



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 14, 2018

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Santa Cruz River Flood Capacity Restoration**

The County has programmed a number of sediment removal projects on the Santa Cruz River (SCR) to increase flood carrying capacity and reduce overbank flooding. The first phase of this project has been completed with excess sediment materials being deposited on Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) property, north of Grant Road on the west side of the SCR. This property will become a nature park, currently referred to as Meander Bend Park.

The next phase of the project will begin on January 8, 2019 with demolition, removal of vegetation and other obstacles in the SCR between Silverlake to Speedway. After coordinating with the environmental community, it was determined that removal of vegetation for both Phases 2 and 3 prior to the arrival of migratory birds would be preferred.

With respect to the sediment removal, the work site has undergone geotechnical testing and the sediment was found suitable for construction backfill and disposal of material (such as now being proposed). The sediments contain no sources of contamination.

RFCD has been in discussions with neighborhood representatives regarding the placement of the excess sedimentation on Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District (RNMFD) property or City of Tucson owned property such as the Ryland Landfill. We are unsure if the RNMFD will consent to placement of the sediment/fill on the A-Mountain Landfill.

We understand the City may also want to place fill on the Nearmont and Congress Landfills, but this has not been discussed with the neighborhood, would not result in the opportunity for mitigation and, as such, is not the preferred option.

If placement were to occur on the A-Mountain landfill, the material will also be graded and land-formed to appear more natural and hydroseeded with limited revegetation from native drought-tolerant plants. No irrigation will be allowed on the landfill. RFCD developed a concept plan for the A-Mountain Landfill (Attachment 1) in order to better visualize the final result. RFCD has experience with restoration of old landfills. Attachment 2 are aerial

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photographs of Swan Wetlands/Columbus Landfill as well as Prickly Pear Park, which was an old construction debris landfill.

It is the present plan to use a Job Order Contractor (JOC) for the sediment removal work. The eligible JOCs will provide bid pricing for sediment removal with the goal of entering into and awarding a contract for this work before the end of January 2019. The amount of sedimentation to be removed from this phase of the flood capacity restoration project, from Silverlake to Cushing will be approximately 85,000 cubic yards.

If there is no agreement to place the materials on any of the landfills in the area, the excess sedimentation will be transported to RFCD property at Meander Bend Park.

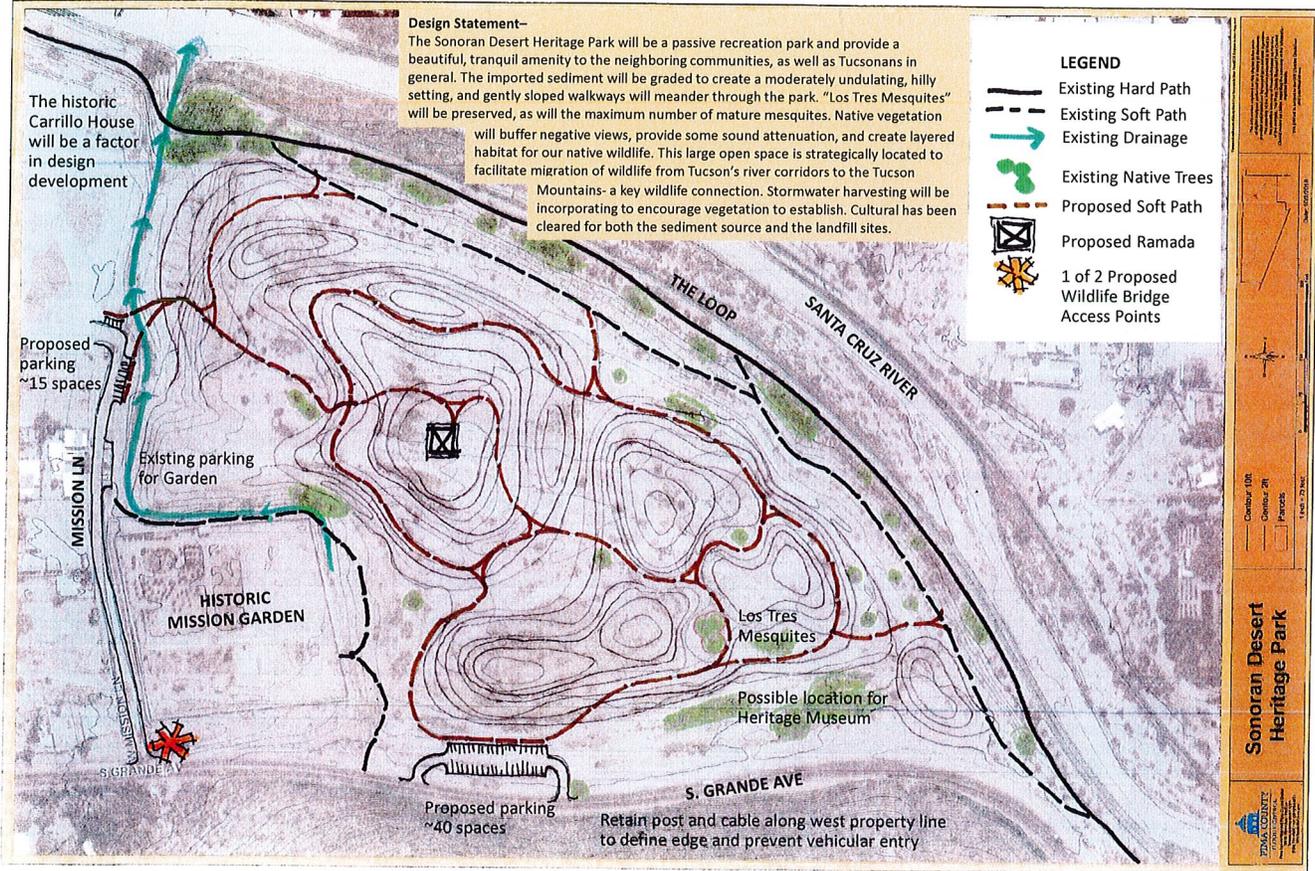
The Final Phase of the project will extend from Cushing Street to Speedway. The amount of material to be removed from the SCR is estimated to 85,000 cubic yards. The current plan is to transport that material to Meander Bend Park. It is anticipated that this work would begin in May 2019.

CHH/anc

Attachments

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District

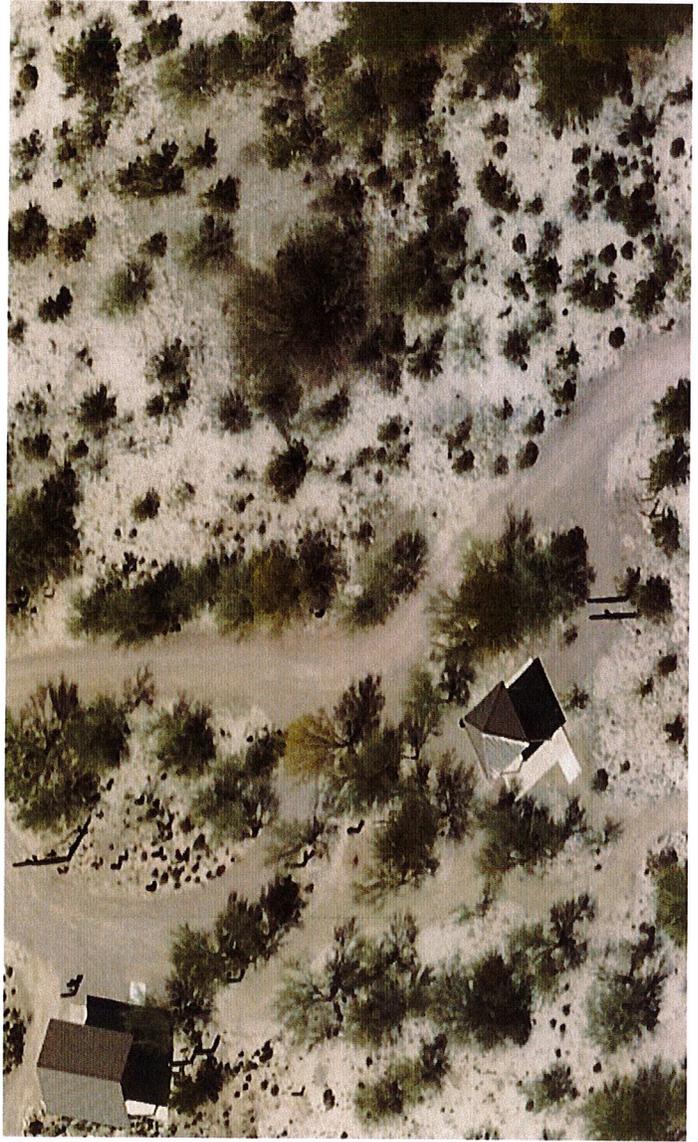
ATTACHMENT 1



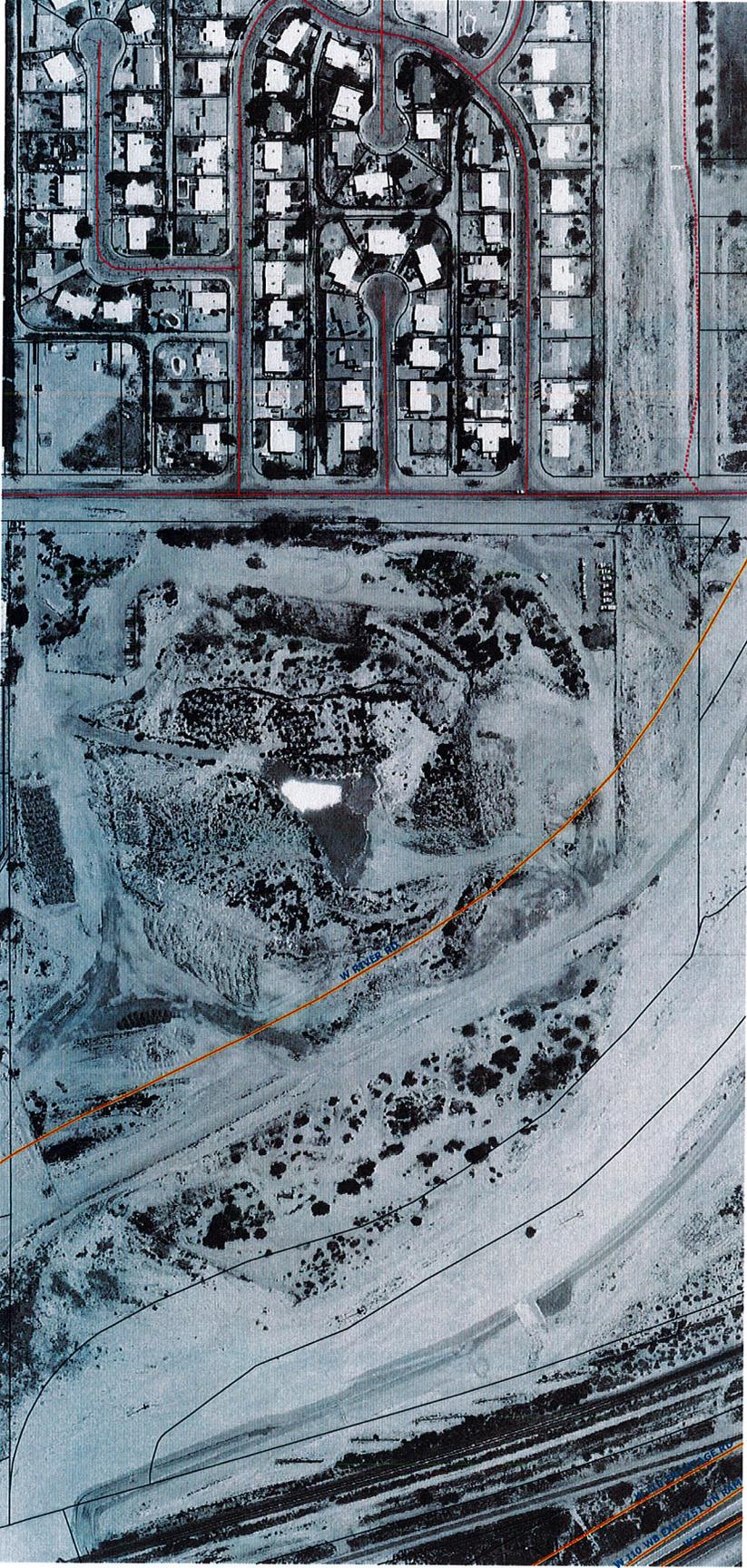
ATTACHMENT 2



Natural Resources Parks and Recreation – Prickly Pear Park



1998 Landfill at Future Prickly Pear Park



Rillito River Park and Riparian Habitat Restoration



1998 Columbus at Rilliro River North Bank, East Side City Landfill and West Side Construction Debris Landfill

