



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 9, 2018

To: Suzanne Shields, Director
Regional Flood Control District

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Santa Cruz River Capacity Restoration and Your October 9, 2018 Memorandum**

I appreciate the information provided in your October 9, 2018 memorandum. It would be appropriate to continue planning as well as public outreach to discuss the benefits associated with the removal of excess sedimentation in the Santa Cruz River restoring flood carrying capacity.

Also, please discuss the options associated with depositing the excess fill sediment from the Santa Cruz River with neighborhood interests. There are likely a number of options, one of which is to place the fill on the long abandoned landfill that I believe is under the ownership of Rio Nuevo. Rio Nuevo may not favor this option since they believe a better option is to reclaim the landfill property by removing the landfill material and depositing it in the Los Reales Landfill. While such is an option, it is not one in which the County will financially participate. This option should be left to the City of Tucson, the former landfill owner and Rio Nuevo.

We are certainly willing to deposit the fill on the former landfill to create a more natural desert park environment if approved by Rio Nuevo and the neighborhood, but we will not participate in any landfill remediation efforts. Hence, it is appropriate to develop other options for the disposal of the excess sediment material in the vicinity of the project limits. I understand the City of Tucson may have other options regarding disposal of the excess fill sediment. Please explore these options and discuss them in your neighborhood consultations and public outreach program to ensure the public is as informed as possible regarding the project, its purpose, duration and benefits regarding the disposal of excess sediment materials.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: The Honorable Richard Elías, Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works

DATE: October 9, 2018

TO: C. H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

FROM: Suzanne Shields, P.E.
Director

SUBJECT: Santa Cruz River Capacity Restoration Project Outreach and Restoration Plan

At a meeting the District attended with Supervisor Elías and the Friends of the Tucson Birthplace, we received a request for an outreach plan to ensure that there is sufficient discussion with the neighbors adjacent to the project area. The purpose is to ensure the residents are aware of the scope of the, the details of the project and how it might impact the neighborhoods, the plan for restoration of overbank areas near the project area including the A-Mountain Landfill area, and the concept plan of the Sonoran Desert Park at the A-Mountain Landfill. The Regional Flood Control District (District) will be requesting input regarding additional mitigation opportunities and, if supported, to encourage their written support of this plan to their elected officials.

The District's desire is to begin this phase of this capacity restoration project in early December. The project's timeframe is approximately two months, and a December start would avoid this project being active during migratory bird nesting season. With this schedule in mind, it will be important to begin meeting with adjacent neighborhoods immediately. The District's plan to engage the neighborhoods would be to take advantage of active neighborhood associations and attend their meetings. This would include Menlo Park, Barrio Kroeger Lane, and Barrio Hollywood. Where neighborhood associations do not exist, such as along south Santa Cruz Lane, the District will provide a meeting notice via a postcard. The District is hopeful that these meetings would take place throughout October and early November. This would allow time to incorporate their comments into the plan.

Following the individual neighborhood meetings, the District plans to have a public open house to display the plan for removing the sediment in the Santa Cruz River, as well as a map and updated concept plan for the A-Mountain Landfill Sonoran Desert Park and other restoration areas. Since the A-Mountain Landfill is the property of Rio Nuevo, if by this time we have not secured their approval, the District will display alternative locations for the placement of the sediment that will be removed from the river. The District anticipates having this open house in mid-November. The Mission Garden has been suggested as a potential meeting location, although no formal decision has been made. Around this time, the District also plans to reach out directly to the District 5 and Ward 1 offices to discuss any specific concerns they may have or that they may have heard from their constituents.

The project consists of removing approximately 150,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Santa Cruz River that has aggraded over the last 30 years. In some locations, this sediment has reduced the flood carrying capacity of the constructed channel by 60%. During a flood, this could result in an additional 146 structures at risk of flood damage. In addition, the sediment significantly increases the risk of bridge failures that cross the river including the Speedway Boulevard Bridge, built in 1955; the Saint Mary's Road Bridge, built in 1951; and the Congress Street Bridge, built in 1971. Lastly, the increased floodplain associated with the excess sediment has the potential to severely curtail economic development opportunities adjacent to the channel.

C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

Santa Cruz River Capacity Restoration Project Outreach and Restoration Plan

October 9, 2018

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The Phase I sediment removal from Speedway to Grant Road was completed in late spring 2018. The attached proposed sediment removal plans represents the District's next phases of sediment removal to reduce the flood risk while maintaining some level of ecosystem values that the river has historically provided. The District understands that while this plan does not fully reduce the flood risk, it is a significant first step in the methodical management of the river while balancing the values that the river represents. The river has not received attention for over 30 years. Now that the District has maintenance responsibility, after this initial project, the District anticipates monitoring the river and performing minor maintenance activities approximately every five years, depending on flood activity.

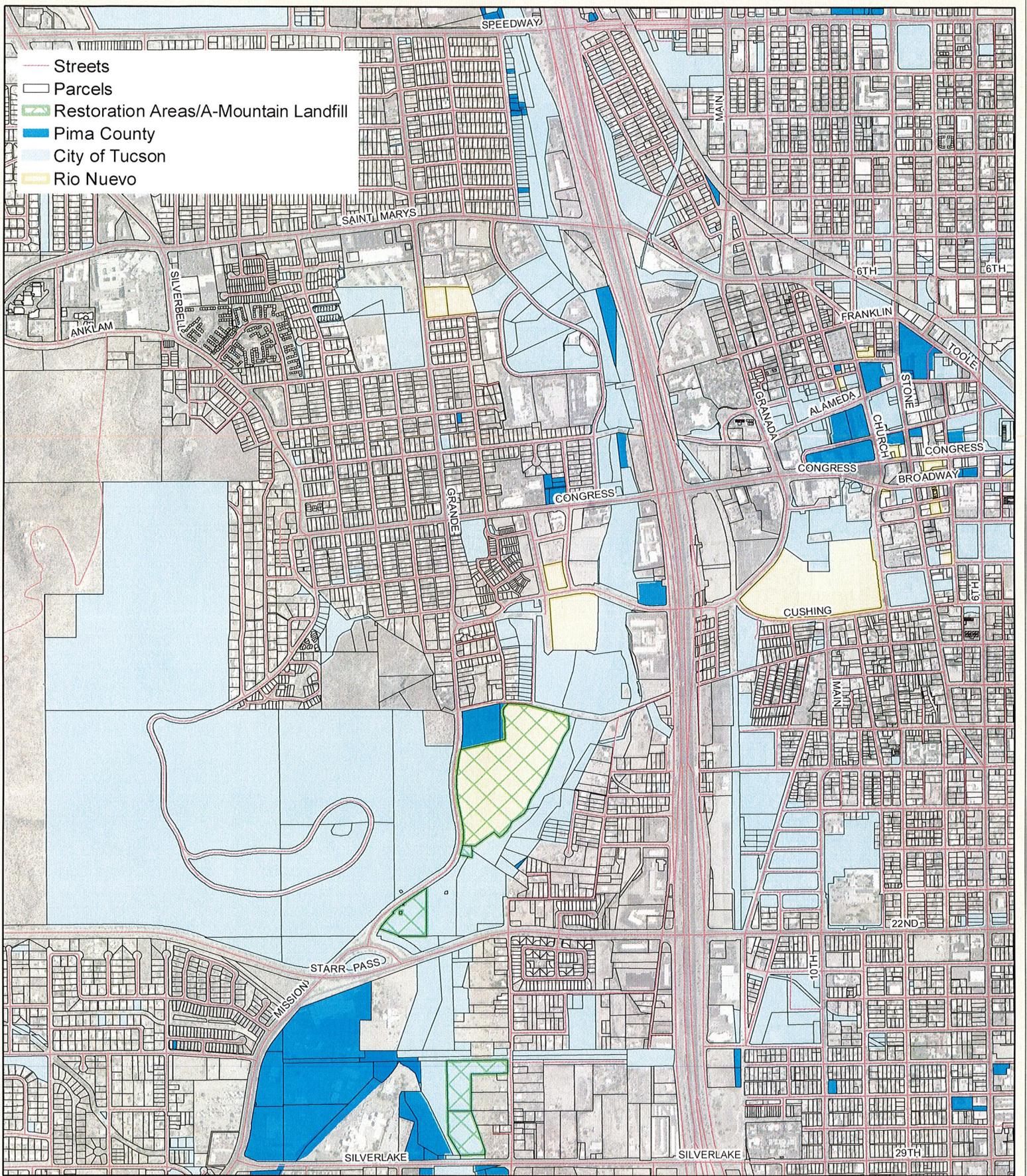
Also attached is a map showing where restoration activities are currently being proposed, it is this map that the District will bring to neighborhood meetings seeking to identify additional locations to augment the vegetation along the riverbank to offset the vegetation lost in the channel due to the project.

Since this Phase II will take approximately two months, there is an additional opportunity for neighborhood involvement with respect to planning and designing the restoration component of the project. If there is interest, the District will hold additional meetings to design the site further to meet the adjacent neighborhoods' interests.

SS/tj

Attachments

c: The Honorable Richard Elías, Board of Supervisor – District 5
 Keith Bagwell, Executive Assistant, Board of Supervisor – District 5
 Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works
 Eric Shepp, P.E., Deputy Director – Regional Flood Control District
 Andy Dinauer, P.E., Deputy Director – Regional Flood Control District

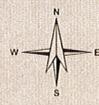


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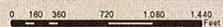


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 Tucson, Arizona 85701-1797
 (520) 724-4600, FAX: (520) 224-4621
 http://www.rcfd.pima.gov

Property Ownership and Restoration Areas



1 inch = 1,471 feet

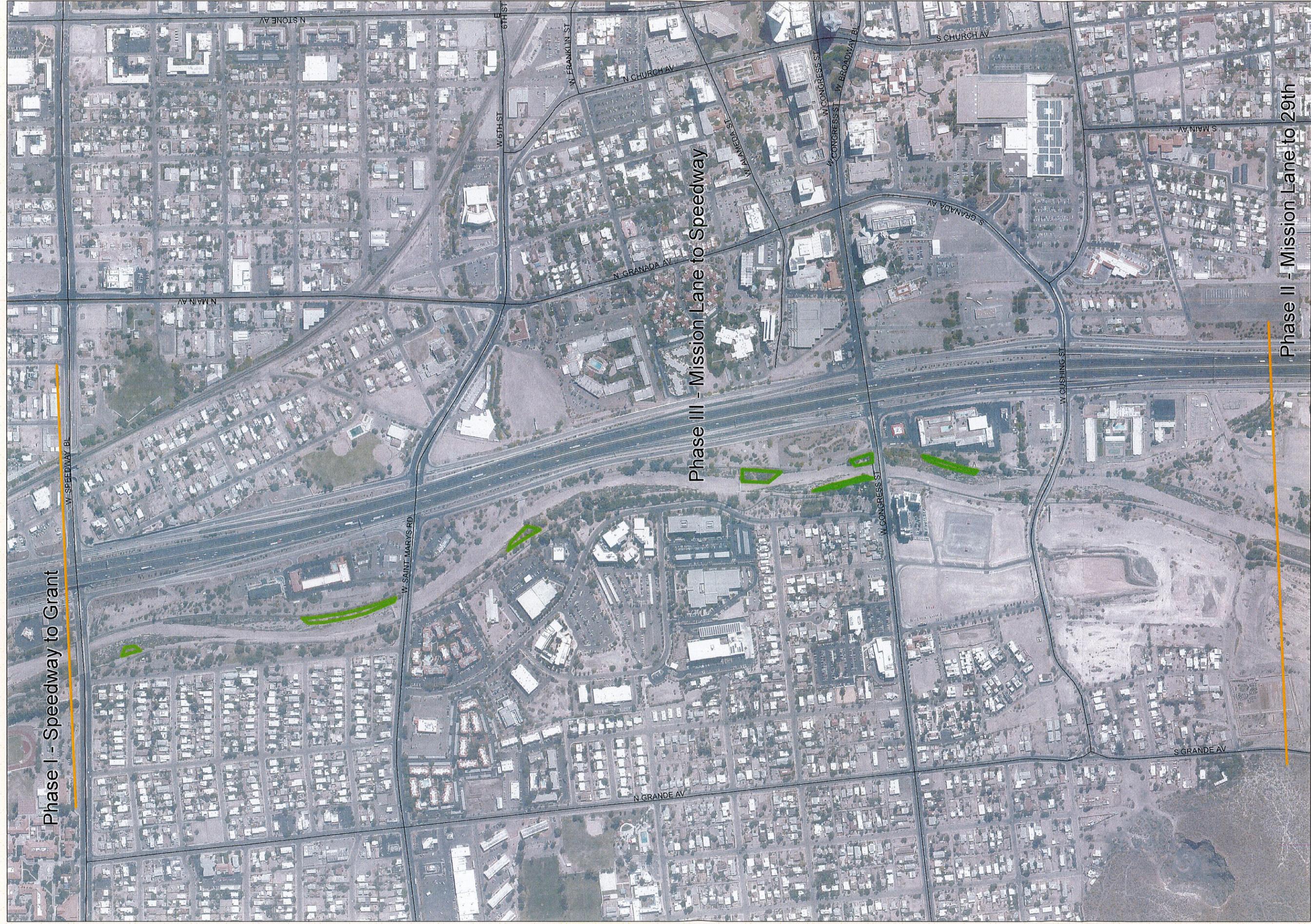


Date: 10/9/2018

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Phase I - Speedway to Grant

Phase III - Mission Lane to Speedway

Phase II - Mission Lane to 29th

Santa Cruz Sediment Removal



Phase III Areas to be Preserved (77,166 sq ft)

Streets



1 inch = 270 feet

Date: 2/28/2018

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