Marana approached the Regional Flood Control District regarding Marana’s El Rio Preserve Project (the Preserve) and requesting bank protection along the Santa Cruz River to protect the Preserve from lower level more frequent storm events. The Preserve is comprised of parcels 226-01-0170, 226-03-0130, and 226-03-0120. Marana plans on constructing trails, parking lot, lined ponds, picnic areas, birdwatching towers and blinds and connection to the Loop. In previous years the Preserve has flooded, compromising earlier efforts to restore the site. The intent of the bank protection is to help minimize the frequent flooding and allow the Preserve to establish as a public amenity.

**PROJECT SCOPE**

Design and construction of approximately 25-year soil cement bank protection to protect the El Rio Preserve from annual breaches by the adjacent Santa Cruz River. The District and Town of Marana recorded an IGA which traded a drainage channel adjacent to the Preserve from the District to Marana in exchange for the Santa Cruz River parcels and 100 feet of the top of bank of the Preserve for the District to use for constructing the soil cement along.

**PROJECT BENEFIT**

The construction of 25-year soil cement bank protection will prevent the Santa Cruz River from annual breaching the El Rio Preserve, bringing with it trash and debris, while still allowing a slower and more controlled floodplain connectivity via the notch in the soil cement and overflow valve. This will allow for the Marana to enhance the El Rio Preserve per their new site plan and protect the investment they will be making in their premier birding destination.