

DATE: July 31, 2014

TO: C. H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

FROM: Suzanne Shields, P.E.
Director

SUBJECT: Why, Arizona Storm Damage Report for the July 9, 2014 Storm Event

The following is a report of actions taken by Pima County following the Wednesday, July 9, 2014, storm event that impacted the community of Why, Arizona.

A 2-inch rainfall event in less than one hour caused flooding of roadways and residential areas. The areas that were especially hard hit were along Rio Cornez Wash and an area south of Ball Road between State Highway 86 and State Highway 85. The following actions were taken in Why, Arizona:

Department of Transportation

The Pima County Department of Transportation (DOT) cleared the two public roads, Longacre Road and Denning Road. On the same day, DOT's supervisor and Paul Wassmuth, from the Regional Flood Control District (RFCD), toured the private roads and found that the roads were serviceable. On July 16, 2014, Transportation delivered seven pallets of filled sand bags to the Why Fire Department; Transportation also provided the *Sandbag Placement Suggestions* (see attached) to Verne Denning for distribution to assist the residents in protecting their homes and reducing future flooding in the short-term. Most recently, DOT inspected Guinn Road at Rio Cornez Wash; again they found some erosion, but the road was passable (see attached photographs).

Office of Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) contacted the Red Cross; the Red Cross is in the process of securing hotel rooms in Ajo in the event any residents in Why are displaced. At this time, no assistance has been provided.

Residential Inspections

Both Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation (CDNC) and Development Services Department (DSD) contacted residents. CDNC provided information on their home repair program and DSD inspected for damages at the following locations:

- At 501 S. Sonoyta Highway, Mr. Conner's property had experienced sheet flooding and some fast rushing water, but no damage to the structure was sustained. He has two homes on his property; however, only one is livable. CDNC staff left the Home Repair Program booklet and a business card. During the DSD residential inspection, Mr. Connors showed the inspector where the water flowed, the majority of it being on the south end of Unit #1. He had installed plywood skirting around his home to deflect the water flow, but there were several openings that were observed along with piers supporting the wooden floor of Unit #1. The inspection confirmed that the piers had not been undermined. Mr. Connor stated that the flood waters

Why, Arizona Storm Damage Report for the July 9, 2014 Storm Event

July 31, 2014

Page 2

had not risen to the floor level of Unit 2. No other adverse effects on the structures were found during the inspection.

- At 631 S. Sonoyta, Mrs. Rosalia Luder complained of fast moving water at her residence. Two sinkholes were noted next to and adjacent to her home. She has three travel trailers on her property that belong to snowbirds which are currently empty. Again, CDNC staff left information and a business card. The DSD inspector observed the sinkholes. He was informed by Rosalia that the house had a basement. She stated that there is no access to the basement because the opening had been closed off with the foundation wall and earth had been backfilled on the north side of the foundation wall enclosing the opening. The inspector observed the foundation wall and the exterior wall it was supporting. The sinkhole exposed only the upper portion of the foundation wall, and the supporting footing was not exposed. As it was one week after the flood, any subsequent settling would likely have started to occur and would have resulted in linear cracks. The inspector did not observe any cracks in either the foundation wall or the exterior wall. He recommended to Rosalia that she have the holes filled and provide additional fill to slope away from the foundation to direct water away from the structure, as required by Code. This should alleviate any future issues.
- At 711 S. Sonoyta Highway, the Millers complained of fast moving water. They purchased sand bags and placed them on the property next to their home. No damage occurred to the home, just the yard. They have their own tractor and were able to cut a new driveway and fix the breaches in the levee on their property. DSD staff spoke with Ms. Thompson and Mr. Miller who showed him the flood line on the house and sandbags around the east side of the house. He did not observe any structural damage. The couple showed him the inside of the home and noted that most of the damage was cleanup from the flooding. The room on the northeast corner of the house had a lower floor than the main house, and appeared to be an enclosed porch; the adjacent patio was at the same level. The DSD staff also went to the mobile home in the rear of the property that had several of the supporting piers removed by the storm. The owners reported that a few doors were difficult to open and close when the three piers were missing, but after he re-leveled the areas affected and replaced the missing piers there were no issues. The owner of the mobile home had placed sandbags on the east and south sides of the unit.
- Coyote Howl Park had some travel trailers that were listing. The manager gave DSD staff a tour of the damage. There was an additional displaced shed, which was rather small and could easily be moved back into place upon the owners return. DSD staff also went to one of the restroom/storage buildings that had the roofing blown off by the storm. He observed and photographed this as well as several pieces of plywood that had been partially removed by the storm. This was the extent of damage to structures reported by the manager.

C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

Why, Arizona Storm Damage Report for the July 9, 2014 Storm Event

July 31, 2014

Page 3

- CDNC staff performed a general tour of Guinn, Hammons, Higgins, and Denning Roads.
- DSD staff went to properties east of 711 S. Sonoyta Highway at the end along Mary K Bars Road. No one was home at either location. Both locations appeared to be in the center of the flow from the storm. Mr. Chandler photographed this location.
- At 500 S. Highway 86, DSD staff spoke with Samantha who informed the inspector that only the driveway had been damaged.
- The inspector drove around to observe the path of the flow, and based upon what he observed and his conversations with residents, he felt comfortable that there was no additional building damage.

Arizona Department of Transportation

Repairs along Highway 86 have begun; however, only in the right-of-way.

SS/tj

Attachments

c: The Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors
John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works
Jan Leshner, Deputy County Administrator – Medical and Health
Hank Atha, Deputy County Administrator – Community and Economic Administration
Priscilla Cornelio, Director – Department of Transportation
Carmine DeBonis, Director – Development Services Department
Bill Zimmerman, Deputy Director – Regional Flood Control District

SANDBAG PLACEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Place sandbags, externally, at doors where water might enter your home. **Garage:** If water comes into your garage, sandbags should be directly against the access door into your home for support (Figure 1). Garages can withstand low flooding with less damage than the interior of your home. Objects stored in the garage at lower levels should be moved higher or placed inside the home, if flooding is a concern. **Exterior Doors:** If water enters your home through your front or back door, place sandbags, externally, directly against that door (Figure 1). Do not open the door until the water has dropped below the sandbags.

Sandbags will not block water from seeping through. If you expect to have water against the bags for quite a while, wrap the bags with plastic as follows: Place a plastic sheet (garbage bags or shower liners will work) on the ground against the door you're protecting. (The plastic should extend away from the door at least three feet if you are only using one row of sandbags.) Place the bags on top of the plastic, pressing them firmly against each other and the door frames. Lift the remaining plastic over the bags and tuck the plastic underneath the back of the bags. For higher stacks, use wider plastic. If more than one plastic sheet is used, use heavy wrapping or duct tape to seal the sheet ends together (Figure 2).

Sandbags are not dams. If you have water that normally runs across your property, the sandbags can be used to guide the water past your home but cannot be used to stop all water from coming onto your site. Even shallow flowing water can move vehicles. Place the sandbags only as needed to prevent water from entering your home.

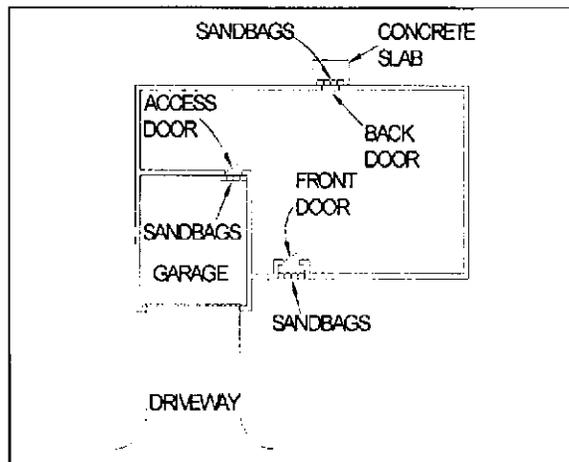


Figure 1

*Note: In an emergency, you can make your own sandbags using plastic garbage bags and earth from your yard.

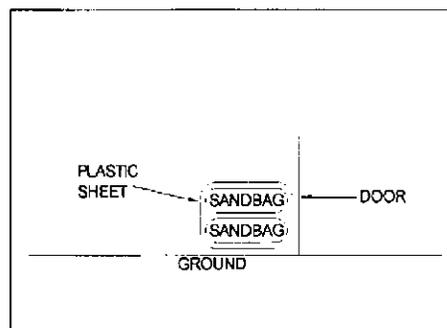
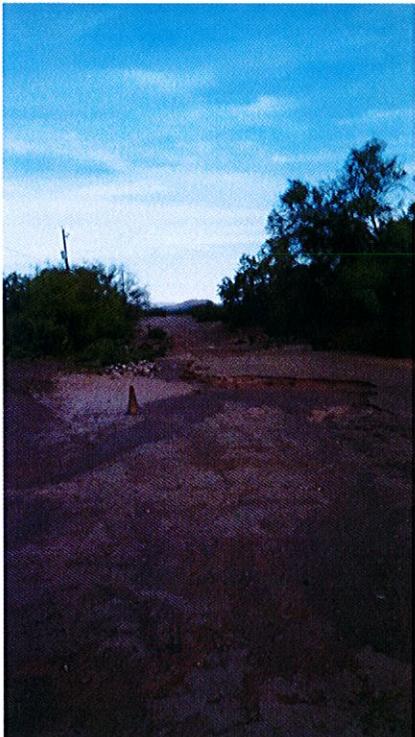


Figure 2

Guinn Road





PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DISTRICT 3

130 WEST CONGRESS STREET, 11TH FLOOR

TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1317

(520) 724-8051

district3@pima.gov

SHARON BRONSON CHAIR

Why, Arizona, Flood Event

On Wednesday, July 9, 2014, the community of Why, Arizona, experienced a 2-inch rainfall in less than one hour. This rainfall event caused flooding of roadways and residential areas. The areas that were especially hard hit were along Rio Cornez Wash and an area south of Ball Road between State Highway 86 and State Highway 85.

The terrain in and around Why is relatively flat and prone to sheet flooding with runoff flowing from the east to west. Historically a number of berms averaging 3 feet in height have been used by property owners and along State Highway 86 to direct flow. Roadways are generally private and also convey flow.

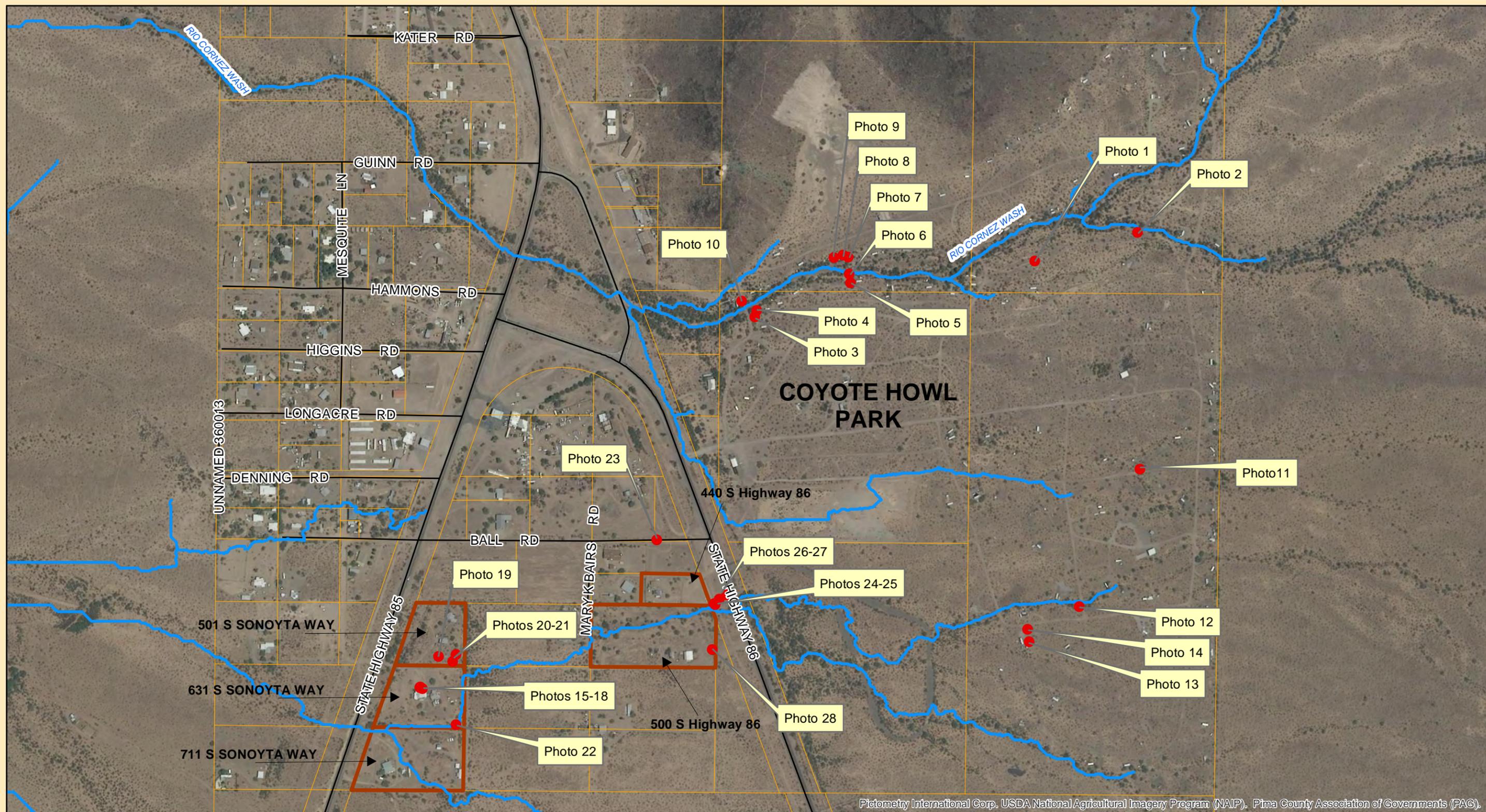
On July 9, flow spilled over the berm along the east side of Highway 86 causing extensive erosion on the west side of the road; the flow then breached some of the berms on private property. Because the damages occurred on private property and roadways are private, there is little that Pima County is able to do to repair damage. State law does not allow public funds to be spent on private property. However, within our limitations, we are ready to assist. We understand residents are worried that the breached berms will result in additional storm damage.

At Supervisor Bronson's direction, Pima County Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) staff met with Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) representatives, and ADOT will be conducting repair activities within its roadway right of way. RFCD also met with representatives from the Pima County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Department of Transportation (PCDOT), and Community and Economic Development. We are proposing the following response actions:

1. PCDOT will deliver filled sand bags to Why for use by residents in protecting their homes and reducing future flooding in the short term. OEM has contacted the Fire District and has secured permission to use the fire station as a staging location.
2. OEM has contact the Red Cross, and the Red Cross is in the process of securing hotel rooms in Ajo in the event any residents in Why are displaced.
3. Pima County Development Services will be inspecting structures to determine if there are any structural issues.
4. Pima County Community Development staff will tour the area and, as appropriate, provide information on housing repair programs and applications. Community Development will also look at any volunteer activities that may need to be undertaken.
5. RFCD will work with the Communications Office to develop clear information for the residents on our response, post-flood repairs and clean up, etc.
6. RFCD will coordinate with ADOT and provide technical assistance as ADOT makes repairs along Highway 86.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call Supervisor Bronson's office at (520) 724-8051.

In an emergency, call 911.



Pictometry International Corp. USDA National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP). Pima County Association of Governments (PAG).



PIMA COUNTY
FLOOD CONTROL
Pima County Regional Flood Control District
97 E Congress - 3rd Floor
Tucson, Arizona 85701-1207
(520) 724-4600, FAX: (520) 724-4621
<http://www.rfcd.pima.gov>

Why, AZ Storm Event July 2014

1 inch = 500 feet

- Photo locations
- Parcels
- Streets
- Washes



July 15, 2014

The information depicted on this display is the result of digital analyses performed on a variety of databases provided and maintained by several governmental agencies. The accuracy of the information presented is limited to the collective accuracy of these databases on the date of the analysis. The Pima County Regional Flood Control District makes no claims regarding the accuracy of the information depicted herein.

This product is subject to the GIS Division Disclaimer and Use Restrictions.

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
In park Main Road view east**



**N 32° 15' 59.05"
W 112° 43' 49.87"**

RIMG6719.JPG 1832 ft

JUL 14 2014 12:22:19 PM

**1:22:19 PM
7/14/2014**

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
In park Main Road view east**



**N 32° 16' 00.58"
W 112° 43' 43.56"**

RIMG6720.JPG 1825 ft

**JUL 14 2014 12:29 1:24:34 PM
7/14/2014**

**Why, AZ storm event July 9, 2014
Coyote Howls Park storage shed displaced**



**N 32° 15' 56.03"
W 112° 44' 07.04"**

JUL 14 2014 12:20
**RIMG6715.JPG 1818 ft 1:15:14 PM
7/14/2014**

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
Coyote Howls park shed displaced**



**N 32° 15' 56.38"
W 112° 44' 06.95"**

RIMG6716.JPG 1819 ft

JUL 14 2014 12:20

**1:15:34 PM
7/14/2014**

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
Park trailer moved off its blocks**



**N 32° 15' 57.85"
W 112° 44' 01.18"**

RIMG6717.JPG 1820 ft

**JUL 14 2014 12:18:20 PM
7/14/2014**

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
Rio Cornez Wash in Coyote Howls Park**



**N 32° 15' 58.31"
W 112° 44' 01.29"**

**JUL 14 2014 12:18:52 PM
RIMG6718.JPG 1822 ft**

**1:18:52 PM
7/14/2014**

Why storm event July 9, 2014
Scattered debris north bank of Rio Cornez Wash



N 32° 15' 59.18"
W 112° 44' 01.35"

RIMG6721.JPG 1804 ft

JUL 14 2014 12:35

1:34:39 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
Shed displaced north bank



N 32° 15' 59.27"
W 112° 44' 01.66"

JUL 14 2014 12:40
RIMG6722.JPG 1811 ft 1:35:33 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
Yard debris moved by storm event



N 32° 15' 59.16"
W 112° 44' 02.22"

JUL 14 2014 12:41
RIMG6723.JPG 1806 ft

1:36:10 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
Repaired wash crossing North Wash Road



N 32° 15' 56.84"
W 112° 44' 07.88"

RIMG6724.JPG 1805 ft

JUL 14 2014 12:44
1:39:13 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
Park access road washed out exposed water lines



N 32° 15' 48.23"
W 112° 43' 43.32"

RIMG6725.JPG 1835 ft

JUL 14 2014 12:51
1:46:07 PM
7/14/2014

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
Park access roads washed out**



2014-07-14_12-59-53_177.jpg

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
Water elevation 18" off of Fence Loop**



2014-07-14_12-56-02_1.jpg

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
Park yard debris off of Fence Loop**



2014-07-14_12-55-44_320.jpg

Why storm event July 9, 2014
Sink hole at 631 S. Sonoyta Wy.



N 32° 15' 36.53"
W 112° 44' 27.32"

RIMG6726.JPG 1809 ft

JUL 14 2014 13:59
2:49:22 PM
7/14/2014

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
Sink hole along house foundation**



**N 32° 15' 36.57"
W 112° 44' 27.47"**

**JUL 14 2014 13:54
RIMG6727.JPG 1804 ft**

**2:49:40 PM
7/14/2014**

Why storm event July 9, 2014
Close up of sink hole 44" deep



N 32° 15' 36.59"
W 112° 44' 27.47"

JUL 14 2014 13:55
RIMG6728.JPG 1802 ft

2:49:55 PM
7/14/2014

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
631 Sonoyta yard depression**



**N 32° 15' 36.58"
W 112° 44' 27.44"**

RIMG6729.JPG 1803 ft

JUL 14 2014 13:55

**2:50:03 PM
7/14/2014**

**Why storm event July 9, 2014
Levee breach area repaired**



**N 32° 15' 38.17"
W 112° 44' 26.36"**

RIMG6731.JPG 1819 ft

JUL 14 2014 13:57

**2:52:23 PM
7/14/2014**

Why storm event July 9, 2014
One of several levee breach areas repaired



N 32° 15' 38.32"
W 112° 44' 25.27"

RIMG6732.JPG 1821 ft

JUL 14 2014 13:58
2:52:56 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
View south of levee breach repairs



N 32° 15' 37.94"
W 112° 44' 25.48"

RIMG6733.JPG 1827 ft

JUL 14 2014 13:58
2:53:13 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
View north along levee



N 32° 15' 34.66"
W 112° 44' 25.25"

RIMG6738.JPG 1842 ft

JUL 14 2014 14:56:22 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
Ball Rd west of St 86 view west



N 32° 15' 44.35"
W 112° 44' 12.97"

RIMG6739.JPG 1806 ft

JUL 14 2014 15:59

3:59:52 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
SR Hwy 86- wash crossing at 500 S. Hwy 86

N 32° 15' 41.53"
W 112° 44' 08.69"

RIMG6740.JPG 1826 ft

JUL 14 2014 15:07

4:02:31 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
View west of wash at 500 S. Hwy 86



N 32° 15' 41.30"
W 112° 44' 09.10"

RIMG6741.JPG 1824 ft

JUL 14 2014 15:07
4:02:50 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
440 S. Hwy 86 south property line fence



N 32° 15' 41.07"
W 112° 44' 09.42"

RIMG6742.JPG 1823 ft

JUL 14 2014 15:03:07
4:03:07 PM
7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
Main channel of small wash view west



N 32° 15' 41.00"
W 112° 44' 09.37"

JUL 14 2014 15:03:18 PM
RIMG6743.JPG 1823 ft 7/14/2014

Why storm event July 9, 2014
500 S. Hwy 86 front property fence line 8" of debris



N 32° 15' 38.65"
W 112° 44' 09.53"

RIMG6745.JPG 1821 ft

JUL 14 2014 15:10

4:05:35 PM
7/14/2014