

West Branch of the Santa Cruz River,
Bus Barn and Brophy/Rosen Mitigation property
Specific Management Plan
As required by USACE Permit No. 2001-01017-RJD

Property Description

Pima County obtained a United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit, in compliance with section 401(a) of the Clean Water Act, for channel construction in the Santa Cruz River. The special conditions of this permit require Pima County to own and manage floodprone mitigation land as a natural floodplain. The 73 acres of mitigation land obtained by Pima County Flood Control District is in Sections 22, 23, 26, and 27 of Township 14 South, Range 13 East, in the floodplain of the West Branch of the Santa Cruz River (WBSCR). The mitigation property contains portions of the ephemeral stream channel plus adjacent mesquite bosque and abandoned floodprone farm fields, as shown on the attached maps (Figures 1 and 2).

The West Branch of the Santa Cruz River is one of highest-biodiversity portions of the Santa Cruz River floodplain near Tucson. By virtue of its history of relatively few disturbances to the natural floodplain, exceptional flora, fauna, and habitat conditions exist that are no longer present at other locations in the lower Tucson Basin. It is an environmentally sensitive area with natural floodplain function, mesquite bosque with intact understory, and open space suitable for preservation and restoration. The small ponds that occur in the area after rain events are critical for amphibian breeding. The mitigation property is located within an area classified “Important Riparian Area” by the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Mitigation Property Management Goal Statement

The mitigation property will be managed to preserve, protect, and improve the natural floodplain functions and habitat quality, including but not limited to the area of the stream channel outward to the riparian margin. The mitigation property will be managed in a manner consistent with this goal and the Specific Management Items below.

Specific Management Items

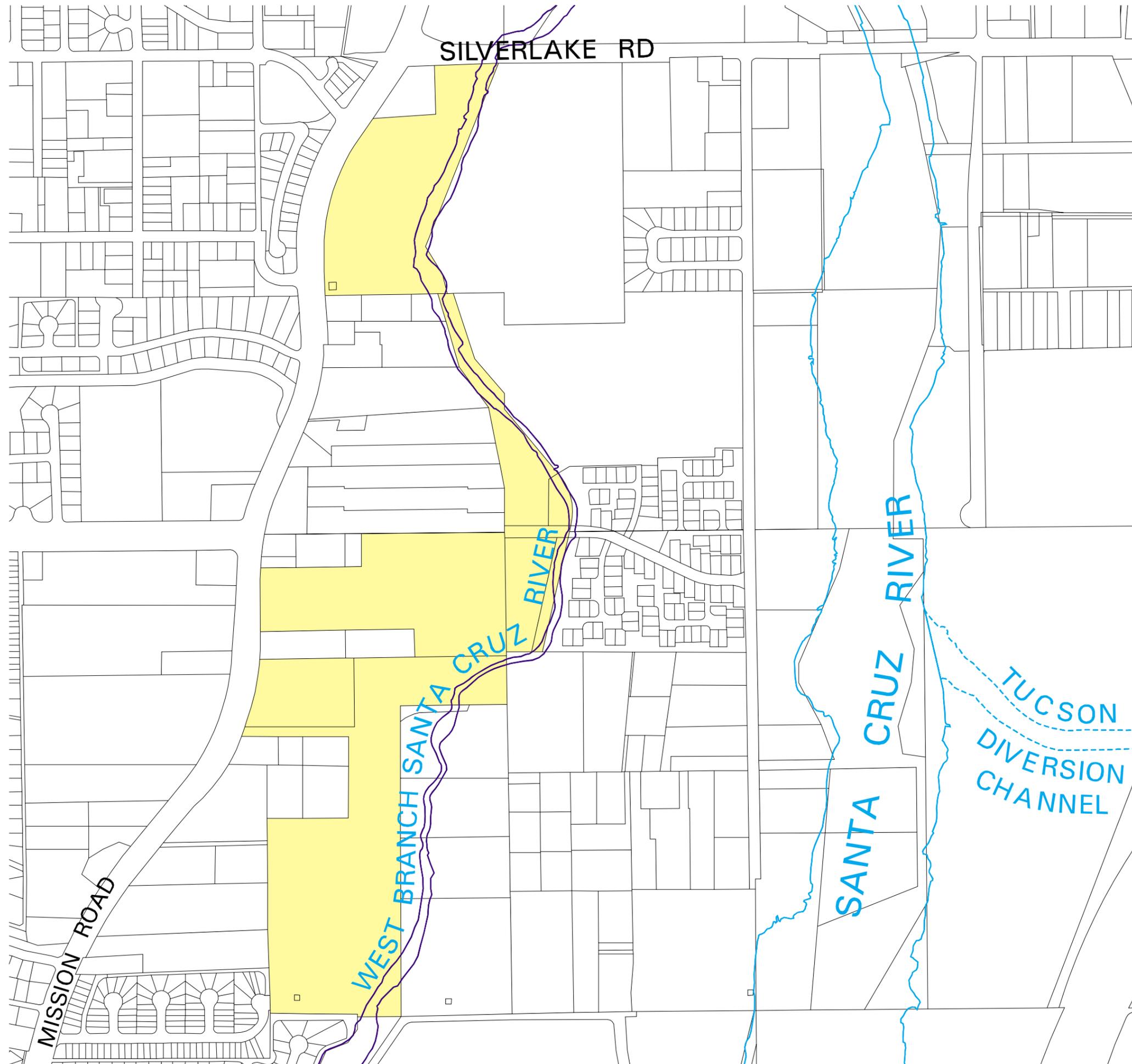
1. Flood control structures or other active floodplain management activities within the mitigation area are not permitted. All drainage across the mitigation property will be maintained in its natural state and not be altered, disturbed, or obstructed without express permission of PCFCD and the USACE.
2. Any supplemental planting, pruning, or vegetation thinning will only be done with the intended outcome being to preserve, enhance, and/or protect the natural floodplain function and habitat quality. The introduction of non-native plant species shall be prohibited.

3. The mitigation property will be managed to reduce the risk of fires from threatening adjacent private property and human life. No open fires are permitted. A perimeter fire break and fire lane entry points for emergency vehicles may be created and maintained if deemed necessary by the local fire district in order to avoid fire damage to the habitat and the surrounding urban properties. Removal of any trees related to fire prevention purposes requires mitigation.
4. Public access and passive recreation that does not negatively affect the natural floodplain function is allowable within the mitigation property. No overnight camping activities are permitted. No motorized vehicles use in the floodplain will be permitted in the mitigation property except as required for emergency or maintenance purposes, or other necessary uses approved by PCFCD.
5. Any construction, maintenance, or other activities that cause disturbance within existing platted easements will require mitigation to restore floodplain function and habitat. Mitigation standards to be used will be those in force within Pima County at the time of proposed disturbance. Mitigation plans and costs will be the responsibility of the entity responsible for the disturbance, and the mitigation plans require review and approval of the PCFCD and the USACE. Easement holders will be notified of these requirements. Obsolete easements will be retired.
6. Discharge of waste or fill into the water channels or adjoining floodplain shall not be permitted.
7. PCFCD approved educational and scientific research will be permitted as long as the activity is in compliance with above stated goal, it's the implied intent, and the specific management items. Research programs, projects, and publications require the approval of PCFCD.
8. Any activity that detracts from the above stated goal, it's the implied intent, or any of the specific management items must be reviewed and approved by the PCFCD and the USACE.
9. Activities to improve natural floodplain functions or habitat quality are encouraged but not required. Proposed improvements, which meet all other Specific Management Items, shall be reviewed and approved by PCFCD and the USACE before being undertaken.

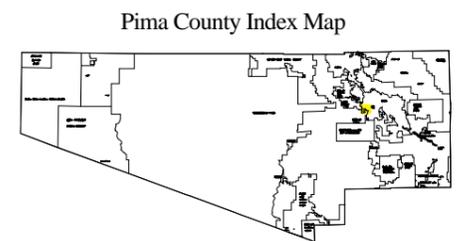
Permit Procedure

For any activity or property use identified in the Specific Management Items that may require the approval of the PCFCD and the USACE, a written proposal letter must be submitted the PCFCD. PCFCD will consult with USACE if appropriate. Written approval from PCFCD must be obtained prior to the commencement of the proposed activity or mitigation property use.

Figure 1
West Branch of the
Santa Cruz River
Mitigation Properties



-  Main Santa Cruz River
-  Tucson Diversion Channel
-  West Branch Santa Cruz River
-  Parcels (Landbase)
-  Pima County West Branch Properties



Index Map Scale 1:5,000,000

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 Department of Transportation Technical Services Division makes no claims regarding the accuracy of the information depicted herein.



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Pima County Technical Services
 201 North Stone Avenue - 9th Floor
 Tucson, Arizona 85701-1207
 (520)740-6670 - FAX:(520)798-3429
<http://www.dot.co.pima.az.us>

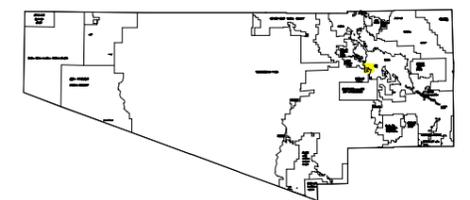


Figure 2
West Branch of the
Santa Cruz River
Mitigation Properties

-  Pima County West Branch Properties
-  Main Santa Cruz River and West Branch Santa Cruz River
-  Tucson Diversion Channel

Note: Aerial Photo By Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) 4/1998

Pima County Index Map



Index Map Scale 1:5,000,000

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