

# New Oxidation Pond Authorized By City

By PETER STARRETT

City Manager Mark E. Keane yesterday said he has authorized a city agreement with sanitation engineer Lawrence O. Henry to design a new oxidation and storage pond for effluent at the city's sewage treatment plant.

The city also plans to ask Prof. Quentin Mees, a sanitation expert at the University of Arizona, to do a study of the sludge thickener at the plant.

The city has been having odor troubles in the area of the treatment plant, and sanitation experts say they feel one of the problems is in a holding pond used to store effluent (treated water) from the plant.

The pond is operated by Albert Oshrin, who buys much of the city effluent to irrigate cotton crops.

City officials feel the ultimate solution is to build a considerably larger holding pond that will serve as an oxidation pond as well. It would be controlled and operated by the city.

The State Highway Department has agreed to dig out the new pond in order to get fill for new sections of the interstate system to be constructed near the site. Keane said he hopes work will begin early next year.

Henry, for many years chief engineer for Pima County Sanitary District, will begin drawing the actual plans for the new pond. He also will design a bypass line to be used to handle the effluent

while the pond is under construction and as an overflow mechanism after the pond is in operation.

Oshrin must build and maintain this line under his agreement with the city, Keane said.

Dr. James McDonald, senior physicist of the UA department of atmospheric physics, also made a study of the plant and said, in a report sent to Keane, that much of the odor is coming from a malfunction of one of the sludge thickeners.

Keane said the city is considering covering the thickener, but wants a further study before spending money on the project. So he has asked Mees to check the thickener operation for a few weeks and make recommendations.