  
FY 26 Budget Request remained in line with current budget, not projections

# Consumer Price Index



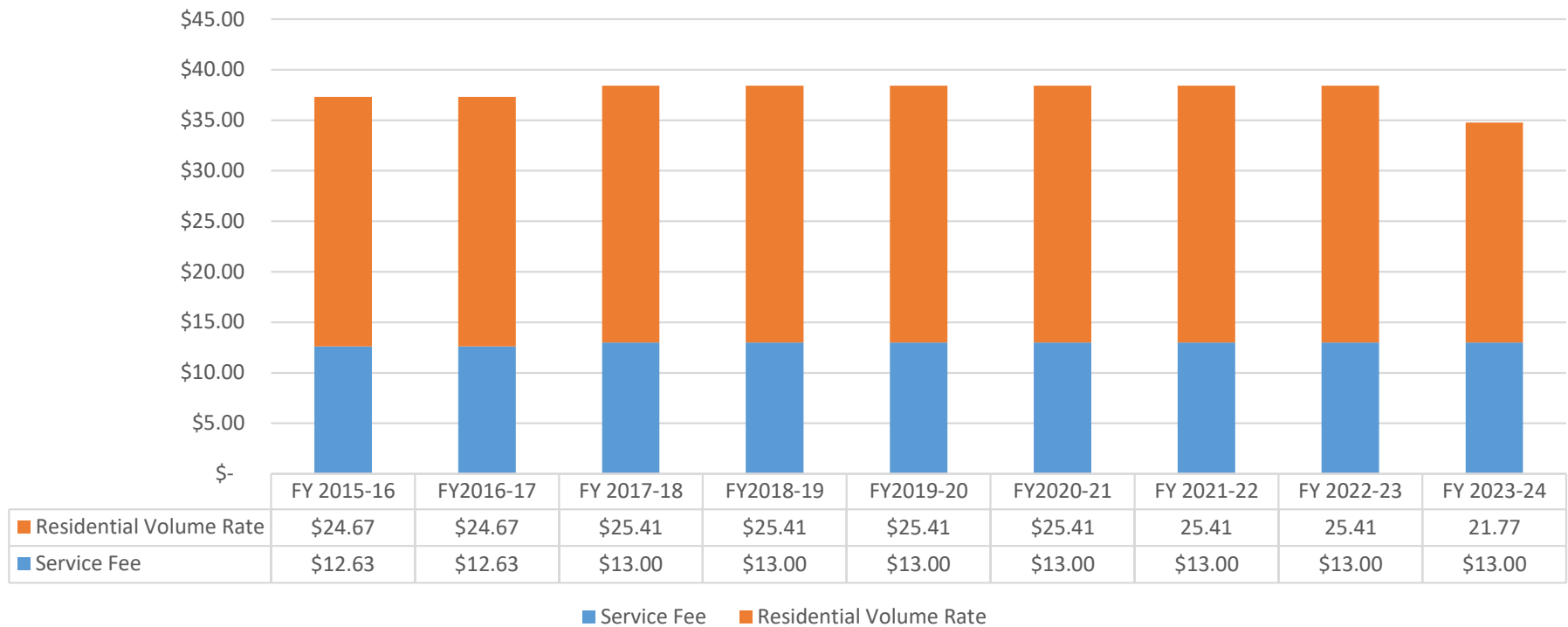


# Sewer User Fee Revenue

## User Fee Rate History

Residential Class Code Rates Based on 7 CCFs until FY 2023-24

FY 2023-24 Winter Quarter Average for Residential Users Dropped to 6 CCFs



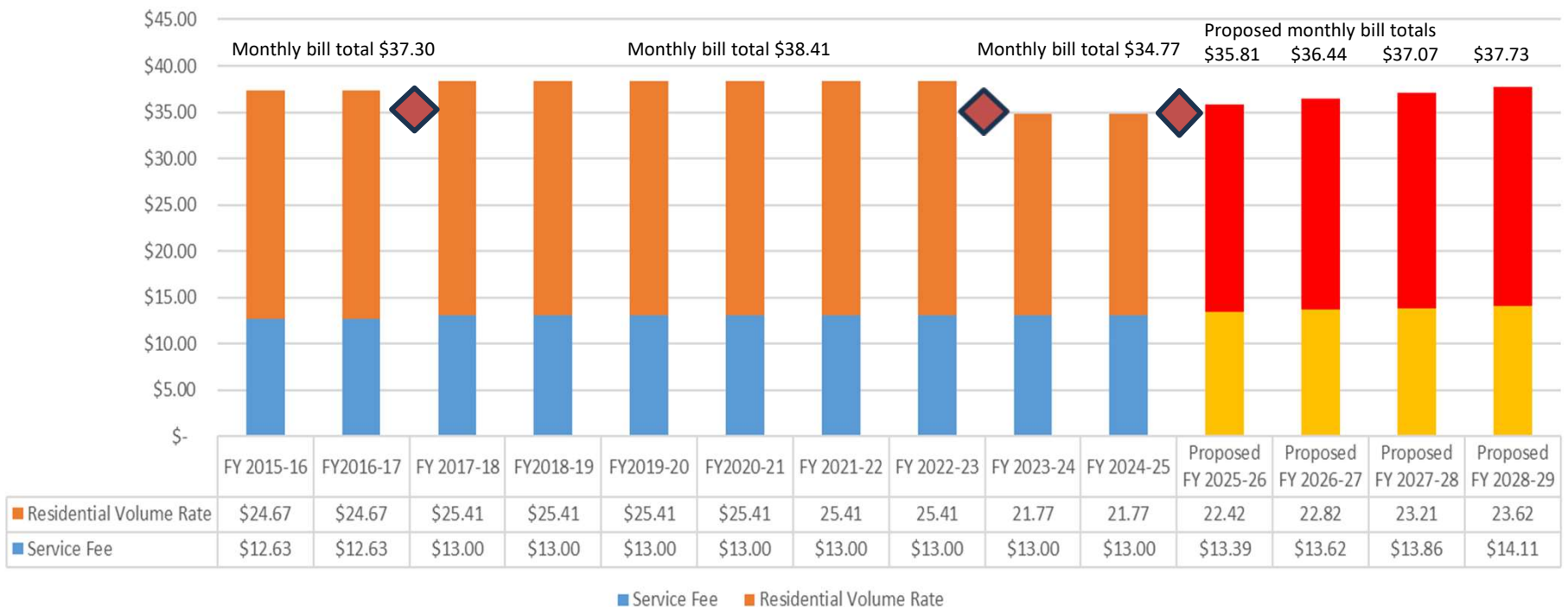
Last sewer user fee increase was implemented in May 2017

FY 2025 Budget \$164.1M projected to be \$161.6M  
 FY 2024 Budget \$164.7M Actuals \$160.1M 97.2%  
 FY 2023 Budget \$162.7M Actuals \$160.0M 98.4%  
 FY 2022 Budget \$160.4M Actuals \$163.8M 102%  
 FY 2021 Budget \$160.4M Actuals \$159.7M 99.6%

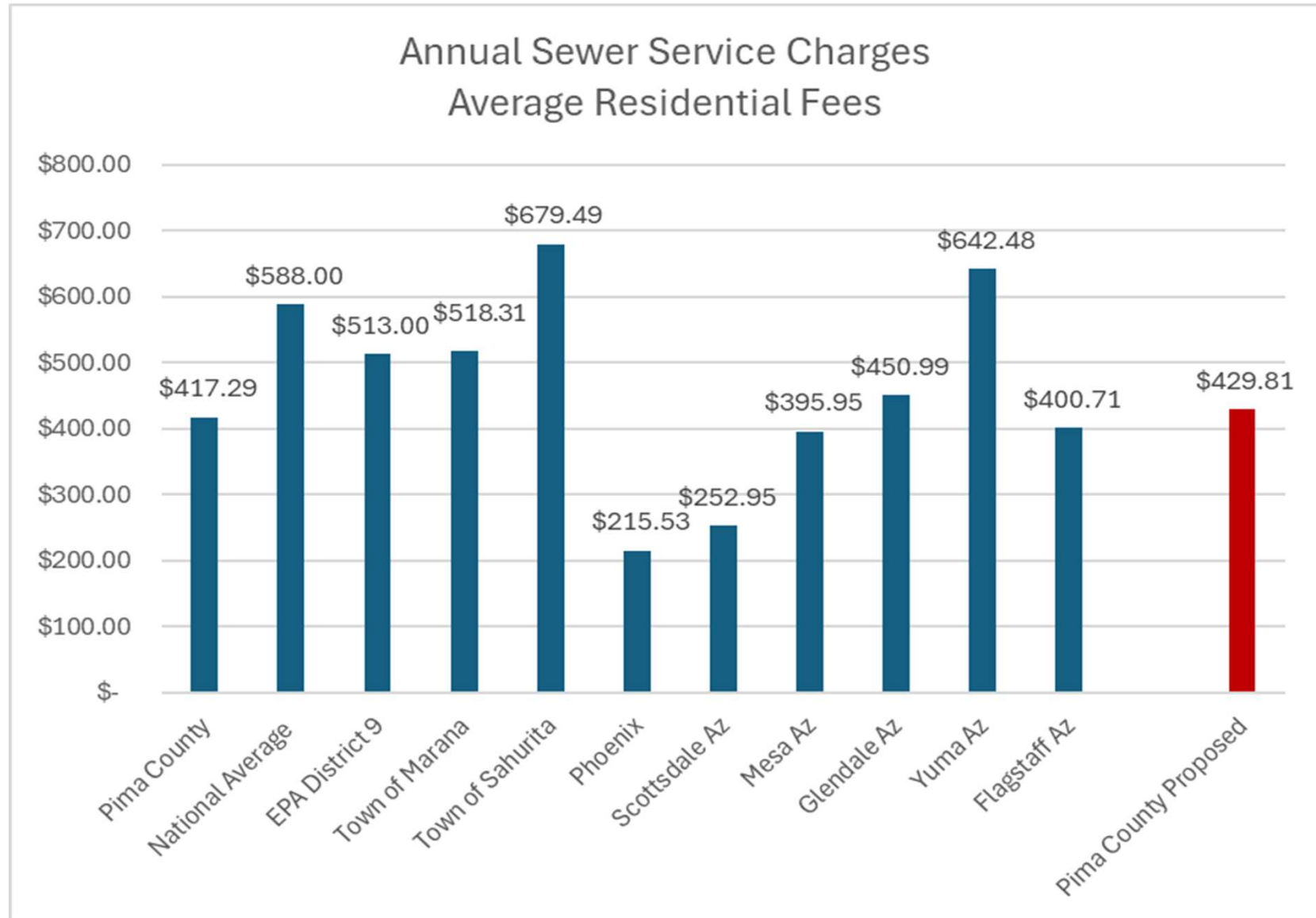
FY 2026 Budget Request  
 is \$166,708,678  
 Which includes the  
 projection of the 3% rate  
 increase being adopted

# Proposed Sewer User Rates

User Fee Rate History  
Residential Class Code Rates Based on 7 CCFs unitl FY 2023-24  
FY 2023-24 Winter Quarter Average for Residentail Users Dropped to 6 CCFs



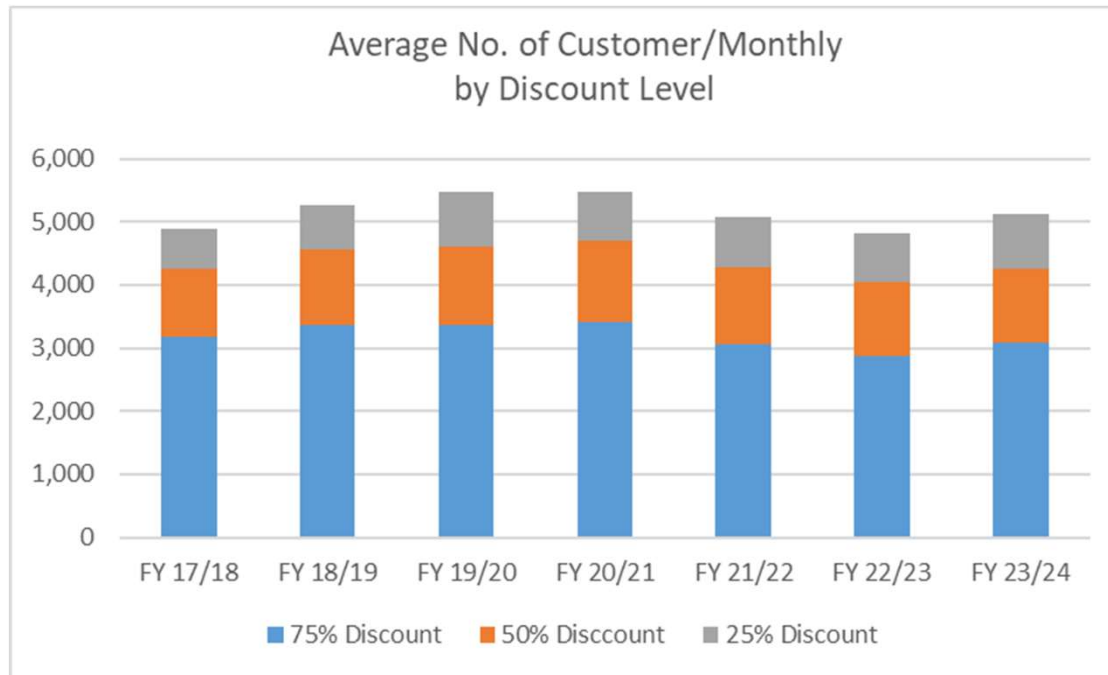
# Comparison of Pima County Sewer Fees



# Sewer Outreach Subsidy (SOS)

- The Department has a subsidy program for low-income customers.
- The program is a tiered rate structure based on federal poverty guidelines.
- Depending on income, customers may qualify for a 25%, 50% or 75% discount on their monthly sewer fees, including the monthly service fee.
  - With the proposed rate increase, in the first year, a customer with a 75% discount would pay \$8.79 per month on an average residential bill or \$105.52 annually.
- The Department is reviewing the SOS program and will work with Tucson Water and Community Services to see if the program can be expanded to include more low income residents.

# SOS Program Participation



Over the past 7 years, the number of residents participating in the low-income assistance program has remained steady. The majority of the participants qualify at the 75% discount level. In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the average monthly number of participants was 5,120. Sewer revenue not billed from the program was over \$1.2 million

FY 2023-24 SOS Data			
	Avg No of Cust/mthly	Revenue Billed	Revenue Not Billed
75% Discount	3,087	\$ 320,640	\$ 961,919
50% Discount	1,161	\$ 227,373	\$ 227,373
25% Discount	872	\$ 246,845	\$ 82,282
Totals	5,120	794,858	1,271,574

# Fee Increase for Wastewater Utility Fees (Connection Fees)

- The proposed fee increase to the Wastewater Utility Fees is 3% in Fiscal Year 2026 and 3% over the next three fiscal years through FY 2029.
- The fee is based on the water meter size that is installed as this has a direct impact on sewer system capacity.

# Calculating The Cost of Capacity

- Wastewater Utility Fees are based on the cost to provide capacity.
- The cost of capacity formula is determined by adding the value of the current system assets available to serve new customers divided by the available system capacity for new customers.
- In 2017 the cost of capacity was calculated to be \$16.50 per gallon.
- Today, using the same formula, the cost of capacity is \$21.34 per gallon
- This is a 29.3% increase in cost to provide capacity to new connections.

# Calculating The Cost of Capacity

- Using the Cost of Capacity formula to arrive at the connection fee per water meter size:
  - 75 gallons of water per person per day (80 gallons/person/day is ADEQ regulatory requirement)
  - Average number of persons per household = 2.5 (2023 census data)
  - Infiltration rate at 17.5%
    - $75 \times 2.5 \times 1.175 = 220.3$  gallons per day
    - $\$21.34 \times 220.3 = \textbf{\$4,701}$  for standard residential meter size cost to connect



# Fee Increase for Connection

- A 5/8", 3/4" or 1", residential water meter sewer connection cost is currently \$4,188
- Cost of Service calculation shows the cost at \$4,701 should better align with today's proposed rate increases at 3% for the next four fiscal years:

FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
\$4,314	\$4,443	\$4,576	\$4,713

# The Cost of Construction Materials

Non-Residential construction outlook continues to show exposure to broader inflation, interest rate and supply chain challenges.

Mortenson Insight 5/21/2024

## COST INDEX ►►► PHOENIX Q1 2024



### CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX (January 2009 = 100)

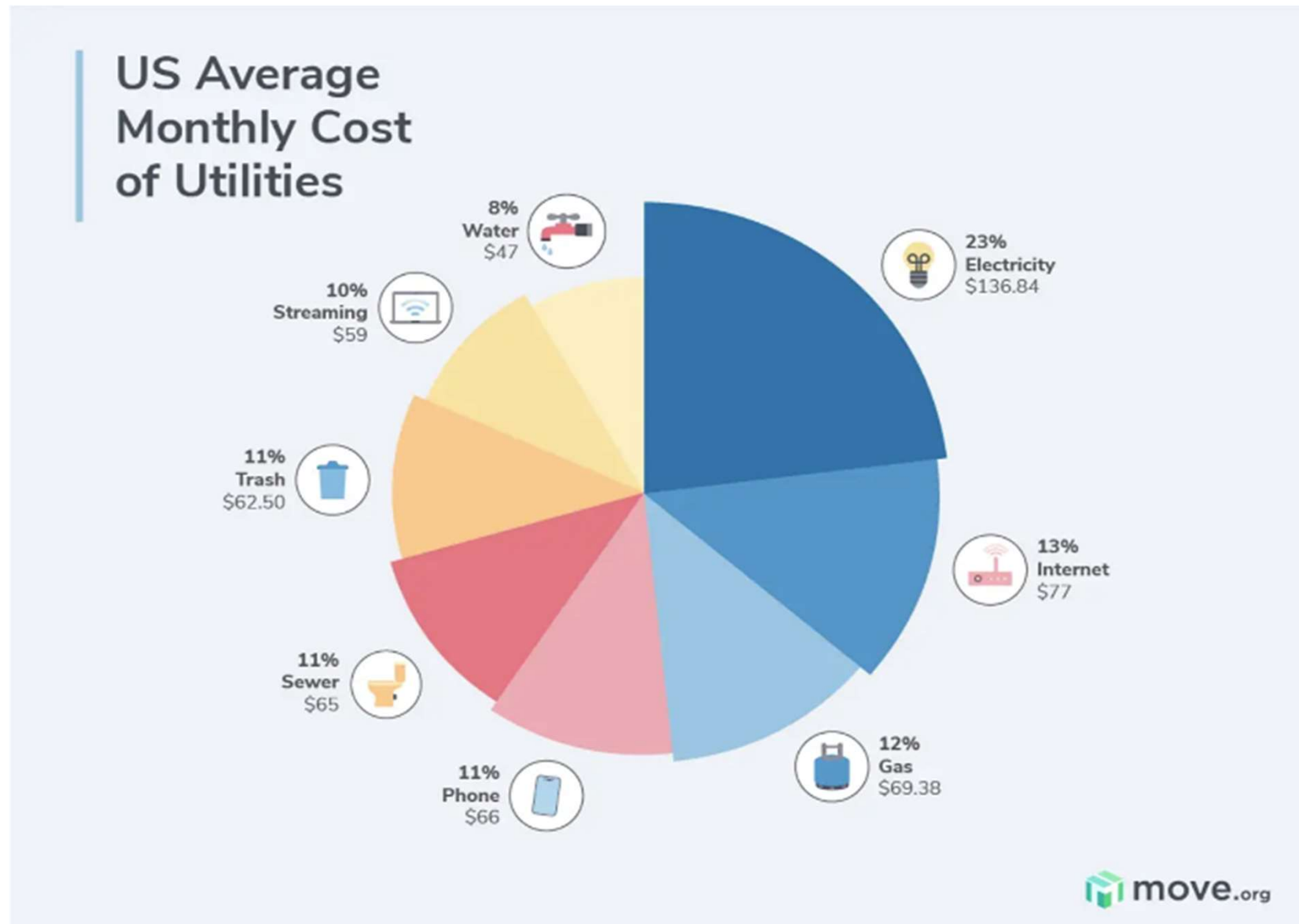


Nationally, the Mortenson Cost Index increased by 0.34% for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024, a 1.9% increase over the previous twelve months. Costs in Phoenix were flat in the most recent quarter and increased 2.5% over the last twelve months.

# Sunset of Discount Program

- Developers currently have the option to receive discounts when constructing off site sewer lines in areas under development through a discount of WUFs for the development.
- The sewer lines are installed for the benefit of the development – not RWRDs requirement.
- This subsidy program will be discontinued – no new discounts will be issued on future developments.
- Discounts already approved or under review will be honored.

# Average Monthly Cost of Utilities in the U.S.



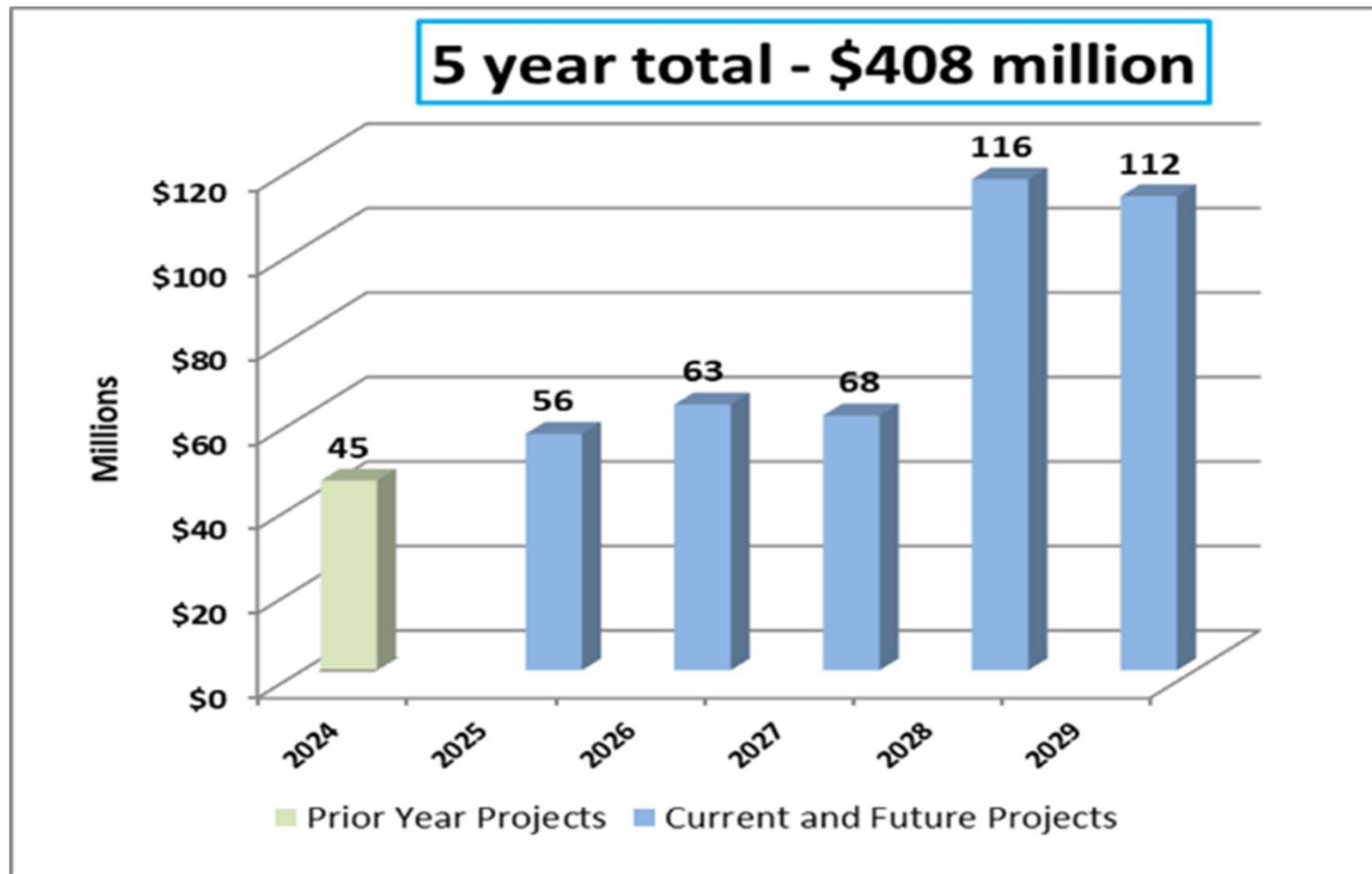
# Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department Projections without Rate Increases

		Forecasted				
		FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	FY28-29
<i>System Revenues:</i>						
	<i>Volumetric User Fee</i>	115,191,372	115,936,970	116,655,779	117,344,048	118,012,909
	<i>Fixed User Administrative Fee</i>	46,408,628	46,705,643	46,995,218	47,272,490	47,541,943
	<i>Sanitation Fees</i>	1,025,690	905,000	905,000	905,000	905,000
	<i>Total Sewer Utility Service</i>	<b>162,625,690</b>	<b>163,547,613</b>	<b>164,555,997</b>	<b>165,521,538</b>	<b>166,459,852</b>
	<i>Wastewater Utility Fee Revenue</i>	17,075,000	15,773,725	15,773,725	15,773,725	15,773,725
	<i>Interest</i>	5,960,649	4,320,000	4,251,461	3,092,377	2,433,578
	<i>Other Income including Biogas</i>	4,415,405	5,041,128	5,041,128	5,041,128	5,041,128
	<i>Total Revenues</i>	<b>190,076,744</b>	<b>188,682,466</b>	<b>189,622,311</b>	<b>189,428,768</b>	<b>189,708,283</b>
	<i>Operations and Maintenance Costs</i>	<b>103,273,054</b>	<b>108,554,150</b>	<b>111,810,775</b>	<b>115,165,098</b>	<b>118,620,051</b>
	<i>Net Revenues</i>	<b>86,803,690</b>	<b>80,128,316</b>	<b>77,811,536</b>	<b>74,263,670</b>	<b>71,088,232</b>
	<i>Existing Debt Service - Subordinate Debt</i>	55,977,166	47,624,127	37,515,210	22,023,695	21,489,817
	<i>Proposed Debt Service</i>	7,494,339	14,812,514	27,000,375	43,298,000	43,942,375
	<i>Total Debt Service Payments</i>	<b>63,471,505</b>	<b>62,436,641</b>	<b>64,515,585</b>	<b>65,321,695</b>	<b>65,432,192</b>
	<i>Rating Agency Ratio</i>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>1.09</b>
	<i>Ending Unrestricted Cash Balance</i>	<b>83,171,792</b>	<b>66,064,937</b>	<b>46,875,124</b>	<b>24,385,048</b>	<b>14,064,518</b>

# Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department Projections with Proposed Rate Increases

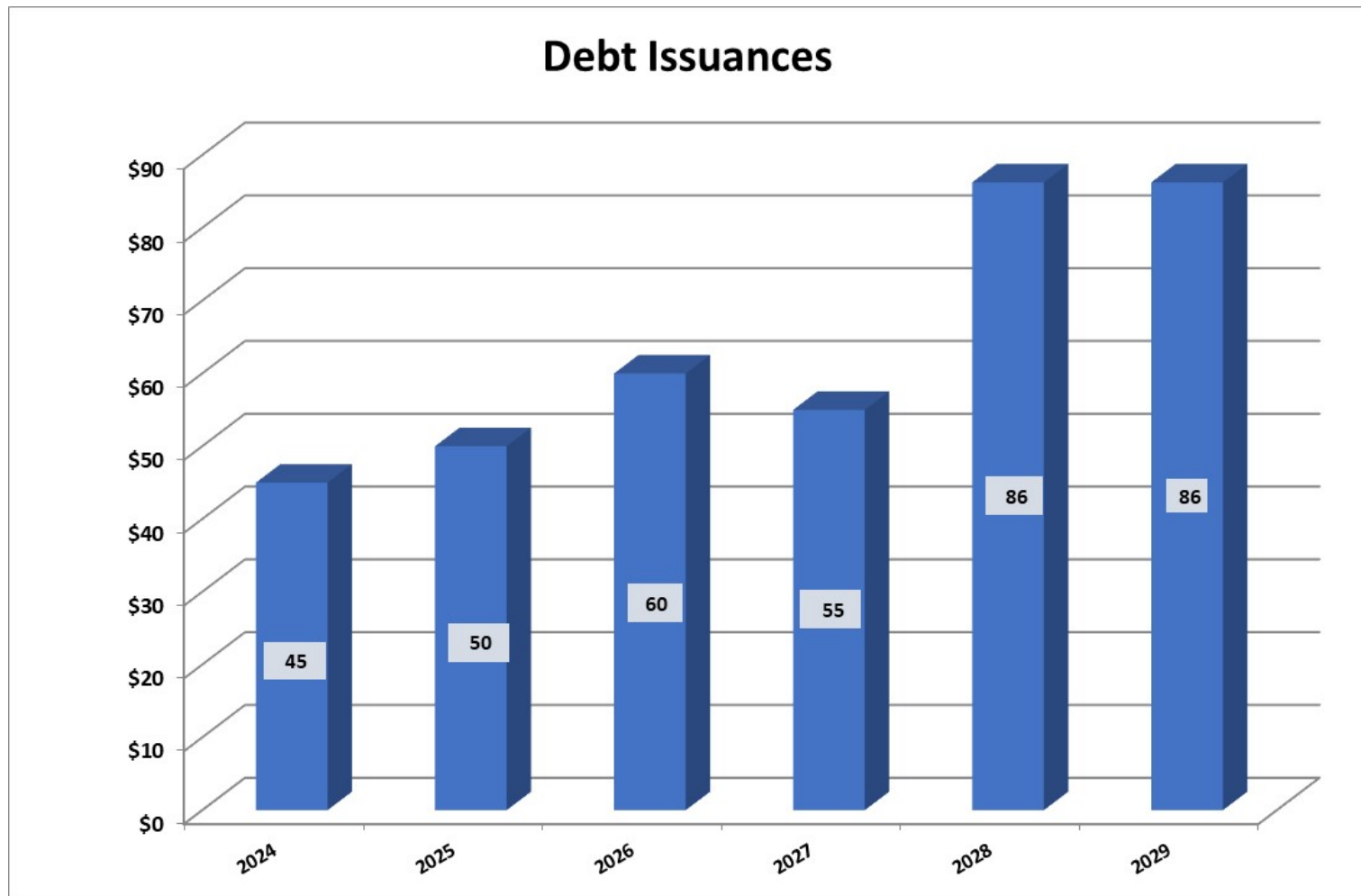
		Forecasted				
		FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	FY28-29
System Revenues:						
	Volumetric User Fee	115,191,372	118,835,394	122,258,173	125,131,637	128,047,173
	Fixed User Administrative Fee	46,408,628	47,873,284	49,252,164	50,409,749	51,584,284
	Sanitation Fees	1,025,690	905,000	905,000	905,000	905,000
	Total Sewer Utility Service	<b>162,625,690</b>	<b>167,613,678</b>	<b>172,415,337</b>	<b>176,446,386</b>	<b>180,536,457</b>
	Wastewater Utility Fee Revenue	17,075,000	15,773,725	16,246,937	16,734,345	17,236,375
	Interest	5,960,649	4,320,000	4,385,336	3,439,177	3,135,578
	Other Income including Biogas	4,415,405	5,041,128	5,041,128	5,041,128	5,041,128
Total Revenues		<b>190,076,744</b>	<b>192,748,531</b>	<b>198,088,738</b>	<b>201,661,036</b>	<b>205,949,538</b>
Operations and Maintenance Costs		<b>103,273,054</b>	<b>108,554,150</b>	<b>111,810,775</b>	<b>115,165,098</b>	<b>118,620,051</b>
Net Revenues		<b>86,803,690</b>	<b>84,194,381</b>	<b>86,277,963</b>	<b>86,495,938</b>	<b>87,329,487</b>
Existing Debt Service - Subordinate Debt		55,977,166	47,624,127	37,515,210	22,023,695	21,489,817
	Proposed Debt Service	7,494,339	14,812,514	27,000,375	43,298,000	43,942,375
Total Debt Service Payments		<b>63,471,505</b>	<b>62,436,641</b>	<b>64,515,585</b>	<b>65,321,695</b>	<b>65,432,192</b>
Rating Agency Ratio		<b>1.37</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>1.33</b>
Ending Unrestricted Cash Balance		<b>83,171,792</b>	<b>69,632,662</b>	<b>58,435,594</b>	<b>47,780,325</b>	<b>53,525,826</b>

# Capital Improvement Program



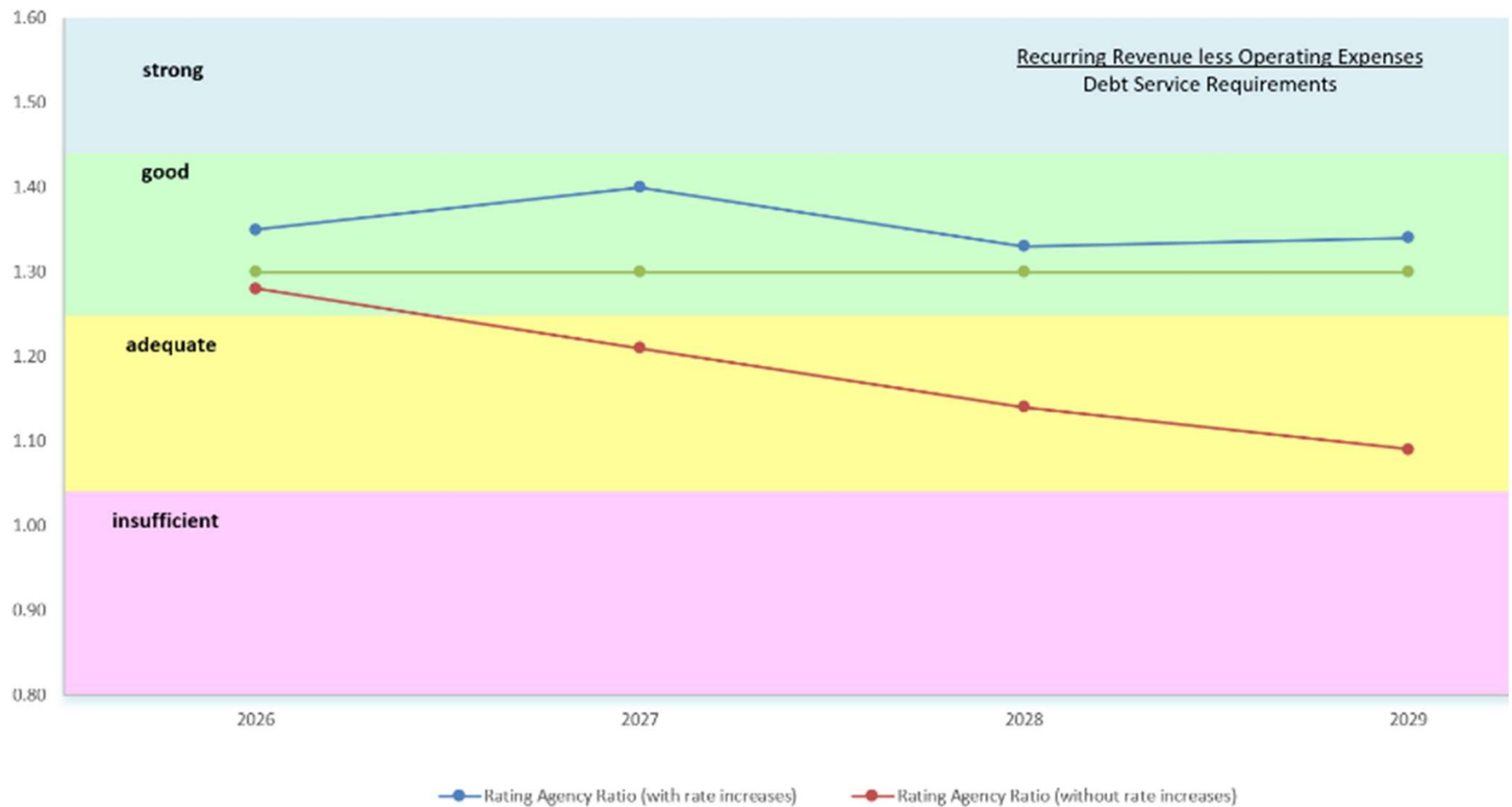


# Planned Debt Issuances





# Financial Health – Rating Agency Ratio





# Questions

JACKSON JENKINS  
DIRECTOR



PH: (520) 724-6500  
FAX: (520) 724-6545

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
33 N. Stone Avenue, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**RE: Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/2026 Financial Plan –  
Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee's Letter of Support**

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Board:

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) was established by the Board of Supervisors (Board) to act as the official advisory body on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) planning and rate structure formulation to County government; annually review the proposed Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's (RWRD) CIP and recommend to the governing body an annual and five-year Capital Program; and annually review the revenue requirements of the sanitary sewerage system and recommend to the governing body rate adjustments as required.

Each year, the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department (FRMD) prepares a Financial Plan, which addresses the financial needs of RWRD based on the projected expenses and projected CIP for the current fiscal year and for four subsequent fiscal years.

The 2025 Financial Plan recommends the following:

1. Issuing \$287 million of new sewer revenue obligations to fund future CIP projects as follows:
  - a. \$60 million in FY 2025-26,
  - b. \$55 million in FY 2026-27,
  - c. \$86 million in FY 2027-28, and
  - d. \$86 million in FY 2028-29.
2. Using unrestricted cash to prepay debt as follows:
  - a. \$21.2 million in FY 2025-26,
  - b. \$15.8 million in FY 2026-27
  - c. \$13.9 million in FY 2027-28, and
  - d. \$14.2 million in FY 2028-29.
3. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2025-26 request annual increases of 3% per year to the Wastewater Utility Fee through Fiscal Year 2028-29 and an increase of 3% to the Sewer Volume Fee and the Service Charge in fiscal year 2025-26 followed by annual increases of 1.75% through Fiscal Year 2028-29.

In September 2024, both Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's (S&P) reaffirmed the County's current sewer debt rating of AA for the Sewer Revenue Obligations. The issued reports explained the analysis of the County's financial condition for its sewer debt. The bond ratings reflect the rating agencies evaluation of the financial stability of the County and its ability to repay debt. As ratings increase, the interest rates offered by lenders decrease reducing the overall debt cost to the County.

The RWRAC Financial Subcommittee held multiple discussions regarding the County-established key financial metrics which FRMD utilized to manage the RWRD Enterprise Fund and develop RWRD's Financial plan. During the discussions beginning on September 12, 2024, the subcommittee was informed that the key goals of the financial requirement are established by the rating agencies in order to maintain Pima County's AA rating for issuing debt.

FRMD informed the subcommittee that S&P has already noted that RWRD's 1.3 ratio is below what is normally expected for AA rated debt. It was confirmed that the rating agencies are looking at RWRD's whole financial portfolio including cash reserves, county pay-as-you-go policies and the fact that RWRD debt is limited to a shorter life span than other utilities, to determine RWRD's AA rating. During the November 5, 2024, subcommittee meeting, FRMD was charged with the creation of a proposed Board of Supervisors policy for the maintenance and use of reserves for the Wastewater Reclamation Enterprise Fund, outlining the process for reaching and maintaining the targeted cash reserves and their specific uses. The point of the RWRD reserves is to secure and maintain the credit rating to provide sufficient working capital to meet departmental cash flow needs, to ensure stable and predictable rate structure and to provide one-time funds for unforeseen expenditures related to emergencies.

The full RWRAC committee reviewed the Rate Workbook at their February 22, 2024, meeting, where committee members voted to recommend to FRMD that the financial plan be based on the scenario with a gradual 1.75% sewer volume rate increase, beginning in FY2025/2026 and continuing for 4 consecutive years. In conjunction to that rate increase, an increase of 1.75% to the service charge would be instituted during the same time period. The sewer utility fee (previously known as connection fees) would also be increased by 3% annually. The motion passed nine (9) to two (2). The rate increases were utilized in the FY 2025-2026 Financial Plan presented to the RWRAC Financial Subcommittee on February 19, 2025, where the subcommittee discussed and resolved any remaining questions regarding the financial plan. The meeting resulted in a unanimous vote by the subcommittee members to accept the financial plan as presented and recommend that the RWRAC support the plan.

During the May 22, 2025, RWRAC meeting, the committee performed a final review of the 2025 Financial Plan. In a vote of 7 in support of the plan and 1 abstention, the RWRAC passed the motion in support of the Financial Plan recommendations.

Therefore, the RWRAC recommends to the Pima County Board of Supervisors the approval of the RWRD FY 2025-2026 Financial Plan.

The RWRAC appreciates the opportunity to provide our recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and we are available at your convenience for any questions or further discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Claire L. Zucker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Claire L. Zucker, Chair  
Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee

c: Jan Leshner, County Administrator  
Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works  
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department  
Art Cuaron, Director, Finance and Risk Management Department  
Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board  
Members, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee

## **Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA)**

### **MPA Stakeholder Meeting**

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.

### **Location:**

Public Works Building

Conference Room C

201 N. Stone Ave

Tucson, AZ 85701

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) Director Jackson Jenkins provided the MPA Stakeholder Meeting members with an overview of the proposed increases to RWRD's Sewer Volume Rate, Service Charge, and Wastewater Utility Fee. The rate changes are proposed to occur starting in September 2025 and increase each year for four years through fiscal year 2029. In addition to the proposed rate increases, RWRD is proposing to sunset the Wastewater Utility Fees Discounts on future developments.

Attending MPA members expressed no surprise or negative impressions of the proposed rate increases or the utility fee discount sunset. MPA requested that RWRD provide a list of major developers that utilize the discounts and would be impacted by the proposed ordinance changes. MPA will communicate with those entities in a smaller forum as necessary to identify any additional information or actions.

## **Southern Arizona Home Builders Association (SAHBA)**

Technical Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location:

SAHBA Board Room

2840 N. Country Club Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85716

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) Director Jackson Jenkins provided the SAHBA Technical Committee with a brief overview of the proposed increases to RWRD's Sewer Volume Rate, Service Charge, and Wastewater Utility Fee. The rate changes are proposed to occur starting in September 2025 and increase each year for four years through fiscal year 2029. In addition to the proposed rate increases, RWRD is proposing to sunset the Wastewater Utility Fees Discounts on future developments.

Chris Laria of Bowman Consulting expressed appreciation to the Department's approach for the proposed rate increases, indicating that the four (4)-year plan would allow for the gradual increase in customer and developer fees rather than a single large increase.

**REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING**

***Attend the Meeting In-Person at:***

***Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, 8959 E. Tanque Verde Road  
OR***

***Virtually via Microsoft Teams***

***Please find the link to attend the meeting on our website:***

***<https://www.pima.gov/1766/Wastewater-Reclamation>, Click on “[Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee \(RWRAC\)s](#)” on the left-hand panel.***

***or Join the meeting telephonically by calling:***

***Toll Number (602) 649-0382 Conference ID#: 635 679 389#***

**Friday, March 7, 2025**

**10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Roll Call**

**C. Virtual Meeting Reminders**

**D. Pledge of Allegiance**

**E. Introduction – Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC**

**F. Proposed Ordinance Revisions Presentation – Pima County Staff**


Regarding the proposed increases to Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's (RWRD) Sewer Volume Rate, Service Charge, and Wastewater Utility Fee for a four-year period (Fiscal Years 2026 -2029). In addition, RWRD is proposing to retire the Wastewater Utility Fees Discounts on future developments.

**G. Call to the Audience – Public Comment Period**

**H. Closing Remarks – Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC**

**I. Adjournment**

Date of Notice: March 3, 2025



Jenette G. Lee, Project Coordinator

Copies posted: 33 N. Stone Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**NOTE:** Under the State Open Meeting Act Rules, no topics other than those listed above may be addressed or acted on at this meeting. Members of the RWRAC will attend either in person, by telephone conference call, video, or internet conferencing.

The public will have physical access to the meeting location 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting Jenette G. Lee at (520) 724-6500 or by email: [RWRAC@pima.gov](mailto:RWRAC@pima.gov). Requests should be made at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

**Daily Territorial (Tucson)**  
**100 N Stone Ave, Suite 300, Tucson, AZ 85701**  
**(520) 294-1200**

I, Cameron Monfared, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath depose and say that I am an agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Publisher of Daily Territorial (Tucson), a publication that is a "legal newspaper" as that phrase is defined for the city of Tucson, for the County of Pima, in the state of Arizona, that this affidavit is Page 1 of 2 with the full text of the sworn-to notice set forth on the pages that follow, and that the attachment hereto contains the correct copy of what was published in said legal newspaper in consecutive issues on the following dates:

**Publication Dates:**

- Feb 20, 2025

**Notice ID:** 6kObck90nNkgz0xC3F6z

**Notice Name:** 2025 Rate Increase

**Publisher ID:** DTT009195

**Request of:**

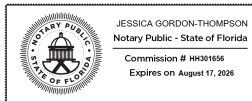
**Pima County RWRD**

**201 N Stone Ave, Tucson, Arizona 85701**

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

*Cameron Monfared*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agent



**VERIFICATION**

State of Florida  
County of Orange

Signed or attested before me on this: 02/20/2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.



**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF PIMA COUNTY CODE, TITLE 13, CHAPTER 24 SANITARY SEWER USER FEES AND CHAPTER 20 SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTION, AND FEES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) will hold a public hearing on the following ordinance and fee revision at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 7th, 2025, at the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, 8959 E. Tanque Verde Road, Tucson, Arizona, at which time and place all interested persons will have the opportunity to appear and be heard on this matter.

1. SEWER USER FEES. PROPOSED INCREASE OF THREE PERCENT (3%) TO THE SEWER VOLUME FEE AND THE SEWER SERVICE FEE FOR ONE (1) YEAR, FOLLOWED BY A PROPOSED INCREASE OF 1.75% ON EACH FEE FOR THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE YEARS.
2. WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE (CONNECTION FEE). PROPOSED ANNUAL INCREASE OF THREE PERCENT (3%) TO THE WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE FOR FOUR (4) CONSECUTIVE YEARS.
3. WASTEWATER UTILITY FEES DISCOUNTS SUNSET. PROPOSED SUNSET OF THE WASTEWATER UTILITY FEES DISCOUNTS. DISCOUNTS ALREADY IN APPROVED AGREEMENTS OR UNDER REVIEW WILL BE HONORED. NO NEW DISCOUNTS WOULD BE ISSUED ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

ORDINANCES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA; RELATING TO WASTEWATER PIMA COUNTY CODE, TITLE 13, CHAPTER 24, SANITARY SEWER USER FEES AND OF TITLE 13, CHAPTER 20, SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTIONS AND FEES.

NOTE: One or more member(s) of RWRAC may participate in telephonic, video or online communications. If a member of the public wishes to participate through the remote hybrid format, the public hearing can be accessed via the RWRAC Agendas, Minutes & Information webpage (<https://www.pima.gov/2830/Regional-Wastewater-Reclamation-Advisory>). You may also dial in using your phone at 602-649-0382 (Meeting ID: 635 679 389#).  
Publish: The Daily Territorial  
Date: February 20, 2025  
DTT009195

Attendance - March 7, 2025

	EMAIL	Confirmed Yes	Confirmed No	Virtual	In Person	Telephone	Actual
1	Alan Forrest (CWAC)	<a href="mailto:alan.forrest@afengineering.xyz">alan.forrest@afengineering.xyz</a>	x		x		x
2	Alejandra Fraijo Arce (PAG)	<a href="mailto:fraijoalejandra@gmail.com">fraijoalejandra@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:Alejandra.FraijoArce@kimley-horn.com">Alejandra.FraijoArce@kimley-horn.com</a>	X	x			x
3	Ann Marie Wolf	<a href="mailto:annmarie@seriaz.org">annmarie@seriaz.org</a>	x		x		x
4	Asia Philbin	<a href="mailto:asia.philbin@tucsonaz.gov">asia.philbin@tucsonaz.gov</a>	X	x			x
5	Claire Zucker	<a href="mailto:clzucker@email.arizona.edu">clzucker@email.arizona.edu</a> ; <a href="mailto:clzucker@arizona.edu">clzucker@arizona.edu</a>	x		x		x
6	Craig Cannizzaro	<a href="mailto:craig.cannizzaro@dibblecorp.com">craig.cannizzaro@dibblecorp.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:craigcannizzaro@gmail.com">craigcannizzaro@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
7	Eric Sullwold	<a href="mailto:espewag@reagan.com">espewag@reagan.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:espewag@gmail.com">espewag@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
8	Kiersten Wangsvick	<a href="mailto:kiersten.wangsvick@stantec.com">kiersten.wangsvick@stantec.com</a>	x		x		x
9	Matt Matthewson	<a href="mailto:charlesmatthewson66@gmail.com">charlesmatthewson66@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
10							
11	Scott Kolt	<a href="mailto:scottrob17@gmail.com">scottrob17@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:Scott.kolt@meritagehomes.com">Scott.kolt@meritagehomes.com</a>					
12	Scott Oldendorph	<a href="mailto:scott.oldendorph@gmail.com">scott.oldendorph@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
13	Steve Foley	<a href="mailto:sfoleynotatwork@aol.com">sfoleynotatwork@aol.com</a>	x		x		x

Total Members Confirmed:	Total Members Confirmed:	11
Total Members Tentative:	Total Members Tentative:	0
<b>Quorum Reached?</b>	<b>Quorum Reached?</b>	<b>YES</b>

Total Committee Attendees: 11

Quorum Reached? YES

		Confirmed Yes	Confirmed No	Virtual	In Person	Telephone	Actual
	Marla Berry (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Marla.Berry@pima.gov">Marla.Berry@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Jackson Jenkins (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Jackson.Jenkins@pima.gov">Jackson.Jenkins@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Jenette Lee (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:jenette.lee@pima.gov">jenette.lee@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Jeff Prevatt (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Jeff.Prevatt@pima.gov">Jeff.Prevatt@pima.gov</a>			x		x
	Jaime Rivera (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Jaime.Rivera@pima.gov">Jaime.Rivera@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Steve Richey (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Steven.Richey@pima.gov">Steven.Richey@pima.gov</a>					
	Jim Doyle	<a href="mailto:James.Doyle@pima.gov">James.Doyle@pima.gov</a>			x		x
	Nate Madison	<a href="mailto:nathan.madison@pima.gov">nathan.madison@pima.gov</a>			x		x
	Kent McRae	<a href="mailto:kent.mcrae@pima.gov">kent.mcrae@pima.gov</a>			x		x
	Mirela Hromatka	<a href="mailto:mirela.hromatka@pima.gov">mirela.hromatka@pima.gov</a>		x			x
	Belen Martinez	<a href="mailto:Belen.Martinez@pima.gov">Belen.Martinez@pima.gov</a>					
	Art Cuaron (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:art.cuaron@pima.gov">art.cuaron@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Andy Welch	<a href="mailto:andy.welch@pima.gov">andy.welch@pima.gov</a>					
	Sam Correa	<a href="mailto:sam.correa@pima.gov">sam.correa@pima.gov</a>					
	Meridith Litton (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:meridith.litton@pima.gov">meridith.litton@pima.gov</a>		x			x
	Michele Milensky (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:michele.milensky@pima.gov">michele.milensky@pima.gov</a>	x	x			x
	David Stickley (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:david.stickley@pima.gov">david.stickley@pima.gov</a>					
	Isai Centeno (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:isai.centeno@pima.gov">isai.centeno@pima.gov</a>					
	Roy Garcia (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:roy.garcia@pima.gov">roy.garcia@pima.gov</a>					
	Val Urias (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:val.urias@pima.gov">val.urias@pima.gov</a>					
	Justyn Dillingham (COMMS)	<a href="mailto:justyn.dillingham@pima.gov">justyn.dillingham@pima.gov</a>		x			x
	Aaron Hodge (COMMS)	<a href="mailto:aaron.hodge@pima.gov">aaron.hodge@pima.gov</a>					
	Kim Oldendorph				x		

Non-Members Confirmed:	Non-Members Confirmed:	6
Non-Members Tentative:	Non-Members Tentative:	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>6</b>

Non-Member Attendees: 13  
24

#### **A. Call to Order –**

Good morning.

It's 10:30 and I call this March 7th, 2025, public hearing to order. My name is Claire Zucker, and I am the Chair of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee. I will be conducting this meeting.

#### **B. Roll Call**

Jenette Lee of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (or RWRD) will take roll call of attending committee members. Ms. Lee?

<Jenette Lee takes roll call> Good morning. Members of the committee either present in person or participating via MS Teams, please indicate your presence by stating "HERE" when I call your name

- Craig Cannizzaro
- Steve Foley
- Alan Forrest
- Alejandra Fraijo Arce
- Scott Kolt - ABSENT
- Charles (Matt) Matthewson
- Scott Oldendorph
- Asia Philbin
- Eric Sullwold
- Kiersten Wangsvick
- Ann Marie Wolf
- Claire Zucker

Thank you. Madam Chair, we have 11 members attending and have a quorum.

#### **C. Virtual Meeting Reminders**

To ensure that all attendants can fully participate in the public hearing, we request that all public audience members attending the public hearing virtually adhere to the following virtual meeting reminders:

- Please mute your microphones. This will help ensure there is no feedback or background noises that may interfere with the speaker.
- When you are called upon to speak, please un-mute your microphone.
  - Please identify yourself prior to speaking.
  - Speak clearly and modulate your speaking volume as necessary to be heard in the meeting room.
  - Do not forget to mute your microphone when finished speaking.
- If at any time a member of the virtual audience is unable to hear the in-room discussion, please raise your hand or place a comment in the chat.

This meeting is being recorded to satisfy Open Meeting Law requirements.

#### **D. Pledge of Allegiance**

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Thank you. Please be seated.

**E. Introduction – Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC**

Welcome to the first public hearing being held by the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (or RWRAC) regarding the proposed increases to the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's Sewer Volume Rate, Service Charge, and Wastewater Utility Fee. The rate changes are proposed to occur starting in September 2025 and increase each year for four years through fiscal year 2029. In addition to the proposed rate increases, RWRD is proposing to retire the Wastewater Utility Fees Discounts on future developments.

During this meeting, Pima County staff will present information supporting the proposed rate increases.

A goal of this hearing is to allow the public to hear the proposed rate increases and to make comment. During the Call to the Audience, audience members who wish to make a comment will be allowed to speak. We ask that members of the public remain courteous and respectful to the other public hearing participants and that all comments relate to the proposed fee increases being presented today.

- For those audience members attending this hearing in person that would like to make a public comment, please complete a speaker index card found on the table <point>. Please provide your name, address and contact information – preferably your phone number and email address. We also ask that you provide a brief summary of your comment or the question you wish to ask. Bring your completed speaker card to Ms. Lee or place it in the box on the table.
- Members of the public attending the hearing virtually that would like to speak or make a comment,
  - Please use the “Raise Your Hand” features.
  - Provide your name, address and contact information, preferably your phone number and email address, via the MS Teams chat. We also ask that you provide a brief summary of your comment or the question you wish to ask.
  - Remember to “lower your hand” once you have finished speaking.
- RWRAC members will not respond to audience member comments, however we may provide answers to direct questions if appropriate.

Public audience members are only permitted to speak during the Call to the Audience and will be called upon by the Committee.

**F. Proposed Ordinance Revisions Presentation – Pima County Staff**

Pima County RWRD Director Jackson Jenkins and Finance Director Art Cuaron will now provide a presentation regarding the proposed rate increases.

**G. Call to the Audience – Public Comment Period**

We will now begin the Call to the Audience portion of the meeting. Each speaker will have three (3) minutes to speak. Please rise and come forward to give your remarks. If you are attending virtually, please un-mute your microphone when called upon.

<No in-person public audience members. No public virtual audience members>

The committee will take a break, but if anyone joins the meeting and wishes to speak, please raise your hand during the break.

**H. Closing Remarks – Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC**

Thank you for your participation in the public hearing.

The RWRAC was established by the Board of Supervisors to act as the official advisory body to RWRD on the Capital Improvement Program planning and rate structure formulation to County government. The committee annually reviews the proposed Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's (RWRD) CIP and recommend to the governing body an annual and five-year Capital Program; and annually reviews the revenue requirements of the sanitary sewerage system and recommend to the governing body rate adjustments as required.

Each year, the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department prepares a Financial Plan, which addresses the financial needs of RWRD based on the projected expenses and projected CIP for the current fiscal year and for four subsequent fiscal years.

We appreciate your attendance and participation in this public hearing and thank everyone for being here today. This concludes the public hearing.

## **I. Adjournment**

Do I have a motion to adjourn?

<Eric Sullwold moves to adjourn>

Do I have a second?

<Scott Oldendorph seconds the motion to adjourn>

The motion has been moved and seconded. All members in favor of adjourning the public hearing, please say "aye". Those opposed? The motion passes unanimously. The public hearing is adjourned at 11:32 on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



**REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING**

**Attend the Meeting In-Person at:**  
**Water Campus, 2955 Calle Agua Nueva**  
**OR**

**Virtually via Microsoft Teams**

**Please find the link to attend the meeting on our website:**

<https://www.pima.gov/1766/Wastewater-Reclamation>, Click on "[Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee \(RWRAC\)s](#)" on the left-hand panel.

or Join the meeting telephonically by calling:

**Toll Number (602) 649-0382 Conference ID#: 597 553 510#**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

**5:00 p.m. –6:00 p.m.**

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Virtual Meeting Reminders**
- D. Pledge of Allegiance**
- E. Introduction** – *Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC*
- F. Proposed Ordinance Revisions Presentation** – *Pima County Staff*  
Regarding the proposed increases to Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's (RWRD) Sewer Volume Rate, Service Charge, and Wastewater Utility Fee for a four-year period (Fiscal Years 2026 -2029). In addition, RWRD is proposing to retire the Wastewater Utility Fees Discounts on future developments.
- G. Call to the Audience** – *Public Comment Period*
- H. Closing Remarks** – *Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC*
- I. Adjournment**

Date of Notice: March 7, 2025



Jenette G. Lee, Project Coordinator

Copies posted: 33 N. Stone Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**NOTE:** Under the State Open Meeting Act Rules, no topics other than those listed above may be addressed or acted on at this meeting. Members of the RWRAC will attend either in person, by telephone conference call, video, or internet conferencing.

The public will have physical access to the meeting location 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting Jenette G. Lee at (520) 724-6500 or by email: [RWRAC@pima.gov](mailto:RWRAC@pima.gov). Requests should be made at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

**Daily Territorial (Tucson)**  
**100 N Stone Ave, Suite 300, Tucson, AZ 85701**  
**(520) 294-1200**

I, Marco Coppola, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath depose and say that I am an agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Publisher of Daily Territorial (Tucson), a publication that is a "legal newspaper" as that phrase is defined for the city of Tucson, for the County of Pima, in the state of Arizona, that this affidavit is Page 1 of 2 with the full text of the sworn-to notice set forth on the pages that follow, and that the attachment hereto contains the correct copy of what was published in said legal newspaper in consecutive issues on the following dates:

**Publication Dates:**

- Feb 25, 2025

**Notice ID:** KWZZ9YcV90HIR4ztFWSG

**Notice Name:** 2025 Rate Increase

**Publisher ID:** DTT009230

**Request of:**

**Pima County RWRD**

**201 N Stone Ave, Tucson, Arizona 85701**

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

*Marco Coppola*

Agent



**VERIFICATION**

State of Florida  
County of Orange

Signed or attested before me on this: 02/25/2025

*[Signature]*

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF PIMA COUNTY CODE, TITLE 13, CHAPTER 24 SANITARY SEWER USER FEES AND CHAPTER 20 SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTION, AND FEES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee will hold a public hearing on the following ordinance and fee revision at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12th, 2025, at the Water Campus, 2955 Calle Agua Nueva, Tucson, Arizona, at which time and place all interested persons will have the opportunity to appear and be heard on this matter.

- SEWER USER FEES. PROPOSED INCREASE OF THREE PERCENT (3%) TO THE SEWER VOLUME FEE AND THE SEWER SERVICE FEE FOR ONE (1) YEAR, FOLLOWED BY A PROPOSED INCREASE OF 1.75% ON EACH FEE FOR THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE YEARS.
- WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE (CONNECTION FEE). PROPOSED ANNUAL INCREASE OF THREE PERCENT (3%) TO THE WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE FOR FOUR (4) CONSECUTIVE YEARS.
- WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE DISCOUNTS SUNSET. PROPOSED SUNSET OF THE WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE DISCOUNTS. DISCOUNTS ALREADY IN APPROVED AGREEMENTS OR UNDER REVIEW WILL BE HONORED. NO NEW DISCOUNTS WOULD BE ISSUED ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

ORDINANCES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA; RELATING TO WASTEWATER PIMA COUNTY CODE, TITLE 13, CHAPTER 24, SANITARY SEWER USER FEES AND OF TITLE 13, CHAPTER 20, SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTIONS AND FEES.

NOTE: One or more member(s) of RWRAC may participate in telephonic, video or online communications. If a member of the public wishes to participate through the remote hybrid format, the public hearing can be accessed via the RWRAC Agendas, Minutes & Information webpage (<https://www.pima.gov/2830/Regional-Wastewater-Reclamation-Advisory>). You may also dial in using your phone at 602-649-0382 (Meeting ID: 635 679 389#).  
Publish: The Daily Territorial  
Date: February 25, 2025  
DTT009230



Attendance - March 12, 2025

	EMAIL	Confirmed Yes	Confirmed No	Virtual	In Person	Telephone	Actual
1	Alan Forrest (CWAC)	<a href="mailto:alan.forrest@afengineering.xyz">alan.forrest@afengineering.xyz</a>	x		x		x
2	Alejandra Fraijo Arce (PAG)	<a href="mailto:fraijoalejandra@gmail.com">fraijoalejandra@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:Alejandra.FraijoArce@kimley-horn.com">Alejandra.FraijoArce@kimley-horn.com</a>	x		x		x
3	Ann Marie Wolf	<a href="mailto:annmarie@seriaz.org">annmarie@seriaz.org</a>	x	x			x
4	Asia Philbin	<a href="mailto:asia.philbin@tucsonaz.gov">asia.philbin@tucsonaz.gov</a>					
5	Claire Zucker	<a href="mailto:clzucker@email.arizona.edu">clzucker@email.arizona.edu</a> ; <a href="mailto:clzucker@arizona.edu">clzucker@arizona.edu</a>	x		x		x
6	Craig Cannizzaro	<a href="mailto:craig.cannizzaro@dibblecorp.com">craig.cannizzaro@dibblecorp.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:craiggannizzaro@gmail.com">craiggannizzaro@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
7	Eric Sullwold	<a href="mailto:espewag@reagan.com">espewag@reagan.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:espewag@gmail.com">espewag@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
8	Kiersten Wangsvick	<a href="mailto:kiersten.wangsvick@stantec.com">kiersten.wangsvick@stantec.com</a>	x		x		x
9	Matt Matthewson	<a href="mailto:charlesmatthewson66@gmail.com">charlesmatthewson66@gmail.com</a>		x			x
10							
11	Scott Kolt	<a href="mailto:scottrob17@gmail.com">scottrob17@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:Scott.kolt@meritagehomes.com">Scott.kolt@meritagehomes.com</a>					
12	Scott Oldendorph	<a href="mailto:scott.oldendorph@gmail.com">scott.oldendorph@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
13	Steve Foley	<a href="mailto:sfoleynotatwork@aol.com">sfoleynotatwork@aol.com</a>	x	x			x

Total Members Confirmed:	Total Members Confirmed:	9
Total Members Tentative:	Total Members Tentative:	0
Quorum Reached?	Quorum Reached?	YES

Total Committee Attendees: 10

Quorum Reached? YES

	EMAIL	Confirmed Yes	Confirmed No	Virtual	In Person	Telephone	Actual
	Max DiSante (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Max.DiSante@pima.gov">Max.DiSante@pima.gov</a>			x		x
	Jackson Jenkins (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Jackson.Jenkins@pima.gov">Jackson.Jenkins@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Jenette Lee (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:jenette.lee@pima.gov">jenette.lee@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Jeff Prevatt (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Jeff.Prevatt@pima.gov">Jeff.Prevatt@pima.gov</a>			x		x
	Jaime Rivera (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Jaime.Rivera@pima.gov">Jaime.Rivera@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Steve Richey (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Steven.Richey@pima.gov">Steven.Richey@pima.gov</a>		x			
	Nancy Cole (County Administrator)	<a href="mailto:nancy.cole@pima.gov">nancy.cole@pima.gov</a>					
	Carmine DeBonis (County Administrator)	<a href="mailto:carmine.debonis@pima.gov">carmine.debonis@pima.gov</a>					
	Bobby Yu (County Attorney )	<a href="mailto:Bobby.Yu@pcao.pima.gov">Bobby.Yu@pcao.pima.gov</a>					
	Cindy Nguyen (County Attorney )	<a href="mailto:cindy.nguyen@pcao.pima.gov">cindy.nguyen@pcao.pima.gov</a>					
	Art Cuaron (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:art.cuaron@pima.gov">art.cuaron@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Andy Welch	<a href="mailto:andy.welch@pima.gov">andy.welch@pima.gov</a>					
	Sam Correa	<a href="mailto:sam.correa@pima.gov">sam.correa@pima.gov</a>					
	Meridith Litton (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:meridith.litton@pima.gov">meridith.litton@pima.gov</a>					
	Michele Milensky (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:michele.milensky@pima.gov">michele.milensky@pima.gov</a>					
	David Stickley (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:david.stickley@pima.gov">david.stickley@pima.gov</a>					
	Isai Centeno (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:isai.centeno@pima.gov">isai.centeno@pima.gov</a>					
	Roy Garcia (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:roy.garcia@pima.gov">roy.garcia@pima.gov</a>					
	Val Urias (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:val.urias@pima.gov">val.urias@pima.gov</a>					
	Justyn Dillingham (COMMS)	<a href="mailto:justyn.dillingham@pima.gov">justyn.dillingham@pima.gov</a>			x		x
	Aaron Hodge (COMMS)	<a href="mailto:aaron.hodge@pima.gov">aaron.hodge@pima.gov</a>					
	Joni Sullwold				x		
	Kim Oldendorph				x		x

Non-Members Confirmed: 4  
Non-Members Tentative: 0  
Total: 4

Non-Member Attendees: 8  
18

#### **A. Call to Order –**

Good morning.

It's 5:00 and I call this March 12th, 2025, public hearing to order. My name is Claire Zucker, and I am the Chair of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee. I will be conducting this meeting.

#### **B. Roll Call**

Jenette Lee of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (or RWRD) will take roll call of attending committee members. Ms. Lee?

<Jenette Lee takes roll call> Good morning. Members of the committee either present in person or participating via MS Teams, please indicate your presence by stating "HERE" when I call your name

- Craig Cannizzaro
- Steve Foley
- Alan Forrest
- Alejandra Fraijo Arce
- Scott Kolt - ABSENT
- Charles (Matt) Matthewson
- Scott Oldendorph
- Asia Philbin - ABSENT
- Eric Sullwold
- Kiersten Wangsvick
- Ann Marie Wolf
- Claire Zucker

Thank you. Madam Chair, we have 10 members attending and have a quorum.

#### **C. Virtual Meeting Reminders**

To ensure that all attendants can fully participate in the public hearing, we request that all public audience members attending the public hearing virtually adhere to the following virtual meeting reminders:

- Please mute your microphones. This will help ensure there is no feedback or background noises that may interfere with the speaker.
- When you are called upon to speak, please un-mute your microphone.
  - Please identify yourself prior to speaking.
  - Speak clearly and modulate your speaking volume as necessary to be heard in the meeting room.
  - Do not forget to mute your microphone when you have finished speaking.
- If at any time a member of the virtual audience is unable to hear the in-room discussion, please raise your hand or place a comment in the chat.

This meeting is being recorded to satisfy Open Meeting Law requirements.

#### **D. Pledge of Allegiance**

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Thank you. Please be seated.

**E. Introduction – Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC**

Welcome to the first public hearing being held by the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (or RWRAC) regarding the proposed increases to the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's Sewer Volume Rate, Service Charge, and Wastewater Utility Fee. The rate changes are proposed to occur starting in September 2025 and increase each year for four years through fiscal year 2029. In addition to the proposed rate increases, RWRD is proposing to retire the Wastewater Utility Fees Discounts on future developments.

During this meeting, Pima County staff will present information supporting the proposed rate increases.

A goal of this hearing is to allow the public to hear the proposed rate increases and to make comment. During the Call to the Audience, audience members who wish to make a comment will be allowed to speak. We ask that members of the public remain courteous and respectful to the other public hearing participants and that all comments relate to the proposed fee increases being presented today.

- For those audience members attending this hearing in person that would like to make a public comment, please complete a speaker index card found on the table <point>. Please provide your name, address and contact information – preferably your phone number and email address. We also ask that you provide a brief summary of your comment or the question you wish to ask. Bring your completed speaker card to Ms. Lee or place it in the box on the table.
- Members of the public attending the hearing virtually that would like to speak or make a comment,
  - Please use the “Raise Your Hand” features.
  - Provide your name, address and contact information, preferably your phone number and email address, via the MS Teams chat. We also ask that you provide a brief summary of your comment or the question you wish to ask.
  - Remember to “lower your hand” once you have finished speaking.
- RWRAC members will not respond to audience member comments, however we may provide answers to direct questions if appropriate.

Public audience members are only permitted to speak during the Call to the Audience and will be called upon by the Committee.

**F. Proposed Ordinance Revisions Presentation – Pima County Staff**

Pima County RWRD Director Jackson Jenkins and Finance Director Art Cuaron will now provide a presentation regarding the proposed rate increases.

**G. Call to the Audience – Public Comment Period**

We will now begin the Call to the Audience portion of the meeting. Each speaker will have three (3) minutes to speak. Please rise and come forward to give your remarks. If you are attending virtually, please un-mute your microphone when called upon.

<No in-person public audience members. No public virtual audience members>

The committee will take a break, but if anyone joins the meeting and wishes to speak, please raise your hand during the break.

**H. Closing Remarks – Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC**

Thank you for your participation in the public hearing.

The RWRAC was established by the Board of Supervisors to act as the official advisory body to RWRD on the Capital Improvement Program planning and rate structure formulation to County government. The committee annually reviews the proposed Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's (RWRD) CIP and recommend to the governing body an annual and five-year Capital Program; and annually reviews the revenue requirements of the sanitary sewerage system and recommend to the governing body rate adjustments as required.

Each year, the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department prepares a Financial Plan, which addresses the financial needs of RWRD based on the projected expenses and projected CIP for the current fiscal year and for four subsequent fiscal years.

We appreciate your attendance and participation in this public hearing and thank everyone for being here today. This concludes the public hearing.

## **I. Adjournment**

Do I have a motion to adjourn?

< Scott Oldendorph moves to adjourn >

Do I have a second?

<Steve Foley seconds the motion to adjourn>

The motion has been moved and seconded. All members in favor of adjourning the public hearing, please say "aye". Those opposed? The motion passes unanimously. The public hearing is adjourned at 6:00 on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



**REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC) MEETING**

***Attend the Meeting In-Person at:***

***Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S. Country Club***

***OR***

***Virtually via Microsoft Teams***

***Please find the link to attend the meeting on our website:***

***<https://www.pima.gov/1766/Wastewater-Reclamation>, Click on “[Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee \(RWRAC\)s](#)” on the left-hand panel.***

***or Join the meeting telephonically by calling:***

***Toll Number (602) 649-0382 Conference ID#: 184 495 12#***

**Thursday, March 27, 2025**

**8:00 a.m. –9:00 a.m.**

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Roll Call**

**C. Virtual Meeting Reminders**

**D. Pledge of Allegiance**

**E. Introduction – Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC**

**F. Proposed Ordinance Revisions Presentation – Pima County Staff**

Regarding the proposed increases to Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's (RWRD) Sewer Volume Rate, Service Charge, and Wastewater Utility Fee for a four-year period (Fiscal Years 2026 -2029). In addition, RWRD is proposing to retire the Wastewater Utility Fees Discounts on future developments.

**G. Call to the Audience – Public Comment Period**

**H. Closing Remarks – Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC**

**I. Adjournment**

Date of Notice: March 24, 2025



Jenette G. Lee, Project Coordinator

Copies posted: 33 N. Stone Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**NOTE:** Under the State Open Meeting Act Rules, no topics other than those listed above may be addressed or acted on at this meeting. Members of the RWRAC will attend either in person, by telephone conference call, video, or internet conferencing.

The public will have physical access to the meeting location 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting Jenette G. Lee at (520) 724-6500 or by email: [RWRAC@pima.gov](mailto:RWRAC@pima.gov). Requests should be made at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

**Daily Territorial (Tucson)**  
**100 N Stone Ave, Suite 300, Tucson, AZ 85701**  
**(520) 294-1200**

I, Alison Farmwald, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath depose and say that I am an agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Publisher of Daily Territorial (Tucson), a publication that is a "legal newspaper" as that phrase is defined for the city of Tucson, for the County of Pima, in the state of Arizona, that this affidavit is Page 1 of 2 with the full text of the sworn-to notice set forth on the pages that follow, and that the attachment hereto contains the correct copy of what was published in said legal newspaper in consecutive issues on the following dates:

**Publication Dates:**

- Mar 12, 2025

**Notice ID:** LqxCKCo1u3glv2UrbiQ3

**Notice Name:** 2025 Rate Increase

**Publisher ID:** DTT009305

**Request of:**

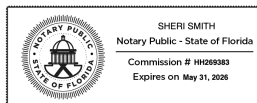
**Pima County RWRD**

**201 N Stone Ave, Tucson, Arizona 85701**

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

*Alison Farmwald*

Agent



**VERIFICATION**

State of Florida  
County of Broward

Signed or attested before me on this: 03/13/2025

*S. Smith*

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF PIMA COUNTY CODE, TITLE 13, CHAPTER 24 SANITARY SEWER USER FEES AND CHAPTER 20 SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTION, AND FEES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee will hold a public hearing on the following ordinance and fee revision at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 27th, 2025, at the Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S. Country Club, Tucson, Arizona, at which time and place all interested persons will have the opportunity to appear and be heard on this matter.

- SEWER USER FEES. PROPOSED INCREASE OF THREE PERCENT (3%) TO THE SEWER VOLUME FEE AND THE SEWER SERVICE FEE FOR ONE (1) YEAR, FOLLOWED BY A PROPOSED INCREASE OF 1.75% ON EACH FEE FOR THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE YEARS.
- WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE (CONNECTION FEE). PROPOSED ANNUAL INCREASE OF THREE PERCENT (3%) TO THE WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE FOR FOUR (4) CONSECUTIVE YEARS.
- WASTEWATER UTILITY FEES DISCOUNTS SUNSET. PROPOSED SUNSET OF THE WASTEWATER UTILITY FEES DISCOUNTS. DISCOUNTS ALREADY IN APPROVED AGREEMENTS OR UNDER REVIEW WILL BE HONORED. NO NEW DISCOUNTS WOULD BE ISSUED ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

ORDINANCES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA; RELATING TO WASTEWATER PIMA COUNTY CODE, TITLE 13, CHAPTER 24, SANITARY SEWER USER FEES AND OF TITLE 13, CHAPTER 20, SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTIONS AND FEES.

NOTE: One or more member(s) of RWRAC may participate in telephonic, video or online communications. If a member of the public wishes to participate through the remote hybrid format, the public hearing can be accessed via the RWRAC Agendas, Minutes & Information webpage (<https://www.pima.gov/2830/Regional-Wastewater-Reclamation-Advisory>). You may also dial in using your phone at 602-649-0382 (Meeting ID: 184 495 12#).  
Publish: The Daily Territorial  
Date: March 12, 2025  
DTT009305

Attendance - March 27, 2025

	EMAIL	Confirmed Yes	Confirmed No	Virtual	In Person	Telephone	Actual
1	Alan Forrest (CWAC)	<a href="mailto:alan.forrest@afengineering.xyz">alan.forrest@afengineering.xyz</a>	x		x		x
2	Alejandra Fraijo Arce (PAG)	<a href="mailto:fraijoalejandra@gmail.com">fraijoalejandra@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:Alejandra.FraijoArce@kimley-horn.com">Alejandra.FraijoArce@kimley-horn.com</a>		x			
3	Ann Marie Wolf	<a href="mailto:annmarie@seriaz.org">annmarie@seriaz.org</a>		x			
4	Asia Philbin	<a href="mailto:asia.philbin@tucsonaz.gov">asia.philbin@tucsonaz.gov</a>	x		x		x
5	Claire Zucker	<a href="mailto:clzucker@email.arizona.edu">clzucker@email.arizona.edu</a> ; <a href="mailto:clzucker@arizona.edu">clzucker@arizona.edu</a>	x		x		x
6	Craig Cannizzaro	<a href="mailto:craig.cannizzaro@dibblecorp.com">craig.cannizzaro@dibblecorp.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:craigcannizzaro@gmail.com">craigcannizzaro@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
7	Eric Sullwold	<a href="mailto:espewag@reagan.com">espewag@reagan.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:espewag@gmail.com">espewag@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
8	Kiersten Wangsvick	<a href="mailto:kiersten.wangsvick@stantec.com">kiersten.wangsvick@stantec.com</a>	x		x		x
9	Matt Matthewson	<a href="mailto:charlesmatthewson66@gmail.com">charlesmatthewson66@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
10							
11	Scott Kolt	<a href="mailto:scottrob17@gmail.com">scottrob17@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:Scott.kolt@meritagehomes.com">Scott.kolt@meritagehomes.com</a>	x				
12	Scott Oldendorph	<a href="mailto:scott.oldendorph@gmail.com">scott.oldendorph@gmail.com</a>	x		x		x
13	Steve Foley	<a href="mailto:sfoleynotatwork@aol.com">sfoleynotatwork@aol.com</a>	x				

Total Members Confirmed:	Total Members Confirmed:	10
Total Members Tentative:	Total Members Tentative:	0
<b>Quorum Reached?</b>	<b>Quorum Reached?</b>	<b>YES</b>

Total Committee Attendees: 8

Quorum Reached? YES

		Confirmed Yes	Confirmed No	Virtual	In Person	Telephone	Actual
	Jackson Jenkins (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Jackson.Jenkins@pima.gov">Jackson.Jenkins@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Jenette Lee (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:jenette.lee@pima.gov">jenette.lee@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Jeff Prevatt (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Jeff.Prevatt@pima.gov">Jeff.Prevatt@pima.gov</a>					
	Jaime Rivera (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Jaime.Rivera@pima.gov">Jaime.Rivera@pima.gov</a>	x		x		x
	Steve Richey (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Steven.Richey@pima.gov">Steven.Richey@pima.gov</a>					
	Tracey Lindskog (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:Tracey.Lindskog@pima.gov">Tracey.Lindskog@pima.gov</a>		x			x
	Jim Doyle (RWRD)	<a href="mailto:James.Doyle@pima.gov">James.Doyle@pima.gov</a>			x		x
	Nancy Cole (County Administrator)	<a href="mailto:nancy.cole@pima.gov">nancy.cole@pima.gov</a>					
	Carmine DeBonis (County Administrator)	<a href="mailto:carmine.debonis@pima.gov">carmine.debonis@pima.gov</a>					
	Kim Challenger-Briggs (BOS)	<a href="mailto:kim.challender-briggs@pima.gov">kim.challender-briggs@pima.gov</a>			x		x
	Bobby Yu (County Attorney )	<a href="mailto:Bobby.Yu@pcao.pima.gov">Bobby.Yu@pcao.pima.gov</a>					
	Cindy Nguyen (County Attorney )	<a href="mailto:cindy.nguyen@pcao.pima.gov">cindy.nguyen@pcao.pima.gov</a>					
	Art Cuaron (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:art.cuaron@pima.gov">art.cuaron@pima.gov</a>	x				
	Andy Welch	<a href="mailto:andy.welch@pima.gov">andy.welch@pima.gov</a>					
	Sam Correa	<a href="mailto:sam.correa@pima.gov">sam.correa@pima.gov</a>					
	Meridith Litton (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:meridith.litton@pima.gov">meridith.litton@pima.gov</a>					
	Michele Milensky (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:michele.milensky@pima.gov">michele.milensky@pima.gov</a>	x				
	David Stickley (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:david.stickley@pima.gov">david.stickley@pima.gov</a>					
	Isai Centeno (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:isai.centeno@pima.gov">isai.centeno@pima.gov</a>					
	Roy Garcia (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:roy.garcia@pima.gov">roy.garcia@pima.gov</a>					
	Val Urias (FRMD)	<a href="mailto:val.urias@pima.gov">val.urias@pima.gov</a>					
	Kim Oldendorph				x		x
	Gloria Muñoz	<a href="mailto:GMunoz1949@gmail.com">GMunoz1949@gmail.com</a>			x		x

Non-Members Confirmed:	Non-Members Confirmed:	5
Non-Members Tentative:	Non-Members Tentative:	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>5</b>

Non-Member Attendees: 8  
16



#### **A. Call to Order –**

Good morning.

It's 8:03 and I call this March 27th, 2025, public hearing to order. My name is Claire Zucker, and I am the Chair of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee. I will be conducting this meeting.

#### **B. Roll Call**

Jenette Lee of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (or RWRD) will take roll call of attending committee members. Ms. Lee?

<Jenette Lee takes roll call> Good morning. Members of the committee either present in person or participating via MS Teams, please indicate your presence by stating "HERE" when I call your name

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- Ann Marie Wolf - ABSENT
- Claire Zucker

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Welcome to the first public hearing being held by the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (or RWRAC) regarding the proposed increases to the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's Sewer Volume Rate, Service Charge, and Wastewater Utility Fee. The rate changes are proposed to occur starting in September 2025 and increase each year for four years through fiscal year 2029. In addition to the proposed rate increases, RWRD is proposing to retire the Wastewater Utility Fees Discounts on future developments.

During this meeting, Pima County staff will present information supporting the proposed rate increases.

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<No in-person public audience members. No public virtual audience members>

The committee will take a break, but if anyone joins the meeting and wishes to speak, please raise your hand during the break.

#### **H. Closing Remarks – *Claire L. Zucker, Chair, RWRAC***

Thank you for your participation in the public hearing.

The RWRAC was established by the Board of Supervisors to act as the official advisory body to RWRD on the Capital Improvement Program planning and rate structure formulation to County government. The committee annually reviews the proposed Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's (RWRD) CIP and recommend to the governing body an annual and five-year Capital Program; and annually reviews the revenue requirements of the sanitary sewerage system and recommend to the governing body rate adjustments as required.

Each year, the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department prepares a Financial Plan, which addresses the financial needs of RWRD based on the projected expenses and projected CIP for the current fiscal year and for four subsequent fiscal years.

We appreciate your attendance and participation in this public hearing and thank everyone for being here today. This concludes the public hearing.

#### **I. Adjournment**

Do I have a motion to adjourn?

<Eric Sullwold moves to adjourn>

Do I have a second?

<Scott Oldendorph seconds the motion to adjourn>

The motion has been moved and seconded. All members in favor of adjourning the public hearing, please say "aye". Those opposed? The motion passes unanimously. The public hearing is adjourned at 9:00 AM on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## INTERIM AD DRAFT

This is the proof of your ad scheduled to run in **Daily Territorial (Tucson)** on the dates indicated below. If changes are needed, please contact us prior to deadline at **(520) 294-1200**.

Notice ID: 9COWeuAmqSik89rXjiz3 | **Proof Updated: May. 28, 2025 at 11:54am MST**  
Notice Name: 2025 Rate Increase - BOS Meeting

See Proof on Next Page

This is not an invoice. Below is an estimated price, and it is subject to change. You will receive an invoice with the final price upon invoice creation by the publisher.

#### FILER

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jenette.lee@pima.gov  
(520) 724-6235

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Daily Territorial (Tucson)

Columns Wide: 2

Ad Class: Legals

05/30/2025: Public Hearings	79.15
Affidavit fee	5.00

Subtotal	\$84.15
Tax %	0
Processing Fee	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$84.15</b>

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING THE PIMA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Pima County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances at or after 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, First Floor, Administrative Building, 130 W. Congress Street, Tucson, Arizona, at which time and place all interested persons will have the opportunity to appear and be heard on this matter.

**CODE, TITLE 13, CHAPTER 24, SANITARY SEWER USER FEES AND TITLE 13, CHAPTER 20, SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION, CONNECTIONS AND FEES.**

- **SEWER USER FEES. PROPOSED INCREASE OF THREE PERCENT (3%) TO THE SEWER VOLUME FEE AND THE SEWER SERVICE FEE FOR ONE (1) YEAR, FOLLOWED BY A PROPOSED INCREASE OF 1.75% ON EACH FEE FOR THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE YEARS.**
- **WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE (CONNECTION FEE). PROPOSED ANNUAL INCREASE OF THREE PERCENT (3%) TO THE WASTEWATER UTILITY FEE FOR FOUR (4) CONSECUTIVE YEARS.**
- **WASTEWATER UTILITY FEES DISCOUNTS SUNSET. PROPOSED SUNSET OF THE WASTEWATER UTILITY FEES DISCOUNTS. DISCOUNTS ALREADY IN APPROVED AGREEMENTS OR DISCOUNTS RELATED TO IMPROVEMENT PLANS UNDER REVIEW WILL BE HONORED. NO NEW DISCOUNTS WOULD BE ISSUED ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.**

Copies of the ordinance revisions are available for viewing at the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department, 3th floor, 201 N. Stone Avenue and also published on the County's wastewater department (<https://www.pima.gov/1766/Wastewater-Reclamation>), Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (<https://www.pima.gov/2830/Regional-Wastewater-Reclamation-Advisory>), AND Public Notices and Proposed Pima County Taxes and Fees (<https://www.pima.gov/3119/Public-notice-and-proposed-pima-county>) webpages.

Publicly noticed items may be continued during the Board's meeting. If an item from the specified Public Hearing is continued, a new date for the Public Hearing will be announced at the time specified in this notice.

Publish: The Daily Territorial

Date: May 30, 2025

#####



legals@dailyterritorial.com

Receipt number  
Invoice number 3805F013-0005  
Invoice date May 28, 2025  
Date due Jun 28, 2025  
Payment method VISA - 3269

Paid by  
Pima County RWRD

\$84.15 paid on May 28, 2025

=== Notes ===  
Notice Name: 2025 Rate Increase - BOS Meeting  
Order Number: DTT 010173

Description	Qty	Unit price	Amount
05/30/2025: Public Hearings Notice	1	\$79.15	\$79.15
Affidavit fee	1	\$5.00	\$5.00
Subtotal			\$84.15
Tax			\$0.00
Amount paid			\$84.15



# **2025 Financial Plan**

## **Pima County**

### **Regional Wastewater Reclamation Enterprise Fund**

*Prepared by  
Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department  
May 2025*

# 2025 Financial Plan

## Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Enterprise Fund

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## Executive Summary

### **BACKGROUND**

On an annual basis, Pima County reviews the financial information for the sanitary sewer services provided by its Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department. The focus of the review is to determine the optimal sewer rates needed to ensure that the County has sufficient revenues to meet all operating and maintenance expenses, debt service payments, required reserves, and to maintain an adequate debt service ratio to obtain favorable bond ratings. This enables the County to continue to issue debt for the anticipated improvements in the Capital Improvement Program.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on this review, the Finance and Risk Management Department is recommending:

1. Issuing \$287 million of new sewer revenue obligations to fund future capital improvement projects as follows:
  - a. \$60 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26,
  - b. \$55 million in Fiscal Year 2026-27,
  - c. \$86 million in Fiscal Year 2027-28, and
  - d. \$86 million in Fiscal Year 2028-29.
2. Using unrestricted cash to prepay debt as follows:
  - a. \$21.2 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26,
  - b. \$15.8 million in Fiscal Year 2026-27
  - c. \$13.9 million in Fiscal Year 2027-28, and
  - d. \$14.2 million in Fiscal Year 2028-29.
3. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2025-26 request annual increases of 3% per year to the Wastewater Utility Fee through Fiscal Year 2028-29 and an increase of 3% to the Sewer Volume Fee and the Service Charge in fiscal year 2025-26 followed by annual increases of 1.75% through Fiscal Year 2028-29.

## INTRODUCTION

This report addresses the financial needs for the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department based on the projected revenues, projected expenses, and projected capital improvement program expenses for Fiscal Year 2024-25 through Fiscal Year 2028-29.

## KEY ASSUMPTIONS

The Finance and Risk Management Department (Finance) worked with the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (Department), County Administration and the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee to develop these assumptions. The major assumptions include:

- relatively slow growth in the customer base,
- an increase in user fees at the rate of population growth with annual rate increases beginning in September 2025,
- an increase in utility fees of 3% annually beginning in September 2025,
- a capital improvement program of approximately \$408 million,
- additional sewer revenue debt of \$287 million with 10–15-year maturities assuming additional funding is identified for the Sahuarita Reclamation Facility, and
- using unrestricted cash for the prepayment of debt.

Appendix A further describes the assumptions used in this report.

## METHODOLOGY

Finance used the following methods to determine optimal sewer rates.

1. Analyzed the revenue generating potential of the Department's existing sewer rates.
2. Identified the projected cash needs of the Department for upcoming capital projects, anticipated operating and maintenance costs, debt service payments for existing debt, anticipated debt service payments for planned debt, and planned prepayment of future debt.
3. Compared the revenue generating potential of the existing rates to the Department's identified cash needs to determine whether rate changes may be necessary. Finance used an industry standard debt service ratio comparing revenues less operating and maintenance costs to debt service requirements for this analysis.
4. Analyzed the Department's cash balances, the effects of Arizona's local expenditure limitation on the Department, and the Department's debt ratings.

The estimates used for this analysis are as of February 2025 for Operations and March 2025 for Capital. Projected amounts change throughout the year as plans are refined and actual costs are determined.

## REVENUES

### Fees:

The County's wastewater system generates revenues from two major sources, sewer user fees and wastewater utility fees.

**User fees** are the combination of: (1) the standard service fee and (2) the volume rate fee. Rate increases or decreases depend upon future growth in the number of new users and volume usage rate. The Department will not collect user fee revenues above the current level without a rate increase, or growth in these two factors. The last rate increase took effect in June 2017.

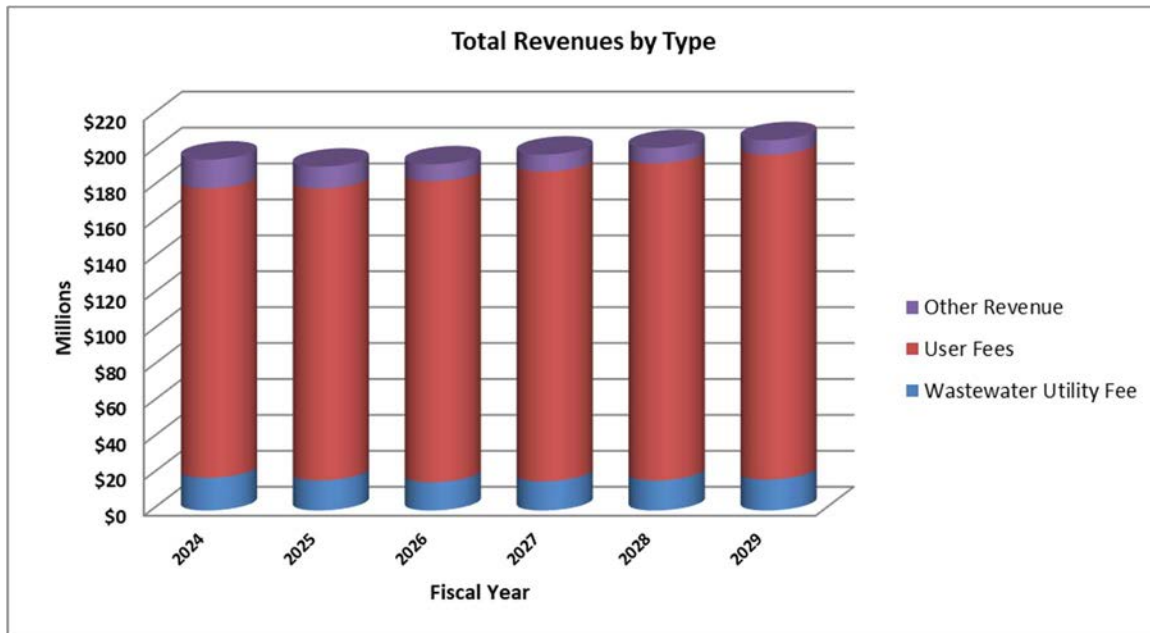
**Utility fees** are charged when new construction connects to the sewer system for the first time or when renovation of existing structures requires additional or larger water meters. Utility fees are based primarily on water meter size, with fees increasing as water meter size increases. The principal factor that will affect revenues from future utility fees will be the volume of new construction within the County.

For this financial analysis, future user fees are projected to increase based on annual rate increases beginning in Fiscal Year 2026 along with the estimated rate of population growth issued by the University of Arizona Economic & Business Research Center. These estimates project population growth rates to be between 0.595 percent and 0.675 percent between Fiscal Year 2024-25 and Fiscal Year 2028-29, as indicated in Appendix A.

### Total Revenues:

From Fiscal Year 2024-25 through Fiscal Year 2028-29, total revenues are expected to increase \$14.8 million or 7.7 percent. Figure 1 shows Total Revenues by Type, for Fiscal Year 2023-24, including projections through Fiscal Year 2028-29, with a portion of those revenues attributable to utility fees.

**Figure 1: Total Revenues by Type**



As detailed in Table 1, Annual Utility Fees are expected to increase to \$17.2 million over the next four years.

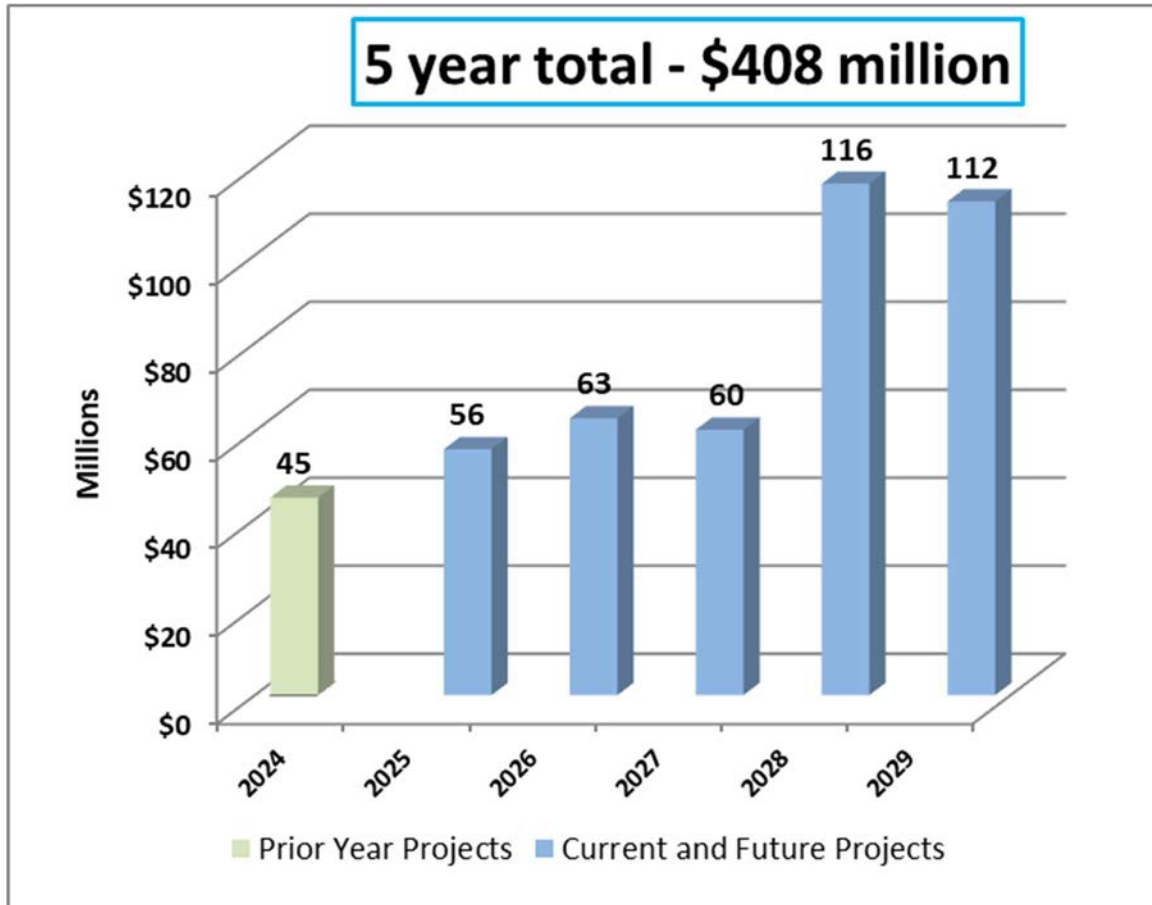
**Table 1: Total Revenues by Type – Detail (in Millions)**

Fiscal Year	Utility Fees	User Fees	Other Revenue	Total Revenues
2024	18.2	161.2	15.9	195.3
2025	16.8	162.5	12.1	191.4
2026	15.8	167.6	9.3	192.7
2027	16.2	172.5	9.4	198.1
2028	16.7	176.6	8.5	201.8
2029	17.2	180.8	8.2	206.2

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

As shown in Figure 2, capital expenditures are estimated to be \$408 million through the end of Fiscal Year 2028-29 assuming additional funding is identified for Sahuarita Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

**Figure 2: Capital Project Costs**

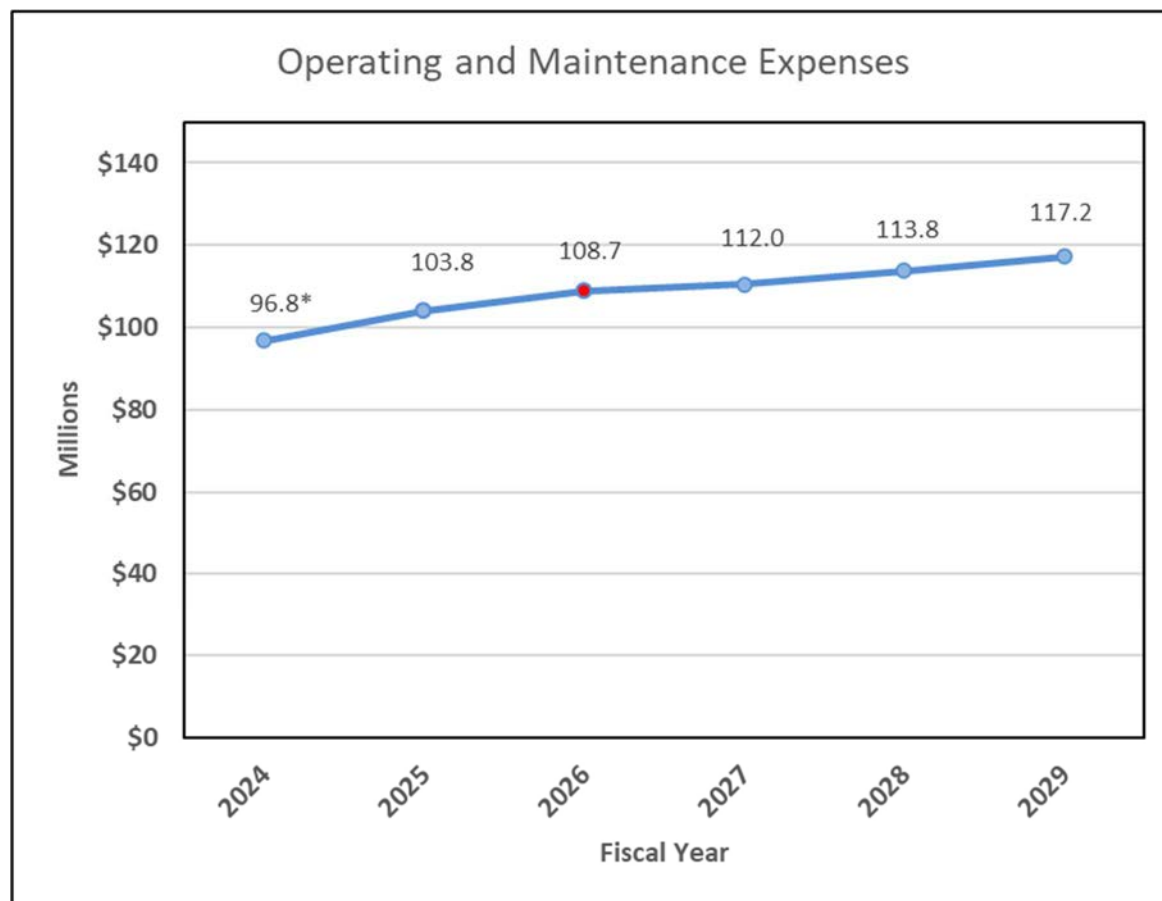


Projected future capital expenditures may change throughout the year as plans are refined and actual construction costs are determined. This analysis uses the Department's estimate of capital projects as of March 2025. A summary of the capital projects for Fiscal Year 2024-25 through Fiscal Year 2028-29 can be found in Appendix C, *Summary of Planned Capital Improvement Projects as of March 2025*. As discussed on page 11, in the Expenditure Limitation section, to comply with the expenditure limitation, the County must continue to borrow funds for the majority of the \$408 million planned capital improvements program, even though the County has cash available in the fund.

## OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES

The Department is expecting to complete the Fiscal Year 2024-25 with Operating and Maintenance (O&M) expenses of \$103.8 million. The budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 has not yet been approved by the Board of Supervisors. For analysis purposes, the Department's Requested Budget of \$108.7 million was used for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The Department's Requested Budget represents an increase of approximately \$4.9 million over the Fiscal Year 2024-25 forecasted amount. This is primarily due to increases in employee compensation and the rising cost of operating supplies. Employee compensation is expected to be \$36.9 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26, representing 34 percent of total operating expenses. The plan also assumes operating and maintenance expenses increase 3.0 percent in Fiscal Year 2026-27 and in each year thereafter. At this rate of increase, O&M costs are expected to increase by approximately \$8.5 million between Fiscal Year 2025-26 and Fiscal Year 2028-29. Figure 3 shows the increase in O&M expenses from Fiscal Year 2023-24 to Fiscal Year 2028-29.

**Figure 3: Operating and Maintenance Expenses**

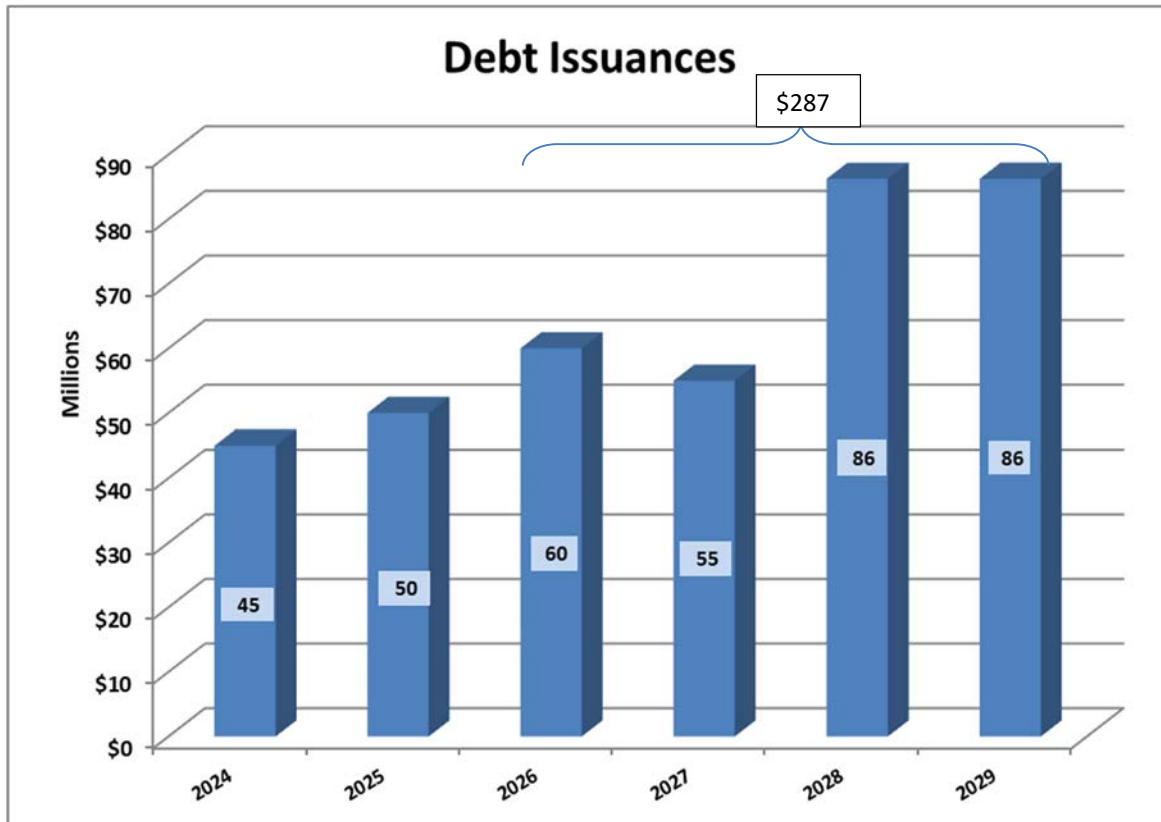


\*Operating and Maintenance Expenses, excluding a non-cash accounting entry for Pension expenses.

## SEWER REVENUE DEBT FINANCING

As of June 30, 2024, Pima County had \$343.8 million of sewer revenue debt outstanding. The County issued \$45.5 million in sewer revenue obligations in October 2024 that provided \$50 million for capital projects. The County plans to issue an additional \$287 million over the next four years. Figure 4 shows the amounts and timing of the future debt issues.

**Figure 4: \$287 Million of Additional Debt 2026 Through 2029**



## DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

Total debt service payments are expected to remain constant over the next few years. The County anticipates issuing additional debt as shown in Figure 4 with 10-15-year maturity dates and utilizing unrestricted cash to prepay debt. Debt service for Fiscal Year 2024-25 will be \$63.5 million, with the use of \$18 million in unrestricted cash to prepay a portion of the 2016 Sewer Obligations.

Figure 5 shows the debt service payments from Fiscal Year 2024-25 and the projected payments through Fiscal Year 2028-29.

**Figure 5: Debt Service Payments**

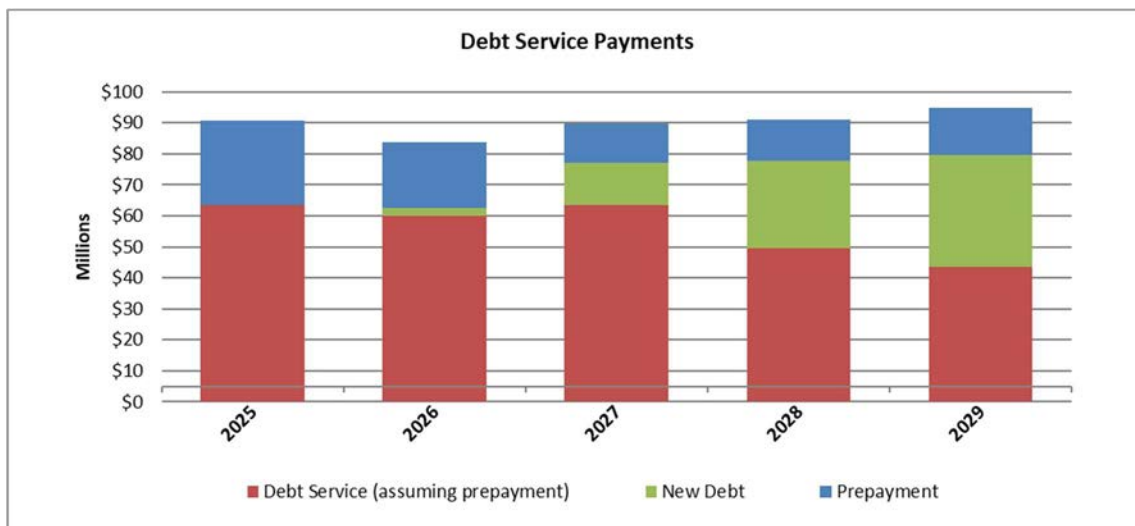


Table 2 details the impact on the debt service payments by year if unrestricted cash is used to prepay debt service payments and debt is issued according to the Rate Workbook (see Appendix B) for Fiscal Years 2024-25 to 2028-29.



**Table 2: Debt Service Payment – Detail (in Millions)**

Fiscal Year	Debt Service on Existing Debt	Planned Debt Service on New Debt	Total Planned Debt Service WITHOUT Prepayments	Total Planned Prepayments	Total Planned Debt Service AFTER Prepayment
2024	87.5	0.0	87.5	22.6	64.9
2025	90.8	0.0	90.8	27.3	63.5
2026	81.2	2.6	83.8	21.3	62.5
2027	63.4	13.8	77.2	12.5	64.7
2028	49.5	28.3	77.8	13.3	64.5
2029	43.6	36.0	79.6	15.1	64.5

As shown in Table 2, when planned new debt is issued, the debt service payments without prepayments would have been \$90.8 million in Fiscal Year 2024-25, with an average debt service payment of \$81.8 million between now and Fiscal Year 2028-29. However, if the Department continues to use unrestricted cash to prepay debt, the Department’s highest future debt service payment will occur in fiscal year 2026-27 at \$64.7 million, with an average payment of \$64.1 million through fiscal year 2028-29.

#### CASH RESERVES AND CASH BALANCES

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Enterprise Fund has unrestricted cash and several types of restricted and designated cash accounts to meet the various debt covenants and to maintain an emergency fund that enables the County to handle unexpected events. Appendix D, *Cash Position Assuming the Prepayment of \$83.2 Million of Debt between 2024-25 and 2028-29*, shows the balances and projected balances of the cash accounts. As of Finance and Risk Management’s February 2025, Cash Flow report, the Fund will have an estimated \$167.3 million in cash at the end of Fiscal Year 2024-25, of which \$64.5 million is currently estimated to be unrestricted. The restricted and designated cash accounts described below include the remaining \$102.8 million balances:

1. **Emergency Reserve Fund (Unrestricted)** – In Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the Board of Supervisors established a \$20 million Emergency Reserve Fund. The fund is for unexpected events affecting the ongoing operations of the sewer system.

2. **Operating Reserve Fund** (Partially Restricted) – Various debt instruments require the County to maintain a 30-day balance of anticipated operating expenses. The County maintains 90 days of anticipated operating expenses in this fund, the remaining 60 days of reserve of cash is designated by management for operating expenses. By the end of Fiscal Year 2024-25, these reserves are projected to be \$25.9 million.
3. **Debt Service Reserve Fund** (Restricted) – This restricted fund is used to set aside cash for sewer debt service payments. This is comprised of one-half of the maximum annual debt service which is retained in an outside bank account and will be applied to the final debt service payments for the respective debt. In addition, the County makes monthly transfers of one-twelfth of budgeted annual debt service to ensure cash is available for the annual debt service payments. By the end of Fiscal Year 2024-25, these debt reserves are projected to be \$41.5 million.
4. **Debt Proceeds** (Restricted) – This restricted fund is used to restrict the debt proceeds received until the funds are spent for the various capital projects. By the end of Fiscal Year 2024-25, this reserve is projected to be \$15.4 million.

<b>RATING AGENCY DEBT SERVICE RATIO</b>
---

**Net Operating Revenue to Debt Service:**

Net operating revenues are the regular, recurring revenues generated by operating the sewer system that remain after paying for sewer system operating expenses. Net operating revenues must be sufficient to do two things: (1) cover the required debt service payments and required reserves and (2) generate a sufficient margin that enables the County to pay non-operating costs and maintain additional reserves for unforeseen events.

Bond rating agencies use a basic ratio of net operating revenues to debt service to evaluate the financial health of governmental sewer operations. A ratio of 1 indicates that net operating revenues match debt service payments meaning net operating revenues are 100 percent of debt service payments. A ratio of less than 1, for example, 0.9, indicates that net revenues are less than, or in this example 90 percent of, debt service payments. A ratio of greater than 1, for example, 1.3, indicates that net revenues are larger than, or in this example 130 percent of, debt service payments.

Bond rating agencies have historically expected to see governmental sewer operators set rates that maintain a rating agency debt service ratio of 1.3 or greater. This enables governments to cover debt service payments and cash reserves, while making interest rates attractive to investors.

Since the beginning of the Regional Optimization Master Plan, Pima County Administration has committed to setting rates that maintain a rating agency debt service ratio of 1.3 or greater. The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee formally stated this goal in a letter to Pima County's Board of Supervisors. Pima County's sewer revenue debt is highly rated, and the County can sell debt for its Capital Improvement Program at low interest rates.

In recent years, the County has not needed to use its unrestricted financial reserves to pay for unforeseen events and the Fund has accumulated a significant balance (see Cash Balances section). Therefore, the County's Finance and Risk Management Department continues to recommend the prepayment of sewer revenue debt discussed in the Debt Service Payments section while carefully monitoring unrestricted cash balances to ensure they stay at reasonable levels.

Appendix B provides more detail of the projected revenues, expenses, net operating revenues, and debt service ratios of the system.

#### **EXPENDITURE LIMITATION**

##### **Impact to Wastewater Projects:**

Due to the expenditure limitation restrictions in Article IX, Section 20, of the Arizona Constitution, the County is limited on its use of available cash to fund capital improvements. The expenditure limitation restricts the use of local revenues, which consist of primary property taxes, impact fees, utility fees, including all fees charged for sewer services, and any other fees charged for County services. The County may not exceed the expenditure limit even if the County has cash available to spend.

To comply with the expenditure limitation restrictions, the County must fund sewer capital projects with borrowed funds and use available unrestricted cash to pay the debt service.

#### **BOND RATING AGENCIES**

In September 2024, both Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's reaffirmed the County's current sewer debt rating of AA for the Sewer Revenue Obligations. The issued reports explained the analysis of the County's financial condition for its sewer debt. The bond ratings reflect the rating agencies evaluation of the financial stability of the County and its ability to repay debt. As ratings increase, the interest rates offered by lenders decrease reducing the overall debt cost to the County.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
------------------------

**The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee Recommendation:**

During Fiscal Year 2024-25 the Finance and Risk Management Department met with the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee to discuss the Department's financial activity and condition. The Finance and Risk Management Department presented the 2025 Financial Plan at the May 22, 2025, Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee (RWRAC) meeting. At that meeting the committee voted in support of the 2025 Financial Plan and Finance's recommendations outlined in the plan.

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Key Assumptions used for the 2025 Financial Plan

Appendix B – Rate Workbook

Appendix C – Summary of Planned Capital Improvement Projects as of March 2025

Appendix D – Cash Position Assuming the Prepayment of \$83.2 Million

Appendix E – Debt Service Ratio Calculations

APPENDIX A - KEY ASSUMPTIONS

			Current Year	Totals					
	ASSUMPTION REGARDING:		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2025-2029	Comments
1	Population Growth Factors		0.6500	0.6400	0.6750	0.6510	0.5950		2024 4th quarter UA Economic & Business Research Center estimates for FY 2025 - 2029.
2	User Rate Increases:	Volumetric Fee increases	0.00%	3.00%	1.75%	1.75%	1.75%		Annual rate increase of 3% beginning in September 2025 and 1.75% annually thereafter.
		Service Charge	0.00%	3.00%	1.75%	1.75%	1.75%		
3	Volume Usage Rate Factor		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		Rate based on 5 year average volume usage.
4	Utility Fees	Population Growth	0.6500	0.6400	0.6750	0.6510	0.5950		2024 4th quarter UA Economic & Business Research Center estimates for FY 2025 - 2029.
		Rate Increase	0.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%		Annual rate increase of 3% beginning in September 2025.
5	Annual rate of expense increase		7.27%	3.68%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%		Current year is based on projected expenses for Period 8. For fiscal year 2026, assumption of 3.68% growth in operating costs. Fiscal Years 2027-29 have a 3% increase in operating costs over the prior year amount.
6	Capital Projects		55,879,789	62,920,978	60,310,103	116,215,000	112,200,000	407,525,870	For Fiscal Years 2025 - 2029, amounts per RWRD's Requested Budget.
7	Debt Assumptions	Sewer Obligations	50,000,000	60,000,000	55,000,000	86,250,000	86,255,000	337,505,000	
8	Interest Rate Assumptions		5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%		

APPENDIX B

Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department Enterprise Fund  
Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029

FEBRUARY 2025 CURRENT FORECAST WITH CAPITAL EXPENDITURES BASED ON REQUESTED BUDGET, PRIOR TO DECISION ON FUNDING FOR SAHUARITA RECLAMATION FACILITY

Rate increase proposed for September 1, 2025

	Actuals	Adopted Budget	Forecasted	Assumptions			
	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	FY28-29
Customers	295,570	296,930	297,491	299,395	301,416	303,378	305,183
Population Growth - UA Estimates	1.0092	1.0046	1.0065	1.0064	1.0068	1.0065	1.0060
Volume Rate	3.6287	3.6287	3.6287	3.7376	3.8030	3.8695	3.9372
Rate factor - Volume Fee	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0300	1.0175	1.0175	1.0175
Service Charge Rate	13.0000	13.0000	13.0000	13.3900	13.6243	13.8628	14.1053
Rate factor - Flat Service Charge	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0300	1.0175	1.0175	1.0175
Rate factor - Wastewater Utility Fee	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0300	1.0300	1.0300	1.0300
Rate factor - O&M Expenses	1.0746	1.0834	1.0727	1.0368	1.0300	1.0300	1.0300
CCF - Calculated Flow Estimate	8.8699	9.1112	8.8929	8.8929	8.8929	8.8929	8.8929
Rate factor - Volume	0.9820	1.0272	1.0026	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

	Actuals	Adopted Budget	Forecasted	Forecasted			
	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	FY28-29
System Revenues:							
Volumetric User Fee	114,159,710	117,803,920	115,191,372	118,835,394	122,325,001	125,275,960	128,226,725
Fixed User Administrative Fee	46,108,920	46,321,080	46,408,628	47,873,284	49,279,085	50,467,890	51,656,617
Sanitation Fees	940,946	1,000,000	900,000	905,000	905,000	905,000	905,000
Total Sewer Utility Service	161,209,576	165,125,000	162,500,000	167,613,678	172,509,086	176,648,850	180,788,343
Wastewater Utility Fee Revenue	18,226,883	14,950,000	16,800,000	15,773,725	16,246,937	16,734,345	17,236,375
Interest	9,798,963	3,926,408	7,007,384	4,320,000	3,769,961	3,233,077	3,075,878
Other Income including Biogas	6,142,926	3,377,600	5,122,059	5,041,128	5,041,128	5,041,128	5,041,128
Total Revenues	195,378,348	187,379,008	191,429,443	192,748,531	197,567,112	201,657,400	206,141,724
Operations and Maintenance Costs	96,792,797	104,862,845	103,825,539	108,722,910	110,482,749	113,797,232	117,211,149
Net Revenues	98,585,551	82,516,163	87,603,904	84,025,621	87,084,363	87,860,168	88,930,575
Existing Debt Service - Senior Debt		-	-	-	-	-	-
Existing Debt Service - Subordinate Debt	64,943,708	62,462,255	55,977,166	47,655,844	38,691,927	22,117,445	23,459,817
Total Existing Debt Service Payments	64,943,708	62,462,255	55,977,166	47,655,844	38,691,927	22,117,445	23,459,817
Proposed Debt Service			7,494,339	14,812,514	26,000,375	42,348,000	41,042,375
Total Debt Service Payments	64,943,708	62,462,255	63,471,505	62,468,358	64,692,302	64,465,445	64,502,192
Rating Agency Ratio	1.52	1.32	1.38	1.35	1.35	1.36	1.38
Net Revenues after Debt Service Payments	33,641,843	20,053,908	24,132,400	21,557,263	22,392,061	23,394,724	24,428,383
Transfer out - SDF			-	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)	-	-
Debt Service Reserve (Obligations) Transfer	(2,823,500)	(4,207,000)	(6,177,500)	(6,433,875)	(7,607,625)	(6,519,250)	(6,119,375)
Operating Transfer In - Debt Reserve		-	2,477,906	-	4,070,656	-	-
Other Operating Transfers Out	(3,891,140)	(3,549,318)	(3,549,318)	(797,596)	(530,414)	(530,414)	(530,414)
Prepayment of 2016 Obligations	(19,784,530)	(18,170,250)	(17,996,596)	(21,220,500)			
Prepayment of 2017 Obligations				-			
Prepayment of 2018 Obligations					(4,630,502)		
Prepayment of 2019 Obligations					-	-	-
Prepayment of 2020B Obligations					(11,145,498)	(13,914,000)	(3,790,900)
Prepayment of 2021 Obligations							
Prepayment of 2022 Obligations							(10,452,100)
Net Changes in Assets and Liabilities	(7,882,538)	(3,120,258)	(3,153,016)	(1,584,852)	(1,550,878)	(1,119,388)	(2,691,625)
Subtotal	(739,865)	(8,992,918)	(4,266,124)	(11,479,560)	(2,002,200)	1,311,672	843,969
Beginning Unrestricted Cash Balance	83,463,964	86,598,245	86,598,245	64,494,056	52,650,289	50,056,556	45,689,543
Change in Restrictions of Cash	3,874,146	(17,838,065)	(17,838,065)	(364,207)	(591,533)	(5,678,685)	(230,693)
Ending Unrestricted Cash Balance	86,598,245	59,767,262	64,494,056	52,650,289	50,056,556	45,689,543	46,302,819

CIP Projections*	44,882,713	55,879,789	55,879,789	62,920,978	60,310,103	116,215,000	112,200,000
Sewer Revenue Debt Proceeds	45,000,000	54,000,000	50,000,000	60,000,000	55,000,000	86,250,000	86,255,000

\* CIP Projections assume additional funding for Sahuarita Reclamation Facility

# APPENDIX C

**Pima County**  
**Summary of Planned Capital Improvement Projects**  
**Regional Wastewater Reclamation**  
**Fiscal Year 2025/26**  
**as of March 2025**

Program Name	Estimated Prior Year	Fiscal Year 2025/2026	Fiscal Year 2026/2027	Fiscal Year 2027/2028	Fiscal Year 2028/2029	Fiscal Year 2029/2030	Fiscal Year 2030/2031	Fiscal Year(s) Beyond	Program Total
WW - Bldg 14 Central Operations Renovation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000,000
WW - Bldg 4 Primary Clarifiers	-	-	500,000	17,750,000	10,750,000	1,000,000	-	-	30,000,000
WW - Canoa Ranch Sewer Extension	4,059,672	4,905,521	4,503,103	-	-	-	-	-	13,468,296
WW - CdT Capacity and Rehabilitation	-	2,000,000	4,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	6,000,000
WW - Conveyance Odor Control Projects FY25	499,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
WW - Conveyance Odor Control Projects FY26	-	499,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
WW - Conveyance Odor Control Projects FY27	-	-	499,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	500,000
WW - Conveyance Odor Control Projects FY28	-	-	-	499,000	1,000	-	-	-	500,000
WW - Conveyance Odor Control Projects FY29	-	-	-	-	499,000	1,000	-	-	500,000
WW - Conveyance Odor Control Projects FY30	-	-	-	-	-	499,000	1,000	-	500,000
WW - Conveyance Odor Control Projects FY31	-	-	-	-	-	-	499,000	1,000	500,000
WW - Conveyance Pump Station Projects FY25	1,749,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,750,000
WW - Conveyance Pump Station Projects FY26	-	999,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
WW - Conveyance Pump Station Projects FY27	-	-	999,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
WW - Conveyance Pump Station Projects FY28	-	-	-	999,000	1,000	-	-	-	1,000,000
WW - Conveyance Pump Station Projects FY29	-	-	-	-	999,000	1,000	-	-	1,000,000
WW - Conveyance Pump Station Projects FY30	-	-	-	-	-	999,000	1,000	-	1,000,000
WW - Conveyance Pump Station Projects FY31	-	-	-	-	-	-	999,000	1,000	1,000,000
WW - Interceptor, CDT WRF to Sahuarita WRF	-	-	-	-	-	9,000,000	10,000,000	2,000,000	21,000,000
WW - Interceptor Sahuarita - Green Valley	-	500,000	4,500,000	16,750,000	16,750,000	2,000,000	-	-	40,500,000
WW - Minor Pipe Rehabilitation Projects FY25	8,814,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,815,000
WW - Minor Pipe Rehabilitation Projects FY26	-	8,999,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	9,000,000



**Pima County**  
**Summary of Planned Capital Improvement Projects**  
**Regional Wastewater Reclamation**  
**Fiscal Year 2025/26**  
**as of March 2025**

Program Name	Estimated Prior Year	Fiscal Year 2025/2026	Fiscal Year 2026/2027	Fiscal Year 2027/2028	Fiscal Year 2028/2029	Fiscal Year 2029/2030	Fiscal Year 2030/2031	Fiscal Year(s) Beyond	Program Total
WW - Minor Pipe Rehabilitation Projects FY27	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,999,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000,000
WW - Minor Pipe Rehabilitation Projects FY28	-	-	-	9,999,000	1,000	-	-	-	10,000,000
WW - Minor Pipe Rehabilitation Projects FY29	-	-	-	-	9,999,000	1,000	-	-	10,000,000
WW - Minor Pipe Rehabilitation Projects FY30	-	-	-	-	-	9,999,000	1,000	-	10,000,000
WW - Minor Pipe Rehabilitation Projects FY31	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,999,000	1,000	10,000,000
WW - NRI Rehabilitation - Campbell to First Ave	-	-	-	-	-	1,641,500	-	-	1,641,500
WW - Pantano Interceptor Rehab - Phase 1 - Kolb to Craycroft	-	-	-	-	-	3,900,000	3,900,000	-	7,800,000
WW - Pantano Interceptor Rehab - Phase 2 - Wilmot to Kolb	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500,000	4,477,000	5,977,000
WW - Sahuarita Wastewater Reclamation Facility	271,752	2,000,000	7,000,000	58,500,000	59,500,000	52,500,000	19,750,000	-	199,521,752
WW - Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Projects FY25	3,599,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,600,000
WW - Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Projects FY26	-	1,599,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,600,000
WW - Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Projects FY27	-	-	1,599,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,600,000
WW - Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Projects FY28	-	-	-	1,599,000	1,000	-	-	-	1,600,000
WW - Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Projects FY29	-	-	-	-	1,599,000	1,000	-	-	1,600,000
WW - Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Projects FY30	-	-	-	-	-	1,599,000	1,000	-	1,600,000
WW - Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Projects FY31	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,599,000	1,000	1,600,000
WW - Sewer Utility Minor Mod Projects FY25	99,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
WW - Sewer Utility Minor Mod Projects FY26	-	99,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
WW - Sewer Utility Minor Mod Projects FY27	-	-	99,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
WW - Sewer Utility Minor Mod Projects FY28	-	-	-	99,000	1,000	-	-	-	100,000
WW - Sewer Utility Minor Mod Projects FY29	-	-	-	-	99,000	1,000	-	-	100,000
WW - Sewer Utility Minor Mod Projects FY30	-	-	-	-	-	99,000	1,000	-	100,000

**Pima County**  
**Summary of Planned Capital Improvement Projects**  
**Regional Wastewater Reclamation**  
**Fiscal Year 2025/26**  
**as of March 2025**

Program Name	Estimated Prior Year	Fiscal Year 2025/2026	Fiscal Year 2026/2027	Fiscal Year 2027/2028	Fiscal Year 2028/2029	Fiscal Year 2029/2030	Fiscal Year 2030/2031	Fiscal Year(s) Beyond	Program Total
WW - Sewer Utility Minor Mod Projects FY31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 100,000
WW - Sidestream Anitamox Process	6,210,890	9,105,660	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,316,550
WW - TRCAB Class A Biosolids	12,082,876	10,759,757	5,010,000	-	-	-	-	-	27,852,633
WW - Treatment Rehabilitation Program FY25	7,999,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,000,000
WW - Treatment Rehabilitation Program FY26	-	6,999,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	7,000,000
WW - Treatment Rehabilitation Program FY27	-	-	5,999,000	1,000	-	-	-	-	6,000,000
WW - Treatment Rehabilitation Program FY28	-	-	-	7,999,000	1,000	-	-	-	8,000,000
WW - Treatment Rehabilitation Program FY29	-	-	-	-	7,999,000	1,000	-	-	8,000,000
WW - Treatment Rehabilitation Program FY30	-	-	-	-	-	7,999,000	1,000	-	8,000,000
WW - Treatment Rehabilitation Program FY31	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,999,000	1,000	10,000,000
WW - Tres Rios WRF Emergency Backup Power	140,000	100,000	5,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	5,240,000
WW - TRWRF Digester Facility	1,855,458	9,350,000	9,135,000	2,015,000	-	-	-	-	22,355,458
WW - University of Arizona Tech Park SEI Augmentation	1,670,259	5,000,000	3,472,000	-	-	-	-	-	10,142,259
<b>Total Planned Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 49,049,907</b>	<b>\$ 62,920,938</b>	<b>\$ 60,320,103</b>	<b>\$ 116,215,000</b>	<b>\$ 112,200,000</b>	<b>\$ 92,241,500</b>	<b>\$ 58,350,000</b>	<b>\$ 6,483,000</b>	<b>\$ 557,780,448</b>

## APPENDIX D

Regional Wastewater Reclamation Enterprise Fund Cash  
Position Assuming the Prepayment of \$83.2 Million  
As of February 2025

	FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27	FY27-28	FY28-29
Operations	114,059,585	103,144,667	101,254,415	96,019,834	97,609,962
Debt Proceeds for CIP Projects	43,761,270	50,274,167	51,501,033	48,055,283	48,629,658
CIP Projects	9,528,989	10,413,756	9,900,284	18,061,580	17,205,297.0
Estimated Cash Balance at End of Fiscal Year	167,349,844	163,832,590	162,655,732	162,136,697	163,444,917
<u>Less Reserves:</u>					
O&M - Operating Reserve	25,952,631	27,176,311	27,616,137	28,444,621	29,297,959
Debt Service Reserve	41,548,428	47,132,080	50,890,608	57,390,953	58,032,372
Construction - Debt Proceeds	15,354,729	16,873,910	14,092,431	10,611,580	9,811,766
Emergency Reserve	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
<b>Projected Ending Cash Balance after Reserve Requirements are met</b>	<b>64,494,056</b>	<b>52,650,289</b>	<b>50,056,556</b>	<b>45,689,543</b>	<b>46,302,820</b>

## Appendix E

### Debt Service Ratio Calculations

The County has historically maintained the goals of a rating agency debt service ratio of 1.3 or greater as discussed in the Debt Service Ratio section. This ratio is used by the rating agencies and serves as a good financial planning tool.

In addition to the rating agency debt service ratio, Pima County's sewer revenue debt has an additional ratio that is mandated by the debt covenants. This debt covenant ratio is used by external parties to determine Pima County's compliance with contractual obligations related to its debt. While this debt covenant ratio should be considered when setting rates, it should not be used as a financial planning tool in the same way that the rating agency debt service ratio is used. By setting rates to maintain a rating agency debt service ratio at 1.3 or greater, the County will comply with the required debt covenant ratio.


The two debt service ratio calculations are as follows:

- 1) **Rating Agency Debt Service** - The Bond Rating Agencies calculate the debt service ratio using the excess of net revenues over the required debt service. The rating agencies require a 1.3x debt ratio be maintained. A debt service ratio lower than 1.3 could cause rating agencies to downgrade future sewer debt from its current rating. The impact of a downgrade would be additional interest costs for future debt. This is the most conservative of the two calculations.

<b>Rating Agency Debt Service Ratio =</b>	$\frac{\text{Net Operating Revenues}}{\text{Debt Service Payments}}$
---	--

- 2) **Sewer Obligation Debt Service Ratio** – The Sewer Obligation Debt Service Ratio is calculated by taking the net operating revenues plus unrestricted cash balance from the beginning of the fiscal year, over the amount of Debt. The County is required to maintain a 1.2x Debt Service Ratio. Failure to maintain a 1.2x triggers a default and provides a mechanism to force the County to increase rates.

<b>Sewer Obl Debt Service Ratio =</b>	$\frac{\text{Net Operating Revenues + Unrestricted Cash Balance}}{\text{Debt Service Payments}}$
---------------------------------------	--



# Reviewing our rates

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department has kept sewer rates the same for eight years, but inflation and maintenance costs have stressed the budget. We're considering a rate increase and we want to keep you informed.

Visit [pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation](https://pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation) to review the proposed increases and submit your comments. Copies are also available at 201 N. Stone Ave., 3rd floor, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**PIMA COUNTY**  
WASTEWATER RECLAMATION



# Tarifas en revisión

El Departamento Regional de Aguas Residuales del Condado Pima ha mantenido las mismas tarifas de alcantarillado durante ocho años, pero la inflación y los costos de mantenimiento han impactado al presupuesto. Estamos considerando un aumento de tarifas y queremos mantenerlo informado.

Visite [pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation](https://pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation) para revisar los aumentos propuestos y enviar sus comentarios. También hay copias impresas disponibles en 201 N. Stone Ave., 3er piso, de 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## **KVOA Channel 4 News**

March 7, 2025

[https://www.kvoa.com/news/local/march-meetings-in-pima-county-to-discuss-sewer-fee-increases/article\\_17480b02-fb88-11ef-983c-1bce78166b74.html](https://www.kvoa.com/news/local/march-meetings-in-pima-county-to-discuss-sewer-fee-increases/article_17480b02-fb88-11ef-983c-1bce78166b74.html)

### **March meetings in Pima County to discuss sewer fee increases**

PIMA COUNTY, Ariz. (KVOA) - The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department announced a series of public meetings throughout March to discuss potential sewer fee increases.

Residents will have the opportunity to review the proposed increases and share their input at these hearings.

The meetings are scheduled for Friday, March 7, at Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, Wednesday, March 12, at the Water Campus, and Thursday, March 27, at Abrams Public Health Center.

The Pima County Board of Supervisors plans to hold a public hearing on the rate increases at its June 17 meeting. Final versions of the proposed increases will be available on Pima County's website before the meeting.

These fees are part of an annual financial plan, prepared by RWRD and the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department, to meet financial needs for the current fiscal year and the next four years.

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee, responsible for reviewing policies and procedures for RWRD, has already reviewed and supported the plan and its recommendations as of Jan. 23.

"It is remarkable that we have gone eight years without the need for a rate increase," said RWRD director Jackson Jenkins. "This reflects our values as a department; we take pride in managing available funds and resources as efficiently as possible, with the goal of providing the best possible service to our customers."

## Pima County Bulletin

Friday, March 7, 2025 09:25 AM MST

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZPIMA/bulletins/3d5ca4f>

### Pima County Wastewater Department seeks public input on proposed sewer rate increases

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) is holding a series of public meetings during the month of March to discuss proposed sewer fee increases.

These hearings will ensure that residents have the opportunity to review the proposed increases and provide their input.

The schedule for the meetings is:

Friday, March 7, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Kirk-Bear Canyon  
Library, 8959 E. Tanque  
Verde Road

Wednesday, March 12,  
5-6 p.m.

Water Campus, 2955  
Calle Agua Nueva

Thursday, March 27, 8-9  
a.m.

Abrams Public Health  
Center, 3950 S. Country  
Club Road



The Pima County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the rate increases at its June 17, 2025, meeting. The final versions of the proposed increases will be available to the public for review on Pima County's website prior to the meeting.

The fees are part of an annual financial plan prepared by RWRD along with the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department to address the department's financial needs for the current fiscal year and the following four fiscal years.

The plan was reviewed by the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee, which reviews and makes recommendations on policies and procedures for RWRD. The committee voted to support the plan and its recommendations at their Jan. 23 meeting.

"It is remarkable that we have gone eight years without the need for a rate increase," said RWRD director Jackson Jenkins. "This reflects our values as a department; we take pride in managing available funds and resources as efficiently as possible, with the goal of providing the best possible service to our customers."

For more information about the proposed rate increases, please see the Feb. 14, 2025, memo from County Administrator Jan Leshner.



## Pima County FYI Newsletter

Friday, March 14, 2025 – Vol. 10, No. 5

<https://www.pima.gov/217/Pima-County-FYI-External-Newsletter?contentId=ab8f962f-4d43-4fdc-b63d-979f5e8498e4>

### Pima County Wastewater seeks input on first proposed rate hikes in eight years

It's a big job, but someone has to do it.

Every day, the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) handles the task of making sure the County's sanitary sewer system continues to function properly.

That means overseeing the two large water reclamation facilities that serve the metro Tucson area along with five smaller ones that provide service from Green Valley to Mt. Lemmon. It also means managing more than 3,500 miles of sewer conveyance lines that stretch across the entire County, along with essential infrastructure such as the pump stations that keep sewage flowing smoothly from one point to the next.



An aerial view of the Agua Nueva Wastewater Reclamation

It's a role that requires vigilance around the clock. The department maintains a 24-hour emergency line and they pride themselves on swift responses to everything from odor complaints to damaged manhole covers.

Despite the vastness of the department's job, the sewer rates that provide all funding for RWRD have remained steady for the last eight years. This year, the department is proposing a series of rate increases, the first since 2017.

The fees are part of an annual financial plan prepared by RWRD along with the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department, designed to address the department's financial needs for the current fiscal year and the following four fiscal years.

"Going eight years without the need for a rate increase is a remarkable achievement," said RWRD Director Jackson Jenkins. "Our department is committed to providing exceptional service for our customers, and allocating all available funds and resources efficiently is part of that."

In keeping with its commitment to public transparency, RWRD has held two public hearings on the proposed increases. They will hold a third meeting Thursday, March 27, from 8-9 a.m., at Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S. Country Club Road. The public can attend either virtually or in-person.

"We want to ensure that the public has a chance to review these new rates and get a better understanding of what the changes would mean," Jenkins said.

The fees will be considered by the Pima County Board of Supervisors at their June 17, 2025, meeting. The final versions of the proposed increases will be available to the public for review on Pima County's website prior to the meeting.

## Pima County FYI Newsletter

Friday, March 14, 2025 – Vol. 10, No. 5

<https://www.pima.gov/217/Pima-County-FYI-External-Newsletter?contentId=ab8f962f-4d43-4fdc-b63d-979f5e8498e4>

Sewer fees are RWRD's only source of revenue – both the monthly sewer user fees paid by individuals in their monthly water bill and the one-time sewer connection fees required for connecting new buildings to the public sewer system. Customers will see the sewer fees included on their monthly water bill.

"It's based on how much water you use," Jenkins said. "We use a household's average usage in the winter months to estimate what to charge them for sewer usage, because you can't measure the flow of sewage going through a little four-inch line leaving your house."

The department has more than one program designed to ensure that sewer fees do not become burdensome, including a subsidy program that allows low-income customers to qualify for discounts of up to 75%. Individuals who are out of town for a month or longer can also apply to have their regular sewer fees suspended during that time.

Jenkins said the department is working to see if the subsidy program can be expanded to include more low-income residents. During the previous fiscal year, more than 5,000 individuals qualified for the program every month.

RWRD has taken other steps to benefit the community in recent years, including making some significant technological advances. More than a decade ago, the department modernized its central water reclamation facilities, making significant upgrades at the Tres Ríos facility and replacing the old Roger Road plant with the state-of-the-art Agua Nueva facility.

These changes have considerably improved the efficiency of the wastewater treatment process. They have also helped to ensure that the department meets high standards for the water it processes; reclaimed water is used to recharge the aquifer, for field irrigation, and to replenish the Santa Cruz River.

That's not the only green-friendly accomplishment RWRD can boast of. In 2021, the department began operating a facility at the Tres Ríos plant that converts waste gas generated during the sewage treatment process into clean-burning natural gas.

This renewable gas is sold to Southwest Gas at market rates, thus creating an additional revenue stream for the department, repurposing a waste product, and providing a green-friendly alternative to fossil-fuel natural gas.

"We work to keep our daily operations as environmentally friendly as possible," Jenkins said. "That's part of our commitment to protecting the community, making smart use of our resources, and serving as a responsible steward of the environment."

For more information about the proposed rate increases, please see the Feb. 14, 2025, memo from County Administrator Jan Leshner. To attend the March 27 public hearing on the increases, visit the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee's page.

Thu, Mar 13, 2025



**Jenette Lee**

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**From:** Pima County <pimacounty@public.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 1:23 PM  
**To:** Jenette Lee  
**Subject:** Pima County Wastewater Department seeks public's input on future of former Roger Road plant site

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# Pima County Wastewater Department seeks public's input on future of former Roger Road plant site

PIMA COUNTY, March 19, 2025 – The [Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department](#) (RWRD) is seeking the public's input for the reuse of the site of a former wastewater facility.

The Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility closed in December 2013, when it was replaced by the new, state-of-the-art Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility.

Since then, the site of the former plant – located at 2600 W. Sweetwater Drive — has stood vacant. Now, the County hopes to revitalize the site, which includes almost 50 acres adjacent to the Santa Cruz River, the [Chuck Huckelberry Loop](#), and the City of Tucson's [Sweetwater Wetlands Park](#).

Got ideas? RWRD is inviting the public to share its thoughts on how the site should be utilized by taking a short survey. It will run through March 28, and can be accessed [here](#).

"This property has so much potential," said Kimberly Baeza, permit and regulatory compliance officer with RWRD. "We are so excited to explore the possibilities of transforming this unique site into a beautiful and functional space that will benefit the entire community."

Baeza said the survey's results will inform future development of the property and help it benefit the community for years to come.

RWRD and its consultant on the Roger Road project, the [Center for Creative Land Recycling](#), are also holding community workshops where the public can share their ideas more directly. The next workshop will be held Thursday, April 24, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the [Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center](#), 1660 W. Ruthrauff Road.

The site of the former Roger Road facility is currently classified as a brownfields site, which means that remediation must take place before it can be reused. Cleanup of the site is currently underway and is expected to be completed this summer.

The County [received a \\$492,681 Brownfields Cleanup Grant](#) from the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) in 2024 to remove lead-based paint and asbestos from the site. The EPA and the [Arizona Department of Environmental Quality](#) have also invested around \$280,000 in environmental and reuse assessments of the property.

*The [Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department](#) provides management, operations and maintenance, and design services of the sanitary sewer system, including the conveyance and treatment infrastructure, which includes more than 3,400 miles of sewer conveyance piping, 29 pump stations, two metropolitan water reclamation facilities and seven sub-regional facilities.*

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## Explorer

April 2, 2025

[https://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/explorernews/news/pima-county-seeks-possible-3-percent-hike-for-wastewater/article\\_8e96c815-305f-4a1d-9f98-31d5f0978bac.html#:~:text=If%20approved%20by%20Pima%20County,%2413%20monthly%20sewer%20service%20charge](https://www.tucsonlocalmedia.com/explorernews/news/pima-county-seeks-possible-3-percent-hike-for-wastewater/article_8e96c815-305f-4a1d-9f98-31d5f0978bac.html#:~:text=If%20approved%20by%20Pima%20County,%2413%20monthly%20sewer%20service%20charge)

### Effect of conservation

The district charges a user \$3.63 per 100 cubic feet of estimated sewage. That works out to \$3.63 for every 748 gallons, Jenkins said.

For eight years, the “average residential customer” in Pima County generated 700 cubic feet of sewage per month — 5,236 gallons — based on that winter quarter average water consumption, Jenkins said. That customer paid the district a monthly volume charge of \$25.41.

Then, last year, the average residential usage dropped to 600 cubic feet per month, “the lowest winter quarter average ever,” Jenkins said. The decline is indicative of a “very conservation-minded” community, he said, and is consistent with a trend. A quarter-century ago, that average was 1,100 cubic feet per month.

Reduced volume results from both conscious and involuntary decisions. Beyond water conservation practices, “almost every new house” has low-flow toilets, shower heads and fixtures, Jenkins said. “Especially on newer houses, there is a lot of pressure to become conservation oriented.”

The 600-cubic-feet-per-month volume is “a great number,” Jenkins said. “But we lost some revenue last year going forward.” Some of that revenue loss is offset by growth, which is approximately 1% per year, he added.

### Proposal goes through review

“Every year, the department, in conjunction with the finance department for the county,” performs a financial analysis and an annual report, Jenkins said. “It looks at our projected costs and revenues to determine if any rate increases are required.”

The annual financial plan, with proposed increases, was reviewed by the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee. It voted to support the plan and its recommendations at a Jan. 23 meeting.

The district held three public meetings in March to discuss the proposed increases.

Pima County Supervisors are holding a public hearing on the rate increase proposal at a June 17 meeting. Final versions of the proposed increases will be available to the public for review on Pima County’s website prior to that meeting, the department said.

If approved, the increases would be effective July 1 and show up on August bills. Jenkins said the increases would raise an additional \$2.5 million next year.

## **Pima County Wastewater seeks input on first proposed rate hikes in eight years**

It's a big job, but someone has to do it.

Every day, the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) handles the task of making sure the County's sanitary sewer system continues to function properly.

That means overseeing the two large water reclamation facilities that serve the metro Tucson area along with five smaller ones that provide service from Green Valley to Mount Lemmon. It also means managing more than 3,500 miles of sewer conveyance lines that stretch across the entire County, along with essential infrastructure such as the pump stations that keep sewage flowing smoothly from one point to the next.



An aerial view of the Agua Nueva Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

It's a role that requires vigilance around the clock. The department maintains a 24-hour emergency line and they pride themselves on swift responses to everything from odor complaints to damaged manhole covers.

Despite the vastness of the department's job, the sewer rates that provide all funding for RWRD have remained steady for the last eight years. This year, the department is proposing a series of rate increases, the first since 2017.

The fees are part of an annual financial plan prepared by RWRD along with the Pima County Finance and Risk Management Department, designed to address the department's financial needs for the current fiscal year and the following four fiscal years.

"Going eight years without the need for a rate increase is a remarkable achievement," said RWRD Director Jackson Jenkins. "Our department is committed to providing exceptional service for our customers, and allocating all available funds and resources efficiently is part of that."

In keeping with its commitment to public transparency, RWRD has held three public hearings on the proposed increases. Public comments on the increases can be submitted here until May 21, 2025.

"We want to ensure that the public has a chance to review these new rates and get a better understanding of what the changes would mean," Jenkins said.

## The Pipeline – April 2025

<https://www.pima.gov/217/Pima-County-FYI-External-Newsletter?contentId=ab8f962f-4d43-4fdc-b63d-979f5e8498e4>

The fees will be considered by the Pima County Board of Supervisors at their June 17, 2025, meeting. The final versions of the proposed increases are available to the public for review at RWRD's official website.

Sewer fees are RWRD's only source of revenue – both the monthly sewer user fees paid by individuals in their monthly water bill and the one-time sewer connection fees required for connecting new buildings to the public sewer system. Customers will see the sewer fees included on their monthly water bill.

"It's based on how much water you use," Jenkins said. "We use a household's average usage in the winter months to estimate what to charge them for sewer usage, because you can't measure the flow of sewage going through a little four-inch line leaving your house."

The department has more than one program designed to ensure that sewer fees do not become burdensome, including a subsidy program that allows low-income customers to qualify for discounts of up to 75%. Individuals who are out of town for a month or longer can also apply to have their regular sewer fees suspended during that time.

Jenkins said the department is working to see if the subsidy program can be expanded to include more low-income residents. During the previous fiscal year, more than 5,000 individuals qualified for the program every month.

RWRD has taken other steps to benefit the community in recent years, including making some significant technological advances. More than a decade ago, the department modernized its central water reclamation facilities, making significant upgrades at the Tres Ríos facility and replacing the old Roger Road plant with the state-of-the-art Agua Nueva facility.

These changes have considerably improved the efficiency of the wastewater treatment process. They have also helped to ensure that the department meets high standards for the water it processes; reclaimed water is used to recharge the aquifer, for field irrigation, and to replenish the Santa Cruz River.

That's not the only green-friendly accomplishment RWRD can boast of. In 2021, the department began operating a facility at the Tres Ríos plant that converts waste gas generated during the sewage treatment process into clean-burning natural gas.

This renewable gas is sold to Southwest Gas at market rates, thus creating an additional revenue stream for the department, repurposing a waste product, and providing a green-friendly alternative to fossil-fuel natural gas.

"We work to keep our daily operations as environmentally friendly as possible," Jenkins said. "That's part of our commitment to protecting the community, making smart use of our resources, and serving as a responsible steward of the environment."

For more information about the proposed rate increases, please see the Feb. 14, 2025, memo from County Administrator Jan Leshner.

Thu, Mar 13, 2025



**Jenette Lee**

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**From:** Pima County <pimacounty@public.govdelivery.com>  
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# **PIMA COUNTY FYI Newsletter**

*Friday, April 25, 2025 — Vol. 10, No. 8*



## A look inside Pima County Wastewater's state-of-the-art laboratory

The hallway is so quiet it brings to mind an elementary school on summer break.

Behind a glass window, a chemist peers intently at an instrument and takes notes. A group of other technicians hold a spirited meeting, their conversation muffled by the thick glass. Jars of samples sit patiently in the fridges, waiting their turn to be examined.

It's a typical morning at Pima County's Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Office Laboratory, a state-of-the-art lab where important work is conducted every day of the year.

[READ MORE](#)

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## Pima County transforms federal surplus into local support



Thanks to some smart coordination between County departments and the determination of the Community & Workforce Development Department, the County recently acquired an estimated \$800,000 worth of wholesale goods from a federal government program in Yuma, at minimal cost.

Now, the County and its partners are working to ensure that those goods — which range from socks and shirts to car

seats and baby bottles — will be distributed to those who need them most.

[READ MORE](#)

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## Pima Prospers 2025: Updating the County's 10-year land use plan

Pima County is updating its 10-year comprehensive land use plan, Pima Prospers, and now is your chance to weigh in!

The plan is currently in a 60-day review period to allow local and state agencies, stakeholder groups, businesses within the community, and residents like you to review and comment on the plan before it's submitted to the Pima County Board of Supervisors.





[READ MORE](#)

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## Pima County Wastewater seeks public comment on proposed rate increases



Pima County Wastewater Reclamation has kept sewer rates the same for eight years, but inflation and maintenance costs have stressed the budget. The department is considering a rate increase, and they are seeking the public's input.

Click the link below to review the proposed rate increases and submit written comments. All comments must be received by May 21, 2025.

[COMMENT HERE](#)

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## Celebrating the compassionate work of PACC's Animal Protection team

PACC's Animal Protection Services staff handles dozens of calls every day. In 2024, they drove a staggering 244,404 miles to respond to 18,548 unique calls for assistance from members of the public.

Their officers rescue sick and injured pets, investigate animal hoarding cases, and much more. Read on to learn how these unsung heroes help people and pets every day!



[READ MORE](#)

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## Keep a sharp eye out for stinknet this spring



At first glance, this small flowering plant looks innocuous enough. It's a cluster of green stalks topped by bright yellow flowers, each the size and shape of a pea. Then you catch a whiff of the plant's unmistakable scent, reminiscent of turpentine.

You've stumbled across the Sonoran Desert's most notorious invasive weed, stinknet. Keep reading to learn about the

menace this plant poses to the desert ecosystem, what the County is doing to combat it, and how you can help!

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## It's not just about the brick-and-mortar buildings

On the third Tuesday of every month, Joyner-Green Valley Librarian Lupita Flores can be found at the Amado Youth Center hosting a program for teens and tweens, where they get to participate in fun activities ranging from making safety pin jewelry to turning egg cartons into container gardens.

This program is the perfect demonstration of the important role that libraries play in the 21st century. By bringing youth together and empowering them, these institutions help to foster a sense of community.



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***Next issue: Friday, May 9, 2025***

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## Public Comment Responses – Summary

The Public Comment Form regarding the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) proposed ordinance revisions to the Pima County Code, Title 13, Chapter 24 Sanitary Sewer User Fees and Chapter 20 Sanitary Sewer Construction, Connection, and Fees (Code) was made publicly available on April 18, 2025. A summary of the responses received is noted below:

- Respondents noted that the majority of their water usage was for irrigation rather than sewage. One response indicated that the proposed sewer user fee increases, the method used to calculate residential sewer bills is inaccurate and inequitable because it does not take into account non-sewage water usage.
- Respondents indicated that their water bill is high and continued sewer user fee increases were excessive and unnecessary. Some responses pertained directly to the City of Tucson/Tucson Water differential water rates, water quality, or sale of water, indicating that some residents believed the proposed increases are directly related to City of Tucson/Tucson Water.
- Respondents questioned the need for the proposed sewer user fee increases, suggesting that wages and profits within the County or department are excessive and need to be reevaluated. Some responses suggested that state, county, and city funds be used to offset costs, and budgets should be reviewed. Several respondents suggested that funds obtained through the implementation of the proposed increase would be appropriated for other, non-department usage or as profit. Other responses questioned services provided by other county departments (e.g. Department of Transportation) and suggested the County re-evaluate expenditures.
- Respondents indicated that the increases are necessary in order to address the lack of a rate increase in 8 years, rising costs, and the need to maintain the sewer system. One response suggested annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) be applied to the sewer user fees, while another suggested differential sewer rates be applied similar to City of Tucson/Tucson Water proposed rates. Respondents requested that the proposed increases be efficient, effective, equitable, and modest.
- Respondents indicated that they are already experiencing financial hardship due to inflation and life events (e.g. retirement, health problems, loss of family members) and increased sewer user fees would be harmful.

### Public Comment Form responses received from April 24, 2025, through May 19, 2025.

Against	Neutral	For	Total Responses
17	6	5	28

Based on the addresses provided by respondents, 19 are serviced by City of Tucson/Tucson Water, 2 by Marana Domestic Water, 1 by MetroWater, 2 by Oro Valley Water Utility, 1 by Southwestern Utility Management (Thim Water Company) and 2 by Vail Water Company. One respondent did not include an address.

## Wastewater Public Comment Form

### Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Linda
Last Name	Wood
Street Address or P.O. Box	4643 W. Red Wolf Dr
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85742
Email	lhquietyard@aol.com
Comments	Totally against this rate increase. As a gardener the majority of the water I use is outside going on alot of potted and in ground plants not into the sewer!!! Years ago when this fee started if we reported the amount of plants we were watering the fee went away. So what happened???? I use very little water inside the house. The outside water is not going into the sewer !!!!!



## Wastewater Public Comment Form

### Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Rosette
Last Name	Crisboi
Street Address or P.O. Box	22321 S. Triangle X Ln.
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85713
Phone Number	4408654014
Email	rcrisb25@yahoo.com
Comments	Our water bill is already so high. This is very bad. We are all learning water. We are weary of the relentless raising of prices that actually only hurt us the buyers while too many pockets being lined as it is! The people are getting very discontent.

Wastewater Public Comment Form

Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Kacy
Last Name	Colledge
Street Address or P.O. Box	PO BOX 1073
City	CORTARO
ZIP Code	85652
Phone Number	520-460-5046
Email	SOLARPYRO@GMAIL.COM
Comments	<p>I believe the revision should essentially be more futureproof to reduce administrative burdens.</p> <p>Given that the rates haven't changed in 8 years, it would be a great reference to use the COLA applied to each of those years. 2017-2%, 2018-2.8%, 2019-1.6%, 2020-1.3%, 2021-5.9%, 2022-8.7%, 2023-3.2%, 2024-2.5%. The total combined is 28% and average is 3.5%.</p> <p>We should increase all fees as proposed for 2026, and increase per COLA each year thereafter. This would reduce the need to revisit this until 2029 when preparing the 2030 budget.</p> <p>If expenses and fees collected created a surplus of more than 2.5%, it could be a decrease or set to 0% for every 5th year such as 2030, 2035, 2040 to align with half-decade assessments and readjustments.</p> <p>Otherwise the major adjustment would be set based on actual expenses since this adjustment or expected cost increases for 2030, which is keeping the same COLA rate adjustment for the rest of the decade.</p>



Wastewater Public Comment Form

Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Jody
Last Name	Spar
Street Address or P.O. Box	3769 N Nash Creek Ct
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85745
Phone Number	5209554633
Email	hisredeemed1@gmail.com
Comments	I am very unhappy about another rate increase. Tucson raised unincorporated residents a few years ago, lost in court, and never did reimburse the residents. Worse yet, Pima County has done nothing to retrieve that money. Now they want to raise it again? While all politicians are feeling very important, residents are getting taken advantage of.

Wastewater Public Comment Form

Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	cynthia
Last Name	Rayford
Street Address or P.O. Box	4100 N Romero Rd
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85705
Comments	I test my own tap water and the pmi was almost 600! It can't be consumed by even animals, so why the rate increase? The area I live in smells like sewage everyday & is disgusting. Class action lawsuits popping up due to citizens getting cancer from the very water coming from the faucets. Where's the infrastructure funds going? To replace roads daily that don't even need it and let the destroyed roads stay the way they are. Seems like someone or a dept is not doing anything but waste. I don't agree with an increase, maybe figure out why there so much waste being spent on things that don't need fixing & fix what needs fixing like major daily crime.

**Wastewater Public Comment Form****Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases**

<b>First Name</b>	Thomas
<b>Last Name</b>	Sette Jr
<b>Street Address or P.O. Box</b>	4060 North Círculo Manzanillo
<b>City</b>	Tucson
<b>ZIP Code</b>	85750
<b>Phone Number</b>	5205778291
<b>Email</b>	tsette@msn.com
<b>Comments</b>	I think the county should consider a differential sewer rate for persons in the incorporated City of Tucson in a reciprocal manner to the water rates the city is attempting to charge county residents. The overall volume of sewage from the highly dense populations in the incorporated cities requires more extensive infrastructure than would be the case for the less dense county.

**Wastewater Public Comment Form****Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases**

<b>First Name</b>	SHIHFEN
<b>Last Name</b>	DOAN
<b>Street Address or P.O. Box</b>	4366 W SUMMIT RANCH PL
<b>City</b>	MARANA
<b>ZIP Code</b>	85658
<b>Phone Number</b>	8125683777
<b>Email</b>	jenniferdoan@yahoo.com
<b>Comments</b>	If my sewer bill is \$100 this year, it will increase to \$112.55 in four year. That is a lot of increase. Should you advertise this increase to all the property owners in Pima County? Not just voted in the chamber of the supervisors. The proofs for I'm not a robot are too bothersome.

Wastewater Public Comment Form

Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Deborah
Last Name	Stageberg
Street Address or P.O. Box	4801 E 12th St
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85711
Phone Number	5203236479
Email	Mads1797@cox.net
Comments	Many of us can not keep up with all these increases! Maybe decrease wages and get rid of waste in the department! Tucson is becoming a city of increases on everything! Time to stop!

Wastewater Public Comment Form

Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Sharon
Last Name	Thomas
Street Address or P.O. Box	7401 N Camino Sin Vacas
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85718-1278
Phone Number	5203907779
Email	swwthomas100@gmail.com
Comments	A reasonable sewer fee increase seems like a good idea in order to maintain the system and avoid breakdowns from lack of maintenance.



## Wastewater Public Comment Form

### Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Nicholas
Last Name	Green
Street Address or P.O. Box	4044 E Flower St Unit 15
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85712
Phone Number	5206378732
Email	thebox590@gmail.com
Comments	Please don't increase the rate. It so hard to live as it is; to survive its hard

## Wastewater Public Comment Form

### Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Justo
Last Name	Guerra
Street Address or P.O. Box	3434 S Desert Lantern Rd.
City	TUCSON
ZIP Code	85735
Phone Number	6616072147
Email	just1war@frontier.com
Organization	homeowner
Comments	As a retiree of LA Dept. of Water & Power, I am well aware of water system challenges. However, how can you propose a rate increase when you sell water "at cost" to other entities that keep allowing Uncontrolled growth?



**Wastewater Public Comment Form****Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases**

<b>First Name</b>	Gerardo
<b>Last Name</b>	Covarrubias
<b>Street Address or P.O. Box</b>	6695 E Via Boca Grande
<b>City</b>	Tucson
<b>ZIP Code</b>	85756
<b>Email</b>	cheezy1979@gmail.com
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Hello, I understand that inflation has made things worse, but as an Arizona resident our taxes are already more than enough. The state, city and counties need to budget the money that's already there better. We as residents only have our job and that's it, no other income. The state gets money from the federal government and on top all the taxes which are pretty high already. Rates should not go up and stress and strain the residents more that we already are. This is unacceptable, the state, cities and counties need to budget the funds better and stop trying to get more out of its residents. I can guarantee that if this increases passes nothing will change, because someone else or something else will take this extra revenue and waste it on something pointless. Just like the DPS money that was collected during vehicle registration, the teachers getting paid better and so on and so on. We are tired of the lack of leadership but as much as we don't like it, no matter who gets elected things get worse and worse and our roads are still the same and prices for electricity, water and sewer and gas just keep going up. How about the state, city and counties stop getting pay raises and wasting money, pass a working budget that's good for arizona residents and lower the costs for all these utilities instead. We don't even have seperate residential water meaters to water our yards. All that water goes back in the ground and not in the sewer, but we still get charged per gallon of water and per gallon of sewage. Leave rates alone or lower them but stop strain the residents with even more price hikes, inflation is bad enough for us all. I hope that the county actually listens to its residents this time.</p>

Wastewater Public Comment Form

Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Victor
Last Name	Gasho
Street Address or P.O. Box	660 E. Sterling Canyon
City	Vail
ZIP Code	85641
Comments	I think it is egregious to charge customers outside the city additional sewer charges when Tucson Water illegally overcharged for water services in these areas. These monies have never been repaid or credited back to those customers. Therefore, I believe it would only be appropriate for Pima County to increase rates on City customers to make up for these wrongs.

## Wastewater Public Comment Form

### Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Steven
Last Name	Steinberg
Street Address or P.O. Box	310 E Lester St
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85705
Comments	I am not against a rate hike. I believe that the current system of basing the rate on water use is inequitable and inaccurate. Most of my water is for irrigation yet I pay more for wastewater than people who use much more. I am actually subsidizing them. How about a set fee just like waste collection?

## Wastewater Public Comment Form

### Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Volker
Last Name	Russ
Street Address or P.O. Box	9320 E Helen St
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85715
Comments	Just retired and really don't want to see a rate increase.

Wastewater Public Comment Form

Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Billie
Last Name	George
Street Address or P.O. Box	7810 W Sourwood Ct
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85743
Phone Number	5204034771
Email	kbgeorge1@hotmail.com
Comments	We do not support an increase! As with our household budget... it is necessary for you to adjust with the budget you currently have just as we do when costs rise. We all have to buckle down from time to time, and adjust our spending and operating costs. I'm sure you have somewhere you could make an adjustment instead of just passing it on to customers.



Wastewater Public Comment Form

Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	G B
Last Name	Sette
Street Address or P.O. Box	4060 North Círculo Manzanillo
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85750
Phone Number	5205778291
Email	gsette@msn.com
Comments	Rate increases are never welcome; however, it's been a long while (2017) since the last one. Please be as efficient and effective and equitable as possible. Thx. *equitable - City of Tucson charging a differential water rate to non-incorporated Pima County residents is not equitable.

## Wastewater Public Comment Form

### Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Jon
Last Name	Chapman
Street Address or P.O. Box	7949 W BLUE HERON WAY
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85743
Phone Number	(907) 460-0434
Email	raven742us@yahoo.com
Comments	I understand the rising costs. I only request that the raise in rates be modest.

**Wastewater Public Comment Form****Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases**

<b>First Name</b>	Shelley
<b>Last Name</b>	Semler
<b>Street Address or P.O. Box</b>	18195 s rustling leaf tr
<b>City</b>	Vail
<b>ZIP Code</b>	85641
<b>Phone Number</b>	5208910571
<b>Email</b>	Shelleysemmler@cox.net
<b>Organization</b>	Na
<b>Comments</b>	Rather than passing the cost to consumers, why don't you audit your organization and cut the fat (like Doge would do). The use those savings to cover the increased expenses. Let people know this is what you did and they will love you for working hard to save them money.



Wastewater Public Comment Form

Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Linda
Last Name	Cammarano
Street Address or P.O. Box	14393 N Copperstone Dr
City	Oro Valley
ZIP Code	85755
Phone Number	5206658050
Email	lmc_lcs@comcast.net
Comments	I understand the need to increase in rates etc. Unfortunately, there has been no increase in my income for me to factor in your increase. This will be a hardship

**Wastewater Public Comment Form****Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases**

<b>First Name</b>	Carmen Gloria
<b>Last Name</b>	Rose
<b>Street Address or P.O. Box</b>	14460 N. Choctaw Drvie
<b>City</b>	Oro Valley
<b>ZIP Code</b>	85755
<b>Phone Number</b>	713-254-3590
<b>Email</b>	tucsonroses@live.com
<b>Organization</b>	Retired
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Dear pima County Reclamation Department. Since your last increase, I have retired, lost my husband and in general the cost of all my necessities have increased, and my income has been cut in half! My lifestyle is very conservative, I spend as little as I can and I am also on assistance, trying to make every dollar count and yet keep my plants alive. My water usage has been affected by a very expensive leak in which I had to have all my plumbing replaced. Everything has increased for me and an increase on my rates would have negative impact for me and many others I know.</p> <p>It seems the increased population would cover some of the increased costs of running your program. If you increase our rates I hope you will keep in mind the needs of the less fortunate and at least offer a good break in our rates, it appears to me that you are trying to do an increase and decrease any assistance or discounts to rate payers. I hope you will reconsider all you will be implementing in the new rate program. I am certain this letter will have little impact even though you have asked for feed back, but I truly hope I am mistaken and that I will at least receive a reply from you in regards to how this will impact lower income rate payers like me</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Carmen Gloria Rose</p>

**Wastewater Public Comment Form****Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases**

<b>First Name</b>	Martha
<b>Last Name</b>	Cunningham
<b>Street Address or P.O. Box</b>	4848 W Bluebell Way
<b>City</b>	Tucson
<b>ZIP Code</b>	85742
<b>Phone Number</b>	7136284437
<b>Email</b>	marty1128@gmail.com
<b>Comments</b>	<p>I have lived in Sunset Point subdivison off Cortaro and I-10 since 2009. This is the second time an increase has been proposed to our very small unincorporated area. Across the street it is incorporated. How can you justify another increase when the courts have said NO YOU CANNOT DO THAT! I cannot vote in any local elections but my neighbors a mile away can. This is a COUNTy issue, not a Tucson, Oro Valley, Marana or an unincorporated area within those communities. Please do not raise the rates. We cannot afford more lawyers to fight this.</p>

**Wastewater Public Comment Form****Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases**

<b>First Name</b>	Sean
<b>Last Name</b>	Daughtery
<b>Street Address or P.O. Box</b>	4201 east Monte vista
<b>City</b>	Tucson
<b>ZIP Code</b>	85712
<b>Phone Number</b>	(520) 304-3634
<b>Email</b>	seandaughtery@gmail.com
<b>Organization</b>	Mast
<b>Comments</b>	<p>MAST (Make A Safe Tucson) exists to protect the well-being and livelihoods of Tucson's working families by challenging the outsized influence of elite environmental activists on public policy. While we recognize the reality of climate change and looming water shortages, the current activist-driven agenda has produced stagnation—not solutions—and put public safety and jobs at risk. These policies, crafted by those far removed from daily economic struggle, have burdened the working poor with higher costs and fewer opportunities. We believe that real progress begins with good-paying jobs, housing security, and a grounded, responsible approach to environmental challenges—one that puts people, not ideology, first.</p>

**Contact Wastewater Reclamation**

Please use the form below to tell us how we can be of assistance.

**\*\*Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required and must be completed before submitting.\*\***

First Name	Frieda
Last Name	Liebeskind
Email	liebeskindfrieda@icloud.com
Phone	5203021446
Please type the topic or subject of your message:	Raising rates for sewer
Your Message	Being that I am on a fixed income and that everything is going up these days I will hope and pray that sewer rates do not go up! 🙏
Would you like a response?	No



**Wastewater Public Comment Form****Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases**

First Name	M
Last Name	J
Street Address or P.O. Box	PO
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85751
Comments	<p>Why are the water rates for county residents increasing at a higher rate than Tucson residents? This is taxation without representation. We are not permitted to vote for any city officials so why are our rates higher.</p> <p>Why are some county representatives just going along with the city of Tucson, no questions asked????</p> <p>Why did the city of Tucson not reimburse county residents after a Maricopa judge mandated it from a prior hike.</p> <p>Why are some representatives just washing their hands of the county residents and stating - no comment, the city can do what they want. Why are you not negotiating this hike? It is not fair and equitable for anyone involved.</p>

**Wastewater Public Comment Form****Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases**

<b>First Name</b>	Gloria
<b>Last Name</b>	Kriss
<b>Street Address or P.O. Box</b>	2456 W Ian Place, Tucson, Arizona 85741
<b>City</b>	Tucson
<b>ZIP Code</b>	85741
<b>Phone Number</b>	5202934271
<b>Email</b>	gkriss2530@gmail.com
<b>Organization</b>	Retired woman - 81ys old
<b>Comments</b>	I just got my bill today 5/22. If you want to hear from customers why didn't you send this awhile ago. Anyway, I can understand the increases, however we are experiencing so many apartments being built and how are you going to handle the water situation then? I'm a concerned customer. Developers are only thinking about the money they will make but the rest of us that have lived here for years will take the brunt of it all.

## Wastewater Public Comment Form

### Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Mary
Last Name	Westmoreland
Street Address or P.O. Box	6732 N. Los Arboles Cir.
City	Tucson
ZIP Code	85704-4111
Phone Number	5206033504
Email	mwest137@comcast.net
Comments	<p>While the sewer rate won't affect me directly because we are on septic, I think that Pima County should charge City of Tucson residents a higher rate. Since the City of Tucson apparently hates unincorporated Pima County residents and has recently chosen to charge them a significantly higher rate for water, it seems only fair to have a higher sewer rate for them. Most of unincorporated Pima County is already built out, their excuse of higher infrastructure costs comes off as a lame excuse to fund their ridiculous spending.</p>



## Wastewater Public Comment Form

### Public Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Fee Increases

First Name	Logan
Last Name	White
Street Address or P.O. Box	1621 west hudson drive
City	tucson
ZIP Code	85704
Comments	Due to global warming increasing temperatures even in winter and lack of rain, watering landscaping is required even in the winter. Current method of calculating maximum sewer charge does not take into account the necessity of watering plants in the winter. Residents should not pay to treat water used for landscape which does not go down the sewer.

## Pima County Public Works's Post



**Pima County Public Works**

March 6 at 8:27 AM · 🌐

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee is holding a public hearing to discuss proposed sewer fee increases for Pima County Wastewater Reclamation. This hearing will ensure that residents have an opportunity to review the proposed increases and provide their input. The first meeting will be held Friday, March 7, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at Kirk-Bear Canyon library, 8959 E. Tanque Verde Road. These meetings may be attended virtually or in-person. For a schedule of all public hearings, visit <https://buff.ly/BakaMy5>.



2

1 share



Like



Comment

## Pima County's Post



**Pima County** ✓

March 6 at 8:28 AM · 🌐



**Pima County Public Works**

March 6 at 8:27 AM · 🌐

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee is holding a public hearing to discuss proposed sewer fee increases for Pima County Wastewater Reclamation. This hearing will ensure that residents have an opportunity to review the proposed increases and provide their input. The first meeting will be held Friday, March 7, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at Kirk-Bear Canyon library, 8959 E. Tanque Verde Road. These meetings may be attended virtually or in-person. For a schedule of all public hearings, visit <https://buff.ly/BakaMy5>.



6

2 comments



Like



Comment

Most relevant ▼



**Enzo L Pirrone**

Oh really ... 🤔 What you'll use that extra 🤔 from the "FEES" increases to HELP remove the growing R-A-T population in Tucson, Arizona?! Ok yea, GO ahead! I'll wait. 🤔 🤔 🤔 & GN TC 🙌

3w



**Law Issues in Arizona**

More taxes and more fees. All the Pima County Supervisors do is spend money and raise fees and taxes. And when people have the opportunity to get money reimbursed they refuse to share how to do it.

Be sure you are getting your tax refunds (Prop 312) for Pima County and Tucson politicians not doing their jobs. Hurt their pocket and they will start doing their jobs. Pima County Supervisors refuse to share with people how to get their tax reimbursement for Prop 312 but they sure do want their tax money. Any disagreement? Arizona Proposition 312: Allows property tax refunds when local laws aren't enforced. Proposition 312 Arizona Property Tax Reimbursement for Non-Enforcement of Public Nuisance Laws. Please share this with friends and family. Much more detail in the link below and includes an application for reimbursement. This is directly from the Arizona Department of Revenue: <https://azdor.gov/.../proposition-312-arizona-property...>

3w



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## Pima County

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[pima.gov](#)

[More info...](#)

### Activity



**The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee is holding a public hearing to discuss proposed sewer fee increases for Pima County Wastewater Reclamation.**

Communications Pima County from Pima County · 6 Mar

This hearing will ensure that residents have an opportunity to review the proposed increases and provide their input. The first meeting will be held Friday, March 7, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at Kirk-Bear Canyon library, 8959 E. Tanque Verde Road. These meetings may be attended virtually or in-person. For a schedule of all public hearings, visit <https://www.pima.gov/2830/Regional-Waste...>

6 Mar · Subscribers of Pima County in General

THANK | 5

REPLY

## Pima County's Post



**Pima County** ✓

March 7 at 2:15 PM · 🌐

There are two more Sewer Rate Increase Public Hearings left 📅 5-6 PM | March 12 | 2955 Calle Agua Nueva 📅 8-9 AM | March 27 | 3950 S. Country Club



**pima\_county** ✓



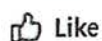
The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee is holding a public hearing to discuss proposed sewer fee increases for Pima County Wastewater Reclamation. This hearing will ensure that residents have an opportunity to review the proposed increases and provide their input. The first meeting will be held Friday, March 7, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at Kirk-Bear Canyon library, 8959 E. Tanque Verde Road. 📌

1 reply



4

3 comments 2 shares



Like



Comment

All comments ▼



**Ralph Kayser**

Has a rate increase ever been halted, or decreased, as a result of public hearings?

3w

2 



**LaCariño Salazar**

Is it cheaper to purchase a septic tank

3w

3 



pima\_county • Follow

jordangreenwald • vibey birds of a fea...



pima\_county The next hearing is Wednesday, March 12 from 5-6 PM Agua Caliente Water Campus @ 2955 Calle Agua Nueva

3w



12 likes  
March 7

Log in to like or comment.

## Pima County Public Works's Post




**Pima County Public Works**

March 9 at 6:00 PM · 🌐

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee is holding three public hearings during the month of March to discuss proposed sewer fee increases for Pima County Wastewater Reclamation. These hearings will ensure that residents have an opportunity to review the proposed increases and provide their input. The next meeting will take place at the Water Campus, 2955 Calle Agua Nueva, on Wednesday, March 12, from 5 to 6 p.m. These meetings may be attended virtually or in-person. For a schedule of all public hearings, visit <https://buff.ly/BakaMy5>.

 Like

 Comment

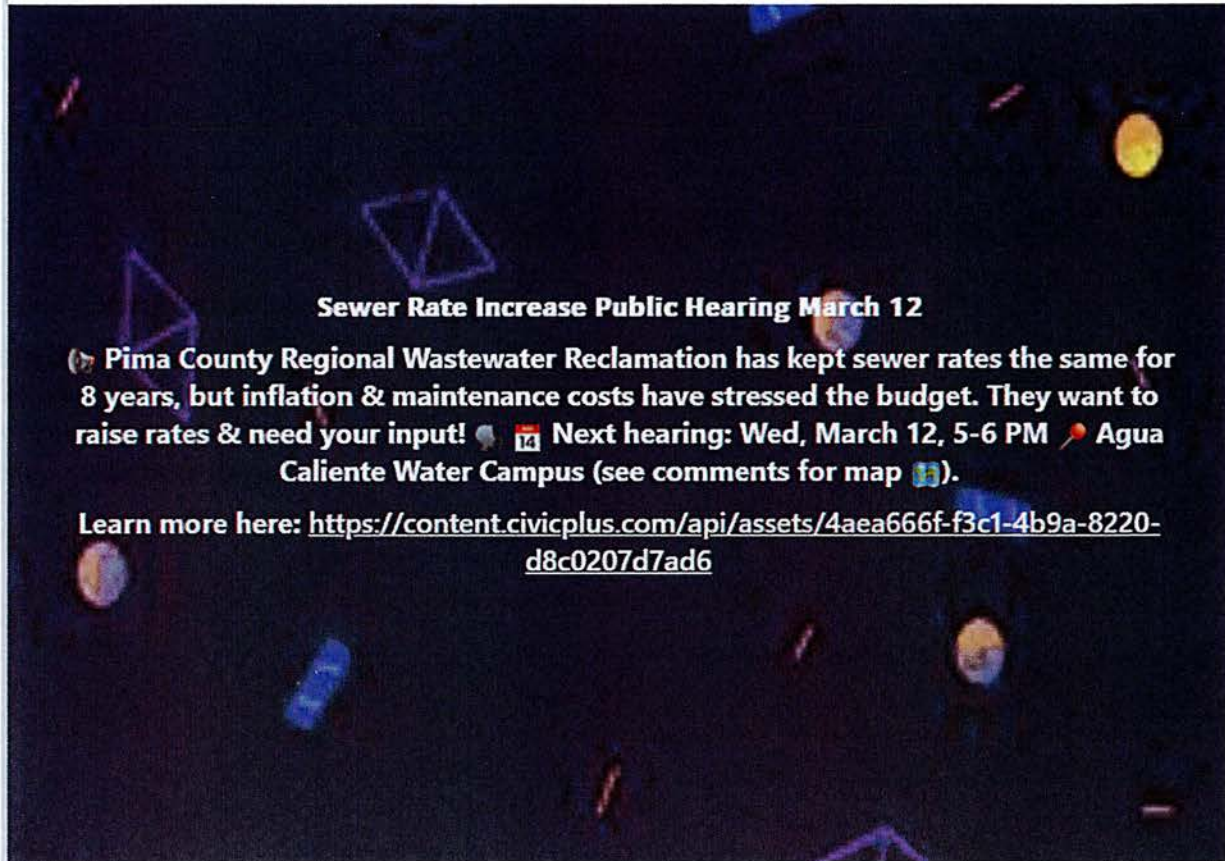


## Pima County's Post



Pima County

March 10 · 🌐



### Sewer Rate Increase Public Hearing March 12

🗨️ Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation has kept sewer rates the same for 8 years, but inflation & maintenance costs have stressed the budget. They want to raise rates & need your input! 🗓️ Next hearing: Wed, March 12, 5-6 PM 📍 Agua Caliente Water Campus (see comments for map 🗺️).

Learn more here: <https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/4aea666f-f3c1-4b9a-8220-d8c0207d7ad6>

👍👎 23

9 comments 4 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

All comments ▼



Judie Sanders

No no and no. This bunch doesn't know what working within a budget is

3w

5 🍌😂



Drew Olewnick

"They will raise your rates regardless of your input."

3w

3 🍌😞



Tracy Liepke

Do without, until you fix the roads.

3w

4 🍌



Michael Thompson

My girlfriend waters her yard a lot and even though that usage doesn't go down the sewer she's being charged a ton of money just to water her plants.

3w



John Anderson

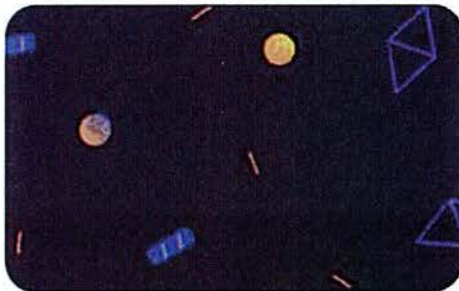
Obviously, a lot of people know anything about what you do. Just keep it to a minimum.

3w



Buzz Jackson

This is a very festive way to ask for more money!



3w 🍌



Morey Brown

We can all agree- We want the government to do stuff... and we don't want to pay for it.

2w

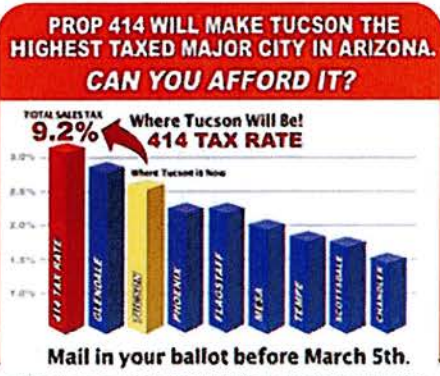


Julie Garrettson

What's happening to our TAXES!?!?

WHO HAS BEEN LINING THEIR POCKETS!!!!???

We need ELON before our Mayor breaks us!!! 🤖



3w

## Pima County's Post



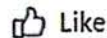
**Pima County** ✓

March 10 at 8:00 AM · 🌐

The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee is holding three public hearings during the month of March to discuss proposed sewer fee increases for Pima County Wastewater Reclamation. These hearings will ensure that residents have an opportunity to review the proposed increases and provide their input. The next meeting will take place at the Water Campus, 2955 Calle Agua Nueva, on Wednesday, March 12, from 5 to 6 p.m. These meetings may be attended virtually or in-person. For a schedule of all public hearings, visit <https://buff.ly/BakaMy5>.



3 comments 3 shares



Like



Comment

Most relevant ▼



Author

**Pima County** ✓

Read more about the rate proposal here:

<https://content.civicplus.com/.../4aea666f-f3c1-4b9a-8220...>

3w



Author

**Pima County** ✓

The Agua Nueva Campus is just south of El Camino Del Cerro and Interstate 10.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Ykq8Z4ZrVSrgRakb6>



GOOGLE.COM

I-10 to 2955 Calle Agua Nueva

3w



**Drew Olewnick**

It will always be fee increases.

There will never be fee decreases for any service. Even if the quality of the service declines.

3w





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

More info...

### Activity



**The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee is holding three public hearings during the month of March to discuss proposed sewer fee increases for Pima County Wastewater Reclamation.**

Program Coordinator Justyn Dillingham from Pima County · 10 Mar

These hearings will ensure that residents have an opportunity to review the proposed increases and provide their input.

The next meeting will take place at the Water Campus, 2955 Calle Agua Nueva, on Wednesday, March 12, from 5 to 6 p.m. These meetings may be attended virtually or in-person. For a schedule of all public hearings, visit <https://buff.ly/BakaMy5>.



10 Mar · Subscribers of Pima County in General

THANK | 1 | REPLY

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

[More info...](#)

### Activity



**The Regional Wastewater Reclamation Advisory Committee is holding a public hearing on Thursday, March 27, to discuss proposed sewer fee increases for Pima County Wastewater Reclamation.**

Program Coordinator Justyn Dillingham from Pima County · 25 Mar

This is the last of three public hearings, designed to provide residents with the chance to review the proposed increases and provide input.

The meeting will take place at Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S. Country Club Rd, from 8 to 9 a.m. The meeting may be attended virtually or in-person. To join the meeting, click this link: <https://buff.ly/vmsavqx>



25 Mar · Subscribers of Pima County in General

THANK

REPLY