Protect Yourself from Flooding
A floodplain is defined as an area that is inundated by a flood that has a 1 percent chance of occurring annually. That means that over the duration of a 30-year mortgage, there is a 26 percent chance of being flooded. History has shown that structures built in conformance with floodplain regulations sustain less flood damage – or no damage at all – compared to structures that are not. If your structure was built before 1981 (when the District was established), the Federal Insurance Administration (FIA) should have identified any flood hazards. If your structure was built after 1981, before the flood hazards were identified, your structure may not be adequately elevated. There are permanent retrofitting techniques that can offer protection from flood damage. For more information, please visit the Understand Your Floodplain website.

Purchase Flood Insurance
Flood damage is not covered under homeowners insurance. A separate policy must be obtained from your agent for your home and its contents. Renters should contact an insurance professional to inquire about the cost of contents insurance. Within Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA), insurance is required for any federally backed mortgages. Pima County residents are eligible to receive up to a 10 percent discount on their premium rates. Within local floodplains, insurance is not required, but is recommended and may be available at an affordable rate.

Prepare Before the Floods Come
Prepare an evacuation plan with several alternate routes to safe locations. The Pima County road closure hotline number is 520-547-7510 and a list of roads affected by flooding is available at: pima.gov/government/transportation.

In addition to having sandbags on hand, prepare a secure and watertight trash can supplied with:

- First Aid Kit
- Clothing & Bedding
- Non-perishable Food & Can Opener
- Medications & Sanitation Supplies
- Work Gloves
- Fire Extinguisher

The District operates ALERT sensors that help to initiate warnings. Monitoring streamflow and sedimentation when avoidance cannot be achieved. Habitat classification maps of specific areas can be viewed at: gis.pima.gov/apps/floodhazard/.

Natural and Beneficial Floodplain Functions
Floodplains provide for the conveyance of floodwater as well as other natural and beneficial functions. Riparian areas are the green belts along rivers and streams. These habitats are among the most valuable natural resources in Pima County, providing abundant vegetation, improved water quality, erosion protection, soil stabilization, open space, and groundwater replenishment. Riparian areas also provide corridors for wildlife and are particularly important for cover, forage, and nesting habitat for both resident and migratory birds. Protect yourself and others by not damaging or destroying riparian habitat. Using techniques found in the Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure Manual can help you maintain the natural floodplain functions surrounding your improvements. View the manual at: pima.gov/government/flood_control/floodplain_management/low_impact_development/.

Prepare for emergencies by creating an emergency kit that includes:

- Drinking Water
- Plastic Tarp & Duct Tape
- Flashlight, Radio & Batteries
- Cash or Traveler’s Checks
- Utility Shut-off Wrench
- Pliers, Axe & Shovel

Flood Warning
Flood warnings are broadcast via local radio, television stations and online at: emergencyalerts.pima.gov.

The District operates ALERT sensors that help to initiate warnings. Monitoring streamflow depth and rainfall for your local area can be found at: www.pima.gov/ALERTSystem.

The Pima County Office of Emergency Management is committed to alerting you when emergencies do occur, and providing rapid information to help you stay informed and safe. Sign up at: register.pima.gov to create a profile to receive alerts about areas and events that are important to you.

Never Cross a Flooded Road
Motorists can be cited, fined, and even arrested for impeding or removing a traffic sign or barricade. Even if no barricade exists, do not risk getting stuck or swept downstream in a flooded wash. Plan for floods by knowing the safe routes to places of shelter. TURN AROUND, DON’T DROWN! Don’t be one of the many dozens of people each year who fail to heed this warning.

Prepare for the Floods Come
Prepare an evacuation plan with several alternate routes to safe locations. The Pima County road closure hotline number is 520-547-7510 and a list of roads affected by flooding is available at: pima.gov/government/transportation.

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Never Cross a Flooded Road
Motorists can be cited, fined, and even arrested for impeding or removing a traffic sign or barricade. Even if no barricade exists, do not risk getting stuck or swept downstream in a flooded wash. Plan for floods by knowing the safe routes to places of shelter. TURN AROUND, DON’T DROWN! Don’t be one of the many dozens of people each year who fail to heed this warning.
Agua Caliente Wash

The Agua Caliente Wash's headwaters originate in the Santa Catalina Mountains at an elevation of about 5,000 feet above sea level. This watershed contains some of the largest networks of springs, surface flows and shallow groundwater anywhere in Pima County. Just upstream of Tanque Verde Road, the Agua Caliente levee has been built to direct floodwater under the Tanque Verde Road Bridge. Agua Caliente Wash and its tributaries impact hundreds of properties, and the District has documented flooded structures due to flooding from this watershed. Flows may also create unstable road crossings and limit property access when water is flowing. In this area it is important to plan ahead to find safe alternate routes and purchase flood insurance. This watershed contains 3,150 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 930 acres of SFHA, and 510 acres of locally identified floodplain.

Agua Caliente Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

District Needs Identified:

- ALERT warning system outreach
- Conduct targeted outreach about improvements to nonconforming use structures and flooded road access issues
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding
- Identify flood prone properties to acquire
- Identify undersized infrastructure
- Outreach to repetitive loss properties
- Provide technical assistance to property owners related to bank reclamation
- Riparian habitat preservation
- Work with responsible parties to address flooded road access issues

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

FMP Website
www.pima.gov/fmp

FMP Dashboard
https://tinyurl.com/2aasyf66

How would you know the pavement was gone if this road were covered with flowing water? At some point, saturated ground gives way and the pavement above it fails...often from the weight of a car. Don't put yourself, your passengers or rescue personnel in harm's way.

Agua Caliente Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

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- ALERT warning system outreach
- Conduct targeted outreach about improvements to nonconforming use structures and flooded road access issues
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding
- Identify flood prone properties to acquire
- Identify undersized infrastructure
- Outreach to repetitive loss properties
- Provide technical assistance to property owners related to bank reclamation
- Riparian habitat preservation
- Work with responsible parties to address flooded road access issues

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Agua Caliente Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

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District Needs Identified:

- ALERT warning system outreach
- Conduct targeted outreach about improvements to nonconforming use structures and flooded road access issues
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding
- Identify flood prone properties to acquire
- Identify undersized infrastructure
- Outreach to repetitive loss properties
- Provide technical assistance to property owners related to bank reclamation
- Riparian habitat preservation
- Work with responsible parties to address flooded road access issues

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

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Altar Valley
The Altar Wash drains the eastern slopes of the Baboquivari Mountains as well as the western slopes of the Sierrita Mountains south of State Route 86 and extends to the south over 30 miles to its headwaters near Mormon and Aguirre Lakes, which are within the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. Flood risks vary in Altar Valley, but sheetflow flooding from the tributaries of the Sierrita Mountains is the dominant type of flooding that affects area residents. While sheetflow flooding is generally fairly shallow, it is also very widespread and makes accessing properties difficult due to the presence of unmaintained dirt roads. In sheetflow floodplains, it is important to protect homes from flooding and obtain flood insurance, but it is not appropriate to protect entire properties as this makes flooding worse for neighbors. The main stem of the Altar Wash has experienced severe downcutting and has become a deep canyon in some places with the threat of lateral migration being the primary flood risk factor. This watershed contains 76,420 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat and 19,025 acres of SFHA.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN
Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

District Needs Identified:
- Conduct detailed mapping of approximate FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas
- Conduct detailed mapping of approximate sheet flood area
- Develop and implement an erosion mitigation plan using natural channel design techniques
- Work to address issue of sediment placement during road maintenance activities

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Altar Valley Wash Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

Pima County Floodplain Management Office is located at 201 N. Stone Ave., 9th Floor | Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday–Friday | Phone: 520-724-4600
For information on the flood risk impacting your property and flood protection, assistance including site inspection, please contact our office or see our website at: www.pima.gov/floodcontrol
Big Wash
The Big Wash, along with Sutherland Wash, drains the western slopes of the Santa Catalina Mountains and the eastern slopes of the Tortolita Mountains into the Cañada del Oro Wash. The Cañada del Oro Wash and Big Wash enter Pima County from Pinal County near the community of Catalina. The Cañada del Oro Wash has very steep and rocky upper slopes and flash flooding is a significant concern. There are a number of at-grade wash crossings that can be extremely hazardous during flows, including where the Cañada del Oro Wash crosses Overton Road. Fires on Mount Lemmon can significantly increase the risk of flooding in this area. This watershed contains 1,716 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 1,408 acres of SFHA, and 169 acres of locally identified floodplain.

Big Wash Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

Floodplain Management Action Plan

District Needs Identified:
• Develop erosion hazard setbacks in mountainous areas
• Develop vegetation maintenance and open space management plans
• Enhance Loop and trail segments
• Identify existing development at risk from flooding
• Identify flood prone properties to acquire
• Identify undersized infrastructure
• Improve inter-jurisdictional coordination with the Town of Oro Valley
• Map canyon wash floodways
• Work with responsible parties to address flooded roads

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FMP Website
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FMP Dashboard
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District Needs Identified:
• Develop erosion hazard setbacks in mountainous areas
• Develop vegetation maintenance and open space management plans
• Enhance Loop and trail segments
• Identify existing development at risk from flooding
• Identify flood prone properties to acquire
• Identify undersized infrastructure
• Improve inter-jurisdictional coordination with the Town of Oro Valley
• Map canyon wash floodways
• Work with responsible parties to address flooded roads

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Black Wash
The Black Wash's headwaters originate on Black Mountain within the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Tributaries from the northeastern slopes of the Sierrita Mountains south of San Xavier join it along with those emanating from the southwestern slopes of the Tucson Mountains. These combined flows join the West Branch of the Brawley Wash near Sandario Road. Sheetflow flooding is common and the District has documented flooded structures in this area. While generally fairly shallow, sheetflow flooding is also very widespread and makes accessing properties difficult. Floodwaters may rise quickly and may be very dangerous. It is important to protect your home from flooding and obtain flood insurance in this area, but it is not appropriate to present your property from flooding as this makes flooding worse for neighbors. This watershed contains 2,935 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 3,983 acres of SFHA, and 1,620 acres of locally identified floodplain.

**Black Wash Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access**

**District Needs Identified:**
- Evaluate cumulative impacts of lot-splits and identify mitigation
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding
- Identify floodprone properties to acquire
- Identify undersized infrastructure
- Identify and regulate un-permitted improvements
- Outreach to floodways and flow corridor areas, and provide technical assistance on private road and drainage easement maintenance
- Remove unnecessary diversions
- Work to address issue of sediment placement during road maintenance activities

**Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.**
- The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.
- The Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

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Brawley Wash

The Brawley Wash watershed is the largest within Pima County and is comprised of 442,269 acres. The headwaters of the Brawley Wash, as well as its tributary Blanca Wash, originate in the Rock-rage and Coyote mountains on the south side of State Route 86 in the community of Three Points/Rollin Junction. The Altar Wash and Black Wash are also significant tributaries. The Brawley Wash flows northward toward Pinal County where it joins the Santa Cruz River. Flood risks vary, but sheetflow flooding is the dominant type of flooding that affects residents. While sheetflow flooding is generally fairly shallow, it is also very widespread and makes accessing property difficult. This is especially true due to the rural nature of the area and the prevalence of unmaintained dirt roads.

Brawley Wash Flooding and Obtaining Flood Insurance, but It Is Not Appropriate to Prevent Your Property from Flooding as This Makes Flooding Worse

Brawley Wash Flooding and Obtaining Flood Insurance, but It Is Not Appropriate to Prevent Your Property from Flooding as This Makes Flooding Worse. What would you know the pavement was gone if this road were covered with flowing water? At some point, saturated ground gives way and the pavement above it fails...often from the weight of a car. Don't put yourself, your passengers or rescue personnel in harm's way.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

FMP Website
www.pima.gov/fmp
FMP Dashboard
https://tinyurl.com/2aasyf66

District Needs Identified:
1. Conduct detailed study of Special Flood Hazard and sheetflow areas
2. Develop vegetation maintenance and open space management plans
3. Identify floodprone properties to acquire
4. Identify and regulate un-permitted improvements
5. Implement an erosion mitigation plan using natural channel design techniques
6. Outreach to target floodways and flow corridor areas, and provide technical assistance on private road and drainage easement maintenance
7. Remove un-necessary diversions on public property
8. Update historic floodplain information
9. Work to address issue of sediment placement during road maintenance activities
Floodplain Management Action Plan

The Cañada del Oro Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

FMP Website
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FMP Dashboard
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District Needs Identified:
- Develop erosion hazard setbacks in mountainous areas
- Develop vegetation maintenance and open space management plans
- Enhance Loop and trail segments
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding
- Identify floodprone properties to acquire
- Identify undersized infrastructure
- Improve inter-jurisdictional coordination with the Town of Oro Valley
- Map canyon wash floodways
- Work with responsible parties to address flooded roads

Cañada del Oro Floodplain Area

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Catalina Foothills

The Catalina Foothills Watershed includes numerous washes draining the southern slopes of the Santa Catalina Mountains, including Pima, Campbell, Finger Rock, Valley View and Ventana Canyon washes. Originating in near vertical terrain, these washes descend steeply through canyon walls before spilling onto the alluvial bajada foothills and then into the geologic floodplains associated with Rillito Creek. These watersheds are highly prone to flash flooding, even from rainfall miles away. These flash floods can quickly create life threatening and hazardous situations. Residents are advised to be cautious around washes anytime stormy conditions exist on Mount Lemmon. The District has documented significant hazard when water is flowing. The District recommends obtaining flood insurance and planning ahead to know alternative routes to and from home. This watershed contains 3,716 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 2,098 acres of SFHA, and 1,649 acres of locally identified floodplains.

Catalina Foothills Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

Emergency Vehicle Access
- Roads passable during major floods
- Roads passable during moderate storms
- Roads questionable during storms
- Highways
- Limbo

FEMA Flood Zone
- Special Flood Hazard Area
- Other Flood Area
- RRFCD Projects/Status
- Complete
- In Progress
- Planned Project

Additional Floodplain Information
- Watered Databases
- Developer Happend Flooding
- Lesser Flooding
- Sheet Flooding
- Laminates

Land Stewards
- Federal Land
- State Land under Pima County Management
- Indian Reservations
- Pima owned Parcels
- State Land
- Private Land
- Critical Boundaries
- Private Land
- Road Access
- Utility

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For information on the flood risk impacting your property and flood protection, assistance including site inspection, please contact our office or see our website at: www.pima.gov/floodcontrol
Cienega Creek
The Cienega Creek headwaters originate in Santa Cruz County in the Canelo Hills south of the community of Sonoita. Tributaries draining the eastern slopes of the Santa Rita Mountains and the western slopes of the Whetstone Mountains join it. Running along the east side of State Route 83, it passes under Interstate 10 and joins the Agua Verde to form the Pantano Wash near the community of Vail. This watershed contains one of the last reaches of perennial flow in Pima County and is considered an Outstanding Arizona Water by the State of Arizona. This watershed contains 31,564 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat and 7,299 acres of SFHA.

District Needs Identified:
• Develop and implement an erosion mitigation plan using natural channel design techniques
• Monitor base and peak flood flows
• Monitor groundwater depth and water quality
• Preserve and enhance riparian habitat and culturally significant areas
• Updated floodplain mapping

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan. The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

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Lee Moore Wash

The Lee Moore Wash watershed extends from the Santa Rita Mountain ridge in the southeast, meeting the Santa Cruz River just north of the Town of Sahuarita. Its many tributaries, including the Cuprite, Flato, Faison, and Sycamore washes, are distributaries in nature, resulting in very wide floodplains and alluvial fans throughout the Coronado de Tucson area. Numerous properties and homes have flooded in this area. Sheetflow flooding is the dominant type of flooding affecting residents of this area. While sheetflow flooding is generally fairly shallow, it is also very wide-spread and makes accessing properties difficult. This is especially true due to the semi-rural nature of the area and the prevalence of unmaintained dirt roads. In sheetflow floodplains, it is important to protect your home from flooding and obtain flood insurance, but it is not appropriate to prevent your property from flooding as this makes flooding worse for neighbors. This watershed contains 21,023 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 349 acres of SFHA, and 40,591 acres of locally identified floodplain.

Lee Moore Wash Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

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District Needs Identified:
- Conduct outreach to areas which can get cut-off during flood events
- Develop and implement an erosion mitigation plan using natural channel design techniques
- Identify and monitor erosion on tributaries to the Lee Moore Wash
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding
- Identify undersized infrastructure
- Identify unpermitted improvements and agricultural diversions
- Improve communication with sand and gravel operators
- Plan for potential future development including the Sonoran Corridor

- Work with responsible parties to address flooded road access issues including private maintenance activities
- Work to address issue of sediment placement during road maintenance activities

For information on the flood risk impacting your property and flood protection, assistance including site inspection, please contact our office or see our website at: www.pima.gov/floodcontrol
Pantano Wash

The Pantano Wash begins near the community of Vail at the confluence of Cienega Creek and Aqua Verde Creek. Further downstream, the headwaters of its main tributary, Rincon Creek, originate high in the Rincon Mountains near Rincon Peak over 8,000 feet above mean sea level. The Pantano Wash has been the location of many sand and gravel operations and the most severe threat is lateral migration of the channel. Flood insurance is highly recommended. This watershed contains 7,336 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 4,534 acres of SFHA, and 1,869 acres of locally identified floodplain.

Pantano Wash Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

District Needs Identified:

- Develop and implement an erosion mitigation plan using natural channel design techniques
- Develop vegetation maintenance plans
- Enhance Loop and trail segments
- Identify floodprone properties to acquire
- Improve communication with sand and gravel operators
- Improve inter-jurisdictional communication with City of Tucson
- Obtain public property rights for effective management in the Pantano Wash area
- Work with responsible parties to address flooded roads

How would you know the pavement was gone if the road were covered with flowing water? At some point, saturated ground gives way and the pavement above it fails...often from the weight of a car. Don't put yourself, your passengers or rescue personnel in harm's way.

For information on the flood risk impacting your property and flood protection, assistance including site inspection, please contact our office or see our website at: www.pima.gov/floodcontrol
Rillito Creek begins at the confluence of the Tanque Verde Creek and Pantano Wash. Its downstream terminus is in the confluence with the Santa Cruz River. The Rillito Creek watershed also includes many of the Catalina Foothills watercourses as well as watersheds that originate in the City of Tucson. Rillito Creek plays a significant role in groundwater recharge. Excluding the Tanque Verde, Pantano and Foothills watercourses, this watershed is comprised of 16,881 acres. Rillito Creek has been largely contained in channel by numerous flood control projects, which have resulted in a string park connected by The Loop bike path. This watershed contains 400 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 813 acres of riparian woodland, 102 acres of wetland, and 3,014 acres of locally identified floodplain.

Counties:
- Pima
- Santa Cruz
- Maricopa
- Pinal
- Cochise
- Green

Watershed:
- Rillito Creek
- Pantano Wash
- Catalina Foothills
- Rillito Creek Watershed
- Pantano Wash Watershed
- Santa Cruz - Middle Watershed
- Tucson Mountains Watershed

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Rillito Creek Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

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District Needs Identified:
- Enhance Loop and trail segments
- Enhance recreational areas and commercial uses adjacent to the Rillito Creek
- Identify and implement solution to City’s urban flooding problems
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding
- Improve inter-jurisdictional coordination with City of Tucson
- Perform maintenance and drainage improvements within wash channels
- Work with responsible parties to address flooded roads

Pima County Floodplain Management Office is located at 201 N. Stone Ave., 9th Floor | Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday–Friday | Phone: 520-724-4600
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**Rincon Creek**

The Rincon Creek’s headwaters originate high in the Rincon Mountains near Rincon Peak over 8,000 feet above mean sea level and passes through Rincon Valley to its confluence with Pantano Wash. The presence of water and connectivity between the Rincon Mountains and Tucson Basin make the Rincon Valley a popular wildlife corridor. This watershed contains 4,087 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 1,471 acres of SFHA, and 1,042 acres of locally identified floodplain.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN**

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The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

**District Needs Identified:**
- Continue to require identification of floodplains, erosion hazard setbacks and mapped riparian limits at the time of subdivision platting
- Develop vegetation and open space management plans
- Improve roadway access along Old Spanish Trail and the Jeremy Wash tributary
- Mitigate erosion at the confluence with the Pantano Wash
- Monitor groundwater depth and water quality

**Date: 7/9/2021**

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

**District Needs Identified:**
- Continue to require identification of floodplains, erosion hazard setbacks and mapped riparian limits at the time of subdivision platting
- Develop vegetation and open space management plans
- Improve roadway access along Old Spanish Trail and the Jeremy Wash tributary
- Mitigate erosion at the confluence with the Pantano Wash
- Monitor groundwater depth and water quality

**FMP Website**
www.pima.gov/fmp

**FMP Dashboard**
https://tinyurl.com/2aasyf66
Sabino Creek

Sabino Creek's headwaters are near the summit of Mount Lemmon and the community of Summerhaven. Originating at nearly 9,000 feet above mean sea level, it descends steeply through canyons before spilling out onto the bajada foothills and then into geologic floodplains associated with the Tanque Verde Creek. Flash flooding is a significant risk in this area. This watershed contains 2,033 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 522 acres of SFHA, and 945 acres of locally identified floodplain.

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

For information on the flood risk impacting your property and flood protection, assistance including site inspection, please contact our office or see our website at: www.pima.gov/floodcontrol

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San Pedro River
The San Pedro River originates in Mexico and flows through Cochise County prior to entering Pima County. Near Pima County, it drains the eastern slopes of the Rincon and Santa Catalina mountains and western slopes of the Gahuan Mountains. The San Pedro exits Pima County into Pinal County south of the community of San Manuel. Though it is one of the largest watercourses in Pima County, the remote and rural nature of this area means that few people are impacted by flooding on the San Pedro River and its tributaries. Within Pima County, this watershed contains 15,159 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat and 3,231 acres of SFHA.

For information on the flood risk impacting your property and flood protection, assistance including site inspection, please contact our office or see our website at:  www.pima.gov/floodcontrol

San Pedro River Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

FMP Website
www.pima.gov/fmp

FMP Dashboard
https://tinyurl.com/2aasy866

District Needs Identified:
• Conduct outreach to areas which can get cut-off during flood events
• Develop open space management plans
• Identify floodprone properties to acquire
• Monitor development of Sunzia Utility Corridor
• Riparian habitat preservation

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In Progress
Miles
K
4.5
Land Stewartship
Planned Project
ALERT Infrastructure

RFCD Projects-Status
FEMA Flood Zone
Other Flood Area
RIPCD Projects-Status
Watered Boundaries
Developed Inflated Floodplain
Person
Reservations
State Land
Road Access
Lower Washes
ALERT Gauge

Additional Floodplain Information
Land Stewardship
Federal Land
State Land under Pima County Management
Pima owned Parcels
Jurisdictional Boundaries
Private Land

Pima County Floodplain Management Office is located at 201 N. Stone Ave., 9th Floor | Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday–Friday | Phone: 520-724-4600
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Santa Cruz - Lower

The portion of the watershed identified as the Lower Santa Cruz River begins immediately downstream of a bedrock near Avra Valley Road where the floodplain of the Santa Cruz River is about a quarter mile wide. It then widens to several miles wide as it enters Pinal County draining over 3,200 square miles upstream of the confluence with the Brawley Wash. This portion of the Santa Cruz River mostly impacts farmland, though flooding can pose a significant risk to drivers during times of flooding. This watershed contains 6,283 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 16,147 acres of SFHA, and 10,648 acres of locally identified floodplain.

Santa Cruz-Lower Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

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Santa Cruz - Upper

The portion of the watershed identified as the Upper Santa Cruz River extends from the Santa Rita Mountain ridge in the southwest, across the Santa Cruz River basin to the San Pedro Mountains in the northeast. It is comprised of 336,918 acres. Largely unaltered by flood control works, the Upper Santa Cruz River has a wide, meandering floodplain. Nevertheless, it largely impacts agricultural lands. Flood insurance is recommended for any structure near the river or its tributaries. This watershed contains 11,195 acres of SFHA, 6,084 acres of locally identified floodplains, 11,195 acres of SFHA, and 6,084 acres of locally identified floodplains.

Santa Cruz-Upper Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN**

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

**FMP Website**
www.pima.gov/fmp

**FMP Dashboard**
https://tinyurl.com/2aasy66

**District Needs Identified:**
- Develop basin and open space management plans for the Santa Cruz River from the Santa Cruz County Line to Pima Mine Road.
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding.
- Identify undersized infrastructure.
- Identify unpermitted improvements and agricultural diversions.
- Improve communication with sand and gravel operators.
- Improve inter-jurisdictional coordination with other jurisdictions including the Town of Sahuarita and the Tohono O’odham Nation.
- Monitor erosion on tributaries to the Santa Cruz River.
- Plan for potential future development including the Sonoran Corridor.
- Update historical floodplain areas, add Elephant Head and RiskMap area floodplains.

**Emergency Vehicle Access**

- Roads Passable During Major Floods
- Roads Passable During Moderate Storms
- Roads Questionable During Storms
- Highways
- Unimproved

**FEMA Flood Zone**

- Special Flood Hazard Area
- Other Flood Area
- Floodplain
- Flood Insurance
- Sheet Flooding

**Additional Floodplain Information**

- Watered Dwellings
- Developed Mapped Floodplains
- Flood Protection
- Planned Project

**Land Stewardship**

- Preserve Land
- State Land
- Road Access
- Private Land

**Road Access**

- State Land
- Private Land

**WARNING**

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Santa Cruz – Middle

The portion of the watershed identified in the Middle Santa Cruz River begins near the northern boundary of the San Xavier District of the Tohono O’odham Nation near Martinez Hill. The Middle Santa Cruz River is where the confluence of its largest tributaries, the Cañada del Oro Wash, Babilon Creek, and the Julian Wash, occur. Excluding these tributaries, the watershed is comprised of 150,746 acres of properties. This watershed contains 8,613 acres of Regulated properties. This watershed contains 8,613 acres of Regulated riparian habitat, 4,866 acres of SFHA, and 8,889 acres of locally identified floodplain.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Through surveys and stakeholder feedback, a comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) was developed for this watershed, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April 2020. The FMP helps establish near and long-term goals that improve public safety in flood hazard areas and includes an Action Plan.

The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

District Needs Identified:

- Develop vegetation management plans
- Enhance Loop and trail segments
- Identify agriculture diversions
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding
- Identify undersized infrastructure
- Improve communication with sand and gravel operators
- Improve inter-jurisdictional coordination with the City of Tucson
- Map canyon wash floodways
- Monitor base and peak flows
- Provide resources on flood insurance

FMP Website
www.pima.gov/fmp

FMP Dashboard
https://tinyurl.com/2aasyf66

Santa Cruz-Middle Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

For information on the flood risk impacting your property and flood protection, assistance including site inspection, please contact our office or see our website at: www.pima.gov/floodcontrol
**Sopori Wash**
This watershed originates in Santa Cruz County on the western slopes of the Tumacácori Mountains, passes the eastern slopes of the Cerro Colorado, and then joins the Upper Santa Cruz River at Arivaca Junction. This watershed contains 13,359 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat and 1,130 acres of SFHA.

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**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN**

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**Floodplain Management Plan Website**
[www.pima.gov/fmp](http://www.pima.gov/fmp)

**Floodplain Management Plan Dashboard**
[https://tinyurl.com/2aasyf66](https://tinyurl.com/2aasyf66)

**District Needs Identified:**
- Define accurate flow discharges and ground topography
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding
- Identify undersized infrastructure
- Monitor groundwater depth and water quality
- Regulate and respond to rural use complaints (fencing, grazing, etc.)
- Regulate unpermitted improvements
- Riparian habitat preservation

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**Sopori Wash Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access**

**Emergency Vehicle Access**
- ROADS PASSABLE DURING MAJOR FLOODS
- ROADS PASSABLE DURING MODERATE STORMS
- ROADS QUESTIONABLE DURING STORMS
- HIGHWAYS
- LIMITED ACCESS

**FEMA Flood Zone**
- SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA
- OTHER FLOOD AREA
-問い合わせ/Project Status
- Complete
- Under Construction
- Planned Project

**Additional Floodplain Information**
- Watered Dividends
- Developer Handed Floodplain
- Land Stewardship
- Sheet Flooding
- Levees

**Land Stewardship**
- Federal Land
- State Land
- Jurisdictional Boundaries
- Private Land
- Upland Waters
- ALERT Gauges

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Tanque Verde Creek

The Tanque Verde Creek watershed includes the Tanque Verde Creek and two of its largest tributaries, the Agua Caliente Wash and Sabino Creek. The Tanque Verde Creek's headwaters are on both sides of Redington Road in the Rincon and Santa Catalina mountains. This watershed contains some of the largest networks of springs, surface flows and shallow groundwater anywhere in Pima County. Excluding the Agua Caliente and Sabino Creek watersheds, this watershed is 70,199 acres, of which over 50,409 acres is preserved as open space. Tanque Verde Creek is prone to large flash floods that can cause significant damage to homes and property. The District has documented numerous flooded homes along the north bank of the Tanque Verde including within the Forty Niner Country Club Estates subdivision. Flows often frequently close several road crossings, which limits access in the area. Flood insurance is highly recommended and area residents are advised to plan ahead and know alternate routes to get to their destination when roads are closed. This watershed contains 6,864 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 2,554 acres of SFHA, and 1,225 acres of locally identified floodplain.

Tanque Verde Creek Floodplain Area

and Emergency Vehicle Access

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Phone: 520-724-4600  
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FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

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The map shows geographically specific action items and includes the locations of flood warning gages, floodplain restoration areas, and erosion protection within your watershed. More information about the projects and watershed specific action items are available at the Floodplain Management Plan Website and Dashboard.

FMP Website  
www.pima.gov/fmp

FMP Dashboard  
https://tinyurl.com/2aasy66

District Needs Identified:
• ALERT warning system outreach
• Conduct outreach about improvements to nonconforming use structures
• Develop open space management plans
• Enhance Loop and trail segments
• Identify areas of shallow groundwater
• Identify existing development at risk from flooding
• Identify floodprone properties to acquire
• Identifyundersized infrastructure
• Outreach to repetitive loss properties
• Provide technical assistance to property owners related to bank reclamation
• Riparian habitat preservation
Tenmile Wash

The Tenmile Wash watershed includes Gibson Arroyo within the community of Ajo and extends from the Pozo Redondo and Batamote mountains in the east across the basin floor to the Little Ajo and Childs mountains in the west. From these headwaters, this watershed then drains northward into Maricopa County. The District has documented numerous flooded homes in Ajo and Why, Arizona. Floods in these areas arrive with little warning and extreme caution is warranted during inclement weather. Flood insurance is highly recommended. This watershed contains 13,199 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 11,763 acres of SFHA, and 182 acres of locally identified floodplains.

Tenmile Wash Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

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Tenmile Wash

The Tenmile Wash watershed includes Gibson Arroyo within the community of Ajo and extends from the Pozo Redondo and Batamote mountains in the east across the basin floor to the Little Ajo and Childs mountains in the west. From these headwaters, this watershed then drains northward into Maricopa County. The District has documented numerous flooded homes in Ajo and Why, Arizona. Floods in these areas arrive with little warning and extreme caution is warranted during inclement weather. Flood insurance is highly recommended. This watershed contains 13,199 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 11,763 acres of SFHA, and 182 acres of locally identified floodplains.

Tenmile Wash Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

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Tenmile Wash

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Tenmile Wash Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

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Tenmile Wash

The Tenmile Wash watershed includes Gibson Arroyo within the community of Ajo and extends from the Pozo Redondo and Batamote mountains in the east across the basin floor to the Little Ajo and Childs mountains in the west. From these headwaters, this watershed then drains northward into Maricopa County. The District has documented numerous flooded homes in Ajo and Why, Arizona. Floods in these areas arrive with little warning and extreme caution is warranted during inclement weather. Flood insurance is highly recommended. This watershed contains 13,199 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 11,763 acres of SFHA, and 182 acres of locally identified floodplains.
Tortolita Fan

The Tortolita Fan watershed includes the Cottonwood, Prospect, Cañada Agua and Hardy washes that drain the southwestern slopes of the Tortolita Mountains. Originating from the Tortolita Mountains and continuing on the relatively gentle slopes of alluvial fans, these washes terminate in the geologic floodplain of the Santa Cruz River. Flood risk in this alluvial fan includes poorly defined washes with the potential for significant changes in flow direction due to flows breaking out of existing channels and continuing downhill via unpredictable new paths. Floods develop quickly and may carry a significant amount of sediment and debris, which may cause damage and further diversions in unpredictable ways. Sheetflow flooding is the dominant type of flooding that affects residents of this area. While sheetflow flooding is generally fairly shallow, it is also very widespread and makes accessing properties difficult. This is especially true due to the prevalence of unmaintained dirt roads. In sheetflow floodplains, it is important to protect your home from flooding and obtain flood insurance, but it is not appropriate to prevent your property from flooding as this makes flooding worse for neighbors. This water-shed contains 8,702 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 21,229 acres of SFHA, and 5,397 acres of locally identified floodplain.

Tortolita Fan Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

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District Needs Identified:
- Explore areas for potential retrofitting using green infrastructure to reduce detention storage volume
- Improve inter-jurisdictional coordination with the Town of Oro Valley and the Town of Marana
- Riparian habitat preservation
- Study Massingale Basin area watersheds
- Work to address issue of sediment placement during road maintenance activities
- Work with responsible parties to address flooded roads

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FMP Website
www.pima.gov/fmp

FMP Dashboard
https://tinyurl.com/2aasy66
The Tucson Mountains watershed drains the eastern slopes of the Tucson Mountains and includes numerous washes that are tributary to the Santa Cruz River. The Tucson Mountains are rocky and have steep canyons that spill out onto alluvial fans before widening further onto the geologic floodplain under natural conditions. Development in low-lying areas is particularly at risk, and residents in these areas are encouraged to obtain flood insurance. All residents of this area should prepare for road closures when water is flowing and plan ahead to find alternative routes.

There have been numerous swift water rescues in this area due to people trying to drive on flooded roads. This watershed contains 5,570 acres of Regulated Riparian Habitat, 4,105 acres of SFHA, and 2,589 acres of locally identified floodplain.

**Tucson Mountains Floodplain Area and Emergency Vehicle Access**

**Emergency Vehicle Access**
- Roads Passable during Major Floods
- Roads Passable during Moderate Storms
- Roads Questionable during Storms
- Highways
- Limbline

**FEMA Flood Zone**
- Special Flood Hazard Area

**Additional Floodplain Information**
- Watered boundaries
- Flooded vegetation
- Debris flows
- Levees

**Land Stewardship**
- Park Land
- State Land
- Private Land
- Urban Wastes

**Roads Passable During Moderate Storms**
- Ajo WY
- Lindo Can Rd
- Mission Rd
- W Az 36

**Roads Passable During Major Floods**
- S Ajo WY
- N Ajo WY
- E Ajo WY
- S McDonald Rd

**District Needs Identified:**
- Conduct detailed mapping of approximate FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas
- Conduct outreach on the availability of private road and drainage easement technical assistance
- Define and map mountain front watersheds, flow corridors, canyon wash floodways, loose soils and alluvial fans
- Develop criteria for site design and infrastructure at major watercourse confluence areas
- Identify existing development at risk from flooding
- Map Mission Wash floodplain
- Provide technical assistance to property owners related to bank restoration
- Riparian habitat preservation
- Work to address issues of sediment placement during road maintenance activities
- Work with responsible parties to address flooded roads

**Floodplain Management Action Plan**

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**FMP Website**
www.pima.gov/fmp

**FMP Dashboard**
https://tinyurl.com/2aasy86

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