

# PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

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## **For Immediate Release**

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# PAG Regional Council approves Waste Water Management Plan

Pima Association of Governments' Regional Council approved an updated long-range planning framework for wastewater treatment in Pima County at its monthly meeting today.

The *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* (commonly called the "208 Plan") is a comprehensive update that integrates the original 208 plan with subsequent amendments.

PAG is responsible for conducting water quality planning as Pima County's Designated Planning Agency as authorized under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act.

PAG's 208 Plan identifies the desirability and preference that new wastewater flows be treated in publicly owned, regional facilities. The plan supports Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) permits for municipal stormwater discharges, groundwater remediation projects, reclaimed water projects, and small-volume (i.e., *de minimis*) discharges, encourages riparian restoration projects and effluent re-use, and acknowledges on-site (septic) systems as an acceptable treatment option in some cases. The document also introduces the concept of watershed-based 208 planning, which is promoted by both the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and which calls for planning within watershed boundaries instead of jurisdictional boundaries.

While this document is primarily focused on wastewater treatment facilities, it also

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addresses other potential pollutant sources like solid waste disposal facilities and urban stormwater runoff.

The 208 Plan update has been in development for some time and has been closely coordinated with PAG's member jurisdictions and with PAG's environmental advisory committees. In the next few months, the 208 Plan will be submitted for approval by ADEQ and the EPA. Once approved, all new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities must be consistent with the plan in order to be permitted by the state. The entire PAG 208 plan can be viewed on PAG's Web site at [www.pagnet.org](http://www.pagnet.org).

*Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, air quality and water quality. PAG's staff gather and analyze data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process to promote good decision-making for the region. Please visit [www.pagnet.org](http://www.pagnet.org) for more information.*