

PIMA COUNTY

RWRD Pump Stations Move Sewage along Our Conveyance System

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department's (PCRWRD) conveyance system has more than 3,400 miles of public sanitary sewer pipes where wastewater flows by gravity. A system of this size requires pump stations when wastewater flows can no longer be conveyed by gravity. There are 24 active pump stations in Pima County's sewer service area.

Pump stations are used when underground pipes have been buried so far below the surface that it is no longer reasonable to continue installing sewer lines deeper underground. It is at these points in the conveyance system that pump stations are used.

These strategically-placed stations pump raw sewage from the underground gravity pipes into wet wells. When enough wastewater has flowed into the wet well, a pump lifts it upward via a pressurized pipe system or sewer force main. That sewage is conveyed to another gravity sewer line where it continues to flow to one of nine wastewater reclamation facilities.

RWRD's Conveyance Division employees maintain and repair the equipment housed at the various pump stations in our service area. Additionally, site instrumentation allows RWRD staff to monitor wastewater flows at each pump station. Unusually high or low flows may indicate problems at the pump station. Built-in alarm systems notify staff of potential problems 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Staff responds to such alerts to ensure the pump stations are operating properly.

The use of pump stations throughout our sewer conveyance system is one of many ways RWRD manages the public sanitary sewer system in Pima County.

CITY OF TUCSON

Environmental Services

Improvements at the Tumamoc Landfill

Tumamoc Hill is a popular hiking spot in Tucson and is also adjacent to now-inactive Tumamoc Landfill, located at the southwest base of the hill on the north side of the intersection of Starr Pass and La Cholla Boulevards. The City of Tucson operated the Tumamoc Landfill from 1964 to 1966 for city wide, municipal waste disposal. In 2009, Pima County transferred ownership of the landfill to the City of Tucson.

The Tumamoc Landfill covers approximately 20 acres, with waste 35 feet deep. As part of the City's ongoing monitoring program there, Environmental Services (ES) has nine methane-monitoring wells and 14 groundwater-monitoring wells around the site.

Starting this month, ES will begin maintenance work on the landfill site to improve the soil landfill cap

and install storm water drainage controls. The project will include reshaping, sloping and compacting the landfill area. Two feet of soil will be brought onto the site and seeded with plants approved by the University of Arizona Desert Laboratory, located adjacent to the landfill. This new soil cap and its native vegetation will cover the waste, prevent infiltration and minimize methane production. The storm water controls will reduce the erosion of the landfill cap and prevent waste from being exposed and potentially moved off site. The project will help to protect our unique desert environment from negative impacts that could be caused by the landfill, preserving Tumamoc Hill for our community.



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

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

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