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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**PASEO DE LAS IGLESIAS, SANTA CRUZ RIVER**

The House of Representatives approved the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2007 to authorize water resources and environmental projects including Paseo de las Iglesias for the environmental restoration of the Santa Cruz River between Los Reales and Congress. The total authorization was for \$97,700,000.

This project is the result of concepts developed by Pima County in 1998 and followed up by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studies to evaluate environmental, cultural and water resources along 65 miles of the Santa Cruz River. The project consists of design and construction of a flood control, ecosystem restoration, water harvesting and recreational basin, as recommended in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Paseo de Las Iglesias Ecosystem Restoration study.

Congressional authorization of the Paseo de las Iglesias Environmental Restoration Project through the Corps of Engineers is a major step toward re-establishing the historic and cultural linkage between San Xavier Mission and the original Presidio of Tucson along the Santa Cruz River. Environmental restoration will include strong cultural and historic restoration components, as well as environmental riparian restoration of this segment of the Santa Cruz River Corridor. Congressional authorization of the project at \$93.7 million is a significant step toward project implementation. The voters of Pima County, in 2004, authorized the local matching funds for the overall project. The project will significantly enhance and complement the City of Tucson efforts at downtown revitalization through Rio Nuevo.

County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry said "I would like to especially thank Congressman Raúl Grijalva for his efforts at ensuring that this project was included in the recent Water Resources Development Act. Congressman Grijalva, as former Chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors and Pima County Flood Control District Board of Directors, assisted in developing this regional project concept. He has, throughout his tenure as a member of the Board of Supervisors and now as a Congressman, provided continuing and unwavering support for this vital and multipurpose cultural, historic and environmental restoration project."

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