



October 1, 2016

**Subject: Natural Resources Conservation Service Hydrologic Soils Groups Map within Pima County**

Dear Engineering Community:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) periodically updates the digital soils maps. These updates include changes to the metric used to calculate Hydrologic Soils Groups based on the soil properties within a soil series. NRCS updates their maps by the end of each federal fiscal year (end of September), with revisions being available at the start of the next fiscal year (October 1). In practice, this means that some Hydrologic Soils Groups within Pima County have been changed from their previous classification.

The NRCS Web Soils website presents varying percentages of soil series within a soils map unit, and provides Hydrologic Soils Groups based on the dominant soil series. Alternatively, the Pima County Regional Flood Control District (District) calculates the percentage of each Hydrologic Soils Group in each soils map unit within Pima County. The Hydrologic Soil Groups calculated by the District shall be used for hydrologic modeling; the accepted groups are now shown on MapGuide under 'Hydrologic Soils Groups – NRCS.' Engineers should not use the 'Dominant' Hydrologic Soils Group presented in the Web Soil Survey from NRCS.

Effective October 1, 2016, engineers should use the updated Hydrologic Soils Groups available through the District. If an engineer has previously obtained the Hydrologic Soils Group shape file, it is now obsolete. Please obtain and use the updated Hydrologic Soils Group data. Engineers should not obtain soils data from other sources without ensuring that the District's metric for calculating the Hydrologic Soil Groups has been used, and is presented in the spatial projection used by Pima County.

When submitting hydrologic information and analyses, the District requires that engineers document the source of, and the date of preparation, the Hydrologic Soils Group data they provide. Engineers are responsible for the values used in drainage submittals and floodplain mapping.

Please contact Sandy Steichen, Principal Hydrologist, regarding questions about this update, or please contact Ken Maits, Program Manager, to obtain new shape files; each may be reached at 724-4600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S Shields". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suzanne Shields, P.E.

Director and Chief Engineer

SS/tj

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Suzanne Shields, P.E., Director

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