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Invitation to informal stakeholder meeting regarding stormwater legislation

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Invitation to informal stakeholder meeting regarding stormwater legislation

PIMA COUNTY, Aug. 26, 2024 -- Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) practices early and meaningful engagement with County residents, businesses, advocacy groups, and others who might be impacted by, or interested in, our decisions and practices. As such, we'd like to extend a very early opportunity for engagement to you.

Pima County will be moving forward with a proposed legislative amendment to [A.R.S. 49-371](#).

As currently written, this statute contains a final clause that specifically excludes Pima County – and only Pima County – from the authority to write a local stormwater ordinance. Pima County is proposing to remove A.R.S.49-371(I) from this statute to authorize Pima County to write a local stormwater ordinance. This effort will take place during the 2025 Arizona legislative session.

Pima County DEQ is the operator of a Phase I (medium or large) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). Within the geographic boundaries of Pima County, there are multiple

MS4 operators. The other municipal operators -- City of Tucson, Town of Marana, and Town of Oro Valley -- all have a stormwater ordinance in their local code; only City of South Tucson and Pima County do not.

PDEQ currently relies on multiple different titles within the Pima County Code to operate its program, explain the regulations to the regulated entities, engage in enforcement, and generally meet its obligations under its MS4 permit. This patchwork ordinance system can create confusion with both the regulators and the regulated community. It can make specific limitations, directives, and obligations difficult to find or understand. It makes amending the stormwater program difficult, as well.

After a legislative change is adopted, a draft of a local stormwater ordinance will be designed to resolve this confusion by placing all relevant rules and guidance within a single section of Pima County Code. This drafting process will include a separate early engagement with stakeholders followed by a public notice period, tentatively scheduled for the summer/fall of 2025.

If you are interested in discussing the proposed legislative amendment, **please RSVP to Sarah Hite at sarah.hite@pima.gov for one of the following online informal stakeholder meetings:**

- Monday, September 16, at 2 p.m. - [Teams Meeting Link for September 16](#)
- Thursday, September 26, at 6 p.m. - [Teams Meeting Link for September 26](#)

You can also learn about this process, and other PDEQ public engagement processes, by [visiting our website](#) or by [signing up for email alerts](#).

Please contact Abigail Okrent at Abigail.okrent@pima.gov with any questions. We look forward to working with you.

[The Pima County Department of Environmental Quality](#) monitors air and water quality and hazardous and solid waste programs that minimize waste and prevent pollution. PDEQ also provides public outreach, education, and citizens' assistance; processes environmental permits; and responds to public complaints and inquiries with investigations and enforcement.

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