4. AGENCY AND AREA DESIGNATIONS

4.1 DESIGNATED PLANNING AGENCY AND PLANNING AREA

On July 8, 1970, Arizona Governor Jack Williams signed Executive Order 70-2, which divided Arizona into six planning districts and directed that all planning functions conducted on a district, regional or area-wide basis, conform to the prescribed planning areas. Executive Order 70-2 is included in Appendix E.

On March 25, 1974, Governor Williams designated PAG as the Section 208 area-wide waste treatment management planning agency for Pima County, which was one of the six planning districts established by Executive Order 70-2. Executive Order 70-2 and the Governor's designation letter are both included in Appendix E. Although PAG's Designated Planning Area legally encompasses all of Pima County, the Tohono O'odham Nation opted to produce their own 208 Plan for their lands. Therefore, PAG's 208 Plan only addresses non-Tohono O'odham lands. PAG's 208 Planning Area boundaries are shown on Figure 4-1.

PAG remains the sole Designated Planning Agency for Pima County.

4.2. DESIGNATED MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND MANAGEMENT AREAS

The original 1978 PAG 208 Plan unconditionally designated Pima County as the management agency for wastewater treatment systems outside the metropolitan Tucson area. The 208 Plan also unconditionally designated the City of Tucson and Pima County as management agencies for their respective portions of the metropolitan municipal wastewater treatment system. However, the 208 Plan also recommended partial or full consolidation of the metropolitan system.

In 1979, the ownership and all responsibilities for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the City of Tucson's sewerage systems were transferred to Pima County. In recognition of the pending consolidation of facilities, the PAG Regional Council passed resolution 78-12-07 in December 1978 requesting that the Governor designate Pima County as the single 208 Management Agency (DMA) for municipal wastewater treatment and sewer system operations (see Appendix B). This designation was noted in a 1980 amendment to the 1978 PAG 208 Plan.

Pima County remained the sole DMA in the PAG planning area until March 1999, when the PAG Regional Council approved a 208 Plan Amendment designating the Town of Sahuarita as a management agency. The area designated for the new Sahuarita DMA encompassed the incorporated Town of Sahuarita limits excluding areas already served by Pima County. This area is described in Appendix F and shown on Figure 4-2.

Since the Sahuarita 208 Plan Amendment was approved, the Town has annexed a number of areas. The Town’s incorporated limits as of August 2005 are shown on Figure 4-3. In recognition of the Town's annexations, and in order to ensure that the citizens of the Town and Pima County receive the best and most affordable wastewater service, the Town’s Designated Management Area is hereby expanded. PAG has delineated the Town’s expanded DMA boundaries in consultation with Town staff and Pima County Wastewater Management
Department staff. The basis for delineating the boundaries is the agreed upon concept that areas should be served by the wastewater treatment facility (i.e., the Sahuarita facility or a Pima County facility) to which it is most practical, technically feasible and economically feasible to route the flows. The DMA boundaries are shown on Figure 4-4.

Some areas near Sahuarita could be served in the future by either the Town’s facility or a Pima County facility. These are hereby designated as “Joint Planning Areas” and are shown on Figure 4-4. These areas are not officially assigned to either DMA at this time. Instead, Pima County and the Town of Sahuarita will work together to decide who will serve these areas when the need for service arises. Service of the Joint Planning Areas by either DMA will be considered consistent with the 208 Plan, provided that the DMAs agree. Some areas east of the Town’s current incorporated limits are included among the Joint Planning Areas. The Town might annex these areas in the future, and they could be served by either Pima County or the Town.

The remainder of Pima County, excluding tribal lands, is within Pima County Wastewater Management Department’s Designated Management Area, which is shown on Figure 4-5. At the request of adjacent counties and with the concurrence of any impacted local jurisdictions, Pima County may consider providing service to customers outside the Pima County limits to benefit the general health, environment and economy of these areas. As an example, Pima County Wastewater Management Department, at the request of Pinal County, currently provides service to an area north of the Pima/Pinal County line along Route 77, because service by Pima County is the most practical alternative in this area.

4.3. NON-DMA SERVICE AREAS

Several sewage treatment facilities are operated by entities other than the Town of Sahuarita or Pima County. These facilities are within Pima County’s Designated Management Area, but they were either constructed prior to implementation of the 208 Plan, or Pima County Wastewater Management Department declined to provide service to the areas. In one case (the Arizona State Prison), a facility was constructed despite the fact that it was directly in conflict with the approved 208 Plan.

Sewage treatment facilities currently operated or proposed to be operated by entities other than the two Designated Management Agencies are shown on Figure 4-5. They include:

- Adonis
- Ajo Improvement Company
- Arizona State Prison
- Lukeville
- Marana High School
- Milagro Subdivision
- MTC
- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
- Saguaro Ranch Guest Ranch
- Sahuarita High School Wetlands
- University of Arizona Science and Technology Park
- U. S. Forest Service – Palisades Ranger Station
All of these facilities are located within the Pima County Designated Management Area. No expansion to these facilities’ service areas is permitted without an approved and certified 208 Plan Amendment.

4.3.1. Adonis
The Adonis Sanitary Sewerage Facility serves residents of the Adonis Mobile Home Park at Grier Road east of I-10 (Figure 4-6). The facility is operated by the Homeowners Association for the Adonis Mobile Home Park and has had compliance problems in the past. Plant closure and connection to the regional sewage collection and treatment system is recommended.

4.3.2. Ajo Improvement Company
A sewage treatment facility serving the community of Ajo was identified in the original 208 Plan. A 208 Plan Amendment approved in July 1999 addressed construction of a new 0.6 MGD facility to be operated by the Ajo Improvement Company on the site of the old facility. The facility is located in Section 14 of Township 12 South, Range 6 West, between Well Road and the Phelps Dodge tailing pond. Ajo Improvement Company has a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity from the Arizona Corporation Commission. The certificate area is shown on Figure 4-7.

4.3.3. Arizona State Prison
The wastewater treatment facility serving the Arizona State Prison on South Wilmot Road (Figure 4-8) was constructed despite the fact that it was not part of the 208 Plan and no 208 Plan Amendment was completed. The facility remains inconsistent with the 208 Plan. The prison should be served by Pima County, which is the DMA for the area.

4.3.4. Lukeville
The Lukeville border station (Figure 4-9) has a package treatment plant with a capacity of 10,000 gpd. Daily flow is approximately 2,500 gpd. The system serves 13 employee residences, a trailer space and two sets of public rest rooms (Wallin, 2005).

4.3.5. Marana High School
The Marana High School (Figure 4-10) was previously served by a septic system. The school is now served by a 0.07 MGD package plant, which serves only the school grounds and not any off-site properties. Regional service is expected to be available by the end of the plant’s operational life, at which time the school will connect to the County sewer system.

The Marana Junior High School located southeast of Grier Road and Lon Adams Road also had its own sewage treatment facility at one time. This facility was identified in the original PAG 208 Plan and in the 2000 Marana 208 Update. However, the school connected to the County sewer system in 1999.

4.3.6. Milagro Subdivision
The Milagro Subdivision on Tucson’s west side (Figure 4-11) is served by a common septic system with disposal via wetlands and subsurface drip irrigation. The community’s homeowners association is responsible for operation and maintenance of the treatment system, which serves 28 homes, a guest house and common building.
4.3.7. MTC
Management Training Corporation (MTC) operates the Marana Community Correctional Facility, which is served by an on-site sewage treatment facility. The site is located in Section 5 of Township 12 South, Range 11 East, west of Sanders Road and north of Silverbell Road (Figure 4-12). The facility's first phase had a capacity of 0.065 MGD with a subsequent expansion to 0.13 MGD. The plant is not authorized to serve any areas other than the correctional facility. When regional service is available, the existing plant will be abandoned and connection will be made to the regional infrastructure.

4.3.8. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
A wastewater system at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Figure 4-13) consists of a collection system and three lagoons. Effluent is disposed via evaporation. The system serves six restrooms and a dump station at the campground and two employee residences. Maximum occupancy is 400 in the winter (Wallin, 2005).

4.3.9. Saguaro Ranch Guest Ranch
A small (0.016 MGD) privately-owned on-site package plant has been proposed to serve 28 casitas, a restaurant, amphitheater and restrooms at a guest ranch centrally located in the Saguaro Ranch subdivision in the foothills of the Tortolita Mountains (Figure 4-14). The facility will only serve the guest ranch; it will not serve any surrounding areas. Effluent disposal will be through on-site reuse and on-site subsurface leaching.

Although this area remains within Pima County's Designated Management Area, it is neither technically nor economically practical for Pima County Wastewater to serve this site.

4.3.10. Sahuarita High School Wetlands
The Sahuarita School District's combined campus at 350 W. Sahuarita Road (Figure 4-15) is served by an on-site septic system that discharges to a wetlands treatment system. The wetlands provide additional treatment to the wastewater generated on site, and they provide an environmental education opportunity for students. The wetlands only serve the campus; they may not serve any off-site areas.

4.3.11. University of Arizona Science and Technology Park
This facility is an extended aeration system with a capacity of 0.15 MGD serving the University of Arizona Science and Technology Park (Figure 4-16). The effluent is reused on site.

4.3.12. U. S. Forest Service – Palisades Ranger Station
This facility serves a ranger station in the Santa Catalina Mountains (Figure 4-17). It consists of a lined 500,000 gallon anaerobic treatment lagoon. Disposal is achieved through evaporation and seasonal reuse for irrigation when necessary to limit water level rises in the lagoon.
Figure 4-1. PAG 208 Planning Area Boundary
Figure 4-2. 1999 Sahuarita Designated Management Area
Figure 4-3. Town of Sahuarita Town Limits in 2005
Figure 4-5. Pima County Designated Management Area (County-Wide) and Non-DMA Service Areas
Figure 4-6. Adonis Service Area
Figure 4-8. Arizona State Prison Service Area
Figure 4-9. Lukeville Border Station WWTF Service Area
Figure 4-10. Marana High School WWTF Service Area
Figure 4-12. MTC Service Area
Figure 4-13. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Service Area
Figure 4-15. Sahuarita High School Wetlands Service Area
Figure 4-16. University of Arizona Science and Technology Park Service Area
Figure 4-17. Palisades Ranger Station WWTF Service Area