

# Pima County Regional Flood Control District Monthly Brown Bag Series

## Selecting Multipurpose Improvements to the Santa Cruz River downstream of the Wastewater Reclamation Facilities

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Pima County Flood Control District is developing a management plan to improve conditions downstream of the two regional Wastewater Reclamation Facilities (WRFs) on the Santa Cruz River to make the river more of a community amenity. The Pima County Regional Wastewater Department implemented major treatment plant upgrades in 2014 which substantially improved the quality of the water released to the Santa Cruz River. The Living River annual reports, prepared in partnership with the Sonoran Institute, documented dramatic increase in macroinvertebrates diversity following the upgrades and the return of the endangered Gila topminnow to this reach of the Santa Cruz in 2017. In 2018, the District started the Santa Cruz River Management Plan to capitalize on improving conditions on the Santa Cruz River and to identify projects that will provide flood control and ancillary benefits. The District and its consultants worked with stakeholder workgroups in three separate reaches of the Santa Cruz River to identify a series of improvements. In the fall of 2020, the project team sought public feedback on these projects. This presentation will describe the importance of this reach of the Santa Cruz River, the process by which improvement projects were selected, and the public feedback on these projects.