



Flood Control Bonds at Work



Santa Cruz River bank stabilization. Aerial photo courtesy of Flood Control Design Engineering.

With these funds the District recently finished stabilizing a mile and a half of the banks of the Santa Cruz River between Grant Road and Ft. Lowell Road. Starting in the fall of 2001, the District completed this project in early December 2002 at a cost of \$8.25 million. It includes 1.5 miles of bank protection, replacement of a major trunk sewer line and relocation of a major reclamation water line.



This section has undergone extensive lateral bank erosion, jeopardizing a host of adjacent land users, including the University of Arizona Agricultural Research Center, the I-10/Miracle

Mile interchange, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) maintenance yard, a radio tower, and various utility transmission and pipelines.



The Flood Control District's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plays a vital role in protecting Pima County residents from flood and erosion hazards. CIP projects include bank stabilization, detention and retention basins, bridges, drainage improvements and river parks.

Since its inception in 1978, the District has constructed over 200 flood control improvements throughout the community, at a total cost exceeding \$280 million. A Special Bond Election passed by voters in 1997 is continuing to fund major improvements.

Fairview Limberlost Drainage Improvements

This was a joint \$1.2 million project with the City of Tucson to implement a storm drain system to reduce the flooding of single family homes west of Fairview Avenue and south of Wetmore Road.

Additionally, travel on Fairview and Limberlost will be safer during rainfall events. This project involved an 1,100 linear foot extension of a two-cell 4 foot by 8-foot reinforced concrete box culvert storm drain that will carry the 100-year flood to the Rillito Creek. A pre-cast box culvert design was used in order to minimize traffic interruption. Construction began in December 2001 and was completed in November 2002.



Telescopic view through a pre-cast box culvert storm drain. Photo courtesy of Flood Control Design Engineering.

**INFORMATION
HIGHWAY –
New on the Web!**

One of the great features of on-line publishing is that new material can be easily added as new needs or information demands arise. This is true of the District’s web pages as well, with new content added on a regular basis.



Read it On-Line.

One such newly developed feature is a section providing on-line access to various District Reports and Publications.

(http://www.dot.co.pima.az.us/flood/rpt_pub.cfm)

These pages were developed to provide centralized access to the many reports and publications generated by District staff, consultants and others. Here you’ll find links to a series of current U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reports, our Floodplain Management Ordinance, Riparian Habitat Mitigation Guidelines document, District Annual Reports and much more.



Leading the Nation

Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Program

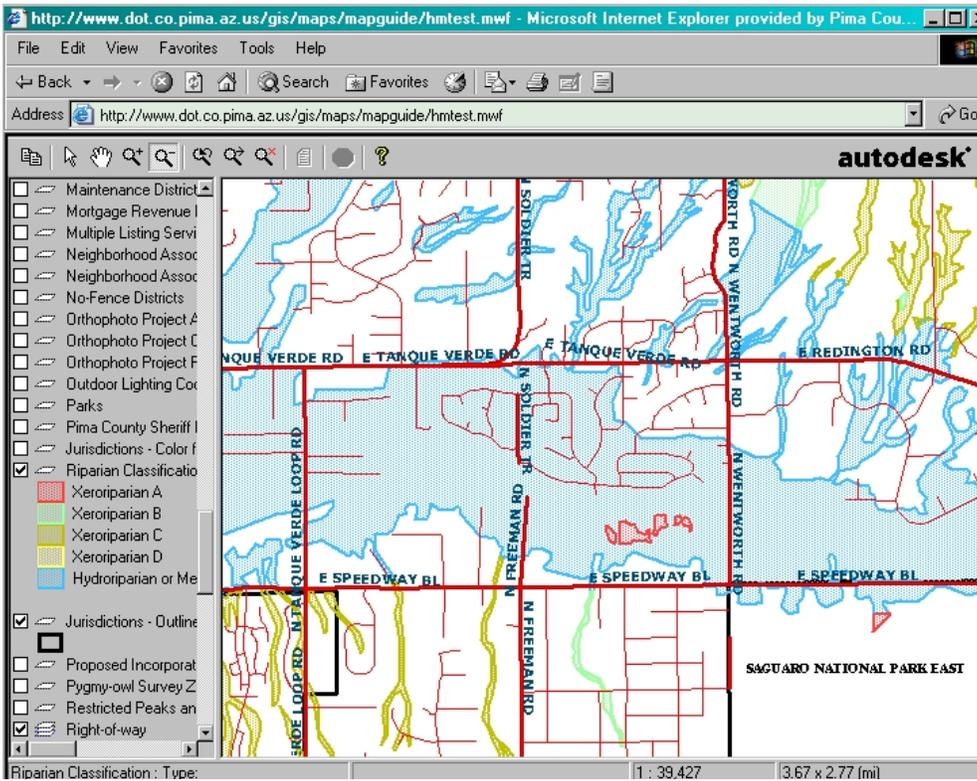
Pima County and Maricopa County are leading the nation in the number of trained staff that are Certified Floodplain Managers under the certification program provided by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). Part of the success of this program in Arizona is due to the excellent educational program sponsored by the Arizona Floodplain Management Association (AFMA) which provides training and classes on floodplain management regulations. Steve Dolan, Pima County Flood Control District, provides CFM training statewide. Since May 2000, he has conducted six one-day training classes throughout Arizona. There are now 68 CFMs in Arizona, indicating the importance of this program to many growing communities.

An Arizona CFM exam is being created. The Arizona CFM exam will contain several state specific questions that are based on Arizona floodplain management standards that exceed both the National Flood Insurance Program and Federal Code of Regulation minimum standards. Vic Rothacker and other AFMA board members hope to have the Arizona CFM exam ready for use at the fall 2003 AFMA conference. The AFMA sponsored CFM training program will be modified by Steve Dolan to include review of the issues related to the Arizona specific questions.



TOP 5 COMMUNITYS IN THE NATION

Number of CFMs on Staff	Community
22	Maricopa County, AZ
11	Pima County, AZ
8	Hillsborough County, FL/Myrtle Beach, SC
7	North Miami, FL
6	Greenville, SC



Check out Riparian Habitat. New, non-regulatory Riparian Habitat Maps, based on Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan studies, are located at <http://www.dot.co.pima.az.us/gis/maps/mapguide/hmtest.mwf>. The revised maps take into consideration new information on riparian area distribution, as well as data regarding plant species, vegetation structure, density, and water availability. Although currently non-regulatory, District staff is working with the County Attorney to have the Flood Control Board of Directors formally adopt the revised maps for regulatory use in Fall 2003.

Survey Says....

The Internal Customer Service Team, under the direction of Vernon Woods, continues to survey internal customers for nearly 40 core service areas within the department. You've probably received at least one email request to complete a survey and chances are your service area has already been surveyed. The Team conducted on-line surveys for the Support Services and Infrastructure programs in quarters one and two, respectively, and recently reported survey data for the Operations and Maintenance Program. The Team is now preparing to survey the Flood Control District in the 4th quarter, and will be sending out surveys to internal customers of the CIP Engineering, CIP Riparian, and Customer Complaints service areas. Data obtained this fiscal year from all service areas will establish a baseline for future years. The Team is investigating possible incentive programs to encourage even higher return rates for surveys. Anyone with ideas on how to improve the Internal Customer survey process is encouraged to join the Team or contact our members before the beginning of the next survey cycle in July. For more details, go to: <http://intranet.dot.co.pima.az.us/bsc/customer/internal/>



Web Usage for District Information

has continued to grow over the past quarter, with usage averaging approximately 65,000 hits per month and well over 20,000 page requests.

These days, most documents are developed and delivered to the District in an electronic format of some sort, so providing on-line access to them is usually a breeze. New materials or documents staff may wish to have posted are always welcome.

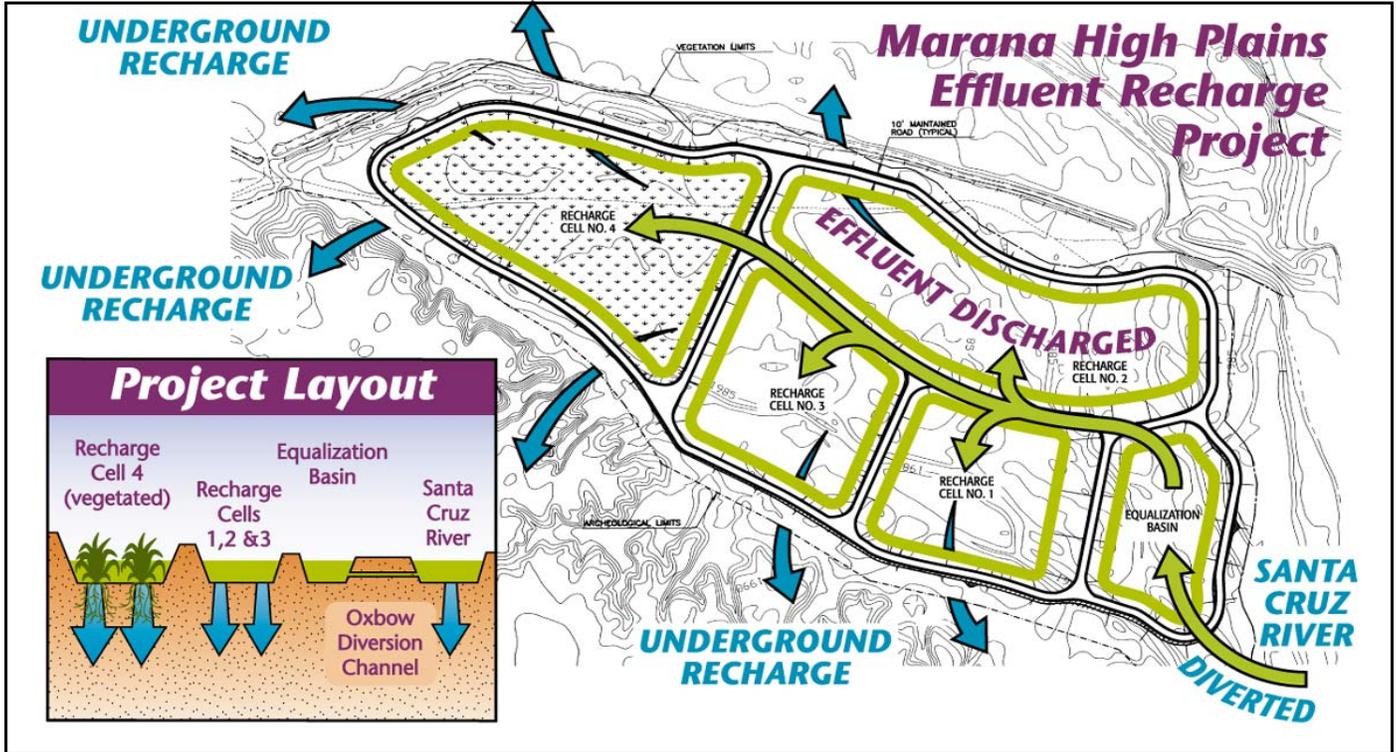
Please e-mail Gary Peterson (ggpeters@dot.co.pima.az.us) with any ideas for reports or documents you'd like to see posted on-line.

Good Reading! 

Floodplain: In or Out?

In the past, even routine questions about a property's floodplain status required a visit to the floodplain counter, 4th floor Public Works. New on-line mapping is now available for homeowners, realtors, mortgage companies and businesses to find out if property is in or out of the floodplain. These Floodplain Status Maps are available at www.dot.co.pima.az.us/flood/fpm/fpmaps. The maps show where FEMA designated floodplains and floodways are located within unincorporated Pima County by parcel tax code and address location.



Recharge Begins !

On February 7, 2003, the Marana High Plains Effluent Recharge Facility (MHPERF) began to operate, recharging treated effluent. The project, located along the Santa Cruz River in the Town of Marana, was

designed to investigate the feasibility of recharging treated effluent while studying wildlife habitat opportunities associated with the recharge basins. The facility is currently permitted to recharge approximately 1200 acre-feet

of effluent over the next two years. The project has been designed to allow guided tours to educate the public on recharge and environmental benefits.



PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Pima County Flood Control District will hold two Public Meetings on new projects in April.

SWAN WETLANDS — APRIL 17

Swan Wetlands Ecosystem Restoration Project (Craycroft Road to Columbus Boulevard)

EL RIO MEDIO — APRIL 30

El Rio Medio Project (Congress Street to Prince Road, along the Santa Cruz River).

For more information call The Department of Transportation and Flood Control Community Relations Division at 740-6410.



Heart Soul Salsa
Pima County Fair
April 17-27