

**PIMA COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**



**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FOR  
PROPOSED ORDINANCES  
RELATED TO SOLID WASTE  
PROPOSING A NEW FEE SCHEDULE FOR  
PIMA COUNTY SOLID WASTE FACILITIES AND  
PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS  
TO PIMA COUNTY CODE TITLE 13**

**JULY 24, 2013**

## **Introduction**

The Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) is proposing revisions to Pima County Code (PCC) Title 13 (Solid Waste) and the County's fee schedule relating to Pima County's solid waste facilities (landfills and transfer stations).

The proposed ordinance amendments to PCC Title 13 amend sections related to the definitions, waste acceptance, and fees at solid waste facilities, as well as repeal sections related to the County's financial responsibilities at solid waste facilities. The proposed fee schedule ordinance presents changes to solid waste facilities fees, including changes to commercial and residential fees, increasing fees over a period of five (5) years.

## **Public Participation**

Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) published notice of the proposed ordinance amendments of PCC Title 13 and the proposed fee schedule ordinance, on June 6, 2013, and on July 22, 2013. On June 19, 2013, the public was also informed that public meeting would be held in Ajo, Arizona. The public meeting was conducted on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Bud Walker Community Center, located at 290 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Ajo, Arizona. In addition, PDEQ issued a news release on June 17, 2013, to publicize the meeting and notify the public of the proposed ordinances. The news release generated a story in the Ajo Copper News.

Public notices were prepared and submitted to local newspapers for publication. The Arizona Daily Star, Daily Territorial, and the Ajo Copper News are the three newspapers PDEQ used to publish notices. Information was also available on the Pima County Homepage on June 6, 2013, as well as the PDEQ website. The website publications included the Public Notice information as well as the proposed ordinance documents.

During the 60-day public comment period, PDEQ received eleven (11) written and five (5) oral comments, of these comments three (3) written comments were received by PDEQ at the public meeting, one (1) was received via letter, one (1) was received via e-mail, and six (6) written comments were received through other Pima County Departments (as carbon copy on e-mail or copy of submitted letter). PDEQ accepted written comments on the proposed ordinances until July 19, 2013, and oral comments were made at the public meeting in Ajo, AZ on June 25, 2013. Comments ranged from concern of illegal dumping due to proposed fee schedule to comments on the possible closure of the Ajo Landfill and possible location of a transfer station in Ajo, AZ. PDEQ addresses each of these comments.

PDEQ appreciates the public input and would like to extend its thanks to the community for all comments received during the public comment period and at the public meeting.

## Summary of the Proposed Ordinance Amendments to Pima County Code Title 13 (Solid Waste) and Proposed Fee Schedule Ordinance

The proposed ordinance amendments to PCC Title 13 amend sections related to the definitions, waste acceptance, and fees at solid waste facilities, as well as repeal sections related to the County's financial responsibilities at solid waste facilities. The proposed fee schedule ordinance presents changes to solid waste facilities fees, including changes to commercial and residential fees, increasing fees over a period of five (5) years.

### Response to Comments

#### Written Comments

This summary presents PDEQ responses to written comments received during the 60-day public comment period.

1. **Robert Sorrels – Ajo, AZ**

Written Comment. E-mail dated June 18, 2013

*I think it is accurate to state that most of the citizens of Ajo feel that the entire solid waste debacle was decided upon long before anyone inquired as to how it would affect Ajo and all of western Pima County. We understand that we are a long way from where the County concentrates its resources, and we also recognize that collectively we are small in number relative to the suburbs of Tucson. Nevertheless, we are citizens. We work, live, vote, pay taxes, all in this county.*

*Most of us acknowledge that it is reasonable that we pay for our garbage and dump service. Given that no one likes taxes, this becomes inevitable though it will be hard on some of Ajo's families. For sure everyone in town will now hoard their trash until they have a car or truck full before taking it to dump. Mr. Huckleberry's decision to close the Ajo landfill is deeply resented here as no matter what political platitudes are passed our way, it is clear that we were never consulted nor our opinions given any weight in this decision. It was announced, then a meeting was called to justify it. We find it odd and amusing that Mr. Huckleberry acknowledges that our situation is different but wonder just how long it has been since he visited this part of the county that also helps to pay his salary.*

*The siting of the transfer station can not be done without the intimate involvement of this community. Simply dropping it in the state/county road yard where it abuts two parts of our community, next to the high school ball park and just down the road from our schools is not acceptable. At the very minimum it could be placed at the current dump site. Yes, you'd have to run power, but with all the money you are saving this shouldn't be a major problem. The transfer station generates traffic, waste, pests, odor, noise, etc. It can not be allowed to degrade the quality of our life here in Ajo.*

*Please understand that while I only speak for myself, I know for a fact this community is passionately concerned about yet another decision being crammed down our throats. A decision that will benefit the profitability of your contractor, but does not address any of our concerns. The transfer station cannot be placed in the road yard. It is time for County staff to actually come up with viable solutions for the problem that you have created by closing the dump. Of course you could continue to operate the dump, but then that is too direct and simple of an answer.*

**PDEQ Response:** Pima County Solid Waste (a division of PDEQ) was set up as an enterprise fund which means that the operations were meant to be supported by the revenues it collects for solid waste disposal. No tax dollars (general fund support) were used to support Solid Waste operations until 2007/2008. Fees for disposal have never been collected at the Ajo Landfill which has contributed to Solid Waste's declining financial condition.

Ajo Landfill is currently operating under the direction of our contractor, Tucson Recycling and Waste Services (TRWS). Although TRWS has proposed that operating a transfer station may be one method by which the County might be able to save dollars when compared to operating a landfill, there is no plan in place to close the landfill and no transfer station location has been selected. No actions regarding a transfer station will take place without a discussion with the Ajo community so that all views are considered and that reasonable disposal options exist for the residents and businesses.

2. **Lorenzo "Dan" Morales – Ajo, AZ**

Written Comment. E-mail dated June 19, 2013

Received by PDEQ forwarded e-mail from Supervisor Bronson's Office

*I just want everyone to know that the area described in the Copper News for the possible site, the area between the Baseball field and MVD, for the Transfer Station is on property belonging to Ajo Ambulance. Lot 335 Parcel 10-401-55-3350. The arroyo running behind the property has been designated as a Riparian Habitat by FEMA and it is also in a flood plain. We had to abandon building our ambulance station there because of the flood and riparian issues. I am surprised that no one attempted to contact us about it.*

**PDEQ Response:** There is no plan in place to close the landfill and a transfer station location has not been selected.

3. **Michael and Nancy McCoy – Ajo, AZ**  
Written Comment. Letter Addressed to Supervisor Bronson  
Received by PDEQ via carbon copy letter June 24,2013

*We object to the preferred location of the proposed Solid Waste Transfer Station for Ajo, near the Sheriff's Office and other Pima County facilities along Ajo Well Rd.*

*This site is unacceptable as it is too close to residences, schools, parks and our newly-renovated Plaza. Truck traffic, noise, odors, drainage and other negative impacts make it apparent that a different and less objectionable site for the Transfer Station be considered. Many school children not only use the baseball park, but walk near this proposed site on their way to classes every day. The Station should be placed a minimum of one mile from schools and residences.*

*Please take a look at alternative sites further north off Ajo Well Rd. near the Rodeo Grounds or Shooting Ranges, and especially at the acres and acres of already paved surfaces near the seldom-used Marcus-Ajo Airport. If a more northerly site were used, the transfer trucks could even take a safer route back to Tucson via State Route 85 and Interstates 8 & 10 and avoid going through Ajo town or the Tohono O'Odham Nation altogether.*

*But most importantly, please ensure that the Transfer Station not be established adjacent to residences in Ajo. If this happens, it would raise serious issues, including legal ones, regarding the Environmental Justice factor, where in seniors, Spanish-speaking, the poor and those with little voice of influence in civic affairs often are disproportionately impacted by the actions of others.*

**PDEQ Response:** Although TRWS has proposed that operating a transfer station may be one method by which the County might be able to save dollars when compared to operating a landfill, there is no plan in place to close the landfill and no transfer station location has been selected. No actions regarding a transfer station will take place without a discussion with the Ajo community so that all views are considered and that reasonable disposal options exist for the residents and businesses.

4. **Bob Dooley – Ajo, AZ**  
Written Comment received at Public Meeting on June 25, 2013

*1 – Please seriously listen to community input, or establish focus groups for input on the transfer station*

*2 – Please consider a dept of E. Quality impact study for A change in landfill operations. Policing of illegal dumping should rigorously be enforced. It will occur.*

**PDEQ Response:** No actions regarding a transfer station will take place without a discussion with the Ajo community so that all views are considered and that reasonable disposal options exist for residents and businesses.

5. **Matthew Huff – Ajo, AZ**

Written Comment received at Public Meeting on June 25, 2013

*The dump I used in NC (Smithfield, Johnston [sic] County) had a decal system. I could purchase a Jan – June, July – Dec, or a full year decal. This was a great deal for me. It was much cheaper than hiring a trash company and allowed me to dump my home waste as often as I wanted. I would love to see something like this offered so I could pay for my trash up front and budget.*

**PDEQ Response:** PDEQ appreciates your feedback on the proposed fee schedule.

6. **Jeannie Morago – Ajo, AZ**

Written Comment received at Public Meeting on June 25, 2013

*my thinking is that it cost \$ to handle solid waste – just put the transfer station at the current dump location*

**PDEQ Response:** We will consider this location if and when a decision is made to proceed with a transfer station.

7. **Mari Kaestle – Ajo, AZ**

Written Comment received July 10, 2013

Forwarded to PDEQ by Robin Brigode, Clerk of the Board

*as a resident of ajo, I protest the proposed location of the new transfer station. By suggesting a location in close proximity to the public school, the sheriff's department, the ajo historic plaza, and the eastside residential community, the county is being disingenuous about the environmental and economic impact of such a facility.*

*the cost of developing electrical and waster infrastructure on the current landfill site is cited as the reason for the decision. what about the quality of life costs to ajo?*

*this community has struggled with economic malaise for nearly 30 years. recently, because of combined efforts of the residents, and private and public organizations, ajo is developing a new economy based to a large extent on tourism. our proximity to major ecotourism destinations, our clean, fresh air, quiet days and nights, and small town charm are very appealing to tourists, retirees...and totally beloved and cherished by residents. things are still very fragile here. a odorous, toxic, waste station located in the center of town could tip the scales back into negative growth and development.*

*is that a plus for the county over the long term?*

*it seems that only short term goals matter to the board of supervisors...and the life of our community matters not at all.*

*I believe the new facility must be placed on the existing landfill site. most importantly, the entire ajo community should have a chance to speak and decide about this issue...which means delaying action until the return of winter residents who are nearly 50% of the population.*

*Thank you, [sic]  
the businessman who will operate the waste facility claimed at the most recent meeting  
that he makes no  
money on re-cycling. that's a crock.*

**PDEQ Response:** No actions regarding a transfer station will take place without a discussion with the Ajo community so that all views are considered and that reasonable disposal options exist for residents and businesses. Mr. Henk did not say that he makes no money on recycling; he said that it costs more to transport recyclables than he receives in revenue for the recyclables.

8. **Desert Senita Community Health Center – Ajo, AZ**  
Forwarded to PDEQ by Robin Brigode, Clerk of the Board

*The purpose of this letter is to express the concern of the Desert Senita Board of Directors regarding the planned closure of the landfill located in Ajo. As you know, Ajo is a small town of approximately 3500 people in an isolated and remote part of Pima County. Even though there will be an option for residential refuse, the closure of the landfill leaves the commercial and some of the residential aspects of Ajo wanting.*

*Our understanding is; after the landfill closes residents will have the option of taking their household garbage to a transfer station where it will be compacted and trucked to a secondary location, most likely in Tucson, for disposal. This will involve a fee, which may be an issue for our very low income area, and will not accept “Non-household refuse”.*

*We foresee two separate problems. First we have hundreds of square miles of open desert all around Ajo and insufficient law enforcement resources to stop people from using the desert for a “free dump”. Second, what will residents do with their “Non-household” refuse such as: refrigerators, tree trimmings, old roof tiles, construction/remodel materials, old tires, engine oil, old paint, etc...? At present, there is NO apparent option for these types of items. They will either end up as pollution in the desert or sitting in the yards of residences, causing a public health or fire hazard.*

*Next, and just as important, Ajo has local businesses, e.g.: Health Center, Olsen's Grocery, Ajo Unified School District, and many Small Businesses /employers. What will these businesses do with their refuse? Particularly large items, such as pallets, containers, construction materials etc... Additionally, the local landfill currently handles all of the biological refuse from the Pima County Animal Care Center. This biological refuse includes deceased animals, road kill, and euthanized critters taken to the Pima County Animal Care Facility. What will be done with this obvious health hazard if not accepted at the proposed, “Transfer Station”?*

*To our understanding the closest option for Pima County refuse, will be over 120 miles away in the Tucson area. Tucson is just physically too far to haul Ajo garbage to for disposal in an economically effective way. Desert Senita Community Health Center (DSCHC) is the sole provider of medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy services in Western Pima County. DSCHC provided over 13500 medical/dental visits in 2012 for 2964 individual community members. Additionally, DSCHC provides much*

*needed behavioral health services and the DSCHC pharmacy fills more than 3000 prescriptions each month. DSCHC is a non-profit 501(c) DSCHC and impede our ability to continue offering the same level of services to the residents of Western Pima County.*

*The Board of Directors for Desert Senita Community Health Center urges the Pima County Board of Supervisors to consider alternative options for Western Pima County. A few alternatives are (1) keeping something similar to the services currently offered, but charging a reasonable fee for disposal; (2) requiring the company managing the local transfer station to take non-household/non-residential garbage for a reasonable fee; and (3) table the decision to close Ajo landfill until there is an economically feasible option available for our remote, and very low income, isolated community. We thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this vitally important issue to the Ajo town sire before finalizing your decision on the proposed landfill closures in Pima County.*

**PDEQ Response:** The landfill is continuing to operate and continues to accept the same waste stream that it has always accepted. Although the Ajo Landfill is currently operating under the direction of our contractor, Tucson Recycling and Waste Services (TRWS), there is no plan in place to close the landfill and to open a transfer station. The Ajo Landfill is operating and is accepting the same waste stream as it was when Pima County Solid Waste was operating the landfill. In addition, landfill operating hours have been expanded and recycling collection is now being offered to residents. Waste from residents, local businesses, and the Pima County Animal Care Facility are currently disposed of in the Ajo Landfill. The landfill is not permitted to accept hazardous waste, biohazardous medical waste, or liquid wastes. Such wastes have never been accepted and continue to be prohibited.

Discussions of potential waste acceptance criteria for a future potential transfer station in Ajo have also not been undertaken. Initial impressions of TRWS are that all waste presently accepted at the landfill would be acceptable at a transfer station, with the exception of bulky waste like broken up concrete, asphalt, rock and dirt. They feel that the landfill can continue to be used for wastes that are unacceptable at a transfer station, by special appointment or some other prearrangement for this service. Any future discussions on the possible operations of a transfer station will be developed and discussed with the community.

9. **Tina West – Ajo, AZ**  
Written Comment received July 10, 2013  
Forwarded to PDEQ by Sharon Carson, Pima County Health Department

*Your name was given to me by the PCHD receptionist as the person to direct this question to.*

*Please note, this is a request regarding household trash and garbage accumulation and not construction trash and old junk accumulation which I understand is the responsibility of the Development Services Zoning Department.*

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*This is a Request for Information and Review Input regarding the following situation for Western Pima County, in particular the environment surrounding the towns of Ajo and Why, Arizona.*

*On May 14, 2013 Pima County entered into a Contract with Tucson Recycling and Waste Services to operate Solid Waste Disposal Services throughout the County.*

*On August 6, 2013 the Pima County Board of Supervisors will be taking action to revise Title 13 Solid Waste Disposal Ordinance provisions and also to adopt a New Fee Schedule for Pima County Waste Services.*

*Adoption of the New Fee Schedule will initiate “Dump” fees for the first time ever in the towns of Ajo and Why.*

*There is concern in effected communities that this action will cause illegal dumping and the fire, flood, and public health hazards which would result therefrom.*

*Health hazards as in rodents attracted/overpopulating in trash and disease generated by garbage which ferments for long periods in high (115 degrees +) temperatures.*

*Any information and review input which your agency could provide regarding the potential for illegal dumping or the effects of illegal dumping on your area of responsibility and service would be helpful in the community’s attempt to evaluate the situation.*

**PDEQ Response:** We are confident the residents of Ajo are responsible and will continue to dispose their solid waste in the proper manner. There is a financial hardship fee reduction program in place for those that meet the economic criteria. Additionally, our wildcat dump inspector will increase his surveillance activities immediately after the fees are implemented (if approved by the BOS).

10. **JD Allen – Ajo, AZ**  
Written Comment. E-mail dated July 16, 2013

*Fees for our local landfill in Ajo will undoubtedly hurt this community. The vast majority of our residents are on a fixed income. Those that CAN afford to pay for landfill services already do. Most can not. Adding another financial burden to an area that is already stretched thin is appalling. These fees will turn ordinary citizens into criminals. If they can not afford to use the landfill people will be forced to dump in the desert or using business dumpsters, which then hurts local businesses. My fear is that the vast desert area that surrounds Ajo will become the next available dumping spot for household garbage.*

*Thank you for your time*

**PDEQ Response:** The Community Action Agency accepts applications for a financial hardship fee qualification process and the information has been distributed at community meetings in Ajo, to Supervisor Bronson’s office and is also available on the PDEQ website. For those that qualify, there will be a \$2 entry fee, if the BOS approves the ordinance.

11. **Sid Slone – Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge Manager**  
Written Comment. Letter dated July 19, 2013

*I am writing to provide comments on the proposed solid waste ordinance to on landfill fees for the Ajo Landfill and Transfer Station. I serve as the refuge manager for Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge which protects of 800,000 acres of Sonoran Desert habitat. The town of Ajo is located immediately to the east of the eastern boundary of the refuge.*

*The small un-incorporated community of Ajo, Arizona has a higher than normal poverty rate (24.1% greater than the State of Arizona average and 81.3% greater than the National average) and unemployment rate (11.5% compared to 8.7% for Arizona and 8.3% for National Average). Many individuals in this community simply cannot afford the solid waste disposal rates proposed for the Ajo Landfill and Transfer Station. Because of this, I am concerned about the potential for increased wildcat trash dumping on refuge lands directly adjacent to the Ajo community.*

*Refuge lands already receive large amounts of wildcat dumping from illegal immigrants who move through the area. The cumulative impact of illegal trash dumping from Ajo residents is of great concern to me. With only 5 refuge law enforcement officers available to cover over 800,000 acres of refuge lands, we simply do not have the resources available to address the current wildcat dumping issue; much less the additional dumping which will certainly occur should the Ajo Landfill begin to impose fees for solid waste.*

*Some of the impacts I am concerned about which can be associated with wildcat trash dumping include; food habituated wildlife, increased potential for wildland fires, increased illegal off road driving, and visual impacts to visitors and wilderness.*

*For these reasons I would ask that you not impose landfill fees for the Ajo Landfill and Transfer Station. Or, you have a plan to ensure that sufficient enforcement is available to discourage wildcat dumping. If you have questions or concerns with this request, I can be reached at [Sid\\_Slone@fws.gov](mailto:Sid_Slone@fws.gov), or by calling me at 520-387-4993.*

**PDEQ Response:** Please see PDEQ Response to Written Comment Numbers 5, 9 and 10 above.

### **Public Meeting Oral Comments June 25, 2013**

The following summary presents PDEQ's responses to oral comments received at the public meeting held on June 25, 2013. A summary of the oral comments follows identification of the speaker. Please refer to the Ajo Public Meeting Transcript for the full transcription of each speaker's comments.

1. **Speaker 1 – Walter Puciata**

*My name is Walter Puciata and I'm a resident of Ajo, I've lived here and I've owned a home since 2005 and my home is located in close proximity to where it is was originally reported in the Ajo Copper News that a proposed location for a transfer station was very nearby in the department of Transport the Pima Department of Transportation County yard. Now because the possible closure of the landfill, the incorporation of fees, and a Solid Waste transfer station are not separate issues and must be discussed inconclusively as a whole I therefore want to make the following statement. Since there is no way of knowing exactly what may become of the Transfer Station matter, I object to this meeting and the reason that I object and demand that the county cease and desist any further planning and implementation is simply this announcing the plans to privatize the Ajo Landfill incorporate fees and build a transfer station, were first announced to the community on May 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year. Less than two months ago. Just as one half of the town's population had left for the season. We, therefore, we do not have a quorum of the taxpaying citizens to attend this hearing. I therefore object to this hearing and its entirety and I respectfully request that the hearing be continued to such time that the people of Ajo all the people of Ajo present and heard.*

**PDEQ Response:** The timing of the meeting occurred as a result of ongoing contract negotiations and subsequent contract award. The public meeting was held in conjunction with newspaper articles and email to inform the community of the proposed actions.

2. **Speaker 2 – Allen Dunstan**

*My name is Allen Dunstan and I have a small company called Ajo Botanical Company. Which has one and a half employees and I'm going to talk about things that specifically affect my business but a lot of what I would say would affect other people too. First thing, I feel that the ordinance is far too general in several respects. Number one it lumps all haulers other than residential in one category, so small haulers of green waste like*

*myself and Ron are lumped in with the largest contractors. It makes no provisions for handling green waste separately other than the Ina road landfill which of course we have no access to.*

*It closed ok, and also it lumps Ajo which is at least Eighty miles away from any viable alternative in with metro Tucson and the eighty miles I'm referring to I don't know if we can even use it but the regional landfill near Buckeye. And what I feel could be done is number one create a second nonresidential category for small hauler say at double the residential rate say ten dollars now I have a trailer that I use which is about five it's exactly five by ten and typically I would have a load three to four feet high. So that is between 150 to 200 cubic feet which converts to about 6 to 7 cubic yards so I would end up paying \$50 to \$60 dollars each time I take my trailer to the dump which is an incredible impact on me and my customers. The second suggestion I have is that we establish a separate location for disposing of green waste where it could be stored for a period of time and possibly processed with a tub grinder which could be towed with a semi and at that, could then could be reused as mulch or some other way. So those are the specific things just in general I echo other comments that this has been done way to quickly it doesn't give us the opportunity to research and implement an alternative. And I just feel for the county to suddenly dump this responsibly to a private company who's motivation is to profit on such short notice is irresponsible and, my other comment is to relate to dumping in the desert which we have already covered so I'll let that stand. So anyway I just strongly urge the county to reconsider its abrupt imposition of these fees and urge our representatives to consider actions that would soften the blow to this rural location.*

**PDEQ Response:** After public input (your public comment and other landscapers' comments), PDEQ has modified the proposed fee schedule ordinance to reduce the proposed fees associated with green waste disposal. Also, please see PDEQ Response to Written Comment Numbers 5, 9, and 10 above regarding fees.

3. **Speaker 3 – Tina West**

*Alright I'm going to address you and give you an idea for your consideration that I hope you will take me up on. Ok to make your comments count for the legal record when the new fee schedule is adopted by the Pima County Board of Supervisors you must send the directly to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at [Robin.Brigode@pima.gov](mailto:Robin.Brigode@pima.gov) Ask that your comments in their entirety be made part of the record of the August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Board of Supervisor Hearing on Solid Waste disposal you can send these to her by email or in writing. The Clerk of the Board will post them on the agenda along with the ordinance so other members of the public in the county and the press can see them. Your comments will then stay with the ordinance as long as it is in effect until it is repealed or significantly amended. Your comments will follow the ordinance throughout its life. So if there are impacts that you are worried about now that occur later you can show that you asked them to be addressed and that address was denied, and that the impacts occurred and they affected you ok. The Clerk of the Board will also distribute your comment to all five supervisors, so Sharon Bronson will get them automatically. If you send it to Sharon*

*Bronson it stays with Sharon Bronson if you send it to the Clerk of the Board it goes on the record and it goes to all five supervisors.*

*Yes they will go on the record, they will be posted with they will be posted with...see the agenda comes out, the ordinance gets posted under an item number and then if your comments are on the record they go right after that so that everyone can read them but most important so that they're there in their entirety and they don't just get lost in one supervisors office or in one departments office. Now this is a very tricky situation, and if you miss this step and you don't get your comments on the record your out of the game, Ok. You've got to get your comments on the record. Now Ursula will be asking you to submit comments to her, you can go ahead and I'm not telling you not to submit them to her. But the process that she told me she was going to summarize them and then they will answer the concerns and they will present that to the board. Ok what happens in this, I've been through this many, many times, it is a person in Ursula's position responsibly to her superior which is County Administrator Officer Huckleberry to summarize those comments, water them down and then address them by dismissing them as non-significant, they will be given to County Administrator he will tell the board you don't have any problems you can act on this in good faith go ahead with what I suggest to you with this ordinance I wrote out for you, and I want you to adopt because I want to balance the budget. Adopted. Everything is ok there are no problems. And they will they'll go ahead and do it, so that's what happens if only submit your comments to DEQ. I'm not insulting Ursula, that's her job if she didn't do that job for Chuck Huckelberry, he'd say go back and do this again until you get it right. Ok. Until you dismiss everything.*

*They have to be in by July 31<sup>st</sup>, I think, is the Wednesday before the Tuesday board hearing*

*People, she told me on email today that people are already sending in their comments for the record. So you can send them in now, you can send them in tomorrow but you have to get them in, you should get them in by July 31<sup>st</sup>. You can get them in on August 6<sup>th</sup>, but that's absolute deadline. Ok, because it says if you were there at the hearing speaking but since you're not there you're sending them in. She will post them. One person in our community did that at the last minute. Ok, but this is very, very important and if you miss this step like I said you are going to be out of the game. OK so that's all I have to say.*

**PDEQ Response:** It is PDEQ's responsibility to accurately forward the comments received and to present an appropriate response to the comments to the BOS.

4. **Speaker 4 – Ronny Whitley**

*My name is Ronny Whitley I got Ron's Yard service and I took that job because I lost my job but I take pride in Ajo, keeping it clean and I've seen a lot of yards that need a lot of cleaning so I said there's a job there and I have one employee and we clean up all these yard stuff and if I have to go out there and pay a big fee then it goes onto my consumer a lot of my consumers are low income and they would go onto them as a fee and a lot of them wouldn't be able to afford it. So a lot of the yards would stay dirty, they wouldn't be clean and when people like drive through Ajo they wouldn't see filth, brush, trash and*

*they would say man I wouldn't want to live in that town. You know so I think the cost should be low and like you said, for landscapers and stuff like that we should have a fee where it would be reasonable where we could go to the dump and keep clean up our town and be proud of our town and that's all I got to say.*

**PDEQ Response:** Please see PDEQ response to Oral Comment Number 2.

5. **Speaker 5 – Jose Castillo**

*I'd like to say something. I'm Jose Castillo and I've been here a couple days, years, whatever you want to call them. Stability is one of the greatest virtues of these United States but us, we don't have stability. Counties try to nickel and dime us to death just like the like the post office is and everybody else. By not knowing where you are going to put the compactor at or how much you're going to charge or for how long you're going to charge, that's not stability at all. Figure out do your sightings prior to making recommendations; this is going to be a recommendation. Make your study prior a year, two, three years, whatever it takes. Do it before this economy helps people so thinking of what is going to happen mananā. They don't know they would like to know so stability like a dollar bill, stable economy. Stability is the key word. And I notice a lot of people talking here. why here? Why there? Why? How much? Stability. Do your sightings prior. That's it.*

**PDEQ Response:** Pima County is providing proposed fee information to the community for the next five years to allow people to plan ahead. There are no plans for a transfer station at this time. If in the future a transfer station is considered it will be done with discussions with the Ajo community.

## **Conclusion**

PDEQ appreciates the participation of the general public during this comment period for the proposed solid waste ordinances.