



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
130 W. CONGRESS, FLOOR 10, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
(520) 724-8661 FAX (520) 724-8171

C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

September 19, 2014

Martha Durkin, Interim City Manager
City of Tucson
255 W. Alameda, 10th Floor
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Re: City of Tucson and the Regional Flood Control District

Dear Ms. Durkin:

Per our conversation of September 12, 2014, I provided you with two memoranda directed to the Board of Supervisors. The first discusses the distribution of Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) capital improvements throughout the region. These capital improvements respond to flood hazards and flood threats that result in direct property loss and/or safety issues associated with inundation-related flooding or erosion hazards.

The second memorandum to the Board of Supervisors discusses the achieved flood control benefits of the Arroyo Chico project, a joint project of the RFCD and the US Army Corps of Engineers. This project has been implemented over the last 16 years and is nearly complete. The project removed over 1,300 residences and businesses from inundation flooding within the Arroyo Chico Basin. Based on the estimated 50-year flood frequency, had these improvements not been in place, over \$83 million of property damage would have occurred as a result of the September 8, 2014 rainfall event.

The City of Tucson certainly receives RFCD benefits; however, when the RFCD was formed, the City of Tucson opted out of the regulatory compliance floodplain management requirements of the RFCD. Hence, the RFCD's involvement within the City of Tucson is limited primarily to the major watercourses that pose the greatest regional flood threats.

Within the City, there has always been interest in developing a stormwater utility; something I believe is not cost effective or needed. In addition, the RFCD is not a traditional small-scale urban stormwater management entity.

Ms. Martha Durkin

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The RFCD is certainly interested in continuing our assistance to the City. However, in order to do so, any future significant flood control improvements will require that land rights and other easements be conveyed to the RFCD for those facilities to be operated and maintained by the District.

RFCD's capital expenditures have basic tests with respect to cost effectiveness, or as you have probably heard in the past, positive cost/benefit ratios. The District's capital expenditures are not to alleviate nuisance flooding, street flooding or other minor flooding events that result in very little measurable flood damage to real and improved property. For example, spending \$1 million to alleviate potentially \$100,000 of flood damages is not cost effective and would not be considered a viable flood control project.

My staff has made available to your Transportation staff our extensive Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time (ALERT) network of real-time rainfall and stream flow measurements, which would allow for improved forecasting and allocation of emergency resources during rainfall, storm and flooding events.

We also operate, from a regional prospective, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located at 3434 E. 22nd Street. Both Tucson Fire and Tucson Police Department staff were in place during the September 8, 2014 rainfall event and consulted with other first responders and emergency response agencies, including the staff of the RFCD. We appreciate their presence at the EOC.

Please contact me if you require any further information regarding how Pima County and the RFCD may be of assistance to the City.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/anc

- c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
 John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
 Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
 Suzanne Shields, Director, Regional Flood Control District
 Michael Hein, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
 William Zimmerman, Deputy Director, Regional Flood Control District