

**DATE:** August 25, 2014

**TO:** Corona de Tucson area residents

**FROM:** Brian Jones, CFM  
Chief Hydrologist

**SUBJECT:** Corona de Tucson area storm damage response for July 7, 2014 event

Heavy rain in the Corona de Tucson area of Vail on July 7, 2014 caused widespread flash flooding, closed roads, and caused property damage. According to the Pima County Regional Flood Control District's ALERT system precipitation gauges, the area experienced storms with total rainfall ranging from 1.5 to over 2 inches, with rainfall intensities of up to two inches in less than an hour reported in portions of the watershed. The high intensity of the storm over a relatively short duration caused the flood waters to rise and fall quickly, catching many by surprise. See the attached rainfall accumulation map for rainfall depths and distribution

As a result of this storm event, the District received a number of complaints regarding damage due to flooding and erosion, many of which attributed the event to subdivision development in the upstream watershed. A review of aerial photographs and topographic data indicates that some of these complaint locations did not have new upstream development, which leads the District to conclude that the flows, while greater than previously seen by residents, were the result of severe storm characteristics rather than alteration of the floodplain by upstream development.

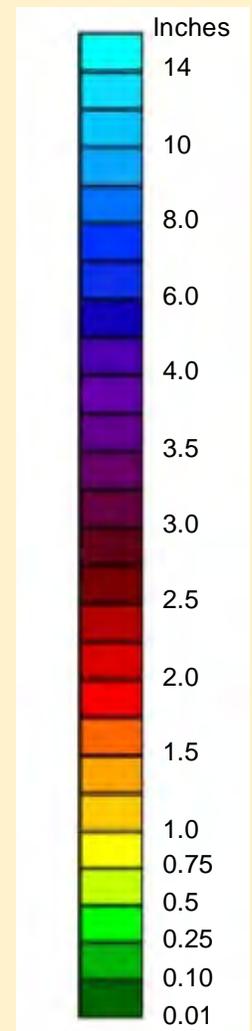
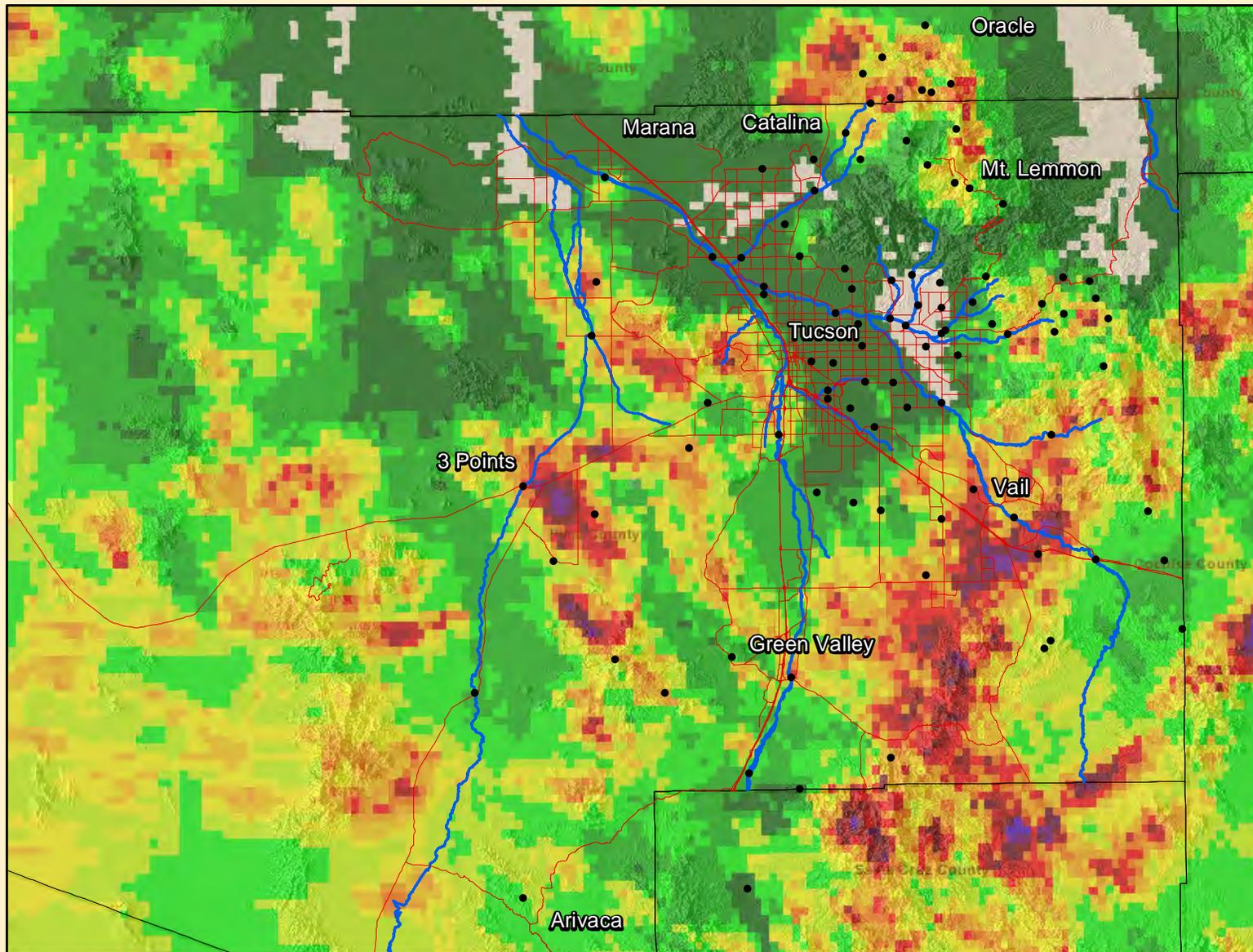
In addition to the numerous calls regarding increased flows that had not previously been experienced, complainants also informed the District of specific concerns, such as the lateral migration of watercourses that were beginning to impact individual parcels, and the plugging of privately maintained culverts with debris causing flows to overtop roadways. The District offered engineering design and design review assistance but informed residents that the District is not allowed to perform any maintenance or construction activities since the drainageways are privately owned.

The Department of Transportation also received many complaints regarding the lack of access to the area due to the lack of drainage improvements on Houghton, Wilmot and Sahuarita Road. Many people were stuck in their vehicles waiting for the flood to recede before they could continue on their way.

The District knows of about five flooded homes, and while many other homes avoided flood damage, sometimes by just a few inches or less, it is important to understand that this event was not the regulatory event, and many homes that were not flooded this time may be flooded by the regulatory flood. The regulatory flood is often called the 100-year flood; however it can be better understood as the flood event that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. Residents are encouraged to read the [\*Post-Flood Requirements and Recommendations\*](#) handout for more information on repairing damage, including when permits may be required.

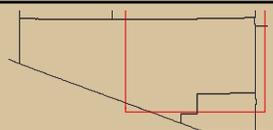
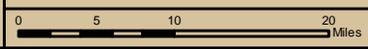
The District encourages Corona de Tucson area residents to contact the District to determine the flood hazard status of their property. Although there are no Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-mapped floodplains in the area, significant portions of the area are impacted by a District-mapped Special Study floodplain. **Property owners within the Special Study floodplain are strongly encouraged to purchase flood insurance**, even though it is not required by federal law. It is also important to understand that **homeowners insurance does NOT cover flood damage**.

# 07-08-2014 0730 Q2 Radar Estimated 24 Hour Precipitation Total



  
 Pima County Regional Flood Control District  
 97 E Congress - 3rd Floor  
 Tucson, Arizona 85701-1207  
 (520) 243-1800, FAX: (520)243-1821  
<http://www.rfcd.pima.gov>

- ALERT Stations
- Major Streets
- Major Washes
- County Boundary



Radar Data Courtesy of NOAA/NOS nowCOAST

The information depicted on this display is the result of digital analyses performed on a variety of databases provided and maintained by several governmental agencies. The accuracy of the information presented is limited to the collective accuracy of these databases on the date of the analysis. The Pima County Regional Flood Control District makes no claims regarding the accuracy of the information depicted herein.



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Forrest Feezor, view to N





High water mark on wall







W Thunder Rd



Driveway wash crossing in central portion of 1720,  
view to E



NW





View to W across rear yard



N



Wash bank erosion behind Vanilla Peak Ct



NW corner 17081 back yard; note high water mark on wall



View to N on Palo Verde View Pl from Mesquite View Pl, 8879 on left



View to SW at culverts on Mesquite View Pl



Interior of flood damaged home

