



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 24, 2016

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: **Regulatory Compliance Performance and the March 17, 2016 *Arizona Daily Independent* Article**

The March 17, 2016 *Arizona Daily Independent* (ADI) article regarding activities of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) referred to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) issuing warnings to Pima County about exceeding water quality limits at the Tres Ríos Water Reclamation facility (Attachment 1). The article also mentioned a January 26, 2016 memorandum from RWRD Director Jackson Jenkins to John Sherlock, Deputy Director – Treatment (Attachment 2). This internal memorandum provides management guidance to one of the major operating entities of RWRD, the Treatment Division, to undertake staffing adjustments and realignments to minimize the occurrence of undesirable conditions in the treatment process. We are uncertain as to ADI's source for this memorandum but do not find any reference to concerns expressed by the (ADEQ) regarding noncompliance with permit requirements. In fact, the following summary of RWRD's experience with water quality permit adherence is noteworthy and commendable.

As the Board is aware, the RWRD has an exemplary record of regulatory compliance and environmental stewardship. Wastewater reclamation is one of the most highly regulated industries in the nation, with oversight conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency at the federal level and ADEQ at the state level to ensure compliance with the federal Clean Water Act, Arizona Pollution Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES), Aquifer Protection Permit and Reuse programs. With eight water reclamation facilities currently in operation, RWRD routinely performs over 50,000 analyses annually to ensure treatment plant performance is in compliance with these regulatory programs.

Further, the Department routinely receives annual Peak Performance Awards issued by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) for exceptional treatment performance for our five facilities with AZPDES permits. NACWA awards recognize The Platinum Award recognizes 100 percent compliance with permit conditions over a consecutive five-year period for which Mount Lemmon, Avra Valley and Green Valley facilities are repeat recipients, year after year. Gold Awards are presented to facilities demonstrating no permit violations for an entire calendar year of which both Agua Nueva and Tres Rios (our two major sub-regional treatment facilities) received for 2015. Silver

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **Regulatory Compliance Performance and the March 17, 2016 *Arizona Daily Independent Article***

March 24, 2016

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Awards are presented to facilities with no more than five violations in a calendar year for which both Agua Nueva and Tres Ríos Water Reclamation Facilities (WRFs) received in 2014, their inaugural year of operation. These awards serve as testimonials to the high level of performance of our facilities; the talent of our well trained, experienced and certified staff; and the exceptional quality of the water produced daily.

The construction of Tres Ríos and Agua Nueva WRFs marked a significant milestone for both RWRD and our community, as these two facilities replaced the Ina Road and Roger Road WRFs and instituted nutrient removal and odor control at our two largest treatment facilities. Originally constructed in 1951 and 1977, the Roger Road and Ina Road WRFs were built during an era when nutrient removal was neither required nor feasible. With the completion of the Agua Nueva and Tres Ríos WRFs, we are now able to produce excellent quality water at these facilities achieving ADEQ's highest ranking of Class A+.

Native aquatic fauna diversity have already improved significantly as a result of this higher quality effluent and are well documented in The Living River research study conducted by the Sonoran Institute. The increased infiltration rates are improving aquifer quality and reducing legacy nitrogen levels attributed to the old Roger Road and Ina Road treatment facilities. Organic nitrogen bound in the soils near the facility outfalls are slowly being flushed from the soils; and the aquifer is being replenished with high quality, denitrified water. This process will continue to occur for years to come. ADEQ acknowledges this and has amended the nitrogen monitoring criteria for both facilities.

The ADI article also discusses the hiring of a security manager for RWRD facilities. With our significant investment in wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities exceeding \$1 billion in value, the safety and security of our facilities to assure uninterrupted wastewater services is completely justified.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the contents of the ADI article or the information contained in Director Jenkins; memorandum.

CHH/mjk

Attachments

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Nanette Slusser, Assistant County Administrator for Public Works Policy
Jackson Jenkins, Director, Regional Wastewater Reclamation
Richard Miranda, Security Manager, Regional Wastewater Reclamation

ATTACHMENT 1

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MARCH 17, 2016

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Miranda Pops Up Again In Pima Wastewater



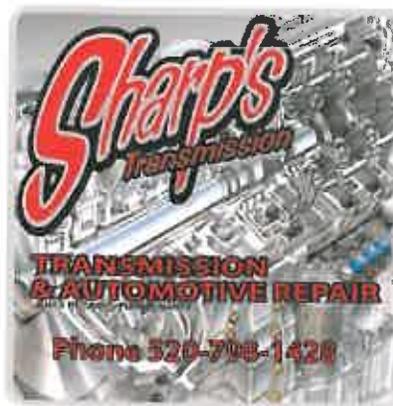
TRES RIOS WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

"Over the past two weeks, Tres Rios has failed its weekly E. coli permit requirements. It appears that over some extended period of time, parts of the process have gotten out of control and the biology associated with these processes shifted to an undesirable condition."

BY: ADI NEWS SERVICES MARCH 17, 2016



Nearly every single month, Pima County has been forced to submit standards violation reports to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, but it isn't the ground water that is causing a foul smell say area residents; it is the County's hiring of former City Manager and Tucson Police Chief Richard Miranda.



MARCH 17, 2016

Boyer Blocks Public Forum SB1313 Discussion



MARCH 17, 2016

Endangered Species Act Administration Changes Bode III For

Repeated requests for information about the hiring were ignored by the County's crack PR team, led by Mark Evans. Finally we were able to learn that Antonio Vereen, whose last day of work was November 13, 2015, was replaced by Miranda on February 17, 2016.

Miranda's he man

Miranda will earn an annual salary of \$60,320.00 in the non-supervisory security position. According to the County, the position was open for a mere two weeks. Miraculously only 13 applicants applied for the position in an area of the country with some of the highest unemployment and underemployment rates. Only 8 applicants were certified as qualified and miraculously out of those 8, Miranda, a double-dipper, was the top pick.

[**View Job Description 4232 - Program Manager - Senior \(Special Assistance Office Sr Program Manager\) here**](#)

Miranda joined the Tucson Police Department in 1975. Miranda became police chief in October 1998. He retired from the Police Department in 2008 at the age of 55. According to the Arizona Republic, Miranda benefited from pension spiking upon retirement by selling back unused sick leave. He received a \$511,570 payment from the Deferred Retirement Option Plan.

Miranda was also made interim Tucson City manager when former city manager Mike Letcher was fired. The Tucson City Council claimed that they wanted to conduct a national search. However, it was widely understood that Miranda had the job. At the time, Mike Rankin, the City's attorney said 25 people applied for the job. He did not say if interviews were conducted.

Miranda was hired as the permanent Tucson City Manager in May 2012 and was named by Parade

Property Rights



MARCH 17, 2016

Ranchers Can No Longer Risk Kindness



MARCH 17, 2016

Miranda Pops Up Again In Piha Wastewater



MARCH 17, 2016

McCune Davis Wants AG Investigation of Arizona Financial Choice Association



MARCH 17, 2016

The Socialist Pied Piper



MARCH 17, 2016

Arizona Representatives Weigh-in

magazine as one of the highest paid persons in Tucson, excluding his pension. He was paid \$202,000 a year, plus his pension from the police force to the tune of \$135,887 a year.

Miranda remained as the city manager for one and a half years to be eligible to receive a second annual pension of \$22,837.

Many wonder if Miranda's nearly \$159,000 pension is in jeopardy due to the City of Tucson's financial position, thus forcing him to seek employment with Pima County.

Incompetence rules the day

According to documents obtained from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Pima County Wastewater, the Department has been forced to issue 5-day warnings and 30-day reports regarding exceeding the Aquifer Quality Limit at Tres Rios. Most of the warnings are related to high "Total Nitrogen levels in the groundwater at POC."

In a memo dated January 26, 2016 John Sherlock, Deputy Director of Treatment was notified by the director of Pima County's Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department, Jackson Jenkins of his concerns related to the E.coli situation. Jackson begins the memo by noting the "historic issues" in the department. He writes, "You and your team have worked extremely well in the midst of contractor chaos, the start-up challenges, the design flaws, and construction miscues." Jackson advises Sherlock that he now looks "forward to getting back to the basics of operating our facility in a stable and consistent manner while still maintaining the necessary flexibility to address unplanned breakdowns or process upsets common to any large wastewater utility."

The memo continues:

On Merrick Appointment



MARCH 17, 2016

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MARCH 10, 2016

Under Biggs The Senate Has Fallen

This year's Legislative session is being dubbed "The Senate Has Fallen" by those who are frustrated by the abusive antics...

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MARCH 10, 2016

**Arizona
Outlaws
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Over the past two weeks, Tres Rios has failed its weekly E.coli permit requirements. It appears that over some extended period of time, parts of the process have gotten out of control and the biology associated with these processes shifted to an undesirable condition. In recent months, digester #3 has had sporadic gas production, digester feeding was not consistent and we have barely satisfied the 15-day 503 requirements. The centrate tank for THM control has either run empty or overflowed, digester gas vented when condensate filled the gas lines and the East plant ammonia levels climbed beyond acceptable levels, and increased influent loading to the plant was not responded to in a timely manner by putting the proper number of reactors in service. These issues cause me to believe that we need to redirect our focus and ensure that each person understands their respective roles and responsibilities.

According to Biosolids.com, “Regulations that ensure the safe and responsible management of biosolids have been in effect since the 1970s, and the 503 Biosolids Rule of 1993 “establishes biosolids quality requirements and encourages the beneficial use of biosolids.”

According to a case study by Aqua Metrology Systems, “As volatile organic compounds, THMs can be removed from water through volatilization given sufficient gas transfer opportunities. There are four primary species of THMs; chloroform (CHCl₃), bromodichloromethane (CHCl₂Br), bromochloromethane (CHClBr₂) and bromoform (CHBr₃). Chloroform is the most volatile of the primary THMs and the most prevalent at Tres Rios WRF.”

“In 2007 Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) embarked on a \$720-million Regional Optimization Plan (ROMP) to improve

Harvesting



MARCH 9, 2016

TUSD Audit Policy Backfires, Keeps Parents, Students Off Committee



MARCH 8, 2016

DOJ Wins Case Against Colorado City, Hildale



MARCH 2, 2016

Arizona Classroom Spending Lowest In 15 Years

the quality of their effluent. The ROMP was initiated after the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) ruled ammonia effluent levels were too high from regional treatment facilities. In accordance with federal requirements, the Arizona DEQ set permissible nitrogen and ammonia limits to a range of 8 to 10 milligram per liter (mg/L), and imposed a January 1, 2014 compliance deadline for the Tres Rios Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), formerly known as the Ina Road WRF," reads the study.



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7 COMMENTS

ON "MIRANDA POPS UP AGAIN IN PIMA WASTEWATER"



jdfast | March 17, 2016 at 4:04 am | Reply

Wow, only in Pima County can you hire a double dipper multiple times. Must have naked pictures of department heads, Huckelberry, etc. What a pathetic mess this county is. November can't come quick enough to start the housecleaning. Plus from the article

the crack department heads aren't even smart enough to run a waste water treatment plant. Thought that they had to be certified to run the plant. Guess not here in good old Pima County. Just f^@\$ing pathetic.



Wayne B (rain) | March 17, 2016 at 4:39 am | Reply

I wonder if he gets to work from home...



Call to Action | March 17, 2016 at 6:55 am | Reply

I'll bet he gets a car.



richard hernandez | March 17, 2016 at 6:23 am | Reply

You cab bet Huckleberry approved this arrangement long before job was announced. If you work for Pima County the 8 thousand plus take notice.

No money give Sheriff Dept step raises, right. They just gave extended leave for new born parents, that is how they buy your Vote. Do not be fooled they could careless about the people of Pima County. Lie after lie and here another way our tax money is grossly misused!!

Vote for new Board members plus Ally Miller or live with higher taxes, cronyism, nepotism you get picture. Help me carry out my first official duty after November election, FIRE Chuck Huckleberry.

Richard Hernandez
Candadiate
Board of Supervisor
District 2



Pihacan2 | March 17, 2016 at 6:31 am | Reply

And we thought that once the train left the tracks, it would come to a complete stop. Not in pima count-on-more taxes, it didn't even slow this corrupt train wreck down.

God help us all

And please let the Winchester move to another state and leave ally alone. He's a RINO Trojan



Call to Action | March 17, 2016 at 6:53 am | Reply

Title should read:
Miranda Pops Up Again In Pima Wastewater,
Like E.coli

When are the voters going to wise up. I thought Miranda moved to Texas. I guess he couldn't

find a sufficiently corrupt governmental to hire him so he came back to Tucson.

It appears that Miranda will redefine "Dipping", Is he now triple dipping?

Wake up Pima County, give yourself a chance and change the make up of the County BOS so we can get rid of the CZAR.



john dough | March 17, 2016 at 7:59 am | Reply

Nothing will change in our once great country until the lazy, apathetic people, that are entitled to vote, get up off of their lazy ass's and register to vote, and actually go and vote to get rid of the ESTABLISHED Tyrannical, Dictatorial, Oppressive, Totalitarian, Authoritarian politicians we now have, that have turned our once great country into having one of the worst governments on the planet.

50%, or less, of Americans that are eligible to vote, do not vote.....GO TRUMP, GO TRUMP, GO TRUMP.

Leave a comment

Your email address will not be published.

ATTACHMENT 2



PIMA COUNTY
REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT
201 NORTH STONE AVENUE
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1207

JACKSON JENKINS
DIRECTOR

PH: (520) 724-6500
FAX: (520) 724-9635

January 26, 2016

TO: John Sherlock, Deputy Director - Treatment

FROM: Jackson Jenkins, Director – RWRD



SUBJECT: Tres Rios WRF Temporary Changes

I have been extremely pleased with the way you and your team have worked diligently and thoughtfully as we began the startup of the post-ROMP facilities at Tres Rios. You and your team have worked extremely well in the midst of the contractor chaos, the start-up challenges, the design flaws and construction miscues. Now, after we have been able to move beyond most of those historic issues, I look forward to getting back to the basics of operating our facility in a stable and consistent manner while still maintaining the necessary flexibility to address unplanned breakdowns or process upsets common to any large wastewater utility.

Over the past two weeks, Tres Rios has failed its weekly E.coli permit requirements. It appears that, over some extended period of time, parts of the process have gotten out of control and the biology associated with these processes shifted to an undesirable condition. In recent months, digester #3 has had sporadic gas production, digester feeding was not consistent and we have barely satisfied the 15-day-503 requirements. The centrate tank for THM control has either run empty or overflowed, digester gas vented when condensate filled the gas lines and the East plant ammonia levels climbed beyond acceptable levels, and increased influent loading to the plant was not responded to in a timely manner by putting the proper number of reactors in service. These issues cause me to believe that we need to redirect our focus and insure that each person understands their respective roles and responsibilities.

Effective February 1, 2016 and likely to continue through the end of June 2016, I would like to divide the Tres Rios WRF into two main processing units: **Liquid and Solids Teams**. I would like to form a Liquid Processing Team consisting of: Jim Doyle, Tom Berry and Chris Grant who will be responsible for process decisions and activities including recycle rates, wasting rates, mixed liquor concentrations, the number of trains and clarifiers in service, etc. The Solids Processing Team will include: Art Norzagaray, Tim McGarry and Houssam El Jerdi. Similarly they will need to establish digester feed requirements, gas activities, area 58 and 70 operating parameters, etc. This last task will be critical with the likelihood of ending the Agua Nueva WRF flow split and converting back to the original combined flow scenario.

While these two teams focus on their respective process areas, I would also like them to clearly define Post orders for the Posts identified at Tres Rios. We have invested significant time and money in developing and training our O&M Technicians and Supervisors. Supervisors need to ensure that the O&M Techs are fulfilling their post orders and that field training and coaching occur for those who need assistance. Furthermore, I expect that all Tres Rios field staff spend the majority of their time in the field performing respective post orders and observing the facility's performance. This field criteria includes Plant Manager and Assistant Managers and/or current processing teams.

John Sherlock, Deputy Director – Treatment

SUBJECT: Tres Rios WRF Temporary Changes

January 26, 2016

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I am already aware that Dave Bartos and Scott Weiler work four 10-hour shifts. I would like to modify their schedules so that one of them covers a Saturday and the other covers a Sunday to ensure that Tres Rios has management involvement and oversight 7 days per week. For brevity and due to the numerous list of details, I am sending this as a general plan and expectation. However, you will need to fill in many details and answer many questions that will likely be asked as a result of this memo.

I also request that you focus the majority of your time on the day-to-day operations at Tres Rios. You can be excused from any meeting that I schedule should you determine that your presence at such a meeting would negatively impact your Tres Rios priority assignment. The remainder of your senior staff can continue to assist with the needs of your Division as long as everyone understands that the primary focus is to ensure that Tres Rios returns to predictable and stable performance and that all operations and maintenance staff develop a renewed understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities.

I would also like to form a third team including: Jack Van Riper, Bruce Gura, Joe Gonzales and Alan Anthon to review and prepare a detailed list of process equipment and instrumentation concerns and to identify flawed or failed instruments and equipment that need to be repaired and/or replaced and will develop a list of critical instruments that must be kept in calibration. I would also like a list of post orders for I&C, as well as process control SCADA responsibilities including preventative maintenance and calibration activities. This is especially critical for instruments that O&M staff depend on to make decisions. The Liquid and Solids processing teams should also help develop calibration confirmation protocols to ensure that instruments are performing as intended. This would entail regular and frequent manual field checks and confirmations of blanket levels, DO values, etc.

I hope these directed temporary changes are not viewed as punitive, but rather as an opportunity to renew the daily "*back to basics*" (B2B) operating criteria and parameters. The intent of the B2B operating focus is to develop consistency of methods and results. Too many of our critical measures have been observed to vary widely from one period to the next. Chemical usage, gas production, energy use, and time spend doing rounds or completing work orders all have been seen to vary by amounts that cannot be justified in a well-run business. I want to ensure that no one gets complacent with the importance of achieving regulatory permit compliance and safe job practices and behavior. I would also request that you work with your team to determine how best to use SCADA and Inteletrac to show important process trends over extended periods of time that are readily available and easily monitored on a daily shift basis so that we can identify potential process changes in a timely manner.

I am available to you and your team if additional discussion is necessary. I have also identified additional resources from Planning and Engineering, CRAO and other areas within the Department should you determine such resources may be needed.