



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 7, 2013

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

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Paseo de las Iglesias Flood Control Improvements**

Sometimes we understate or do not understand our ability to influence community values through public investment. Certain segments of our community are sometimes overlooked from the perspective of opportunities and improvements through public investments.

The Santa Cruz River and its environs have frequently been viewed as a threat to our community due to flood hazards; but in reality they are significant assets, providing us with the opportunity to restate our community values and assets.

An agenda item for the Board's consideration at their June 4, 2013 meeting was the approval of a contract with PSOMAS for construction, engineering and other services necessary to complete the Paseo de las Iglesias flood control improvements. The project was authorized by the 2004 bond program with total bond funding of \$14 million. The Regional Flood Control District will provide additional funding of \$1.2 million.

This project will transform what has been viewed by many as a hazard or an area to be ignored into a significant community asset. Soil cement bank protection will be installed in selected locations to minimize erosion or flooding hazard, 115 acres will be restored with landscaping as a river park, and an additional 82 acres will be environmentally restored. Trails and a bicycle system, including The Loop, will be constructed through the project.

This project is an example of community investment through bonds; enhancing long-term values; and emphasizing invaluable cultural, historic and traditional environmental assets. The project is now under construction and will provide substantial employment benefits for the construction sector and significant long-term benefits for the community.

Attached is a plan for the overall project, including its improvements and assets. It is this type of project financed with bonds that significantly increase the economic benefits and economic development for the entire community.

CHH/dph

Attachment

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Linda Mayo, Director, Sustainability and Conservation

