



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Ruthrauff Basin Management Plan



#### I – Flooding Issues

- Q. My house is not near a wash or other drainageway that floods, how will this project help me?**
- A. *Sheet flow is the most common problem we have observed in the Ruthrauff Basin. Sheet flow is shallow, relatively slow moving floodwater. In many cases, this results in flooding in streets and backyards, which are not washes or drainageways. Sheet flow problems can prevent people from reaching their house or other destination.*
- Q. Who do I call if I see a clogged culvert or other drainage problem?**
- A. *In unincorporated Pima County call the Pima County Regional Flood Control District at 724-4600. In the City of Tucson call the City Department of Transportation at 791-3154.*
- Q. Are there regular maintenance schedules for inspections on grates and drainage structures, or is maintenance scheduled only after complaints or flood events?**
- A. *There are both regular maintenance schedules and maintenance that occurs after complaints. Pima County and the City of Tucson have limited staff, so people need to call us if they observe problems. We know about many problem areas and we check on them before anticipated events and also follows up on complaints.*
- Q. Where is the existing 100-year floodplain?**
- A. *There are both “FEMA” and “local” Regulatory Floodplains, which show the limits of the 1 percent annual chance flood (often called the 100-year flood). The FEMA-adopted floodplain is used for showing flood insurance requirements. The City and County have floodplain maps that extend further than the FEMA maps to regulate in the interest of public safety. New developments in existing floodplains in the City and County must show they can deal with existing drainage water and won’t increase flood hazards on adjacent properties.*

#### II - The Ruthrauff Basin Management Plan

- Q. What is the purpose of the Ruthrauff Basin Management Plan?**
- A. *The purpose of the Ruthrauff Basin Management Plan is to identify flood areas and drainage problems, and develop a long-term plan for cost-effective solutions to reduce or manage flooding in the project area.*
- Q. When did the project start, and when will it end?**
- A. *The project started in April 2014 and will be completed in 2017.*
- Q. What has been completed?**
- A. *The following has been completed:*
- *Completion of an Existing Conditions Analysis summarizing the drainage problems observed on the basin.*
  - *Remapping of 100-yr local floodplains.*
  - *Submitting a 100-yr FEMA floodplain map to FEMA that would reflect improved drainage conditions in the floodplains at the Union Pacific Railroad embankment in the vicinity of*

*Prince Rd. The improvements and new mapping will save property owners money and reduce flood risk in this area.*

- *Developing draft recommended alternatives to solve flooding and drainage problems.*

**Q. Will this project address flooding from the Rillito and Santa Cruz rivers?**

A. *No, this project will evaluate the drainage flowing into the Rillito and Santa Cruz rivers.*

**Q. What will the completed Plan do to address flooding we see in the Ruthrauff Basin?**

A. *The Plan presents a list of structural and non-structural solutions to problems identified in collaboration with the community. At this point, there is no specific funding source for paying for these solutions. However, the Plan will include an implementation component that describes possible funding sources and phasing that might be necessary for the solutions to occur.*

**III – Alternatives Analysis and Recommended Solutions**

**Q. What stakeholders have been involved in preparing draft alternatives?**

A. *We included representatives from:*

- *Neighborhood Associations*
- *Pima County Government*
- *Pima County Supervisors*
- *City of Tucson Government*
- *City of Tucson Ward 3 Office*
- *Flowing Wells Irrigation District*
- *School Districts*
- *Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)*
- *Non-profit organizations*

**Q. What kinds of drainage solutions were considered?**

A. *The following kinds of solutions were considered:*

- *Providing improved drainage through the railroad embankment.*
- *Slowing water and reducing flood peaks at multi-use basins.*
- *Conveying water in drainage channels.*
- *Conveying water in stormdrains.*
- *Improving roadways to better convey water.*
- *Applying practices across the basin that reduce potential for flooding (e.g. basin-specific maintenance plan, stormwater harvesting basins, infill incentives, education, etc.).*

**Q. How were solutions evaluated?**

A. *A sub-group of 15 stakeholders evaluated each alternative in relation to how they addressed the following concerns:*

- *Public Safety*
- *Implementation*
- *Environmental Sustainability*
- *Economic Vitality*
- *Community*