

## **RUTHRAUFF BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN**

---

### **PUBLIC SECTOR STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY – STAKEHOLDER MEETING 1**

Prepared by Lori Lantz, Chuck Williams and Evan Canfield (08-01-14)

**LOCATION:** Joel D. Valdez Main Library  
Large Meeting Room in the Basement  
**DATE:** Thursday, July 24, 2014  
**TIME:** 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

#### **PROJECT TEAM**

Evan Canfield, Project Manager, Pima County Regional Flood Control District  
Terry Hendricks, Pima County RFCD  
Akitsu Kimoto, Pima County RFCD  
John Wise, Project Manager Stantec  
Chuck Williams, Stantec  
Sandy Steichen, Stantec  
Lori Lantz, Gordley Group  
Jason Green, City of Tucson Planning & Development Services (PDSD)

#### **ATTENDEES**

John Bernal, Pima County Public Works  
Chris Cawein, Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR)  
Dave Crockett, Flowing Wells Irrigation District  
Pat Eisenberg, City of Tucson Water  
Leslie Ethen, City of Tucson Office of Integrated Planning (OIP)  
Melodee Loyer, City of Tucson Water  
Jim Vogelsberg, City of Tucson PDSP  
James MacAdam, City of Tucson OIP  
Ann Moynihan, Pima County RFCD  
Irene Ogata, City of Tucson OIP  
Robin Raine, Arizona Department of Transportation  
Jason Bahe, Pima County Department of Transportation  
Louis Romero, Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department  
Karin Uhlich, Council Member Ward 3  
Joseph Cuffari, Supervisor District 1 Office  
Bill Zimmerman, Pima County RFCD  
Edward Lopez, City of Tucson Water

#### **BACKGROUND:**

This was the first stakeholder meeting for the Ruthrauff Basin Management plan. The intent of this meeting was to familiarize government sector stakeholders with the purpose, tasks, deliverables and schedule of the plan and to request on-going coordination. Invitations were sent to local government sector stakeholders only. The format was a presentation followed by discussion. The project is being implemented by the Pima County Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) (Evan Canfield, Project Manager) with Stantec as lead consultant (John Wise, Project Manager).

## RUTHRAUFF BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

---

### 1.) *Introductions and Opening Comments*

*Evan Canfield*

### 2.) *Project and Meeting Purpose*

*Chuck Williams*

- Project purpose is to develop a comprehensive flood control program, develop drainage alternatives and provide a balanced multi-objective approach. Produce a report that Pima County and City of Tucson approve and adopt.
- Purpose of today's meeting is to inform stakeholders of the project objectives and overview, receive input from stakeholders and discuss information/data exchange opportunities.

### 3.) *PowerPoint Presentation: Project Overview*

*John Wise, Evan Canfield*

### 4.) *Stakeholder Involvement/Input (Discussion)*

*Chuck Williams*

- Comment: With regard to the 100-year floodplain along Ft. Lowell Road, would this project potentially impact that area as well?
  - Response: No. We considered that, but it is outside the Ruthrauff study area (see attached map). Our original scope of work calls us to address the drainage affected by the improvements along Interstate 10.
- Comment: Are you saying that the water's not flowing north in the same way from that area, so any mitigation to the north is not going to impact anything along the Navajo Wash?
  - Response: That's right. The study boundary is just to the north, just south of Prince Road. Our efforts are focused on the north at this point.
- Comment: You should anticipate a lot of questions from our constituencies in that area about "why not".
- Comment: Are you doing a Flo-2D model on this whole area so you might define some local floodplains? You're just refining that one area, not planning on expanding anything and going through FEMA?
  - Response: That's correct. Within that area, hydrology and hydraulics will be available once that model is done, not just to identify what may be locally administered floodplains, but also information available for design level work.
- Comment: Are you trying to focus on outlets beneath the railroad and I-10 to get to the river?
  - Response: Yes.
- Comment: We are currently relocating some of the utilities for six miles along I-10 in the railroad right-of-way. The crossing locations are pretty fixed. If they need to be slightly larger, that's okay. But if they need to be a whole new location, that's going to be really difficult. As long as you're coordinating with our design team for the drainage, that should work out.
  - Response: Yes. We have been in contact with your project team. Greg Bambauer has given us a lot of good information. We went out and tried to look at every one of those outlets on our site visit.

## RUTHRAUFF BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

---

- Comment: Have you noticed in your examination of the floodplain over time, whether the growth of individual rainwater harvesting had made any difference in the flow?
  - *Response:* The City of Tucson has a Green Streets Policy. We have done a study with Irene Ogata from City of Tucson on the effect of green infrastructure. We don't have an answer yet on the impact; not enough data from storms.
  - *Response:* Watershed Management Group and others have wanted to gauge the effect of water harvesting, but have never been able to find funding for gauging.
  - *Response:* We think the best way to determine this effect is by modeling.
  
- Comment: What are the plans for the area shown in blue at the north of the study map at La Cholla?
  - *Response:* This is a 500-year flood area. At this point the only FEMA map revision is further south on the map, which is in the City.
  - *Response:* Regarding alternatives, the new hydrology and hydraulics information developed from the Flo-2D model, including types of drainage problems that aren't here in the mapped FEMA 100-year flood plain, combined with drainage complaints and stakeholder and citizen input, will help us to develop at least concept-level alternatives that could include pipes, basins, elevations and rainwater harvesting, but it's too early to know exactly what these will be. The Flo-2D model will be the basis for developing these concept-level alternatives.
  
- Comment: Is the intent then to use them as regulatory floodplains?
  - *Response:* The 100-yr floodplains will be used for floodplain management. Only the area downstream of the Flowing Wells wash will have FEMA floodplains. The remainder of the newly-mapped floodplains will be for local regulatory purposes.
  
- Comment: Watershed Management Group is doing a comparison in the Airport Wash watershed of what can be done using vegetative and green infrastructure solutions to address some of the same problems. Can there be some consideration of the costs and benefits of green infrastructure opportunities?
  - *Response:* We met with Watershed Management Group three weeks ago. We talked about a 10% adoption rate of green infrastructure on-site. We're going to try to do this. Other cities are assessing in-street green infrastructure methods using whole areas of right-of-way and open space.
  
- Comment: Can you adopt these policies with public properties? We get a lot of requests within that area because they're the least filled up.
  - *Response:* Yes. We will evaluate those parcel by parcel, working within current requirements.
  
- Comment: I work for Pima County DOT and we designed the Ruthrauff/Flowing Wells La Cholla segment in the 90's. Everyone out there had drainage complaints. It's all sheet flow. Right now the same thing is occurring at the project at La Cholla and Wetmore. The rain event that occurred about a week ago pretty much drowned everybody out there. I'm sure you've considered alternatives to get water off streets into schoolyards and parks.
  - *Response:* We want to make sure that those complaints are in our knowledge base. We have citizen complaints, we have Tucson DOT complaints, and we have your

## RUTHRAUFF BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

---

- records. If we can get more records of drainage complaints, from an alternatives process that information may be valuable.
- *Response:* DOT suggests we contact Dave Cummings, Pima County Division Manager of Operations and Maintenance, who can direct you in obtaining more records of complaints and issues.
- *Comment:* Regarding soils in the A-O-1 zone, are you trying to remap it, does water infiltrate those areas, do you get ponding in the old irrigation channels? Does water sit there for 24 or 48 hours? Are we talking D-type soils? Building basins and rainwater harvesting areas may not actually work because water just sits there.
    - *Response:* There is a lot of clay, unless you can get to the drainable subgrade. Soil amendments can be made.
  - *Comment:* After the heavy rains recently, are you looking at 10- and 25-year floods?
    - *Response:* Yes. We are looking at 10- and 25-year floods, not just 100-year floods.
  - *Comment:* I'm with Pima County Wastewater. What kind of input are you seeking from utilities? It sounds like you're evaluating existing conditions and some flood mapping and some real conceptual recommendations.
    - *Response:* Your agency will be invited to meetings twice, once as a local government agency. The second invitation will be for a utilities meeting in the near future. We will want to compile utility information at key locations, such as where some of your trunk lines are, as we look at those concept alternative solutions. In addition, we want to keep you informed of the project status.

### 5.) Summary/Next Steps

*Chuck Williams*

- A progress meeting is held every month, and you are welcome to attend.
- We will compile and send out a meeting summary soon.
- The Ruthrauff Basin Management Plan Website will begin posting relevant information:
  - <http://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=158694>
- A workgroup meeting is planned for sometime in October, and you will be invited.
- Continued stakeholder coordination will include meeting individually and in small groups.
- We invite anyone who has additional information to send it to the project managers for this project (Evan Canfield [evan.canfield@pima.gov](mailto:evan.canfield@pima.gov) or John Wise [john.wise@stantec.com](mailto:john.wise@stantec.com)).
- Deliverable production is ongoing.

### 6.) Adjourn

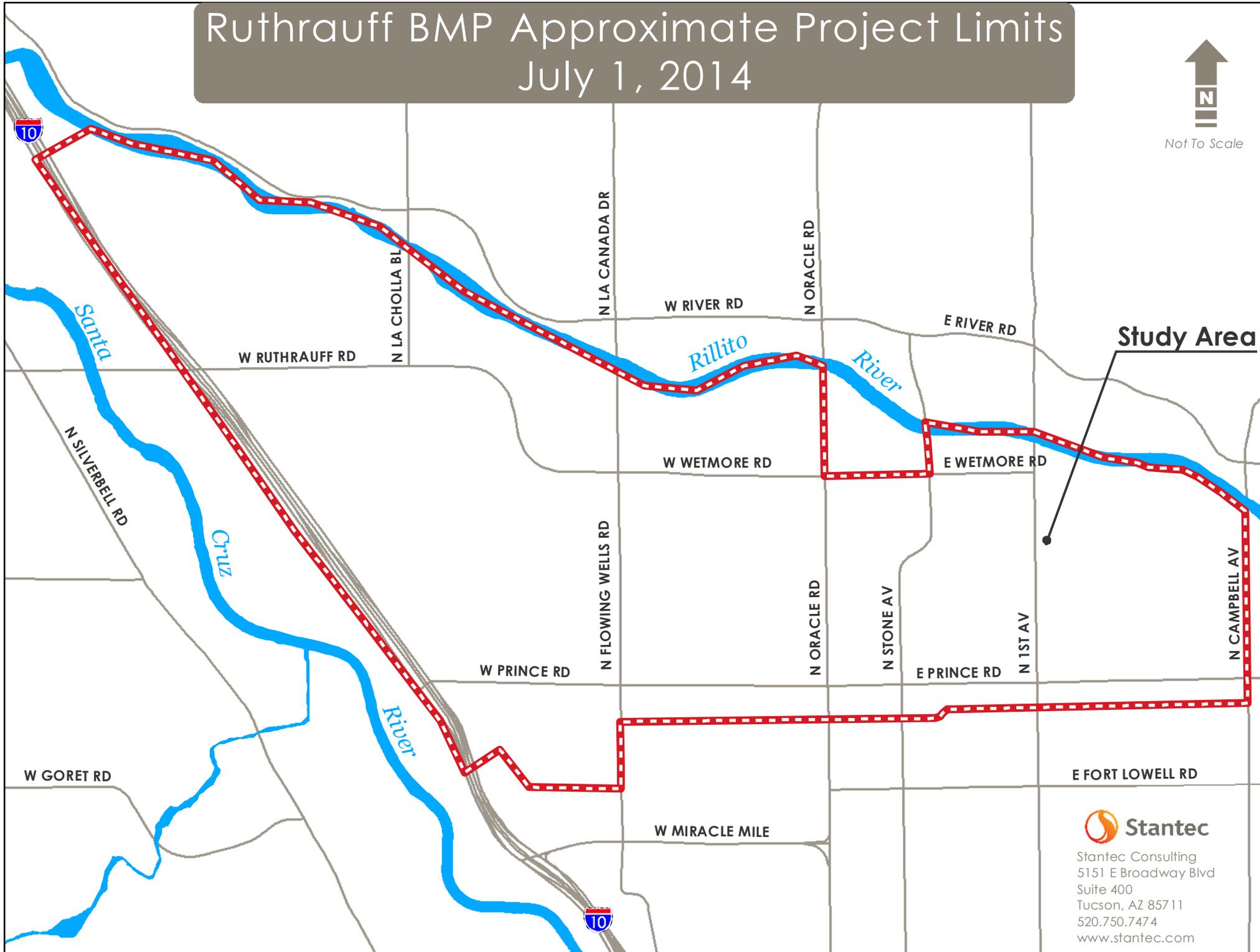
*Evan Canfield*

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

# Ruthrauff BMP Approximate Project Limits July 1, 2014



Not To Scale



**Stantec**  
Stantec Consulting  
5151 E Broadway Blvd  
Suite 400  
Tucson, AZ 85711  
520.750.7474  
www.stantec.com