

**PIMA COUNTY REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
TECHNICAL POLICY**

POLICY NO.: Technical Policy, TECH-026

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 27, 2010

POLICY NAME: **Interim Regulated Riparian Habitat Mitigation Standards and Implementation Guidelines – Supplement to Title 16 – Chapter 16.30 of the Watercourse and Riparian Habitat Protection and Mitigation Requirements, Ordinance No. 2005-FC2, January 2010 Draft.**

PURPOSE: To allow use of the January 2010 Draft Guidelines on an interim basis (Mitigation Guidelines for disturbance of riparian habitat regulated under Section 16.30 of the Floodplain and Erosion Hazard Management Ordinance No. 2005-FC2 (Ordinance).)

BACKGROUND: Section 16.30, *Watercourse and Riparian Habitat Protection and Mitigation Requirements*, of the Ordinance requires mitigation for unavoidable disturbances to regulated riparian habitat (RRH). RRH areas are defined by the *Riparian Classification Maps* adopted by the Pima County Board of Supervisors (Board) effective October 21, 2005. *The Regulated Riparian Habitat Mitigation Standards and Implementation Guidelines* (Guidelines) were created to address revisions to the Ordinance. The Guidelines provide detailed onsite mitigation requirements when greater than 1/3 acre of RRH is altered due to activities that reduce vegetation volume or diminish the value of the habitat on a project site or property. Disturbances include (but are not limited to):

- Mass or partial grading
- Clearing/thinning of vegetation
- Planting of non-native or noxious plant species within RRH
- Other modifications that may reduce vegetation volume or diminish the value of the RRH (e.g., turf areas, livestock use and play areas within RRH, fencing, roads, structures, etc.)

Section 16.30 applies to all property within unincorporated Pima County that contains RRH as shown on the Riparian Classification Maps, and applies to all building, right-of-way, and grading permits, and land use development permits associated with plats and development plans governed by Pima County. The Ordinance also applies to all Pima County public works projects or any activity occurring on Pima County or Flood Control District land or right-of-way.

POLICY:

The January 2010 draft onsite Guidelines were developed to incorporate changes adopted under the Ordinance. Revised Guidelines are being developed by staff and a group of stakeholders; the *Mitigation Working Group*. In a parallel process to the development of onsite guidelines, offsite mitigation guidelines are being developed. Once completed, both will be presented to the Pima County Board of Supervisors for adoption. The draft onsite Guidelines are to be used by applicants in the interim period until onsite and offsite Guidelines are presented to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.

APPROVED BY:

 1/27/2010

Suzanne Shields, P.E.
Director

Date

Original Policy Approved:
Date(s) Revised: