

**Newspaper Articles 1999-2001, Sand  
and Gravel Companies, Rio Salado,  
Doubletree Ranch, Tempe Town Lake,  
Skunk Creek, West Valley, Monsoon  
Floods, San Tan Corridor, Greenbelt,  
Gilbert, Queen Creek, Mesa, Utery,  
Arlington, etc.**

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0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
1	December 7, 1976	Now for Flood Control	X New Citizen's Committee, Legislature, Financial Support, Flood Control, Maricopa County, Weather, Dry, Maricopa County Citizens Committee for Flood Control Assistance, Established Monday, Board of Supervisors, 1973, Wet Year, Flood Problems, \$61 Million, 15-year Period, Pay, Local Share of Flood Control Works, Planning, Preliminary Work, Federal Government, Divert Funds, Last Flood, 1972, \$10.8 Million, Damages, Economic Losses, Phoenix, High Priority
3	September 30, 1987	Rock Firms to Fight Rio Salado Tax - Association Joins Campaign Against Proposed Levy	X Sand and Gravel Companies, Defeat, Proposed Property Tax, Fund \$3 Billion Rio Salado Project, Maricopa County, Voters, Opposition Group, Citizens for the Project/Against the Tax, Arizona Rock Products Association, Finance, Major Campaign, Two Citizen's Groups, Low-budget Campaigns, Jim Elmore, Rio Salado Development District's Board, John DeWitt, Spokesman, Citizens for Rio Salado, Believes, Front, Sand and Gravel, Protect, Interests, Riverbed, Private Owners Develop Own Land, Condemnation, Ed Belt, Chairman, House Majority Leader Jim Ratliff, Opposes, Countywide Property Tax, 26-mile Park, Salt River, Contracts for Water, Lakes, Streams, Cleanup Costs, Landfills, Treated Effluent From Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Toxic Waste Dumps, Cleaned, Sealed
4	September 30, 1987	Cost Sours Rio Salado for Councilman	X Phoenix City Council, Cleaning Up, Landfills, Salt River, Rio Salado Project, Phoenix Taxpayers, \$1 Billion, Bill Parks, Vote Against Project, Mass Transit, Air Pollution, Aaron Kizer, Director, Rio Salado Development District, Dames and Moore, \$300 Million, District Spend About \$60 Million, Riverbed, Maricopa County Voters, Approve, Property-tax Increase, 26-mile-long Public Park, Residential, Commercial, Development, John DeWitt, Spokesman, Landfill Problem
2	September 9, 1992	\$58 Million Flood Project Proposed	X \$58 Million Plan, Drainage Channels, Storm Flooding, Central Arizona Project, City Planners, CAP Aqueduct, Dynamite Road, Flood Prone, Federal Government, Construction, Channels, Divert Storm Runoff, 13 Square Miles, Scottsdale, Flood Plain, Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, Flood-prone Areas, AO Zones, Storm-water Flows, More than Foot Deep, Building, Mapped Area, Precautions, Raising Building Pads, Flood Levels, Purchase Flood Insurance, Three Channels, Contain Storm Water, Eliminate, AO Designations, Desert Greenbelt, Natural Washes, Jogging Paths, Parks, \$25 Million Reata/Beardsley Channel, Pima Road, Pinnacle Peak Road, McDowell Mountains, 96th Street, CAP Detention Basins, Side Channel, 104th Street, Bell Road Alignment, \$20 Million Pima Road Channel, Floodwaters, Jomax Road, Retention Basin, Pima and Union Hills Drive, \$13 Million Rawhide Channel, Los Portones, Scottsdale Road, Rawhide Channel, Public Meeting, Channel Plans, Scottsdale Planning Commission, Scottsdale City Council, Construction, Extensive Channel System, Parks and Amenities, Outer Loop Freeway, Scottsdale Has \$20 Million, 1989 Bond Program, Landowners, Maricopa County Flood Control District, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Arizona Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Restore Washes, <u>Natural Appearance, Construct Channels, Build Bridges, Eliminate Street Flooding</u>
5	December 23, 1998	Doubletree Project Has Lost Focus of Original Intent	X Doubletree Ranch Road Drainage Project, Criticism, Flood Control District, Engineers, Cherokee Wash/Riggs Subdivision, Nothing, Alter, Cherokee Wash, 10-year Flood, Lateral on 52nd Street, Town Engineer Bill Mead, FCD Engineer, Nothing for Riggs Area, Town Council, 60-percent Design Factor, Taxpayers, Maricopa County, Pay for Road Improvement, Utility Undergrounding, Shut Out, Meeting, Town Manager Tom Martinsen, Issues, Alternatives, Drainage Control, Beautification, Councilman Bill Williams, Recreation Path, Lincoln Drive, Liz Clendenin, Government
8	January 27, 1999	Residents 'Flooded' With Concern	X Doubletree Ranch Road, Floods, Water In Yards, On Property, Tatum Boulevard, 5-foot by 5-foot Pipes, Dig 15-foot by 15-foot Trench, Ditch Deeper, Wider
7	July 10, 1999	Unfinished Flood-Control Projects Save Lives - Las Vegas, Valley Systems Similar	X \$1.4 Billion Flood-control Program, Won't Be Finished, Still Saved Lives, Gambling Capital, 3 Inches of Rain, Maricopa County's Network, Flood Control Channels, Dams, Detention Basins, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Control More Floodwaters, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Created by State, 40 Years Ago, Regional Flood Control Plan, Property Tax Revenue, Maintains 23 Dams, 50 Miles of Underground Channels, Floodwater, 30 Other Projects, Basic Drainage Improvements, Environmental Restoration, Salt River, Interstate 10 Bridge, 19th Avenue, City of Phoenix, Storm-drain Improvements, Clear Streets of Fast-rising Water, Arcadia Area, 40th to 64th Streets, Camelback Road, Add Storm Drains, 4-square-mile Area, Construction, Indian Bend Wash, Scottsdale, Army Corps of Engineers, 100-year Flood, Natural Flood Plain, Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, Two Deaths, Flash Floods, Sucked Up Cars, Destroyed Mobil Homes, Invaded Casino, Businesses, Homes, Rescued 163 People, Raging Waters, Helicopter, Gale Fraser, General Manager, Clark County Regional Flood Control District, 30 Massive Flood Detention Basins, 10 Acres to 80 Acres, 400 Acre-feet of Water, Pouring Off Mountains, Empty Into Lake
9	July 15, 1999	Tempe Town Lake is Full, But Vision is Far From Reality (& Picture & Map)	X Tempe Waterfall, \$44.8 Million Project, Tempe's Town Lake, Filled Up, Spilling Over Dams, Salt River, 19-foot Waterfall, Tests Need to be Conducted, Grand Plans, Develop, Area, Tedi Klein, Full Lake, Boat Permits, Recreational Use, Rio Salado Project, Development, Building a Park, Footpath, Bicycle, In-line Skating, Grass, Plants, Trees, Commercial Buildings, 150 Feet Away, Mary Fowler, Marketing Director, Construction, First Phase
10	July 15, 1999	Rescues In the Rain - 2 Storms Collide, Swamping Valley (& Picture & Map)	X Desert Downpour, Trapped Motorists, Swollen Washes, Collapsed Mobil Home, Shut Down Sky Harbor International Airport, Swamped, Valley Roads, Storm, Southwest, Rammed, One Approaching from Northwest, 1.24 Inches of Rain, Sky Harbor, Triple Previous Record, July 14, 1942, Drenching, Phoenix, Rainfall, Bill Estle, National Weather Service, Charles R. Varca, Pickup Truck, Swept Down Wash, 40th Street, Paradise Valley, Stanford Drive, Maricopa County Sheriff's Helicopter, Police Chief John Wintersteen, South Phoenix

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11	July 15, 1999	Several Saved as Gullies Fill	X Monsoon, Charles R. Varca, Maricopa County Sheriff's Helicopter, Cross Roiling Arroyo, 40th Street, Paradise Valley, Monsoon Storms, Chandis Ingenthron, Phoenix, Water, Bubbling Up, Hood
20	July 22, 1999	Future of County Flood Control Will be Different Land Condemnation Will Increase as Officials Deal with Growth (& Picture)	X Maricopa County's Population, Future of Flood Control, Mike Ellegood, General Manager, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Keep People Out of Flood-prone Areas, Drainage Washes, Natural State, Agricultural, Underdeveloped Lands, Good Planning, Construction, Flood Control Infrastructure, Property Owners, Development Rights, Condemn Property, Flood Losses, Preserving, Watercourses, Parks, Golf Courses, Sand and Gravel Operations, Elevating, Floors, Flood Hazard Area
12	August 10, 1999	Desert Wash - Proposed Recreational Corridor Transcends West Valley (& Picture)	X West Valley Recreational Corridor, Proposed 47-mile Park, Avondale, New River, Agua Fria Riverbeds, John Long, Project Manager, Avondale, Phoenix, Glendale, Peoria Schoolchildren, Plant Trees, Now-dry Riverbeds, John's Brainchild, Less-urban Vision, Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash, Bicycle, Horse Paths, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Sand and Gravel Businesses, More Desert, Sun City, Sun City West, Paths for Golf Carts, Linear Park, Rural, Pasajes del Rio, \$1 Million Per Mile, Riparian Habitat, Land Acquisition Costs, Planned Environmental Corridor, Tim Barnard, Peoria Parks and Recreation Management Assistant, 10-foot Wide Paved Trail, Federal Grants, Jim Burke, Phoenix Parks Recreation and Library Deputy Director, Conform to Laws, Clean-up Costs, Breeding Ground for Debris, Illegal Activity, Riverbeds, Bridge Column, Graffiti, Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Carsten and Burgess, Deign Firm, El Mirage, Youngtown, Jay Hicks, Cost Factors, To Be Determined, Audubon Society, Funding, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors,
13	August 13, 1999	Big, Ugly Monster' Keeping Homes Dry as... Valley Tames Monsoon Floods (& Pictures & Map)	X Monsoon Storms, Curbside Puddle, Flood-control Projects, Maricopa County Flood Control District, 80 Major Dams, Ditches, Drains, 2 Inches of Rain, Valley, July 14 and 15, Twenty Years Ago, Residents, Wading, Streets, Sandbagging Doors, Flood Control District's 200 Member Staff, 40th Anniversary, Weather-proofs, Developed Landscape, Former Mayor Margaret Hance, Critics, Arizona Canal Diversion Channel, 1976, Big Ugly Monster, AC-DC, 17-mile Concrete Ditch, 25 Years, \$300 Million to Complete, Collects Water, Streets, Washes, Arizona Canal, 40th Street, Peoria, Major Reason, Older Portions of Phoenix, No Longer Flood, Herb Donaldson, Retired General Manager, Floods, 19th Avenue, Cave Creek, Flow, State Capitol Basement, Scorn, Subsided, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wrought-iron Fences, Bicycle Paths, Mesquite Trees, Recreation Area, Flows Into Skunk Creek, Salt River Valley's Newcomers, Surprised, Desert Flash Floods, Rain, Washes, Creeks, Rivers Swell, Monsoon Driven Storm Runoff, Mountain Snowmelt, Watershed, Gila River, Colorado, Gulf of California, Clogged, Agriculture, Urban Growth, Wire Cages with Rocks, Bolster Edge of Flash-flood Area, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Bank-protection, Protect Homes, Landscaped Ditch, Recreation, Animal Habitat, Future of Flood Control, Maryvale Developer, John F. Long, Future, Avondale, Phoenix, Glendale, Peoria, West Valley Recreational Corridor, Estrella Mountain Park, Lake Pleasant, 40 Miles of Trails, Sports Fields, Parks, Flood-protected Agua Fria, New River, Skunk Creek, Salt River, Rio Salado Improvements, Early Years, Major Dams, Concrete-lined Diversions, State and Federal Flood Control Agencies, Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash, Greenbelt, Long, Lush Playground, Cement Heads, Don Steuter, Valley Conservation Chairman, Sierra Club, Building in Floodplain, Landowners, Attorney Larry Lazarus, 120 Commercial Acres, Phoenix's North Black Canyon, Property Value, Overfill Washes, Protect Scottsdale Road, Marcita Ryon, Protesting Homeowners, Pinnacle Peak, Cynthia Lester, Environmental Study, Washes Blocked by Canal Banks, Chocked by Roads, Mother Nature, 1891, Salt River Floated Pigs Away, People Clinging to Trees, Southern Avenue, Van Buren Street, , 1921, 1933, 1943, 1951, Act of Congress, Federal Flood Insurance Act of 1956, 1959 Arizona Legislature Approved Flood-control District, Began Operating August 15, 1959, Project's Sparked in 1972, Late June Monsoon Storm, Cudia City Wash, Over the Top, Inundating 34 Homes, 40th Street and Camelback Road, \$10.6 Million in Damages, Massive Floods in 1978, 1979, 1980, Two Bridges, Central Arizona Project,
14	August 13, 1999	Check District Before Buying	X Maricopa County Flood Control District, Chuck Feuquay, Inspection, Permit Manager, Laser Levels, Concrete Floors, Foot Above Flood Plains, 150 Complains a Year, Neighbor Flooded, Unincorporated, Problem, Level, Drainage Features, Wash, Enter, Exit, Same Flow Rate, Doesn't' Affect Adjoining Property, Overgrown Mesquite Trees, Cactus, Rains, Desert Hideaway, Float Away, Contact, Government Agencies
16	August 20, 1999	U.S. Funds Will Help Beautify Dry Salt (& Map)	X Planting, Native Vegetation, Picnic Ramadas, Walking Paths, Beautify, Dry Stretch, Salt River, Tempe's Town Lake, Federal Government, President Clinton, Water Resources Development Act, Army Corps of Engineers, Rio Salado Habitat, \$4.2 Million Federal Funding, Upstream Dam, Town Lake, McKellips Road, Rep. Ed Pastor, Allocate Money, Restoration, Mayor Neil Giuliano, Desert Green, 30 Acres, Mesquite, 20 Acres, Cottonwood, Willow, 16 Acres Wetland Marsh, 50 Acres, Aquatic Strand, 30 Acres, Open Edges

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15	September 1, 1999	Agency to Channel Water Flow in Mesa	X Rains, Desert, Pours, Floods, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Protect, East Mesa, Potential Destruction, Monsoons, East Mesa Area Drainage Master Plan, University Drive, Meridian Road, Queen Creek Road, Power Road, ADMP, \$130 Million, Potential Projects, Tim Phillips, Senior Project Manager, Ellsworth Channel, Elliot Road Detention Basin and Outflow Channel, Ellsworth Channel Collects, Storm Run-off, Pecos Road, Discharge, Water, Powerline Floodway, Elliot Road Detention Basin, Crismon and Elliot, General Motor Proving Ground, Natural Wash, Used as a Park, Kinder, Gentler Flood Control, Joe Munoz, Public Information Officer, Multi-use, Mesa, Maricopa Department of Transportation, Funds, Space, Location, Concrete Channel, Two East Mesa ADMP Projects, Rapid Growth, Development, Lower Spook Hill, Signal Butte Areas, Protect, Public, Water, Homes, Flash Floods, Motorists Stranded, Water Acts Differently, Consistent Rainfall, Watershed Area, Storm, Dry Ground, Runs Off, Opposed to Soaking In, Warning Signs, Inch of Water, Car, Hydroplane, Washes and Creeks, Upstream,
17	September 15, 1999	Panel Studies Link in Planned Trail Corridor	X Web of Trail Systems, West Valley, Maricopa County Trail Commission, McMicken Dam Corridor, Link, White Tank Mountains Regional Park, West Valley Recreation Corridor, McMicken Dam, Built, 1950s, Protect Luke Air Force Base, Floods, Flood Control Landscape Planner Dennis Holcomb, Report, Feasibility, Benefits, Constraints, Open Space System, Supervisor Jan Brewer, Recreation Trails, Present Conditions, Hiking, Bicycling, Equestrian Uses, Protect, Natural Habitat, Wildlife, Mountain Lions, Migrate, Mountain Ranges, Funding, Intergovernmental Agreements, City of Surprise, Private Owners, Groundwater Recharge, Park Facility, County Board of Supervisors
18	September 15, 1999	Town's New Flood Plan Most Advanced In Country	X Flooding, Wickenburg, Flood Control, Maricopa County, Installed, 28 Flood Monitoring Devices, Wickenburg Area, Hassayampa River Watershed, Historically, Large Amounts of Property Damage, Past 100-plus Years, 100-year Flood, Hurricane Norma, 1970, Mike Ellegood, General Manager, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Topography, More Weather, Hilly Terrain, Hurricane Norma, October 1977, Checked Facilities, Cleaned Out Ditches, Police Department, Warning, Storm, Aguila, Wenden, Salome, 3.7 Inches of Precipitation, Cave Creek, Scottsdale, Nora, Not Quite 100-year Flood, Steve Waters, Senior Hydrologist, Dam, Break, La Paz County, Centennial Narrows Broke, Huge Wall, Brown Water, Pouring Over Fissure, Ground Shaking, Vibrating, Big Sheaths of Earth Fell Off Dam, Agriculture, Unobstructed Flow, I-10, Salome-Buckeye Road, Built, Army Corps of Engineers, 1930s, Turned Over, Local Farmer, Not Maintained, Flood Response Plan, Valley Communities, Flood Control Plan, Glendale and Scottsdale, Fountain Hills Next Year, Maricopa County's Flood Control District, Second Only, Tennessee Valley Authority In Size, Flood-prone Areas, 1992, Yavapai County, Creation, Casandra Wash Dam, Mariposa Street, Third Dam, Sunnycove, Sunset Dams, Built, 1960s, Nine Major Washes, Powder House, Sunset, Sunnycove,
19	September 24, 1999	Another Day, Another Deluge (Deluge: MARC Center Closed After 'Waterfalls') (& Pictures)	X Rainstorm, East Valley, Flooding Streets, Backing Up Traffic, \$80,000 Damages, Roof, Collapsed, Storm, Third in a Week, Drenched, Mesa, Chandler and Tempe, Little or No Precipitation, Flooding, Weather-related Accident, U.S. 60, MARC Center, Rain Cascaded Like Waterfalls Into Building, Janey Durham, Rainfall Totals, Brown Road and Horne .84, Broadway and Dobson Roads .79, Falcon Field .2, Tempe .15, Arizona State University and Queen Creek Landfill .35, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Chandler, 6.61 Year Total at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, Phoenix, Doug Green, Forecaster, National Weather Service, Downpour, Mesa City Council, Red Cross, Relief Efforts, Last Weekend's Storm, Mayor Wayne Brown, Arizona Community Foundation, United Way, Lions Club, Pat Pomeroy, Councilman Keno Hawker, Meals, Food, Shelter, Sixteen Homes Destroyed, Microburst, Damage, \$25 Million to \$30 Million
22	September 24, 1999	World War II 'Value Engineering' Still Cuts Construction Costs, Time	X Maricopa County Flood Control District, Inspired, World War II Material Shortages, Government Agency, Value Engineering, Cutting Time, Cost, Construction Projects, Scot Schlund, Principal, Water Resource Division, Stantec Consulting, Phoenix, Define, Scope of Work, Teamwork, Lawrence Miles, 1960s, Manufacturers, Engineers, Materials, War Effort, Make Due, Barebones Requirements, Involve Contractors, Planning Stages, All Parties, Design Process, Eliminate Misunderstandings, North Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan, Geza Kmetty, Phoenix Consultant
21	October 8, 1999	Bed Check - Skunk Creek Bed Improvements Could Protect Hundreds of Homes (& Pictures)	X \$8.5 Million Project, Deepen, Widen, Skunk Creek, Link, Glendale Parks, Homes, Out of Floodplain, Kris Baxter, Spokeswoman, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Flood Insurance, Structural Damage, Duke Yager, Construction Manager, 51st and 75th Avenues, Union Hills Drive and Bell Road, Interlocking Basket of Rocks, Gabions, Creek Bed, Smoothed-out Concrete Material, Keeps Silt, Built Up, Smooth Bottom, Debris from Sticking, Gabions are Buried, Aesthetic, Practical Reasons, Native Project Plant Seeds, Thin Mat of Hay, Dirt Excavated from Creek, Erosion, Deteriorating, Washing Away, Non-intrusive, Environmentally Friendly Way, County Supervisor Jan Brewer, Banks, Plant Trees, Shirley Medler, Glendale Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Foliage, Dual-material Path, Softer Side, Horses, Harder Side, Bicyclists, Joggers, Connect Three Anchor Parks, Foothills, Arrowhead Meadows, Greenbrier, Carmel Park, Shady Characters, Homeless Man,

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24	October 10, 1999	Costly Recreation Corridor Wins Early Support - Dream Would Turn 47 Miles of Riverbed Into Playground (& Map)	X West Valley, 47 Miles of Riverbed, Multi-use Recreational Corridor, Valley Developer, John F. Long, Interlinking System of Pathways, Hiking, Equestrian Trails, Parks, Wildlife Preserve, Agua Fria, New Rivers, Shared by State, County, City Officials, Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer, Diane McCarthy, President, Western Maricopa Coalition, Arizona Secretary of State Betsy Bayless, Chief Engineer, General Manager Mike Ellegood, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Gila River, Lake Pleasant, Camelback Road, New River to Circle Mountain Road, Avondale, El Mirage, Peoria, Glendale, Surprise, Phoenix, Maricopa County Association of Governments (MAG), City of Scottsdale, Indian Bend Wash, Seven Miles, Greenbelt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Scottsdale Corridor, Request, Devastating Floods, Riverbed Projects, Avondale Assistant City Manager Rueben Duran, Wetland, Crystal Gardens Residential Development, McDowell Road, Coldwater Park, Buckeye Road, Kaizu Park, McDowell Road, Tres Rios Greenway Project, Confluence of Gila, Salt and Agua Fria Rivers, Open Pit Sand and Gravel Companies, Calmat, Indian School Road, Gun Enthusiasts, Off-road Vehicle Drivers, Jay Hicks, Associate, Carter and Burgess Consulting Engineering Firm, How to Police, Patrol Area, Flood Control District Owns 45 Percent of Land Aligning River Beds
23	October 13, 1999	City Park is Next Skunk Creek Project - County Near End of Flood Work; Rec Site Planned (& Picture)	X Skunk Creek, Dirt, Rocks, Bottom, Waterway, Voracious Floodwaters, Creek Bigger, Stronger, \$8 Million Flood Control Project, Glendale, Massive Park Project, Widened Creek, Banks, Recreational, Paved Trails, Skate Park, Multigenerational Center, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, 51st Avenue and Union Hills Drive, 75th Avenue and Bell Road, Contractor, Blattner Constructors/Miners, Removing Trees, Brush, Garbage, Creek Bed, Homeless People, Kris Baxter, Spokeswoman, Loincloth, Widening, Deepening, Tributary, Dirt, Rock, Excavated, 3-mile-long Stretch, Wire Crates, Gabions, Lined Sides, Natural Appearance, Resistant to Erosion, 100-year Flood, 1 Percent Chance, Glendale Residents, Creek's Banks, Homeowner, Flood Insurance, Floodplain, Federal Government, Coverage Dropped, Duke Yager, Construction Manager, Reseeding, Natural Vegetation, Regional Park, Horse Trails, Paved Walking, Biking Paths, Benches, Drinking Fountains, Shaded Rest Areas, 56th and 59th Avenues, Foothills Park, Skate Park, Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Sand Volley Ball Court, Restrooms, Picnic Areas, Playground Equipment, Parking, Shirley Medler, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, Teens, Youths, Seniors
26	October 13, 1999	Park is Next Skunk Creek Project - County Nears End of Flood Control Job; City Plans Rec Site (& Picture & Map)	X Skunk Creek, Scraping, Scooping, Dirt, Rocks, Bottom, Waterway, Voracious Floodwaters, Creek Bigger, Stronger, \$8 Million Flood-control Project, Glendale, Massive Park Project, Recreational Wonderland, Paved Trails, Skate Park, Multigenerational Center, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, 51st Avenue and Union Hills Drive, 75th Avenue and Bell Road, Contractor, Blattner Constructors/Miners, Removing Trees, Brush, Garbage, Homeless People, Tall Wire Crates, Fast Moving Floodwater, Kris Baxter, Spokeswoman, Gentleman, Wore, Loincloth, Excavated, 3-mile-long Stretch, Gabions, Line Sides, Natural Appearance, Resistant to Erosion, 100-year Flood, 1 Percent Chance, Homeowners, Flood Insurance, Homes, Floodplain, Federal Government, Duke Yager, Construction Manager, Reseeding Creek, Natural Vegetation, Water Flows, Regional Park, Horse Trails, Paved Walking, Biking Paths, Benches, Drinking Fountains, Shaded Rest Areas, 56th and 59th Avenues, Foothills Park, Skate Park, Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Sand Volleyball Court, Restrooms, Picnic Areas, Playground Equipment, Parking, Shirley Medler, North District Parks and Recreation Superintendent
25	October 15, 1999	Series of Flood Basins Nearing Completion - Neighborhoods on Grand Avenue Will Gain Protection, Park Sites (& Map)	X Retention Basins, Northwest Valley, Floodwaters, Out of Neighborhoods, Off Grand Avenue, State Department of Transportation, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Water-retention Basins, 71st Avenue and Orangewood, 63rd and Northern Avenues, Construction, Third Basin, 85th and Northern Avenues, Three Basins, Connected, Series of Pipes, New River, Water, Heavy Storms, Dumped, Tom Johnson, Deputy Chief Engineer, Storm Pipes, 43rd to 91st Avenues, Camelback to Thunderbird Roads, \$17 Million, Valley Residents, High, Dry, Server Storms, Joe Munoz, Spokesman, 10-year Flood, 10 Percent Chance, Given Year, Concerns, Mosquito Problem, Standing Water, Breeding Ground
28	October 20, 1999	Pecos/I-10 Work Moving Slowly, But Moving	X Mayor Skip Rimza, Pecos Parkway to I-10, City Council, City Manager, Intergovernmental Agreement, Bill Hayden, Arizona Department of Transportation, City of Phoenix, Maricopa County Flood Control District, ADOT, Gila River Indian Community, Engineering, Financial, Floodwater, Community Land, Water Retention Basin, Pecos Park, Drainage, 48th Street, Flood Water, 48th and Chandler Boulevard, Sprinkles, Run Off Freeway, Gila Community, Gila River, Maricopa County, Phoenix Park's Department, Ahwatukee Foothills Resident, Construction, \$800,000, Design Phase
27	October 22, 1999	County Calls River Project 'Feasible'	X Officials, Four Cities, Maricopa County, West Valley Recreation Corridor, Feasibility Study, Design Concept Report, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Maricopa County Association of Governments, 47-mile Riverbed Park, Phoenix, Glendale, Peoria, Avondale, Valley Developer John F. Long, Agua Fria and New River Bottoms, Bike Trails, Equestrian Paths, Lake Pleasant, Land, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Michael Ellegood, Chief Engineer and General Manager, First Dig Channel, Control, Flow, Water, Trees, Paths, Installed, Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer, \$2.5 Million for Channelization, Long, Daughter Tot Long, CAP Water Project, Glendale Councilman Jim McAllister

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30	October 22, 1999	Huge Rec Plan is Unveiled for W. Valley - 47-Mile-Long Project to Use River Channels - Opinions Plentiful for Rec Corridor	X Trash-strewn, Overgrown Channels, Muddy Water, Rains, Agua Fria and New Rivers, West Valley's Signature Landmark, West Valley Recreation Corridor, Flood Control Structures, Trails, Parks, Wildlife Habitats, 47 Miles, Natural Waterways, Lake Pleasant, Gila River, Maricopa County, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Avondale, El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix, Youngtown, Private Developers, Diane McCarthy, President, Westmarc, County Supervisor Jan Brewer, Instead of Huge, Ugly Concrete Flood Control Channels, Gravel Access Roads, Trails, Riverbeds, Flood Channels, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Hiking, Horse Trails, Valley Developer John F. Long, Confluence, Master-planned Community of Maryvale, Indian Bend Wash Flood Control Channel, Scottsdale, Economic Development, Jim Hicks, Produce Corridor Study, Consultants Carter and Burgess, Avondale, 1990 Land-use Plan, Assistant City Manager Ruben Duran, Phoenix, Link Up, Jim Burke, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Camelback Ranch Park, Sonoran Preserve, 20,000-acre Park, Bond Approved By Voters, Glendale and Peoria, Connect Proposed Trails, Regional Corridor, Skunk Creek, Warren Smith, City's Leisure Services Director, Thunderbird Paseo Park, Grand Canal, Approve Funding, Bond Issues, Nov. 2 Ballot - Regional, Five Canals, Environmental Education, New, Restored Riparian, Wildlife Habitat Areas, Water Recharge Basins, Reclamation, Sand and Gravel Operation Sites, Regional Parks, Trailheads, Street Intersections, Underpass
29	November 15, 1999	26-Mile Floodway Could be Developed as Recreation Area	X East Maricopa Floodway, Mesa, Greenfield and Brown, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Public Equestrian, Walking, Bicycling, Alternative Transportation Corridor, Michael S. Ellegood, Chief Engineer and General Manager, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Environment, Arizona, Maricopa County, Joe Munoz, Public Information Officer, City, Town, County, State Officials, Support, 60 to 200-foot-wide Earthen Floodway, Recreation Area, Superstition-San Tan Corridor, Marathon Trail, Gila River, Soil Conservation Service, Roosevelt Water Conservation District Floodway, 1980-89, Flood Hazards, Roosevelt Water Conservation District Canal, Supplies Irrigation Water, Channel Improvements, Basins, Mesa City Councilman Jim Davidson, East Valley, Town of Gilbert Mayor Cynthia Dunham, Maricopa County Supervisor Don Stapley, Maricopa County Supervisor Fulton Brock, Salt River, Newsletters, Open Houses, Public Meetings, Tim Phillips
6	November 17, 1999	Long's Dream Provides Chance for Westside's Identifying Mark	X Developer's, West Valley, Residential, Commercial Development, Valley, Tolleson, Avondale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Buckeye, Southwest Valley, Maryvale Stadium, John F. Long, 47 Miles of Riverbed, Winding Park, Paths, Hiking Trails, Horse Trails, Wildlife Preserves, Equestrian, Fields, Baseball, Football, Skateboard Park, Phoenix, West Valley Recreation Corridor, Gila River, Agua Fria, Lake Pleasant, Camelback Road, New River, Circle Mountain Road, El Mirage, Peoria, Glendale, Surprise, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Maricopa County Association of Governments, Private Entities, \$300,00 a
31	November 17, 1999	Trail : Cities Have Yet to Pledge Cash Support (& Map)	X \$40 Million Expansion, Floodway's Capacity, Development, Growth, Current System Undersized, Tim Phillips, District's Senior Project Manager, \$32 Million, Plant Landscaping, Create Trails, Not Authorized, Build, Maintain Park Facilities, Michael Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Police Protection, Maintenance Costs, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Other County Agencies, Five-year Parks Plan, Marathon Trail, County Parks Department, Underfunded, Collins/Pina Consulting Engineers, \$250,000 Study, East Valley, Board of Supervisors Chairman Fulton Brock, Flood Control Ditch, Purchasing the Land, Flood District, Owns, 26-mile Floodway, Convert Local Canals, Park-like Settings, \$400 Million Mesa Bond Election, Next Year, Queen Creek, Town's Rural Character, Art and Marge Morefield, Bikes, Mores Accessible, Input, Public Hearings
32	November 17, 1999	Marathon Trail on E.V. Ditch Studied - Officials Look at Ways to Enhance Floodway	X East Valley Leaders, 26-mile Long Flood Control Ditch, Recreational Centerpiece, Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash, Superstition-Santan Corridor and Marathon Trail, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Larger 240-mile Valleywide Hiking, Equestrian, Biking Trail System, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Dirt Channel, Sports Mecca, Farmers Stands, Bike Rentals, County Supervisor Don Stapley, Floodway Park, Indian Bend Wash Greenbelt, Dusty Flood Channel, Manmade Lakes, Athletic Fields, Paths, Biking, Running, In-line Skating
33	November 17, 1999	County Pushing to Turn Floodway Into Trail, Park (& Map)	X Maricopa County Officials, 26-mile Floodway, Recreational Trail, Park, East Valley, County's Flood Control District, Build Basins, Improve Drainage, Tear Down Fencing, Chief Engineer Michael Ellegood, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Gila River, 200 Feet Wide, 8 to 12 Feet Deep, West Valley's Agua Fria and New Rivers, Big Question, How to Pay for It, Horse, Bicycle Trail Park, East Maricopa Flood Way, Superstition-Santan Corridor and Marathon Trail

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35	November 25, 1999	Enhancing the Floodway - East Valley Plans for Massive Recreation Site (& Picture)	X Michael Ellegood, Flood Control, Aesthetic Turn, Not, Build, Concrete Channels, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Environment, Habitat, East Valley Cities, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, 26-mile Portion, East Maricopa Floodway, Multi-use Recreational Area, Superstition-San Tan Corridor, Expand, Floodway, Compacted-earth Channel, Excess Rainwater, Major Storms, Gila River, Pinal County, Rapid Growth, Enlarging Detention Basins, Jerry Collins, Collins-Pina Consulting Engineers, Recreational Corridor, Superstition Springs Mall, Williams Gateway (Airport), Superstition-San Tan Corridor, Thomas Road, Hunt Highway, Greenfield Road, Power Road, Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash, Fulton Brock, County Supervisor and Chairman, Board of Directors, Concrete Ditches, Albuquerque, Los Angeles, Tucson, Flood-control Asset of Southwest, Desert Feel, Intergovernmental Agreement, Improve, Maintain, Rio Salado, Tempe, ASU, County, Councils, Legislators, Funding Priorities, SRP Canals, City Councilman Jim Davidson, Federal Matching Funds, State Grant Money, Public Involvement, Old Cross Cut Canal, 48th Street, East Phoenix, 1997, District Buried Irrigation Canal, McDowell Road and Indian School Road, Two-mile Linear Park, Covered Canal, Landscape, Thomas Road and Indian School, Homeowners Association, Raised \$20,000, Commemorative Bricks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Master-planning, Watershed, Water Course, Flood Hazard
34	December 1, 1999	Combined Projects Save \$1 Million (& Picture)	X Three Major Construction Projects, Goodyear, Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County Supervisor, Maricopa County Department of Transportation, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Estrella Parkway, Bullard Wash, Landscaping, Recreation Area, Holistic Approach, Gila River to Lower Buckeye Road, Yuma Road, McDowell Road, County Route 85, Transporting Excavated Dirt, Bike Riders, Pedestrians, Equestrians, Path, 2.5 Mile Length, Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Widening, Wash, Open Corridor, City Manager Stephen Cleveland, Save Money, Flood Insurance, Contain Waters, 100-year Flood, City Hall, 40 Acres, Bus Hubs, Needed Signal Lights, Fred Fuller, Project Manager, Rock Foundation
36	December 1, 1999	Recreation Corridor, Trail Through E. Valley Proposed (& Map)	X 26-mile Floodway, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Chandler Heights, Recreation Space, East Valley Residents, Recreation Corridor, Hikers, Bicyclists, Horseback Riders, District of Maricopa County Flood Control, New Name, Former East Maricopa Floodway, Completed, 1989, Superstition-San Tan Corridor and Marathon Trail, Parks, Equestrian Trails, Bike Paths, Maricopa County Supervisor Fulton Brock, Princess Basin, Brown Road, Hunt Highway, Pinal County, Gila River, State Route 93, Interstate 10, Compacted Earth Channel, 200 Feet Wide, 12 Feet Deep, Soil Conservation Service, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Undersized, Absorbs Less Water, Study, Collins-Pina Consulting Engineers, Identify Solutions, Channel Improvements, Detention Basins, 230-acres Site, Chandler Heights and Higley Roads, Mike Ellegood, P.E. General Manager and Chief Engineer, Aesthetic Effect, Landscaped, Preserving Open Space, Town of Queen Creek's Plan, Queen Creek Mayor Mark Schnepf, Tim Phillips, Senior Project Manager
39	December 6, 1999	Park Idea Makes Great Sense	X County Supervisors Don Stapley, Fulton Brock, East Valley, 26-mile-long Drainage Ditch, Park, Scottsdale, Indian Bend Wash, East Valley Drainage Ditch, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Constructed, County's Flood-control District, Expanded, Increase, Runoff, Development, Open Space, Alarming Rate, Land, Public Use, East Maricopa Floodway, Superstition-San Tan Corridor and Marathon Trail, Landscaping, Sports Facilities, Park-like Recreational Amenities, Linear Parks, Built, Planned Around Waterways, Criss-cross Valley, Vacant Land
38	December 8, 1999	Floodway Plan Offers Town 230-Acre Park (& Map)	X Improvements, Floodway, East Valley, Regional Recreation Facility, Gilbert, Town Officials, Park Developed, Funding, 230-acre Park, 26-mile Superstition-San Tan Corridor and Marathon Trail, East Maricopa Floodway, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Brown and Greenfield Roads, 200-foot Wide Channel, Maricopa-Pinal County, Hunt Highway, Gila River, Gila River Indian Community, Town of Gilbert, Compacted-earth Channel, June 1989, Protect Watershed, Prevent Flooding, Building Boom, Changed Way, Monsoon, Winter Rainwater Flows, Land, Under Concrete, Kris Baxter, Public Information Officer, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Augment the Floodway, Used to Sink, Ground, Public Hearings, Engineers, Designed Structures, Stop Flooding, Mike Ellegood, General Manager, Chief Engineer, Aesthetic Effect, Other Uses, Retention Basins, Gilbert Mayor Cynthia Dunham, Senior Project Manager, Tim Phillips, Basins, Before Development, Gilbert Assistant Manager George Pettit, Regional Park, General Land Use Plan, Queen Creek Mayor Mark Schnepf, Corridor Matches, Town's Plans, Recreational
41	December 8, 1999	Public Meeting on Trail Dec. 13	X East Mesa Residents, Development, 26-mile Superstition-San Tan Corridor and Marathon Trail, Offer Suggestions, Public Meeting, Flood Control District Representatives, East Maricopa Floodway, Princess Basin, Brown Road and Val Vista, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Gila River, Tim Phillips, Senior Project Manager
40	December 22, 1999	County to Clear Mosquito Breeding Ground - Some Tempe Residents Protest Action	X County Crews, Clear Channel, West of Tempe Town Lake, Breeding Ground, Mosquitos, Encephalitis Virus, Standing Water, Thick Vegetation, Salt River Bottom Downstream, Health Hazard, Maricopa County Environmental Services Department, Residents, Protesting, Natural Habitat, Destroyed, Richard Dillon, Joe Munoz, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Moving, Salt Cedar Trees, Water Flow Freely, Western Equine Encephalitis Virus, Threat, Horses, People, Valley Residents,

0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
42	December 23, 1999	Mosquito Breeding Ground Levelled - Critics Denounce Destruction of Town Lake Wetland Habitat; Home to Virus - Carrying Pests (& Picture)	X Bulldozers, Breeding Ground, Disease-carrying Mosquitos, Downstream, Tempe Town Lake, Destroying Wetland Habitat, Workers, Maricopa County Flood Control District, 85 Acres, Bed of Salt River, Uprooting Cedar Thickets, Dan Hawkes, Technical Services Manager, Tempe's Water Management Division, Encephalitis Virus, Biting Infected Birds, Five People Got Encephalitis, Queen Creek Girl Died, Two in Pima County, Arizona Department of Health Services, Spokeswoman Pier Simeri, Unnecessary Destruction, Extreme Approach, Juliet Stromberg, Arizona State University Biologist, Streamside Ecology of Arizona, Richard Dillon, Natural Area, Birds, Wildlife, Riparian Areas, Sterile, Empty Ditch, Spokesman Joe Munoz, Salt-cedar Thickets, Riverbed, Clog the Flow, High-water Event, Chew Into River Banks, Treated Similarly, 1991, Reshaped Bed, 1993, Removing Salt Cedars, Shape Channel, Drain Areas, Water Ponds, Keep Water Flowing, Townsend, Tamarisks, Non-native Plants, Asia, Widespread, Southwest, Displacing Native Trees, Native Cottonwoods, Willows, Beaver, Relocated, Egrets,
43	December 24, 1999	Enhancing the Floodway - Gilbert, Queen Creek, Mesa to Tackle Project (& Map)	X Michael Ellegood, Flood Control, Aesthetic Turn, Not, Build, Concrete Channels, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Environment, Habitat, East Valley Cities, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, 26-mile Portion, East Maricopa Floodway, Multi-use Recreational Area, Superstition-San Tan Corridor, Expand, Floodway, Compacted-earth Channel, Excess Rainwater, Major Storms, Gila River, Pinal County, Rapid Growth, Enlarging Detention Basins, Jerry Collins, Collins-Pina Consulting Engineers, Recreational Corridor, Superstition Springs Mall, Williams Gateway (Airport), Superstition-San Tan Corridor, Thomas Road, Hunt Highway, Greenfield Road, Power Road, Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash, Fulton Brock, County Supervisor and Chairman, Board of Directors, Concrete Ditches, Albuquerque, Los Angeles, Tucson, Flood-control Asset of Southwest, Desert Feel, Intergovernmental Agreement, Improve, Maintain, Rio Salado, Tempe, ASU, County, Councils, Legislators, Funding Priorities, SRP Canals, City Councilman Jim Davidson, Federal Matching Funds, State Grant Money, Public Involvement, Old Cross Cut
44	December 29, 1999	Protesters Dispute Bulldozers in Range of Salt River Beaver (& Picture)	X Tempe Police, Protesters, Leveling Small Trees, Riverbed, Salt River, Tempe Town Lake, Richard Dillon, Randall Armster, Beaver, Chewed on a Willow, Scolded Tempe Parks Ranger David Kelley, Protecting Habitat, Flood Control District, 85 Acres, Tempe River Bottom, Encephalitis-carrying Mosquitos, Breeding, Pools, Spokesman Joe Munoz, Trash, Stagnant Water, Habitat Poor, Small Central Channel, Keep Water Flowing, Maricopa Audubon Society, President Scott Burge, Tempe's Rio Salado Commission, Better Serve, Environment, Native Plants, Beavers, Muskrats, Herons, Egrets, Tempe Rio Salado Director Steve Nielsen, Riverbed Below Town Lake, Maintained as Desert, Instead of Wetland, Wetland, Central Channel, Allowed
93	December 29, 1999	Flood Control District Invites Residents to Voice Concerns About Local Flooding	X Public Meetings, East Valley Residents, Opinions, Flooding Issues, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Higley Area Drainage Master Plan, Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan, Higley Plan, Flood-prone Areas, 75-square-mile Area, Arizona Avenue, Sossaman Road, McDowell Road, Hunt Highway, Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Cost-effective Solutions, Disposal, Storm Water, 35 Square Miles, Power Road, East Mesa, Highway 88, Apache Junction, Goldfield Mountains, Superstition Boulevard, Identify, Routing Storm Water, Precautions, People, Living, Flood Plain, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Preservation, Open Space, Basins, Natural Earth Channels, Multiuse Features, Hiking, Equestrian Trails, Parks, Senior Project
45	January 1, 2000	Peoria Focus - Peoria's Community Park Becomes a Reality (& Map)	X Agua Fria Freeway, New River Channel, City of Peoria, First Community Park, 50-plus Acre, Recreation, 40-acres of Land, Thunderbird Road, Loop 101, Peoria City Council, Negotiations, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Additional 12 Acres, \$3.34 Million For Land, Lydic Family, Owners, Public Input, Master Plan, Development, Skateboard Park, Funds, Connecting Trails, Infrastructure Improvements, Citizen Involvement Process, Athletic Fields, Racquetball Courts, Funding for Park, Bond Revenues, Development Impact Fees
46	January 2, 2000	Bricks and Bouquets	X Protesting, Bulldozing, Channelize, Salt River, Below Tempe Town Lake, Prevent Mosquitos Breeding, Stagnant Pools, Rio Salado Habitat
48	February 6, 2000	County Office Forms Plan for Gila River - Would Restore W. Valley Stretch (& Picture)	X State, Local Officials, Private Developers, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Restore 17-mile Length, Gila River, El Rio, Network of Trails, Hikers, Cyclists, Horseback Riders, Opportunists, Scientific Research, Rejuvenated Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat, Buckeye Town Lake, Reservoir in Tempe, Southwest Valley, Dysart Road, Arizona 85, Egrets, Turtles, Fish, Beaver, Mike Ellegood, General Manager, County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Planning Stages, Goodyear, Avondale, Buckeye, Agua Fria River, Developer John C. Long, Bare-bones Industrial-strength Flood Control Facility, Concrete Ditch, Clearing, River Channel, Choked by Non-native Plants, Trees, Deeper, Better-defined River, More Water, Protect, Flooding, Summer Storms, Transform, Access Roads, Trails, Reintroduce Cottonwood Trees, Desert-friendly Vegetation, Stock Water, Fish, Tear Down Gates, James Host, Design Supervisor, County's Recreation Services Department, Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Buckeye Proposed 300-plus Acre Lake, Town Manager Joe Blanton, Feasibility Study, State Parks Department, Excavated, Sand-and-gravel Operation, Barge to Mine, Mayor Dusty Hull, Basic Recreational Opportunities, River Restoration Project, 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant, Tres Rios Wetlands Project, Buckeye Irrigation Co., High Water Tables, Farmers, Regulating

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47	February 22, 2000	Trail Network Proposed for Valley - 227 Miles Seen as Open Space (& Picture & Map)	X Maricopa County Leaders, 227-mile Network, Trails, Ring the Valley, Preserve Open Space, Canal Banks, Washes, Central Arizona Project, Multiuse Trails, Link County Regional Parks, Estrella Mountain Park, McDowell Mountain Park, County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Cactus-studded Backdrop, Cave Creek Recreation Area, North Valley, Cactus and Creosote, Smell of Desert, Hard Rain, Andy Kunasek, Boards Chairman, Fulton Brock
49	March 2, 2000	Dreaming of El Rio - Vision is to Change Gila River Into Riparian Paradise (& Picture)	X Dusty Hull, Gila River, Cottonwood Trees, Beaver, Trout, Bass, Scientist, Seed It, Salt Cedar, West Valley Cities, Maricopa County, Private Landowners, Transform, 17-mile Stretch, El Rio, Recreational, Riparian, Sam Arroweed, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Restoring, Natural Habitat, Trails, Lakes, Recreational Features, Improving Flood Control, Dredging, Widening, River, Mike Ellegood, General Manager, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Destructive Floods, Other Parts, Dakotas, 1990s, Water Course, Deteriorate, Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Arizona 85, Five Major Floods, Inundating, Overflowed, Banks, 40-foot Wall of Water, 220,000 Cubic Feet Per Minute, Out of Dams, January 1967, Wiped Out Every House, Gila's Natural Flow, Salt Cedar Trees, Tamarisks, Taking Root, Cottonwoods, Native Vegetation, Undergrowth, Underbrush, Phoenix International Raceway, Great Blue Herons, Sandpipers, Egrets, Ecosystem, Pond, Downtown Phoenix, Kevin Fugler, Senior Planner, City of Goodyear, Federal Help, Reconnaissance Study, Construction, Congressional Authorization, Funding, West Valley, Tres Rios, Seven Mile Watercourse, Upstream, Confluence, Agua Fria, Gila, Salt Rivers, Ed King, Urban Center, Lake,
54	March 3, 2000	Project Proposed as Cure to Floods	X Flooding Problems, Southwest Valley Cities, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Study, \$120 Million Project, Durango Area Drainage Master Plan, Recreation Corridors, Parks, Reduce Flood Insurance, Multiuse Corridor, Kris Baxter, Spokeswoman, 68-square Mile Project, Tolleson, Avondale, Phoenix, Interstate 17, Agua Fria River, Interstate 10, Salt/Gila River, Tolleson City Council, Tolleson Road, 91st and 99th Avenues, Brian Frye, Engineer, Design Project, City Council, Incorporate, Channels, Basins for Parks, Construction Cost, Storm Water, Flows, Buckeye Feeder Canal, Lowest Elevation, Excess Runoff, Additional Flood Channels, Retention Basins
37	March 8, 2000	Surprise Community News - Meeting Explores Flood Control	X Public Meeting, Solve Flooding Issues, Open Space Preservation, Multi-use Corridor Projects, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Loop 303 Corridor/White Tanks Area Drainage Master Plan Update, Surprise, El Mirage, Update, Floodplain Management, Identify Issues, Concerns, Project Manager Greg Jones
51	March 9, 2000	Park Project Earns National Accolades	X City of Glendale, Maricopa County Flood Control District, D.H. Blattner and Sons, \$8 Million Project, Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Award, Skunk Creek Channel Improvement Project, Associated General Contractors of America, Shirley Medler, City's Parks and Recreation Department North District Superintendent, Waterways, Multi-use, Primary Function, Prevent Flooding, Glendale's Engineering and Planning Department, 51st to 75th Avenues, Bell Road to Union Hills Drive, 100-year Flood, Glendale and Arrowhead Ranch, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Skunk Creek Linear Park Project, Includes, Equestrian Trail System
50	March 15, 2000	Luke Advocates Battle El Mirage Growth - Flood Control Plan Sparks Latest Concerns of Residential Encroachment	X Luke Air Force Base, Closing the Base, \$2 Billion Loss, City of El Mirage, 11-square Mile City, Build New Houses, Decibel Range Noise Contour, Westmarc, Fighter Country Partnership, Greater Phoenix Leadership, Brig. Gen. Tom Browning, Noise Complaints, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), Congress, Chris Brownlow, Encroachment, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, County Flood Control District Board, Denied Request, Fund Flood Control Project, Supervisor Jan Brewer, Opposed, Building Homes, Floodplain, Flight Path, Gov. Jane Hull, U.S. Rep. Bob Stump, City Manager Maggie Reese, Intersection, El Mirage and Cactus Roads, Required Developers, Construct, Channel, Route Water, Drainage Project, Surprise, Shanna Yager, Manager, Mary Rose Wilcox, Litchfield Park Officials, Councilman Orin O.K. Fulton, 60-year Old Base, Councilman Chet Hillhouse, Jose Solarez, Noise Complaints, Peoria, Glendale, Residents, Sun City, Legislature, Joint Land Use Study, Land Use Plans, Luke Commander Col. Stephen Sergeant, Arizona Attorney General's Office, Housing Developments, Noise Contours, Not Against the Law, Brown Family Communities, Deitz Crane, Diamond Key Homes, Sivage Thomas, El Mirage City Engineer Larry Tysiac, City of Surprise, Diane McCarthy, State House of Representatives, House Bill 2060, Agricultural Preservation Districts, Landowners, Tax Credits, Goodyear, Buckeye, Litchfield Park, Varying Position on Encroachment, Goodyear Councilman Dick Sousa, 28,000 People Lose Jobs, Luke Close, Buckeye Mayor Dusty Hull
52	March 29, 2000	Williams Gateway Could Be Runway to Firms' Success	X Mesa's William Gateway, Proposed Santan Freeway, General Motors Proving Ground, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, Gila River Indian Community
53	April 19, 2000	Communities Unite to Save Gila River	X 17-mile Stretch, Gila River, Southwest Valley Cities, Kris Baxter, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Trails, Facilities Multiple Uses, River, Serves as Flood Control Channel, Retains Its Natural Path, Repairing Natural Habitats
55	April 29, 2000	Babbitt Praises Pima County's Conservation Efforts	X Pima County, Open-space Conservation Efforts, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Growth Management, Open-space Issues, Portland, Ore., Innovative Approach, Restore Riparian Areas, Wildlife, River Parks, Recreation, Conservation Easements, Mountain Parks, Undeveloped, Wildlife Corridors, Protect Desert Land, Tucson, Gov. Jane Hull, Large-scale Swap, State, Federal Lands, State Trust, Benefit Education, Empire-Cienega, A Riparian, Wetlands, Grasslands, Urban-open Space Land, Phoenix, Live Stream, Legislation, Rep. Jim Kolbe, Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Protect 26,000 Acres, Development, Federal Bureau of Land Management, Private Owners, Congress

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56	May 1, 2000	Editor's Page - Wildthings (& Picture)	X Arizona, Environmentalist, Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County Supervisor, Photographer Tina Celle, Gila River, Buckeye, El Rio Project, 17-mile Section, Phoenix International Raceway, Goodyear, Oglesby Road, Revitalizing, River, West Valley, Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Gila River Indian Community,
57	May 1, 2000	Feature - Women Work to Heal Gila (& Picture)	X Gila River, Choking, Salt Cedars, Curb Undergrowth, Become Undergrowth, Killing River, Native Americans, Arizona Settlers, Flowing River, A Trickle, Women Environmentalists, Planners, Developers, Public Relations Executives, Heal the Gila, Buckeye, Avondale, Goodyear, El Rio Project, Restore the River, Economic, Recreational Opportunities, Southwest Valley, 17-mile El Rio Watercourse Master Plan Project, Phoenix International Raceway, Oglesby Road, Restore Plants, Animals, Riverside Trails, Picnic Areas, Ride Horses, Restoration, Educational Facility, Historical Importance, Supervisor Wilcox, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, River, Convey, Horrendous Stormwaters, Heavy Rains, Buckeye Had Several Feet, Water Flowing, Downtown, Damaging Crops, Storefronts, Homes, Cars, Personal Property, Theresa Hoff, Environmental Specialist, Salt Cedar Bushes, Removed, Cottonwood, Willow Trees, Denseness of Salt Cedars, Prohibits Free Flow, Massive Storms Leeway, Meander Away, Main Channel, Maricopa County Planner Michelle Denne, Ed King of King Ranch, Maricopa County Trail Program, County Supervisors, Loop, 220 Miles of Trail, Valley of the Sun, Cave Creek Recreation Area, \$80 Million
58	May 13, 2000	County Tries to Preserve Pristine Land - Trail Commission: Supervisor-Appointed Members Working to Stake Claim on White Tank Mountain Area (& Picture)	X Maricopa County Trail Commission, McMicken Dam, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, Connecting, County Park System, Link Recreational Corridors, Valley, Preserve Open Space, Existing Entities, Canals, Parks, Flood Control Projects, County Supervisor Jan Brewer, Board of Supervisors, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development of Maricopa County, Studying Dams, Open-space Possibilities, Mike Ellegood, General Manager, Chief Engineer, Dennis Holcomb, Landscape Planner, Planning and Project Management Division, Land, Owned by State, Earthen Dam, 9.5 Miles, 34-feet High, Built, Provide Flood Protection, Luke Air Force Base, Water Runoff, Protects Farm Land, Small Subdivisions, Natural Ecosystem Soil, Deep, Landscape, Lush, Kit Foxes, Blue Palo Verde, Mesquite Bosques, Sandra Mobley, Park Educator, Benefit, Wildlife, Ecology
59	May 17, 2000	Trail-Network Proposal Looks At Dam Area	X 50-year Old Flood Control Dam, West Valley, Untamed Desert, Hikers, Cyclists, Horseback Riders, Mountain Lion, Maricopa County Trails Commission, McMicken Dam, Network of Trails, Crisscross Valley, Landscapes, Maricopa County, Dennis Holcomb, Landscape Planner, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Desert Wildlife, Plant Species, Built in 1950s, Army Corps of Engineers, Protect, Luke Air Force Base, Floods, Nine Miles, Peoria Avenue Alignment, Beardsley Canal, Grand
60	May 27, 2000	Judge Dismisses Gateway Airport Suit	X Not Gilbert's Fault, Houses, Williams Gateway Airport, Airplanes, Buzz Over, Superior Court Judge Michael Yarnell, Dismissed, Class-action Case, 200 Residents, Airport Disclosure Rules, Subdivision Report, Hazard or Nuisance, Superstition Highlands Subdivision, Recker and Guadalupe Roads, Special Provisions, Construction, Public Notification, Home Construction Standards, Impact Noise, No Legal Obligation, Town Spokesman David Cannella, Town Council, Built 50 Years Ago, Williams
61	June 16, 2000	Growth - State, County Squabble Over West Valley (& Map)	X County Supervisor Jan Brewer, Long-range Plan, Growth, Anabel, Special Treatment, Landowner, Public Input, Value of Land, Board of Supervisors, Valley, Vacant Fringes, Developed, White Tank/Grand Avenue, 740 Square Miles, Agua Fria Freeway, Loop 101, Goodyear, County Planners, Low-density Use, State Trust Land, White Tank Mountains, Mineral Resources, Archaeology, Demographics, Scott McCullough, County's Acting Director, Land Department, Luke Air Force Base, West Valley
62	June 22, 2000	Natural Washes Win OK to Curb N. Phoenix Floods (& Map)	X Nature, Control Flooding, Phoenix, Phoenix City Council, Natural Washes, Skunk Creek, Sonoran Wash, Carry Floodwater, Black Canyon Corridor, Interstate 17, Central Arizona Project Canal, Rapid Development, Councilman Tom Milton, City Planners, Environmentally Sensitive Land, Open Space, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Storm Water, Lined Concrete Channels, Washes Run Free, Restrict Development, Flood-prone Areas, Dams, Culverts, Preserve Wildlife Habitat, Recreational Opportunities, 100-year Floodplain, Flood Hazard and Erosion Management Zoning District, Environmental Management Zone, Server Limits, Land, Develop, Flood Management Plan, Survey, Policies, Established, Washes and Hills, Principal Planner Mark Steele, Flat Scrubland, Value
63	June 23, 2000	Taming Desert Floods - Should We Direct Water Into Channels of Concrete or Let Nature Take Its Course? (& Graphic)	X Floods, Valley, Rain, Colorado River Water, Canals, Flooding, 1921, Cave Creek, Soaking Capitol Building, Storm, 6 Inches of Rain, Two Days, Seven Large Floods, Central Arizona, 1977 to 1980, Phoenix, Disaster, Build Dams, Culverts, Protective Barriers, Concrete, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Storm Water, Future Development, Peoria, Block Large Developments, 2.5 Miles, New River, Floodwaters, Surge, Damage, Phoenix City Council, Natural Washes, Drainage, East of Interstate 17, Nature vs. Concrete, Desert, Flood Plains, Erosion, Navajos, Divide Rain, Two Types, Male, Female, Winter, Gentler Female Rain, Runoff, Melting Snow, Mountains, Devastating Regional Flooding, Heavy Winter Rains, 1993, Salt, Gila, Santa Cruz Rivers, Over Banks, Violent Summer Thunderstorms, Male Rains, Flash Floods, Tropical Storm Nora, Northwest Maricopa County, 12 Inches of Rain, 24 Hours, Thundering Down Washes, Breached Dam, Central Phoenix, Floodwater, Staggering, Fast, Force, Velocity, Quadruples, Washes, Triple Speed, Flood Protection, Arizona

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64	June 24, 2000	Planners Want Nature to Handle Flooding (& Map)	X Phoenix City Council, Flooding, Nature, Natural Washes, Rain Runoff, Black Canyon Corridor, North Phoenix, Interstate 17, Growth, City Planners, Concrete Channels, Culverts, New Zoning District, High Risk Flooding, Land, Off Limits, Development, Natural Drainage, Principal Planner Mark Steele, Offset, Impact, Transferring, Buying, Attorney Larry Lazarus, Property Owner, Aesthetics, Downstream Damage, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Storm Water, Skunk Creek, Sonoran Wash, Planning Commission, Drainage System
65	June 25, 2000	Game and Fish Official Slams Greenbelt Plan - Urbanization of Area Could Threaten Desert Wildlife, Biologist Says (& Picture)	X Arizona Game and Fish Department, Concerns, Desert Greenbelt, North Scottsdale, Destroy Wildlife Habitat, Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sierra Club, Damage Desert, Robin Silver, Center for Biological Diversity, \$100 Million, Five Mile Flood Control Network, Channels, Pipes, Basins, Designed, Protect, Plains, McDowell Mountains, 100-year Flood, 1989, Federal Disaster Experts, Flood Hazard, Voters Approved, \$21 Million Bond Issue, Flood Problems, Flooding, Las Vegas, Ruse, Massive Development, Biologist Mike Martinez, Plan's Effect, Birds, Mammal Population, Flood Control Plan, Wildlife, Mule Deer, Javelina, Dave Meinhart, Heading Project, State Wildlife Officials, Extensive Environmental Analysis, Timothy Wade, Flood Channels, Cut Plants Off, Rainwater Running Off McDowells, McDowell Sonoran Land Trust, Executive Director Carla, Mother Nature, Hohokam Agave, Danger of Extinction, Arizona Native Plant Law, Pollinated, Insects, Bats, Monsoon Rain, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Don Steuter, Conservation Chairman, Vegetation, Migration Corridors, Washes Provide Routes, Re-engineered Wash, Ringtail Cat, Gnarled Roots, Craggy Banks, Spindly Container Trees, Shallow Dirt, Soil Cement, Pima Freeway, Built, Arizona Department of Transportation, ADOT
66	July 6, 2000	Developer Saves the Day Again for W. Valley - Long Sells Farm Land to Protect Homeowners' Property (& Pictures)	X Developer John F. Long, West Valley Residents, Bethany Home Outfall Channel, Protect Homes, 83rd to 87th Avenues, Bethany Home Road, 100-year Flood, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, 230-foot Wide, One-half Mile Long Plot, Grand Canal, Went Sour, Alternative Measures, Greenbelt Area, Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer, Open Space, Outfall Canal, Under Street, \$64 Million, Landscaped Greenbelt, Divert Flood Water, Indian Bend Wash, Horse Property, Construction, Underground Culvert, Residents, Newsletter, Public Meeting
67	July 6, 2000	Plans Shown for 26-Mile Floodway (& Map)	X Mary Hauser, 26-mile Floodway, Southeast Regional Library, Gilbert, Maricopa County, East Valley, Superstition-Santan Corridor, Marathon Trail, Major Recreational Path, Barren Land, Green Parks, Walking, Riding, Horse Lovers, 16-mile Path, Queen Creek Horse Owners Association, Hunt Highway, Gilbert, Thomas Road, Mesa, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, \$40 Million, Construction, Basins, County Parks and Recreation Department, Tear Down Protective Fencing, Floodway, Maury Ahlman, Parks and Recreation Director, Proposed 220-acre Park, Queen Creek, Higley, Ocotillo Road, Baseball, Soccer, Football Field, Community Garden, Sports Complex, Riparian Reserve, Rittenhouse and Power Road, Floodway, Natural Connection, Queen Creek and Sanokai Washes, Santan Mountains, \$2000 Development Impact Fee, New House, Cynthia Seelhammer, Town Manager, Flood Officials, Potential Problems, Mesa's Williams Gateway Airport, Birds, Runway, Hazard, Tim Phillips, Project Manager
69	July 12, 2000	County-Wide Trail System Studied at Recent Meeting (& Picture)	X Aerial Photographs, Maricopa County Flood Control District, 26-mile Flood Control Corridor, Gilbert, Multi-use Facilities, Open House, Flood Control Plains, Canal Banks, Recreational, Multi-use Sites, Walking Trails, Soccer Fields, Volleyball Courts, Equestrian Facilities, Frisbee Course, Community Gardens, Arboretum, Town of Gilbert, 230-acre Park, Jason Harrington, Project Manager, Designer, Tim Phillips, Senior Project Manager, East Maricopa Floodway, Mitigate, Problem, Flood Protection, Flooded, General Manager, Chief Engineer, Mike Ellegood, Concrete Lined Channels, Councilman Steve Urie, Mike Evans, Open House, Crossroads Park, Laurel Arndt, Environmental Planner, Trail System, Infrastructure, Kris Baxter, Public Information Officer, Gilbert Resident Howard Peterson
68	July 21, 2000	Flood Project Seals Fate of Homeowners - Canal Residents Have 3 Years to Move (& Map)	X Homeowners, Grand Canal, 67th and 75th Avenues, Sell, Houses, Flood-control Project, West Phoenix Residents, Maricopa County Flood Control District, City of Phoenix, Construction, \$64 Million Project, Bethan Home/Grand Canal Flood Control Project, Protect, 100-Year Storm, Loop 101 Freeway, New River, 64th Avenue, Indian School Road, Scott Vogel, Senior Project Manager, Richard Donahue, Sandbags, Protect Homes, Kathy Taylor, Floodplain, Doug McLaughlin, Spokesman, Appraised, P...
70	August 2, 2000	Park Sale Mapped Out in '99 - Appraisals of San Tan Land Began Last August, County Memo Shows	X Maricopa County, Sell, 20 Percent, San Tan Mountain Regional Park, County Parks Department, Appraisals, 2,600 Acres, Supervisor Fulton Brock, Chandler, Public Hearing, Citizens of Maricopa County, Open Space, Park Needs, Gilbert Town Councilman Mike Evans, Public Input, Alternative Solutions, Construct Trails, Other Facilities, Mesa, Queen Creek, Robert Pizzorno, Brock's Chief of Staff, Master Planned Park, Federal Government, Federal Resolution Trust Corp., Inherited, Saving and Loan, Failed, Late 1980s, Early 1990s, Bernadette Heath, Queen Creek Activist, Gilbert Mayor Cynthia Dunham, East Valley Leaders, Maricopa County Spent, 76 Percent, Parks Improvement Fund, North Valley, West Valley, Chandler City
71	August 2, 2000	Save San Tan for Desert Slobs - East-Side Taxpayers Have Every Right to Demand a Bigger Share Now of County Funding	X San Tan Mountain Regional Park, Unspoiled Desert Landscape, Truckloads of Trash, Rusty Kitchen Appliances, No Money, Patrol Park, Maricopa County, Tribune Reporter Ed Baker, \$3, North, West Valley Parks, \$1, East Valley, Scottsdale Areas, Sell, 20 Percent, 10,200-acres San Tan Park, Overrun, Trashed, Dumping Garbage, McDowell Mountains, City Preserve, Chandler and Queen Creek Officials, Tax Dollars, County Board of Supervisors

0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
73	August 14, 2000	COPP Questions 'Bureaucrats' Take on Greenbelt - Guest Commentary by Bob Vario, President, Coalition of Pinnacle Peak	X Mike Ellegood, Flood Peril, North Scottsdale, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Homes, Built, Flood Zone, Prevent High Density Development, Developer-friendly Bureaucrats, Without Regard, Consequences, Unmanaged Growth, \$100 Million Project, Prevent Catastrophe, Future, Area, Hazardous, Flood Prone, Debris, Large Wash, Not Permitted, City, Federal Government, Reduce Potential Flood Damage, Phoenix, North of Mayo Boulevard, Scottsdale Road, Rawhide Wash, 35-foot Retention Dam, Scottsdale at Dynamite Boulevard, Pima Road, Flows, Residents, Rejected, Desert Greenbelt Project, Army Corps of Engineers, Flood Insurance, Scottsdale Ordinances, One Foot Above Ground, 100-year Flood, Destroy Natural Habitat, Wildlife, US EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Detrimental Effect, Environmental Impact Statement, Sonoran Desert, Educating, Developments, Negatively Impact, Monitoring, Government's Decisions
72	August 16, 2000	Flood-Control Plan Includes Parks, Trails	X Flood Control, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Vision, Channels, Basins, Southwest Phoenix, Tolleson, Avondale, \$100 Million, Durango Area Drainage Master Plan, Reduce Flooding, Create Parks, Trails, 5 Projects, 53 Square Miles, Open Spaces, Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Upgrade, Homes, Residents, Comment, Relieve Flooding, Downtown Tolleson, 99th and 91st Avenues, Van Buren Street, 390 Acres, Flood, Affecting 26 Businesses, 141 Homes, Greg Jones, Senior Project Manager, Water, Canal, Railroad Tracks, Agua Fria River, 67th Avenue and Van Buren Street, River, Southern Avenue, Four Parks, Smaller Projects, Drain, Gila River, Farmland, Subdivisions, Planned, Floodplain, Flooding Problems, Converted, Farming to Residential, Natural Drainage
74	August 30, 2000	Greenbelt Plan Awash in Support - Ambitious Plan for Agua Fria, New Rivers (& Pictures & Map)	X Arizona's Dry Riverbeds, Thickets, Brush, Trees, Gravel Mines, West Valley Leaders, Agua Fria River, Reclaim, Regional Landmark, Maricopa County, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Develop 47 Miles, Agua Fria, New Rivers, Network, Parks, Trails, Lake Pleasant, Gila River, Blighted, Neglected, Forgotten, Beautiful Greenbelt, County Supervisor Jan Brewer, West Valley Recreation Corridor, Avondale, Goodyear, Glendale, Youngtown, Peoria, Phoenix, Own Plan, Own Funding, Parks and Trails Master Plan, J.P. de la Montaigne, Peoria's Community Services Director, Vision, Developer John F. Long, General Manager Mike Ellegood, Opening, Public, Fenced-off Flood Path, Hikers, Horseback Riders, Cyclists, Off-road Enthusiasts, Lush Sonoran Desert, Riparian Areas, Wildlife Habitat, Petroglyphs, Design and Plan, Sun City Kiwanis Club, Building Small Park, Skunk Creek, Vince Micallef, Avondale's Director of Parks, Recreation and Libraries, City Council, Purchased Land, Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, Governmental Agreements, Deputy Parks Director Van Ausdal, Manage, Linear Park, Physical Barriers, Gravel Pits, Legal, Longterm Permits, Sand and Gravel Operators,
75	August 30, 2000	Greenbelt Plan Awash in Support - Recreation Plan Faces Obstacles	X 47 Miles, Parks, Trails, West Valley, Agua Fria and New Rivers, Obstacles, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Recreational Corridor, 9,690 Acres, Lake Pleasant, Lower Avondale, Gila River, 72 Percent, 6,975 Acres, Privately Owned, Access to Land, Question Mark, Sand and Gravel Operators, Line, Riverbed, Mine, Rich Soil, Own 11 Percent, Make Ellegood, General Manager, Chief Engineer, Receptive, Allowing Access, Properties, Land Dedications, Easements, Win-win Situation, Ken Quartermain, President Arizona Rock Products Association, Multiple Uses, Dry Riverbed, Issue of Safety, Open Mine Pits, Heavy Traffic, Different Purposes, Create Problems, Terra del Rio Development, Calderwood Butte, Agua Fria Meets Jomax Road, Ancient Petroglyphs, Mountainside, Floodplain, Doug Williams, Project Manager, West Valley Recreational Corridor, Funding, Upkeep, Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative, Camelback Ranch, Grants, Donations
76	August 30, 2000	Greenbelt Plan Awash in Support - West Valley Recreation Corridor (& Pictures)	X North Phoenix, Six-mile Trail System, Carefree Highway, North Phoenix, Desert State, Sonoran Preserve and Adobe Dam Recreation Area, New River, Skunk Creek, Central Arizona Canal, 91st Avenue, Surprise and Unincorporated Areas, Not Participating, Gravel Pits, Agua Fria River, Unincorporated Maricopa County, Peoria, Trail and Rivers Master Plan, Glendale and Phoenix, Fit In, Other Cities, Capital Improvement Funds, \$282 Million Bond Issue, Glendale, \$2 Million, Bond Money, Six Miles, Multiple-use, Equestrian Trailhead, Existing, Future Bikeways, New River at Glendale Avenue, New River at Bell Road, West Phoenix, Two-mile Stretch, Paved Trails, Soccer, Softball Fields, Camelback Ranch Park, Athletic Fields, Parking, Phoenix Park Preserve Program, Avondale, Third Park, 11-acre Park, Baseball Fields, Confluence, Agua Fria, Gila Rivers, RICO Funds, \$10,000, Developer John Long, Volleyball Lots, 25 Acres, \$1.6 Million, Interstate 10, Park Built In Phases, Soccer
78	September 20, 2000	Promise of Paradise - Visions Unfold for Lush Corridor (& Pictures)	X Agua Fria River, Maricopa County Flood Control District, West Valley and Maricopa County Representatives, 47 Mile West Valley Recreation Corridor, Agua Fria and New Rivers, Trails, Riparian Habitats, Recreation Centers, New River, Maricopa County Association of Governments, John F. Long, Director Mike Ellegood, West Valley Recreational Corridor, Enjoy, Nature, Outdoors, Combination of Funds, Maintenance, Sand and Gravel Operations, Privately Held, Discussion, A Few Positive, Others Less Receptive, Avondale, \$5 Million, Developing, First Stages, Coldwater Park, County Supervisors Mary Rose Wilcox, Fulton Brock, Jan Brewer, Supportive, Exploring, Development, Sand and Gravel Operators, Own, 11 Percent, Land, Lake Pleasant, Blue Heron, George's Pond, Agua Fria Riverbed, Peoria Councilman, Ken Forgia, Tour

0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
79	September 21, 2000	Valley-Wide Trail Contract Going to Bid - Officials Estimate Cost at More Than \$250,000	X Parks and Recreation Department of Maricopa County, 225-mile Trail, Dave Konopka, Project Manager, Contract, Master Plan, Maricopa County Trail Commission, Choose Consultant, Chairman Fulton Brock, Planning Needs, Regional Parks, Linked, Encircle, Valley, Three Phases, Preliminary, Validate Vision, Goals, Objections, Board of Supervisors, Public Involvement Plan, Phase Two, Preferred Corridor Route, Critical Land, Action Plan, Implementation, Funding, Grants, Sponsorships, Partnerships, Bonding, Regional Parks and Trails Districts, Marketing Plan, Ownership, Liability, Operation Plan, Maintaining Trail System, Bill Van Ausdale, Deputy Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Removing, Obstacles, Utilize, Rivers, Canals, Flood Channels, Land Managed by Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Superstition-San Tan Corridor, 26-mile Floodway, East Valley, El Rio, Tres Rios, Gila River, 47-miles, West Valley Recreational Corridor, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Flood Control, Human Safety
81	September 22, 2000	Peoria Corridor Close to Becoming Part of Trail Loop (& Pictures)	X Northwest Valley Politicians, Community Leaders, Local Officials, Maricopa County, Agua Fria River Corridor, 47-mile Corridor, West Valley Recreational Corridor, Lake Pleasant, Gila River, Avondale, Links, Peoria, Glendale, Phoenix, Surprise, Fulton Brock, Chairman, Maricopa County Trail Commission, Countywide Trail Program, 250 Miles of Riverway, Floodway, Parks, Federal Land, Supervisor Jan Brewer, Neglected, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, Wildlife, Habitat Areas, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Recreation Trails, Sand and Gravel Mines, Mining Industry, Hike, George's Pond, Ecologist Bruce Wilcox, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Archeological Sites, Football Field, Broken Pottery, Petroglyphs, John F. Long
80	September 27, 2000	Sonoran Desert Plan and Advances	X Pima County Board of Supervisors, Accept, Draft, Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, Land-use Plan, Preserve, Protect, Natural, Cultural Resources, County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry, Create, 200,00 Acres of Mountain Parks, Santa Rita Mountain Park, Davidson Canyon, Buehman-Bingham Reserves, Tortolita, Colossal Cave Mountain Parks, Restore, Riparian, Agua Verde Creek, Sabino Canyon, Tanque Verde Wash, Arivaca Creek, Honey Bee Canyon, Agua Caliente Wash, Rezoning, Conditional-use Permits, Pygmy Owl Habitat, Ranch Conservation, Environmental Laws, Environmentally Sensitive Land Ordinance, Protection, Ironwood Trees, Cottonwoods, Arizona Sycamore, Desert Hackberry, Willow, Native Plant Protection Ordinance, Golf Courses, Treated Effluent, Central Arizona Project Water, Buy Development Rights, Altar Valley, Cienega
83	September 29, 2000	Army Corps to Examine River Corridor	X Army Corps of Engineers, Lower Agua Fria River, West Valley Recreational Corridor, \$5 Million, Federal Money, Restore River, Natural State, Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer, Funding, Glendale, Peoria, Corps 1135 Program, \$30 Million, \$50 Million, Environmental Restoration, Nations Rivers, Avondale, Match 25 Percent, \$6.25 Million, Confluence, Agua Fria River, Superior
82	October 4, 2000	Agua Fria Restoration Plan Studies by Corps	X Ditch, Sand, Small Oasis, Water, Great Blue Herons, Colorado River Frogs, Cattails, Watercress, Feasibility Study, Army Corps of Engineers, \$5 Million, City of Avondale, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Agua Fria River, Gila River, Natural State, Flood Control and Navigation, Restoring Natural Habitat, Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Coldwater
84	October 29, 2000	Wenden Farmers Facing Hard Times (& Pictures & Maps)	X Fernando Villega, Speeding Flood, Muddy Waters, Rain, Rescue Helicopter, Wenden, Town, 700 Residents, Flash Flood, Killed One Man, Damaged, Destroyed, 200 Buildings, Trailer Homes, Midway, Phoenix, California Line, Driest Part, Arizona, 6 Inches of Rain a Year, Harcuvar and Harquahala Mountains, Centennial Wash, Explode, Wall of Water, Twice the Flow, Colorado River, Betty Rohrig, Grandmother, Settled, Late 1800s, Didn't Roar, Silent, Jaime Hernandez, Mike Byrd, High and Dry, Parker, Aguila Resident, Guillermo Torrez, Hit Hard, Flooding
85	October 29, 2000	Another Round of Rain, Flooding Pummels Town	X Residents, Wenden, Rain, Flooding, Evacuations, Arizona, Shelter, Salome, Additional Flooding, More Destruction, \$3.8 Million, Damage, 200 Homes, Buildings, Structures, Already Damaged, Cliff Pearlberg, Spokesman, Arizona Land Department
86	November 2, 2000	Our Roads are Flooding (& Picture)	X Photos, Central Ave., Carefree Hwy and Cloud Road, Above Galvin, October 21st, Copy, Letter, Supervisor Andy Kunasek, March of 98, Concerns, County Road Supervisor, Dedicated Roads, Non-dedicated Roads, Bring Road Up to Code, Pay More in Taxes, Tatum Ranch, Cave Creek, Medical, Fire Services, Tony Percoskie, Desert Hills
88	November 10, 2000	Reaction Mixed to River Rehab - Agua Fria Plans Explained	X Birdwatchers, Jim and Mary Sommers, Agua Fria River, Big, Flat, Ugly Ditch, Sand, Concrete Walls, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Avondale, Restoration, Mary Sommers, Goodyear, Sonoran Audubon Society, Gila River at 115th Avenue, Meandering Creekbed, Bushes, Plants, Grass, Lee Anderson, Environmental Planner, Tetra Tech, Concrete and Earthen Levees, Barrier, Native Plants, Feasibility Study, McDowell Road, Gila River, Restoration, Alex Watt, \$5 Million, Match 25 Percent, Joe Maroney, Southern Avenue and Dysart Road
87	November 24, 2000	Pastoral Laveen Facing a Change - Country Community Tapped as Phoenix's Next Suburb (& Pictures & Map)	X Urban Growth, Laveen, Phoenix, 1,782-home Subdivision, Betty Ladd, Nancy Tatum, 496.6-acre Project, 67th and Southern Avenues, 28-square Mile Area, Farms, South Mountain, Salt River, 100,000 New Residents, Planned South Mountain Freeway, David Richer, Phoenix Planning Director, Valley Developer, Economist Elliott Pollack, Losing Jobs, Retail Sales Tax, Scottsdale, East Valley Municipalities, 1992, County Flood Control Study, Server Rainstorm, Floodwaters, Removed, Floodplain Designation, Study Incorrect, Rezoning, Sunny Mesa Inc., Flood-control Channel, Change Way Water Flows, Rezoned, Rezoning, Nightmare Evacuating, People, Flooded, Salt River, Canal, Laveen Valley, Spill Over, Banks, Inundating, Floods, Evacuated, Water Flows, South and Estrella Mountains

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90	December 6, 2000	High Hopes for Rec Corridor	X Parks, Trails, Learning Centers, West Valley Recreational Corridor, Jay Hicks, Consultant, EDAA Inc., Architecture Firm, Corridor, Walking Trails, Historical Interest, Corridor's Design, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Kimley-Horn and Associates Engineering Firm, Phoenix, 47 Miles, River Bed, Agua Fria River, Gila River, Lake Pleasant, New River, Camelback Road, Circle Mountain Road, Avondale, El Mirage, Peoria, Glendale, Surprise, Maricopa County Association of Governments, MAG, Private Entities, Gila and Salt Rivers, Link, County Trails, Countywide Trail System, Parks, Inside, Levees, Playing Fields, Sports, Soccer, Baseball, Jomax Road, Hohokam Indian Ruins, Equestrian Uses, Horse Trails, Hydraulics, Water, Determine, John F. Long, John F. Long Properties, August 1998
89	December 11, 2000	Planning Flaws Raise Flood Risk - Questions Arise Over Benefits of Greenbelt to Fix Zealous Zoning - Rolling Dice With Mother Nature (& Picture & Display & Map)	X Flooding, Arizona, Hurricane, Florida, Scottsdale, Build, Massive, Desert Greenbelt, Flood Control Project, City's Northern Plain, \$100 Million, 11 Miles, Channels, Four Major Detention Basins, 190 Acres, Danger, Why, Issuing Building Permits, City Councilman George Zraket, 100-year Flood, Deer Valley Road, Zoned, County Planners, Federal Emergency Management Agency Floodplain, Dave Meinhart, Flood Hazard, McDowell Mountains, Alluvial Fan, Upside-down Funnel, Spits Rainwater, Sediment, Tightly-focused Apex, Sprays, Funnel Shaped Area, Hjalmarson Winn Hjalmarson, Wrote All Studies, Arid Land Hydrologist, United States Geological Survey, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Collecting Data, McDowell Fans, FEMA's Methodology, Flawed, Floodplain Map Bigger, New Method, Geomorphic Method, Piedmont, DC Ranch Alluvial Fan, Beardsley Road, Reata Pass Alluvial Fan, Rawhide Alluvial Fan, Homes, Hazard Zone Determination, Mitigation, Greenbelt Channel, Reduce, Flooding, 20,000 Houses, Cost-benefit, Voters, Approved, Project Bond 11 Years Ago, Alluvial Fan Flooding, Learning Curves, Steep, McDowell Alluvial Fan, Most Hazardous, Maricopa County, Unpredictability, Mike Ellegood, 26 Percent Chance, 100-year Flood, 30-Year Mortgage, Arizona Geological Survey, Geologist Phil Pearthree, Rocks, Two-feet Wide, Tossed, Move, Roll Boulders, Tremendous, Erosion, FEMA Flood Branch Chief Jack Eldredge, Erosive Power, Strong, 4,600 Homes, Highest Hazard Area, Construction, Natural Ecosystem, After-fact Flood Protection, Planning Branch Manager Russ Miracle, Landforms, Major Engineering Structure, Letter of Map Revision, Army Corps of Engineers, Clean water Act Section 404 Permit, Environmental Integrity, Watercourse Impacts, Purpose, Reata Pass Improvement District
92	December 18, 2000	CAP Water Plan for West Valley - Recharge Project Will Help Growing Area (& Picture & Map)	X Tom Harbour, Negotiated Contracts, Lobbied, Legislature, Meetings, West Valley Water Project, Economic Growth, Water Recharge Plan, Long-term Water Resource, Recharging, Surface Water, Storing, Below Ground, Aquifers, Low, Partially Depleted, 1980s, Central Arizona Project, CAP, Land, Mormon Church, 48 Acres, Sid Wilson, CAP General Manager, Potential, Mine, Sand and Gravel, Permits, Jim Faber, General Manager, Church's Arizona Farm Management, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, LDS Property, Water Flow, Pond, Construction, Valley, 100-year Water Source, New Development, Department of Water Resources, Peoria's Water Resources Manager Brad Hill, Subdivisions, Canal, Colorado River, Delivers, Phoenix, Tucson, Aqueduct, Desert Area, 99th Avenue, Jomax Road, Blowoff Structure, Wide Sandy Channel, Agua Fria River, Five Miles, 115 Acres Holding Ponds, Percolate Downward, John F. Long, Acquire, Property, Desert Title Holding Co., U.S. Life and Trust, Hong Kong, Lawmakers, Doesn't Want to Condemn Land, Forced, Appeal, Gathering Permits, Design, Peoria, Sun City, Surprise, Sam Colgan, Vice President, Del Webb Corp.
91	January 1, 2001	Resident Groups Oppose Greenbelt Flood-Control Plan - Foes Say Project too Pricey, Will Damage Desert Environment	X Scottsdale Residents, Greenbelt Flood Control Plan, City Council, North Scottsdale Citizen's Groups Leaders, Thumbs-down, Environmental Damage, Extensive, City Leaders, Hearing, Big Turn Out, \$100 Million Plan, 11 Miles, Channels, Four Major Detention Basins, 190 Acres, Brunt, Massive Storm, McDowell Mountains, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, Draft Environmental Analysis, Desert Foothills Homeowners' Association, Opposes, Homes, Built, Federal Emergency Management Agency Standards, Howard Myers, Flood Zone, Project, Destroy, Downstream Vegetation, Encourage, Dense Development, Scottsdale Government Watchdog Group, Tim Montgomery, Construction, Pima Road Scenic Drive, Congestion, Impact, 101 Freeway, Tons of Dirt, Disruption, Hazard, Bob Vario, President, Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, Growth Watchdog Group
94	January 1, 2001	E.V. Gains County Flood Control Funds - Other Cities to Benefit From Scottsdale's Rejection of Greenbelt	X East Valley Residents, Benefit, \$10.5 Million, County Funds, Scottsdale Decision, Scrape Plans, Massive Flood Control Channel, Maricopa County Flood Control Officials, East Maricopa Floodway Project, Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, 26-mile Park, Indian Bend Wash, \$2.5 Million Added, Construction, Retention Basins, Flooding, Mike Ellegood, General Manager, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Homes, Built, Areas, Prone to Flooding, 100-year Floods, Cost, Fixing, Problem, Roads, Ripped Up, Ahead of Development, Enlarge Retention Basins, San Tan Freeway, Collect Runoff, \$3.5 Million, Reconstruct, Ellsworth Road, Drainage Improvements Projects, Approval, County Board of Supervisors, Cost Share, George Selvia, City's Public
98	January 14, 2001	Heading Off Floodwaters - Skunk Creek Area, Development Studied (& Pictures & Map)	X Flooding, Development, North Valley, Maricopa County, County Flood Control District, Upper Part, Skunk Creek Wash, Carefree Highway, New River Area, Public Meeting, Dams, Concrete Channels, Environmentally Friendly, Hazardous Areas, Limited Flood-control Structures, H. Woody Woods, Flood-control Rules, Cost, Property, Worthless, Skunk Creek, Flows, Fast, Never Backs Up, Fast-moving Water, Fragile Soil, Erosion, Worry, Douglas Williams, Regional Planning Manager, Threat of Floods, Thomas Loomis, Jonathan Fuller, George Sabol, Flood-control Consultants, Survey Skunk Creek

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97	February 1, 2001	Greenbelt Rejection Costs City Millions - Without Flood Protection, Funds Required for Other Projects Likely to Balloon (& Diagram)	X Scottsdale City Council, Scrapped, Desert Greenbelt Flood-control Project, Cost Taxpayer \$80 Million, Project Proposed 11 Miles of Channel, Four Large Detention Basins, Contain, Flooding, McDowell Mountains, Cost Breakdown, Never Built, City, Lost, \$22 Million, Bond Project, North Scottsdale Road Improvements, Double, \$58 Million to \$116 Million, Flood Protection, \$160 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Senior Public Works Planner Dave Meinhart, \$47 Million, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Reallocated, Engineering Firm, Staff Salaries, Condemnation Cases, Scottsdale Voters, Approved \$126 Million Bond Issue, Streets, Transportation, Transportation Planning Director Alex McLaren, Pinnacle Peak Road Bridge, Rights of Way, Pinnacle Peak Structure, Drainage, Reimburse Flood-control District, Reata Pass Wash, Valley, San Tan Freeway, Loop 202, East Valley, Luke Air Force Base, Recover, Original Designer, Greiner Engineering, Didn't Meet Federal Standards, City
96	February 2, 2001	Greenbelt Rejection Exposes City to Lawsuit - Flood-Control Advocates Vow to Target Council Members in Litigation	X Scottsdale City Council, Potential Liability, \$100 Million Desert Greenbelt Project, Voted, Kill, Flood-control Plan, Legal Experts, City Attorney David Pennartz, Public Meeting, Flood-related Lawsuits, 17,200 People, Living, Scottsdale's Flood Hazard Areas, Pima Acres Homeowners Association, Tony Morino, Flooding, Injuries, Property Damage, Class-action Suit, Burton Kinerk, Attorney, Sues, Salt River Project, 1973, Structural Changes, Led to Flooding, Drainage Area, Drainage Study, Minimal Flooding, 100-year Flood, Limit Liability, Jay Dushoff, Land, Condemned, Hazard, Natural State, McDowell Mountains, Property Owners, Arizona State University, Paul Bender, Las Vegas, Big Storm, 1999, Napa River, California, \$542 Million, Property
103	February 2, 2001	Let Beneficiaries Pay Flood-Control Costs	X Flood Control, Desert, Deluges of Water, Rain, Fast, Furious, Mountains, Mud, Rocks, Flash Flooding, Waist-high Torrents, Major Flood Control Projects, Rejected, East Valley, Mesa Voters, Rejected \$21.5 Million Plan, Expand Stormwater System, Scottsdale City Council, Desert Greenbelt Project, Channel Floodwater, McDowell Mountains, Redesign Roads, Runoff, Existing Designs, Property Damage, Designed Correctly, Flood-control Projects, Recreation Opportunities, Hiking, Bicycling, Equestrian Paths, Wickenburg, Gila Bend, Benefit, Flood Protection, Pay, Proportional Share, Unbuildable Land, Channels,
100	April 27, 2001	Trees Help Seed W. Valley Recreation Area (& Picture & Map)	X Cottonwood Saplings, Agua Fria River, 20-foot-high Concrete Levees, Dry, Barren Riverbed, Coldwater Park, Recreation Corridor, 47 Miles, Parks, Trails, Lake Pleasant, Avondale, New River, Eyesore, Divides West Valley, Developer John F. Long, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Arbor Day, West Valley Recreational Corridor, Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, \$500,000 Federal Grant, Build Two-mile Trail, Pedestrian Bridge, Linking Two Parks, Tourism and Sports Authority, Sports Complex, Agua Fria River at McDowell Road, Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer, Allow, Cities, Use Maintenance Roads, Rights of Way, New River and Lower Agua Fria River, Hiking, Biking Trails, Army Corps of Engineers, Study, Natural State, Glendale, Maricopa County Attorney's Office, \$10,000, Confiscated Drug Money, Playground Equipment, River Restoration, Rehabilitate, River, Dry, Barren Chasm, Water Abundance, River Park, Phoenix, Six-mile Trail System, Carefree Highway, Camelback Ranch Park, New River and Camelback Road, Peoria, New River and Grand Avenue to Corridor, Cities' Parks and Trails Master Plan, Tourist Attraction, Surprise, Tax-paying Sand and Gravel Companies, Creative Alternatives, Concrete Ditches, Public Space, Mike Ellegood, Flood Control District Manager
99	May 8, 2001	Flood Zone Homes Face Buyouts (& Picture & Map)	X Maricopa County Taxpayers, Bought, Bill Cole's House, Carefree Highway and Interstate 17, Permit, Issues, Error, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Construction, Skunk Tank Wash, District General Manager Mike Ellegood, Wash, Downstream, Skunk Creek, Flood Study, Danger, Offer to Buy, Shanna Yager, District Permit Manager, Voluntary Buyout, Dam, Protect Homes, More Expensive, 17 Homes, Required Permits, Inspections, Raised, Foundation, Specified Level, Flood Control Agent, New Report, Potential Storms, Floodway, Maricopa County Supervisor Andy Kunasek, Screw-up, Unacceptable, Flood Insurance Requirements, Jim McKeag, Seventh Avenue and Honda Bow Road, Skunk Creek Flood Zone
101	May 11, 2001	Options Narrow for Opponents of Sand, Gravel Op (& Picture)	X Residents, South Avondale Neighborhood, Stop, Sand and Gravel Operation, Construction Equipment, Dysart Road, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Protesting, New West Materials, Inc., Subsidiary, Pulce Construction of Phoenix, Asphalt Batch Plant, Avondale's Jurisdiction, Land Was Not, Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, County Control, Not Restrictive, Mining, State Law, County, Little Control, In Conformance, Maricopa County Flood Control District, No New, Expanded Flooding, Cannot Overturn it, Halt, Plans for Asphalt Batch Plant, Special Permit, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Todd Sundquist, Video Cameras, Record, Environmental Law Violations, Joe Maroney, Flood Plain Use Permit, Flowage Easement, Dust Permits, Still Needed Building, Special Use, Haul Rate, Notice of Intent Permits, 401 Permit, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waive Need, Avondale City Manager Scott Schrader
102	May 16, 2001	Mosquitos 'Like Biblical Plague' (& Picture)	X Jeff Esling, Mosquitos, West Valley Driving Range, 99th and Northern Avenues, Glendale, Biblical Plague, Swarms, New River, Sitting Ponds, Water, Breed, Peoria Resident, Chris Davia, Skunk Creek, Arizona Canal Diversion Channel, Big Pond, Standing Water, Two Types, Floodwater Mosquito, Water Puddles, Culex Mosquito, Carry Encephalitis Diseases, Permanent Bodies of Water, John Townsend, Maricopa County Vector Control Program, Sentinel Chickens, 83rd Avenue and Loop 101, Flood Control Channel, Treat, Convey Waters, Storms, Collects Water, Joe Munoz, Spokesman, Flood Control District, Dredge Water, 404 Permit Needed, Army Corps of Engineers, Prove, Aren't Messing, Environment, Ecology

0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
104	May 26, 2001	Rivers Corridor Meeting Slated (& Map)	X Forty-seven Miles of Recreation Corridor, West Valley, West Valley Recreational Corridor, Master Plan, Recreation/Flood Control Project, Agua Fria and New Rivers, Three Meeting, Kris Baxter, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Update, Alternatives, Developer John F. Long, Trail System, Lake Pleasant to Avondale, Playground, Soccer Fields, Picnic Areas, Overnight Campgrounds, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, \$14 Million Committed
105	May 28, 2001	Buyout Sought for Home in Wash (& Picture)	X Kelly Graber's House, Northwest Valley, City of Surprise, Rained, Washes, Western Maricopa County, Flooded, City Issued Permit, Similar Situation, Maricopa County Flood Control District, House, Permitted by Mistake, North Valley, Flood-plain Management, Floodprone Home, City Never Forwarded Permit, Joe Munoz, Spokesman, M.E. Wash, Rushed in the Door, Flooded Again, Mayor Joan Shafer, Ellis Perl, City Engineer, Permit, 1996, State Division of Emergency Services, Assistant Director Chuck McHugh, Federal Regulations, Require Local Government, Homes Out of Washes, Federal Insurance, Address
106	June 7, 2001	Corridor Plan in Final Phase (& Pictures)-	X Rivers, Arizona, Horse, People Trails, Park-like Setting, Protect Homes, Preventing, Erosion, Server Thunderstorms, Flooding, Dry Washes, Threats, Dry River Beds, Agua Fria River, Dry Waterway, West Valley Recreational Corridor, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan, Building, Dams, Levees, Further Erosion, Mix of Control Measures, Public Recreational Purposes, Public Meeting, Flood Control District Personnel, Hydrologists, Engineers, Biologists,
107	June 13, 2001	Restoration of Riverbed Put on Hold - Pollution Seepage Delays Salt Project	X Beautify, Salt River, Phoenix, On Hold, Polluted Water, Seeped, Riverbed, Warehouse Fire, Tests, Groundwater Contamination, Don Rerick, Project Manager, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, \$85 Million, Restore, Five-mile Stretch, Determine, Allowed, Dig Up Channel, 28th Street, Wait, Clean Up, Project, Delayed, Deepening, Water Running, Storm Water Outlet, Long-term Delay, Habitat Project, South Phoenix Residents, Class-action Suit, Plants, Animals, Died, Runoff, Steve Brittle, Environmental Protection Agency, Habitat Reparation, Donn Stolzofus, Environmental Program Specialist, Preliminary Results, Levels of Contamination, Aren't High, Construction
109	June 14, 2001	Condemned - Glendale Homeowner Angry Over FCD Move (& Picture)	X Property, Condemned, Glendale Residents, Bryan, Marjorie Johnson, 83rd Avenue and Bethany Home Road, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, FCD, Boarding License for Animals, Not Allowed to Transfer, Site Plan, Inaccurate, Southwestern Maricopa County, Charging, \$1,200 Month Rent, Provide Insurance, Arizona Farm Bureau, Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer, Kevin Tyne, FCD Board of Directors, Legal Council, Attorney David Postal, Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, 17 Homes North of Grand Canal, Johnson Property, Study, Major Drainage, Bethan Home Road Outfall, Major Flooding, Two Alternatives, Channel Along Cavalier, Siphon, Disparity, Appraisal, Independent, Certified Appraiser, Set the Price, Board Up to 17 Horses, Commercial/Residential, Single Acre, 10-acre Parcel, Special Permits, Grandfathered Use, Proximity, City Park, Coyotes Hockey Arena
108	June 16, 2001	Flood Maps Stun Landowners - Cast Doubt on Rio Verde Properties (& Map)	X Home Sale, Fell Through, Rio Verde Drive, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Scottsdale's Eastern Boarder, Downhill, Verde River, Flood Plain Study, John DiPietra's House, Middle of Floodway, Cecil Rudis
111	June 16, 2001	Flood Plan Targets Homes - 25 Face Demolition Under District Proposal (& Picture)	X Elva Hall, Home, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Lorraine Hall Currence, Flood-water Channel, 25 Homes, Build, 80-foot-wide Channel, Drainage Plan, County Board of Supervisors, Peoria, Contractor, Information Fliers, Skipped Neighborhood, Out of Fliers, Public Meeting, Pinnacle Peak Road and 83rd Avenue, Kristina Baxter, Spokeswoman, Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan, 83rd to 91st Avenues, Open Channel Collector, Calle Lejos, 7-acre Basin, Excess Water, Community Park, 85th Avenue, Marilyn DeRosa, Project Manager, Carry Water, 100-year Floods, New and Agua Fria Rivers, Alternatives, Ron Currence, Steve Simmons
110	June 19, 2001	Final Skunk Creek Master Plan Nears Completion	X Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Recommended Floodplain Management Alternative, Northern Portion, Skunk Creek, Open House, Public, Comment, Master Plan, Skunk Creek Watercourse, Carefree Highway, Skunk Creek Bridge, New River Road, Protect, Existing, Future Residents, 100-year Flood Event, Damage, Channel Erosion, Lateral Migration, Sonoran Wash, Structural, Nonstructural, Nonstructural Alternatives, Multiple-use, Minimize, Expenditures, Public Funds, Flood Control and Emergency Management, Watercourse Management Plan, North Black Canyon Corridor Plan, City of Phoenix, Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, One-percent Chance, Engineering, Environmental, Land-use, Protection, Development, Watershed Specific Floodplain Management Plan, Sensitive Habitats, Cultural Resources, Unique Characteristics, Full Structural Alternative, Using Regulations, Managing Watercourse, Low Impact Structural Alternative, Structures, Residences, Built, Outside, Lateral Migration Erosion Hazard Zone, Area Adjacent to Main Channel, Eroded, 60 Year Planning Period, Nonstructural Alternative, Outside, Long-term Erosion Hazard Zone, Geological Evidence, Channel Movement, Past 60 to 1,000 Years, Levees, Concrete, FEMA 100-year Floodway, Fringe, Low Impact Structural Alternative,

0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
131	June 20, 2001	Arizona's Monsoon Mayhem - Moody Summer Phenomenon Unleashes Destructive Storms (& Pictures)	X Sky, Dark, Wind Stopped, George Robson, Wall of Debris, Microburst, East Mesa, Arizona Weather, Mother Nature, Monsoon Season, Storm, Shingles Off Roof, Wooden Fence, Baby Tornado, Fierce Winds, 100 mph, Arizona Insurance Information Association, National Weather Service, Strong Winds, Damage, Heavy Rain, Worst Season 1996, Three Consecutive Nights, High Winds and Heavy Rains, James Frederickson, Executive Director, Intense Surface Heating, Strong Moisture, Meteorologists, Three Consecutive Day, Dew Point Temperature, 55 or Higher, Muggy Conditions, Dry Heat, Lightening, Arizona 19th, Fatalities, Global Atmospherics Inc., National Lightening Detection Network, State, 30th Lightening Injuries, 23rd for Lightening Flashes, Wind Gusts, Down Utility Poles, Arizona Public Service Co., Strong Winds, Delayed Planes, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, Bad Weather, Treacherous Driving Conditions, Wall of Dust, Haboob, Habb, Arabic Word, Off Road, Driving Rain, Low-laying Flood Wash Areas, Marooned Motorist, Rescue, Helicopter, Phoenix Fire Department, 20 Water Rescue Calls, Swollen Washes, Snapped Power Poles, Cheryl Van Horn, Queen Creek, Two Poles, Rittenhouse Road, Salt River Project, Mesa Fire Department, Phoenix, Dust Storm, South Mountain, Dimming Visibility, Temperamental Monsoon,
112	June 21, 2001	Digging Up Usery Riles Neighbors - Channels to Carry Floodwater (& Picture & Map)	X Desert Scrub, Northeast Mesa, 100-year Flood, Steve Springer, Six Drainage Channels, Usery Mountain Recreation Area, Divert Flood Water, Red Mountain Freeway, County Engineers, Big Ditches, Upset, Vegetation, Wildlife, Kill, Plants, County Flood-control Proposal, Scottsdale, Desert Greenbelt Project, Rejected, Scottsdale City Council, Boulder Mountain Subdivision, Save Our Parks, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Drainage Canal's, Pass Mountain Alternative, Approval, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Financial Help, City of Mesa, Joe Munoz, Landscaped, Inconspicuous, McDowell and McKellips Roads, Taxpayers, Information Meetings, Dee Taylor, Councilman Bill Jaffa, Scarring, Significant, Carol Owens, Sonoran
113	June 21, 2001	County Budgets \$8M to Improve Drainage at Ellsworth Low Spot	X William J. Kelley, Crashed, Pool of Water, Low Spot, Ellsworth Road, Chandler Man, Sued, Mesa and Maricopa County, Government, Responsible, Road, Safe, Warn Drivers, Dangerous, \$8 Million, Build, Drainage Basins, Reduce, Heavy Rain, Elliot Basins and Channel, Crismon and Elliot Roads, Kris Baxter, Spokeswoman, Attorney Kenneth Satin, Design Work, Right-of-way, Baseline and Germann Roads, 7 1/2-mile-long Project, Widen, Storm Drains, Signal Lights, \$1.1 Million, New Bridge, Power Road Over Queen Creek Wash, Existing Bridge, Built in 1955, Current Load Standards, Andrzej Wojakiewicz, Engineer, Maricopa County Department of Transportation, \$1.7 Million, Downtown Chandler Area Drainage Master Plan, \$8.3 Million East
127	June 22, 2001	Pecos Park Construction Makes Slow Progress	X Construction, Ahwatukee Foothills, Recreation Area, Pecos Park, 66-acre Park, 48th Street and Pecos Road, Multiuse Ball, Soccer, Swimming Pool, Community Center, Skateboard, Rock Climbing Wall, Dog Park, 36-acre Water Retention Area, Phoenix, Maricopa County Flood Control District, \$4.6 Million Basin, Bruce Swanson, Phoenix Parks Preserve, Arizona Department of Transportation, ADOT, Road Ramps, Interstate 10, Highway Ramps, Gila River Indian Community, Funding, 1999 Voter-approved Sales Tax, Bond Program, Build, Nine Regional Parks, Pecos and Indian School, Design, Land Acquisition, Flood Control District, \$3 Million, Retention Area, Mini Oasis, Desert, Clean Runoff, Bird Watching, Kristina Baxter, Public Information Officer, Water Treatment Areas, Wetlands, Rushes, River Rock, Other Plants, Remove Worst Particles,
115	June 27, 2001	Distrust Runs High at Meeting - Flood-Control Proposal Angers Residents	X County Flood Control District, Angry Crowd, 300 People, Pinnacle Peak Road, 83rd and 91st Avenues, Four Options, Building Drainage System, Distrust, Complaints, Flood Control District, Peoria, Developers, Buy 21 Homes, Build 80-foot-wide Channel, Carry Floodwaters, New and Agua Fria Rivers, Public Meetings, No One Invited, People, Affected, By Plan, Contractor, Ran Out of Fliers, Missed Notifying Neighbors, Bob Romaneschi, Cheryl Johnson, Future Development, North, Real Reason, Marilyn DeRosa, Project Manager, Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan, Fourth Alternative, Retention Basin, North of Calle Lejos, Storm Drains, Favored
114	June 28, 2001	Usery Flood Plan Draws Protest - Parks Official, Residents Rip Idea to Cut Into Mountains	X Maricopa County Parks Official, Dig, Flood Control Channels, Usery Mountains, Northeast of Mesa, Deputy Director Bill VanAusdal, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Opposes, Plan, Change, Mountain Preserve, Boulder Mountain Home Owners Association Meeting, Flood-control Officials, Build, Protect Residents, 100-year Flood, Spook Hill Watershed, 1987, Master Plan, Ease Flooding, No Money, Rapid Growth, Worst-case Scenario, 100-year, 24-hour Flood, 4.2 Inches of Rain, Project Manager Afshin Ahouraiyan, Six Flood-control Options, Miles of Channels, Divert Water, Buy, Level, Homes, McDowell and Ellsworth Roads, Boulder Creek Subdivision, No Flooding, Focus, Farther West, Dawn Fallon, Save Usery Park Effort, Petition, Resident John Meisierhiem, Sandy Bahr, President, Arizona Chapter Sierra Club, Effort Shortsighted, Developers,
117	July 4, 2001	Officials Try to Resolve Vulcan Dispute - Permitting Process Also Discussed (& Pictures)	X Representatives, Sun City Homeowners Association, Vulcan Materials Company, State Mine Inspector's Office, County, State Government, State Senate Building, Mining, Asphalt, Concrete Production Plants, Neighboring Communities, Valley, Sen.
116	July 5, 2001	Flood-Control Projects are Foolish Measures	X Berms, Bell Road and Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard, Built, Control, Flood Areas, Northern Scottsdale, Phoenix, Trap Water, Back Up, Condemn Land, Park, Arizona, Drainage Areas, Danger of Flooding, Hundred-year Flood, Million-year Flood, James

0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
119	July 5, 2001	Editorials - Stirred Waters - Floodplain Owners Shouldn't Rely on Government Protection	X Arid Landscape, Rushing Floodwaters, Dusty-dry Washes, Fast-moving Torrents, Modern Methods, Flood Control, Scottsdale's City Council, Not Fund, Desert Greenbelt, Alluvial Fan, McDowell Mountains, Price, Too High, Environmental Damage, Too Great, Maricopa County Park's, Flood Control Agencies, At Odds, Flood-control Channels, Utery Mountains, Northeast of Mesa, Homes, Elevations, Below, Major Flood, Protect Area Downstream, Deputy Parks Director Bill VanAusdal, East Valley Audience, Alter, Mountain Preserve, Taxpayers, Environmental-altering Flood Control Projects, Buyers, Floodplain Land, Consequences, Prepare, Catastrophe, Building Techniques, Flood Insurance
118	July 9, 2001	Imagine a 'Turquoise Necklace' Encircling the Valley with Green (& Picture)	X 1890s, Pioneering Landscape, Frederick Law Olmsted, Charles Eliot, Green, Metropolitan Boston, Opened Spaces, Parks, Parkways, Water Quality, Flooding, System Ringed the Region, The Emeralds Necklace, Nations' First Regional Open-space System, Recreational, Greater Phoenix Area, Scottsdale's Grassy Indian Bend Wash, Tempe's Towne Lake, Rio Salado Project, Salt River, West Valley, 27th Avenue Recycling Center, Tres Rios Wetlands Project, Developer John F. Long, Agua Fria Greenway, Recreational Corridor, Trails, Flood Control, Agua Fria River, Anthem, Lake Pleasant, National Forests, Sonoran Preserve, Arizona State University, Architectural Dean Jim Elmore, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Officials From Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe, Glendale, Peoria, Maricopa County Association of Governments, Landmark Desert Spaces Report, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Financial Support, Arizona Congressional Delegation, Phoenix Arts Commission, Valley
120	July 9, 2001	Delays Damaging Both Sides, With No Compromise in Sight - Trust-land Debate Needs Sorting Out (& Picture)	X One Million Acres, State Trust Land, Open Space, Arizona Growth, Preservation, Development, Conservationists, Developers, Ranchers, Lawyers, Educators, Proposition 202, Growth Boundaries, Gov. Hull, Proposition 101, Set Aside, 3 Percent Trust Lands, Ed Fox, Vice President of Pinnacle West, Former Director, State Department of Environmental Quality, Mike Smith, Arizona School Administrators, Arizona School Boards Association, Scottsdale, Phoenix
121	July 9, 2001	The Editor - Public Must Not Be Denied Access to Public Land (& Picture)	X Mountain Preserve Arsonist, Legislature, Preserved Land, Public Land, Block Public Access, Phoenix, Tucson, Southern Arizona Hiking Club, Public Trails, Donna McCabe, Phoenix Mountain Preserve
122	July 10, 2001	Land Buyouts an Option for 11 Desert Hills Properties (& Pictures & Map)	X Phase II, Skunk Creek Watercourse Master Plan, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Land Buyouts, Desert Hills, 11 Property Owners, FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 100-year Floodway, Cannot Be Rebuilt, Sharon Geraci, Honda Bow, Flood Control Official, Shanna Yager, Joe and Claudia Hines, Unable to Obtain, Building Permit, Enclosed Barn, Floodway, Wash, State Land, Approval, County Board of Supervisors, Project Manager Marilyn DeRosa, 20-percent Chance, Flooding, Server Erosion Hazard Zones, Flood Control, Flood Warning System, Pagers, Weather Radio, 1999, Phase I, Creek, Central Arizona Project (CAP), Carefree Highway, Phoenix, New River Road, New River Wash
123	July 11, 2001	Town to Pay for Flood Wall - 'To Hell with FEMA,' Says Vice Mayor	X Wickenburg Town Council, Sols Wash Flood Protection Wall at Coffinger Park, Build Wall, FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, ADOT, Arizona Department of Transportation, Sols Wash Bridge, Possible Flooding, Protected, Floods in October, Wall, Helped, Town Manager Fred Carpenter, Build Longer Wall, \$21,000 FEMA Grant, Project Designed, Put Out Bid, Authorization, Vice Mayor Lon McDermott, Council Member William "Bill" Johnson, Maricopa County, Begin Project Immediately, 200-foot Extension, Funded, Town's Capital Improvement Program, Awarded to Mordex Contracting, \$46,000, Engineers, Design, Army Corps of Engineers
124	July 11, 2001	Courts May Become Involved in Gravel Dispute, Wilcox Warns	X Future, Sand and Gravel Operations, Avondale, Maricopa County Board of Adjustments, New West Materials Inc., Dysart Road, Southern Avenue, Exemption, Special-use Permit, Sand and Gravel Excavation, Loophole, Board of Supervisors, maricopa County Board of Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Owned BY Phoenix-based Pulice Construction, State's Lenient Laws, Mining, Unincorporated County Island, Asphalt Plant, Mining Operation, County's Planning and Zoning Department, Todd Sundquist, Ride Horses, Trucks, Frighten Them
125	July 15, 2001	Property Owners Fear the Worst - Residents May Have to Make Way for Flood Control Project (& Pictures)	X Maps, Proposed Glendale/Peoria Master Drainage Plan, Open House, Residents, Affected Area, Property, Condemned, Ditches, Culverts, Mike and Irene Mead, Northwest Corner, 83rd Avenue and Camino de Oro, Rapid Growth, Proposed Retention Basin, Project Manager Marilyn DeRosa, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Drainage Situation, Ditch, Buried Pipe, 40-foot-wide Piece of Ground, Sunrise Mountain, Storm Drain Pipe, Drainage Control, Lorraine Hall Currence, 20 Neighbors, Never Notified, Pamphlets, Door Hangings, J.D. Campbell, FCD, Relieve Flooding, Westbrook Village, Pinnacle
126	July 15, 2001	Flood Control District Studies Try to Beat the Growth Wave	X Michael S. Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Flood Control Projects, Peoria, Glendale/Peoria Area Master Drainage Plan, 83rd Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Road, Editorial, Alludes, Confusion, Fastest Growing Area, Studies, Prevent, Flooding, Future Storm Events, Ventana Lakes, Ahead of Development, Drainage System, Development, People, Property, Homes, Impacted, Flooding Issues, Recreational, Environmental Needs, Community Comment, Alternatives, Developing a Plan, Approved, District's Board of Directors, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, City Council, Not be Condemning Properties, Trauma, Force Relocation, Federal, State Guidelines, Fair, Equitable Compensation, Homeowner, Oversight, Neighborhood, Not Properly Notified, Public Meeting, Corrective Action

0	Y	Title of Newspaper Article	X Key Words
129	July 17, 2001	At War with Sand, Gravel Outfits - Valley Residents Hindered by Loopholes (& Pictures & Map)	X Sand and Gravel Operations, Residents, Valley, \$2 Billion Industry, State's, Construction Needs, Fights, Prime Property, Riverbeds, Developed, County Residents, Avondale, Disrupting, Equestrian Lifestyle, Vantana Lakes, Fleet of Trucks, Neighborhood, Exhaust, Dust, Garbage, Sun City Residents, Working Day, Night, Asphalt Recycling Plant, Without Notice, Mesa, Old Orchard, Dug Up, Loop 202, State Built Loop Around Groves, Rockland Materials, Countersuit, Not Need Flood-control Permit, Permit From State Mining Inspector, Peoria-based Rainbow Enterprises, Illegally, Dumping, Solid Waste, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Attorney General's Office, Pay, Fine, Regulation, Loopholes, Strained Government Staff, Gravel Outfits, Laws, Regulations, Ken Quartermain, President, Arizona Rock Products Association, Employing 10,000 Arizona Residents, County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Dust, Traffic, Flooding Problems, Create, Zoning, Public Notification, Air Quality, Aquifer, Dust-control Plan, Pollution-prevention Plan, Fleet Emissions Inspection, Todd Sundquist, Surprise Factor, 4:00 a.m., Constant Sound, Rocks, Crushed, Dumped, Mining Inspector Douglas Martin, Complaints, Cave Creek, Carefree, Queen Creek, Demand, Aggregate Products, Agua Fria River, Peoria to Avondale, 30 Sand and Gravel Sites, Caliche in its Dirt, Riverbed Rock Easy to Mine, Raw Materials, Build, Arizona, Sand and Gravel Pit,
128	July 18, 2001	Rains Raise Road Issue at New Arlington School Site (& Picture)	X Heavy Rains, West Valley, Relocation, Arlington School, Centennial Wash, 410th Avenue and Elliot Road, Under Water, Heavy Rainfall, Jim Garner, Storm, Superintendent Ron Fletcher, Roads, Need, Work, Rainfall, Gila River Floodway, 1957, Before, County Flood Control District, Formed August 1959, Arlington District, School Relocation Issues, Road Quality, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Construction, Remodeling, Current Location, Not Issue, Permit, Michael Ellegood, Chief Engineer, General Manager, MCFCD, Four Flood Events, 50 Years, Damage, Fire Damage, State Risk Retention Trust Company, Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, Ruth Aud, Emergency Services Planner, Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management, Emergency Planning Zone, Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant, Ruth Fisher, Palo Verde Schools, Exit Route, Maricopa County Department of Transportation, Road Improvement,
130	August 4, 2001	Flood Project in Troubled Waters	X Chairwoman, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Residents, Opposed, Flood-control Project, Paradise Valley, Doubletree Ranch Road, Jan Brewer, Mayor Ed Lowry, Approved, Agreement, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, District's Advisory Board, Rejected, Tatum Boulevard to Indian Bend Wash, Invergordon Road, Spent \$600,000, Engineering Plans, Road Improvements, George Dopp
95	January 19, 2002	Peoria Flood Plan Preserves Desert	X Rain, Floodwaters, Concrete Channels, Divert, Water, Peoria, Natural Washes, Channels, Flood Control Measures, North Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan, Natural Flood-control Function, Existing, Washes and Channels, 73 Square Miles, Foothills Area, Jomax Road, Agua Fria River, Lake Pleasant Regional Park, Dave Moody, Public Works Director, Debra Stark, Director, Community Development, Avoid Concrete Channels, Sun City, 99th Avenue, Functional, Useful, Not Aesthetically Nice, Protect
77	September 14, 2002	Residents Cope With Rain Runoff In North Phoenix - County to Host Meeting, Seek Solutions (& Picture)	X Storm Runoff, Drainage Problems, Light Showers, Subdivisions, Pinnacle Peak, Deer Valley Roads, 83rd and 91st Avenues, Sand, Streets, Homeowners, Water Damage, Garages, Living Rooms, Study, City of Peoria, Maricopa County Flood Control District, City of Glendale, Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan, Rapid Growth, New Problems, Existing Drainage Facilities, Updated Drainage Master Plan, Meeting, Resident's Ideas, Drainage Problems, Northwest Valley, Marilyn DeRosa, Planning Project Manager, Burton Charron, City of Peoria Engineering Department, Drainage Solutions, Causes of Runoff, City, County Drainage Policies, Natural Runoff System, Washes, Culverts, Bladed Out Roads, Deeper, Considerations, Drainage, Infrastructure, Channels, Miniature Dams, Pinnacle Peak/Deer Valley Area, Constructing, Detention Basins, Store Runoff, Recommendations, City/County Cost Sharing, \$23 Million Bond Proposal, Storm Sewer, Flood Control Protection, Funding

#1

# The Phoenix Gazette

Eugene C. Pulliam 1889-1975  
Publisher 1946-1975

Nina Pulliam - Publisher  
Mason Walsh - Assistant Publisher

*"Where the Spirit of the Lord Is, There Is Liberty"*  
II Corinthians 3:17

PAGE 6 Section A

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1976

## Now For Flood Control

Just what luck a new citizens' committee may have in getting the Legislature to live up to its promises of financial support for flood control in Maricopa County is hard to say. After all, the weather has been rather dry lately and interest in flood control has dropped — as usual in dry times.

The Maricopa County Citizens Committee for Flood Control Assistance, established Monday by the board of supervisors, can offer some compelling arguments for the state to increase appropriations for flood control works now that the revenue picture is brighter.

In 1973, after a wet year that caused flood problems here, the Legislature agreed to spend \$61 million over a 15-year period to help Maricopa County and other areas of the state pay for the local share of flood control works. When the recession caused revenues to dip, however, the Legislature cut back on its flood control appropriations and has put out only \$4.1 million, nowhere close to the \$13.3 million requested by local agencies.

Of course, the Legislature had to cut spending somewhere and so far the reductions haven't been too harmful. Enough money has been available for planning and prelimi-

nary work, but unless the local share of money for flood control works is available soon, the federal government is sure to divert funds destined for Maricopa County to localities in other states where governments are ready to start building.

The last flood in Maricopa County, in 1972, caused \$10.8 million in damages and economic losses, and it was a mere trickle compared to what could happen — a flood that would put much of Phoenix under water, cost as much as \$600 million and doubtless claim many lives.

Even if the Legislature puts up the state's share of flood control money to be matched with local funds, this area will remain exposed to the threat of devastating floods until the protective works can be completed over a decade or more.

If the Legislature delays another year in providing necessary funds, however, that doesn't mean that flood protection will be delayed only for a year. Once the federal share is diverted, and Maricopa County has to go to the back of the waiting line for flood control money, several years could be lost. Flood control deserves a high priority in the Legislature at the session beginning next month. Later may be too late.

#2

# \$58 million flood project proposed

By Doug Snover  
Staff writer

SCOTTSDALE — A \$58 million plan for drainage channels to control storm flooding north of the Central Arizona Project will be introduced by city planners over the next few weeks.

Nearly all of the areas between the CAP aqueduct and Dynamite Road that have been declared "flood prone" by the federal government could be relieved of that often-expensive designation by construction of three lengthy channels to divert storm runoff, city planners say.

About 13 square miles of Scottsdale north of the CAP has been designated as flood plain by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA classifies the flood-prone areas as "AO zones" and says they are subject to storm-water flows more than a foot deep.

Anyone building within the mapped flood plains is required to take special precautions such as raising building pads above the predicted flood levels at an additional estimated cost of thousands of dollars per home.

Anyone buying a home in the area will be required to purchase flood insurance, which could run hundreds or even thousands of dollars per year, depending on the value of the property.

Three channels, each costing millions of dollars, could be built to contain storm water and eliminate the AO designations, city officials predict. The channels also could become the basis for a "desert greenbelt" system of natural washes, jogging paths and parks.

Scottsdale planners are proposing a \$25 million Reata/Beardsley channel that would control flooding generally east of Pima Road and south of Pinnacle Peak road.

The main Reata/Beardsley channel would hug the McDowell Mountains just south of Pinnacle Peak Road, move to the west at Beardsley Road and follow 96th Street south to the CAP aqueduct, where the channel would dump its waters into CAP detention basins.

See FLOOD, Page 5

## FLOOD

From Page 1

A side channel would begin near Beardsley Road at about 104th Street and connect with the main channel near 96th Street and the Bell Road alignment.

City officials also are proposing a \$20 million Pima Road channel that would carry floodwaters about six miles from Jomax Road to a proposed retention basin at Pima and Union Hills Drive, then meter the water southward into smaller channels that would carry it to the main CAP detention basins.

A third proposed channel — the \$13 million Rawhide channel — would begin near Dynamite Road

east of Pima Road and carry storm waters southwest through the Los Portones area north of Pinnacle Peak Road and across Scottsdale Road near Rawhide, just south of Pinnacle Peak Road.

Phoenix officials are considering a flood control project to continue the Rawhide channel after it crosses city limits at Scottsdale Road.

Scottsdale officials have scheduled a public meeting at 7 p.m. Sept. 24 in the Troon Country Club to review the channel plans and potential effect on the lush north

Scottsdale desert region.

The Scottsdale Planning Commission is expected to review channel plans at meetings on Sept. 28 and Oct. 12.

Scottsdale City Council members could be asked to formally adopt the proposed channel routes at their Oct. 20 meeting. Council members were expected to review the program timetable at Tuesday's study session.

City planners calculate that construction on the first parts of the extensive channel system could begin in mid-1994. The

project might take 10 years to build the primary flood control structures, and even longer to flesh out with the full system of parks and amenities proposed.

One factor that could dictate construction phasing of the Pima and Reata/Beardsley channels is the plan to build an interim Outer Loop freeway connection between Scottsdale and Bell roads, officials acknowledge. That freeway section is expected to be open as soon as 1995.

Scottsdale has almost \$20 million available for the channel

projects from the 1989 bond program, but is anticipating sharing the estimated \$58 million costs with other governmental agencies and affected landowners. However, city officials say they have not calculated the percentage of costs expected to be borne by the city, other agencies, and landowners.

Agencies that Scottsdale might ask to help fund the project are the Maricopa County Flood Control District, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Arizona Department of Transportation, and U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers.

Landowners could be billed for part of the \$58 million program through local improvement districts or community facilities districts. Both types of districts allow the city to tax lands within the district to pay off construction bonds.

Much of the proposed cost would be to restore washes to their natural appearance after construction of the channels, and to build bridges that would eliminate street flooding.

#3

# Rock firms to fight Rio Salado tax Association joins campaign against proposed levy

By MARY A.M. GINDHART  
and SUSAN LEONARD  
The Arizona Republic

A trade group of sand-and-gravel companies announced Tuesday that it will join a campaign to defeat a proposed property tax to help fund the \$3 billion Rio Salado Project, which Maricopa County voters are being asked to approve at a special election Nov. 3.

The decision bolsters the campaign by a newly formed opposition group, Citizens for the Proj-

ect/Against the Tax, because the Arizona Rock Products Association is expected to help finance a major campaign. The only other opposition comes from two grass-roots citizens groups that are expected to mount only low-budget campaigns.

"It's most unwelcome, most unfortunate, and we would have rather had their support," Jim Elmore, a member of the Rio Salado Development District's board, said of the association's opposition.

John DeWitt, a spokesman for Citizens for Rio Salado, a proponents group, said he believes Citizens for the Project/Against the Tax is a "front" for the sand-and-gravel companies.

And, he said, that he believes they have decided not to support the project to protect their own interests in the riverbed.

"We think the sand-and-gravel companies' narrow financial interest is the reason for their short-

— Tax, B6

# Cost sours Rio Salado for councilman

By SUSAN LEONARD  
The Arizona Republic

A Phoenix City Council member said Tuesday that he believes cleaning up the landfills in the Salt River for the Rio Salado Project will cost Phoenix taxpayers about \$1 billion, but his estimate was immediately branded as "wild-eyed" by a project backer.

Bill Parks, who said he will vote against endorsing the project, pres-

ented his estimate at a City Council meeting during a discussion on the project.

"I'd rather see that money spent on mass transit or on cleaning up air pollution," said Parks, who represents District 1.

But Aaron Kizer, director of the Rio Salado Development District, angrily objected to Parks' \$1 billion cleanup estimate.

"Rio Salado can no longer sit

back and let these wild, outlandish statements go," Kizer said.

Kizer said a consultant hired by the district, Dames and Moore, estimated that cleaning up all of the landfills in the Salt River bed would cost \$300 million.

He said the district plans to spend about \$60 million cleaning up the landfills and expects that the rest of the costs would be picked

— Councilman, B6

#4

Sept 30

# TAX

Continued from B1

sighted opposition to Rio Salado," DeWitt said. "They don't have, in their minds, an iron-clad guarantee as to the amount of profit they're going to make."

The district had unsuccessfully negotiated for more than a year with the association in hopes of heading off its opposition. But the two sides could not reach agreements on legal assurances sought by the association to allow private landowners to develop their own land as part of the project instead of facing condemnation.

Ed Belt, chairman of the association's legislative committee, said the association will join Citizens for the Project/Against the Tax, whose formation was announced Monday by House Majority Leader Jim Ratliff, R-Sun City.

Ratliff's group opposes the use of a countywide property tax to help fund the project. The referendum asks voters to approve a property

tax of up to 25 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which would amount to about \$20 a year on a \$100,000 home. The funds would be used to help build a 26-mile public park along the Salt River surrounded by private development.

The association's announcement comes on the heels of a disappointing fund-raising effort for the project's supporters. Burton Barr, finance chairman for Citizens for the Project, said that only \$200,000 of an expected \$650,000 has been raised. However, Dennis Mitchem, chairman of the campaign, said Monday that he expects support to pick up in the wake of stronger opposition.

Instead of the tax, Ratliff's group proposes that the project be developed by private developers who then would contribute funds to build the public portions.

The association also has argued that the project could be built

privately.

Belt said that the association's biggest concern is that after seven years, the district still cannot tell a private landowner what portion of his land may be used for the project. The association's member sand-and-gravel companies own about 40 percent of the private land needed for the project.

Belt said that the association also is concerned that the district does not have contracts for water for the project's lakes and streams and that only "broad estimates" have been given on cleanup costs for landfills in the river.

District officials plan to use treated effluent from Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe.

A recent \$4,200 study for the district details how the district can deal with the landfill problems, and district officials say they believe the toxic-waste dumps will be cleaned up or sealed off within 10 years.

# COUNCILMAN

Continued from B1

up by the entities that are responsible for the landfills.

But Parks said he believes the city will have to increase taxes or reduce services to pay for the cleanup over the next decade.

He said he realizes Phoenix eventually will have to clean up its landfills in the riverbed but believes that it will not have to clean them up as quickly if Rio Salado is not built.

Kizer said he was concerned that newspaper-headline writers would pick up Parks' \$1 billion estimate and falsely give the public the impression that it was correct.

He said Phoenix currently is

having a study done to determine how much it will have to spend to clean up the riverbed's landfills.

Earlier this month, Parks, the only council member to vote against the project, asked the district to provide answers to 20 questions about the project.

Parks said that many of the answers he received were good but that he has decided to again vote against the project when the council considers formally endorsing it in about two weeks.

Maricopa County voters will be asked Nov. 3 to approve a property-tax increase to help pay for the project, a 26-mile-long public park

lined with residential and commercial private developments. The project is expected to cost \$3 billion, half of which would be paid for with property taxes and half by companies that would have developments there.

John DeWitt, a spokesman for Citizens for Rio Salado, a proponents group, said Parks' comments unwittingly may prompt some people to vote for Rio Salado.

"It's implicit in his comments that the landfill problem will be dealt with faster with Rio Salado than without Rio Salado," DeWitt said.

12/23/98

# Doubletree project has lost focus of original intent

We appreciate the coverage the *Independent* has given to the Doubletree Ranch Road Drainage Project. Your article in the December 16-22 issue made mention of my standing up and sounding off at the "information session" but failed to include my opening comments leading up to the criticism of the Flood Control District and the engineers.

Earlier in the meeting, the engineer from FCD, when asked about the Cherokee Wash/Riggs Subdivision, stated without hesitation: Nothing in this project will alter the Cherokee Wash; it handles the 10-year flood; this project, even with the lateral on 52nd Street, will do nothing for the Riggs area.

Basically my comments were made to refresh the memories of Town staff and to again advise the present council members that this entire project had its beginnings because of the persons in the Riggs area. They were the ones who enlisted the aid of a previous council person and Town Engineer Bill Mead, and they are the ones who have been "screaming" for years. Now the FCD engineer, after all this time, has finally stated what we have been saying all along, this project will do nothing for the Riggs area!

At this point I probably should have sat down but questions which everyone is asking us and which are taboo for public discussion begged

to be asked.

How and why, 1) does the Town Council feel it is in the best interest of the Town and its residents to move to the 60-percent design factor with a project which does not accomplish its original intent and which places the Town in a "position of no return," and 2) what motivates the FCD to push on with it?

There are several very plausible answers, one of which I stated before being asked to sit down — the FCD's motivation is a matter of self-preservation. They must keep projects such as this going for them to stay in business and to create a need for their jobs. This no secret, it is a well-known fact among politicians and persons familiar with the FCD in the Valley.

What I was unable to say is that this project has taken on a totally different dimension from its original intent. To the Town staff and we believe this council, it has become the means by which the FCD (i.e. the taxpayers of Maricopa County) will help pay for road improvement and utility undergrounding. From the Town's point of view, there is nothing wrong with this and maybe there isn't. But I doubt if the taxpayers of Maricopa County would agree.

More than 100 residents were shut out at the Nov. 12 meeting because of the late hour and time constraints. We were excited and optimistic when the Town Council voted to

postpone action until special sessions could be held to answer questions — theirs and ours — and to work with the residents to sort out the project. The Dec. 10 meeting was set up as an "informational session." Once again the public was shut out. This was a meeting for council members and engineers only to "talk." To be specific, Town Manager Tom Martinsen in a letter dated Nov. 12 to the FCD included a list of "issues and alternatives to discuss further with the Town Council."

Another "work session" is to be scheduled for the first or second week in January; this again will be a "no public input" meeting. Eventually a public meeting will be held to tell us what they have decided to do and the public will be able to, as one council person said at the informational session, "vent, but with time constraints."

Is this the way the new council plans to work with their constituents? This is not what they so eagerly said in their campaign statements and promises prior to their election last spring. Perhaps they should all go back and review their comments made to the voters.

In closing, let it be clear, there is a need for a project which includes some drainage control and road improvements with traffic calming and beautification, but the council and the staff must get it right. You cannot go back and correct mistakes

in a project of this size and scope. Get it right and I'm sure support will be forthcoming from the area residents. In the meantime, to quote Councilman Bob Williams' eloquent and timely statement in the *Independent* regarding the recreation path on Lincoln Drive, "Just because money is available doesn't mean we need to go after it."

Liz Clendenin

Member, Concerned Residents for Preservation of the Town

**P.S.** — People today stay away from participation in government and its entities like the plague. We are too busy to be bothered. We abrogate our civic responsibilities to the bureaucrats. The apathy has become so pervasive, we don't even bother to vote. For the Town election last spring there were 9,656 registered voters - only 1,568 bothered to vote! So, isn't it extraordinary that in one small section of the Town there is such a large number of people who are interested in the well-being and future of our Town. So interested, that collectively and individually, these residents have spent hundreds of hours meeting, researching and preparing reports, visiting with neighbors and indeed, even going to meetings. To all of you, hang in there, your continued support and turn out for public meetings when they are finally scheduled will continue to send a message to our elected council members.

#5

X/6

West Valley View, Litchfield Park, Arizona, November 17, 1997

11/17/97

# Long's dream provides chance for the westside's identifying mark

Some developers say the West Valley is just beginning to turn ripe for residential and commercial development.

Imagine that.

With the number of rooftops that have opened up across the desert here in the past three years, it's hard to believe that this area is just now emerging as the hot spot for growth in the Valley. Yet predictions call for even more rooftops, families, businesses and industries to move here.

And by here we mean, Tolleson, Avondale, Goodyear, Litchfield Park and Buckeye.

Each of these five cities is individually proud of their histories and personalities, as they should be. Yet the time is now for the Southwest Valley to begin gathering ideas for a centerpiece attraction, a single identifying mark that sets this area apart.

Such an idea was presented in October at Maryvale Stadium.

Valley developer John F. Long proposes turning 47 miles of riverbed into a long, winding park laced with paths, hiking trails, horse trails, parks and wildlife preserves. A huge, expansive endeavor that is sure to catch the eye of visitors and draw families from across the Valley for visits.

It could satisfy a multitude of needs voiced year after year at city elections by providing more activities for teens, more parks for families, trails for walkers and equestrians, fields for baseball, football or Frisbee players. Boys and girls looking for a skateboard park could have space in this recreational area as well as in-line skaters.

The possibilities are endless, but best of all, an ambitious project such as this one would preserve sufficient open space that the West Valley would distinguish itself from the rest of metropolitan Phoenix by not covering every square foot with a red tile roof or the flat roofs of strip malls.

The West Valley Recreation Corridor would begin at the Gila River and trace the Agua Fria to Lake Pleasant. It will also split from the Agua Fria north of Camelback Road and follow New River to Circle Mountain Road.

Passing through county land and the cities of Avondale, El Mirage, Peoria, Glendale, Surprise and Phoenix, the plan requires the collaboration of not only local municipalities, but the Maricopa County Flood Control District, Maricopa Association of Governments and private entities.

It's true that the park would only pass through Avondale, but the neighboring cities of Tolleson, Litchfield Park, Goodyear and yes even Buckeye could benefit from this extraordinary play land.

It will cost lots of money, (estimates range from \$300,000 a mile to more than \$1 million a mile) and take years to build, but in the end, it will all be worth it.

And cities that contribute to the construction costs can be expected to have leverage in deciding what goes into the park, so its residents' needs can be met.

However, now is not the time to consider the cost of this particular project, now is the time to consider the cost of fast-paced development with the potential to erase the West Valley's identity and replacing it with the look of every city.

John F. Long's dream is just that, for now. But it's a dream worth remembering as growth brings the West Valley's cities closer together.

# Unfinished flood-control projects save lives

## Las Vegas, Valley systems similar

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS A \$1.4 billion flood-control program that won't be finished for another quarter-century still saved lives and property when this gambling capital was pummeled by up to 3 inches of rain in just two hours, flood experts said Friday.

**BULL RUN:** Rain Maricopa County's network of flood control channels, dams and detention basins is similarly a work in progress, with no definite end in sight as urban areas continue to sprawl across the Valley.

But like Las Vegas, Phoenix and surrounding cities find they're able to control more floodwaters each

time an additional piece of the network is completed and put on line.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County, an agency created by the state 40 years ago, coordinates a regional flood control plan using property tax revenue earmarked for the purpose. The district also works with each city on more localized projects.

Currently, the district maintains 23 dams and more than 50 miles of underground channels to control floodwater. The agency's ongoing project list includes more than 30 other projects, from basic drainage improvements to the environmental restoration of the Salt River between the Interstate 10 bridge and 19th

Avenue.

The district, which operates on a pay-as-you-do basis, plans to spend about \$57 million in the current fiscal year.

The city of Phoenix is in the middle of millions of dollars in storm-drain improvements designed to better clear streets of fast-rising water. One piece of the project, for example, will bring long-needed help for the Arcadia area neighborhood, 40th to 64th streets around Camelback Road. The project will cost about \$12 million — the city plans to split the bill with the flood district — and will add storm drains to a 4-square-mile area.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2001.

The Indian Bend Wash in Scottsdale is an example of a regional project that included resources from

the district, the city and the Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which includes a greenbelt and recreational features, was designed to handle a 100-year flood and was built on the natural flood plain.

The southern Nevada project is only 20 percent complete and won't be finished for 25 years, Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman said.

But if Thursday's storm had happened a few years ago, "it would have been a disaster to end all disasters."

"What we've done with flood control is remarkable," he said.

Two deaths were blamed on the flash floods that sucked up cars, destroyed three mobile homes and invaded a casino, businesses and homes throughout the Las Vegas area.

Police and firefighters rescued

163 people from raging waters. Eight rescues had to be done by helicopter.

"I can't begin to estimate what would have happened if these flood controls were not in place," said Gale Fraser, general manager of the Clark County Regional Flood Control District. "I know it would have been a lot worse. Prior to our being here, there was no place for that water to go."

The system consists of 30 massive flood detention basins ranging in size from 10 acres to 80 acres. Fraser said one of the basins collected 400 acre-feet of water, about enough water to cover a football field 400 feet high.

"That water would have run rampant through the valley," Fraser said.

The basins collect water pouring off mountains surrounding the city

then release it slowly along channels and washes that empty into Lake Mead.

Fraser said the scope of Thursday's storm played a role in the devastation, with heavy rains in all sections of the valley. Most storms cover a more limited area.

The flood control project was initiated after devastating floods in 1975 and 1984.

About \$400 million has been spent so far, while an additional \$1 billion worth of work is planned.

City officials estimated public property damage at \$620,000. Clark County and state officials had no damage estimates late Friday. City and county officials plan to ask the state for a disaster declaration.

Republic writer Shaun McKinnon contributed to this article.

### Resident 'flooded' with concern

Independent  
1/27-2/2/99

I am one of those apathetic voters and residents who does not pay much attention to what goes on in the Town. One of my neighbors insisted that I attend the Jan. 7 meeting. Well, what a shock. People on Doubletree Ranch Road and nearby neighborhoods better wake up. We are going to live with a freeway-style excavation for a couple of years to protect us from floods, which have never occurred. And it appears from those who spoke at the meeting, this affects less than 10 houses (water in house). Others spoke about water in yards and on their property, which all of us expect and live with. At Tatum Boulevard, two 5-foot by 5-foot pipes are going in to do this. They are going to dig a 15-foot by 15-foot foot trench and as the pipes get bigger down Doubletree Ranch Road, the ditch will get deeper and wider. Are they crazy? Tell the county people to keep their money.

#7  
#8

619



The AZ Rep. 7/15/99

Recent rains added a little too much to Tempe's Town Lake, and water spilled over the edge of the dam at the water's western end. Sherrie Buzby/The Arizona Republic

# Tempe Town Lake is full, but vision is far from reality

By M. Bradford Grabowski  
The Arizona Republic

It's not Niagara Falls, but the new Tempe waterfall could be the start of something big.

The \$44.8 million project that began in 1987 hit a high point Wednesday — literally.

Soon, the fun will begin.

After more than a decade of planning and work, Tempe's Town Lake finally filled up, spilling over its dams into the Salt River to create a 19-foot waterfall.

Tests need to be conducted before the public can begin using the lake in the fall, but already grand plans are under way to develop the area surrounding the water.

"It's going to be awesome," said Fountain Hills resident Tedi Klein, who brought her family with her Wednesday to see the full lake. "I can't wait to be in a boat on the lake watching the fireworks next Fourth of July."

A visitor's center will open up in September at 620 N. Mill Ave. to sell boat permits. Recreational use, however, won't start until November, Tempe officials said.

The Rio Salado Project, which oversees development of the lake, has received \$23 million from Tempe to use over the next five years on building a park around the entire lake.

A footpath will be built near the water; a bicycle and in-line skating path will be farther away. Grass, plants and trees will surround the paths, and all commercial buildings will be at least 150 feet away from the bike path, said Mary Fowler, marketing director for the Rio Salado Project.

"This thing evolves every day differently," Fowler said.

Construction on the \$5 million first phase of the park should be completed by



— Please see TOWN, Page B2

The Arizona Republic

# Rescues in the rain

## 2 storms collide, swamping Valley

The Az Rep. 7/15/99



Charles R. Varca uses his pickup truck as an island Wednesday afternoon waiting for a sheriff's helicopter to rescue him from a roiling Paradise Valley wash. Varca waited at least a half-hour before the chopper carried him to safety.

Pete Scanlon/The Arizona Republic

**By Martin Dolan**  
The Arizona Republic

A textbook desert downpour trapped motorists in swollen washes Wednesday afternoon, collapsed a mobile home, briefly shut down Sky Harbor International Airport and swamped countless Valley roads at rush hour.

No deaths or serious injuries were reported as a storm moving in from the southwest ramed into one approaching from the northwest about 3:30 p.m.

A total of 1.24 inches of rain fell at Sky Harbor for the day, nearly triple the previous record for July 14, which was set in 1942.

The drenching brought Phoenix up to par for rainfall.

"Our dry year became a normal year real fast," said Bill Estle of the National Weather Service.

Too fast for Charles R. Varca, 25, whose pickup truck was swept down a wash raging across 40th Street in Paradise Valley. The pickup grounded where the wash crosses Stanford Drive, and Varca

### INSIDE

**MONTINI:** Why bother with rescues? **B1**  
**RAINFALL:** Dry year becomes normal. **A8**

**ONLINE:** Tell us how the big storm affected you on our message boards at *The Republic's* Web site, [www.azcentral.com](http://www.azcentral.com).

#10

crawled out a window and into the bed.

As local television crews caught the drama live, Varca waited a tense half-hour or so before a Maricopa County sheriff's helicopter took him to safety.

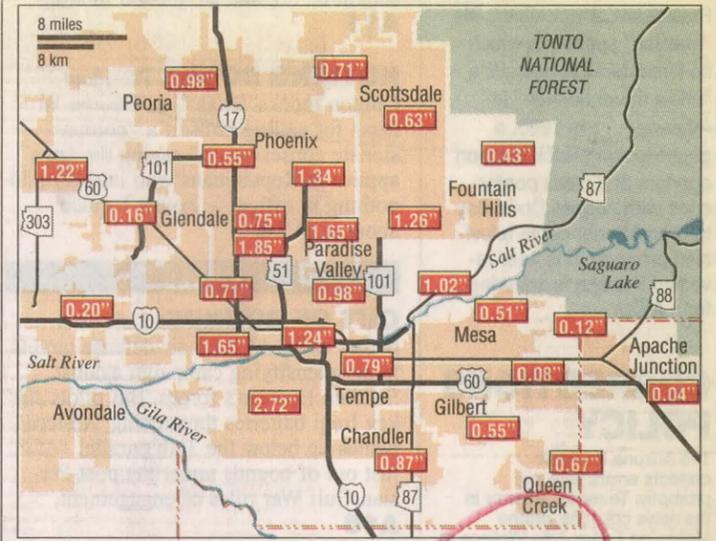
"Luck clearly was on his side because the conditions were clearly against him," Police Chief John Wintersteen said.

In south Phoenix, three women were shaken but unhurt when the

— Please see **2 STORMS**, Page A8

### Wednesday's storm

Valley rainfall for the 24-hour period ending at 7 p.m.



Source: Maricopa County Flood Control District

The Arizona Republic

## Several saved as gullies fill

**By Dennis Wagner and Mike Crissey**  
The Arizona Republic

On a monsoon day full of wet and wild stories, Charles R. Varca came away with one of the most harrowing.

The 25-year-old construction worker was snatched from the roof of his pickup truck Wednesday by a Maricopa County sheriff's helicopter after he tried to cross a roiling arroyo at 40th Street in Paradise Valley.

The motorist rescue, an annual drama during monsoon storms, was broadcast live on local TV news stations.

Chandis Ingenthron, 45, of Phoenix, said he arrived about 5:05 p.m. to see Varca standing in the truck bed, looking confused.

Ingenthron said water was "bubbling up around the hood" as a helicopter hovered down to the bed of the pickup.

— Please see **SEVERAL**, Page A8

#11

# DESERT WASH

## Proposed recreational corridor transcends West Valley

#12 8/10/99

By TINA SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

We need  
Ya subscribes

The West Valley Recreational Corridor, the proposed 47-mile park stretching from Avondale north along the New River and Agua Fria riverbeds, could take root as early as next April.

In a meeting Wednesday, John Long, the project's manager, said he is gearing up to have Avondale, Phoenix, Glendale and Peoria schoolchildren plant trees along the now-dry riverbeds. Long said he would donate some of the trees.

The corridor, Long's brainchild, will be a less-urban version of Scottsdale's Indian Bend wash, and include bicycle and horse paths, said Mike Ellegood, chief engineer and general manager for the Maricopa County Flood Control District, which owns about 40 percent of the land in the proposed corridor. The remaining is private and commercial property, mostly sand and gravel businesses.

"The character of the Agua Fria wash will be more desert," Ellegood said.

The proposed park will run between Sun City and Sun City West and may include paths for golf cars.

Although planners intend the linear park to be rural, the bill for the corridor, which is now being called Pasajes del Rio, could run as high as \$1 million per mile — about the same cost to build a one-mile stretch of freeway.

The cost does not include a proposed riparian habitat or land acquisition costs. Initial cost projections are between \$250,000



Steve Chernak/Daily News-Sun

New River through Peoria is part of the proposed West Valley Recreational Corridor.

and \$300,000 a mile, Long said.

Each city will fund its own portion of the park, with about half of the planned environmental corridor falling into Peoria's back yard.

Tim Barnard, Peoria parks and recreation management assistant, said Peoria has earmarked \$200,000 of its budget for a 10-foot wide paved trail. The money will hardly make a dent in Peoria's share of the project, though.

Peoria, along with Avondale, are trying to shore up their share through federal grants, Barnard said. Phoenix has already figured its cost of the park into its

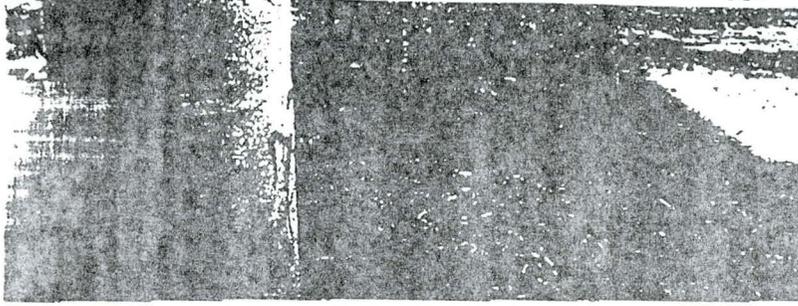
budget, said Jim Burke, Phoenix parks recreation and library deputy director.

Part of the reason the project is so expensive, Barnard said, is that cities must conform to laws requiring three feet of land on each side of the corridor and chip in for clean-up costs.

"They have become a breeding ground for debris and illegal activity," Long said of the West Valley riverbeds, where bridge columns are covered with graffiti.

Glendale will try to fund \$2 million of the project through one

See Planners envision, A5



Steve Chermek/Daily News-Sun

Graffiti mars the columns of the Thunderbird Road bridge over New River in Peoria. The New River channel is part of the proposed West Valley Recreation Corridor riparian area.

## Planners envision golf car paths

From A1

of its proposed bond initiatives on the Nov. 2 ballot, said Charles Henderson, Glendale manager and budget director.

Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs said that while she supports the project, she didn't approve of how the proposal was being rushed through the political system, which didn't allow time for city council votes.

"There needs to be an open process that all projects go through with all factors considered," Scruggs said.

The fast pace at which West Valley land is being consumed by developers precipitated the rush to complete the corridor, Long said.

"If it waited, it would be too late. ... The window of opportunity is closing," Long said.

In addition to running through the West Valley's most populated cities, a report released this week by Carsten Burgess, the corridor's design firm, figures in El Mirage and Youngtown.

Jay Hicks, an associate with the firm, said El Mirage has planned a linear park along its portion of the corridor.

El Mirage engineers and officials could not be reached for comment.

Also, the study shows Sun

City sandwiched between the Agua Fria and New River corridors. Although retirees won't have to ante up funds for the project, planners are bandying the idea of golf car paths near the river. But cost factors for such amenities have yet to be determined.

In addition to money and time constraints, planners also have to tackle private property and parking issues.

At Wednesday's meeting, the Audubon Society also expressed an interest in the project, which should be finished in stages over the next 10 years. Work will probably begin on the corridor's northern end.

Before too much earth is tilled, the project will have to receive the nod for funding from the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, said Jan Brewer, District 4 supervisor.

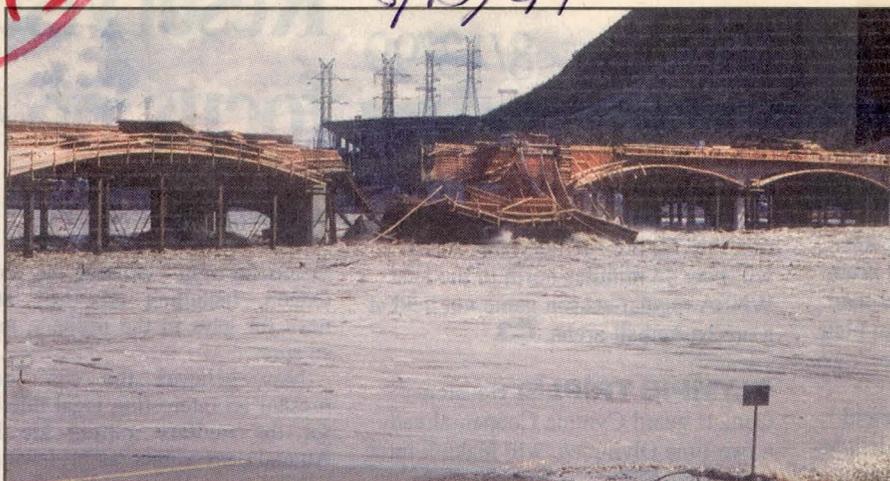
"I am very enthusiastic about it and that it will be a wonderful open space for the people of the West Valley to enjoy," she said.

Despite its immense size, the corridor is only a small part of a much larger plan, she said.

"We have a vision that someday through Maricopa County government that we'll be able to circle on foot or on horses the entire county," Brewer said.

#13  
8/13/99

'Big, ugly monster'  
keeping  
homes



Nancy Engebretson/The Arizona Republic

dry as . . .

The middle section of the Mill Avenue Bridge, under construction in January 1993, collapsed after heavy rains sent the Salt River on a muddy rampage.

# Valley tames monsoon floods



Mark Schiefelbein/The Arizona Republic

The Adobe Mountain flood-control dam in north Phoenix is checked out by Michael Ellegood (left) and George Lindop of the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

## MORE INSIDE

### BEFORE YOU BUY:

Advice from the Maricopa County Flood Control District. **A12.**

### RISK

#### GROWS:

Flood planners are moving into uncharted territory as new housing developments chew up more desert on the fringe of the metropolitan area. **A13.**

#### MASTER

**PLAN:** Detail map of the Maricopa County flood-control program. **A12.**

## Major floods and damage estimates in Maricopa County

YEAR	MONTH	DAMAGE ESTIMATE
1993	Jan.	\$38 million
1980	Feb.	\$63.7 million
1978	Dec.	\$51.8 million
1978	March	\$37 million
1972	June	\$10.6 million
1970	Sept.	\$590,000
1963	Aug.	\$2.9 million
1965-66	Winter	\$6 million

Source: Maricopa County Flood Control District

The Arizona Republic

By Mike McCloy  
The Arizona Republic

For most Valley residents, today's monsoon storms barely make a curbside puddle, thanks to four decades of flood-control projects built by the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

The district's more than 80 major dams, ditches and drains proved themselves worthy last month, when 2 inches of rain pounded the Valley on July 14 and 15.

Twenty years ago, that kind of soaking left residents wading in the streets and sandbagging their doors. But not this time.

The Flood Control District's 200-member staff will celebrate the agency's

40th anniversary on Sunday. Armed with an annual budget of \$88 million, the district weather-proofs the Valley's developed landscape with little notice, except when its plans collide with politicians and property owners.

Former Phoenix Mayor Margaret Hance was among the most vocal critics, especially of the Arizona Canal Diversion Channel, which in 1976 she called the "big ugly monster."

Also known as the AC-DC, the 17-mile concrete ditch took 25 years and nearly \$300 million to complete. It collects water from streets and washes and carries it beside the Arizona Canal from 40th Street in Phoenix to Peoria.

— Please see **MONSOONS**, Page A12

40 YEARS OF VALLEY FLOODING

# Monsoons mostly leave puddles today

MONSOONS, from Page A1

Today, the AC-DC is one of the major reasons older portions of Phoenix no longer flood.

"All that water north of it used to come in there," said Herb Donald, 85, the Flood Control District's retired general manager. He recalled regular floods along 19th Avenue where Cave Creek would spill over the Arizona Canal and sometimes flow all the way to the state Capitol basement.

During last month's storm, Donald said, "there wasn't a word mentioned in the paper; that thing did its job."

Over the years, scorn of the AC-DC also subsided as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers adorned the ditch with wrought-iron fences, bicycle paths, mesquite trees and a recreation area where it flows into Skunk Creek.

### Newcomers often surprised

Even with such improvements, the Salt River Valley's constant flow of newcomers are surprised by the desert's flash floods, where a year's worth of rain can fall in a day.

Washes, creeks and rivers swell with monsoon-driven storm runoff and mountain snowmelt from a watershed the size of Michigan.

For eons, it all funneled to the Gila River on the Valley's south-western side, flowed to the Colorado and eventually emptied into the Gulf of California.

Today, that funnel is clogged with 100 years of agricultural and urban growth.

Even with its many improvements, the district still is struggling to catch up with Valley growth.

In Glendale, for example, where new homes are built dangerously close to Skunk Creek, workers fill wire cages with rocks to bolster the edge of a flash-flood area.

"This is nuts," said Mike Ellegood, the district's chief engineer and general manager. The "industrial strength" bank-protection project will protect the homes. But the creek becomes a landscaped ditch, he said, instead of open space for human recreation and animal habitat, which is the future of flood control.

"We're trying to do some planning before development occurs," Ellegood said during a recent tour of the booming northwest Valley.

The district has joined Maryvale developer John F. Long in planning for that future, along with Avondale, Phoenix, Glendale and Peoria.

### 40 miles of trails

The West Valley Recreation Corridor would link Estrella Mountain Park and Lake Pleasant with 40 miles of trails, sports fields and parks along the flood-protected Agua Fria River.

The trail system could branch east along New River, Skunk Creek and the AC-DC to the Salt River, where planned Rio Salado improvements would complete a loop back to the Gila River near Estrella Mountain Park.

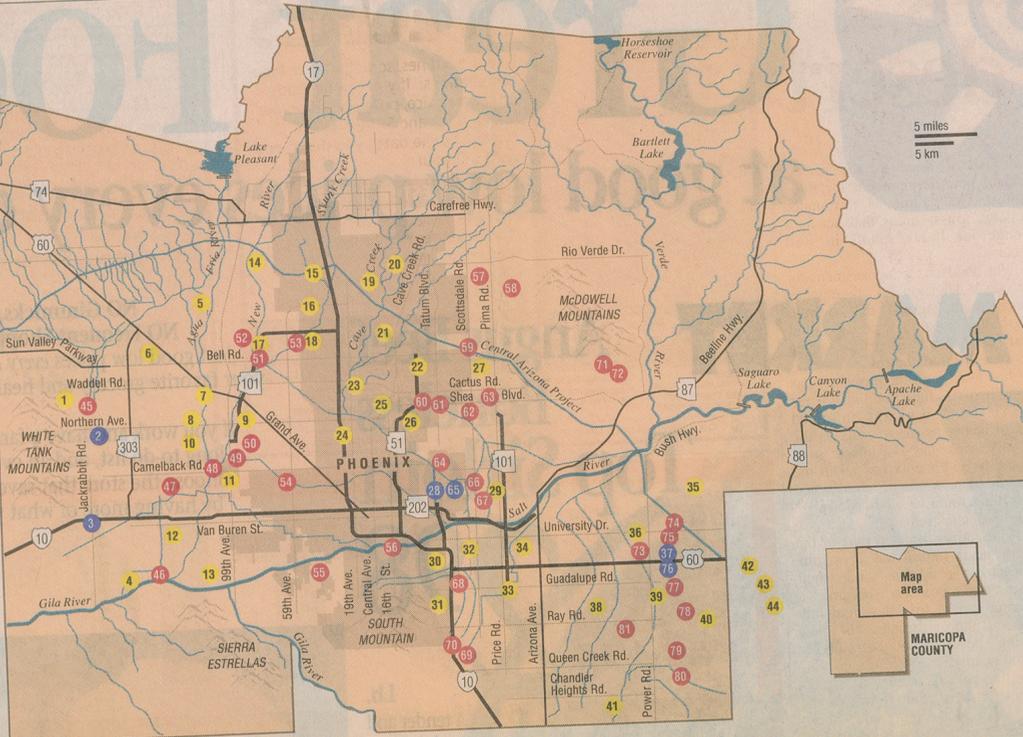
"That's the dream," Ellegood said. "I don't know how much I can do as flood-control manager, but we're trying."

In its early years, the Flood Control District pushed for major dams and concrete-lined diversions.

In recent years, the district and its affiliated state and federal flood-control agencies have tried a softer approach.

In the 1970s, the Army Corps of Engineers was persuaded to drop plans for a concrete ditch along Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash. Instead, the engineers turned it into a greenbelt that flows during heavy rains, but dries into a long, lush playground.

"We used to call them cement heads," said Don Steuter, Valley



Maricopa County flood control program

Existing structures Existing structures to be improved New projects

- |                                                    |                                             |                                            |                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1 McMicken Dam and Outlet Channel (1956)           | 21 Upper East Fork Cave Creek (1996)        | 41 East Maricopa Floodway (1989)           | 61 Doubletree Ranch Road Drain              |
| 2 White Tanks FRS 3 (1954)                         | 22 Paradise Valley Detention Basin 4        | 42 Powerline Dam (1967)                    | 62 East PVSP drainage improvement           |
| 3 White Tanks FRS 4 (1954)                         | 23 Cave Creek channelization (1991)         | 43 Vineyard Dam (1968)                     | 63 84th Street/Cholla Basin and Storm Drain |
| 4 Perryville bank stabilization (1984)             | 24 Arizona Canal Diversion Channel (1994)   | 44 Rittenhouse Dam (1969)                  | 64 Arcadia-area drainage project            |
| 5 El Mirage Drain (1990)                           | 25 10th Street Wash basins (1997)           | 45 White Tanks/McMicken drainage           | 65 Old Cross-out Canal                      |
| 6 Sun City West drains (1990)                      | 26 Dreamy Draw Dam (1973)                   | 46 Bullard Wash Outfall Channel            | 66 Osborn Road Storm Drain Outfall          |
| 7 Sun City Drain (1996)                            | 27 PVSP Cactus Road improvements (1991)     | 47 Litchfield Park Drainage                | 67 Oak Street Storm Drain                   |
| 8 Dysart Drain (1996)                              | 28 Old Cross-cut Canal (1975, 1991)         | 48 Camelback Ranch Drainage                | 68 Town of Guadalupe                        |
| 9 New River channelization (1988)                  | 29 Indian Bend Wash channels (1985)         | 49 Bethany Home Road Outfall Storm Channel | 69 Southeast Valley Regional Drainage       |
| 10 Colter Channel                                  | 30 48th Street Drain                        | 50 Northern/Drangewood Storm Drain         | 70 Southeast Phoenix Regional Basin         |
| 11 Indian School Road Drain                        | 31 Guadalupe FRS (1975)                     | 51 Sports Complex bank protection          | 71 Golden Eagle Park Dam                    |
| 12 Agua Fria channelization (1988)                 | 32 Salt River Channel                       | 52 91st Avenue/Union Hills Drainage        | 72 Ashbrook/Balboa Wash                     |
| 13 Holly Acres Levee and bank stabilization (1984) | 33 Price Drain (1997)                       | 53 Skunk Creek improvements                | 73 54th Street Drain                        |
| 14 New River Dam (1985)                            | 34 Alma School Drain (1969)                 | 54 Maryvale flooding mitigation            | 74 Five basins along CAP Canal              |
| 15 Skunk Creek Channel and Levee                   | 35 Buckhorn/Mesa flood retarding structures | 55 South Phoenix drainage                  | 75 Hawes Road Channel                       |
| 16 Adobe Dam (1984)                                | 36 University Drive Basin (1993)            | 56 Phoenix Rio Salado                      | 76 Sossaman Channel                         |
| 17 Skunk Creek channelization (1991)               | 37 Sossaman Channel and Basin               | 57 Rawhide Wash Detention Basin            | 77 Elliot Road Channel and Basin            |
| 18 Scatter Wash Channel (1995)                     | 38 Gilbert Crossroads Park Basin (1992)     | 58 Reata Pass Channel                      | 78 East Mesa ADMP                           |
| 19 Cave Creek Dam                                  | 39 Guadalupe Channel (1989)                 | 59 Pima Road Channel                       | 79 Rirrenhouse Road Drainage                |
| 20 Cave Buttes Dam, Dikes 1, 2 and 3 (1980)        | 40 Powerline Floodway (1968)                | 60 Tatum Wash Drainage                     | 80 Queen Creek and Sanolai washes           |
|                                                    |                                             |                                            | 81 Higley ADMP                              |

FRS-Flood retarding structures; PVSP-Paradise Valley Scottsdale Phoenix; ADMP-Area drainage master plan  
Source: Maricopa County Flood Control District

Gus Walker/The Arizona Republic

## Check district before buying

Here's some sage advice for potential desert dwellers from the folks at the Maricopa County Flood Control District: Most of the good lots are gone.

So, before you pay \$25,000 for that desert acre, you'd best check with Chuck Feuguay, the Flood Control District's inspection and permit manager.

Feuguay's team uses laser levels to ensure that concrete floors are poured at least a foot above flood plains.

But not everyone checks with Feuguay's office, which handles about 150 complaints a year, mostly from neighbors flooded by other neighbors who don't follow the rules for building. Feuguay and his crew cover the unincorporated places in Maricopa County, outside Valley cities.

"Our biggest problem is people who buy a lot and level all the drainage features," Feuguay said.

"The rule is: You can do anything with a wash as long as it enters and exits your property at the same flow rate and doesn't affect adjoining property."

And those are big ifs. Overgrown mesquite trees and cactus can cover a lot of problems — until the rains come. Then, your desert hideaway can float away.

"Don't do anything, don't rely on anybody until you contact the government agencies involved," Feuguay advised.

The Flood Control District telephone number is (602) 506-1501. The address on the Internet is: [www.maricopa.gov](http://www.maricopa.gov), then click on "flood control," or go directly to <http://156.42.96.70/netmain.htm>.

conservation chairman for the Sierra Club. "The only thing they knew how to do was pour cement. Now, they're trying to keep people from building in the floodplain, rather than a concrete approach."

### Some are not happy

But some landowners are not happy. "I don't want my client to talk to you," attorney Larry Lazarus said. "He's so mad, he wants to sue them right now."

His Chicago client has owned 120 commercial acres for three generations. Phoenix's North Black Canyon (flood-control) Plan would use zoning to keep developers farther away from washes than ever before.

"This cuts the property value by 60 percent," Lazarus said. "They'll be destroyed."

The situation will simmer for 11 months while the Flood Control District studies the city's plan.

Politically, it's more difficult to build massive flood-control structures.

In north Scottsdale, for example, high desert residents are upset with a \$100 million plan by Scottsdale and the Flood Control District for a greenbelt to control sudden storm flows that can overflow washes. City



Mark Schiefelbein/The Arizona Republic

The Flood Control District uses laser levels to ensure that concrete floors are poured at least a foot above flood plains. Some houses are raised even more. The inspection and permit office handles about 150 complaints a year.

officials say the project will protect existing homes and businesses and a planned freeway.

"We violently disagree," said Marcia Ryon, one of a group of protesting homeowners near Pinnacle Peak. "It is being touted so Phoenix can do high-density development on the west side of

Scottsdale Road. "The alternative is to leave it the heck alone. The washes have run for thousands of years with no problem at all."

Army Corps of Engineers regulator Cynthia Lester has delayed the project for a possible environmental study, to the delight of Ryon

and her neighbors.

Throughout the Valley, washes have been blocked by canal banks and choked by roads. Developers carved the place into a million pieces and dumped their drainage on each other.

Mother Nature struck back in 1891 when the Salt River floated pigs away and left people clinging to trees from Southern Avenue to Van Buren Street.

In 1921, 1933, 1943 and 1951, the headlines were the same. Only the model year of the swamped automobiles changed. The Valley was flooded again and again.

### An act of Congress

It took an act of Congress to bring Valley-wide flood protection.

The Federal Flood Insurance Act of 1956 promised coverage if local governments would help build flood protection and limit development in flood plains. Three years later, in 1959, the Arizona Legislature approved the flood-control district and gave it the authority to levy property taxes. The rate now is 29 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, or about \$29 annually on a home assessed at \$100,000.

The county had only 630,000 people and \$600 million in taxable property when the district began

operating on Aug. 15, 1959. Now, the population approaches 2.9 million and the district must protect taxable property worth \$161 billion, as well as public facilities worth billions more.

Many of the district's projects were sparked in 1972, when a late June monsoon storm sent Cudia City Wash over the top of the Arizona Canal, inundating 34 homes around 40th Street and Camelback Road. Valley-wide, the flood caused \$10.6 million in damage.

Legislators increased the district's tax rate to 50 cents after massive floods in 1978, 1979 and 1980 knocked out all but two bridges across the Salt River, virtually paralyzing the Valley.

Additional flood-control projects also gave Congress assurances that the Central Arizona Project would be protected, before lawmakers spent the \$4.7 billion it took to divert the Colorado River 336 miles to Phoenix and Tucson.

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#15

# Agency to channel water flow in Mesa

By KRISTEN HATCHER  
Independent Newspapers

9/1-7/99

as a park when it's not holding water.

When it rains in the desert, it pours.

It also floods, which is why the Flood Control District of Maricopa County is working to protect east Mesa residents from potential destruction during the monsoons.

The district conducted a study and produced an East Mesa Area Drainage Master Plan. Officials found a need for projects in the area bordered roughly by University Drive, Meridian Road, Queen Creek Road and Power Road.

"This ADMP identified over \$130 million worth of potential projects," said Tim Phillips, senior project manager.

The district will begin work next fall on two projects with higher priority — the Ellsworth Channel and the Elliot Road Detention Basin and Outflow Channel. The Ellsworth Channel will collect storm run-off along Ellsworth from south of Pecos Road and discharge that water into the District's existing Powerline Floodway.

The Elliot Road Detention Basin will be at Crismon and Elliot with a channel that runs across Elliot, diagonally through the General Motors Proving Ground, then goes under Ellsworth to a natural wash on the western side of the street. The \$4 million detention basin will be used

That's the kind of partnership the "kinder, gentler flood control" district looks for in projects, officials said.

"We can't use any money to build a park," said Joe Muñoz, public information officer.

"But we can build it so it's consistent with the multi-use," Mr. Phillips said.

The district works with other agencies, such as the city of Mesa or Maricopa County Department of Transportation, when there is an opportunity to provide visible benefits to the public. Sometimes funds, space or location determine that nothing more than a concrete channel is needed.

"We have identified \$400 million worth of projects" in the county, Mr. Phillips said. The next step is, "how do we implement this, collectively, with the community?"

The two East Mesa ADMP projects should be finished within about two years. The district is completing other projects according to priority.

"The most crucial ones are the larger facilities and those regional in nature," Mr. Phillips said.

The district is working to keep ahead of east Mesa's rapid growth and development. It's a lot easier to

## FLOOD

See FLOOD, Page 12

Page 1

build components before there are neighborhoods and businesses. The district's Lower Spook Hill and Signal Butte areas, which include parts of east Mesa, have also been identified as needing an ADMP, but those have not yet been scheduled, officials said.

"Ideally, we want to be proactive," Mr. Phillips said. "You want to protect the public before they get there (with water in their homes)."

Though non-natives may laugh at the idea of a flood control district in a desert, it's a necessity in an area where flash floods leave motorists stranded each year.

Water acts differently here than in other parts of the country where

there is consistent rainfall and runoff, Mr. Phillips explained. The county's watershed area is 9,000 square miles, or an area the size of the state of Michigan.

"When you have a storm over dry ground, it runs off" as opposed to soaking in, Mr. Phillips said. "If you have a series of storms, it catches and runs off."

The types of storms here also play a factor.

"It's a whole lot of water very fast, so it doesn't have the chance to soak in," he said.

The district also educates the public about flash floods. Warning signs must be obeyed — if the sign says "Do not cross when flooded" and

there's water over the road, don't attempt it.

"Cars are not a flotation device," Mr. Muñoz said. "Your car is not a boat."

Nor is it a plane.

"An inch of water on this road will cause your car to hydroplane," he said, pointing to Elliot Road.

He also warns about washes and creeks. They may be dry, but there's no telling what's happening upstream. And it's too late when a person sees the wall of water heading for them at a high speed.

"It doesn't have to be raining in this spot to be wet in a few hours," Mr. Muñoz said.

#16

Tempe is getting \$4.2 million of federal money to restore a portion of the Salt River habitat.



8/20/99

The Arizona Republic

# U.S. funds will help beautify dry Salt

By Elvia Diaz  
The Arizona Republic

A long-sought dream of planting native vegetation and building picnic ramadas and walking paths to beautify a dry stretch of the Salt River on the eastern end of Tempe's Town Lake could become a reality.

## TEMPE

To accomplish that dream, Tempe is getting a hand from the federal government.

This week, President Clinton signed the Water Resources Development Act, authorizing the Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with efforts to restore the Rio Salado's habitat.

For Tempe, it means getting \$4.2 million in federal funding. The city will contribute an additional \$2.4 million to complete the project, which runs from the upstream dam of Town Lake to McKellips Road.

But it may take a few more years for that stretch of the river to return to its more natural habitat.

Rep. Ed Pastor (D-Ariz.) said the next step will be to allocate the money, which means the actual restoration may not happen until 2001, he said.

"This is a good start," Pastor said Thursday as he stood with Mayor Neil Giuliano on the edge of Town Lake.

"We're thrilled," Giuliano said about the prospects of obtaining the federal money. "All this area will soon be desert green."

Tempe's restoration includes 30 acres of mesquite, 20 acres of cottonwood and willow habitat, 16 acres of wetland marsh, 50 acres of aquatic strand and 30 acres of open edges.

# Panel studies link in planned trail corridor

#17

9/15/99

By Ezra Fieser  
The Arizona Republic

One link to the web of trail systems that one day may cover the West Valley has moved a step closer to implementation.

The Maricopa County Trail Commission is considering the McMicken Dam Corridor, which would link the White Tank Mountain Regional Park in the west with the future site of the West Valley Recreation Corridor to the east.

McMicken Dam was built in the 1950s to protect Luke Air Force Base from floods.

The corridor planning subcommittee, headed by flood control landscape planner Dennis Holcomb, released a report on the feasibility of the corridor, highlighting the benefits and constraints.

The subcommittee presented a vision for the trail system that included:

■ Including the McMicken Dam Corridor project into the Maricopa County Regional Trail, which is an open space system that will connect the regional parks surrounding the metropolitan area.

■ Implementing the corridor through partnerships with public, private and inter-governmental agreements.

According to Supervisor Jan Brewer, preserving open space is a necessity.

"People have made very strong vocal comments. They want to have recreation trails in their community," she said. "If we don't have the foresight to preserve open space now, we're going to lose the chance."

The plan also highlighted the present condition of the corridor as a trail that could be used immediately. In its present condition, the nine miles owned by flood control are suitable for hiking, bicycling and equestrian uses.

The implementation of the trail would also protect the area as a natural habitat for wildlife. Mountain lions, for

See TRAIL | Page 5

## TRAIL | Would connect 2 recreation areas

From Page 1

example, migrate between mountain ranges and pass through the White Tanks from time to time.

Before the corridor is completed some obstacles need to be dealt with:

■ Funding is a question mark. The subcommittee has recommended intergovern-

mental agreements to pay for the project.

■ An agreement would need to be reached with the city of Surprise, which has a major stake in the project, and private owners with land in the planned corridor path. This would include incorporating a large groundwater recharge and park facility planned by Surprise.

The plan still needs trail commission approval as well as the approval of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

According to Brewer, trail projects such as this are a top priority for the board.

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# Town's new flood plan most advanced in county

By Caleb M. Soptelean  
Staff Writer

Something's finally being done about flooding in Wickenburg.

Responding to a need for more flood control in the community, Maricopa County has installed 28 flood monitoring devices in the Wickenburg area, also known as the Hassayampa River watershed, over the past five years.

Historically, the town has suffered large amounts of property damage to flooding during the past 100-plus years. Longtime residents of Wickenburg remember the "100-year flood" caused by

Hurricane Norma in 1970.

"The need for flood control (in Wickenburg) is greater than in other parts of the county," said Mike Elegood, General Manager of the Maricopa County Flood Control District. "Because of topography (shape of the land), (you) get a lot more weather," he said, adding "It rolls off faster because of the (hilly) terrain. Recognizing this need, flood control has put dollars into Wickenburg."

The need for flood control in Wickenburg became apparent to the department two years ago

when Hurricane Nora unleashed her fury in October of 1997. "We had a good idea it could sock Wickenburg," said Elegood. "We checked facilities, cleaned out ditches, visited with the police department, and gave them warning."

The storm didn't directly hit Wickenburg. Instead, the small towns of Aguila, Wenden, and Salome, located 25 to 60 miles of Wickenburg, were hit, with 3.7 inches of precipitation recorded at one location. If the heart of the storm had occurred in Wickenburg, Cave Creek, or

Scottsdale, it would've resulted in millions of dollars in damage, Elegood said.

Nora, which was not quite a "100-year flood," according to Steve Waters, senior hydrologist at the Maricopa County Flood Control District, created much less havoc in Aguila than it could've in Wickenburg, although it did cause a dam to break near Salome in nearby La Paz County.

## There when the dam broke

Elegood describes the scene, viewed from a SRP helicopter, when the Centennial Narrows Dam broke after Nora hit.

"I've been in professional engineering for 40-plus years, been through Vietnam and Korea. I've never seen anything like that dam when it failed," said Elegood. "A huge wall of brown water kept pouring through a fissure in the dam. The ground was shaking, vibrating. Great big sheaths of earth fell off the dam."

He continued, "The only thing I thought was, 'Thank God there was nothing developed downstream from there, 'cause it would've been wiped out.'"

Plan continued, Page A-6

Wickenburg Sun 9/15/99

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# Plan

Continued from page A-1

The land southeast of Centennial Narrows Dam is primarily agricultural, giving the water an unobstructed flow all the way to I-10.

The dam, located eight miles south of Salome on the Salome-Buckeye Road, was built by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1930s. It had been turned over to a local farmer and not been maintained very well, according to Waters. (La Paz County doesn't have a flood control district.)

In conclusion, Elegood said, "We had a major event that didn't do a lot of damage because of where it occurred."

### Town protected

"Structurally, we've done everything we can do (to protect the town from a flood)," said Elegood, noting the recently-completed

flood response plan created for Wickenburg cost \$150,000, while the study required to form the plan came at a price of \$1 million.

### Most advanced in county

Maricopa County is now "well ahead of the curve" as far as flood response plans go, said Waters. And, "Wickenburg is the most technologically advanced one in the county, without a doubt." The only other Valley communities that have a flood control plan are Glendale and Scottsdale, with one to come for Fountain Hills sometime next year. (Maricopa County's flood control district is "second only to the Tennessee Valley Authority in size," Waters noted.)

The study for Wickenburg's flood control plan, which identified flood-prone areas, was finished in 1992. Beginning in 1994, 28 water sensors were installed in the

Wickenburg area, with several more in the upper Hassayampa River in southern Yavapai County. The study also resulted in the creation of Casandra Wash Dam, located on Mariposa Street behind the bowling alley, which was finished just last year. The completion of Casandra gave Wickenburg its third dam, following the Sunnycove and Sunset dams, which were built in the 1960s. Sunnycove is located west of the town cemetery, while Sunset is behind the Napa Auto Parts store, south of West Wickenburg Way.

*Editor's note: There are nine major washes in the Wickenburg area. They are: Powder House, Sunset, Sunnycove, Casandra, Flying E, Hartman, Sols, Martinez Creek, and the Hassayampa River.*

**Coming next week:** *The Sun* looks at the future of flood control management.

#19

# Another day, another deluge

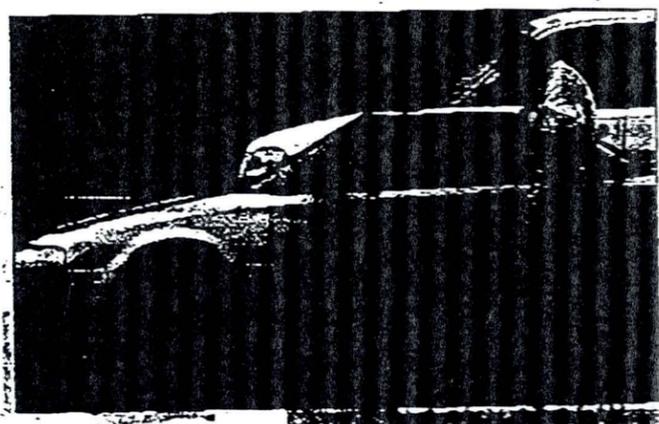
BY ED BAKER AND BARRETT MARSON  
THE TRIBUNE 9/24/99

A sudden rainstorm Thursday swept through the East Valley, flooding streets, backing up traffic and causing an estimated \$80,000 damage to one building when its roof partially collapsed.

The unusual late September storm, the third in a week to rip through the area, drenched parts of Mesa, while other communities, including Chandler and Tempe, received little or no precipitation.

"We had a lot of flooding all afternoon," a spokesman for the Mesa Fire Department said. "It made driving hazardous."

The worst weather-related accident



All wet: Benny Pahn, 27, tries to dry off the remote control for his car alarm Thursday in a swampy parking lot at Dobson and Main streets in Mesa.

Please see DELUGE, Page A4

## FROM THE FRONT

# DELUGE: MARC center closed after 'waterfalls'

From Page A1

occurred on U.S. 60 when a semi-tractor trailer overturned, backing up westbound traffic for hours. No serious injuries were reported.

The MARC center at 924 N. Country Club Drive was temporarily closed after rain cascaded "like waterfalls" into the building about 2 p.m., destroying two computers, office equipment and other factory machinery, according to Janey Durham, the facilities employment services manager.

The nonprofit center trains the physically disabled to prepare them for jobs at private corporations, and ultimately, independence. At least half of the 132 clients will be told to stay home today while the extent of the damage is assessed, said Randy Gray, the center's CEO.

"Right now it's a top priority to get our clients back into the program. We can't have them sitting at home. The question right now is: How are we going to accomplish that?" Gray said.

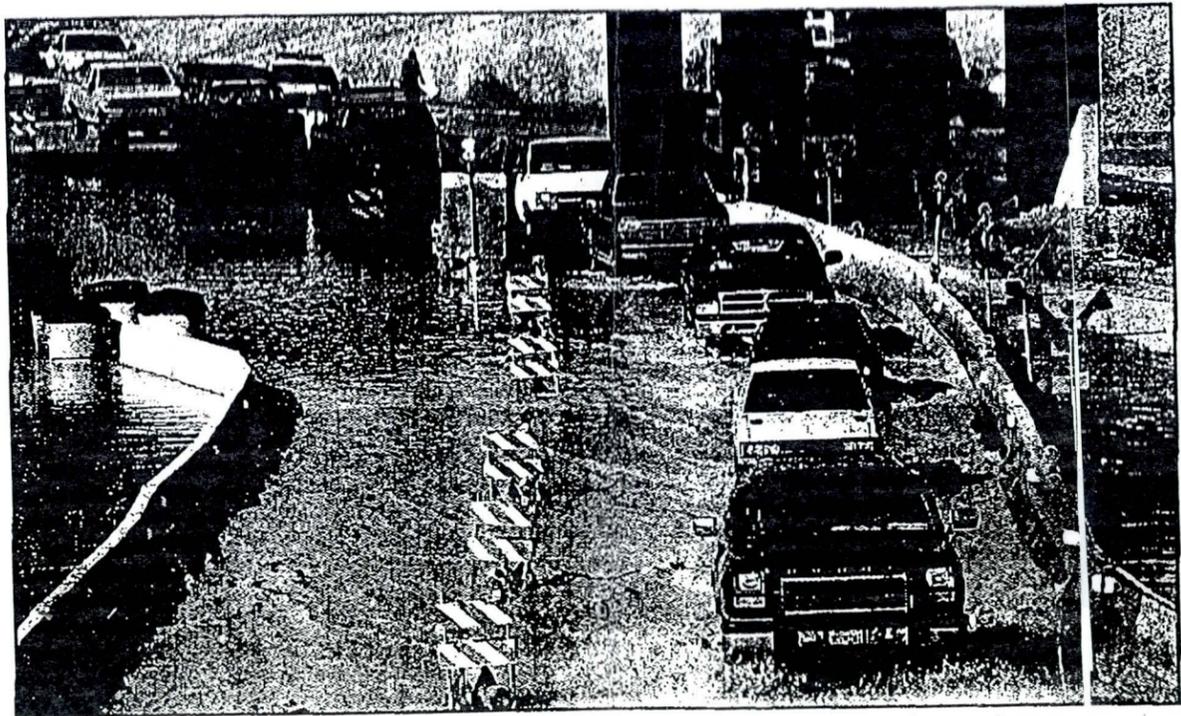
MARC has occupied the facility for more than 20 years. And

Gray said he fears that the center's insurance policy won't cover the costs of roof repair because of the building's age.

"We'll have to scramble until we get some assistance," he said.

Rainfall totals across the area varied greatly. At Brown Road and Horne .84 inches fell. A gauge at Broadway and Dobson roads recorded .79 inches. Falcon Field recorded .2 inches, Tempe had .15 inches at Arizona State University and Queen Creek .35 inches at its landfill, according to the Maricopa County Flood Control District. Parts of Chandler recorded little more than a trace. Rain totals for the year are 6.61 inches at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport — more than an inch above the 5.15 inches Phoenix typically receives by Sept. 23, said Doug Green, a forecaster for the National Weather Service.

The downpour occurred just hours after the Mesa City Council voted to provide the Red Cross with \$30,000 to help the agency cover the costs of relief efforts from last weekend's storm. The agency got an unexpected boost



RICK D'ELIA FOR THE TRIBUNE

Slow road: Drivers plow through high water at the Loop 101 underpass at Guadalupe Road in Mesa after the storm Thursday.

when Mayor Wayne Brown pledged another \$5,000 of his salary. During the council meeting,

it was announced that the nonprofit Arizona Community Foundation planned to give \$10,000.

That money combined with the \$20,000 from the United Way and \$10,000 from the Lions Club

covers the expected \$75,000 relief effort costs.

The council originally considered a \$20,000 donation, but Councilman Pat Pomeroy suggested upping the ante another \$10,000. Brown added another \$5,000 taken out of his paycheck, Councilman Keno Hawker unsuccessfully argued for a smaller donation of \$20,000. He argued it could set a precedent with relief agencies coming to the city to ask for money to cover shortfalls.

The Red Cross has served about 2,000 meals and given out vouchers for shelter and food. Sixteen homes were destroyed and another 400 damaged during a microburst Sunday. City crews are still cleaning up. Damage is estimated at \$25 million to \$30 million.

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7/20

7/22/99

# Future of county flood control will be different

## Land condemnation will increase as officials deal with growth

By Caleb M. Soptelean  
Staff Writer

As Maricopa County's population continues its upward climb, the future of flood control will be different, according to Mike Ellegood, general manager of the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

"We need to change our approach to dealing with flood control," he said. Specifically, "We need to keep people out of flood-prone areas. The public (taxpayers) then does not have to pay for it (later)."

"As communities continue to grow, we need to protect a larger area," said Ellegood. The district's goal is to "as much as possible, leave the (drainage) washes open and in a natural state."

Ellegood added, "As development occurs onto formerly agricultural and undeveloped lands... good planning efforts may preclude the need for construction of major flood control infrastructure."

This goal has caused problems in the past, as property owners were at times forced to sell their development rights because of where their land was located.

"People say, 'We've bought this land and now you tell me we can't build on it,'" said Ellegood, recalling a common response when the county has deemed it necessary to step in and condemn property for the sake of flood control.

He said this condemnation process is something the district will be looking to use more and

more, citing cost savings over time as the reason. "It is predicted that this approach will save millions in future infrastructure costs and in potential flood losses while preserving our watercourses in their natural state," he said.

An example of the condemnation practice occurs when the county buys an easement, or in other words, buys a property owner's right to develop the property in question. This sometimes raises issues with the property owners because the land is not worth as much if it can't be developed. "The value of the land goes down substantially," said Ellegood.

The condemned land isn't necessarily non-productive, he pointed out. Ellegood cited examples

of positive condemned land uses: parks, golf courses, and sand and gravel operations.

"In other areas, we regulate development," he said. One example the department uses is elevating the surrounding "floors" above a flood hazard area. "This has worked and is less costly" than condemning property, said Ellegood.

As it looks toward the future, the flood control district will continue trying to keep tax rates low, says Ellegood, noting that when the district was founded 40 years ago, the secondary tax rate was "only a nickel." Adjusted for inflation, a nickel in 1959 is slightly more than today's tax rate of 28 cents, a "bargain" for county residents, says Ellegood.



Mike Ellegood

#12

# Bed check

*The Westsider 10/8-10/14/99*  
**Skunk Creek bed improvements could protect hundreds of homes**

By Josh Krist  
 Staff writer

An \$8.5 million project to deepen and widen a stretch of Skunk Creek not only could save nearby residents money, but also serve as a link between a series of Glendale parks now in the planning stages.

"It's taking hundreds of homes out of the flood plain and saving them hundreds of dollars," said Kris Baxter, spokeswoman for the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

She said the average cost of flood insurance is \$700 per home, but insurance only covers structural damage. Valued possessions, she noted, are irreplaceable.

Duke Yager, construction manager for the project, explained that the Skunk Creek project had been discussed since 1994 and that construction started in March of this year and should be completed this month.

The project runs between 51st and 75th avenues and Union Hills Drive and Bell Road. It employed 30 people at its peak, Yager said.

Standing on top of interlocked baskets of rocks called "gabions," Yager pointed toward a part of the creek bed that was covered with a smoothed-out concrete material.

"Under that smooth bottom are the gabions sunk into the ground. When the water gets fast there, it keeps silt from getting built up and the smooth bottom keeps debris from sticking and creating something like a beaver dam that raises the water," he said.

Gabions are buried beneath the ground along the length of the project for aesthetic and practical reasons, Yager said. In parts of the completed project native plant seeds have been



Mollie J. Hoppes for The Prospector  
 The Maricopa County Flood Control District is widening and deepening the bed of Skunk Creek between 51st and 75th avenues.

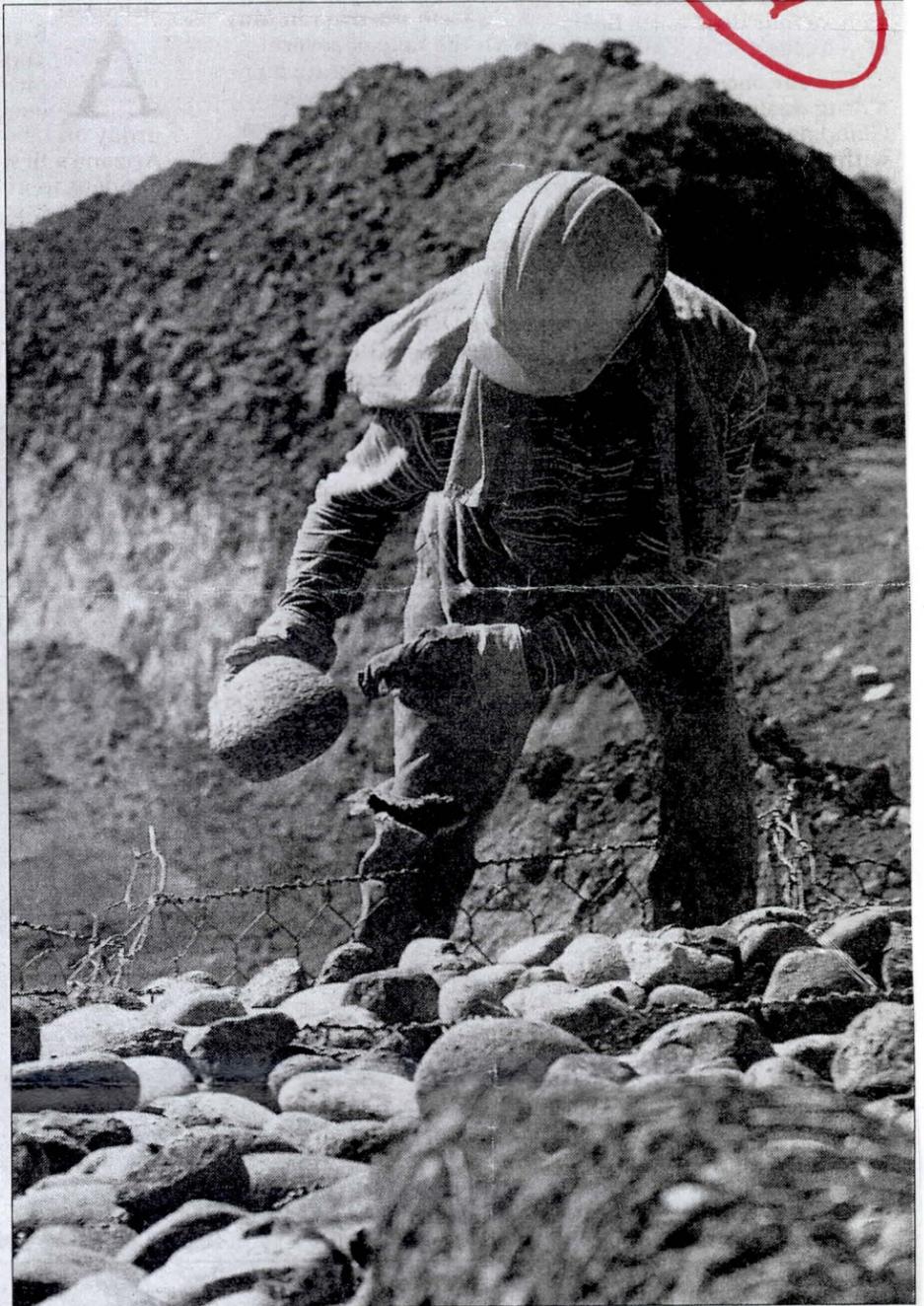
sown and covered with a thin mat of hay.

"It makes the birds work a little harder. They have to scratch away at the hay and then the ground to get what they want," he said.

The rocks that fill the gabions mainly come from dirt excavated from the creek to deepen and widen it, Yager said.

The gabions are designed to settle deeper into the creek bed if there's erosion, instead of deteriorating or washing away.

The project protects the natural beauty of the creek from erosion in a non-intrusive, environmentally friendly way, County Supervisor Jan Brewer said.



Mollie J. Hoppes for The Prospector  
 A Flood Control worker looms the creek bed with interlocked baskets of rocks called "gabions." The gabions are designed to settle deeper into the creek bed in the event of erosion.

"It's a very cutting-edge process that we've established out there through Flood Control that's very environmentally terrific, if you will. We're very pleased that we're able to implement it on the west side," Brewer said.

Along the banks of the creek, Glendale is planning to plant trees that will eventually loom over a dual-material pathway.

Shirley Medler, Glendale Parks and Recreation supervisor, said the city is promoting a new "dedicate-a-tree" program that will account for a large part of the creek's foliage.

Under the program, the city will plant and dedicate a tree to a donor's loved one for \$150.

Medler said the dual-material path will have a softer side for horses and a harder side for bicyclists and joggers.

"The path will connect the three anchor parks in the area," she said.

The three parks, in varying stages of planning and construction, are Foothills, Arrowhead Meadows and Greenbrier. Another recreation area, near but not on the creek, will be Carmel Park.

Besides removing much of the flood danger and adding future recreational possibilities, the Skunk Creek project has made the area safer, Baxter said.

"There used to be some pretty shady characters living here," she said, gesturing toward an area partially hidden by bushes.

"One homeless man thought he was an aborigine. All he would wear was a loincloth, like he was in the outback or something," she said.



Mollie J. Hoppes for The Prospector

The city of Glendale is planning several parks along Skunk Creek in conjunction with the county's flood control project.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1999

#22

## World War II 'value engineering' still cuts construction costs, time

BY KEN BROWN  
THE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Business is war, but negotiating contracts with Maricopa County's Flood Control District could be getting easier, thanks to a way of doing business inspired by World War II material shortages.

Officials with the government agency say "value engineering," a concept that sprung from WWII-era frugality, is cutting the time and cost of construction projects by as much as half.

And companies that do business with the agency seem equally pleased with the results.

"It's a dramatically different approach to doing business with the district," says Scot Schlund, a principal for the

water resources division of Stantec Consulting in Phoenix. "It helps in defining the scope of work and accomplishes a real spirit of teamwork."

Value engineering is a term popularized by Lawrence Miles in the 1960s to describe what some corporations had learned two decades earlier. Manufacturers and engineers, whose usual materials were devoted to the war effort, were forced to make due with other substances by determining bare-bones requirements and finding different ways of completing each step of the process.

Today, the district is using the concept to involve contractors in the earliest planning stages of flood control pro-

jects. Instead of negotiating just a final price and desired outcome, district officials say bringing all parties into the design process from day one can eliminate misunderstandings between participants.

Schlund, who experienced the process earlier this year while working on the agency's North Peoria Drainage Master Plan, says the method saved his company money by making better use of his workers.

Before, negotiations often would demand the attention of his best employees while generating no money for the company. But now with less idle time draining resources, the company can schedule more projects, he says.

After studying the effects of the method for a year, the district plans to make value engineering a policy for all future contracts.

"Sometimes you're asking for a Mazda, and they think you need a Cadillac," says Geza Kmetty, a Phoenix consultant hired by the district last year to implement the method. "This takes people's feelings out of the process because first you're agreeing on a process, then the costs."

The result, he says, has been cutting the average \$25,000 expended in the negotiation stage to about \$5,000. And projects that used to take up to 300 days to complete now take about 130 days.

# City park is next Skunk Creek project

## County near end of flood work; rec site planned

By Jeffry Nelson  
The Arizona Republic

GLENDALE — For nine months, workers have been toiling at the base of Skunk Creek, scraping dirt from its sides and scooping dirt and rocks from its bottom, creating a waterway capable of handling voracious floodwaters.

The project hasn't only made the creek bigger, it has made it stronger.

Now, with work nearly complete on the \$8 million flood-control project, attention soon will turn to Glendale, which has unveiled plans for a massive park project that will turn the newly widened creek and its banks into a recreational wonderland complete with paved trails, a skate park and a multigenerational center.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County expects to finish its project, which focused on the section of Skunk Creek from 51st Avenue and Union Hills Drive to 75th Avenue and Bell Road, on Friday.

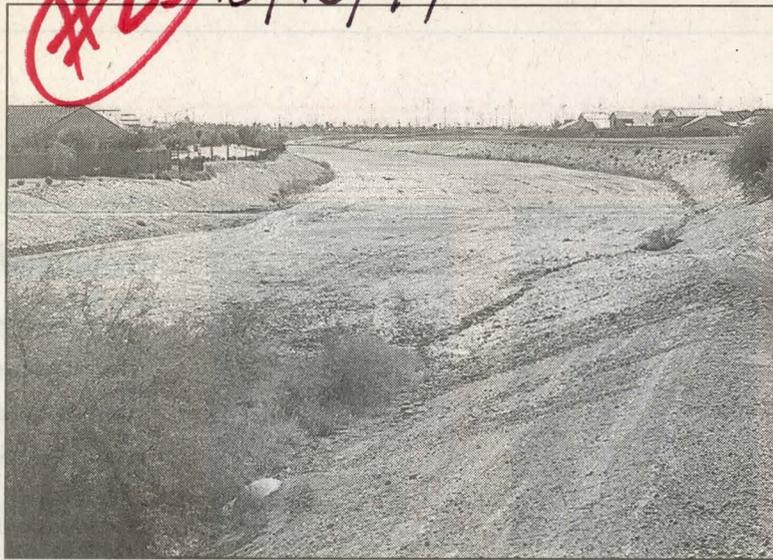
The contractor, Minnesota-based Blattner Constructors/Miners, began work in January by removing trees, brush and garbage in the creek bed, as well as several homeless people who had taken up residency in the creek.

"There were about five homeless people who lived in the Skunk Creek," said Kris Baxter, spokeswoman for the flood control district. "One of them was a gentleman that wore nothing but a loincloth. He was scaring some residents."

Once the creek was cleared out, crews went to work widening and deepening the tributary. More than 750,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock were excavated from the 3-mile-long stretch of the creek.

Rocks separated from the excavated dirt were placed into special wire crates called gabions that crews used to line the sides and, in some parts, the bottom of the creek.

Once the crates were topped off with rocks, dirt from the creek bed was spread over the tops of the crates, giving the creek a natural appearance but making it



Suzanne Starr/The Arizona Republic

Rocks, encased in tall wire crates, are used on the bottom and sides of Skunk Creek to allow it to withstand fast-moving flood water.

more resistant to erosion.

Baxter said the project was the country's largest use of gabions.

When they're finished, flood-control officials say, Skunk Creek will handle a 100-year flood — a flood that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any year.

That's good news for the several hundred Glendale residents living along the creek's banks.

For years, homeowners have been forced to carry flood insurance at a cost of several hundred dollars per year because their homes were inside a floodplain.

Once the federal government signs off on the project, a process that could take six months, homeowners can apply to have the coverage dropped.

"It's not an overnight thing," said Duke Yager, construction manager for the flood control district.

The final step of the project has been reseeded the creek with natural vegetation, minus the larger bushes and trees that obstructed water flows in the past.

Once the county is out of Skunk Creek, Glendale will move in, turning a section of the creek into a regional park.

For starters, Glendale plans to build horse trails and paved walking and biking paths in and alongside its section of the creek. Benches and drinking fountains would be installed, as well as shaded rest areas.

Between 56th and 59th avenues on either side of the creek, the city plans to build Foothills Park.

The park will include a skate park, basketball courts, tennis

courts and a sand volleyball court. Plans also call for restrooms, picnic areas, playground equipment and parking.

Shirley Medler, north district parks and recreation superintendent, said construction on the park should begin next summer and be completed by the end of next year.

In two to three years, the city plans to add a multigenerational center at the park.

"This would be a place where we would have both teens and youths and seniors together in a building," Medler said.

She said the park and trails system will cost an estimated \$3.7 million. The multigenerational center will cost an additional \$5.5 million.

Jeffry Nelson can be reached at (602) 444-7117 or at jeffry.nelson@pni.com.

# Costly recreation corridor wins early support

## Dream would turn 47 miles of riverbed into playland

by Erin Seligman  
staff writer

Everyone who is anyone in the West Valley is now backing one man's dream to turn roughly 47 miles of riverbed into a multi-use recreation corridor.

Valley developer John F. Long's plan for an interlinking system of pathways, hiking and equestrian trails, parks and wildlife preserves along the Agua Fria and New rivers is now a vision shared by many state, county and city officials who flocked to an Oct. 18 public forum to hear initial plans.

"This is going to be a reality. It's going to happen and it will put the West Valley on the map," Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer said.

"It is such an incredible...distinct signature for the West Valley," said Diane McCarthy, president of WESTMARC, the membership-based Western Maricopa Coalition of civic and business leaders involved with the promotion of the West Valley.

And Arizona Secretary of State Betsy Bayless called recreational amenities critical for the future.

"I just say, let's get it done," she said.

And while officials may not be short on vision or determination, the cost of actually turning this dream into a reality is still unconfirmed.

In an April 1999 interview with the **West Valley View**, Long estimated the corridor to cost roughly \$300,000 a mile, with construction beginning by the year 2000 or 2001.

Yet, chief engineer and general manager Mike Ellegood, of the Maricopa County Flood Control District which is overseeing the project, foresees the corridor costing \$1 million a mile. But, even that number was "pulled out of the air," Ellegood said, adding that engineers believe project costs will amount to several more times his estimate.

"Financially, it's a big one," Ellegood said.

And who exactly will fund this project remains undetermined, although county Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox told the crowd of city, county and state officials attending the Oct. 18 meeting, "We all have to share in the costs."

### Dree-eee-eeam, dream, dream....

Preliminary plans have the recreation corridor beginning at the Gila River and tracing the Agua Fria to Lake Pleasant. It will also split from the Agua Fria north of Camelback Road and follow New River to

*This is going to be a reality. It's going to happen and it will put the West Valley on the map.*

— Jan Brewer  
Maricopa County supervisor

Circle Mountain Road.

Passing through county lands and the cities of Avondale, El Mirage, Peoria, Glendale, Surprise and Phoenix, the future corridor will require the collaboration of not only local municipalities, but the Maricopa County Flood Control District, Maricopa Association of Governments [MAG] and private entities.

The city of Scottsdale has already implemented a similar recreation corridor along seven miles of Indian Bend Wash, which includes 1,200 acres of greenbelt and cost upwards of \$100 million.

A collaboration of state and local governments, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the county Flood Control District, the Scottsdale corridor was a necessary amenity devised to curb frequent and devastating flooding in the area. And even with the overwhelming support of officials and residents that favored one bond election after another to help pay for the project, the planning and construction of the corridor took more than 15 years.

With the Agua Fria and New rivers remaining dry most of the year, there's no dire need to construct a recreation corridor to control flooding in the West Valley, but city projects proposed or already existing along the corridor could be the incentive that moves plans forward, officials agree.

Expanding recreational amenities as designed in the city's 1990 land-use plan, the city of Avondale is leading the pack with a large majority of riverbed projects either planned or already completed.

"We're finally glad you all got on board," Avondale assistant city manager Ruben Duran told more than 100 people gathered at the Oct. 18 meeting.

Completed projects along the Agua Fria include a wetlands project wrapped within the Crystal Gardens residential development on McDowell Road and the

10-acre Coldwater Park located just north of Buckeye Road on the river's west bank.

Avondale's proposed Kaizu Park, at McDowell Road and the Agua Fria River, will also be intertwined into the recreational corridor along with the future Tres Rios Greenway project.

Similar to Long's recreation corridor, the Tres Rios plan calls for a multi-use pathway system interlaced with the city's confluence of Gila, Salt and Agua Fria rivers.

### If supported, it will come

And while the West Valley Recreation Corridor received a boost with a \$450,000 state transportation enhancement grant in 1998, many more barriers stand in the way of transforming Long's dream into reality.

Struggles will revolve around expanding the pathways around busy intersections and the handful of open pit sand and gravel companies operating along the two rivers.

One such gravel pit operated by Calmat off Indian School Road in Avondale, has already been approached

(See Recreation on page A16)



# Recreation

(From page A15)

by the city. In an agreement that may span two decades, the city of Avondale will eventually acquire the right to overlay the gravel pit with a park, golf course and recreational facility, according to Duran.

And with many sections of the Agua Fria and New rivers isolated from main roadways, the riverbeds have become a popular attraction for gun enthusiasts and off-road vehicle drivers. Two activities that may have to either be confined to specific areas or eliminated entirely once the corridor is completed, said Jay Hicks, an associate with the Phoenix-based Carter and Burgess Consulting Engineering Firm retained to design the pathway system.

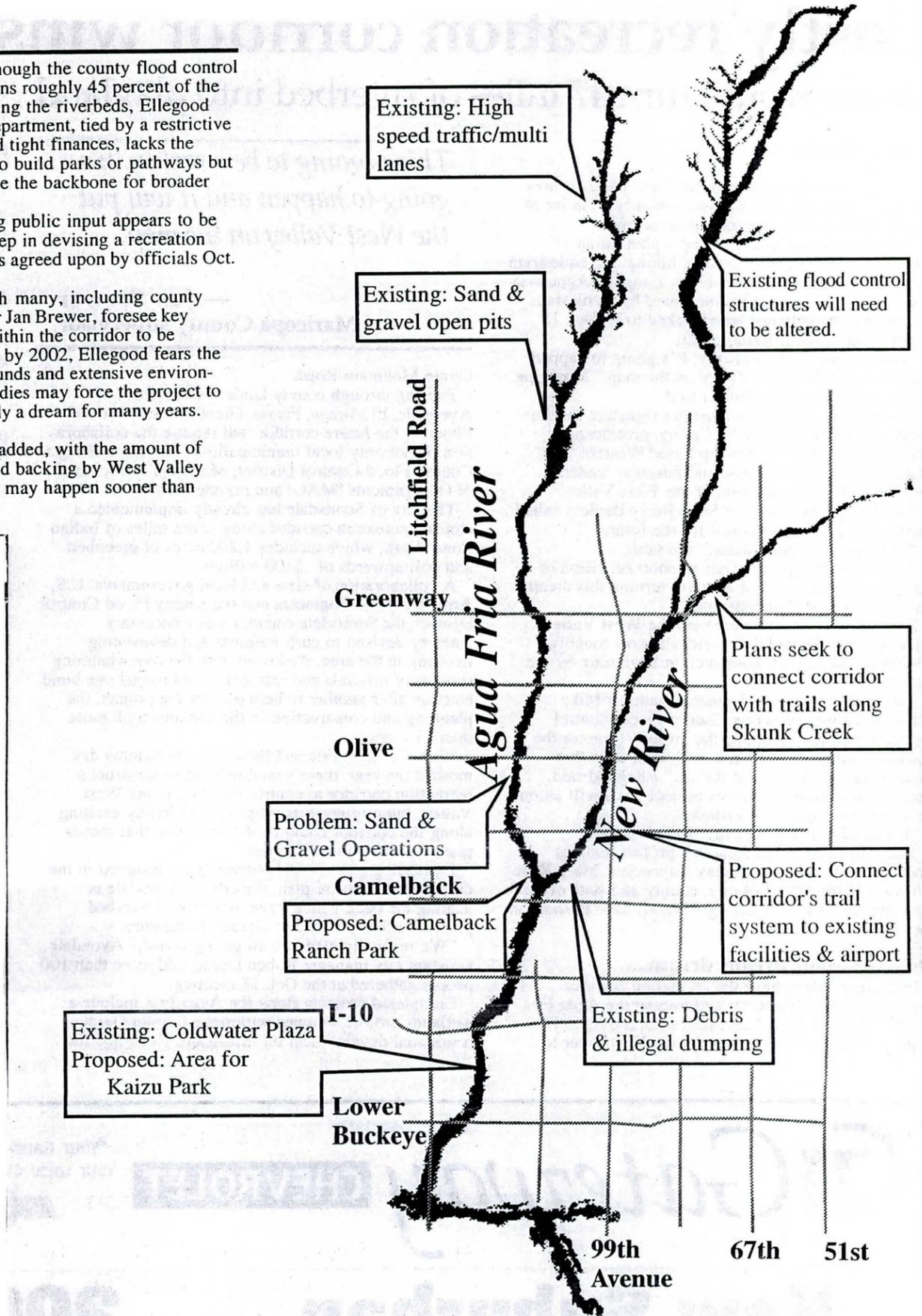
"The main issue is how are we going to police this thing?" Ellegood asked, noting that his department lacks police officers or enough rangers to adequately patrol the area.

And although the county flood control district owns roughly 45 percent of the land aligning the riverbeds, Ellegood said the department, tied by a restrictive charter and tight finances, lacks the authority to build parks or pathways but can provide the backbone for broader projects.

Initiating public input appears to be the next step in devising a recreation corridor, as agreed upon by officials Oct. 18.

Although many, including county Supervisor Jan Brewer, foresee key projects within the corridor to be completed by 2002, Ellegood fears the need for funds and extensive environmental studies may force the project to remain only a dream for many years.

But, he added, with the amount of interest and backing by West Valley officials it may happen sooner than expected.



Map courtesy of the Maricopa County Flood Control District  
View graphics by Arthur Schneider

## A long road ahead

Although officials eagerly support a recreation corridor along the Agua Fria and New rivers, many barriers currently exist along the riverbeds, some of which are depicted above, along with a handful of existing and proposed projects that may eventually connect with the future corridor.

42 Feb Dates N/A

# Series of flood basins nearing completion

10/16/99

## Neighborhoods on Grand Avenue will gain protection, park sites

By Jeffry Nelson  
The Arizona Republic

GLENDALE — The county is wrapping up work on a series of retention basins in the northwest Valley that are part of a multimillion-dollar effort to get floodwaters out of neighborhoods and off Grand Avenue.

Through a joint effort with the state Department of Transportation, the

Maricopa County Flood Control District is completing water-retention basins at 71st Avenue and Orangewood and at 63rd and Northern avenues.

Construction on a third basin at 85th and Northern avenues is expected to start shortly.

Within two years, all three basins will be connected via a series of pipes

to New River, where water from heavy storms will be dumped.

Tom Johnson, deputy chief engineer for the Flood Control District, said storm pipes from 43rd to 91st avenues and Camelback to Thunderbird roads will deliver water to the basins.

Although some of the water stored in the basins will seep into the ground below them, most of it will be sent to New River.

The project, to cost about \$17 million, should help keep many northwest Valley residents high and dry during severe storms, said Joe Munoz, spokesman for the Flood Control

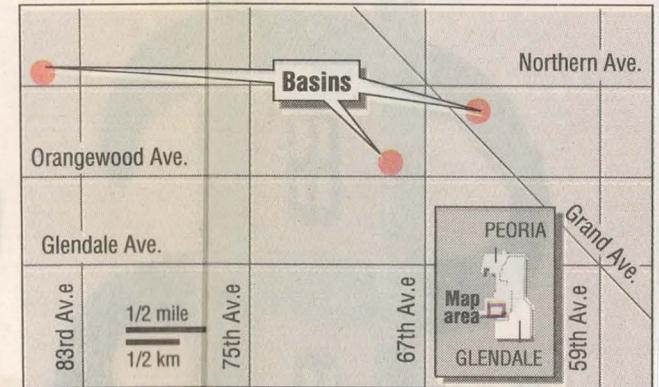
District.

Johnson said the retention basins will handle a 10-year flood, a flood that has a 10 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Some residents have voiced concern that the basins will add to the growing mosquito problem in the state. Standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, whose numbers have been steadily increasing in the Valley.

Flood control officials say the basins won't worsen the problem because they are designed to hold

— Please see **RETENTION**, Page 5



525 #

10/13/99

# Park is next Skunk Creek project

## County nears end of flood control job; city plans rec site

**By Jeffry Nelson**  
The Arizona Republic

GLENDALÉ — For nine months, workers have been toiling at the base of Skunk Creek, scraping dirt from its sides and scooping dirt and rocks from its bottom, creating a waterway capable of handling voracious floodwaters.

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The Arizona Republic

widened creek and its banks into a recreational wonderland complete with paved trails, a skate park and a multigenerational center.

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The contractor, Minnesota-based Blattner Constructors/Miners, began work in January by removing trees, brush and garbage in the creek

bed, as well as several homeless people who had taken up residency in the creek.

"There were about five homeless people who

— Please see **GLENDALÉ**, Page 14



Suzanne Starr/The Arizona Republic

Rocks, encased in tall wire crates, are used on the bottom and sides of Skunk Creek to allow it to withstand fast-moving floodwater.

#20

# Glendale park work next Skunk Creek construction

— GLENDALE, from Page 1

lived in the Skunk Creek," said Kris Baxter, spokeswoman for the flood control district. "One of them was a gentleman that wore nothing but a loincloth. He was scaring some residents."

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dollars per year because their homes were inside a floodplain.

Once the federal government signs off on the project, a process that could take six months, homeowners can apply to have the coverage dropped.

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The final step of the project has been reseeding the creek with natural vegetation, minus the larger bushes and trees that obstructed water flows in the past.

Once the county is out of Skunk Creek, Glendale will move in, turning a section of the creek into a regional park.

For starters, Glendale plans to build horse trails and paved walking and biking paths in and alongside its section of the creek. Benches and drinking fountains would be installed, as well as shaded rest areas.

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Jeffrey Nelson can be reached at (602) 444-7117 or at [jeffry.nelson@pni.com](mailto:jeffry.nelson@pni.com).

# County calls river project 'feasible'

By Stacy Mann Pearson  
Staff writer

Officials from four cities and Maricopa County pledged support for the West Valley Recreation Corridor Monday after a county feasibility study gave the project a thumbs-up.

The preliminary study, called the Design Concept Report, was released Monday and was a cooperative effort between the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, West Valley cities and the Maricopa Association of Governments.

It gave a better picture of the 47-mile riverbed park by incorporating plans from Phoenix, Glendale, Peoria, Avondale and Maricopa County — each of the municipalities the rivers snake through.

Spearheaded by Valley developer John F. Long, the recreation corridor will run through the Agua Fria and New River bottoms offering West Valley residents elaborate bike trails, equestrian paths and large parks from Avondale to Lake Pleasant.

Nearly half of the land involved is part of the Maricopa County Flood Control District, an agency that will begin working on the project within a year.

"Our next step is to get a general plan and start on a couple pilot projects," said Michael Ellegood, chief engi-

neer and general manager for the Flood Control District.

Ellegood added that the county must first dig a channel through the river bottom to control the flow of water before any trees or paths can be installed.

Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer said the county already has \$2.5 million earmarked for the channelization, which was described as the chassis of the projects.

After channels are complete, cities will add parks onto the project. All cities

involved are contributing funds cash for attached parks.

Glendale is seeking more than \$100 million in November in two bond propositions for open space preservation and parks and recreation. Other cities will solicit private contributions for the corridor parks or tap existing parks and recreation budgets.

Without a finalized plan, the project does not have a final price tag.

"This will be a project unlike any other," Brewer

said. "It will truly be a project for the people."

Long, whose daughter Tot Long represented him at the meeting, is expected to begin planting trees early next year.

"The one thing about dad is he's a visionary," Long said. "His vision isn't a laser beam; it's very holistic."

The project has been touted as an alternative transportation dream, a CAP

water project and a family recreation mecca.

Glendale councilman Jim McAllister said he hopes the project will be open in increments, offering residents a small piece of the puzzle relatively quickly.

"It wouldn't take much money to open a whole lot of areas," McAllister said. "You don't have to do the whole thing at once to have it work."

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# Pecos/I-10 Work Moving Slowly, but Moving

By Doug Murphy  
Staff Writer

*Ahwatukee Foothills*  
*10/20/99*

Mayor Skip Rimsza has made connecting Pecos Parkway to I-10 a priority, but even though the City Council approved allowing the city manager to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the state back in July, the document has yet to be signed.

"We know that everyone is anxious to move forward, and so are we," said Bill Hayden of the Arizona Department of Transportation.

The problem has been getting all the principals — the City of Phoenix,

Maricopa County Flood Control District, ADOT and the Gila River Indian Community — to agree on a laundry list of issues, from engineering to financial.

One of the issues that had to be hammered out was an agreement with the Gila community to take the flood water that now simply pours onto the community land, causing erosion.

The county flood control district's water retention basin, which will be a part of Pecos Park to take the drainage from 48th Street, will hold flood water that now covers the intersection at 48th and Chandler Boulevard whenever it

sprinkles, plus water that will run off the freeway. That water will eventually run across the Gila community to Gila River.

The water issue alone involved agreements between the Gila River Indian Community, Maricopa County, Phoenix Park's department, and ADOT.

"So things have been happening, but slowly," said Hayden, who is an Ahwatukee Foothills resident. Fortunately, he explained, the delays in signing the agreement have not pushed the timetable back.

Construction is still scheduled to

begin in a year with the connection opening in January of 2002.

## Money Money Money

Because the city has provided \$800,000 to ADOT for the design phase of the project, progress has been made even while the intergovernmental agreement was tied up in meetings.

But the agreement is key to the accelerated construction schedule. With no money in the state coffers to connect Pecos to I-10 until 2005, at the earliest, the city has taken the lead to borrow against future funding. The more Pecos, see page A4

*20*

# 26-mile floodway could be developed as recreation area

#29

By RICHARD H. DYER  
Independent Newspapers

The East Maricopa Floodway that bisects east Mesa at Greenfield and Brown and heads south 26 miles to Gilbert and Queen Creek should be opened for public equestrian, walking and bicycling uses, officials said.

"It could be an alternative transportation corridor — not motorized," Michael S. Ellegood, chief engineer and general manager of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, said Nov. 16.

"We want more people to enjoy the environment Arizona has to offer; Maricopa County in particular," Joe Muñoz, public information officer for the flood control district, said.

City, town, county and state officials met last week in east Mesa to express their support of the flood control district's plan to turn the 60- to 200-foot-wide earthen floodway into a recreation area called the Superstition-SanTan Corridor and Marathon Trail. The floodway crosses under two freeways — the Superstition and the proposed San Tan — and links municipalities with parks, county land and empties into the Gila River.

The Soil Conservation Service constructed the Roosevelt Water Conservation District Floodway — now known as the East Maricopa Floodway — between 1980-89 to protect residents west of the floodway from flood hazards. It is immediately east of the Roosevelt Water Conservation District canal, which supplies irrigation water.

Flood control district officials believe the East Maricopa Floodway is undersized and have contracted with an engineering company to study it to determine where channel improvements or basins are needed.

The flood control district is funded with a 32-cent secondary property tax. The district cannot spend money on trail systems and doesn't have any police powers, which other agencies must provide, officials said.

"The funding is limited to flood control — (we) can't build a trail,"

## OPINIONS SOUGHT

Would you use a 26-mile trail from east Mesa to the Gila River? What amenities should city, town, county or private officials construct on the trail? Call *East Mesa Independent's* anonymous Speak Out line at (480) 443-6978 ext. 2, send an e-mail message to [Rrdyer@aol.com](mailto:Rrdyer@aol.com), or write a letter to the editor.

Mr. Ellegood said.

But the county could partner with Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek and private companies to pay for amenities, such as ramadas or benches, officials said.

"This is an amazing project," said Mesa City Councilman Jim Davidson. "I'm just proud to be in the East Valley.... We have a plan to enhance communities," he said.

"It's going to be an incredible amenity for the communities," said Town of Gilbert Mayor Cynthia Dunham.

"This concept is really exciting .... (to) preserve open space and link open space that is already there," said Maricopa County Supervisor Don Stapley, District 2.

The Superstition-SanTan Corridor and Marathon Trail could link up with a proposed 250-mile trail around the county, said Maricopa County Supervisor Fulton Brock, District 1.

The north end of the 26-mile trail — at Brown and Greenfield in east Mesa — could be developed north to the Salt River, said Mr. Ellegood.

Red dashes on a map show it as future expansion. "It shows how it can link into the Salt River.... It's really a line on a map (instead) of something definite," said Mr. Ellegood.

Newsletters, open houses and public meetings will be held to gather public opinion on the project.

For more information, call Tim Phillips, senior project manager, at the Flood Control District of Maricopa County at (602) 506-1501; or check the website at [www.fcd.maricopa.gov](http://www.fcd.maricopa.gov).

AZ Central Oct 22, 1999

#30

# Huge rec plan is unveiled for W. Valley

## 47-mile-long project to use river channels

**By Shaun McKinnon**  
The Arizona Republic

They may not look like much now — miles of trash-strewn, overgrown channels that fill with muddy water when it rains — but the Agua Fria and New rivers form the centerpiece of a plan to create what supporters say will become the West Valley's signature landmark.

The proposed West Valley Recreation Corridor would weave together flood control structures with trails, parks, wildlife habitats and other outdoor activity opportunities along 47 miles of natural waterways stretching from Lake Pleasant south to the Gila River.

If it sounds like a huge undertaking, it is. As envisioned, the corridor would involve Maricopa County, the county Flood Control District, the communities of Avondale, El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix and Youngtown, as well as private developers. It would take years to complete and cost untold millions of dollars.

Its chief backers say the project

## Options plentiful for rec corridor

The proposed West Valley Recreation Corridor would stretch 47 miles along the Agua Fria and New rivers from Lake Pleasant on the north to the Gila River on the south. Built to control flooding and runoff, the corridor would include trails, parks and restored riparian areas for wildlife. The corridor would be developed through public and private partnerships and include regional and local projects. Among the possibilities:

### Regional

- Trails and parks that make use of Skunk Creek and the five canals that cross the West Valley.
- Environmental education and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- New and restored riparian and wildlife habitat areas.
- Water recharge basins.
- Reclamation of sand and gravel operation sites.
- Regional parks, open spaces and trailheads at street intersections with the rivers.

### Avondale

- Underpass and trail systems

# Study unveils massive West Valley recreation plan

— STUDY, from Page 1

would return immeasurable benefits to the West Valley and beyond.

"It will define the West Valley in ways we haven't even thought of," said Diane McCarthy, president of Westmarc, a coalition of area business and community leaders.

"We're really charting a new course here," said County Supervisor Jan Brewer, who represents northwest Valley neighborhoods. "Instead of huge, ugly concrete flood control channels, we'll be able to incorporate the rivers with our parks. Instead of gravel access roads, we'll have trails."

The Flood Control District released its first study of the ambitious proposal this week, outlining possible design ideas and explaining how West Valley communities could take advantage of the riverbeds and flood channels.

"We've just begun, but I'm very pleased with the results of the study," said Mike Ellegood, the district's chief engineer and general manager.

The corridor would allow the district to make the best use of its flood control projects, Ellegood said, opening them up to new outdoor recreation activities.

Proposals to create a network of hiking or horse trails along the Agua Fria and New rivers have come and gone for more than 30 years, some succeeding, others relegated to a dusty shelf, never to be seen again.

Then, in early 1998, longtime Valley developer John F. Long called together West Valley leaders to talk about his idea — a carefully planned network of trails, parks and wildlife habitats built around the Agua Fria and New rivers, channels that run the length of the Valley from Lake Pleasant to their confluence with the Gila River.

Long's proposal brought with it instant credibility, officials said, because Long had succeeded so many times before with his ideas, most notably the master-planned community of Maryvale.

Ellegood said the Flood Control District climbed on board after he toured the area's flood control facilities and began wondering why so many natural resources had been closed to the public.

"I thought, 'This is nuts,'" Ellegood said. "Let's see if we can do something that will allow people to use the land where it's appropriate."

The approach isn't new — parks and trails were built into the Indian Bend Wash flood control channel in Scottsdale, a project that has since attracted economic development around its edges. McCarthy said the West Valley corridor could achieve similar results, but on a much larger scale.

Jim Hicks, who helped produce the corridor study for private consultants Carter and Burgess, said the goal is to create a sense of place for the West Valley.

"There's a place here," he said. "We just haven't found it yet."

What researchers did find was that many West Valley cities had already begun planning for various parks and trails systems near the two rivers. Most of those plans could be incorporated into a regional project

with only minor changes, Hicks said.

Avondale is furthest along, having built parks and trails into its 1990 land-use plan. Assistant City Manager Ruben Duran said the plan includes trails, parks and riparian areas. Some of the projects are done and in place; one of the wildlife habitats already is a favorite haunt for herons.

Phoenix would link up at two locations, said Jim Burke, the city's assistant parks and recreation director. On the southern end, the city is building Camelback Ranch Park, which could connect to New River near its confluence with the Agua Fria. To the north, the city would add the corridor to its proposed Sonoran Preserve, a 20,000-acre park that was part of a preservation bond approved by voters earlier this year.

Glendale and Peoria also have studied the two rivers and would be

able to connect proposed trails and parks to the regional corridor. Glendale would likely connect its parks and trails along Skunk Creek with the New River, said Warren Smith, the city's leisure services director, and would incorporate Thunderbird Paseo Park and trails along the Grand Canal.

The city is asking residents to approve funding for some of the parks as part of a bond issue on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Funding for the entire corridor is the biggest question mark, Ellegood conceded: "We haven't even begun to scratch the surface of how much this thing is going to cost or who's going to pay for it."

He and other leaders say private investment will be critical. Several developers have expressed interest in still-vacant land along the rivers.

Shaun McKinnon can be reached at (602) 444-7116 or at [shaun.mckinnon@pni.com](mailto:shaun.mckinnon@pni.com).

# TRAIL: Cities have yet to pledge cash support

Tribune Nov 17, 1999

From Page A1

The project's announcement falls in line with a proposed \$40 million expansion of the floodway's capacity. Continued development and growth has left the current system undersized, according to Tim Phillips, the district's senior project manager.

While the district can use some of its \$32 million annual budget to plant landscaping and create trails, it's not specifically authorized to build and maintain park facilities, said Michael Ellegood, the district's chief engineer and general manager.

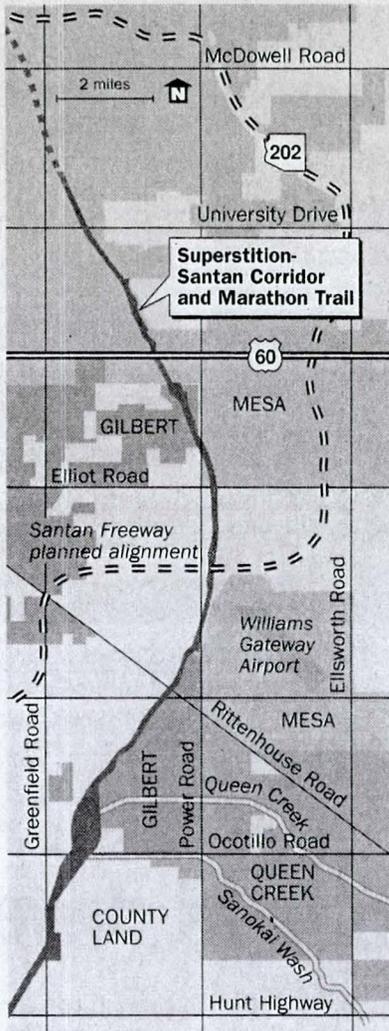
Responsibility for police protection and a portion of the maintenance costs would likely fall on the shoulders of Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek and other county agencies.

And though city and county leaders lent words of encouragement and support to the project Tuesday, they have yet to pledge what the project needs most — cash.

"I'm committed to generating a five-year parks plan," Stapley said, adding that the plan will likely include money for the Marathon Trail. "The (county) Parks Department has been underfunded too much for far too long."

Total cost estimates for the park system won't be ready until at least February when Collins/Piña Consulting Engineers completes a \$250,000 study of the project, district officials said.

But with open space in the East Valley dwindling at a rapid pace, preservation and protection of land has become a top priority, said Board of Supervisors



TRIBUNE

"I never understood why we had fences," Ellegood said. "It makes sense to me to open these facilities that you and I and everybody paid for."

For Mesa and Gilbert, the proposal is a welcome addition to their plans to convert local canals into park-like settings. A \$400 million Mesa bond election to be held next year would earmark \$6.8 million to further enhance canals throughout the city if approved by voters.

Queen Creek officials said Tuesday the plan falls in line with community goals to maintain the town's rural character.

Art and Marge Morefield, two winter Mesa residents who live adjacent to the floodway, met Tuesday's announcement with a

suggestion.

"(The floodway) is nice to walk and we often ride our bikes, but you have to get off them and wait to cross the street. We take our chances, but it would be nice if they'd make it more accessible," Art Morefield said.

That's the type of input county and city planners and consultants will be looking for, Brock said. A series of public hearings and input sessions on the proposal will be scheduled throughout the East Valley later this year or early next year.

Tribune writer Ed Baker can be reached by e-mail at ebaker@aztrib.com or by calling (480) 898-6539.

chairman Fulton Brock, R-District 1 of Chandler.

In setting the park on the flood control ditch, planners and backers of the proposed park have already overcome one of the biggest and most expensive hurdles — purchasing the land. The flood district already owns the 26-mile floodway. Right now, much of it, though normally dry, is not readily accessible to the public.

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Tribune Nov. 17, 1999

#32

# Marathon Trail on E.V. ditch studied

## Officials look at ways to enhance floodway

BY ED BAKER  
THE TRIBUNE

East Valley leaders want to turn a 26-mile long flood control ditch into a recreational centerpiece, similar in concept to Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash.

The Superstition-Santan Corridor and Marathon Trail would run through Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek and eventually extend into a larger 240-mile, Valleywide hiking, equestrian and biking trail system, East Valley leaders said Tuesday.

Under the proposal, which was the brainchild of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, the 26-mile East Maricopa Floodway would be converted from a dirt channel to a sports mecca by local cities, the county and private businesses.

Concessions such as farmers' stands and bike rentals could be incorporated throughout the trail too, said County Supervisor Don Stapley, R-District 2 of Mesa.

The floodway park would have many of the characteristics of the Indian Bend Wash greenbelt in Scottsdale, which converted a dusty flood channel into a popular ribbon of manmade lakes, athletic fields and paths for biking, running and in-line skating.

Please see **TRAIL**, Page **A4**



#33

# County pushing to turn floodway into trail, park

By Peter Ortiz  
The Arizona Republic

Maricopa County officials pushed an ambitious plan Tuesday to transform a 26-mile floodway into a recreational trail and park for East Valley residents.

The county's Flood Control District wants to build basins to improve drainage but also is willing to tear down fencing along its property and open up the area to the community.

**MESA**

"All of us here paid for it," chief engineer Michael Ellegood said. "We need to open it up to the public."

The floodway snakes through Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek and empties into the Gila River. It is 200 feet wide and 8 to 12 feet deep.

The plan mirrors another project proposed by Ellegood's agency last month to create a recreation corridor along the West Valley's Agua Fria and New rivers.

And like that idea, the big question of how to pay for it all is still being worked out.

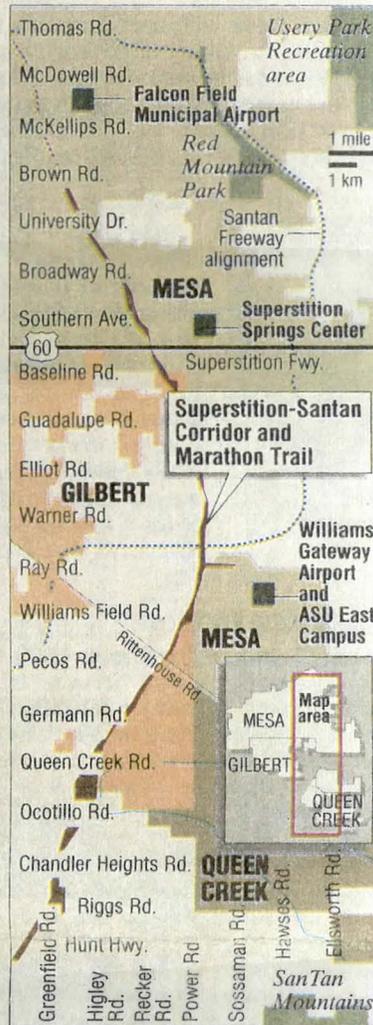
"I wish I could tell you how much it will cost and when it will be delivered, but it is important we establish a partnership now," Ellegood said.

Ellegood pitched his plan to county officials and asked for the cooperation of politicians from Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek.

The open area could be transformed into a horse or bicycle trail or a park, he said.

The idea and the 26 miles of floodway even spurred a new name for what was once called East Maricopa Flood Way. On Tuesday, it officially became known as the Superstition-Santan corridor and Marathon Trail.

"Here again we have an opportunity to come together . . . and create something that is absolutely





Beth DeFalco/The Arizona Republic

Workers lay a rock foundation for the 2.5-mile Bullard Wash in Goodyear. It is one of three projects combined in a cost-saving move.

## Combined projects save \$1 million

By Beth DeFalco  
The Arizona Republic

GOODYEAR — By combining three major construction projects, Goodyear has saved its taxpayers at least \$1 million, city officials said last week.

"It was a win-win-win situation with these projects," Mary Rose Wilcox, a Maricopa County supervisor who represents Goodyear, said during a tour of the projects.

The city, along with the Maricopa County Department of Transportation and the county Flood Control District, teamed on a threefold project that includes reconstructing Estrella Parkway, widening Bullard Wash and landscaping around the wash to create a recreation area.

The \$11.4 million project, which doesn't include the cost for landscaping around the channel, began in January.

"When we first looked at this project, we were searching for a holistic approach," Wilcox said.

The parties saved the \$1 million by collaborating on the projects and

starting construction almost simultaneously.

Estrella Parkway, which now runs from the Gila River to Lower Buckeye Road, will be extended to Yuma Road by June and will extend to McDowell Road by June 2001.

Extra dirt from the channel was used to elevate Estrella Parkway and parts of County Route 85 that cross it, saving the cost of transporting excavated dirt from the channel and importing dirt for Estrella Parkway.

The city will begin landscaping the area along the wash in January, turning it into a path for bike riders, pedestrians and equestrians. The path will run the 2.5-mile length of the channel and will lead into Estrella Mountain Regional Park.

Widening the wash has allowed the city to create an open corridor that Goodyear has envisioned for years, City Manager Stephen Cleveland said.

In addition to Goodyear taxpayers saving money, homeowners

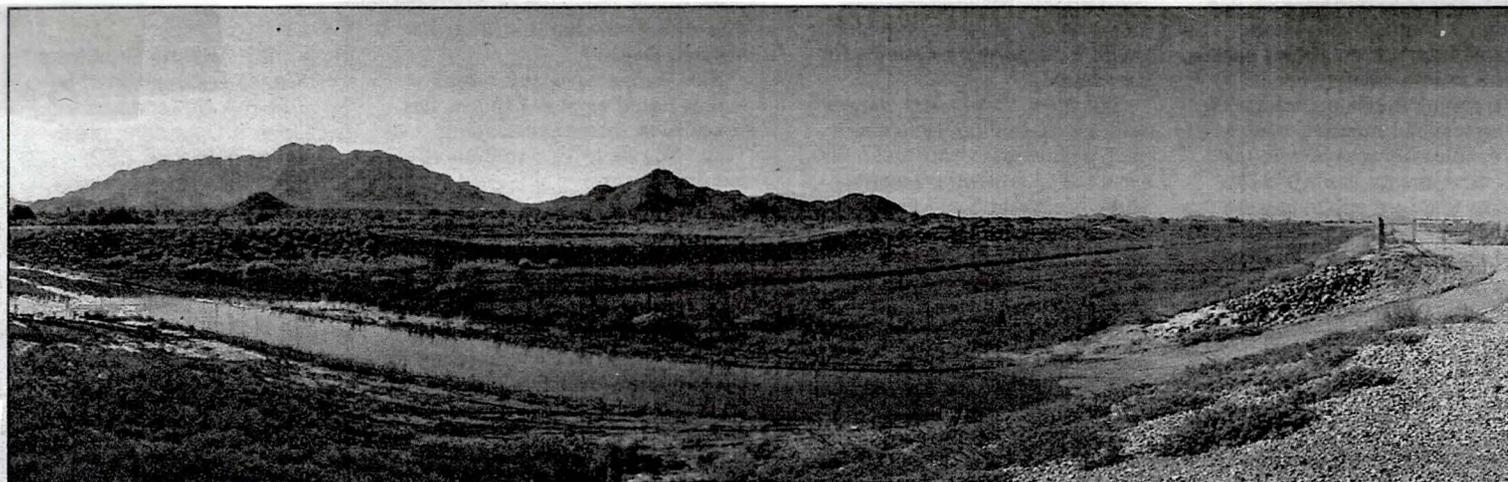
near Bullard Wash will save money on flood insurance, because the wash has been widened to contain waters of a 100-year flood.

Besides the financial savings, Goodyear also will benefit from these three projects in several other ways. The Estrella Parkway and County Route 85 intersection will serve as Goodyear's city center, housing City Hall on 40 acres on the northwestern corner and a post office across the street.

Bus hubs have been installed on the parkway, and electrical conduits have been placed under the parkway in anticipation of needed signal lights when traffic gets heavier. As Goodyear gets busier, the city won't have to tear up the street again and slow traffic with construction.

"It worked well," said Fred Fuller, a project manager for the flood control district. "We utilized everybody's resources and catered to everybody's needs."

Beth DeFalco can be reached at (602) 444-7114 or at beth.defalco@pni.com.



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

This is how the East Maricopa Floodway appears at the Hunt Highway, which forms part of the border between Maricopa and Pinal counties. The SanTan Mountains are in the background.

# Enhancing the floodway

*AZ Business Gazette 11/25/99*

## EAST VALLEY PLANS FOR MASSIVE RECREATION SITE

By **MIKE FIMEA** / ABG Staff

Michael Ellegood's vision of flood control has taken a distinctly aesthetic turn.

"I'm not going to build concrete channels any more," said Ellegood, chief engineer and general manager for the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

"We're building part of our

environment and habitat. If we do it right, we can make a difference in the quality of people's lives."

Ellegood's most ambitious project was publicly unveiled Nov. 16. The flood control district and three East Valley cities - Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek - announced they will work together to turn a 26-mile portion of the East Maricopa Floodway into a multi-use recreational area dubbed the Superstition-SanTan Corridor.

The project, which does not

**Flood/Page BG5**

#357

**Continued /Page BG1**

yet have funding or an estimated completion date, has evolved from a need to expand the floodway since it was originally completed in 1989. The compacted-earth channel carries excess rainwater through the East Valley during major storms, directing the water south to the Gila River in Pinal County.

Because of rapid growth, the surrounding land is absorbing less water than expected. Enlarging detention basins and making other improvements would allow cities to develop the surrounding land into useful open space.

"While this is a flood control project, it is also an opportunity to enhance the area," said Jerry Collins, president of Collins-Pina Consulting Engineers.

"A recreational corridor could create links between the three communities and act as a magnet to attract other economic development near Superstition Springs Mall and Williams Gateway (airport)."

The Superstition-SanTan Cor-

ridor would extend from Thomas Road south to the Hunt Highway, gently winding between Greenfield Road and Power Road. Portions of the 26-mile segment are already landscaped, and some East Valley leaders believe it can be transformed into an expanded version of Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash.

"I'm particularly fond of Indian Bend Wash," said Fulton Brock, a county supervisor and chairman of the board of directors for the flood control district.

"Compared to the concrete ditches you see in Albuquerque, Los Angeles and Tucson, it's one of the real flood-control assets in the Southwest.

"This project may not have the same look. In Queen Creek, for example, some people have already told me they want to have more of a desert feel with equestrian trails. But we know the demand is there, and we have to find a way to put the pieces together."

The obstacles to creating a recreational haven lie in the different roles of the flood

control district and the cities that choose to participate.

"Our job is to put the infrastructure in place, like building the chassis of a car," Ellegood said.

"But our focus is limited to flood control. We can build a maintenance road that can be used as a trail, but we can't build a trail. We can't buy park benches because we're not in the park business."

That leaves each city to create an intergovernmental agreement with the district to improve and maintain their portion of the corridor. Ideally, Ellegood said, each of the four East Valley cities could start by converting a small stretch of their floodway for recreational use.

Brock warns that the process won't be easy and won't happen overnight.

"Look at how long it took to get Rio Salado started in Tempe," he said. "It involved ASU, the county, different councils and legislators. That was just one city, and a progressive one at that."

Each city also has its own funding priorities. In Mesa, citizens will vote next March on whether to issue \$400 million in capital improvement bonds, including \$56 million for Mesa parks and recreation facilities.

"We're working to expand the infrastructure along the SRP canals that run through Mesa," said city councilman Jim Davidson. "But we don't have anything on the screen to finance something like (the Superstition-SanTan corridor)."

Several options are available to municipalities, including federal matching funds and state grant money (see accompanying story). Ellegood also emphasized the importance of public involvement, citing the district's improvement of the Old Cross Cut Canal along 48th Street in east Phoenix.

In 1997, the district buried an open irrigation canal between McDowell Road and Indian School Road, creating the possibility of a two-mile linear park over the covered canal. When city money was not available to

landscape the northern half of the park between Thomas Road and Indian School, a neighborhood homeowners' association raised more than \$20,000 through the sale of commemorative bricks. Landscaping is expected to begin next year.

"These projects are successful when there is a groundswell of community support, and it's up to the cities to find it," Ellegood said.

Such opportunities should become more plentiful over the next decade. The district's planning budget, just \$750,000 in 1997, will grow to \$7.5 million annually between 2000 and 2005.

"Many of our people came from the (U.S. Army) Corps of Engineers, where the philosophy was to identify a problem and then fix it," Ellegood said.

"We want to get ahead of development by master-planning every watershed and water course in the county. That way we avoid having to come back and spend millions of dollars to mitigate a flood hazard."

# The Chandler Heights Monthly

Serving OUR AREA: Chandler Heights, Queen Creek and Higley

Vol. 17 / No. 3 December 1999

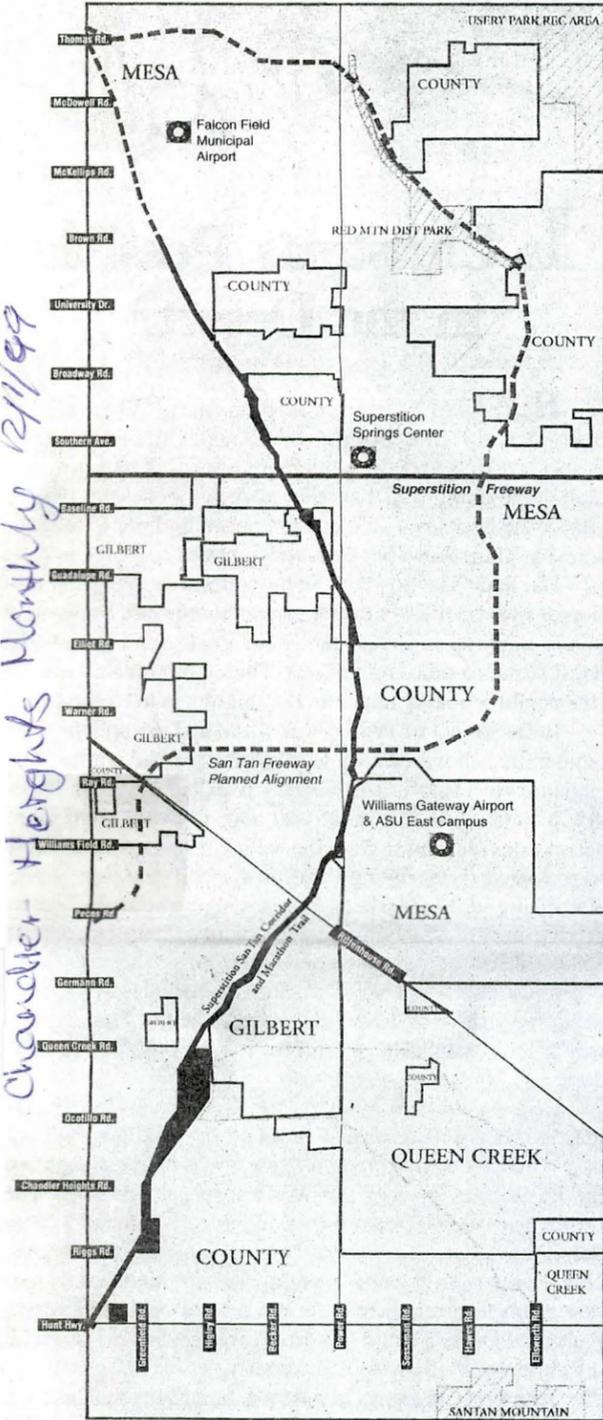
## RECREATION CORRIDOR, TRAIL THROUGH E. VALLEY PROPOSED

An effort to improve a 26-mile floodway that runs through Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek and Chandler Heights could result in a significant increase in recreation space for East Valley residents. Included could be a continuous recre-

former East Maricopa Floodway, completed in 1989. In keeping with the new emphasis on recreation and multiuse, county representatives want to now call the flood control facility the Superstition-San Tan Corridor and Marathon Trail.

tions and solicit ideas from citizens from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 13 in the East Room of the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center, 7550 E. Adobe Road. The second meeting will take place from 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 15 at the Gilbert Public Library Assembly Room, 665 N. Gilbert Road, Gilbert. Queen Creek residents may attend a meeting on the project sometime in early January.

Persons can also call Tim Phillips at 602-506-1501, fax 602-506-4601 with comments or concerns or visit the web site at [www.fed.maricopa.gov](http://www.fed.maricopa.gov).



Superstition - San Tan Corridor and Marathon Trail

ation corridor and a 26-mile long trail for hikers, bicyclists and horseback riders.

At a recent news conference, officials of the District of Maricopa County Flood Control discussed an ongoing study to evaluate the potential for combining flood control improvements with development of outdoor recreation amenities and open space. Also unveiled was a new name for the

“As the Valley continues to rapidly develop, it is important that we make the most of our open space. We have an opportunity to develop parks, equestrian trails and bike paths on the same ground that protects the population from floods,” said Maricopa County Supervisor Fulton Brock.

The East Maricopa Floodway stretches from the Princess Basin, just north of Brown Road in Mesa, across Hunt Highway then through Pinal County and into the Gila River midway between State Route 93 and Interstate 10. (See adjacent map).

The compacted earth channel is about 200 feet wide and runs from eight to 12 feet deep. Its purpose is to protect residents from possible flooding. The Soil Conservation Service and Flood Control District of Maricopa County completed the \$37 million project in June, 1989.

### Floodway Too Small?

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County believes the East Maricopa Floodway is undersized. Because development has changed the land over the last 10 years, it absorbs less water than was expected. A study by Collins/Pina Consulting Engineers, under contract by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, will identify solutions such as channel improvements or detention basins. A 230-acre site near Chandler Heights and Higley roads in Gilbert is expected to be part of the solution. Several smaller basins will likely be located along the floodway as well.

There is a conscious effort on the part of the Flood Control District to allow cities and other county entities to develop the lands around channels and basins into useful open space, said Mike Ellegood, P.E., general manager and chief engineer. The Flood Control District may not spend money on trail systems or parks, but can design flood control facilities consistent with multiuse opportunities.

“There was a time when engineers simply designed structures to stop flooding,” he said. “Today, we take into consideration the aesthetic effect the facility will have on the community.”

Some stretches of floodway are already landscaped recreation areas. The study will determine whether it will be beneficial to utilize the entire floodway as a 26-mile recreation corridor.

### Cooperation Needed

“Public polls continue to show that Valley residents are extremely concerned about preserving open space and providing recreation opportunities. The Superstition-San Tan Corridor and Marathon Trail could provide a way to expand and connect open space throughout the East Valley, if the political leadership of the different jurisdictions can agree to cooperate and fund these important projects. The proposals suggested for the East Maricopa Floodway match the Town of Queen Creek’s plans exactly and we look forward to partnerships to make these projects real,” said Queen Creek Mayor Mark Schnepf.

Tim Phillips, senior project manager for the Flood Control District, said the basins need to be built now, before development makes it more expensive and more difficult to place them in appropriate spots. He encouraged residents to get involved with the process to help consultants determine what kinds of parks and trails they would like in their neighborhoods.

Flood Control District representatives will answer ques-

A 36

# The East Mesa News

Proudly Serving the Community of ALTA MESA

Volume 5, No. 8

DECEMBER 1999

4 Pages

## RECREATION CORRIDOR, TRAIL THROUGH E. VALLEY PROPOSED

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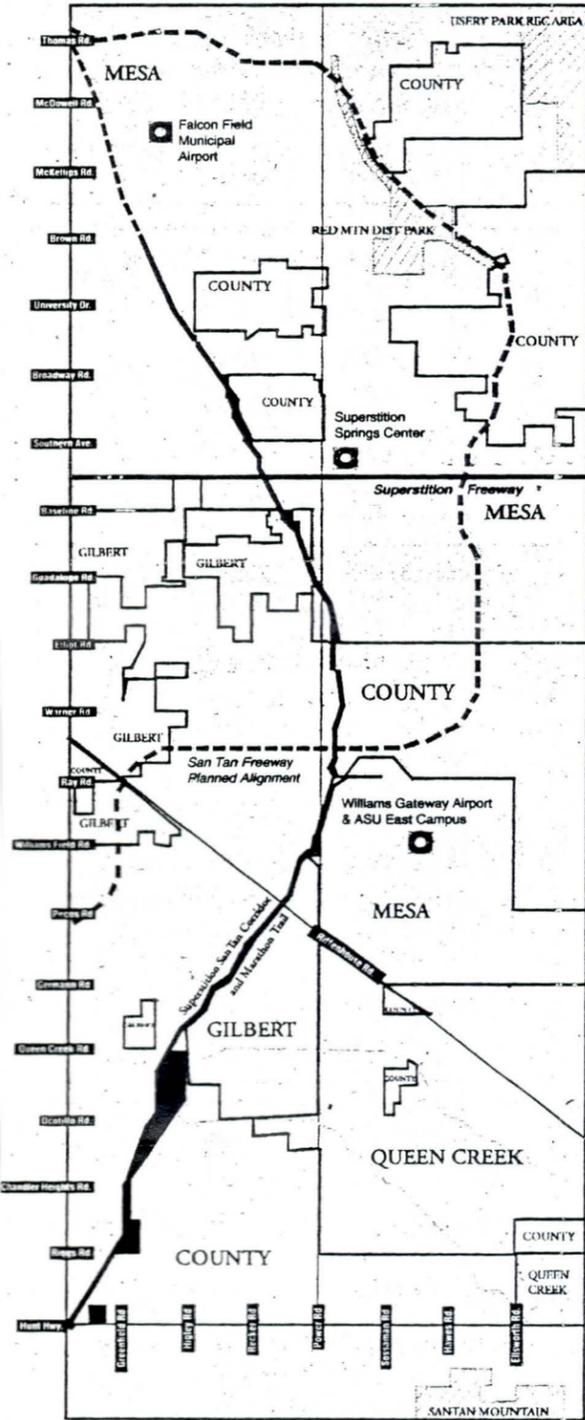
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mine what kinds of parks and trails they would like in their neighborhoods.

### Public Input Sought

"We don't want to work in a vacuum," he said. "These amenities are for the public's benefit so the public should be involved."

A series of newsletters, open houses and public meetings, the first of which will be December 15, will allow people to express their views. Persons can also call Tim Phillips at 602-506-1501, fax 602-506-4601 with comments or concerns or visit the web-site at [www.fed.maricopa.gov](http://www.fed.maricopa.gov).



Superstition - San Tan Corridor

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## Surprise Community News

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*The Independent welcomes your submissions for Community News. Send your information to: the Surprise Independent, 10220 W. Bell Road, Suite 116, Sun City, AZ 85351. Information also may be faxed to 623-974-6004, or e-mailed to Surprisind@aol.com.*

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### Meeting explores flood control

An upcoming public meeting gives residents the chance to discuss how to solve flooding issues in their neighborhoods, as well as to discuss possible open space preservation or multi-use corridor projects.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is conducting a public meeting for the Loop 303 Corridor/White Tank Area Drainage Master Plan Update, which includes Surprise and El Mirage.

The meeting is scheduled 6-8 p.m. March 9 at Estrella Mountain Community College, 3000 N. Dysart Road, Avondale.

Study team members will be available to provide information on the area drainage master plan update approach to floodplain management. The public will have an opportunity to identify issues and concerns related to floodplain management of the Loop 303 Corridor/White Tank area.

For more information, call senior project manager Greg Jones, 602-506-1501.

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# Floodway plan offers town 230-acre park

By WAYNE BRYAN  
Independent Newspapers

12/8/99

Gilbert Independent

Improvements to the floodway in the east Valley may provide a location for a new regional recreation facility in Gilbert.

While town officials would like to see a park developed, funding could keep the concept from becoming a reality for years to come.

The opportunity for a 230-acre park in the town comes from an effort to create the 26-mile Superstition San Tan Corridor and Marathon Trail, out of the former East Maricopa Floodway that runs through Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek.

The floodway runs from Brown and Greenfield roads in Mesa through a 200-foot wide channel, to the Maricopa-Pinal County line at the Hunt Highway.

The water then empties into the Gila River, at the Gila River Indian Community.

Along this path, the floodway crosses into the Town of Gilbert or its planning area several times.

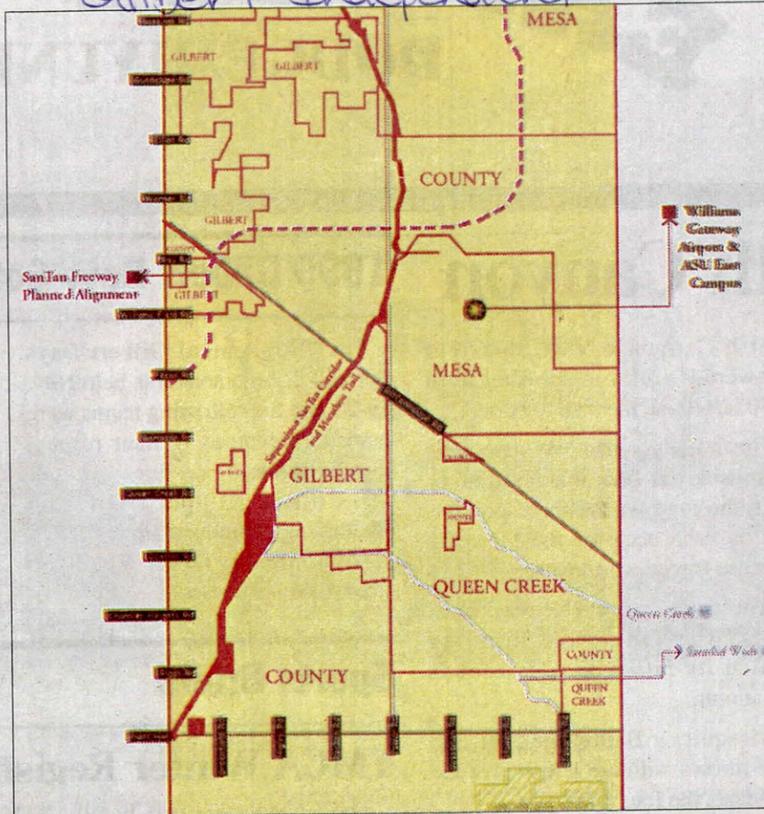
The existing compacted-earth channel was completed in June 1989 to protect the watershed and prevent flooding in the region.

The building boom in the eastern part of the county has changed the way monsoon and winter rainwater flows through the area.

"So much of the land is now buried under concrete," said Kris Baxter, public information officer for the Flood Control District of Maricopa County. "We are now looking to augment the floodway to hold the water that used to sink into the ground."

A study is now underway to see how the different communities along the floodway's corridor might want to use the open space alongside the project.

Public hearings are being planned in the communities that touch the



The Superstition San Tan Corridor and Marathon Trail runs 26 miles through Gilbert, Mesa and Queen Creek. The planned development of the floodway includes a site for a 230-acre park in Gilbert

corridor.

A meeting is scheduled in Gilbert for 6 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Southeast Regional Library.

"There was a time when engineers simply designed structures to stop flooding," said Mike Ellegood, general manager and chief engineer for the Flood Control District. "Today, we take into consideration the aesthetic effect the facility will have on the community."

The study will determine whether it would be worthwhile to utilize the entire floodway as a 26-mile recreational area, Mr. Ellegood said.

"By working with residents and city staff, we can determine what kind of structure would most benefit a community and help its residents discover other uses for retention basins and land along the chan-

nels," he said.

While the Flood Control District can provide the ground work for recreation uses, Gilbert Mayor Cynthia Dunham said the project would be left up to the town to develop any facilities.

"The Flood Control District cannot build parks, but officials there can build open spaces," she said. "They cannot build trails, but they can provide access roads."

The Mayor said that town officials have talked with Flood Control District personnel about the site in Gilbert, but for now officials are only exploring possibilities.

She said no funds are currently available to develop any facilities on the site.

"It would be incredible for the town, if we can find the resources," she said.

While the town may not be ready to build a park, the senior project manager for the Flood Control District, Tim Phillips said basins need to be created before development in the area makes it more expensive or the appropriate locations are built over.

Gilbert assistant town manager George Pettit said such a regional park would be compatible with the general land use plan.

"We have only been talking with them (the Flood Control District) conceptually, but we would like to work with them and develop something for the whole community," he said.

Neighboring communities will also have opportunities to develop recreational areas along the corridor and officials in those communities are eager to see the plans come to fruition.

Queen Creek mayor Mark Schnepf said the corridor matches his town's plans for recreational development.

"The Superstition San Tan Corridor and Marathon Trail could provide a way to expand and connect the open space throughout the east Valley, if the political leadership of the different jurisdictions can agree to cooperate and fund these important projects," he said.

Flood Control District representatives are looking to solicit ideas from the communities during the public hearings and to make them part of the study of developing the floodway. "There are a lot of ideas and the study will tell us what can become a reality," Ms. Baxter said.

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## Park idea makes great sense

12/6/99

County Supervisors Don Stapley and Fulton Brock have come up with a way to make life a little more pleasant in the East Valley: Turn a 26-mile-long drainage ditch into a park.

That is essentially what Scottsdale did years ago with Indian Bend Wash, and it became one of the Valley's premier recreational destinations.

The East Valley drainage ditch extends from northeast Mesa down through parts of Gilbert and Queen Creek. It was constructed by the county's flood-control district and is due to be expanded to handle increased runoff as the East Valley continues to develop.

With development chewing up open space at an alarming rate, this is an ideal way to preserve some land for public use while also protecting the area from flooding. Known now as the East Maricopa Floodway, it would become the Superstition-Santan Corridor and Marathon Trail, complete with landscaping,

sports facilities and park-like recreational amenities.

The Marathon Trail could also eventually connect with other linear parks being built or planned around the waterways that criss-cross the Valley — the main one being Rio Salado. Imagine someday being able to bike from one end of the Valley to the other through this network of linear parks and never cross a single street. That is what planners envision.

The Marathon Trail is a practical choice. The vacant land is there and the funding for the flood-control portion of the project is already available through the county's flood-control tax. But the park features will require coordinated planning and funding by Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek and Maricopa County.

At a time when East Valley residents are demanding that more be done to protect our quality of life as development consumes more desert open space, this project is a natural. It deserves priority attention by all three cities and the county.

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THE  
Tribune

#40

# County to clear mosquito breeding ground

## Some Tempe residents protest action

By Elvia Diaz  
The Arizona Republic

County crews are poised to clear a channel west of Tempe Town Lake today after authorities found it to be a breeding ground for mosquitoes carrying an encephalitis virus.

With its standing water and thick vegetation, the Salt River bottom down-

stream from the lake has become a health hazard, the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department concluded.

But some residents who live near the lake are angrily protesting the action, saying a natural habit is about to be destroyed.

"We can't tolerate this atrocity,"

Tempe resident Richard Dillon said. He said he and others discovered what was happening late Tuesday while hiking near the lake.

Joe Munoz, spokesman for the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, said he had planned to put out a news release today to explain. Bulldozers are at the site, he said. They will begin moving salt cedar trees and other vegetation today.

The county's goal is to let the water

flow freely to keep mosquitoes from breeding. Samples taken this summer showed some mosquitoes carried the Western equine encephalitis virus, a potential threat to horses and people.

Valley residents shouldn't be concerned, experts say. Mosquitoes bite mainly from May through October, noted Mira Leslie, a state public health veterinarian. And although the virus can be fatal, no one has died of it in Arizona for at least a decade.

#41

### This Week

12/8/99

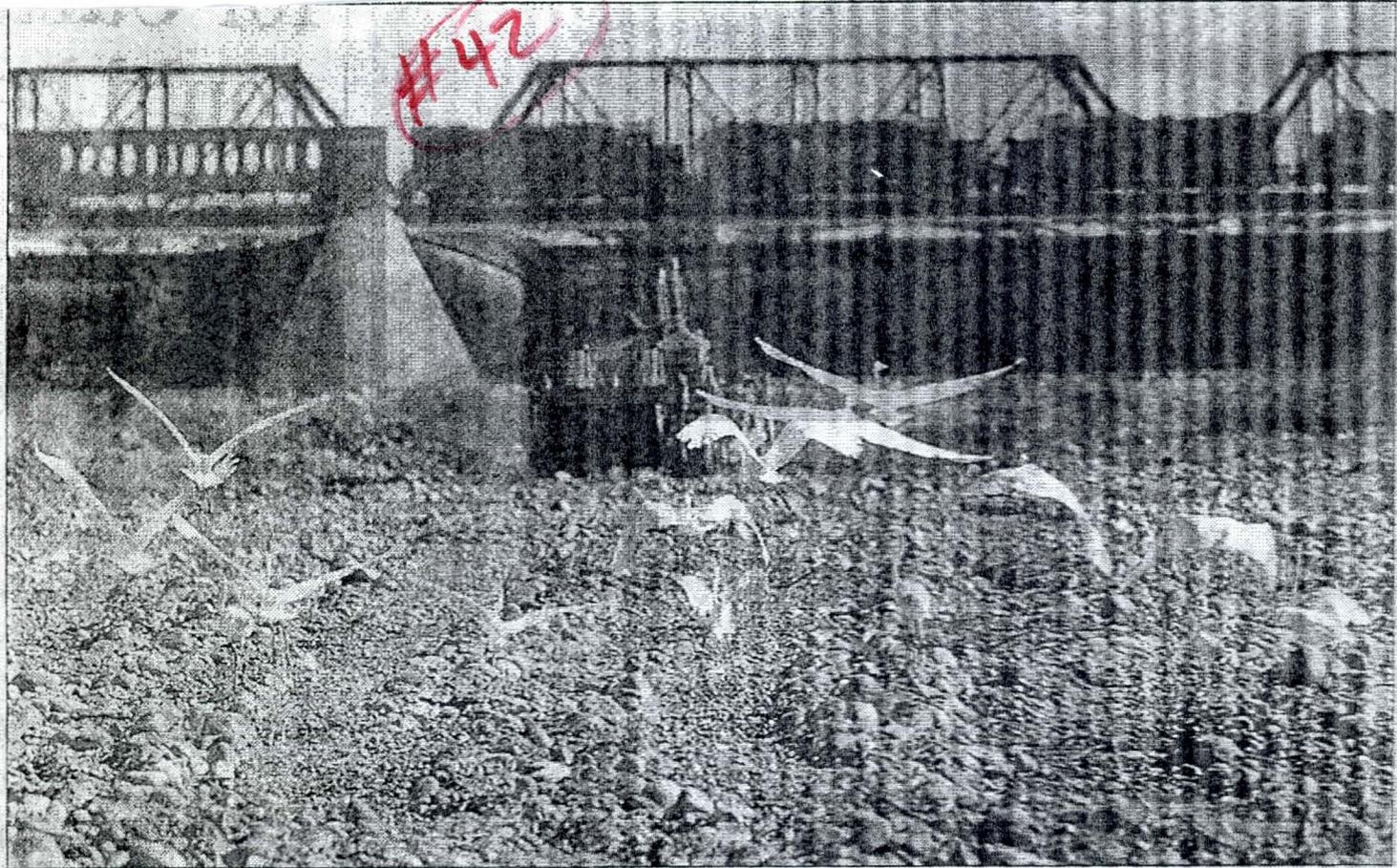
#### Public meeting on trail Dec. 13

East Mesa residents interested in shaping the development of the 26-mile Superstition-SanTan Corridor and Marathon Trail can offer suggestions at the first public meeting for the project on Dec. 13.

Flood Control District representatives will answer questions and solicit ideas from citizens from 6-8 p.m. in the East Room of the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center, 7550 E. Adobe Road in east Mesa.

The Superstition-SanTan Corridor and Marathon Trail is the new name for the East Maricopa Floodway, which begins at Princess Basin, just north of Brown Road and Val Vista. It runs through Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek before emptying into the Gila River.

For more information on the public meeting, call Tim Phillips, senior project manager, at (602) 506-1501.



IRWIN R. BAUGHN/STAFF PHOTO

Clearing out: Egrets take flight from the Salt River bed as a bulldozer fills in areas holding standing water Wednesday in Tempe.

# Mosquito breeding ground leveled

Critics denounce destruction of Town Lake wetland habitat; home to virus-carrying pests

BY GUY WEBSTER  
TRIBUNE

12/23/99

Bulldozers attacked a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes just downstream from Tempe Town Lake on Thursday amid concerns that crews were needlessly destroying wetland habitat.

Workers from the Maricopa County Flood Control District will spend the next few weeks reshaping about 85 acres along the bed of the Salt River, uprooting cedar thickets up to 10 feet tall.

Dan Hawkes, technical services manager for Tempe's water management division, said the work was ordered after county and state authorities discovered encephalitis virus in mosquitoes breeding in pools of water below Town Lake last summer.

The Valley had its biggest mosquito problem in at least 16 years this summer, and mosquitoes at many locations carried encephalitis viruses they picked up by biting infected birds, according to public

health authorities. Five people in Maricopa County got encephalitis last summer, and one Queen Creek girl died from it.

But none of those cases, nor two in Pima County, could be specifically tied to mosquito bites, and five of the seven were proven unrelated to mosquitoes, said Arizona Department of Health Services spokeswoman Pier Simeri.

The project is drawing criticism as an unnecessary destruction of wetland habitat.

"I'm sure they could have come up with a solution other than the extreme approach they're taking," said Juliet Stromberg, an Arizona State University biologist specializing in streamside ecology of Arizona. "The fundamental problem is they don't value the habitat."

Tempe resident Richard Dillon also opposed the move.

"My concern is it's a natural area for birds and other wildlife, and they're just plowing it all under. They sold the concept of the Town Lake on the basis that there would be these neat riparian areas next to it. Now, they've thrown that out and they're going to make it a sterile, empty ditch."

The flood control district is doing the work because the treatment also provides

flood-control benefits, said district spokesman Joe Muñoz.

Salt cedar thickets that get too big in the riverbed can clog the flow during the next high-water event, and cause the water to chew into the river's banks, Muñoz said. The same stretch of the Salt River was treated similarly in 1991, but the river reshaped its bed during 1993 flooding, he said.

Besides removing the salt cedars, the crew will shape the channel to drain areas where water ponds, and create a small channel down the center to keep water flowing. Mosquitoes breed in still water, not flowing water, Townsend said.

Salt cedars, also called or tamarisks, are non-native plants, originally from Asia. They have become widespread in the Southwest in the past century, often displacing native trees. About 95 percent of the trees in the area being treated are salt cedars. Crews will not remove the others, which are native cottonwoods and willows, Muñoz said.

A beaver lives in the north side of the riverbed below the dam. If its habitat is disturbed, the beaver will be relocated, Muñoz said.

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# Enhancing the floodway

## Gilbert, Queen Creek, Mesa to tackle project

By Mike Fimea

Arizona Business Gazette

Michael Ellegood's vision of flood control has taken a distinctly aesthetic turn.

"I'm not going to build concrete channels any more," said Ellegood, chief engineer and general manager for the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

"We're building part of our environment and habitat. If we do it right, we can make a difference in the quality of people's lives."

Ellegood's most ambitious project was publicly unveiled last month. The flood control district and three East Valley municipalities — Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek — announced they will work together to turn a 26-mile portion of the East Maricopa Floodway into a multi-use recreational area dubbed the Superstition-SanTan Corridor.

The project, which has yet to receive funding or an estimated completion date, evolved from a need to expand the floodway since it was originally completed in 1989. The compacted-earth channel carries excess rainwater through the East Valley during major storms, directing the water south to the Gila River in Pinal County.

Because of rapid growth, the surrounding land is absorbing less water than expected. Enlarging detention basins and making other improvements would allow municipalities to develop the surrounding land into useful open space.

"While this is a flood control project, it is also an opportunity to enhance the area," said Jerry Collins, president of Collins-Pina Consulting Engineers.

"A recreational corridor could create links between the three communities and act as a magnet to attract other economic development near Superstition Springs mall and Williams Gateway (airport)."

The Superstition-SanTan Corridor would extend from Thomas Road south to the Hunt Highway, gently winding between Greenfield Road and Power Road. Portions of the 26-mile segment already are landscaped, and some East Valley leaders believe it can be transformed into an expanded version of Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash.

"I'm particularly fond of Indian Bend Wash," said Fulton Brock, a county supervisor and chairman of the board of directors for the flood control district.

"Compared to the concrete ditches you see in Albuquerque, Los Angeles and Tucson, it's one of the real flood-control assets in the Southwest.

"This project may not have the same look. In Queen Creek, for example, some people have already told me they want to have more of a desert feel with equestrian

trails. But we know the demand is there, and we have to find a way to put the pieces together."

The obstacles to creating a recreational haven lie in the different roles of the flood control district and the cities that choose to participate.

"Our job is to put the infrastructure in place, like building the chassis of a car," Ellegood said.

"But our focus is limited to flood control. We can build a maintenance road that can be used as a trail, but we can't build a trail. We can't buy park benches because we're not in the park business."

That leaves each municipality to create an intergovernmental agreement with the district to improve and maintain its portion of the corridor. Ideally, Ellegood said, each of the four East Valley municipalities could start by converting a small stretch of their floodway for recreational use.

Brock warns that the process won't be easy and won't happen overnight.

"Look at how long it took to get Rio Salado started in Tempe," he said. "It involved ASU, the county, different councils and legislators. That was just one city, and a progressive one at that."

Each municipality also has its own funding priorities. In Mesa, residents will vote in March on whether to issue \$400 million in capital improvement bonds, including \$56 million for Mesa parks and recreation facilities.

"We're working to expand the infrastructure along the SRP canals that run through Mesa," councilman Jim Davidson said. "But we don't have anything on the screen to finance something like (the Superstition-SanTan corridor)."

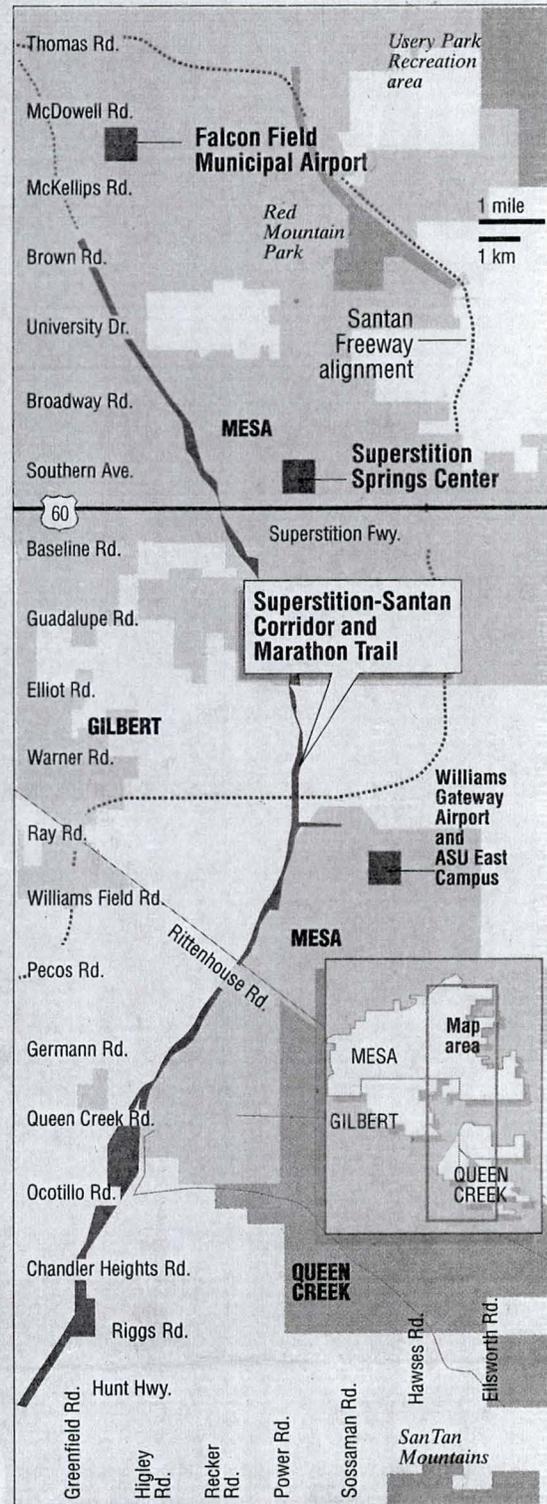
Several options are available to municipalities, including federal matching funds and state grant money (see accompanying story). Ellegood also emphasized the importance of public involvement, citing the district's improvement of the Old Cross Cut Canal along 48th Street in east Phoenix.

"These projects are successful when there is a groundswell of community support, and it's up to the cities to find it," Ellegood said.

Such opportunities should become more plentiful over the next decade. The district's planning budget, just \$750,000 in 1997, will grow to \$7.5 million annually from 2000 to 2005.

"Many of our people came from the (U.S. Army) Corps of Engineers, where the philosophy was to identify a problem and then fix it," Ellegood said.

"We want to get ahead of development by master-planning every watershed and water course in the county. That way we avoid having to come back and spend millions of dollars to mitigate a flood hazard."



Tony Bustos/The Arizona Republic

# Protesters dispute bulldozers in range of Salt River beaver

BY GUY WEBSTER  
TRIBUNE

Tempe police escorted two protesters away from bulldozers leveling small trees Tuesday in the riverbed of the Salt River near Tempe Town Lake.

Richard Dillon and Randall Armster, both of Tempe, were objecting to the bulldozers approaching an area where a beaver has chewed on a willow.

Before police arrived, Dillon scolded Tempe Parks Ranger David Kelley for not helping to defend the beaver's ground.

"You're a ranger, not a security guard," he said. "You should be protecting the habitat here."

Kelley declined to comment.

The Flood Control District is reshaping and clearing about 85 acres of Tempe river bottom at

the request of state and county health agencies that found encephalitis-carrying mosquitoes breeding in pools there last summer.

District spokesman Joe Muñoz said the beaver has apparently left, and that trash and stagnant water make the habitat poor anyway.

The district is creating a small central channel to keep water flowing.

Maricopa Audubon Society president Scott Burge, a member of Tempe's Rio Salado Commission and candidate for City Council, said the channel would actually better serve the environment by encouraging native plants and providing better habitat for beavers, muskrats, herons and egrets.

Tempe Rio Salado director Steve Nielsen said most of the



TONY BLEI/TRIBUNE

**Protesting:** Richard Dillon, left, admonishes park rangers about the bulldozing of the wetland just west of Tempe Town Lake on Tuesday. Tempe police later arrived at the scene.

riverbed below Town Lake will be maintained as desert instead of wetland, but that wetland habitat

along a central channel could be allowed if the flood control district agrees.

PH#

# PEORIA FOCUS

Winter 2000

#45

## Peoria's Community Park Becomes a Reality

In a prominent location between the Agua Fria Freeway and the New River channel, the City of Peoria will create its first community park. The park will be a 50-plus acre recreation resource located in the center of the city that will provide fun, recreation, and relaxation for local residents.

The purchase of 40-acres of land north of Thunderbird Road and west of Loop 101 was approved by the Peoria City Council September 19<sup>th</sup>, and negotiations with the Maricopa County Flood Control District to acquire an additional 12 acres to the north are expected to be completed soon.

The price of the land for this park is a bargain – the city is paying \$3.45 million for the land, which was appraised at \$3.9 million. The Lydic family, owners of the land and longtime Peoria farmers, agreed to sell the land at the low price because they wanted to see a park built on the site.

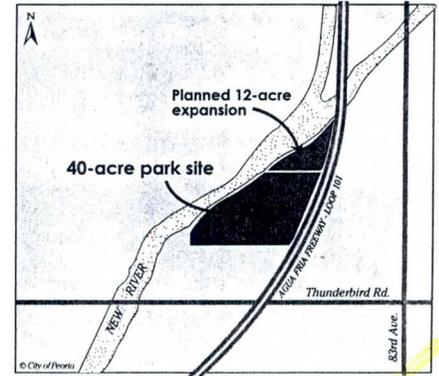
Plans are to develop the park in phases. The first year would include seeking public input and preparing a master plan for the park. Development of the park would then take place over the next five years, with the city doing everything possible to expedite development of the park.

One element of the park that citizens will probably see soonest will be a skateboard park. Funds for the skateboard park (\$250,000) are budgeted for the current fiscal year. Initial park development is likely to also include connecting trails and infrastructure improvements. Following that, the remainder of the park will be developed based upon funding availability and the priorities resulting from the citizen involvement process.

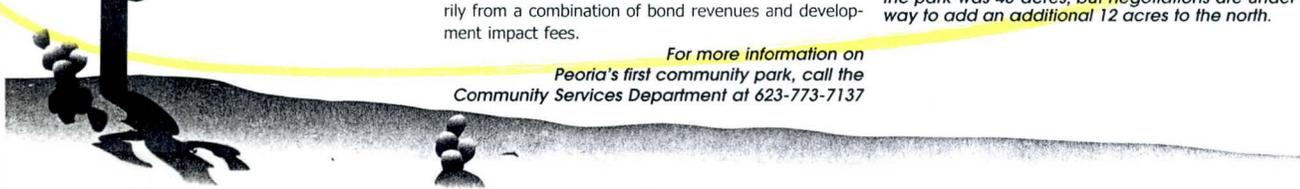
Once completed, the park will likely include lighted youth and adult multipurpose athletic fields, the city's first outdoor racquetball courts, large picnic areas, and other amenities. Funding for the park will come primarily from a combination of bond revenues and development impact fees.

For more information on Peoria's first community park, call the Community Services Department at 623-773-7137

Community Park Location



Peoria's first community park will be located north of Thunderbird Road, west of Loop 101 and east of the New River channel. The initial land purchase for the park was 40 acres, but negotiations are underway to add an additional 12 acres to the north.



#46

1/2/00

# Bricks and bouquets

**B**rick to the Clinton administration for turning the Washington Monument into a giant, glitzy sparkler for the New Year's celebration. Yes it was spectacular, but an improper use of this sacred monument to the father of our country.

↙ **Bricks** to the environuts protesting the bulldozing to channelize the Salt River below Tempe Town Lake to prevent mosquitos breeding in stagnant pools. Reclaiming Rio Salado habitat requires thoughtful cooperation, not knee-jerk obstructionism.

**Bouquet** to the Arizona Judicial Council for recommending the Legislature increase jurors' pay from the current paltry \$12 a day to \$30. More people might answer the call to serve.

**Bricks** to Chinese authorities for imprisoning leaders of a controversial reli-

gious sect on dubious claims it is a public menace and undermines Communist Party authority. Thank God for the First Amendment.

**Bouquet** to John McCain for giving George W. Bush a run for the Republican nomination.

**Brick** to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for dragging its feet hiring 1,000 new Border Patrol agents a year, as ordered by Congress in 1996. The agency gained only 369 officers in 1998.

**Bouquet** to the Arizona Department of Public Safety for updating information — including current addresses — on convicted sex offenders who've been released from prison. DPS also is planning to launch a Web site later this month so you can find out if there are any convicted sex offenders living in your neighborhood.

## Tribune

**Karen A. Wittmer** Publisher  
**Jim Ripley** Editor  
**Bob Schuster** Editorial Page Editor

Opinions expressed in editorials are those of the newspaper. All other opinions on this page and on the Opinion 2 page are those of the authors or artists. If you have questions or comments about the editorial pages, please contact Bob Schuster, 480-898-6507 (bschuster@aztrib.com), or cartoonist Mike Ritter, 480-898-6425.

2/22/00

# Trail network proposed for Valley

## 227 miles seen as open space

By Chris Fiscus  
The Arizona Republic

Maricopa County leaders announced a plan Monday to create a 227-mile network of trails that would ring the Valley and help preserve open space.

The program would turn canal banks, washes, banks of the Central Arizona Project and other lands into multiuse trails that link county regional parks such as Estrella Mountain Park and McDowell Mountain Park.

"Just for your soul, you need open spaces," county Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox said. "You just need the quiet, the solitude, getting in touch with nature ..."

Members of the county Board of Supervisors announced their plans using the cactus-studded backdrop of the Cave Creek Recreation Area in the far north Valley.

The county leaders looked at the acres of cactus and creosote and took in the smell of the desert after a hard rain. Then they proclaimed the need to protect more desert land in the Phoenix area.

"Our goal is to ring the whole county," Wilcox said. "We're going to keep our open spaces, no matter how many people move here."



Christine Keith/The Arizona Republic

The Cave Creek Recreation Area is among Valley sites where the county plans to create a network of trails.

"My five grandchildren one day are going to be hiking these trails ... If we don't save it now, it won't happen."

Andy Kunasek, the board's chairman, then went on a short hike. Fulton Brock brought along his Boy Scout compass. The songs *I Love You Arizona* and *Happy Trails* played from a tent set up nearby.

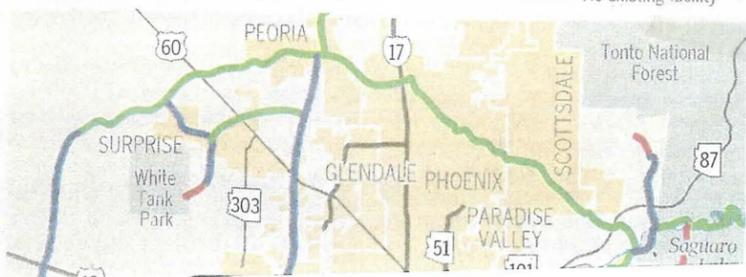
The county has identified possible trails, though the exact locations haven't been set.

Many of the trails would come from land already owned by the county for flood control.

### Proposed county trail system

Preliminary alignments for a regional trail system throughout greater Maricopa County.

- Canals
- Waterways/washes
- No existing facility



#45

# County office forms plan for Gila River

#48

2/6/00

## Would restore W. Valley stretch

By Shaun McKinnon  
The Arizona Republic

Working with state and local officials and a group of private developers, the Maricopa County Flood Control District has devised a plan to restore a 17-mile length of the Gila River.

The proposal, known as El Rio, includes a network of trails for hikers, cyclists and horseback riders; opportunities for scientific research; rejuvenated wetlands and other wildlife habitats; and Buckeye Town Lake, a smaller and quieter version of the similarly named reservoir in Tempe.

The targeted area is in the southwest Valley, between Dysart Road and Arizona 85, where snow-white egrets glide above the Gila, turtles and fish explore its depths and the occasional beaver patrols the thick groves along its banks.

Access to the area has been blocked from the public — literally.

Unless you have a key to one of the gates along the river's path, you can't see much more than the trees, and unless you work for one of a handful of government agencies that manage the river, you won't have a key.

But the restoration would open up the river to the public.

"We have a real opportunity to go in before there's too much development and preserve the river, restore it to its natural function and develop it into a



Dave Cruz/The Arizona Republic

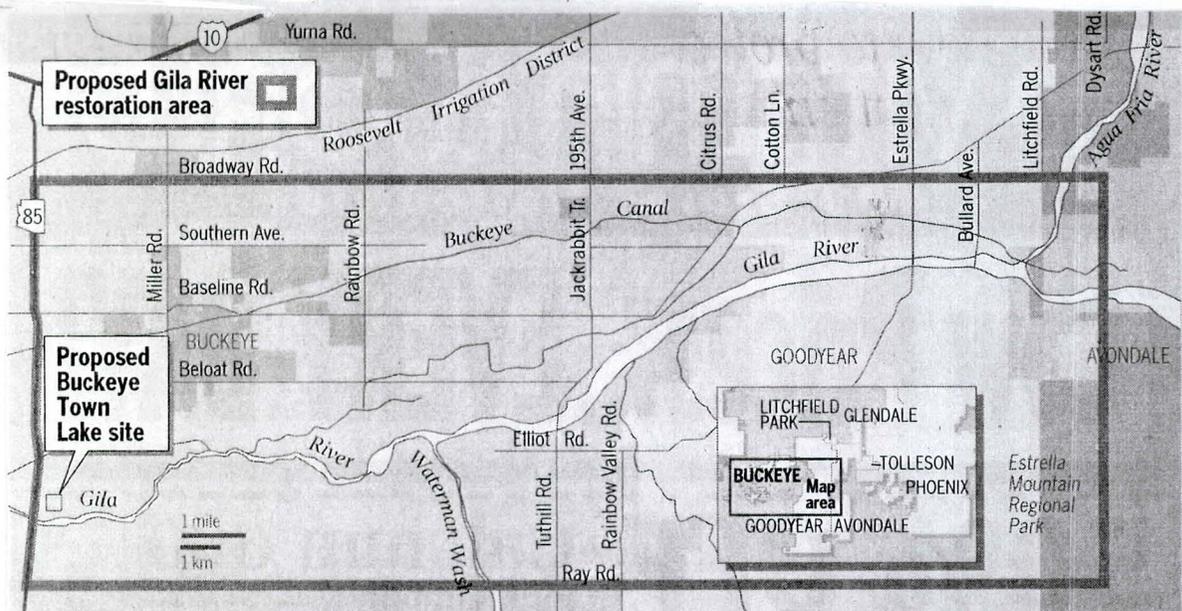
**County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox is followed by Buckeye Mayor Dusty Hull, Phoenix city engineer Michael Ellegood and Jackie Meck of Buckeye after a look at the Gila River.**

facility the whole county can enjoy," said Mike Ellegood, the flood control district's general manager.

So far, El Rio is mostly a concept. There's no timetable, no cost estimates and a rough set of preliminary blueprints produced from informal brainstorming sessions. What the project has going for it, Ellegood said, is support from the affected cities, agencies and private-property owners.

County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox is shepherding El Rio through the planning stages, fulfilling what she said is a longtime dream to restore the Gila as it runs through Goodyear, Avondale and Buckeye.

What finally helped shove the project off the back shelves was Ellegood's determination to open flood control facilities to the people whose taxes built them. He is working on a much grander project along the Agua Fria River, a 47-mile-long park first



The Arizona Republic

## GILA RIVER | County weighs park

From Page B1

proposed by developer John C. Long and one that, not coincidentally, would flow naturally into El Rio.

"You can build a bare-bones, industrial-strength flood control facility, and it'll work fairly well," he said. "But it's kind of an eyesore on the environment. Which would you rather have in your backyard, a concrete ditch or a park?"

Because the flood control district operates from a narrowly defined mission, El Rio would be first and foremost a flood control project. Plans call for clearing the river channel, choked now by non-native plants and trees. The deeper, better-defined river would carry more water and protect Buckeye from flooding during summer storms.

The district's partners would transform bare access roads to trails, reintroduce cottonwood trees and other desert-friendly vegetation, stock the water with the right kind of fish and tear down the gates.

"We could set up interpretative stations, explaining to people what's happening, and there could be an opportunity for a research station," said James Host, design supervisor for the county's Recreation Services Department.

The Gila skirts the edges of the county's Estrella Mountain Regional Park as well, and Wilcox said linking the facilities

would build on the strengths of both.

Each of the cities along the way has ideas for trails and parks, in some cases looking to developers for help. Buckeye has proposed the most ambitious piece, a 300-plus-acre lake.

Town Manager Joe Blanton said a feasibility study for the lake will soon begin with the help of a \$260,000 grant from the state Parks Department. The lake likely would be excavated by a sand-and-gravel operation, which could use a barge to mine even after the lake began to fill.

Mayor Dusty Hull said the town isn't thinking of anything on the scale of the Tempe lake, but will focus on basic recreational opportunities such as a park and a system of trails.

Not surprisingly for a river restoration project in the desert, El Rio will rise or fall with its water. Much of what runs in the

Gila now comes from the nearby 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant, which also supplies the smaller Tres Rios wetlands project.

But what will allow planners to better restore the river and fill the lake is water from the Buckeye Irrigation Co., which pumps more than 50,000 acre-feet a year from the unusually high water tables in the area. Local farmers would lose as many as 7,000 acres of land if the water wasn't pumped. The situation allowed the district to win an exemption from state laws regulating groundwater.

"That was what helped us bring the whole project together," Wilcox said, "the water from Buckeye."

Reach the reporter at Shaun.McKinnon@ArizonaRepublic.com or (602) 444-7116.

#49

# Arizona Business

www.abgnews.com

MARCH 2, 2000

ESTABLISHED 1880



Mike Fimea/ABG Staff

Kevin Kugler, a planner with Goodyear, believes the El Rio project could become a crown jewel for the West Valley.

## Dreaming of El Rio

VISION IS TO CHANGE  
GILA RIVER INTO  
RIPARIAN PARADISE

By **MIKE FIMEA** / ABG Staff

Dusty Hull can remember when the Gila River was a real river.

"When we first moved here, there were cottonwood trees along the banks. You had beaver, trout

and bass, and the water was clear," said Hull, the mayor of Buckeye and a resident since 1959.

"Then, some rocket scientist decided to seed it with salt cedar. The river was never meant to be messed with. We want it to look natural again, like it was a hundred years ago."

Hull's vision is shared by other West Valley cities, Maricopa County and private landowners.

Their dream is to transform a 17-mile stretch of the Gila River into El Rio, a recreational and riparian paradise.

The project is at such an early stage that Sam Arrowood of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers refers to it as "not even at the conceptual level yet, just goal setting." But the goals include restoring the Gila's natural habitat;

**El Rio/Page BG21**

# El Rio

Continued / Page BG1

adding trails, lakes and other recreational features; weaving in mixed-use residential communities nearby; and improving flood control by dredging and widening the river.

"Historically, the way flood control has been done was to wait until there's a flood and then decide 'we need to do something,'" said Mike Ellegood, general manager of the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

Destructive floods in other parts of the U.S. - especially one that ravaged the Dakotas in the early 1990s - changed that mindset. Ellegood says planning for flood control makes more sense than trying to build your way out of the problem.

"El Rio is a unique opportunity to take on a water course that has been allowed to deteriorate, but has not had any major development impacts," he said.

The boundaries of El Rio extend from Estrella Mountain Regional Park on the east to Arizona 85 on the west. Man and nature have battled to control the river for more than a century, with no fewer than five major floods inundating the area.

When it overflowed its banks, the Gila seared itself into the memory of long-time residents like Hull.

"There was a 40-foot wall of water, 220,000 cubic feet a minute running out of the dams," Hull said of the flood in January 1967. "It wiped out every house along the river."

But those events were the exception. The Gila's natural flow was slowly choking away, a result of salt cedar trees, also known as

tamarisks, taking root and squeezing out the cottonwoods and other native vegetation.

At age 10, Hull watched airplanes dropping tamarisk seeds into the river.

"It was supposed to take care of the undergrowth, but it didn't work out," he said. "Maybe one in a million seeds actually grew into a tamarisk and rest became underbrush. Nothing could get through them."

Today, the Gila's potential is only visible in areas like a pond maintained by the Buckeye Irrigation District, a private company serving about 200 local farmers.

As engines from nearby Phoenix International Raceway roar in the background, great blue herons gracefully dip and rise from the pond, sharing the water with sandpipers and egrets. The ecosystem supported by the pond seems worlds away from downtown Phoenix, just 20 miles to the east.

"The competition to enhance the quality of life in a community has a domino effect," said Kevin Kugler, a senior planner with the city of Goodyear.

"If you can help define that quality of life, it can lead to a lot of big things. El Rio could become a crown jewel for the region."

Expanding the pond's ecosystem over 17 miles of river will be a long-term proposition. A tentative timeline for El Rio includes construction by the Corps of Engineers between 2006 and 2009.

"We'll need federal help because the scale of El Rio exceeds what (Maricopa County) can do in terms of restoration," Ellegood said.

Arrowweed, a water resource planner for the corps, explained the agency's planning process as a deliberate series of steps. Each step, from the first "reconnaissance" study to actual construc-

tion, requires congressional authorization and funding.

The process is currently under way for another West Valley project called Tres Rios, a seven-mile watercourse located upstream from the confluence of the Agua Fria, Gila and Salt Rivers. Tres Rios is 30 months into its feasibility study phase, which recommends action and provides a cost estimate.

"It'll be three years by the time the (feasibility) study is done," he said. "We're not looking to duplicate Tres Rios; each community has different needs."

Those differences are evident in comments from the El Rio stakeholders. Ed King, whose family owns an 1800-acre ranch at the eastern end of the project, conjures up an image of Tempe Town Lake for the 3½-mile stretch that cuts through the ranch.

"We could pull the river into the project and have an experience like in Tempe," King said. "Figure out how to hold back a body of water and create an urban center around the lake."

On the western end, Buckeye also has plans for a lake, along with a \$265,000 state parks grant to conduct its own study. But Hull says his town isn't interested in creating an urban environment.

"We want it to look like it's a part of the valley," he said. "We don't want hotels, motels and golf courses."

Other obstacles loom ahead, including who helps to pay for the federal feasibility study. Arrowweed says the Tres Rios study cost \$3.84 million, half of which was paid by the city of Phoenix.

"As a group, they have to pay 50 percent of the feasibility study cost," he said. "It's up to each entity (to decide what to contribute) but they'll have to work it out among themselves."

# Luke advocates battle El Mirage growth

## Flood control plan sparks latest concerns of residential encroachment

by Megan Rutherford  
staff writer

Luke Air Force Base is guarded heatedly by activists and supporters who argue that closing the base could mean a \$2 billion loss to the state's economy.

Luke supporters latest target is the city of El Mirage.

The 11-square-mile city is allowing developers to build new houses in its southern borders, which are largely within the base's outermost decibel range noise contour.

Studies at Luke have produced noise contour lines ranging from a 65 decibel line on the outer limits to an 80 decibel line nearest the base.

The developments have many Luke-supporters such as Westmarc, Fighter Country Partnership, and Greater Phoenix Leadership wondering if communities surrounding the base support Luke.

Brig. Gen. Tom Browning, former Luke commander and current executive director of Greater Phoenix Leadership, said the question of Luke support is not complex.

"Do surrounding communities want to protect Luke or not? If they do, then don't build houses [in the noise contours]," Browning said.

The threat to the base stems mostly

from noise complaints from surrounding neighbors, and accident potential within the base's flight paths, he said.

The committee that meets to decide on base closures in the country is called Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), and is formed by Congress, Luke planner Chris Brownlow said.

He said although the base never knows when a committee will be formed, or what it will look at when considering base closures, the last round of questions sent to Luke from BRAC in 1993 all had to do with encroachment.

"I can postulate that the questions will get even more specific," Brownlow said of possible future BRAC questions.

Browning said the problem is that city officials have been talking "out of both sides of their mouths," telling developers that they'll support more construction, while also saying they want to keep Luke.

The latest questions regarding Luke encroachment were triggered after the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors acting as the county flood control district board denied a request to partially fund a flood control project in El Mirage's new developments that are being built within the base's noise contours.

District 4 Supervisor Jan Brewer, who said she has been an avid Luke supporter

for years, strongly opposed the idea of building homes in the floodplain and flight path.

Other Arizona leaders also fear any additional housing construction near the air base, and wrote Brewer to that effect.

"Any proposed project that threatens one facility jeopardizes the system as a whole," Gov. Jane Hull states in her letter to Brewer dated Feb. 15, addressing the importance of military airports in the state.

In his Feb. 15 letter, U.S. Rep. Bob Stump said: "Large tracts of development in the area [of the flood project] may seriously hinder Luke's ability to continue with its flying mission."

But in a press release from the city of El Mirage, officials from the city state the project was denied "on criteria that has never been imposed on other applicants."

Though Luke supporters hoped El Mirage would curb its home building in the proposed area, city manager Maggie Reese said El Mirage will continue to build houses at the intersection of El Mirage and Cactus roads.

Reese said the project will be presented again to the district again by July. In the meantime the district required developers to construct a channel in the area to help route water coming from a drainage project in Surprise, said Shanna Yager, a manager at the district.

Mary Rose Wilcox was the only supervisor to show support for the El

Mirage project at the board meeting.

"We've got to approve flood control projects that protect people," she said.

Wilcox said although she usually supports protecting the base from encroachment, assuring the safety of future homeowners in the floodplain was of more concern to her.

However, her stand irked at least two Litchfield Park officials.

"She was saying El Mirage has a right to develop their city, and it doesn't matter who it hurts," Councilman Orin "O.K." Fulton said, referring to the 60-year-old base.

Councilman Chet Hillhouse said Wilcox was "dead wrong" about putting the drainage project first. Hillhouse trained at Luke when he was in the Air Force; he retired in 1978.

Jose Solarez, former El Mirage city manager and current consultant for the city, said historically El Mirage has been supportive of Luke despite the fact the city has little room to grow except toward the base.

He said the city has been the quietest in regard to noise complaints.

There have been four noise complaint calls from El Mirage residents this year, according to information provided by Luke, compared with Peoria's eight calls. Last year there were eight complaints from those living in El Mirage.

But, Solarez said, "the city receives

(See Luke on page A5)

# Luke

(From page A4)

little financial benefit from Luke."

On the other hand, he said Glendale benefits from taxes since the city annexed the base in 1995, "but they don't have planes flying over them" like El Mirage does.

"They don't give a hoot about their neighbors," Solarez said of Glendale.

## Compatibility

There have been 25 noise complaints about flights out of Luke so far this year, and there were 119 last year, according to Luke officials.

Last year most of the complaints came from residents living in Sun City, with 32 calls.

To lessen the possibility of complaints or possible danger to surrounding communities due to a plane crash, in 1995 the state Legislature adopted the Joint Land Use Study.

The law went into effect in October 1997.

It requires political subdivisions to adopt land use plans that reflect compatible uses for land in the 1988 noise contours of a military airport, the law states.

According to an official statement on encroachment from Luke commander Col. Stephen Sargeant, Luke officials can identify incompatible land use around the base, but "cannot engage in local decision-making."

According to information from Luke, compatible uses within the 65, 70, 75, and 80 decibel Day-Night Average Level noise contours include manufacturing and agriculture or mining uses.

Other uses such as transportation, shopping districts, and utilities are compatible within the 65 to 75 decibel noise contours, but not the level 80 decibel contours.

Residential land use is not recommended for any of the noise levels.

But Luke supporters argue that the law regarding development around military airports lacks any penalties for not developing zoning regulations concerning the contours, or for ignoring compliant zoning.

"In full compliance with state law, nationally

known home builders are constructing homes within the noise contours," states a press release from El Mirage.

El Mirage city manager Maggie Reese said the Arizona Attorney General's Office told her the city's housing developments within the noise contours are not against the law.

Home builders constructing in the area include Brown Family Communities, Deitz Crane, Diamond Key Homes and Sivage Thomas, El Mirage city engineer Larry Tysiac said.

The city of Surprise also has several developments within the base noise contours, Westmare president Diane McCarthy said.

## Up and coming

A bill requiring penalties for those violating the land use law was passed by the state House of Representatives and is now making its way through the Senate, she said.

Also in the works is a bill that Luke proponents are hoping will protect the base even further.

House Bill 2060 would allow land owners to form an agricultural preservation district, protecting the property from development, and hopefully the base too, McCarthy said.

The landowner would receive a tax credit equal to the appraised value of the property or the difference between the appraised value of undeveloped land and the appraised value for development purposes, the bill states.

McCarthy said there are less than 100 landowners in the surrounding 17,000 acres of land within Luke's noise contours.

She said the hope is these landowners will elect to form an agricultural district instead of selling their land to developers or allowing it to be annexed into a municipality that might allow development.

## Closer to home

Luke neighbors to the southwest including Goodyear, Buckeye, and Litchfield Park have varying positions on encroachment.

Hillhouse said Litchfield Park supports the base.

"Any effect [El Mirage's development] would have on Luke would not be good," he said.

Goodyear Councilman Dick Sousa, who is an honorary squad commander for Luke, said he is waiting for the day a plane crashes in the developments that encroach Luke's contours.

"They're setting up a situation to happen," Sousa said.

He said he is also concerned with the 28,000 people who would lose their jobs if Luke were to close.

"What are we going to do if all those people lose their jobs?" he said.

Sousa said Goodyear has always said it would protect the area near the base's noise contours.

Buckeye Mayor Dusty Hull said he is aware of Luke's importance in the state, however, his town receives no financial benefits from the base like it would with new development.

Hull said he wants builders in his town "to be careful how they build" close to the base, but "we are not going to be forced" to do anything contrary to the town's best interests.

He said he will meet with Sargeant this week about encroachment issues.

"We're not a part of the group that wants to shut Luke down," Hull said.

"They're going to need our help later," he said.

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MARCH 9-15, 2000  
Vol. 6 • No. 10

## Park project earns national accolades

A collaboration among the city of Glendale, Maricopa County Flood Control District and D.H. Blattner & Sons landed a national award for an \$8 million project.

The 2000 Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Award, which highlights innovative construction projects demonstrating the partnering spirit, was awarded for the Skunk Creek Channel Improvement project.

The award — given by the Associated General Contractors of America — was presented March 10 to Blattner & Sons officials in Seattle.

"I think it is really great. It shows hard work in partnering really pays off," said Shirley Medler, the city's Parks and Recreation Department North District superintendent. "Their (Flood Control) philosophy is to make these waterways more multi-use. Their primary function is to prevent flooding, but they are working closely with cities to provide recreation areas as well."

Glendale's engineering and planning department, Flood Control and Blattner & Sons officials worked to widen and deepen Skunk Creek from 51st to 75th avenues and from Bell Road to Union Hills Drive to accommodate waters of a 100-year flood. Project completion removed several hundred homes from flood danger.

"We knew this project would be valuable to residents of Glendale and Arrowhead Ranch. We knew it was innovative. I am happy that the Associated General Contractors of America recognized the teamwork that allowed us to make this project a reality," said Mike Ellegood, the district's chief engineer and general manager in a press release.

The project's completion allows for city officials to begin plans for the Skunk Creek Linear Park project, which includes a multi-use and equestrian trail system throughout the creek.

City officials requested construc-

See ■ PARK, Page 3

# Williams Gateway could be runway to firms' success

By Betty Beard  
The Arizona Republic

Industries scrambling for a dwindling supply of land near airports are starting to flock to Mesa's Williams Gateway.

One company is planning a hotel, offices and warehouses totaling about 1.3 million square feet, and the airport is negotiating with three other companies poised to build an additional 1 million-plus square feet.

Also, AMSAFE, a large maker of aircraft passenger seat belts, east of the airport, is expanding and building an industrial campus on 36 acres near Williams Field and Mountain roads east of the airport.

Bob Sands, operations manager for the company, said AMSAFE plans to hire 250 to 300 people and expand to more than 100,000 square feet over the next five years.

Interest in the airport has been building because word is getting out about the three long runways at the former Air Force base, the improvements under way and the large amounts of space available, said Dick Mulligan, city economic development director.

"It's also evidence of how airports are catalysts for economic development," he said.

Williams Gateway over the next five years is expected to be the fastest-growing employment hub in Mesa, with most workers expected to come within a 30-minute drive, Mulligan said.

John Wright, a Scottsdale developer who has developed several projects at Scottsdale Airpark, said it's getting harder to find land near airports.

"If you go across the country, there are no private airports being built," he said.

When he saw Scottsdale Airpark running out of leasable land, Wright's Airpark Holdings turned to Williams and plans 1.3 million square feet of office-warehouses, 150,000 square feet of offices and 50,000 square feet of retail space.

"We're a little early. But Williams is probably what Scottsdale Airpark was in the early 1980s," he said.

He likes the site because it's close to Williams, the proposed Santan Freeway, the General Motors Proving Ground and a number of homes.

See COMPANIES | Page 3

From Page 1

The General Motors plant gets about 280 visitors a day and the closest hotel is 10 miles from it, he said.

The airport has about 1,000 acres available for development and is negotiating with several companies, including a large aviation maintenance company planning to build a 300,000-square-foot building, according to Amy Hall, marketing manager.

In addition, she said she's talking with two companies that have selected Williams as a finalist: a large maintenance company

planning to build up to 1 million square feet over a number of years and an aircraft manufacturer looking for 150 acres.

She declined to identify the companies and said she expects to get the final word next month.

Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek and the Gila River Indian Community are investing millions of dollars to upgrade the airport and build a passenger terminal. The airport hopes to begin passenger service this fall but has no airline services lined up.

Reach the reporter at  
Betty.Beard@ArizonaRepublic.com or  
(602) 444-7982.

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THE AZ REP.

4/19/00

# Communities unite to save Gila River

By Beth DeFalco  
The Arizona Republic

In an attempt to preserve a 17-mile stretch of the Gila River, three southwest Valley cities have preliminarily agreed upon common development strategies.

Like pieces of a puzzle, the cities would develop their section of the Gila differently but would create a connecting 17-mile path alongside the river.

"There are some common goals," said Kris Baxter of the Maricopa County Flood Control District. "The cities want something to improve their communities, and this is it. It is not only an opportunity to preserve something natural and beautiful, but it is an economic opportunity and a way to remember our past."

The cities, which are all in the early planning stages of development, have agreed on several criteria, including:

- Making sure trails and facilities have multiple uses.
- Making sure all development is compatible.
- Making sure the river also serves as a flood-control channel.
- Making sure the river retains its natural path.
- Repairing natural habitats

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AT REPUBLIC 08/10/10

# Project proposed as cure to floods

By Beth DeFalco  
The Arizona Republic

In an attempt to correct flooding problems in some southwest Valley cities, the Maricopa County Flood Control District has commissioned a study for a \$120 million project as a remedy.

The project, called the Durango Area Master Plan, will not only offer a solution to flooding but may also provide cities with an outline for recreational corridors and parks.

The project also may reduce flood insurance required for some West Valley homeowners.

"It was decided that nothing was to be built that could not be turned into a multiuse corridor," said Kris Baxter, spokeswoman for the Flood Control District.

If approved, the 68-square-mile project will wind through Tolleson, Avondale and north Phoenix. The area studied is bounded by Interstate 17 to the Agua Fria River and Interstate 10 to the Salt/Gila River.

On April 25, the Flood Control District presented the project for the first time to the Tolleson City Council, pointing out that in Tolleson, one area prone to flooding is Tolleson Road at 91st and 99th avenues.

Brian Frye, an engineer who helped design the project, explained to the City Council that if the project is implemented, developers could set aside or incorporate the channels and basins for parks.

Presentations to the Avondale and Phoenix city councils are scheduled for this month.

Although the Flood Control District is picking up the tab for the study, each city will be asked to contribute a certain percentage for the construction cost, the district said. That percentage has not yet been determined.

Storm water currently flows into the Buckeye Feeder Canal because it is the lowest elevation in the area. As new developments in the southwest Valley perch themselves along the canal, the excess runoff they bring will require additional flood channels and retention basins along the channels.

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Mike Ellegood

# Babbitt praises Pima County's conservation efforts

By Arthur H. Rotstein  
Associated Press

**TUCSON** — Pima County has the nation's most comprehensive approach to open-space conservation efforts, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said Friday.

He said Pima County's concerted effort to address growth management and open-space issues amazed him and called it even more progressive than that of Portland, Ore., known for its innovative approach to urban development and planning.

The county's conservation plan, which has not been formally implemented, is expected to include provisions to restore riparian areas for wildlife and river parks for recreation, establish buffers to minimize development impact and establish conservation easements to keep ranches, riparian areas and mountain parks undeveloped.

It also would create wildlife corridors, toughen laws to protect desert land from development and expand mountain parks.

Babbitt was in Tucson con-

tinuing his efforts to persuade Gov. Jane Hull to agree to a large-scale swap of state and federal lands. Doing so would help encourage management of the areas and provide lands to the state trust — the state can sell the parcels to benefit education — that are better suited for development or generating revenue, Babbitt said.

Babbitt focused particular attention on Empire-Cienega, a riparian, wetlands and grasslands area 25 miles southeast of Tucson.

Empire-Cienega, which

would fall within the county's plan, "is the most important urban open-space land in this state," Babbitt said. "It's the only place within striking distance of Phoenix or Tucson, where you can walk out on a July day and get your feet wet walking in a live stream through wetlands."

Legislation sponsored by Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., would create the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area to protect 206,000 acres from development. The federal Bureau of Land Manage-

ment owns 49,000 acres; the state 104,000 acres and private owners 53,000 acres.

The state is reticent about negotiations on protecting it, apparently concerned the Empire-Cienega lands will be more valuable than land it would get in a land swap.

Babbitt said Kolbe's legislation is important.

"If we get it declared a national conservation area, I think that will set the direction for this land," he said. "When Congress makes that commitment, money follows."

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## WILDTHINGS

**"Living in Arizona, I can't help but be an environmentalist,"**

shared **Mary Rose Wilcox**, Maricopa County Supervisor, on the day *Today's Arizona Woman* photographer **Tina Celle** and I visited with her along this beautiful, isolated stretch of the Gila River near Buckeye.

Surely her admiration for the beauty of the state is shared by many Arizonans. Her roll-up-your-sleeves and go-to-work commitment to do something to preserve what we have is not so typical.

The **El Rio project**, spearheaded by Wilcox, focuses on a 17-mile section of the Gila River that extends from Phoenix International Raceway in Goodyear to Oglesby Road in Buckeye. It is a plan Wilcox and others feel is crucial not only to revitalizing the river but also to enhancing the quality of life in the west Valley. The El Rio project is a public/private undertaking and has the support of the surrounding cities of Avondale, Buckeye and Goodyear, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, the Gila River Indian Community and others. Wilcox's efforts and those of several women public officials and environmental scientists are detailed in this month's feature story, **Women Work to Heal the Gila**, page 26.

In business, top companies have gone wild over the power of the trade show. The U.S. hosts nearly 9,000 such exhibitions/fairs yearly, and they attract about 100 million people who spend a whopping \$84 billion. Should you as a consumer and your business as a participant join the stampede? See story, page 11.

**Wild about you:** Man of the Month **Jason Kidd** might be sidelined, but don't count him out. Read how the young Suns star keeps the game of round ball in perspective with the game of life.

**More wild things we love:** Check out the handbags in this month's Style section! This year, it looks as if the daring among us will be shelving our conservative black bags and reaching for the season's buzzword: COLOR!

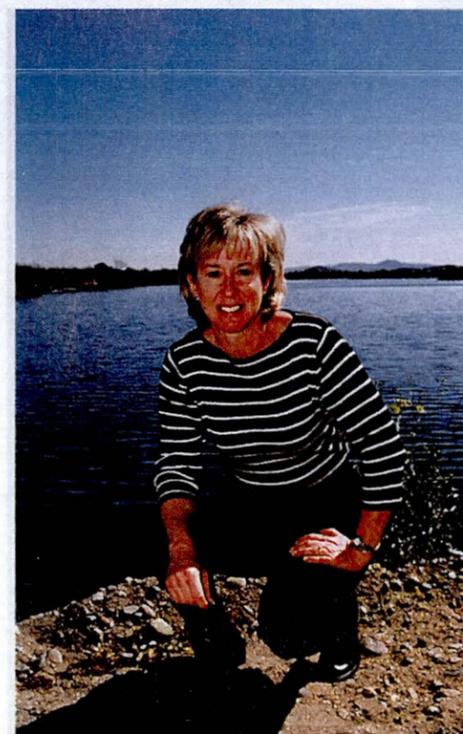


PHOTO: TINA CELLE

**Wild 'n' woolly:** Diamonds & Denim scores big for the **American Cancer Society**, and partygoers aren't afraid to strut their best Western garb. See **People Watch**, page 72.

And finally, take a walk on the wild side through the kitchens – and refrigerators – of some of the Valley's most famous chefs. You might be surprised at what's there, and what's not. Food writer **Donald Downes** gets the dish on wild requests posed to these top-notch gastronomic artists.

Cindy Miller, Editor

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### On the cover

Paradise Valley dentist Dr. Rebecca Griffiths takes a "whole-body" approach to the care of her patients. "As a dentist, I treat more than teeth," she says. "I treat the whole person." See story, page 24.

### On this page

Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox enjoys a riverside spot pretty enough for a picnic – and that's exactly what she hopes will be made possible through the El Rio Project. See story, page 26.  
Contents photo: Tina Celle

PHOTOGRAPHY: TINA CELLE  
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Today's Arizona Woman is published by Publishers West, Inc., and distributed free to the people of metropolitan Phoenix. The opinions expressed herein are exclusively those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the position of the publisher. Submissions of articles and photographs are most welcome and will be considered for future issues. Extra copies may be obtained at our office.

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Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox glances across the expanse of the Gila River near Buckeye Irrigation District's dike. Unlike most of the river, the water here is deep, the shores far apart. The call of the great blue heron can be heard in the distance. Overhead, egrets and cranes search the waters for fish.

Mary Rose Wilcox, photographed by Tina Celle for *Today's Arizona Woman*, along the Gila River near Buckeye, a site she hopes will one day offer riverside trails and picnic areas

# WOMEN WORK TO HEAL THE GILA

BY CALLIOPE SCOTT

"It's beautiful here," Wilcox says. "This is almost the way the entire river used to be."

The Gila River is choking to death. Salt cedars, planted by seeds dropped from an airplane to curb the undergrowth of the river, have become the undergrowth. Combined with new development and pollution, they are killing the river that once supported Native Americans and early Arizona settlers. The mighty flowing river is now a trickle of what it once was.

A group of concerned citizens spearheaded by Wilcox is working to bring the river back to life. While both genders are involved with this effort, a large number of women environmentalists, planners, developers and public relations executives are leading the movement to Heal the Gila.

"Politics and science are still male-dominated fields," Wilcox says. "It says a lot to have so many women working on this project, which is so vitally important to the communities of Buckeye, Avondale and Goodyear. Not only will the El Rio project restore the river to its rightful state, it will bring economic and recreational opportunities to the southwest Valley."

The 17-mile El Rio Watercourse Master Plan project extends from the Gila River near Phoenix International Raceway in Goodyear to Oglesby Road in Buckeye. The opportunity to restore plants and animals along the shores is only one goal. Wilcox and the executive committee for the El Rio project want to provide riverside trails, picnic areas and places to ride horses. Early in the restoration, Wilcox and others want to build an educational facility to teach visitors about the historical importance of the river and how it is being used today.

"Supervisor Wilcox's dedication to this project is extremely admirable. The time and energy she exudes in promoting this project is

amazing," says Mike Ellegood, P.E., chief engineer and general manager of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

The Flood Control District is the lead agency in the El Rio project. The primary reason for the massive undertaking is to ensure the river can convey the horrendous stormwaters that surge through it after heavy rains. In years past, Buckeye had several feet of water flowing through its downtown, damaging crops, storefronts, homes, cars and other personal property.

Theresa Hoff, an environmental specialist for the Flood Control District, is among the women whose knowledge will help prevent future floods. Hoff will inventory the plant and animal life along the Gila River and find ways to increase their propensity while at the same time eradicating that which deters safety. Salt cedar bushes will have to be removed so cottonwood and willow trees can grow. The denseness of salt cedar prohibits the free flow of water, and instead, gives massive storms leeway to meander away from the main channel, across land and into civilized areas, where they do not belong. As the study progresses, she may suggest species of fish to keep down the number of mosquitoes that could decide to inhabit the river.

"Projects like these are important not only for health and safety reasons, but also because they allow us to create places for people to relax and enjoy nature," Hoff explains. "People are so less likely to destroy the environment if they understand it and appreciate it."

Building the team of professionals for the project, Wilcox started working with Maricopa County planner Michelle Denne. Her background with long-range planning will provide the team an understanding of matching land use development patterns with the intent of the new, master-planned river. Chunks of land out of sight from the shoreline are proposed for compatible commercial development. In addition, developers like Ed King of King Ranch are considering building high-end homes that border the would-be recreation areas.

"We are experiencing such rapid growth that we need to be careful of the types of development we allow in and surrounding these environmentally sensitive areas," Denne says. "The El Rio Project is one example of Maricopa County recognizing the opportunity to address growth, the need for preserving open space and the public desire to provide access to open areas."

The El Rio Project will be one of the legs of the proposed Maricopa County Trail Program. County supervisors announced their intent to loop approximately 220 miles of trail around the Valley of the Sun at a press conference at Cave Creek Recreation Area this February.

"This is probably the most important thing I can do for my district," Wilcox shares. "The high quality growth and environmental benefits this project can bring are unparalleled. This is an opportunity that will not wait another 10 years. We have to save the Gila River now, before unhampered development and pollution eliminate our chances, before any more damage is done. Every day we wait will make this project more expensive and harder to accomplish."

Women who would like to get actively involved with this project should contact Wilcox's office. In the future, she will host river clean-ups and fund raisers to bring awareness to the project. It is expected the effort will cost more than \$80 million. While the county can pay for much of this, public involvement is highly desirable. Call Supervisor Wilcox's assistant Terri Leija at (602) 506-1368 to help. ♦

Daily News - Sun  
May 13, 2000

# County tries to preserve pristine land

**TRAIL COMMISSION:**  
Supervisor-appointed members working to stake claim on White Tank Mountain area

HAYLEY RINGLE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of the Maricopa County Trail Commission are proposing a trail to run along McMicken Dam east of the White Tank Mountain Regional Park.

The trail — as yet unnamed — will be merely a portion of a trail program that will link up with existing trails across the county.

Along with connecting the county park system, the goal is to

link recreational corridors around the Valley and help preserve open space in the area while developers are hungrily looking to build there.

Using existing entities such as canals, parks, and flood-control projects, county Supervisor Jan Brewer said the board would like it completed as quickly and inexpensively as possible.

"This is a high priority for the board of supervisors and we will go after this very vigorously," Brewer said. "But we need to work quickly, so everyone knows who made the first stake."

The Trail Commission, formed in February by the board, will make its recommendations to the board of supervisors as to what is and isn't possible, where exactly the trail should go, and where the trails should connect, Brewer said.

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Flood Control

District of Maricopa County, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Maricopa County Trail Commission and Planning and Development of Maricopa County are working to put the trail program together.

The flood-control district is studying several of the dams to determine open-space possibilities as well as what kinds of recreational opportunities could be considered, said Mike Ellegood, general manager and chief engineer of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

The project will be done in pieces, with the main goal of having the entire county linked, said Dennis Holcomb, Landscape Planner for the Planning and Project Management Division of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

The land along McMicken Dam is owned by the state and is

closed off to the public. The dam is an earthen dam that sits approximately a quarter mile east of the White Tank Regional Park and extends northeast for a total of 9.5 miles.

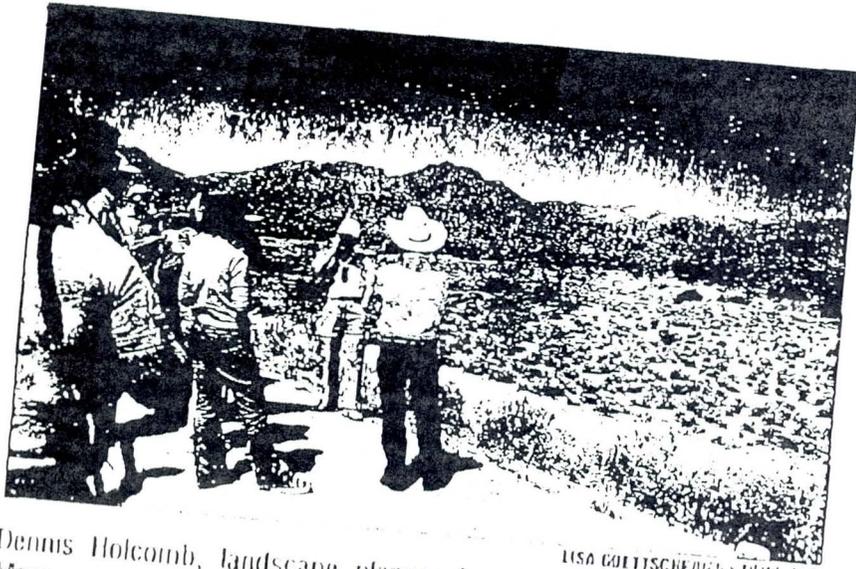
The dam, 34-feet high, was built originally to provide flood protection for Luke Air Force Base from the water runoff coming from the mountains. Now, it also protects the farm land and small subdivisions beyond the dam.

Because of the dam and the flood-control district lands that lie in this corridor, the natural ecosystem of the area has been able to remain. The soil is deep and the landscape is lush.

"Imagine what it will be like in 20 years with development," said Holcomb of the corridor. "We need to set aside this area and preserve it."

Round-tailed ground squirrels

\$158



Dennis Holcomb, landscape planner for the Planning and Project Management Division of Flood Control District of Maricopa County, tells the Trail Commission how existing roadways along McMicken Dam could be turned into multi use trails connecting with existing trails

and kit foxes can be found, along with blue palo verde and mesquite bosques, said Sandra Mobley, park educator

"The trail would be beneficial to wildlife and a great way to educate the public on the ecology of the area," Mobley said. "And people will enjoy it, they definitely will."

# Trail-network proposal looks at dam area

By Shaun McKinnon  
The Arizona Republic

A 50-year-old flood control dam in the far West Valley could help preserve a piece of untamed desert for hikers, cyclists, horseback riders and even the occasional mountain lion.

The Maricopa County Trails Commission is looking at McMicken Dam as a key piece of a proposed network of trails that may someday crisscross the Valley. Commission members toured the area late last week and will discuss specific ideas beginning early next month.

"These kinds of landscapes are the kind that are most endangered in Maricopa County, the most endangered by new development," said Dennis Holcomb, landscape planner for the Maricopa County Flood Control District, which owns and manages the dam. "This is a unique opportunity for people to explore a wide range of different kinds of desert wildlife and plant species."

McMicken Dam, built in the early 1950s by the Army Corps of Engineers to protect Luke Air Force Base from floods, stretches nearly nine miles from roughly the Peoria Avenue alignment west of the Beardsley Canal north and east past Grand Avenue near Deer Valley Road.

The district owns land on each side of the dam, a corridor that varies in width from about one-quarter mile to nearly a mile. Because it is part of a flood-control structure, the land can't be used for homes or businesses.

The county has proposed using the corridor to build trails that would connect with dozens of others, including the proposed West Valley Recreation Corridor along the Agua Fria River and White Tank Mountain Regional Park.

The trails plan, which circles the entire Valley, is in its earliest stages, officials say, but Supervisor Jan Brewer, whose district encompasses most of McMicken Dam, said it is a priority as long as it doesn't cost too much.

"It's what the public wants, more open space," said Brewer, who accompanied the trails commission on its tour of the dam. "This is the perfect avenue to provide

See **TRAILS** | Page 7

## TRAILS | Dam area studied for network

From Page 1

that. We don't want a lot of ugly concrete channels out here. We want to keep it natural and pristine."

Brewer said that ideally, the cost of the trails system could be shared by various government agencies and private partners. The Flood Control District, for example, would open the McMicken corridor to public use, while the county's parks department might help develop and maintain the trails.

McMicken Dam sits along a naturally diverse part of the Valley, a *bajada*, or lower slope rich in vegetation and wildlife, straddling the upland Sonoran Desert and creosote flats ecosystems. Sandra Mobley, the White Tank park's educator, said a trails network could help protect the area and its wildlife.

Mountain lions, for example, migrate between mountain ranges, Mobley said, and,

although the White Tanks don't have their own big cats, they pass through from time to time and would be able to use a protected corridor.

"It could increase their chance for survival," she said.

The dam also has helped create several riparian areas, bosques of mesquite and palo verde that now nurture other plants and wildlife, Mobley said.

One significant hurdle to connecting the trails system with the White Tanks is a strip of state trust land that surrounds the park and likely will be developed. Del Webb has applied to buy the land and is preparing to submit a land-use blueprint as part of the process.

Holcomb said county officials may be able to work with Webb, or whoever the eventual developer is, to try to preserve a small corridor between the park and the flood control dam.

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#60

# Judge dismisses Gateway airport suit

By Edythe Jensen  
The Arizona Republic

It's not Gilbert's fault that people who bought houses around Williams Gateway Airport didn't expect airplanes to buzz over their back yards.

That's the opinion of Superior Court Judge Michael Yarnell, who this month dismissed a class-action case in which nearly 200 residents sued Gilbert for not enforcing its own airport disclosure rules. The residents plan to appeal the ruling.

The suit charged that the subdivision report given to home buyers before September 1998 made no mention of the airport, even though it began commercial operations in 1993. On Sept. 17, 1998, the report was revised to include Williams Gateway Airport as a "hazard" or "nuisance."

The residents, who live in the Superstition Highlands subdivision southeast of Recker and Guadalupe roads, cited the Gilbert council's 1995 adoption of a resolution that calls for special provisions for construction within the airport influence area.

Provisions include public notification and home construction standards designed to soften the impact of noise. The judge agreed that the town failed to enforce that resolution, but he said they were under no legal obligation to enforce it.

"Neither an individual citizen or a city has a duty to undertake affirmative action in response to an aspiration goal or guideline," the judge wrote in his ruling.

Town spokesman David Cannella said the ruling backs what Gilbert leaders have been saying all along: The town wasn't negligent.

"We're happy to have this lawsuit behind us," Cannella said.

Gilbert has since installed additional signs as far away as five miles from the airport directing traffic to the facility.

"It's important for us that people know the economic significance of Williams Gateway to Gilbert and the entire region. The airport is going to grow," Cannella said.

Some of the residents who sued complained to the Town Council last year that real estate sales agents described the airport as a closed military installation that was no longer in use.

Built more than 50 years ago as Williams Air Force Base, the facility was converted to commercial use seven years ago.

Reach the reporter at  
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#61

AZ REP duplicated

# GROWTH | State, county squabble over West Valley

From Page A1

suggests leaving "doughnut holes" in the final document that the state can fill in later.

But County Supervisor Jan Brewer insists the county is in the best position to develop a long-range plan for new growth. She says Anable is seeking special treatment as a landowner and trying to avoid public input on decisions that could affect the value of land the department is responsible for selling.

"What they want me to do now is step out of good policy and extend them something I couldn't or wouldn't do for anybody," Brewer said.

"To me that's unfair. They can come in and request amendments to the plan like anyone else, but it will be done in the daylight. It won't be done in the dark."

The Board of Supervisors is expected to approve the plan over Anable's objections, but the feud could spill over into other parts of the Valley as the county and state work on separate plans for the same land.

**“**  
You're just going to gobble up twice as much of the desert as you need to.

**Mike Anable**

Arizona land commissioner, on low-density development in the West Valley

The dispute also stirs the question of how densely the Valley's still vacant fringes should be developed and whether the state or county should promote preservation of environmentally sensitive lands.

The White Tanks-Grand Avenue plan covers about 740 square miles west of the Agua Fria Freeway, or the western portion of the Loop 101, from the county's northern boundary south past Goodyear. It addresses land use, transportation, utilities

and future development on thousands of acres of land.

What especially irked Anable was the decision by county planners to designate low-density use for nearly all the state trust land, including more than 18,000 acres surrounding the White Tank Mountains that are under review for possible sale.

"How is that good planning?" he asked. "You could do so much more. We're looking at things the county isn't — mineral resources, archaeology, demographics. We have to adequately plan for the growth that's coming."

Large size-fits-all land designation, Anable said his planners suggest mixed use, with some high-density development scattered amid open spaces. One house per acre is not the solution to rapid growth but a recipe for sprawl, he said.

"You're just going to gobble up twice as much of the desert as you need to," Anable said.

Scott McCullough, the county's acting director of planning and development, said the White Tanks plan won't zone land but rather give it a designation as a starting point. Any landowner, including the Land Department, can request changes, which would then be subject to a public review process.

He said rural-residential, which allows up to one home per acre, is the appropriate designation for most of the trust land based on its location and its surroundings, which include the White Tank Mountains and Luke Air Force Base.

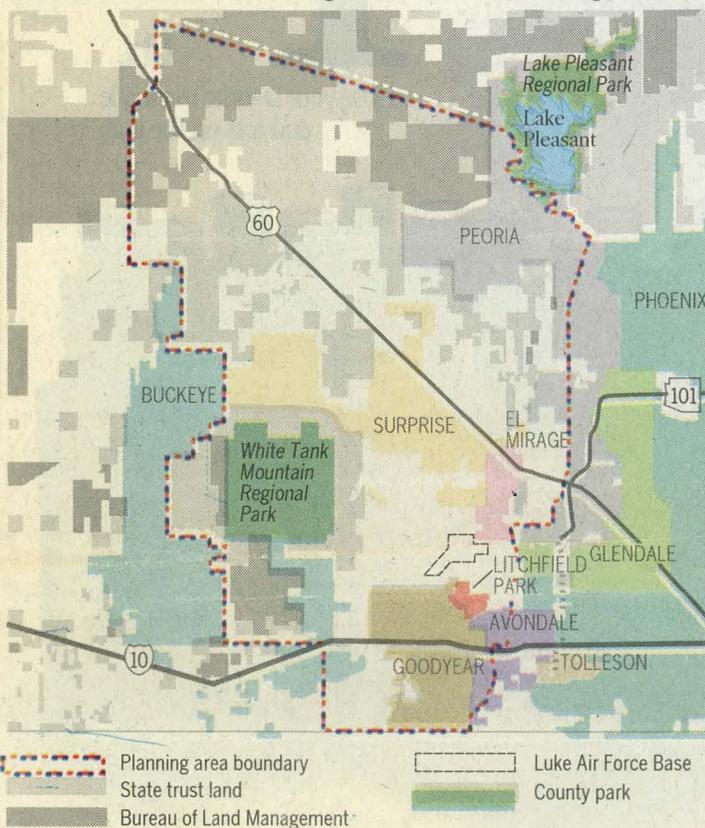
West Valley leaders are concerned about increasing development near the base, which is already feeling the pressure of a growing sea of new homes. Preservation advocates also worry that the Land Department would allow high-density subdivisions near the White Tanks.

McCullough said Anable's suggestion that the county leave holes in its plan subverts the public participation process.

"And we're not big on that," McCullough said.

## White Tanks planning area

Thousands of acres in the far West Valley are controlled by either the federal Bureau of Land Management or the State Land Department.



Source: Maricopa County

Reach the reporter at Shaun.McKinnon@ArizonaRepublic.com or (602) 444-7116.

#62

Ar Rep June 22, 2000

# Natural washes win OK to curb N. Phoenix floods

By Kathleen Ingley  
The Arizona Republic

Using nature to control flooding sounds simple. Now Phoenix has to work out the messy details.

The Phoenix City Council decided to let a pair of natural washes, Skunk Creek and Sonoran Wash, carry floodwater in the Black Canyon Corridor. The area, east of Interstate 17 and north of the Central Arizona Project Canal, is poised for rapid development.

Councilman Tom Milton, whose district includes the Black Canyon Corridor, asked city planners to look for ways to acquire environmentally sensitive land in the area.

The options could include purchase, donation and allowing greater density elsewhere in exchange for leaving part of a property as open space.

Milton noted that the Flood Control District of Maricopa County analyzed a broad range of options for controlling storm water, from building fully lined concrete channels to letting the washes run free.

"I feel more comfortable today making these recommendations based on their expert opinion," he said.

Phoenix is joining a nationwide move to restrict development in flood-prone areas instead of building dams and culverts. The strategy is cheaper, preserves



The Arizona Republic

wildlife habitat and provides recreational opportunities.

To go natural, the city must keep development out of the 100-year floodplain, the area that has a 1 percent chance of flooding in any given year.

So the council agreed to create a Flood Hazard and Erosion Management Zoning District. Little besides recreation and open space will be allowed within the district.

There will also be an environmental management zone, with policies to protect wildlife habitat next to the floodplain.

Several property owners in the area will face severe limits on how much land they can develop. The council's action calls for a program to acquire property that would suffer from the flood-management plan and similar

public policies. If staff can't develop such a strategy, then the flood-management plan could be changed.

Wednesday night's vote is just the start, like picking a vacation spot. Now Phoenix must figure out how to get there.

City planners will work out details of the new flood-hazard district, including whether to make it a separate category of zoning or an "overlay" that adds to the requirements of existing zoning. A survey must be done to set the boundary of the district.

Policies must also be established for the environmental management zone.

One goal will be maintaining connections between washes and hills, principal planner Mark Steele said. That transition is crucial for wildlife that relies on both places, perhaps hunting in the wash and living in hillside burrows.

There's a new understanding, Steele said, "It's not just the single vegetative habitat that's important, but it's the combination of kinds of habitat. Even the flat scrubland has value."

City planners will have a set of proposals ready in the fall, when there will be public hearings and a council vote.

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Should we direct water into channels of concrete or let nature take its course?

# Taming desert floods

#163

6/23/00

By Kathleen Ingley  
The Arizona Republic

**F**loods in the desert? Newcomers to the Valley think it must be a joke. After all, this is a place that goes months without rain and brings in Colorado River water along hundreds of miles of canals.

Flooding not only happens but it also packs a special fury in the desert.

The Valley's history is punctuated with inundations.

Take 1921, when Cave Creek roared into Phoenix, soaking the Capitol building, after a storm dumped 6 inches of rain in two days. Seven large floods drenched central Arizona from 1977 to 1980, and Phoenix was declared a disaster area three times.

Each bout of flooding has typically triggered a rush to build dams, culverts and other protective barriers of concrete.

Until now.

The Maricopa County Flood Control District says it make more sense and costs a lot less to let nature tame the storm water in many areas of future development.

Cities are starting to go along. In May, Peoria decided to block large developments along 2.5 miles of the New River so floodwaters can surge through without causing damage. The Phoenix City Council voted in June to let natural washes act as drainage for an area east of Interstate 17.

To understand the pluses and minuses of nature vs. concrete, one must look at the peculiar behavior of water in the desert: the way it goes out of control, the flood plains and the enormous power of erosion.

Navajos divide rain into two types, male and female. They correspond to the two types of flooding in Arizona.

Winter brings the gentler female rain, falling steadily for long stretches in storms

## Controlling the waters

Phoenix and Peoria have decided to let natural washes drain storm water in some areas. Using natural washes to prevent floods is a break with the Arizona tradition of controlling water with concrete channels, culverts and dams.

### The two types of flooding

#### Regional floods

Are the product of long-lasting winter storms in the high country. Melting snow feeds streams, which drain into major waterways. Rain runoff, combined with snowmelt can cause devastating regional flooding.

#### Flash floods

Occur locally as a result of violent summer thunderstorms. The hard desert soil can't absorb water rapidly, while pavement increases runoff in developed areas. Torrents of water rush down slopes and washes.

### Two approaches to draining storm runoff

The pros and cons

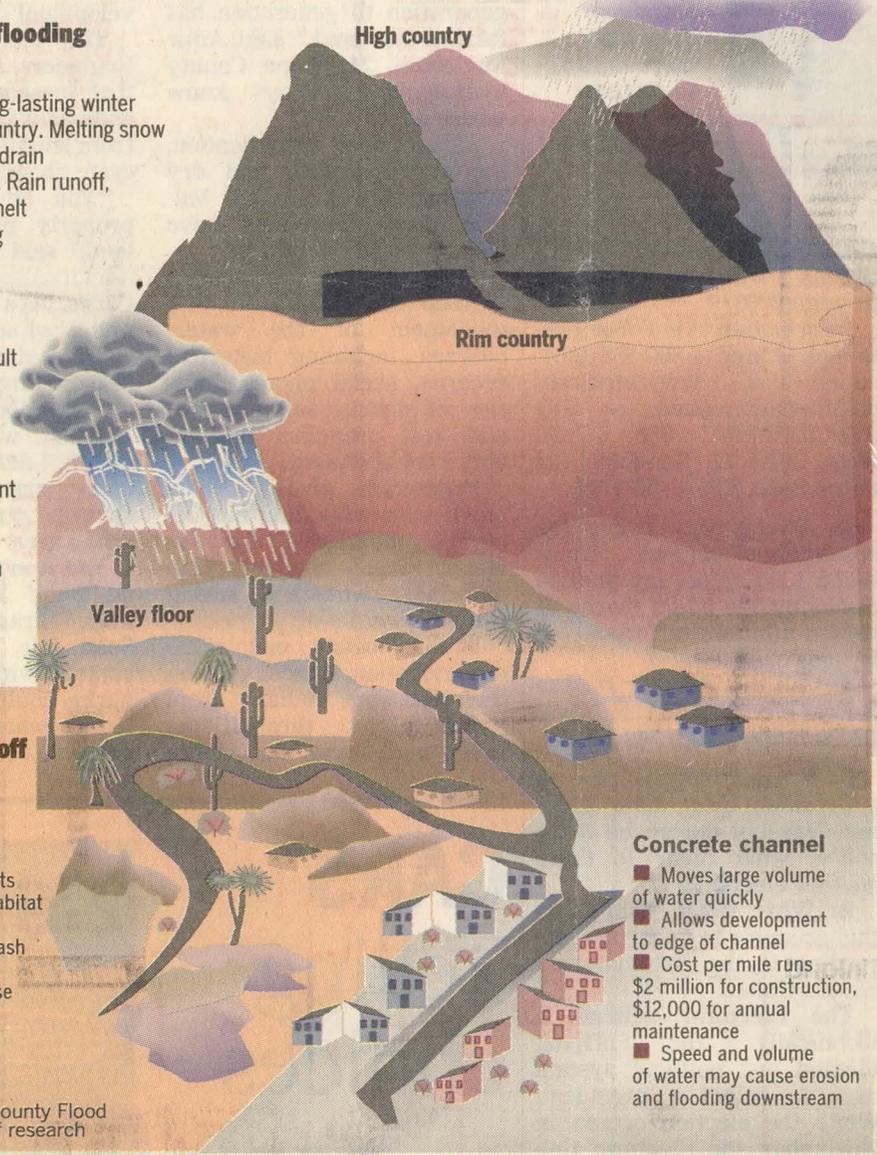
#### Natural wash

- No construction costs
- Preserves wildlife habitat
- No development in flood-prone areas by wash
- May require paying landowners who lose use of property

#### Concrete channel

- Moves large volume of water quickly
- Allows development to edge of channel
- Cost per mile runs \$2 million for construction, \$12,000 for annual maintenance
- Speed and volume of water may cause erosion and flooding downstream

Sources: Maricopa County Flood Control District, staff research



that cover large areas. The runoff, especially combined with melting snow in the mountains, can cause devastating regional flooding.

The heavy winter rains of 1993 sent the Salt, Gila and Santa Cruz rivers over their banks, causing \$400 million in damage.

Violent summer thunderstorms, the male rains, bring flash floods that ravage

smaller areas. Three years ago, Tropical Storm Nora doused northwest Maricopa County with up to 12 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. Thundering down washes, the water breached a dam while central Phoenix barely recorded rain.

The force of floodwater in the desert can be staggering, because it moves so fast.

Force is the square of the

velocity, so if speed doubles, the power of the water quadruples.

A person standing in waist-deep water running 6 feet per second will be hit with the weight of a football tackle — 140 pounds of pressure on each leg. And washes may run at triple that speed.

Flood protection in Arizona

Jeanne Hernandez/The Arizona Republic

# Planners want nature to handle flooding

By Kathleen Ingley  
The Arizona Republic

6/24/00

## GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

The Phoenix City Council is scheduled to decide today whether to use a new weapon against flooding: nature.

The proposal is to let natural washes carry rain runoff in the Black Canyon Corridor, a rugged area of North Phoenix along Interstate 17 that's poised for rapid growth.

City planners say the strategy is cheaper and more effective than building concrete channels and culverts. And the approach could be a model for flood control around the Valley.

The plan would create a new zoning district for areas with a high risk of flooding and erosion. Land within that area would be virtually off limits to development, with no uses allowed that cause any changes in the land's natural drainage.

Principal planner Mark Steele said the city would come up with strategies to offset the impact, including transferring development rights to other property or even buying some land.

Attorney Larry Lazarus, who represents a major property owner in the area, says that policy is "a step in the right direction." But he argues that the proposal to forgo concrete is aimed more at aesthetics than preventing downstream damage.

The Maricopa County Flood Control District helped Phoenix develop a range of options for handling storm water in the Black Canyon Corridor, ranging from concrete structures to reliance on the two natural washes in the area, Skunk Creek and Sonoran Wash.

City staff recommended nature over concrete, and the Planning Commission agreed on May 31.

The plan is doubly significant, Steele said, because it includes an entire drainage system, while flood control in the past was piecemeal.

Reach the reporter at Kathleen.Ingley@Arizona Republic.com or at (602) 444-8171.

### Heading off floods

Today Phoenix City Council will decide whether to use Skunk Creek wash to carry storm water instead of concrete channels and culverts. Maricopa County is studying this strategy in three other areas.

**Natural washes vs. concrete**

Habitat is saved when washes are used for flood control, but development must avoid the banks and nearby flood-prone areas. Concrete channels are expensive, but carry large flows and permit maximum development of surrounding land.

**Wash** **Channel**

Nancy Pendleton/The Arizona Republic

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# Game & Fish official slams greenbelt plan

## Urbanization of area could threaten desert wildlife, biologist says

BY SCOTT C. SECKEL  
TRIBUNE

The Arizona Game & Fish Department added its voice to growing concerns that the Desert Greenbelt planned for north Scottsdale will permanently destroy wildlife habitat.

The state in December wrote a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers, joining the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Sierra Club in saying that the project is driven by growth that will damage the desert.

"That's pretty remarkable for Game & Fish to write a letter like that," said Robin Silver, local conservation chair of the Center for Biological Diversity. "If they're saying something, this project is going to be a real disaster. Usually they just rubber-stamp everything."

The proposed \$100 million Desert Greenbelt would be a five-mile flood control network of channels, pipes and basins designed to protect the plains west of the McDowell Mountains from a 100-year flood. The plan

was first proposed in 1989, when federal disaster experts began studying flood hazards in north Scottsdale.

A year later, voters approved a \$21 million bond issue to solve flood problems. In 1992, the Scottsdale City Council endorsed the Greenbelt idea.

Since then, controversy surrounding the plan has spread like flood waters over the desert floor. City officials hauled out pictures of last winter's flooding in Las Vegas and claimed the project is necessary to protect north Scottsdale residents. Opponents said the plan is a ruse to open the area for massive development.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife biologist Mike Martinez has reviewed the plan and is concerned that the area is becoming too urban. He has asked the corps to look into the plan's effect on bird and mammal populations.

"The flood control plan, per se, is not having as big an effect on wildlife as the urban development," Martinez said. "What the flood control plan is doing is facilitating development."

Large mammals such as mule deer and javelina could be crowded out by housing, but the effect of existing housing on wildlife has been "minimal compared to the overall scheme," Martinez

**'When you cut off the flow of water, you are changing the way Mother Nature operates.'**



**CARLA**  
(her legal name)

said.

The city claims wildlife won't be affected. Scottsdale hired a team of biologists to study the plans, but they didn't red-flag any concerns, said Dave Meinhart, who is heading the project.

State wildlife officials also asked the corps to require an extensive environmental analysis of the plan.

Scottsdale has already spent more than \$20 million on studies,

land purchases and designs.

The city's mitigation proposal for the desert is "inadequate, even for the stated impacts," said Timothy Wade of Arizona Game & Fish. Wade believes that indirect effects of the project were understated in city reports and long-term effects would be significant.

Flood channels running north and south would cut plants off from rainwater running off the McDowells.

While the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust doesn't have an official position on the project, it does have serious concerns about how the plan will affect plants and animals, said the trust's executive director, Carla (her legal name).

"When you cut off the flow of water, you are changing the way Mother Nature operates," Carla said. "You can't pretend that wouldn't have an effect."

One plant that could be affected is the Hohokam agave, one of four species in the area in

danger of extinction. Hohokam agaves are guarded by the Arizona Native Plant Law. Pollinated by insects and bats, it relies on monsoon rain to grow, according to experts at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix.

If the Greenbelt cuts off streams, plants and animals will be affected, said Don Steuter, Sierra Club conservation chairman. "It's hard to imagine vegetation will stay the same," he said.

The city should link habitats so animals can travel back and forth to hunt, feed and mate, Steuter said. "When it comes to connecting areas for wildlife corridors, it's really not practical to ask developers to do that."

Migration corridors are also a concern of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Washes provide routes and cover for wildlife to move from one area to another.

And a re-engineered wash won't look anything like a natural wash to a ringtail cat. Where

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

An environmental analysis of the Desert Greenbelt project could threaten a plan to accelerate construction of the Pima Freeway, costing Scottsdale taxpayers almost \$6 million.

The study would cost \$150,000 to \$250,000, and take one to three years to finish, according to the city.

If the project is built, the Arizona Department of Transportation would use the greenbelt for drainage and give the city \$5.9 million toward the project.

However, if ADOT has to build its own drainage, it will keep the \$5.9 million, plus \$135,000 paid for by the city for related designs.

gnarled roots once protruded from craggy banks topped with brush piles, spindly container trees will sprout from shallow dirt atop contoured soil cement, Wade described in his letter.

A decision from the corps about requiring an in-depth analysis is pending.

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# Developer saves the day again for W. Valley

## Long sells farm land to protect homeowners' property

By GEORGIA ALLRED

Once again, developer John F. Long steps forward in the best interests of West Valley residents. To construct the Bethany Home Outfall Channel and protect homes between

83rd and 87th avenues, north of Bethany Home Road from 100-year flood, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County plans to purchase a 230-foot wide by one-half mile long plot of land from Long.

This purchase comes after the original plan to temporarily purchase land from homeowners north of the Grand Canal went sour. After months of negotiations with the neighbors, the Flood Control District was forced to resort to alternative measures.

With the purchase of Long's land, the County will create a greenbelt area behind the neighbors' homes on land that Long uses to grow watermelons.

Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer (R-Dist. 4) said, "I am delighted that the Flood Control District was able to come up with a solution that not only addresses the concerns of the residents, but it also provides new open space for them."

The entire project runs five miles, north of the Grand Canal. At 83rd Avenue, the outfall canal will cross under the street and on the south side of the Grand Canal until 87th Avenue, where it will cross back again. The project comes to the tune of \$64 million. The stretch on Long's land will cost ap-

proximately \$6.8 million.

Not only will residents receive a landscaped green belt to divert flood water similarly to the Indian Bend Wash, but the back yards of this mainly horse property will remain intact.

The original plan called for the construction of an underground culvert along the north side of the Grand

Canal. This method will still stand for the remaining four and a half miles of outfall drainage. The area of the project on Long's land will be the only portion above ground.

Residents within one-quarter mile of the project and those who have expressed interest in the Bethany Home Outfall

Channel will soon receive a newsletter notifying them of the exact date and location of two mid-July public meetings held by the District.

Brewer said of the change in plans for the project, "It proves that citizen involvement in government can and does make a difference."

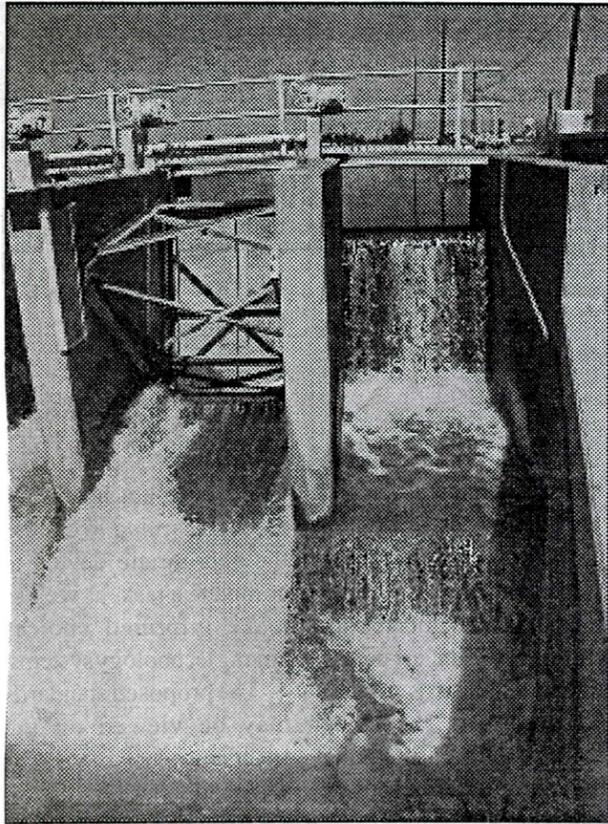


Photo by Bill Dosham

Above, canal gates open to release irrigation water in the area near a proposed greenbelt that will be built by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

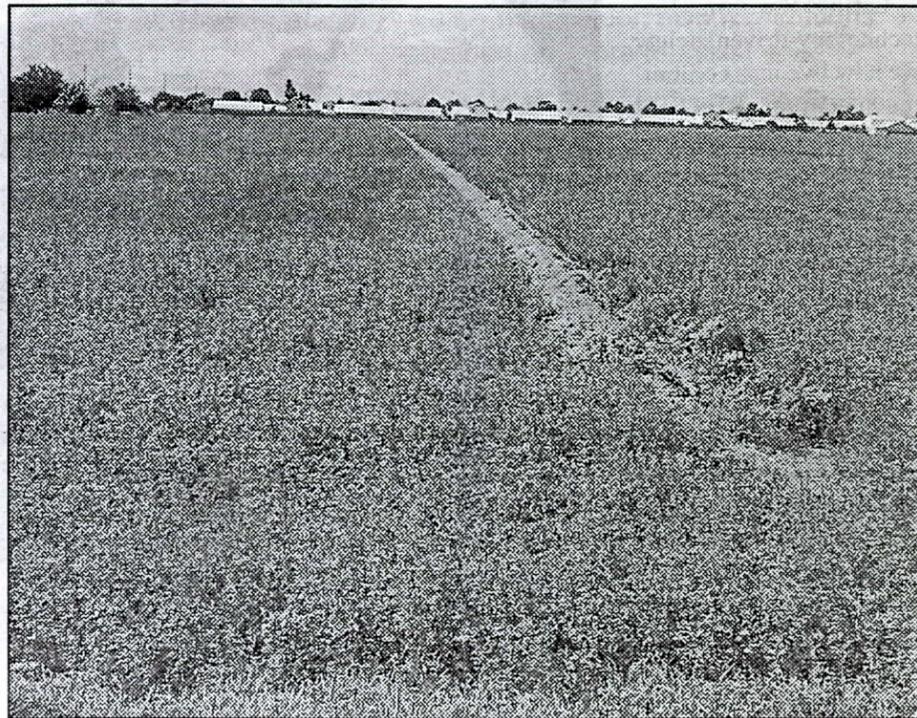


Photo by Bill Dosham

In fields that now grow watermelons and other vegetables, a greenbelt will eventually be constructed to protect homeowners between 83rd and 87th avenues.

Senior Editor, Venita James  
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For you Latin-plus cats - SCENE, PAGE 2

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# Plans shown for 26-mile floodway

By Peter Ortiz  
The Arizona Republic

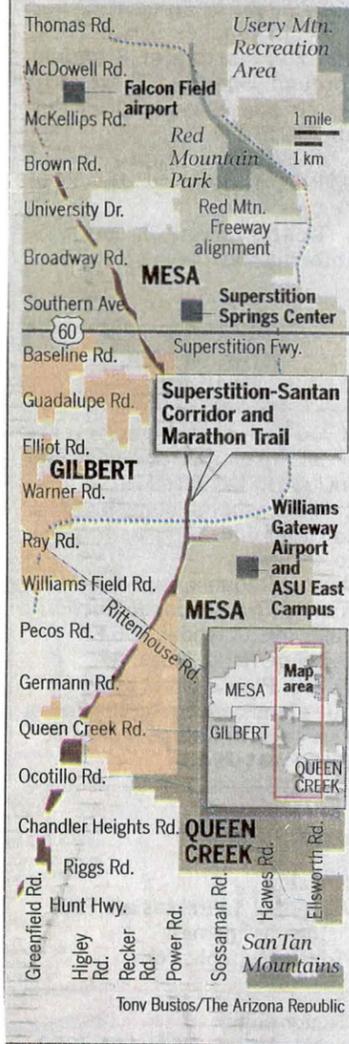
Mary Hauser could not contain her excitement Wednesday after plans for a 26-mile floodway were unveiled at the Southeast Regional Library in Gilbert.

Maricopa County and East Valley city officials showed how the Superstition-Santan Corridor and Marathon Trail could become a major recreation path that would replace barren land with green parks and provide for continuous walking and riding through the East Valley. For Hauser and other horse lovers, that could mean a 16-mile path to ride her horse along the bottom of the channel.

"It really opens up a lot of possibilities," said Hauser, who is president of the Queen Creek Horse Owners Association.

For now the future path is nothing more than a schematic and drawing. It would stretch from Hunt Highway in Gilbert to Thomas Road in Mesa. The Flood Control District of Maricopa County has budgeted \$40 million for the construction of basins, and is working with East Valley municipalities and the county Parks and Recreation Department to make it real.

See FLOODWAY | Page 3



## FLOODWAY | Officials unveil corridor plans

From Page 1

Flood Control officials are willing to tear down protective fencing along the floodway and open the path to the public. It would be up to the cities to fund parks and trails.

Maury Ahlman, Parks and Recreation director for Gilbert, sees the floodway as a chance to build Gilbert's largest park. The proposed 220-acre park would border Queen Creek, Higley and Ocotillo Road, and could include a baseball, soccer and football field, community garden and sports complex. The park also would connect to a

proposed riparian reserve.

Another park is proposed between Rittenhouse and Power Road. Gilbert officials have not budgeted any funds for the projects and may seek the revenue through a bond election, Ahlman said.

A Queen Creek official says the proposed floodway path provides a natural connection to their Queen Creek and Sanokai washes. The town plans on developing the washes as paths connecting to the Santan Mountains. Town officials collect a \$2,000 developmental impact fee for each new house that is built and plan to use the money to

pay for their project, said Cynthia Seelhammer, town manager.

Flood officials also are paying attention to potential problems that could arise with certain developments along the 26-mile route. Mesa's Williams Gateway Airport is concerned about birds flocking toward an area along the floodway that ends at the runway and could cause potential hazards to planes.

"We want to avoid creating sites that could promote habitat within the airport," said Tim Phillips, project manager for the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

er softball sizzles • SPORTS, PAGE 9

# Flood project seals fate of homeowners

Canal residents have 3 years to move

By By Jim Gintonio  
The Arizona Republic

Homeowners along the Grand Canal between 67th and 75th avenues aren't happy that they'll have to sell their houses to make way for a flood-control project, but are relieved that they are being given about three years to move.

West Phoenix residents met with officials of the Maricopa County Flood Control District and the city of Phoenix on Tuesday night, and many were skeptical that the project was even needed.

There was no anger, not even from those who have lived in the area for almost 40 years. It was more a feeling of helplessness and resigna-

tion that they would be leaving neighbors who have become like family.

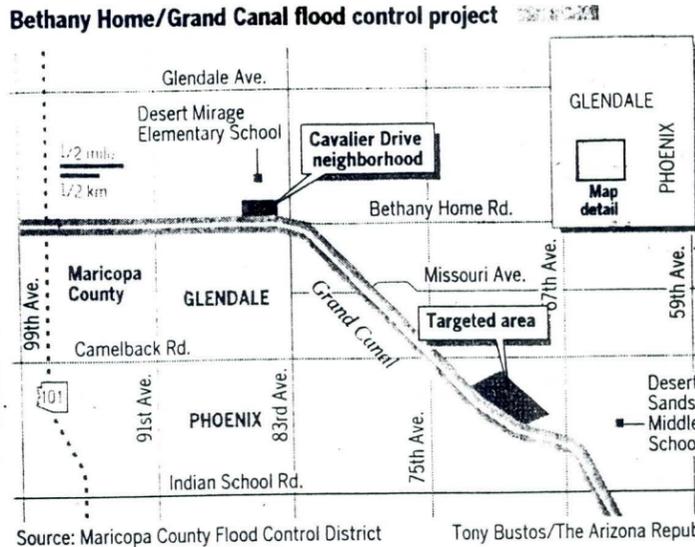
Their area is at the southern end of the flood district's project. Construction likely won't start until late in 2001, and it will take four to five years to complete the \$64 million project, known as the Bethany Home/Grand Canal Flood Control Project.

The aim is to protect thousands of homes from a 100-year storm in an area that stretches from the Loop 101 Freeway near the New River southeast to near 64th Avenue and Indian School Road.

"There's no other solution," said Scott Vogel, senior project manager for the flood control district. "The alterna-

See FLOOD Page 6

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Source: Maricopa County Flood Control District Tony Bustos/The Arizona Republic

## FLOOD | Homes to be lost

From Page 1

tive is to do nothing."

That would be fine with Richard Donahue, who said that in almost four decades he has never felt as if he was in danger from floods. Others said they have had to use sandbags in the past to protect their homes, but that they never felt they were in peril.

Kathy Taylor and her husband, Don, have lived along the canal for 31 years. It wasn't until last year that she learned the area was considered a floodplain.

"I'm not very happy," she said. "This isn't just a street. It's a family."

Doug McLaughlin, a spokesman for the city of Phoenix, said that when the time nears for residents to

move, their houses will be appraised and they will be given the chance to join a relocation program.

"They don't have to take the houses we find," McLaughlin said. "We will be looking in similar areas and neighborhoods."

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# County-wide trail system studied at recent meeting

By CECILY MARKLAND  
Independent Newspapers

The huge, multi-colored maps, detailed drawings and mounted aerial photographs give only a glimpse of the possibilities as Maricopa Flood Control District continues to make plans for transforming a 26-mile flood control corridor — much of which runs through Gilbert — into a network of multi-use facilities.

As witnessed by the turnout at a recent open house, the enormity of the project is beginning to be matched by an tremendous outpouring of public interest.

Plans include teaming up with cities and special interest groups to turn land that is now used only as flood control plains and canal banks into recreational and multi-use sites, which may include such amenities

as walking trails, soccer fields, volleyball courts, equestrian facilities, a Frisbee course, community gardens, an arboretum and more.

There is also an opportunity for the town of Gilbert to create a 230-acre park as part of this project.

"We are looking at ways to team up with other organizations to make something truly unique," said Jason Harrington, project manager and designer.

According to Tim Phillips, senior project manager, the vision for this project really came out of a need for improved flood control. He said with the increased development in this part of the valley, they began to focus on the east Maricopa flood way. "The water doesn't get to the flood way the way it was originally designed," he said.

In looking at ways to mitigate the problem, by also "addressing the

public good," he added that many Arizonans "wonder why we need all the effort" that is focused on flood protection. Flood control is an "indirect benefit," he said, "You don't think about it if you don't get flooded."

He said what is now in place "may hold the 'two to five-year event'," but, there would be significant problems should there be a 'ten-year' event, for example, if we were to have a rainfall of 42 inches in 24 hours.

"We began to look at ways to mitigate the problem while addressing the public good," Mr. Phillips said. He said that general manager and chief engineer Mike Ellegood, who came to work for the flood control district three years ago, "brought his vision with him — that concrete lined flood control channels are out."

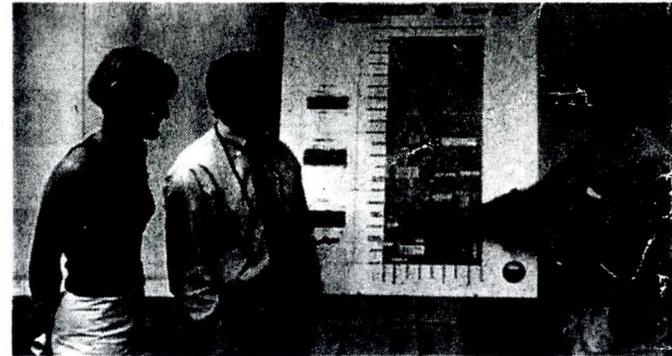


Photo By Cecily Markland/Independent Newspapers

Tim Phillips, Senior Project Manager for the Maricopa County Flood Control District, Steve Urie, Gilbert town councilman and Laurel Arndt, Regional Trail Committee examine plans for a county-wide trail system.

"We started to talk about multi-use opportunities internally at that point," Mr. Phillips said.

Next, the flood control district

See ■ TRAILS, Page 7

Your Community Weekly since 1978

Gilbert Independent 7/12/00

## ■ TRAILS

From Page 1

cial interest groups and organizations to start to develop what is now a "collective plan of possibilities."

He added that "Gilbert has been somewhat aggressive in looking at the possibilities," and has already laid out a 230-acre park and sports complex.

Community leaders, including town Councilman Steve Urie and town Councilman and liaison to parks and recreation advisory board Mike Evans, showed support for the project at a recent open house at Southeast Regional Library. Councilmember Evans called the project "long awaited," and said, "The town's ready to proceed." Evans added that Gilbert has a "history of a working relationship with Maricopa Flood Control District, in conjunction with the development of Crossroads Park. It's natural to partner with them in other areas."

Laurel Arndt, an environmental

planner, explained the urgency to complete the trail system. "Trails are part of an infrastructure," she said. "If you don't get them in place before an area is developed, you don't have an opportunity to go back and do that later."

Kris Baxter, public information officer for the Maricopa County Flood Control District, agreed.

"It's more expensive and harder to do the longer you wait. This is something that can — and should be — done soon."

Gilbert-resident, Howard Peterson, co-owner of Peterson-Grace Construction, who also attended the open house, called the project "a great idea that should have been done ten years ago." He commented, "Things are now being developed so fast, some of the trails have already been cut off."

He added, "It's a needed thing. Of all the people, people who enjoy

horses, running, or jogging, appreciate the value it has. There needs to be long trails — off the streets — where they can go."

Peterson said that he hopes to see

"work between the cities, to make sure the plans fit everyone's needs," but, most of all, he said, it simply, "needs to happen. It's very important."

7/6/00

#70

# Park sale mapped out in '99

Appraisals of San Tan land began last August, county memo shows

BY ED BAKER  
TRIBUNE

8-200

Maricopa County was making preparations to sell at least 20 percent of San Tan Mountain Regional Park almost a year before asking the public what they thought.

The county parks department had begun appraisals on 2,600 acres of park land for sale purposes by August 1999, according to a county memo sent to Supervisor Fulton Brock, R-District 1 of Chandler, last year and obtained



'I question whether (Maricopa County) is interested in public input.'

MIKE EVANS  
Gilbert  
councilman

ties of Maricopa County could have been trying to meet the open space and park needs at San Tan park," said Gilbert Town Councilman Mike Evans. "I question whether (Maricopa County) is interested in public input."

The memo also raises questions about how committed Brock — a supporter of the sale — is to seeking alternative solutions, local leaders said. Brock's office has stated on several occasions that the sale is the only way to construct trails and other facilities at the park, located south of Mesa and Queen Creek.

But Brock also has said he is interested in hearing other viable

Please see **SAN TAN**, Page A10

# SAN TAN: Officials say 'there has been nothing decided'

From Page A1  
solutions.

Robert Pizzorno, Brock's chief of staff, said public hearings weren't held sooner because the appraisal wasn't completed until this year.

"There has been nothing decided," Pizzorno said. "Our whole deal this whole time has been to preserve this park with the understanding that the park meant the master planned park and that the sale of this land has always been an option."

County leaders have repeatedly said they always planned to sell a portion of San Tan park because the federal government sold the county about 3,000 acres for the price of 600 acres. The deal was made after the federal Resolution Trust Corp. inherited millions of acres in property after savings and loans institutions failed in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Brock and other county leaders have worked with numerous civic groups over the last several years seeking ways to save the park, Pizzorno said. None resulted.

Bernadette Heath, a Queen Creek activist who has spent much of the past decade trying to preserve San Tan park, said Tuesday she fears the county will push forward with the sale regardless of what the public wants.

"Their mind is set," Heath said. "The only hope that we have is to convince Supervisor Fulton Brock and other supervisors that this is not what we want and we need to be listened to. The county is not open to suggestions from us."

The revelations come at the same time local opposition to the proposal grows.

Gilbert Mayor Cynthia Dunham on Tuesday joined a coalition of Mesa, Queen Creek, Chandler and other Gilbert officials who oppose the sale. They're calling on the county to

find alternative sources to fund construction of trails and other facilities at the park.

Many East Valley leaders began to rally around the cause after learning Maricopa County spent 76 percent of its parks improvement funds in the north Valley and west Valley over the last decade. Several have blamed it on there being two East Valley supervisors and three west Valley supervisors.

"I would venture to say that growth has been on the east side. And so where the growth has really been we haven't had the dollars to preserve the area," Dunham said. "If that's the result of territorial politics that would be a shame."

Sale of the park was first discussed at a county parks and recreation advisory board meeting in July. The board unanimously approved the sale proposal, leading supervisors to believe there was support for the plan, Pizzorno said.

"I don't think this was our first choice," Pizzorno said of Brock's position on the sale. "But with the facts presented to him about what the needs were going to be and the long-term effects of not having any money to protect it and fence it, this seemed to be the most logical."

Critics also have complained that the Aug. 28 public hearing is at 5 p.m. on a weekday, leaving people with day jobs little chance to make the beginning of the meeting.

"They knew for a year and they haven't gone out to the public," said Chandler City Councilwoman Patti Bruno. "Those kinds of people are the ones that should have been brought on board. They're the ones that always come up with solutions."

Tribune writer Ed Baker can be reached by e-mail at ebaker@aztrib.com or by calling (480) 821-7466.

#71

# Save San Tan from desert slob

Tribune 8-2-00

**T**hose who love the San Tan Mountain Regional Park — comprising some of the Valley's last unspoiled desert landscape — have suffered the heart-rending sight of careless slob dumping truckloads of trash and rusty kitchen appliances there.

They're getting away with this travesty because there's no money to adequately patrol the park, money that's being spent in bucketloads on other county parks.

The trashing of San Tan Park is one of the most glaring results of the inequities in Maricopa County spending on its regional parks, revealed Sunday by Tribune reporter Ed Baker. For every \$3 spent on north and west Valley parks, only \$1 is spent on those in the East Valley and Scottsdale areas. If the county intends to go through with a plan to sell off approximately 20 percent of the 10,200-acre San Tan Park to pay to protect and improve it and other eastside parks, then eastside residents deserve an iron-clad guarantee that the money will do only that. Period.

Any funneling of money to the north and west — already receiving 76 percent of total parks spending — would be an insult to eastside residents who want to protect their irreplaceable desert treasures. The San Tan Park is estimated to have about 5,000 visitors a day by the year 2010.

Already representatives of East Valley cities rightfully fear money from a sale might go into the general fund, ready to be spent the way it always has been — for the north and west Valley. They have begun to demand action before the park is overrun and trashed beyond rehabilitation.

As the East Valley continues to grow at a rapid rate, the encroachment of louts dumping garbage in the park is only going to increase as well.

There are three options to raise the money: Sell the 20 percent of the park,

East-side taxpayers have every right to demand a bigger share now of county funding.

come up with the money from other existing sources or hold a bond election.

The latter solution proved successful in Scottsdale. Five times during the 1990s residents voted to support buying land in the McDowell Mountains for a city preserve.

Chandler and Queen Creek officials want to explore other options for funding. One intriguing idea: organize volunteers to operate the park while funds for improvements would come from neighboring cities. But that's a lot of dough; county estimates put the cost of improvements as far more than the \$6 million estimated almost a decade ago.

But if selling some of the park land is the best solution, county officials need to explain why. They further need to explain why simply divvying up county park funds more fairly wouldn't yield the dollars necessary to upgrade and protect the park without shrinking it.

After a decade of watching the lion's share of their county tax dollars go to improving parks in the west Valley, east-side taxpayers have every right to demand a bigger share now and a fair share in the future. The upcoming elections also provide an opportunity to seek east-side representatives on the county Board of Supervisors who would work harder for our interests — including parks.

With East Valley and Scottsdale residents clamoring for their public officials to protect and preserve suitable open space, we have every right to feel let down by a Board of Supervisors that has overseen such a lopsided distribution of park dollars.

## East Valley Tribune

**Karen A. Wittmer** Publisher  
**Jim Ripley** Editor  
**Bob Schuster** Editorial Page Editor

Opinions expressed in editorials are those of the newspaper. All other opinions on this page and on the Opinion 2 page are those of the authors or artists. If you have questions or comments about the editorial pages, please contact Bob Schuster, (480) 898-6507 (bschuster@aztrib.com), or cartoonist Mike Ritter, (480) 898-6425.

#72

# Flood-control plan includes parks, trails

8/16/00

By Eddie North-Hager  
The Arizona Republic

Flood control doesn't begin to describe the Maricopa County Flood Control District's vision for a series of channels and basins that would wind their way through southwest Phoenix, Tolleson and Avondale.

The \$100 million Durango Area Drainage Master Plan to reduce flooding would create parks and trails in five projects covering 53 square miles.

"We have an opportunity to create open spaces and fingers to the rivers," said Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox of District 5. "They will automatically upgrade the quality of the homes."

Residents can comment on the plan from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Littleton Elementary School cafeteria,

1252 S. 115h Ave.

The first project would relieve flooding in downtown Tolleson, which requested the county's help.

Near 99th and 91st Avenues and Van Buren Street, 390 acres of land can flood, affecting 26 businesses and 141 homes, said Greg Jones, the senior project manager for the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

The water would be guided into a canal along the railroad tracks into the Agua Fria. A trail would follow the canal along with three community parks.

Another larger canal would curve from 67th Avenue and Van Buren Street meeting the river at Southern Avenue. It includes four parks. Two other smaller projects drain into the Gila River.

Though much of the area is still farmland, subdivisions are being planned. It's important the land is set aside now, officials said, before prices increase and before buildings obstruct the floodplain.

"It's neck and neck who comes first, the rooftops or us," Wilcox said. "If we don't do it, or do it piecemeal, it will be a real mess."

Flooding problems began as the land was converted from farming to residential. The farms had already obliterated the natural drainage by leveling the fields, Jones said.

The first project could begin as soon as two years, but there are still a lot of planning and intergovernmental agreements needed, Jones said. The whole project could be started in five years and would be completed in phases as money became available.

Cities involved will be expected to help foot the bill, Jones said.

"There's no way we can pay for all this," Jones said. "Development will have to help. That will be the challenge."

#73

# COPP questions bureaucrats' take on Greenbelt

8/14/80

After reading Mike Ellegood's self-serving piece (*Scottsdale Tribune*, July 20) in which he describes the flood peril in North Scottsdale, one must wonder what he and the Maricopa County flood control district were thinking when homes were allowed to be built in Scottsdale's so-called flood zone. The area, of which Ellegood expresses such concerns, has been part of the landscape for eons. He could have taken steps in the past to raise the same concerns with the city of Scottsdale to prevent the high-density development that he now says is threatened with destruction.

The answer is that he and the district have been part of the same group of developer-friendly bureaucrats that have tacitly supported continuous development of land in the north without regard for the consequences of such unmanaged growth. Having stayed in the background for the past 10 years and not taken one single step to prevent this growth, he now says that a massive \$100 million project is needed to prevent a potential catastrophe in the future.

In his article, Mr. Ellegood makes the inflammatory comment that the area is "nearly" as hazardous as land near the seacoast. He doesn't say what coast and under what conditions. Can he possibly imagine that it is as flood prone as the coast of Florida in a typical hurricane?

He talks about a "house in the wrong place could get hit with four and one-half tons of debris." Yes, it



**GUEST COMMENTARY**  
by  
**Bob Vairo**  
President, Coalition of Pinnacle Peak

might, if it was built in the middle of a large wash, but nobody in his or her right mind would do that and, besides, it's not permitted by the city or the federal government.

These statements are nothing more than scare tactics in a last minute attempt to support a highly flawed plan that does not deserve the public's endorsement and more than \$100 million of taxpayers' dollars.

The primary objective of Ellegood and the district is to reduce potential flood damage to land in Phoenix under development north of Mayo Boulevard and on the west side of Scottsdale Road - the Rawhide wash. He has personally promoted a plan to build a 35-foot retention basin dam in Scottsdale at Dynamite Boulevard and Pima Road to hold water that eventually flows into Phoenix. This was rejected soundly by the local residents and even the past city council didn't like the idea. The dam is primarily designed to protect Phoenix - if it's necessary, let Phoenix build it on their land.

The Scottsdale residents who live in the area designated as a flood zone oppose the Desert Greenbelt

project. At a meeting held by the Army Corps of Engineers earlier in the year, speaker after speaker opposed the plan for a variety of reasons, among which were:

- \* No public demand for the project.
- \* No historical evidence to document the need for such a massive project.
- \* No claims since flood insurance was required by lenders in the past decade.
- \* Homes do not get built in washes - Scottsdale ordinances do not allow it and homes must be built one foot above the estimated 100-year flood level as required by the federal government.
- \* Flood insurance is available from the federal government at highly subsidized premiums. A \$200,000 home and its contents can be insured for less than \$300 per year.
- \* The project will destroy natural habitat and wildlife.
- \* The US EPA and the US Fish & Wildlife Service have gone on record that the project will have a detrimental effect on the environ-

ment.  
\*No Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared to determine what the project will do to the unique Sonoran Desert.

It is time for the city council to pull the plug on a costly plan that has highly questionable value and is not supported by the vast majority of residents who live in the area. The city has already spent more than \$19 million of taxpayers' money for studies, legal fees and other costs in an attempt to rationalize the project. It is time to end this boondoggle.

Bob Vairo  
for the Board of Directors  
Coalition of Pinnacle Peak, Inc.  
(COPP)

*The Coalition of Pinnacle Peak is a group of North Scottsdale residents who are actively involved in educating their neighbors about developments that might negatively impact the area, and in monitoring the city government's decisions regarding development and zoning in North Scottsdale.*

Give ASU West an 'A' • EDITORIAL, PAGE 2

Serious-crime reports • PAGE 5

## Greenbelt plan awash in support

### West Valley Recreation Corridor

Patti Valdez/The Arizona Republic

#### 1 NORTH PHOENIX

The six-mile trail system in place just south of the Carefree Highway in north Phoenix would remain relatively unchanged from its desert state. A multiple-use, 10-foot-wide trail for hikers, bikers and horseback riding could be added. This area would probably tie in with the future site of Sonoran Preserve and Adobe Dam Recreation area. This land includes part of New River, Skunk Creek and the Central Arizona Project canal. A park is also proposed near 91st Avenue south of the Carefree Highway.

#### 2 SURPRISE AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS

Surprise is not participating, because gravel pits in the Agua Fria River would make it difficult to place a park there. Not much more is happening in the area that lies in unincorporated Maricopa County. If the plan happens, the county would offer to oversee the linear park if funds were provided. The parks department's liaison to the project left, and a replacement was just hired, so no plans for parks or trails have been submitted. Plus most of the land will eventually be annexed by the cities, which will be responsible for the area.

#### 3 PEORIA

The recreation corridor will fit into Peoria's broader trail and rivers master plan, which calls for an extensive network of trails and hundreds of acres of open space along the Agua Fria and New rivers and Skunk Creek. Peoria worked with Glendale and Phoenix to make sure the trails it proposed for the Agua Fria would fit in with what the other cities planned. Peoria has set aside capital improvement funds for some of the trails and is set to receive one or more grants. Some of the money raised by a \$282 million bond issue on the September ballot also would help build trails and preserve open space on the corridor.

#### 4 GLENDALE

Glendale has \$2 million in bond money set aside for trails in its six miles of the recreation corridor. Officials said they are waiting for studies to be completed on trail designs before making definite plans. The proposal for Glendale consists of a multiple-use and equestrian trailhead on the New River at Glendale Avenue. The trail would tie into existing and future bikeways, transit routes and airport area. In addition, a joint trail for Glendale and Peoria is suggested on the New River at Bell Road, where the two cities share a common



George's Pond is just south of Lake Pleasant, and is a riparian habitat owned by the Bureau of Land Management. Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Maricopa County Flood Control

### Ambitious plan for Agua Fria, New rivers

By Shaun McKinnon and Eddie North-Hager The Arizona Republic

It may look like just another one of Arizona's dry riverbeds, choked in spots with thickets of brush and trees and laid bare in others by gravel mines, but to a growing number of West Valley leaders, the Agua Fria River represents an opportunity to reclaim a regional landmark before growth swallows it whole.

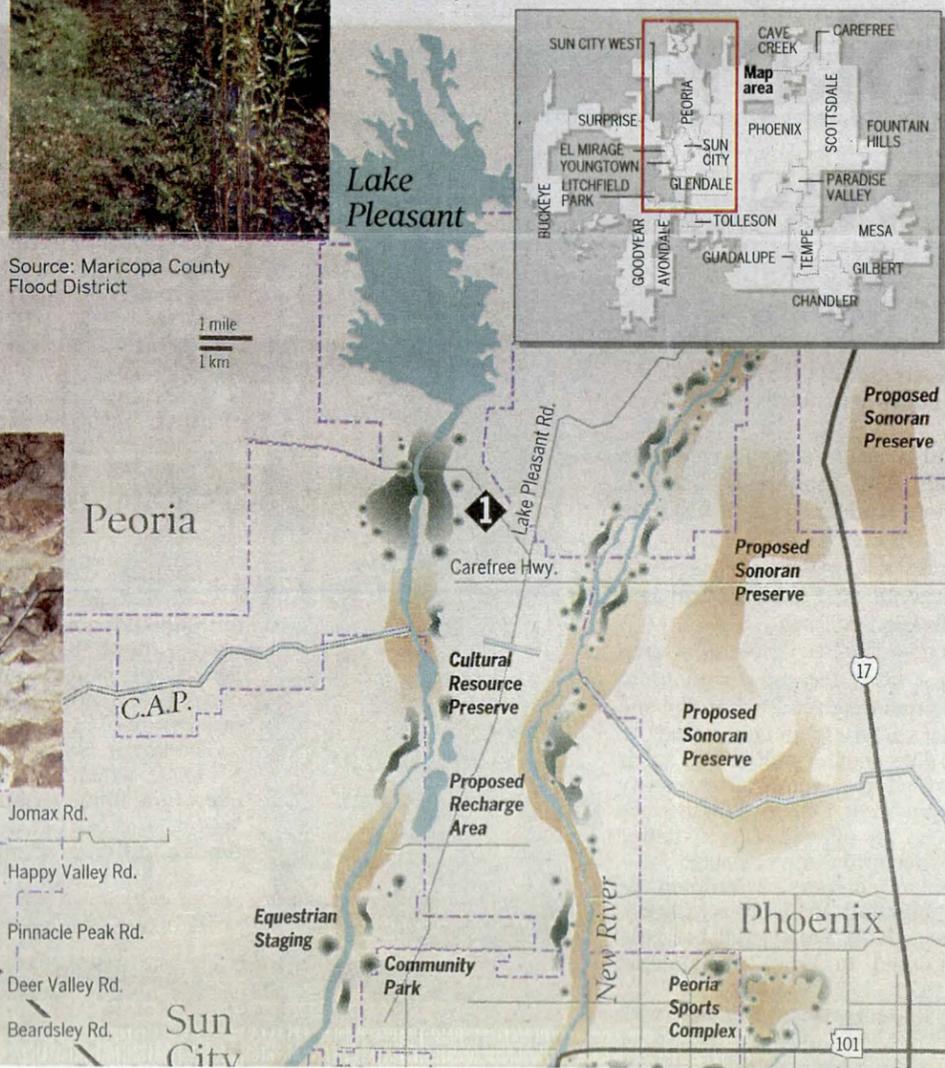
A handful of west-side communities have joined Maricopa County and its Flood Control District in an ambitious plan to develop 47 miles of the Agua Fria and its neighbor, the New River, into a network of parks and trails stretching from Lake Pleasant to the Gila River.

"We're going to have an area that has been somewhat blighted and neglected and turn it into something of a beautiful greenbelt area, a place that people will put on their list as a destination," County Supervisor Jan Brewer said. "It will become the image of the West Valley."

In the year or so since the county and flood control officials began discussing what would be known as the West Valley Recreation Corridor, Avondale, Goodyear, Glendale, Youngtown, Peoria and Phoenix have expressed in-

Source: Maricopa County Flood District

1 mile / 1 km



Petroglyphs at Calderwood Butte, on state-owned land near Jomax Road.

Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Maricopa County Flood Control

#75

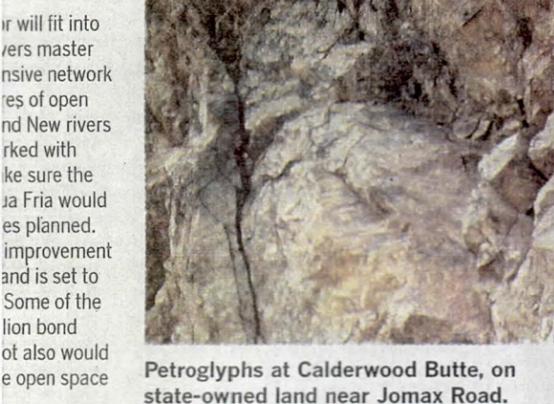
# Greenbelt plan awash in support

## West Valley Recreation Corridor

Patti Valdez/The Arizona Republic

Plan in place just south of the Carefree Highway in north Phoenix changed from its desert state. A multiple-use, 10-foot-wide trail for hiking and biking could be added. This area would probably tie in with the Verde and Adobe Dam Recreation area. This land includes part of the Central Arizona Project canal. A park is also proposed near Carefree Highway.

**CORPORATED AREAS**  
 Participating, because gravel pits in the Agua Fria River would make it difficult. Not much more is happening in the area that lies in the county. If the plan happens, the county would offer to oversee the corridor. The parks department's liaison to the project left, and as a result, so no plans for parks or trails have been submitted. Plus most of the area is annexed by the cities, which will be responsible for the area.



Petroglyphs at Calderwood Butte, on state-owned land near Jomax Road. Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Maricopa County Flood Control

Plan in bond  
 The plan in bond covers its six miles of trails. Officials said they are waiting for studies to be completed on trail route plans. The proposal for Glendale consists of a multiple-use trail along the New River at Glendale Avenue. The trail would tie into existing routes and airport area. In addition, a joint trail for Glendale and New River at Bell Road, where the two cities share a common



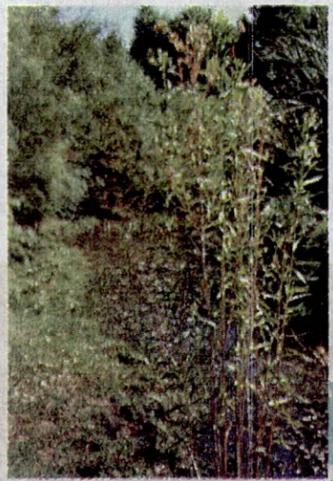
Northern area of the Agua Fria riverbed. Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Maricopa County Flood Control

Developed trails, soccer and softball fields and park area could take advantage of the Agua Fria and New rivers in west Phoenix. The city's master plan along the eastern side of New River at Camelback Road, includes soccer fields, trailheads and parking. The site will be funded through the city's budget. The park is set to be completed in 2005.



Kids swing upside-down in a jungle gym on the playground at Coldwater Park in Avondale. Avondale was one of the first cities to build a park along the Agua Fria River in conjunction with the West Valley Recreation Corridor. Photo by John Loomis/The Arizona Republic.

Plan also is to link their trails into the project. The Rancho Santa Fe subdivision in Phoenix incorporated a trails system that leads to the river.



George's Pond is just south of Lake Pleasant, and is a riparian habitat owned by the Bureau of Land Management. Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Maricopa County Flood Control

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In the year or so since the county and flood control officials began discussing what would be known as the West Valley Recreation Corridor, Avondale, Goodyear, Glendale, Youngtown, Peoria and Phoenix have expressed interest in participating in the project. Each city will propose its own plan with its own funding source but will coordinate.

See RIVERS | Page 3

## Recreation plan faces obstacles

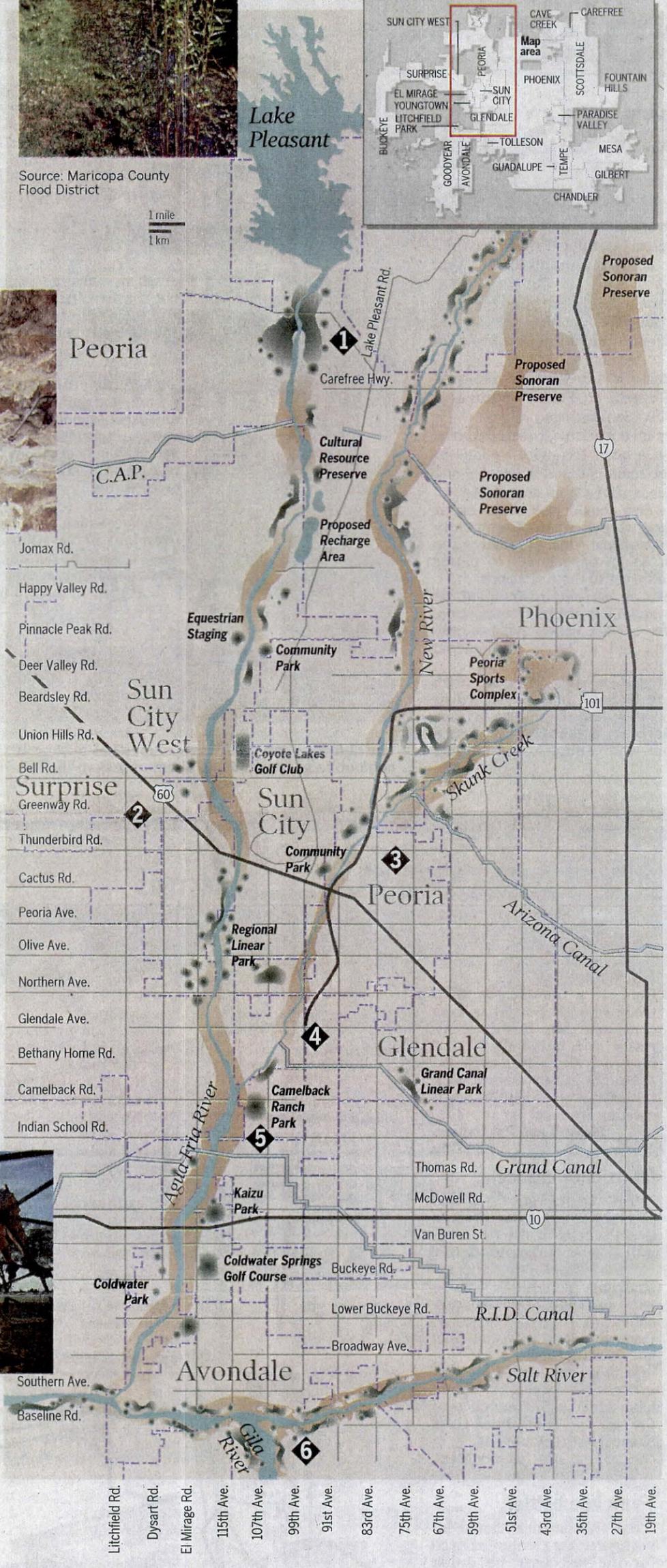
By Ezra Fieser  
 The Arizona Republic

Before 47 miles of parks and trails can be cut through the West Valley on the Agua Fria and New rivers, a number of obstacles must be tackled.

According to a plan presented by the Maricopa County Flood Control District, the recreational corridor would use 9,690 acres along the Agua Fria and New rivers from near Lake Pleasant to lower Avondale, near the Gila River. Of that land, 72 percent, or 6,975 acres, is privately owned, leaving the possibility of access to the land as a major question mark.

Some of those private owners are sand and gravel operators who line the riverbed to mine the rich soil. Sand and gravel operators own 11 percent, more than 1,000 acres,

See CORRIDOR | Page 8



## Submarine vets to gather in desert

The innovations of submarines," he explained. "There won't be many sea stories." Former Gov. Rose Mofford will speak at the opening ceremony at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the... show at 7:30 p.m. Friday featuring music and comedy from the '40s. This show, also at Symphony Hall, is open to the public at a cost of \$7 per ticket.

## 4-year ASU West 'a great idea'

W. Valley leaders cheer proposal for pilot program

The pilot is regarded as the first step toward ASU West, 4701 W. Thunderbird Road, becoming a full-scale, four-year campus. "I think it's a great idea,"

New Economy companies, Keegan noted. ASU West Provost Elaine Maimon said that the pilot program can be handled within the campus' existing

# RIVERS | Trails, parks planned

From Page 1

inate trails and other amenities with each other and the county.

Avondale has progressed the furthest so far with a new park and a subdivision that will incorporate into its community several trails that eventually will connect to the river. Phoenix is working on a similar park, and both Glendale and Peoria are including the corridor in their parks and recreation master plan.

"It's an ambitious plan, but I think it makes sense," said J.P. de la Montaigne, Peoria's community services director. "It's good vision."

It's a vision that's been around for a while but found new life when Phoenix developer John F. Long and the Flood Control District's general manager, Mike Ellegood, began talking about opening up to the public what has for years been little more than a fenced-off flood path.

"As the Valley grows, people want more open space, more opportunities to recreate," Ellegood said. The Agua Fria and New rivers can offer long, uninterrupted stretches of undeveloped desert for hikers, horseback riders, cyclists and possibly off-road enthusiasts.

By protecting the land from development, the county and the cities also preserve patches of lush Sonoran Desert, riparian areas and other wildlife habitat and even petroglyphs and other evidence of the Valley's earlier inhabitants.

"It's imperative that we move now and that we design and plan and get everything done so we know exactly how we're going to build around it so growth can evolve around it," Brewer said.

So far, officials have been heartened by response to the plan. Ellegood said most of the communities along the river have stepped up with plans. He even got a call from the Sun City Kiwanis Club about building a small park.

In Peoria, de la Montaigne said planners already are working on a river and trails master plan for the Agua Fria and New rivers and Skunk Creek and have begun working with the county and other cities on incorporating some of that into the broader corridor plan. The city has set aside money from grants, the capital improvement budget and in a \$282 million bond issue that goes before the voters next month.

Avondale hopes that upscale developers will buy into the idea that parks attract homeowners and then build nicer homes in the area, complete with trails that connect to the recreation corridor.

"The whole idea is to create an area where people can go to without barriers of the different municipalities," said Vince Micallef, Avondale's director of parks, recreation and libraries. "Then we build linkages to the river. We have a good grasp of the concept and are ahead of the other cities."

The city already had one park built and decided to double its acreage. The City Council recently purchased land for another park along the river and is looking to add a third.

Glendale is waiting for results of two studies along the river but has set aside \$2 million for projects in the corridor, the most of any city so far, Mayor Elaine Scruggs said.

The Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department is waiting for governmental agreements to be worked out before getting too involved, deputy parks director Van Ausdal said. The county so far has no money for the project; Ausdal figures his department's best asset would be to manage the linear park once it's completed.

"That's our expertise," Ausdal said. "As of this time, there has been no agreement that we would do that. That would require additional resources on our part. We would love to do it, but it's hard to find the resources to make it happen."

That's one of many issues Ellegood concedes must be dealt with as plans move ahead. Who will manage the parks and trails and who will pay for their upkeep and for public safety needs remains unclear.

Much more complicated are some of the physical barriers. Dozens of gravel pits lie along the river, and virtually all operate within legal and sometimes long-term permits.

"We are trying to encourage some of the sand and gravel operators to recognize they're becoming neighbors," Ellegood said. "They're going to be in our back yard."

That issue and others will be addressed in two separate studies, one sponsored by the Flood Control District, the other by the Maricopa Association of Governments.

Supporters of the corridor admit it's a big picture, long-range project.

"It's like a freeway system or any other public works project," Ellegood said. "You can't have all the funding at once, and if you did, you couldn't build it all at once."

Brewer said it's worth the wait and effort.

"Everybody sees this vision, this dream and everybody wants basically the same thing," she said. "It's going to be really striking, very visionary."

Republic writer Lori Baker contributed to this story. Reach the reporters at shaun.mckinnon@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-7116 or eddie.north-hager@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-7126.

## FYI

You can help design the proposed recreation corridor in western Maricopa County by attending a workshop in October at Glendale Community College, 6000 W. Olive Ave.

It will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 6 and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 7. Citizens and government officials will work together to address issues such as access from neighborhoods, how trails should link up to parks and trail design.

In December, two open houses will be held to present the preliminary plan design.

To sign up for the October workshop, call Heather Honsberger at (602) 889-7000 or e-mail her at hhonsberger@entranc.com.

## DERMATOLOGY

The Beatrice Keller Clinic Rita George, M.D. to its new SW

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Website: www.bkellerclinic.com

## CAMPUS | Expansion applauded

From Page 1

tion, with 15 percent earmarked for higher education. The money would come from increasing the state sales tax to 5.6 percent from 5.0 percent.

The \$1.1 million would pay for the second phase of a building project at ASU West. The new building would include a 150-seat tiered lecture hall, 14 classrooms and three 36-seat life-science teaching labs.

At an opening assembly last week at ASU West, Maimon and ASU President Lattie Coor encouraged faculty and staff to turn out at the polls for Proposition 301.

"It's unthinkable it won't pass," Coor said.

If the regents approve ASU West's pilot program to serve lower-division students, the expansion will strengthen the tie between the community and the university, he said.

Ivan Johnson, a vice president at Cox Communications and chairman of Westmarc, which represents 13 West Valley communities, said ASU West is responding to its customers.

"There are people driving all the way over to Tempe to the main campus, going right by ASU West," he said. "That just does not make good sense."

Aron Cline, 18, is one of an estimated 550 freshmen and sophomores who do exactly that.

Cline, of Glendale, spends about 90 minutes commuting to ASU main, one of the nation's largest campuses.

If he had the option, he said, he'd go to ASU West part of the week but still take some classes at the main campus.

"It's a totally different experience," Cline said. "It's amazing how many people there are!"

ASU West has a fall enrollment of about 5,100 students. ASU main has more than 44,000.

Reach the reporter at beverly.medlyn@arizona-republic.com or (602) 444-7123.

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#75 continued

# CORRIDOR | Recreation plan faces obstacles

From Page 1

of the proposed recreation corridor.

"Clearly the sand and gravel operations is an element out there in the river and one that needs to be dealt with," said Mike Ellegood, general manager and chief engineer of the Flood Control District. "They, at this juncture, appear to be receptive to some conversations about allowing access to their properties and even setting aside some of the land for these purposes."

The Flood Control District has mentioned land dedications and easements as options. Ultimately, the decision will be that of the several sand and gravel operators who make up the \$2 billion-a-year industry.

"We're looking to create a win-win situation," said Ken Quartermain, president of the Arizona Rock Products Association, which lobbies on behalf of the sand and gravel industry. "We're beginning the process of multiple uses within the dry riverbed. Basically, everybody can win."

If the corridor is realized, the issue of safety also comes into play. A number of open-pit mines exist, and they have heavy truck traffic.

"Setbacks are very important in any situation," Quartermain said. "Nowhere do you want two different purposes, such as industry and recreation, butting up against each other. That can create problems."

Quartermain said that all options in regard to land access are still on the table but that only one meeting has taken place between the Flood Control District and the sand and gravel operators.

Other private owners also create potential obstacles for the corridor.

The Terra del Rio development is being built at Calderwood Butte, where the Agua Fria River meets Jomax Road and where ancient petroglyphs adorn the mountain-side.

In such cases, flood-control officials feel confident that the owner will be sensitive to the environment. The developers of Terra del Rio

didn't return calls to detail their plans for the project.

"This new home development is going to stay off the floodplain," said Doug Williams, project manager of the West Valley Recreation Corridor. "There's also the possibility of trails being built in these areas and the owners being sensitive to the environment."

Funding is another question.

If the corridor does become a reality, the local cities

will be responsible for the building and upkeep of the parks and trails. Funding would need to come from several sources.

In one case, Phoenix plans to use money from the Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative to build Camelback Ranch Park. Grants and donations also are possible.

Reach the reporter at ezra.fieser@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-7114.

## CRIME LOG

From Page 5

7300 W. Coolidge: 7 p.m. 8/12, burglary.

7300 W. Indianola: 2:33 p.m. 8/14, assault.

7300 W. Indianola: 2:33 p.m. 8/14, burglary.

7400 W. Indian School: 3:30 p.m. 8/14, robbery.

7500 W. Indian School: 11:30 a.m. 8/14, burglary.

7500 W. Indian School: 3 p.m. 8/17, car theft.

7900 W. Cheery Lynn: 9:30 p.m. 8/17, car theft.

7900 W. Indian School: 10:25 p.m. 8/17, car theft.

8100 W. Indian School: 9:30 p.m. 8/15, car theft.

8200 W. Indian School: 4:30 p.m. 8/15, robbery.

### 85035

1600 N. 54th Lane: 9:10 a.m. 8/14, burglary.

8/12, burglary. 3800 N. 83rd Ave: 6 p.m. 8/16, burglary.

3800 N. 91st Ave: 8 a.m. 8/6, burglary.

4200 N. 108th Ave: 1 a.m. 8/15, car theft.

4400 N. 105th Ave: 9 p.m. 8/16, burglary.

4600 N. 100th Drive: 8:30 p.m. 8/17, car theft.

4800 N. Palomilla: 10 p.m. 8/14, car theft.

8300 W. Indian School: Mid-night 8/18, car theft.

8400 W. Columbus: 4 p.m. 8/17, car theft.

8600 W. Granada: 10 p.m. 8/16, car theft.

8600 W. Roanoke: 12:10 p.m. 8/15, burglary.

8800 W. Vernon: 9:30 p.m. 8/18, car theft.

9000 W. Elm: 11 p.m. 8/17, car theft.

9000 W. Holly: 11 p.m. 8/14,

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# Greenbelt plan awash in support

## #76 West Valley Recreation Corridor

Patti Valdez/The Arizona Republic

### 1 NORTH PHOENIX

The six-mile trail system in place just south of the Carefree Highway in north Phoenix would remain relatively unchanged. A multiple-use, 10-foot-wide, 10-foot-tall trail for hikers, bikers and horseback riding could be added. This area would probably tie in with the future site of Sonoran Preserve and Adobe Dam Recreation area. This land includes part of New River, Skunk Creek and the Central Arizona Project canal. A park is also proposed near 91st Avenue south of the Carefree Highway.

### 2 SURPRISE AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS

Surprise is not participating, because gravel pits in the Agua Fria River would make it difficult to place a park there. Not much more is happening in the area that lies in unincorporated Maricopa County. If the plan happens, the county would offer to oversee the linear park if funds were provided. The parks department's liaison to the project left, and a replacement was just hired, so no plans for parks or trails have been submitted. Plus most of the land will eventually be annexed by the cities, which will be responsible for the area.

### 3 PEORIA

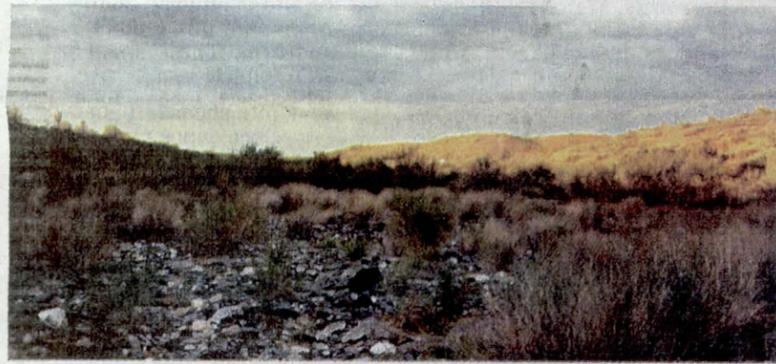
The recreation corridor will fit into Peoria's broader trail and rivers master plan, which calls for an extensive network of trails and hundreds of acres of open space along the Agua Fria and New rivers and Skunk Creek. Peoria worked with Glendale and Phoenix to make sure the trails it proposed for the Agua Fria would fit in with what the other cities planned. Peoria has set aside improvement funds for some of the trails and is set to receive one or more grants. Some of the money raised by a \$282 million bond issue on the September ballot also would help build trails and preserve open space on the corridor.



Petroglyphs at Calderwood Butte, on state-owned land near Jomax Road. Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Maricopa County Flood Control

### 4 GLENDALE

Glendale has \$2 million in bond money set aside for trails in its six miles of the recreation corridor. Officials said they are waiting for studies to be completed on trail designs before making definite plans. The proposal for Glendale consists of a multiple-use and equestrian trailhead on the New River at Glendale Avenue. The trail would tie into existing and future bikeways, transit routes and airport area. In addition, a joint trail for Glendale and Peoria is suggested on the New River at Bell Road, where the two cities share a common boundary.



The typical lay of the northern area of the Agua Fria riverbed. Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Maricopa County Flood Control

### 5 WEST PHOENIX

A two-mile stretch of paved trails, soccer and softball fields and park area could take shape by March 2005 along the Agua Fria and New rivers in west Phoenix. The city's master plan includes Camelback Ranch Park along the eastern side of New River at Camelback Road, which would include athletic fields, trailheads and parking. The site will be funded through the Phoenix Park Preserve program. The park could make the 2004 budget, and construction could begin in 2005.

### 6 AVONDALE

Avondale is looking into creating its third park along the Agua Fria River. The city has an 11-acre park with baseball fields near the confluence of the Agua Fria and Gila rivers. RICO funds totaling \$10,000 awarded to developer John Long and given to the city will help develop an additional 11 acres that would include sand volleyball lots. The city also bought 25 acres for \$1.6 million for a park east of the river and north of Interstate 10. The park will be built in phases and will have soccer and football fields, a Japanese garden and perhaps a lake. The proposed 10-acre park on the southeastern side of the river could include a desert riparian area and sports field. Just to develop and buy the parks will cost nearly \$10 million. The city also is encouraging developers to link their trails into the project. The Rancho Santa Fe subdivision in northwest Avondale has incorporated a trails system that leads to the river.

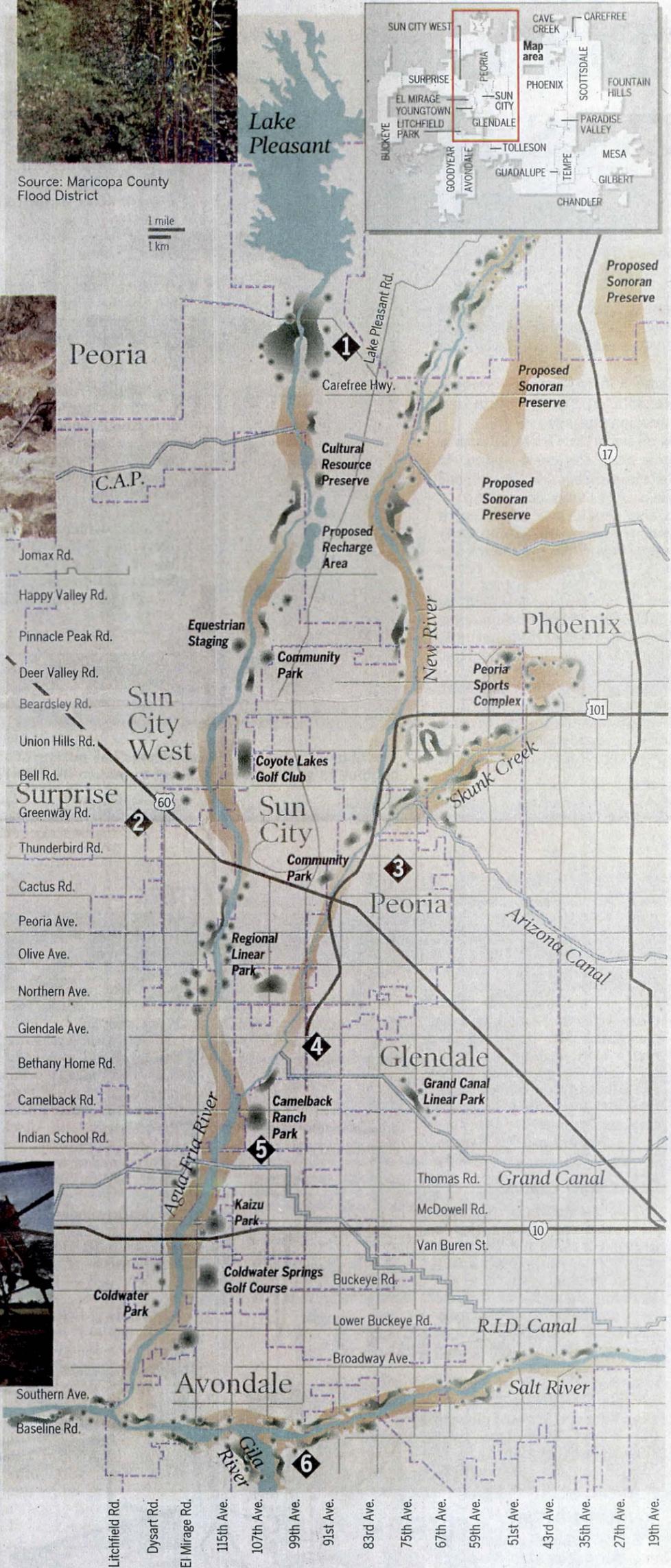


Kids swing upside-down in a jungle gym on the playground at Coldwater Park in Avondale. Avondale was one of the first cities to build a park along the Agua Fria River in conjunction with the West Valley Recreation Corridor. Photo by John Loomis/The Arizona Republic



George's Pond is just south of Lake Pleasant, and is a riparian habitat owned by the Bureau of Land Management. Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Maricopa County Flood Control

Source: Maricopa County Flood District



## Ambitious plan for Agua Fria, New River

By Shaun The Ariz

It may look like other riverbeds, with thickets of trees and laid by gravel and growing number of leaders. River represents a landmark that swallows it.

A handful of communities in Maricopa County Flood Control's ambitious plan for the Agua Fria River, the network of stretching from the front to the back.

"We're going to an area that has been blighted and forgotten and something greenbelt are people will put a destination pervisor Jan will become West Valley."

In the year county and officials began to would be known Valley Recreation Avondale, Glendale, Youngtown Phoenix have interest in part project. Each pose its own funding source

See RIVE

## #79 Recreation plan faces obstacles

By Ezra The Ariz

Before 47 and trails can the West Valley Fria and New River of obstacles tackled.

According to sent by County Flood District, the recreation corridor would use along the Agua Fria rivers from near to lower the Gila River 72 percent, or possibly own land as a mark.

Some of those are sand ators who line mine the rich gravel operators, more than

See CORRID

## WWII submarine vets to gather in desert

By Kristin Koch The Arizona Republic

innovations of submarines," he explained. "There won't be many sea stories."

show at 7:30 p.m. Friday featuring music and comedy from the '40s. This show, also at Symphony Hall is open to

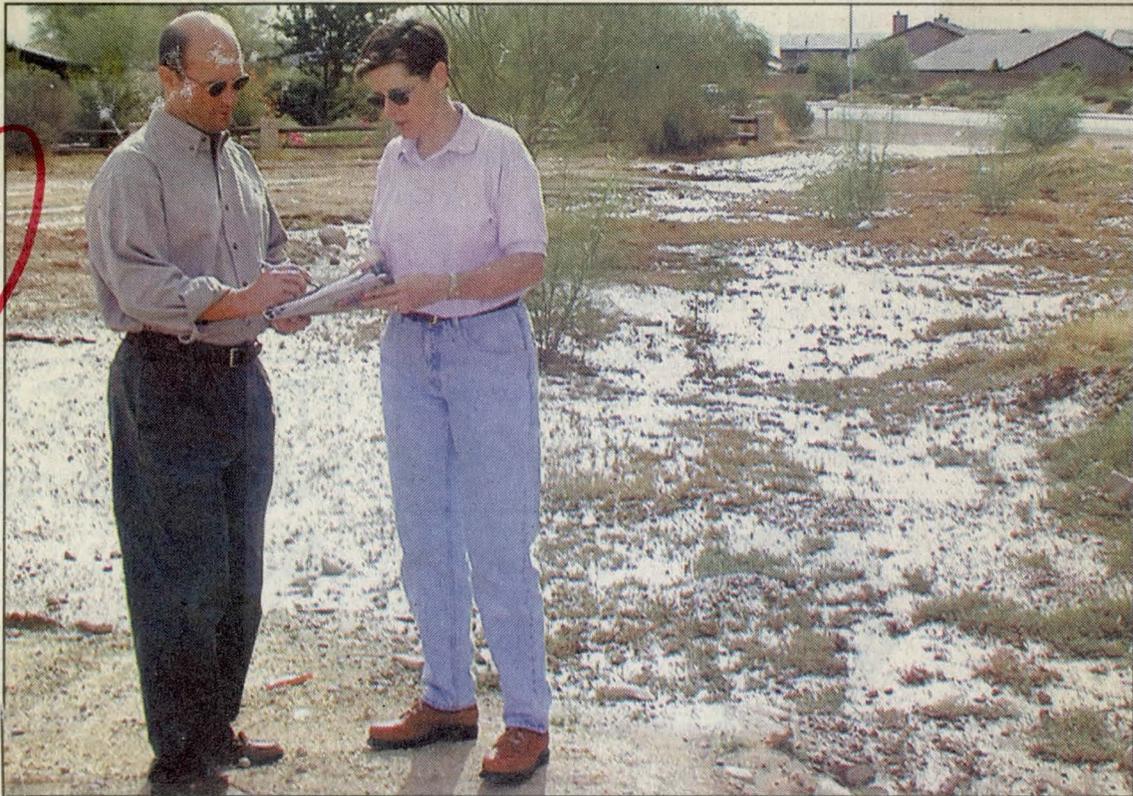
## 4-year ASU West 'a great idea'

W. Valley leaders cheer proposal

The pilot is regarded as the first step toward ASU West, 4701 W. Thunderbird Road,

New Economy Keegan noted. ASU West I

#77



Photos by MARK POLLOCK/Peoria Independent

Michael Bonar, left, of Entellus environmental engineering and Marilyn DeRosa, planning project manager for the Maricopa County Flood Control District, look over a map of problem areas in north Peoria. They are surrounded by the remains of runoff that is flooding parts of north Peoria.

9/14-20/02

# Residents cope with rain runoff in north Peoria

## County to host meeting, seek solutions

By MARK POLLOCK  
Peoria Independent

They are not building arks, but residents are suffering from storm runoff and drainage problems anytime it rains.

As is evident from the light showers early in September, a storm's size doesn't matter, since any runoff has limited places to go, because of the growing number of subdivisions in the area.

In one area bounded by Pinnacle Peak and Deer Valley roads between 83rd and 91st avenues, sand fills streets and some homeowners are anguishing over water damage in garages and living rooms.

The area is the focus of study being conducted jointly among the city of Peoria, the Maricopa County Flood Control District and the city of Glendale. The original

### Check it out

**What:** Drainage problems meeting — the public is invited to share concerns about the Flood Control District's Master Plan.

**Where:** 6:30 p.m. Sept. 20 in the Ventana Lakes Yacht Club, 20015 N. 108th Ave., Peoria, and 6:30 p.m. Sept. 21 in Sunrise Mountain High School's

lecture hall, 21200 N. 83rd Ave., Peoria

**Speaker:** Marilyn DeRosa, planning project manager for the Maricopa County Flood Control District, will lead discussions and answer questions concerning the project.

Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan was completed in 1987, but rapid growth has created a pool of new problems since existing drainage facilities are not sufficient to meet the demands of the growing area.

The updated drainage master plan is scheduled to be done in February. The Flood Control District will be hosting meetings to get residents' ideas on the

drainage problems in the northwest Valley.

Marilyn DeRosa, planning project manager for the Flood Control District, will lead discussions and answer questions concerning the project at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 20 in the Ventana Lakes Yacht Club, 20015 N. 108th Ave. She will lead another meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 21 in Sunrise

## ■ FLOOD

From Page 1

Mountain High School's lecture hall, 21200 N. 83rd Ave. Alternatives and solutions will be the topics.

"What it amounts to is drainage doesn't care what city you're in, how big your house is or how expensive it is," said Burton Charron of the city of Peoria's engineering department. "It cares that you built in its way."

Mr. Charron is leading Peoria's team as it seeks drainage solutions with the county and Glendale. He said one of the causes of the runoff is the hodgepodge of county and city drainage policies that don't mesh. He said that older houses have different requirements than newer ones. Construction has added to the problem because new subdivisions cover the area's natural runoff system of washes and culverts.

"Unfortunately, when people pioneered out into these areas and bladed out roads an inch or two deeper than the property around it, it tended to be a conveyance for the runoff," he said. "There are a lot of people who have lived out there before and it was something they just lived with. Now that it's getting less rural, they expect the same type of urban consideration for drainage and infrastructure."

He added that one goal of the study is to create a plan that encompasses the entire area, not just Peoria or Glendale.

"As one builds, the other expects the next one to build so that eventually we get a system of drainage that operates regionally."

Ms. DeRosa said new subdivisions have accounted for drainage by putting in channels around them. Nonetheless, one man's solution can be the next man's problem.

"Sometimes those channels act as miniature dams," she said

"They've got their protection but the water flows up to them, then back into a county area that may have homes."

She said one solution for the Pinnacle Peak/Deer Valley area could be improving drainage along the north side of Deer Valley Road and constructing detention basins to store runoff.

Several of Ms. DeRosa's recommendations would be eligible for city/county cost sharing, about 50-50, if a project is regional. This requires evidence that a runoff problem includes water flows through more than one city or the county, a fact validated by the study.

Ms. DeRosa is encouraging residents to attend the planning meetings so she is sure she is addressing their concerns.

"I don't want to create a plan that doesn't solve their problems," she said.

She added that residents should maintain contact with their mayors and council representatives about the problem.

A \$23 million bond proposal on the Sept. 12 ballot for storm sewer and flood control protection would create needed funding for the project.



# Promise of paradise

## Visions unfold for lush corridor

JOHN GUZZON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

#78  
9/20/00

Along the Agua Fria River Tuesday, dreams were shared and visions unveiled.

The Maricopa County Flood Control District escorted West Valley and Maricopa County representatives through many sites along the Agua Fria which is under study to be transformed into a portion of the 47 mile West Valley Recreation Corridor. The Agua Fria and New rivers would become replete with trails, riparian habitats, and recreation centers under the proposed alignments. A comparable plan for the New River is being coordinated by the Maricopa Association of Governments and coordinated with the plans of the Flood Control District.

Initially a dream of Valley businessman John F. Long, the Maricopa County Flood Control District and Director Mike Ellegood have taken the vision of the West Valley Recreation Corridor and are hoping to see it through to fruition.

Ellegood, however, knows that nothing will be accomplished without some sort of working relationship between the Flood Control District — which is restricted by law to maintaining the floodplain — and another parks-related entity. His vision is to accomplish proper flood control planning by strengthening the water handling abilities of the Agua Fria while creating a place where people can go to enjoy nature and the outdoors.

And, someone has to pay for it all.

"There are a lot of communities who want to integrate it in with their own plans. Maybe with some combination of

funds, we can bring this to fruition," Ellegood said. "The Flood Control District does not want to get into the parks and recreation department in the county and we have to work out a deal for maintenance. Or, we can work together with the cities."

Sand and gravel operations are additional facets of the river that will have to be dealt with before the entire stretch of the river can gain the potential for conversion into the West Valley Recreation Corridor. Many of these operations are privately held and while discussion with a few have been positive, Ellegood said others have been less receptive to changing the scope of the river.

Regardless, work on certain sections of the Agua Fria will soon begin. Avondale had plans for the river and will be receiving \$5 million in the next fiscal year to begin developing the first stages of the corridor adjacent to Coldwater Park.

"Avondale was so far ahead of the other cities, that is why it was selected," John F. Long said.

County Supervisors Mary Rose Wilcox, Fulton Brock and Jan Brewer said they all were supportive of exploring the development of the project. Brewer said, however, that the sand and gravel operators — which own 11 percent of the land along the Agua Fria — must also want change.

"They want to expand so we need to work with those people to see how we both can achieve our dreams," Brewer said.

John Guzzon can be reached at [jguzzon@aztrib.com](mailto:jguzzon@aztrib.com) or by calling 876-2511.



County Supervisor Jan Brewer leads the line, followed by Peoria Councilman Ken Forgia, on a tour of the proposed West Valley Recreation Corridor.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Public officials and members of the media pause in a riparian area near Lake Pleasant during a tour of the proposed West Valley Recreation Corridor Tuesday. Pictured at top is a great blue heron at George's Pond, a riparian area in the Aqua Fria River bed.

#79

# Valley-wide trail contract going to bid

## Officials estimate cost at more than \$250,000

The Okendeale Star 9/21/08

The Parks and Recreation Department of Maricopa County will go forward with a contract to determine the route of the 225-mile trail around Maricopa County.

Dave Konopka, project manager for the trail program, announced the contract for the master plan yesterday at a meeting of the Maricopa County Trail Commission. The posting for the contract will go up next week. The cost will be determined after the selection of the consultant, but is anticipated to be more than \$250,000. The Parks and Recreation Department intends to choose the consultant by late December.

"I am extremely excited about this step toward making this trail a reality," said Trail Commission Chairman Fulton Brock (R-District 1). "This is truly the beginning of something that will last generations."

A master plan is a document that determines all the planning needs for a particular project. The Maricopa County Trail Commission expects at a minimum that the plan will indicate the how the regional parks will be linked and how the trail will encircle the Valley.

Three phases of the contract will include:

■ **A preliminary study:** This would validate the vision, goals and objections set out by the Board of Supervisors and provide the

structure for a public involvement plan.

■ **Phase two:** This would indicate the preferred corridor route, identify the critical land that needs to be reserved, and provide an action plan for the Board of Supervisors to approve for implementation.

■ **Implementation:** This phase would explore funding options, such as grants, sponsorships, partnerships, bonding, or creating regional parks and trails district. It would also detail a marketing plan for sponsorships and a phasing plan to decide which portions of the trail could be completed first. It would determine the ownership and liability

responsibilities of Maricopa County and its city partners and provide an operations plan, which would look at patrolling and maintaining the trail system and parks included in it.

"I am certain that we can lay the groundwork for this regional trail within just a couple years," said Bill Van Ausdale, deputy director of Maricopa County Parks and Recreation. "This study is essential to removing any obstacles we will face."

It is likely that the trail system will utilize many of the rivers, canals and flood channels already in existence. About half the proposed route could occur on

land managed by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

These include: The Superstition SanTan Corridor, a 26-mile floodway in the East Valley; the El Rio and Tres Rios projects along the Gila River; and the 47-mile West Valley Recreation Corridor.

"It is important that we utilize our land as many ways as we can," said Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County. "While we need to maintain our facilities for flood control and human safety, about 90 percent of the time they can be used for recreation as well."

**Mike Ellegood - FCDX**

**From:** Tom Buick - MCDOTX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2000 11:32 AM  
**To:** David Smith - CAO  
**Cc:** Chris Pinuelas - CAO; Mike Ellegood - FCDX; Bill Scalzo - PARKSX  
**Subject:** Sonoran Desert plan article retrieved

Pima has been working this one for several years.



| [Return to Search Screen](#) |

**Sonoran Desert plan advances**

Wednesday, 27 September 2000  
TUCSON/REGION B1  
By Tony Davis  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Pima County Board of Supervisors voted yesterday to accept the preliminary draft of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

The land-use plan, designed to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources, will now be subject to 90 days of additional public input.

Seventy-two formal public meetings and 200 community meetings have already been held to invite comment on the plan. The board yesterday approved 15 additional public hearings throughout the county to discuss the plan. The dates have yet to be set.

"After the public review, we'll compile the comments and address them individually, and send it back to the board," said County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry, who proposed the sweeping plan two years ago.

The board can then make modifications to the plan, if so desired. Huckelberry expects the complete plan to be ready for the Board of Supervisors to adopt by the fall of 2002.

**Highlights of the draft Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan:**

\* Creates more than 200,000 acres of mountain parks, including a new Santa Rita Mountain Park, new Davidson Canyon and

Buehman-Bingham reserves and expanded Tortolita and Colossal Cave mountain parks.

\* Buys and takes other steps to protect and restore battered riparian areas, such as Agua Verde Creek, Sabino Canyon, Tanque Verde Wash, Arivaca Creek, Honey Bee Canyon and Agua Caliente Wash.

\* Delays the rezoning or issuance of conditional-use permits for development in critical pygmy owl habitat, important ranch conservation areas and riparian areas.

\* Combines county environmental laws into a single Environmentally Sensitive Land Ordinance.

\* Increases protection for ironwood trees and adds protection for cottonwoods, Arizona sycamore, desert hackberry, willow and other riparian trees to the county's native plant protection ordinance.

\* Requires all new golf courses to use treated effluent, Central Arizona Project water or other renewable supplies.

\* Approves a program to buy development rights from ranchers on the urban fringe so they can keep ranching. Top priorities: Altar Valley, Cienega Rincon area and the Upper Santa Cruz and Middle San Pedro basins.

\* Proposes long-term lease assurances for urban edge ranchers on state and federal land, and compensates them if a federal agency reduces cattle numbers.

\* Changes property tax laws to give ranchers incentives to save open space.

\* Protects cultural, historical and archaeological resources by requiring developers to pay assurance bonds guaranteeing that they carry out required archaeological surveys, tests and mitigation plans.

\* Requires new developments to limit water-intensive landscaping to 20 percent of the area for single-family homes and 30 percent for apartments.

\* Proposes legislative changes: repeal of the "downzoning" ban; greater county authority over wildcat subdivisions; authority to charge impact fees for parks and sheriff's facilities; and authority for property tax incentives for those who preserve private land.

**Fees proposed in the draft plan:**

\* Raises road impact fees to \$3,250 from \$1,500 per home to smooth

traffic congestion and ease air pollution.

\* Asks other local governments to impose similar road fees.

\* Charges a sewer impact fee to raise money for water conservation programs such as refitting toilets and adding other water-saving fixtures.

\* Sets up elections every five years for open space bonds.

\* Requires developers who get land rezoned in areas that the plan wants to conserve to pay mitigation fees to buy sensitive land elsewhere.

\* Charges a real estate transfer tax on people who sell vacant land, used to buy open space.

\* Charges developers of projects 320 acres and up a surcharge to pay for setting aside open space on the developer's land or on surrounding land.

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*PCG SUPERVISOR DESERT*

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# PEORIA TIMES

50¢

VOL. 47 - No. 38

9/22/2000

PEORIA'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

50¢



Photo by Jean Bihn

Ecologist Bruce Wilcox describes the riparian habitat by George's Pond near Lake Pleasant to a group during a tour Tuesday of the Agua Fria River Corridor. Backers hope the corridor will eventually be part of the proposed West Valley Recreation Corridor in the Northwest Valley.

## Peoria corridor close to becoming part of trail loop

By JEAN BIHN

Northwest Valley politicians, community leaders and local officials joined representatives from several Maricopa County agencies Tuesday to trek through portions of the proposed Agua Fria River Corridor.

The 47-mile long corridor, which backers hope will be part of the proposed West Valley Recreation Corridor, connects Lake Pleasant in the Northwest Valley to the Gila River near Avondale. The Agua Fria also links the cities of Peoria, Glendale, Phoenix and Surprise.

Fulton Brock, chairman of the Maricopa County Trail Commission and District 1 supervisor, said this segment of the countywide trail program has the potential to join 250 miles of

riverway, floodway, parks and federal land.

District 4 Supervisor Jan Brewer welcomed the visitors to her district and the tour, which began at the West Valley Art Museum in Surprise.

"I cannot impress enough upon all of you today just how important this West Valley Recreation Corridor is going to be," Brewer said. "The Agua Fria has been neglected for many, many years, but with the help of our city partners and business partners, along with the Flood Control District and Parks and Recreation, we can turn it into 47 miles of wonderful parks and (wildlife) habitat areas."

The project is a broad partnership between several West Val-

More **CORRIDOR** on A20



Photo by Jean Bihn

(Left to right) Flood Control District of Maricopa County spokesperson Kris Baxter, Dist. 4 Supervisor Jan Brewer, consultant Doug Placencia, Bill Lally of Supervisor Fulton Brock's office, and Rand Hubbell of the parks and recreation department, hike back up the hill during a tour of the proposed Agua Fria River Corridor.

## Corridor 'holds incredible importance

From A1

ley cities and the Maricopa Trail Commission, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, and the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, Mike Ellengood, chief engineer and general manager of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, said.

Participants observed the meandering Agua Fria and projected recreation

trails and sand and gravel mines. Brewer said the \$2 billion mining industry is an important part of the West Valley economy and would have to be taken into account in any flood control or recreation scenario.

On its first stop, a short hike took the group to George's Pond near Lake Pleasant to hear from ecologist Bruce Wilcox from Kimley Horn & Associates, a consulting firm working with the Flood Control District.

archeological sites, each one the size of a football field. Broken pottery and petroglyphs can also be found at the sites, Williams said.

"John (F. Long) had this vision for the Agua Fria River, he's had it for several years, and was just waiting for an agency to carry it along and I was it," Ellengood said. "I raised my hand and said I'd do it."

Introducing Long after the group returned to the museum for lunch

**"This is an absolutely visionary plan for the West Valley to incorporate within urban Maricopa County open spaces and trails and recreation and habitat unlike anything else we've seen in Arizona."**

**- Jan Brewer**

**Dist. 4 Maricopa  
County Supervisor**

Wilcox said the area, now full of bright green vegetation, was an excellent example of a riparian habitat that comes and goes by drying up and becoming wet again. One staff member told the group he had counted 40 different bird species, a semi-wild burro and a bobcat near the site. Pointing out hoof prints from wandering cows, Wilcox said the area needed enhancing, but still held "incredible importance."

At the Calderwood Butte area near 119th Avenue and Jomax Road in Peoria, Doug Williams, senior project manager for the Flood Control District, said the butte held three

Ellengood said, "We couldn't be where we are today ... without the vision of John F. Long."

"What better opportunity than to put this to multiple use," Long told the group. "Recreation, water recharge and on and on."

"This is an absolutely visionary plan for the West Valley to incorporate within urban Maricopa County open spaces and trails and recreation and habitat unlike anything else we've seen in Arizona," Brewer said.

An afternoon tour followed the projected trail system to sites near Avondale and the Gila River.

# Agua Fria restoration plan studied by corps

By Eddie North-Hager  
The Arizona Republic

A ditch full of sand could be transformed into a small oasis with water, great blue herons, Colorado River frogs, cattails and watercress within two years depending on the results of a feasibility study being conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps plans to give \$5 million to the city of Avondale and Maricopa County Flood Control District to restore the area where the Agua Fria River meets the Gila River to its natural state once the study is done.

The Corps' mission of flood control and navigation now includes restoring natural habitat.

"This is a dream that we've all had and this makes it a reality," Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox said at a press conference Thursday at Coldwater Park in Avondale. "The grant is a first step. It means people are listening all the way to

Washington."

The money to restore it would come from the Corps' 1135 program, which provides between \$30 million and \$50 million each year for the environmental restoration of the nation's rivers.

The Flood Control District and the City of Avondale would be responsible for matching 25 percent of the federal money, bringing the total being spent to about \$6.25 million.

The study should take about two months and the design phase could last eight months, said Michael S. Ellegood, Flood Control District general manager.

The location was chosen because the county owns the land, Ellegood said.

"This would act as a pilot project to show folks," said Ellegood, who wants to continue the restoration north to Lake Pleasant as part of the West Valley Recreation Corridor. "This is the first real effort toward the restoration of the Agua Fria River."

#82

#83

## THE PROSPECTOR

Sept. 29 - Oct. 5, 2000

PAGE 7

### Army Corps to examine river corridor

The Army Corps of Engineers announced Thursday it will examine the lower Agua Fria River, part of the West Valley Recreation Corridor, as a step toward providing as much as \$5 million in federal money to restore the river to its natural state.

Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer said she believes this initial funding will lead to more studies and federal funding for the project. A demonstration project near the border of Glendale and Peoria may receive the same attention later.

The \$5 million would come from the Corps' 1135 program, which provides between \$30 million and \$50 million each year for environmental restoration of the nation's rivers. The flood control district and Avondale must match 25 percent, bringing the total to about \$6.25 million.

Any money received by the flood control district and Avondale would be spent for environmental restoration at the confluence of the Agua Fria River and the Salt/Gila River.

# Wenden farmers facing hard times

By Hernán Rozemberg  
The Arizona Republic

**WENDEN** — As he hung on to his trailer's roof antenna, Fernando Villega realized he was losing the battle. Moments later, the speeding flood devoured half his town.

The antenna slipped from Villega's grasp and the muddy waters swallowed him. Bruised and with barely any air left, he clawed his way back to the top of the trailer, closed his eyes and began uttering prayers that only the pounding rain could hear.

Two hours later, he was snagged by a rescue helicopter.

The following dawn, Villega was back on the job in a nearby field, picking cantaloupes 11 hours a day at \$6 an hour.



**Aguila resident Guillermo Torres is another of those hit hard by the flooding.**

"Sometimes I still think it was all a really bad dream," said Villega, a 22-year-old migrant farm worker from the Mexican border town of San Luis Rio Colorado. "I haven't even told my wife

and kids. I just have to stay working until December, so at least I can make enough money to go home."

Wenden, a town of 700 residents that swells to 1,200 when migrant workers like Villega arrive for harvest season, is trying to recuperate from an early-morning flash flood last Sunday that killed one man and damaged or destroyed 200 buildings, most of them trailer homes. Damage estimates stand at nearly \$8 million.

The town sits midway between Phoenix and the California line in the driest part of Arizona, a region that averages barely 6 inches of rain a year. Last Sunday, the Harcuvar and Harquahala mountains near Wenden got most of that in a matter of hours.

No one, from veteran resident to weather expert, expected the almost always dry Centennial Wash to suddenly explode with a wall of water twice the average flow of the Colorado River.

"This is the worst we've ever seen," said Betty Rohrig, 63, whose roots in Wenden date back to her grandmother, who settled there in the late 1800s. "I didn't even know until we got a call to rush out of the house. This one didn't roar. It was a silent killer."



**Migrant worker Jaime Hernandez, 20, is among those who stayed around Wenden despite the flooding.**

"We've seen our home of 43 years go ... down the drain. ... But I'm not moving. This town is where I was born, and in this town I will die."

**Betty Rohrig**

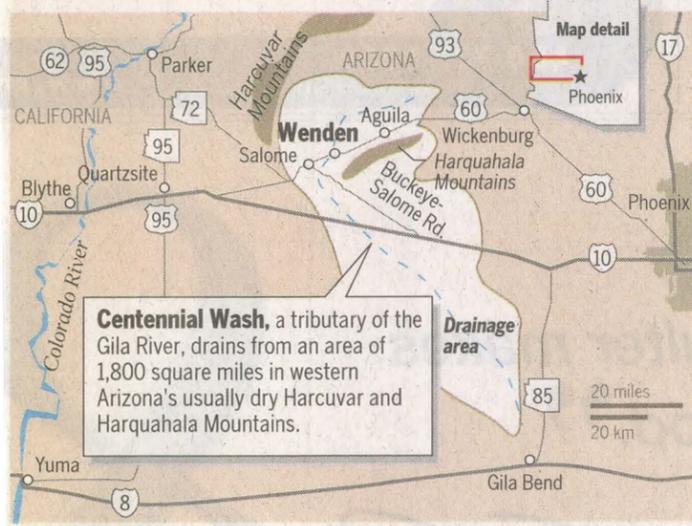
Whose Wenden roots date to her grandmother, who arrived in the late 1800s



Photos by Mike Ryneason/The Arizona Republic

**Mike Byrd of Parker is high and dry Saturday while making a call in Wenden.**

See **FARMS** | Page B4



## Another round of rain, flooding pummels town

By David Proffitt  
The Arizona Republic

**WENDEN** — Tired, wet and desperate to return to normalcy, residents of Wenden woke up Saturday morning to more rain, more flooding and more evacuations.

Fifty-five people from the small farming town in western Arizona spent Friday night in a shelter in Salome, about 40 miles away. An additional 100 or

so were evacuated Saturday.

And with the additional flooding came more destruction, about \$3.8 million in damage to the 200 or so homes and other buildings in town.

"Most of the structures damaged in this week's flood were already damaged," said Cliff Pearlberg, a spokesman for the Arizona Land Department.

See **WENDEN** | Page B7

#86



## Our Roads Are Flooding

Dear Karen,

Enclosed are photos taken by on Central Ave. between Carefree Hwy and Cloud Rd—just above Galvin on the weekend of October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Also enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent to Supervisor Andy Kunaske in March of 98 regarding our concerns about the condition of Central Ave.

In response to our letter, I was contacted by a county road supervisor who went on to explain about dedicated roads and non-dedicated roads. He said Central Ave is a non-dedicated road and if we wanted the road maintained by the county, the neighbors would have to

*The Desert Advocate*  
Nov 2, 00

get together and bring the road up to code. We are not in the road building business. Why do I pay more in taxes than friends in Tatum Ranch and Cave Creek and get less for the dollars I pay. My point is the these two vehicles in the photo could have just as easily been an ambulance or police care.

What are we going to do if someone needs medical or fire services and the emergency vehicles can't travel the roads?

Sincerely,

Tony Percoskie  
Desert Hills

It's in the city's best interest to develop the area. It's a logical place.

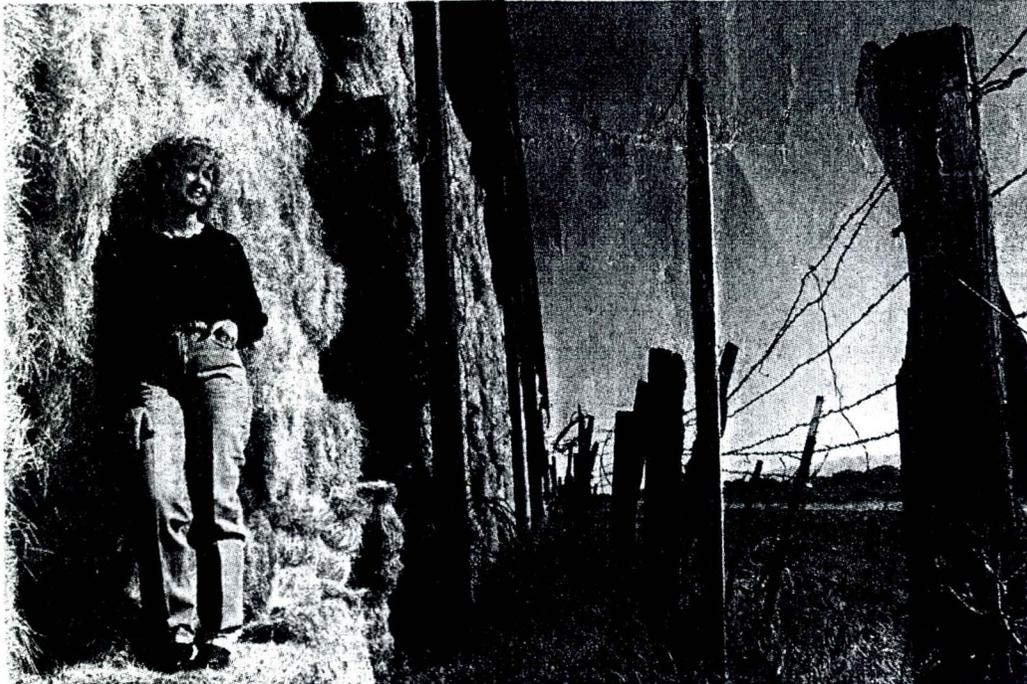
Friday  
11-24-00

#87

David Richert  
Phoenix planning director

The  
AZ Rep.

# Pastoral Laveen facing a change



Photos by Paul F. Gero/The Arizona Republic.

Nancy Tatum, a long time Laveen resident, looks around her property, which will soon be surrounded by housing. Tatum is concerned that floods could endanger future residents.



A 1,782-home subdivision project on 496.6 acres of land in Laveen will have a big impact on the community nestled between South Mountain and the Salt River.

## Country community tapped as Phoenix's next suburb

By Elvia Díaz  
The Arizona Republic

For decades, the Valley's wildfire of urban growth had somehow spared the community of Laveen 20 minutes from downtown Phoenix.

But now the hamlet of cows, cotton and farmhouses, one of the region's last outposts of rural serenity, may be facing its last stand.

A 1,782-home subdivision project residents fear will destroy the pastoral community by attracting thousands of unwanted suburbanites is moving

slowly but inexorably toward a groundbreaking. And for some, that is heart-breaking.

"I like the countryside," said Betty Ladd, 85, who moved here 40 years ago. "It will not be a neat place to live anymore."

Nancy Tatum, a longtime county resident, admits she can't stop the 496.6-acre project next to her house and hay business, but she and others want the landowners to scale back plans.

"I want them to do it responsibly," she said.

The single-family de-

# LAVEEN | Residents fear development

From Page A1

Development on the southwestern corner of 67th and Southern avenues is part of Phoenix's vision for Laveen, a 28-square-mile area of mostly cotton and alfalfa fields, cattle farms, and hay and feed businesses.

Nestled between South Mountain and the Salt River, Laveen is viewed by Phoenix planners as an ideal spot to accommodate roughly 100,000 new residents over 20 years. About 10,000 people live there now.

Its proximity to downtown Phoenix and easy access to the planned South Mountain Freeway will make it a desirable place to live, city planners say.

For Phoenix, Laveen is a test of how to manage sprawling growth. City planners anticipate intense competition among Valley cities to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of people expected to turn up over the next two decades.

If homes aren't available within a reasonable commuting distance, it will be harder to attract new workers to central Phoenix employment centers, planners reason.

"It's in the city's best interest to develop the area," said David Richert, Phoenix planning director. "It's a logical place."

Valley developer and economist Elliott Pollack concurs, noting the city is already losing jobs and retail sale taxes to Scottsdale and other East Valley municipalities.

"The Laveen concept makes sense," Pollack said.



Eric Baker/The Arizona Republic

times since he moved there 40 years ago.

In late 1992, a county flood-control study concluded that a severe rainstorm could send floodwaters rushing down South Mountain across farms and desert and into Laveen. But county officials removed the flood-plain designation a few months later after residents argued that the study was incorrect — and that it could hurt their property values.

City planners, who are reviewing the rezoning request from Sunny Mesa Inc., to eventually build the 1,782 homes on the 496.6-acre land, say overall plans for Laveen were approved about two years ago after exhaustive public comment.

Further, the county and Phoenix are considering a flood-control channel with the input of some Laveen landowners. The multimillion project could change the way water flows through the La-

"Laveen has been skipped over for development in the past."

Phoenix doesn't have much of a choice but to develop Laveen because of its proximity to downtown, Pollack added.

In fact, the city has already rezoned more than 2,000 acres to build nearly 8,000 homes in the Laveen area. The city is also rezoning hundreds of additional acres to build more homes, including the 496.6-acre subdivision that Tatum opposes.

"Laveen will turn into something very positive," Richert said.

But Tatum and others see something else. They see potential for disaster.

They feel it would be a nightmare evacuating the tens of thousands of new people in Laveen if it flooded as it has in the past. Tatum argues the city is ignoring the fact that the Salt River and a canal cutting through the Laveen Valley are likely to spill over its banks, inundating the region.

"How are they going to get all the people out of here when it floods?" asked Ladd, a county resident who also opposes the 1,782 proposed houses next to her 7 acres in Laveen, where she raised cattle and hogs. Ladd said she has been evacuated several

water flows through the Laveen area, diverting it from future developments, city planners say.

But Tatum and others say flood control and other improvements should be in place before the homes are built.

Tatum also protests that many of the proposed homes would be next to an ammunition factory and commercial-fuel wood-cutting operation, putting the residents at risk.

To that, Richert says there will be buffer zones between the industrial strip and the residents. Further, he said, the ammunition factory has the responsibility to maintain a safe operation.

Overall, Richert emphasized, new development in Laveen would boost property values. Homes now range from as low as \$30,000 to \$90,000. Promoting more upscale homes, starting from \$120,000 to \$500,000, would only benefit Laveen, Richert said.

Still, Tatum and Ladd disagree. They say the tranquility of the Valley, overlooked by the South and Estrella mountains, will be lost if nothing is done to minimize the plans.

Reach the reporter at Elvia.Diaz@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-8948.

Nov 10, 00

# Reaction mixed to river rehab

## Agua Fria plans explained

By Eddie North-Hager  
The Arizona Republic

Birdwatchers Jim and Mary Sommers can't wait to see what species might be attracted to the Agua Fria River if it weren't a big, flat, ugly ditch filled with sand and bounded by 20-foot-high concrete walls.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maricopa County Flood Control District and Avondale explained to about 50 people recently how restoration of the Agua Fria would work.

"We would love to see the river doing what it's supposed to be doing," said Mary Sommers of Goodyear, a representative of the newly formed Sonoran Audubon Society.

"This is a great project," said Jim Sommers, Mary's husband. "We already do birding on the Gila River at 115th Avenue."

A meandering creekbed lined with bushes, plants and grass would allow residents to take back the river, said Lee Anderson, an environmental planner for Tetra Tech, a firm hired by the Army Corps. The concrete and earthen levees that now are a barrier would be used as sidewalks. The riverbed, covered with native plants, would gently slope to the top of the levees on each side.

river curves west, a spot where the levees end. The engineers agreed that they should study whether sediment from the grading would be washed onto Maroney's back yard in the event of a major flood.

A few residents questioned the money Avondale would have to ante up, the expense to maintain the park and the wisdom of irrigating the plants.

The Army Corps is doing a feasibility study to see if it should restore the river from McDowell Road south to where it meets the Gila River, a distance of six miles. The study could be finished in a year and the restoration within two years, said Alex Watt of the Army Corps. As much as \$5 million would be provided by the Corps. Avondale and the Flood Control District would need to match 25 percent of the total.

Not all the feedback was positive.

"So this doesn't help with flooding?" asked Joe Maroney, a truck diver who lives on county land near Southern Avenue and Dysart Road. "It's just a pretty little park for Avondale."

Maroney lives where the

#88

## Rolling dice with Mother Nature



PAUL O'NEILL/TRIBUNE

**Spanning the wash:** A bridge over the apex of the Reatta Pass wash keeps some people from being isolated during flooding.

#89

# Planning flaws raise flood risk

### Questions arise over benefits of greenbelt to fix zealous zoning

BY SCOTT C. SECKEL  
TRIBUNE

The chance of flooding in Arizona is as high as a hurricane striking Florida, which is why Scottsdale leaders are wrestling with the question of whether or not to build the massive Desert Greenbelt flood control project on the city's northern plain.

The proposal would spend about \$100 million for three separate projects comprising 11 miles of channels and four major detention basins covering 190 acres.

As local leaders recently struggled over whether to build the project, make it smaller or simply scrap it, the question of how the city got into the business of massive flood control was asked.

"If a danger exists, why was the city issuing building permits?" City Councilman George Zraket asked. "They said the purpose was to take away any threat of a 100-year flood event causing harm to people and buildings.

And I asked them when they knew that. They knew that a long time ago. And I asked, 'You know, you issued building permits?' It defies logic."

### How it happened

Scottsdale north of Deer Valley Road was zoned by county planners in the early- to mid-1980s, although building had been going on as early as 1959.

"The zoning for this area occurred before we had a Desert Greenbelt project, before we had a Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain," said project manager Dave Meinhart.

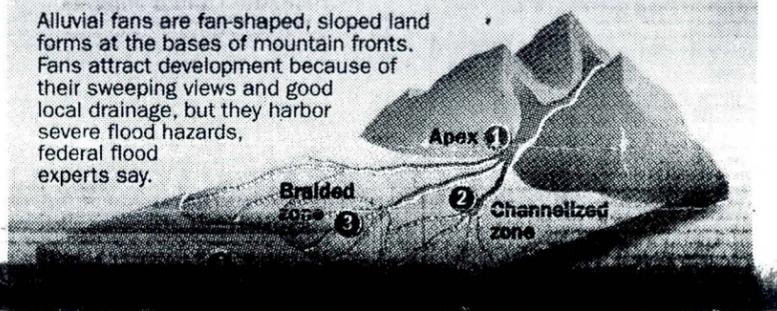
The flood hazard in the McDowell Mountains is known as an alluvial fan, an upside-down funnel which spits rainwater and sediment out of a tightly-focused apex and unpredictably sprays it around a fan-shaped area like a dropped fire hose.

Hjalmarson Winn Hjalmarson wrote all the studies the Greenbelt project is based on.

An arid lands hydrologist for 30 years, Hjalmarson retired in 1993 from the United States Geological Service and now consults

### How alluvial fans work

Alluvial fans are fan-shaped, sloped land forms at the bases of mountain fronts. Fans attract development because of their sweeping views and good local drainage, but they harbor severe flood hazards, federal flood experts say.



- 1 **Apex:** Water from intense storms collects from across the mountains and pours out from this confined point.
- 2 **Channelized zone:** Swift waters carrying sediment and debris out of the mountains either follow pre-existing channels cut by other storms or jump out and create new channels. Flood hazards are most severe in this area.

- 3 **Braided zone:** Water slows down here. Flows widen and become shallower, unpredictably filling old channels with sediment and debris and cutting new channels.
- 4 **Toe:** Water continues to slow and spread out, producing a shallow overland flow called sheet flow.

SOURCE: Federal Emergency Management Agency

SCOTT KIRCHHOFFER/TRIBUNE

for the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

"I don't build things, but everything I do is used to build things," he said. "I describe what's going on, and they describe how to fix it."

### Flawed studies

Fifteen years ago Hjalmarson started collecting data on the McDowell fans. At that time, FEMA's methodology was flawed, making its floodplain map bigger than it actually is, he said. Scientists now use a new

method, usually called the geomorphic method, to estimate the size of floodplains.

"The entire engineering community didn't and still doesn't understand what's going on in alluvial fans," Hjalmarson said. But "they're getting better."

FEMA and Scottsdale started studying the issue around 1987, Meinhart said.

However, the city and the federal agency were using the flawed way of determining the

Please see **FLOOD**, Page **A4**

# FLOOD: Area of high risk called over...

From Page A1

floodplain, Hjalmarson said.

"That whole piedmont there — all the slopes coming off the McDowells — was perfect for applying that old method," he said. "The problem is, it treats the DC Ranch alluvial fan, where Beardsley Road goes up into the mountain, the same as the Reata Pass alluvial fan and the same as the Rawhide alluvial fan. They're all quite different. DC Ranch is not very active. Reata Pass is pretty active. Rawhide is active. They're all mapped basically the same way, totally ignoring geomorphic processes. The result tends to be much larger areas are shown as an area of high risk, and it spreads this risk out uniformly."

Hjalmarson believes a lot more homes were included in the hazard zone determination than are really there.

"When you come along and look at mitigation, i.e. the Greenbelt channel, and you can show that that channel will reduce the flooding on 20,000 houses, now you have a cost-benefit that will sell the channel," he said. "In fact, it might be 10,000 houses that are really subject to flooding. Why quibble? They're alluvial fans and things are dicey."

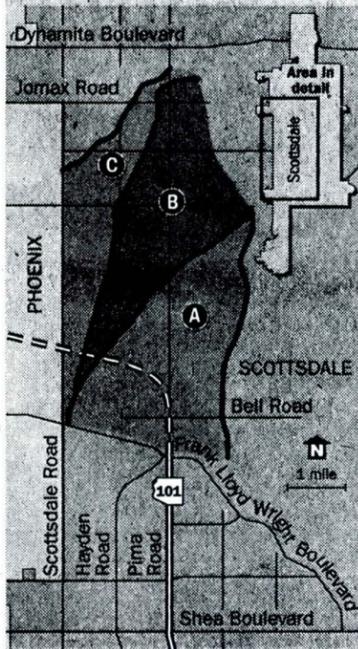
## Science more advanced

Since voters approved the project bond 11 years ago, scientists have learned much more about alluvial fan flooding and how big of an area can be affected.

"It's not fair to go back," Hjalmarson said. "The profession just wasn't up to the challenge. That's what's going on, that we now know a lot more. Our learning curves are steep, very steep."

The McDowell alluvial fan is classified as one of the most hazardous in Maricopa County because of the amount of water and sediment it can spit out, its

## Hazard area population



- A Reata Pass Alluvial Fan**  
2,300 homes  
5,800 people
- B Pima Floodplain**  
2,400 homes  
6,100 people
- C Rawhide Alluvial Fan**  
2,100 homes  
5,300 people

SOURCE: Scottsdale

TRIBUNE

steep slopes and its unpredictability.

"There's a real hazard here," said Maricopa County Flood Control chief Mike Ellegood. "It's not a joke. It's not an effort to promote development. It's a genuine hazard."

A 26 percent chance of a 100-year flood exists during the life of a 30-year mortgage, Hjalmarson said. "It's going to happen," he said.

"It's possible," said Arizona Geological Survey research geologist Phil Pearthree.

## Effect of potential flood

In the event of a flood, rocks about two-feet wide would be



PAUL O'NEILL/TRIBUNE

**Out in the wash:** Desert Greenbelt project manager Dave Meinhart stands in the middle of the Reata Pass wash. "The zoning for this area occurred before we had a Desert Greenbelt project, before we had a Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain," he said.

tossed around like poker chips in a toilet bowl. "These things make noise," Hjalmarson said. "They move. People don't know that, but they move, and roll boulders and stuff."

Potentially, any place a home is located on the fan could take the full force of sediment mixed with a huge amount of water.

"The potential is not just for water, it's for a tremendous amount of erosion," said FEMA Flood Branch chief Jack Eldredge. "Even though you elevate a building on fill, the erosive power is so strong, it could dig that building up."

At least 4,600 homes are in the highest hazard area, according to the city, although they're built on elevated pads to FEMA standards. Another 1,650 homes have been approved by the city for construction in the area.

"This is not a natural ecosystem out here," Meinhart said. "It has been heavily influenced by the hand of man."

## Cost to taxpayers now

The cost of providing after-the-fact flood protection in established neighborhoods is two to three times higher than working on bare ground, said Maricopa County flood control planning

branch manager Russ Miracle.

"My overall thinking is it's a shame they got to this point," Hjalmarson said. "I'm a hardnose when it comes to landforms like this. I think they should have recognized it from the get-go and we should have stayed off of it. We're all unanimously agreed that once you've got quite a bit in there, it's going to take a major engineering structure in there to fix it."

— Tribune writer Scott C. Seckel can be reached by emailing [sseckel@aztrib.com](mailto:sseckel@aztrib.com) or by calling 480-970-2340.

## Greenbelt hurdles

These are the approvals needed to begin the project:

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency: Letter of Map Revision.** Declares area safely removed from flood hazard.
- **Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch: Clean Water Act Section 404 permit.** Determines environmental integrity of watercourse has been maintained after weighing impacts of project and purpose.
- **Reata Pass Improvement District:** Authorization for private landholder contributions.

TRIBUNE

#90

West Valley View 12/6/2000

# High hopes for Rec corridor

by Jeff Billington  
staff writer

Parks, trails and learning centers are in the plans for the West Valley Recreation Corridor.

Jay Hicks, a consultant with Phoenix-based EDAW Inc. architecture firm, said the corridor will include everything from passive walking trails to points of historical interest.

EDAW is helping to plan the corridor's design along with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and the Kimley-Horn & Associates engineering firm of Phoenix.

The corridor will consist of 47 miles of river bed along the Agua Fria River, from the Gila River to Lake Pleasant, and along the New River north of Camelback Road to Circle Mountain Road.

The corridor will pass through unincorporated county lands and the cities of Avondale, El Mirage, Peoria, Glendale, Surprise and Phoenix. Its existence depends on the collaboration of not only local municipalities, but the Flood Control District, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and private entities.

## What it will offer

Hicks said one of the main amenities planned for the project is a hiking trail that would stretch from the Agua Fria's confluence with the Gila and Salt rivers north to Lake Pleasant.

MAG hopes to link the trail with other county trails in the future, thus creating a countywide trail system.

Hicks said planners are also looking at having 3- to 5-acre parks every half-mile to mile along the corridor. The parks could be placed inside the levees along the river.

Other amenities could include open playing fields for sports such as soccer and baseball. Hicks said both the small parks and the playing fields would be accessible from the neighboring communities.

Another idea planned for the corridor is interpretive parks north of Jomax Road, where Hohokam Indian ruins can be found.

"They would be interpreting what was there before and what the ruins are all about," Hicks said.

He added that the parks would be used to inform visitors about the history of the ruins and the surrounding area.

Equestrian uses are also in the plans for the corridor.

"Horse trails are really planned throughout," Hicks said. "These would be pretty much in the [river] channel itself."

## Where it goes from here

The next step in the project will be a series of meetings in February or March, where planners can look at the hydraulics of the water, and determine if and how the waterway may change or move and how to plan the amenities around it.

Hicks said Avondale and Peoria expect to be in the forefront of the corridor project by then.

John F. Long of Phoenix-based John F. Long Properties got the project moving in August 1998, when he called together local governments to work together in making the recreation corridor a reality.

Long has previously told the West Valley View that Avondale has done more for the corridor project than any of the other cities.

#91

1/7/2001

# Resident groups oppose Greenbelt flood-control plan

## Foes say project too pricey, will damage desert environment

BY SCOTT C. SECKEL  
TRIBUNE

When Scottsdale residents speak about the controversial Desert Greenbelt flood control plan at a January public hearing, City Council members will most likely hear them say, "No."

North Scottsdale citizens' groups leaders unanimously give the plan a thumbs-down. Residents are aware of the risk, they say. Environmental damage will be extensive, they believe. And if the project really is necessary, it can be built differently.

City leaders will listen to the public at a hearing in January. Expecting a big turnout, officials will hold the hearing in the Scottsdale Center for the Arts instead of City Hall.

The \$100 million plan is three separate projects comprising 11 miles of channels and four major detention basins covering 190 acres. It is intended to take the brunt of a massive storm flowing from the McDowell Mountains' western slope into north Scottsdale.

A partnership between the city, Maricopa County Flood Control and an area residents' improvement district will pay for the project, with the county agency picking up half the tab.

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently reviewing an Army Corps of Engineers draft environmental analysis of the project.

Desert Foothills Homeowners' Association, representing about 125 households, opposes the project.

North Scottsdale homes have been built to Federal Emergency Management Agency standards, association president Howard Myers said, "meaning you raise the pads if you're in a flood zone. A lot of

the development that has occurred in the area that will be protected by this has also been built to those standards, but there have been a few that weren't, with the city's knowledge," Myers said. "Our feeling is they should be fixed rather than putting this massive project in which will

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Public hearing on the Desert Greenbelt project  
**When:** 5 p.m. Jan. 9  
**Where:** Scottsdale Center for the Arts, 7380 E. Second St.

destroy the downstream vegetation plus encourage more dense development."

Scottsdale government watchdog group People First 2000, representing about 250 people, also opposes the Greenbelt.

"Basically, from an overall needs standpoint, it's a very

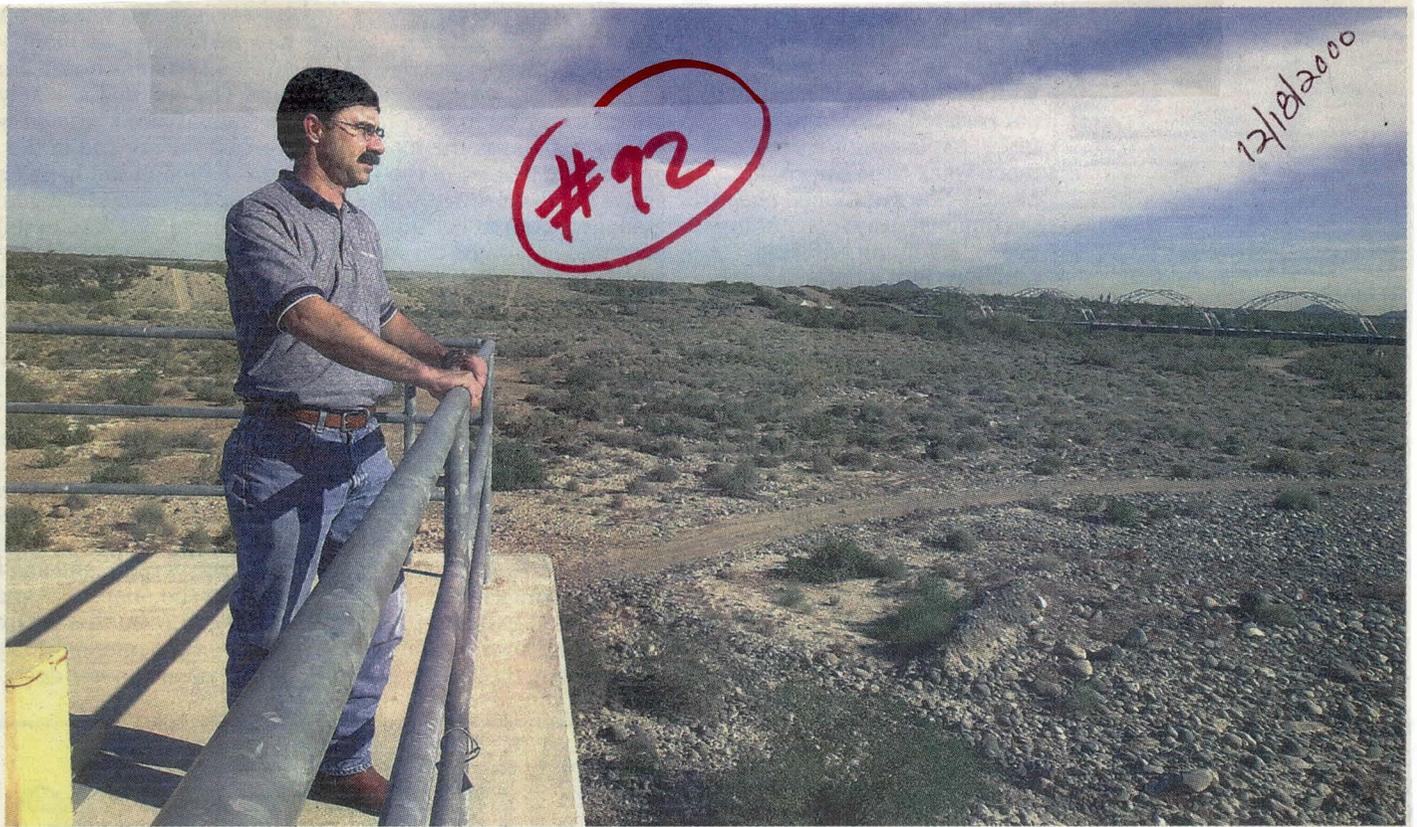
questionable project," chairman Tim Montgomery said. Construction will ruin the Pima Road scenic drive and add to the road's congestion, he said.

"I liken the impact of this project to the 101 freeway construction," Montgomery said. "People have no idea of the tons of dirt that will pile up and the disruption. It behooves our city government to explain what kind of impact this project will have."

A hazard may exist, but not one that should be blunted with a \$100 million project, said Bob Vairo, president of the Coalition of Pinnacle Peak. The growth watchdog group represents about 1,400 north Scottsdale residents.

Vairo said he believes the area will experience a 100-year flood someday.

"The question is whether or not we should spend over \$100 million, reconfigure the desert in a significant way, and possibly destroy or fatally damage the ecosystem in certain areas because we believe this is the only way to cure the problem," he said.



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

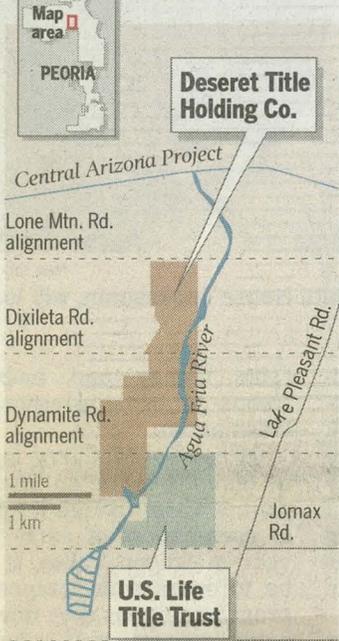
Tom Harbour of the CAP looks out over the Agua Fria River where water diverted from the canal through this diversion valve will recharge the groundwater downstream from Lake Pleasant.

## CAP Recharge Project

The Central Arizona Project wants to start a massive "recharge" water project next year. But it still must acquire about 48 acres of land in the West Valley from Deseret Title Holding Co., a business arm of the Mormon church, and a dozen acres from a private trust. CAP may condemn both properties if the parties can't negotiate a settlement.



parties can't negotiate a settlement.



Tony Bustos/The Arizona Republic

# CAP water plan for West Valley

By Craig Harris  
The Arizona Republic

For the past three years, Tom Harbour has negotiated contracts, lobbied the Legislature and attended numerous meetings to push through a West Valley water project that supporters say will help maintain economic growth in the area.

Now, if all goes as scheduled, the water recharge plan will take place next fall, helping provide a reliable, long-term water resource to cities and developers in the area.

Recharging is taking surface water and using it for future use by storing it below ground in aquifers that have been tapped too low or are partially depleted.

"This project has been on somebody's plate since the late 1980s. This would be very rewarding to me," said Harbour, project manager and a hydrologist for the Central Arizona Project. "It has been a challenge to say the least. ... A lot of people are counting on us, and we are anxious to get this done."

## Recharge project will help growing area

But CAP faces one major hurdle: It must acquire a key piece of land from the Mormon church.

For the past three years the two sides haven't agreed on a price for the nearly 48 acres that's needed to help complete the project. CAP has started the process to condemn the land, and its

board could take formal action in January, said Sid Wilson, CAP general manager.

"But I am trying to work cooperatively with them on something that works for them and us," Wilson said.

On Dec. 11, CAP offered approximately \$934,000, but a church official says the land is worth millions of dollars because of the potential to mine sand and gravel. However, the church currently can't mine the land because it doesn't have the necessary permits.

"The area is just starting to develop, and we have a long-term vision for this property," said Jim Faber, general manager for

# CAP | Water plan nears reality

From Page D1

the church's Arizona farm management company. "We don't want to hold up the project, but we want to protect the assets of our owner, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

Faber said the church is studying the latest offer, but it has proposed having CAP build temporary ponds on the LDS property. That would allow the water to flow around a future mining operation, Faber said.

But CAP would rather have the water flow directly, and the pond proposal may not work because CAP doesn't plan to constantly run the water and the ponds could dry up, Harbour said.

Water is the key to any construction in the Valley because the state requires a 100-year water source for any new development. The state Department of Water Resources said there are no communities in the West Valley currently in danger of not meeting that requirement, but Peoria's Water Resources Manager Brad Hill said that problem could occur in the next few years.

"It all depends on how many subdivisions get submitted to the state," Hill said. "Bankers don't like to loan money to areas that have a fragile water supply."

CAP operates the canal that takes water from the Colorado River and delivers it to Phoenix and Tucson. For the recharge, CAP plans to release hundreds of millions of gallons of water from its aqueduct into a desert area about four miles north of 99th Avenue and Jomax Road.

The water would flow from a "blowoff structure" down a quarter-mile wide sandy channel on the dry Aqua Fria River for about five miles into 115 acres of holding ponds. The water then would percolate downward, recharging 100,000 acre-feet of water per year.

An acre-foot is roughly 326,000 gallons — the amount of water a family of four uses a year.

"It is very important," said John F. Long, a prominent West Valley developer. "This is something that should have been done 20 years ago. It is definitely a project they need to move ahead with."

CAP already has bought or

gained access to roughly 440 acres of land for the estimated \$8 million to \$10 million project. To complete the deal, it must acquire the church property from Desert Title Holding Co., an investment arm of the Mormon church, and a dozen acres from U.S. Life Title Trust, whose parent is in Hong Kong.

CAP has offered the trust \$245,000, but CAP officials said they may have to condemn that stretch of land, too.

Because of the difficulties in getting the final pieces of land, CAP last year went to the Legislature to get condemnation authority. Lawmakers, seeing the need for the project, gave CAP that power.

Harbour, who helped lobby lawmakers, also said CAP doesn't want to condemn the land unless it is forced to do so. The church could appeal in court.

Phoenix first considered operating a recharge project in the late 1980s but dropped the idea, according to Harbour. He said CAP has been working on gathering permits and the design since 1994,

and he has been project manager the past three years.

Construction is slated to begin in the spring, and the water should flow by late summer or fall, Harbour said.

The project would be good news for Peoria, which along with Sun City and Surprise would benefit the most, Peoria's Hill said.

"Clearly, economic growth depends on a sustainable (water) supply, and this project will provide that. This project is going to assist historic economic growth in the West Valley," Hill said.

Sam Colgan, vice president of land development for Del Webb Corp., said the CAP recharge project is a vital component to long-term sustainable growth in the Phoenix area. But he adds there are other smaller recharges being planned in the area.

"There is no one solution to the water issues in Arizona," Colgan said. "This (CAP) is one tool that is certainly in support to achieving better groundwater solutions."

Reach the reporter at [craig.harris@arizona.com](mailto:craig.harris@arizona.com) or (602) 444-8995.

#93

Dec. 29, 1999 - Jan. 4, 2000

## Flood Control District invites residents to voice concerns about local flooding

A series of public meetings will allow East Valley residents to give their opinions on the best way to solve flooding issues in their neighborhoods.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County will host three public meetings in January. The first two will focus on the Higley Area Drainage Master Plan and the third will allow people to comment on the Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan.

The Higley plan is a study that will identify flood-prone areas in the 75-square-mile area that runs from approximately Arizona Avenue on the west to Sossaman Road on the east, from McDowell Road on the north to Hunt Highway on the south. This study considers areas in east Mesa, Gilbert and Chandler. The outcome of this study will be the development of cost-effective solutions for the disposal of storm water. It is

hoped that a plan can be implemented before April 2000.

The Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan encompasses the 35 square miles from Power Road in east Mesa to Highway 88 in Apache Junction, from the base of the Goldfield Mountains to approximately Superstition Boulevard. It's purpose is also to identify the best means of routing storm water.

"It is extremely important that we take whatever precautions are necessary to protect the people living in the flood plain," Mike Ellegood, chief engineer and general manager, said in a flood control district press release. "It is also important that we ask the people who live in these areas how they would best like to see this happen."

Both plans may allow for the preservation of open space with the creation of basins and natural earth channels. These may ultimately be developed with multi-

use features in mind, such as hiking and equestrian trails or parks, according to the press release.

Public meetings are:

- Jan. 4, 6-8 p.m., Higley Area Drainage Master Plan public meeting at Brimhall Junior High School, 4949 E. Southern Ave., east Mesa.

- Jan. 5, 6-8 p.m., Higley Area Drainage Master Plan public meeting at Mesquite Junior High School, 130 W. Mesquite St., Gilbert.

- Jan. 18, 6-8 p.m., Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan public meeting at Red Mountain Multigenerational Center, 7550 E. Adobe, east Mesa.

Senior Project Manager Tim Phillips and study consultants will attend the these meetings to answer questions. For more information please call him at (602) 506-1501 or attend the public meetings.

#94

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ME

# E.V. gains county flood control funds

## Greenbelt's loss, E.V. gains

Flood control projects benefiting from Scottsdale's decision:

- \$3.5 million Ellsworth Road and channel project for drainage in Mesa
- \$5 million retention basins for ADOT on the San Tan Freeway
- \$2 million to accelerate construction of eastern Maricopa County floodway basins draining Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler and Queen Creek

SOURCE: Maricopa County Flood Control District

TRIBUNE

## Other cities to benefit from Scottsdale's rejection of Greenbelt

BY ED BAKER  
TRIBUNE

East Valley residents will benefit from \$10.5 million in county funds freed by a surprise Scottsdale decision to scrap plans for a massive flood control canal, Maricopa County flood control officials said Wednesday.

Among the biggest local winners is the East Maricopa Floodway project. County

planners want to turn the structure, which runs through Mesa, Gilbert and Queen Creek, into a sprawling 26-mile park similar to Scottsdale's Indian Bend Wash.

About \$2.5 million soon will be added to the project's budget — money that should speed the construction of more retention basins needed to protect area residents from flooding, said Mike Ellegood, general manager of the Maricopa County Flood Control District.

Homes have been built in East Valley areas prone to flooding during 100-year floods faster than the flood control district

could keep up, Ellegood said. The cost of fixing the problem after neighborhoods are built — roads must sometimes be ripped up — is substantially greater than building before residential construction begins.

"We're trying to get ahead of development," he said.

Also receiving a big financial boost is a plan to enlarge retention basins associated with the San Tan Freeway stretch of Loop 202. The county plans to funnel an additional \$5.5 million toward the project, which will help collect runoff from the freeway and flood canals origi-

Please see **FLOOD**, Page **A8**

# FLOOD: Concerns over cost linger

From Page **A1**

nating in Chandler and Gilbert. The county also will use \$3.5 million to reconstruct portions of Ellsworth Road in Mesa and accelerate nearby drainage improvement projects. The reallocation of money will require final approval by the county Board of Supervisors.

Overall the county wants to spend more than \$215 million in the next decade to reduce potential flood problems throughout the south East Valley. The improvements could reap huge benefits by turning land more prone to flooding into prime developable land.

But concerns over the high cost and disputes over who will pay linger. Maricopa County has argued the cities who benefit from the projects should share in the costs, an increasingly common county practice.

Some city officials had asked the county to consider raising the levy assessed on property owners to meet flood control needs. But county leadership appears unlikely to approve such an action.

The additional money added to the East Valley projects Wednesday, to be included in the county's 2002-03 and 2003-04 budgets, will not relieve the need for cities to share in the long-term cost of flood control, Ellegood said.

"The need for the cost share is still there," he said.

Chandler leaders, among those to benefit from additional money being pumped into local flood projects, said they have not yet gauged the impact of the county's announcement Wednesday.

But any move to accelerate construction of flood control structures in the south East Valley is welcome, said George Selvia, the city's public works director.

Selvia said he would like to see county officials provide more information about the benefits and costs of the projects on Chandler. And he said he would like to make sure city and county residents are asked to pay similar amounts to fund the projects.

Scottsdale's decision on Tuesday to scrap plans for the \$100 million Desert Greenbelt

flood control project astonished many observers. The plan was aimed at protecting north Scottsdale homeowners whose houses were built before the area's flood patterns were understood.

The move pleased many area residents, who thought the project too costly and damaging to the environment.

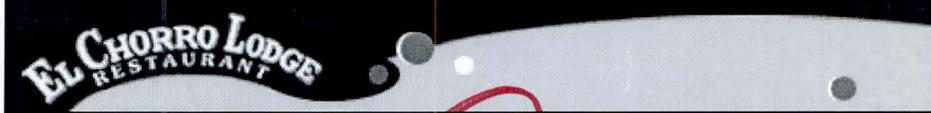
Scottsdale officials must quickly find a way to protect residents from flooding, Mayor Mary Manross said. New solutions may target areas at higher risk of flooding, as north Scottsdale residents have made it clear they do not favor a large-scale solution.

The county had secured \$16 million in funding for the Scottsdale project: \$10.5 million is scheduled to be reallocated to other East Valley projects. The other \$5.5 million will go elsewhere, including a flood control project near Luke Air Force Base in the west Valley.

— Tribune writers Scott C. Seckel and Alia Beard Rau contributed to this report.

— Tribune writer Ed Baker can be reached by e-mail at ebaker@aztrib.com or by calling (480) 821-7466.

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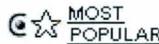
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC the Rep

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# Peoria flood plan preserves desert

**David Madrid**  
The Arizona Republic  
Jan. 19, 2002

Get a good rain and the floodwaters will rage through the desert.

But rather than building concrete channels to divert the water, Peoria plans to take a different approach by using the natural washes and channels to move the water.

So, as Peoria grows to the north, it is thoroughly addressing its flood-control measures with the North Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan.

The plan seeks to preserve the natural flood-control function of existing washes and channels, which in turn will minimize disturbances to the floodplain ecosystem and habitat.

The plan encompasses 73 square miles of the foothills area north of Jomax Road west of the Agua Fria River and south of Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

By using natural drainage patterns, the city figures it can save itself some money by avoiding construction and maintenance of man-made structures.

Dave Moody, Peoria's public works director, noted that although natural washes and channels will still need some maintenance, they won't need as much as man-made concrete structures would.

Debra Stark, director of community development, said the city wants to avoid concrete channels such as are used in Sun City and along 99th Avenue.

"The channel that runs along 99th Avenue is very functional and very useful, but it's not aesthetically nice," she said. "If you want to preserve and protect open space, that's not the way to go."

She acknowledged that there will be some locations where the use of concrete channels will be needed.

- Getting started
- Education
- Housing
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- Kids
- Teens
- Miscellaneous
- Maricopa County restaurant inspections

concrete channels will be needed.

The city, she said, is taking an overall view of flood control rather than approaching it piecemeal.

While the city addresses and designs its flood-control methods to the north, it will also take into account the effect of the water as it moves south.

That will be good news for residents, such as those belonging to the Westbrook Village Golf Club. The golf club sued the city last year, alleging that, because houses were built north of Beardsley Road between 83rd and 99th avenues, the land there cannot absorb even a minimum amount of rainfall.

The result, according to club officials, is that runoff floods the two golf courses.

Stark said the city plans to work with developers, landowners, residents and government entities such as the Flood Control District of Maricopa County to further develop and perfect its flood-control plan.

**Reach the reporter at david.madrid@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6926.**

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# Greenbelt rejection exposes city to lawsuit

## Flood-control advocates vow to target council members in litigation

BY SCOTT C. SECKEL  
TRIBUNE

The Scottsdale City Council was warned about potential liability attached to the \$100 million Desert Greenbelt project, but council members last month still voted unanimously to kill the flood-control plan.

Legal experts disagree on whether the city has exposed itself to a potential lawsuit.

City Attorney David Pennartz said in a public meeting last month the city could be exposed to flood-related lawsuits if people were led to believe their homes eventually would be protected.

Pennartz shared in-depth warnings in closed session.

"I'm not really at liberty to talk about how defensible those

claims could be," he said later.

Some of the 17,200 people living in north Scottsdale's flood-hazard areas have vowed to sue. Pima Acres homeowners association president Tony Morino is one of them.

"The next time we have some serious flooding, and there are some injuries or serious property damage, there's going to be a class-action suit against the city and each council member that voted this down in favor of politics," Morino said. "They left themselves open for some serious liability. Pima Acres is prone to the flooding that they're pooh-poohing."

Burton Kinerk, a Tucson attorney and the state's leading flood litigator for decades, successfully sued Salt River Project in 1973 after structural changes made to a canal led to flooding in a nearby development. The case was upheld on appeal.

"If the city has a drainage area, and it knows by its own

### OTHER FLOOD HAZARDS

■ A flood-control project in Las Vegas was half-built when a big storm hit in 1999. Officials estimated the damage would have been four times worse without the existing system.

■ Flooding from the Napa River in California caused \$542 million in property damage between 1961 and 1997, but no one held the government responsible. Napa County voters in the late '90s approved the Napa River Flood Protection Project, which will provide protection from a 100-year flood.

engineering it's going to produce volumes of water in a given locality, then there can be liability," he said.

Kinerk noted the liability

would be limited to the city's role in allowing development in those areas. If a drainage study had been completed showing minimal flooding in the event of a 100-year flood, that also would limit the liability, he said.

Jay Dushoff represented most of the north Scottsdale residents whose land was condemned for the Greenbelt project. He said the city won't be liable as long as the hazard is left in its natural state.

The city is "not required to go in and do pre-emptive work," Dushoff said. "They have no obligation to do that legally. None at all."

Scottsdale controls about 30 percent of the McDowell Mountains. Property owners are liable for "dangerous things escaping" their land, said Arizona State University law professor Paul Bender. In that sense, liability to the city is possible, "if it was negligent in failing to protect people, or if the floodwaters came from its land."



# Greenbelt rejection costs city millions

Without flood protection, funds required for other projects likely to balloon

BY SCOTT C. SECKEL  
TRIBUNE

When the Scottsdale City Council scrapped the controversial Desert Greenbelt flood-control project in January, the decision may have cost taxpayers \$80 million — and final figures could go higher.

The project proposed building 11 miles of channels and four large

detention basins to contain catastrophic flooding from the west face of the McDowell Mountains.

The cost breakdown includes:

■ If a flood-control project never gets built, the city will have lost the nearly \$22 million invested in the project.

■ Bond project costs for north Scottsdale road improvements could double, from \$58 million to \$116 million.

Increasing flood protection for the city's \$160 million wastewater-treatment plant — built on the assumption that the flood-control

project would be built — may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars more, senior public works planner Dave Meinhart said.

And \$47 million pledged to the project by the Maricopa County Flood Control District will be reallocated to other flood-control projects.

The money the city has spent on the project includes \$3.5 million on an engineering firm it later fired, about \$5.5 million on staff salaries and \$5.2 million on condemnation cases.

Scottsdale voters in September

Please see **GREENBELT**, Page A6

## Desert Greenbelt costs

City costs added up to \$19.9 million.

	In millions
Staff salaries 	\$5.5
Condemnation cases 	\$5.2
Fired engineers 	\$3.5
Final engineers 	\$2.4

■ The transportation bond would have put \$58 million into north Scottsdale roads; now that may cost the city \$116 million.

■ The Flood Control District of Maricopa County paid Scottsdale \$3.5 million for Greenbelt portions. The city may have to repay the district \$1.7 million.

SOURCE: City of Scottsdale

Barry Nichols/TRIBUNE

## GREENBELT: City may have to pay back flood-control district

From Page A1

approved a \$126 million bond issue for streets and transportation improvements. Of the money, \$58 million was slated for north Scottsdale roads designed contingent on the Greenbelt being built.

"We've done some in-house analysis and seen that some of those roadway sections could be 100 percent more in cost over what we've estimated, so we have to take a much closer look at that," Meinhart said.

Final expenses may be much higher. The \$160 million wastewater-treatment plant was built in the belief the Greenbelt would protect it from flooding, transportation planning director Alex McLaren said.

In addition, the city may have

to pay back \$1.7 million to the flood-control district.

The agency paid Scottsdale \$3.5 million for some parts of the Greenbelt project, including a structure around Pinnacle Peak Road bridge and some rights of way. About \$1.8 million was spent on the Pinnacle Peak structure, including design and right of way.

Because that's being used for drainage purposes, the city won't have to pay the agency back. But the city may have to reimburse the flood-control district for those parts of the project that won't be used for drainage, such as a \$1.7 million right of way in Reata Pass Wash.

What the city will have to pay the agency hasn't yet been determined, according to the district's

policy branch manager Dick Perreault, who oversees the agency's finances.

In addition to the lost cash, the \$47 million the district would have put into the Greenbelt has at least been temporarily lost to pay for drainage needs in other parts of the Valley.

Scottsdale residents pay property taxes directly to the district, which is an autonomous agency. Since 1977 Scottsdale residents have paid more than \$99 million into district coffers and this project would have been the first time the city got a significant amount of money back.

That money pays for flood-protection projects such as the Greenbelt and other drainage improvements.

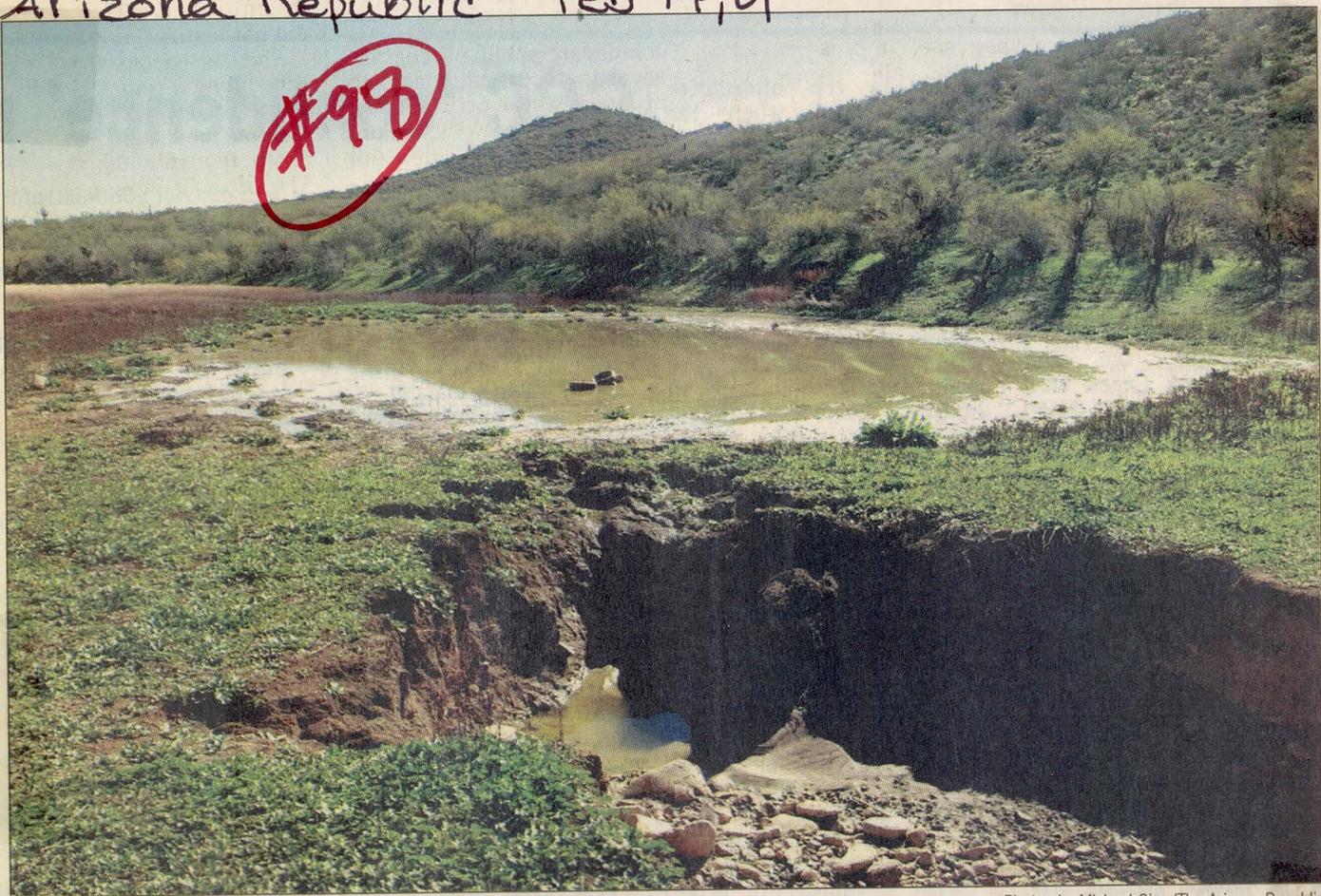
But the fund works like a carousel horse: Cities have to spend the money when it's available or wait until it comes around again. Now the \$47 million has gone to drainage for the San Tan Freeway stretch of Loop 202 in the East Valley and flood protection for Luke Air Force Base.

Scottsdale also is trying to recover \$1.3 million from the flood-control project's original designer. Phoenix-based Greiner Engineering created a design that didn't meet federal standards. The city dumped Greiner in 1997.

The lawsuit against Greiner continues with no substantial changes, said assistant city attorney Deborah Robberson.

—Tribune writer Scott C. Seckel can be reached by e-mail at [sseckel@aztrib.com](mailto:sseckel@aztrib.com) or by calling (480) 970-2340.

#998



Photos by Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Deceptively peaceful Skunk Creek, north of Carefree Highway and into New River, often poses the threat of flood.

# Heading off floodwaters

## Skunk Creek area, development studied

Maricopa County is studying whether concrete structures or Mother Nature should handle flood water along Skunk Creek. The natural approach would prohibit building in some areas.

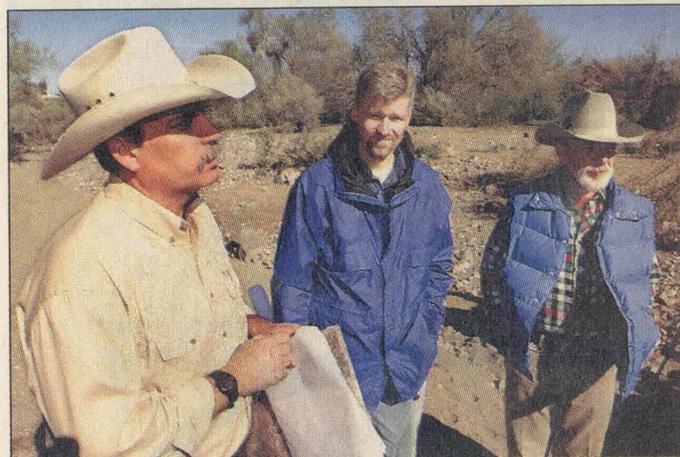
By Kathleen Ingley  
The Arizona Republic

Flooding threatens more and more people as development pushes into the north Valley, and Maricopa County is studying the best way to protect them.

The county Flood Control District is focusing on the upper part of Skunk Creek Wash, which runs north of the Carefree Highway and includes the New River area. Initial results of the study will be presented at a public meeting Thursday.

Traditionally, the solution would be dams and concrete channels. But the county is leaning toward a cheaper and more environmentally friendly "go with the flow" strategy: Keep development out of hazardous areas and build limited flood-control structures.

Some residents, though, fear the county will make property difficult or impos-



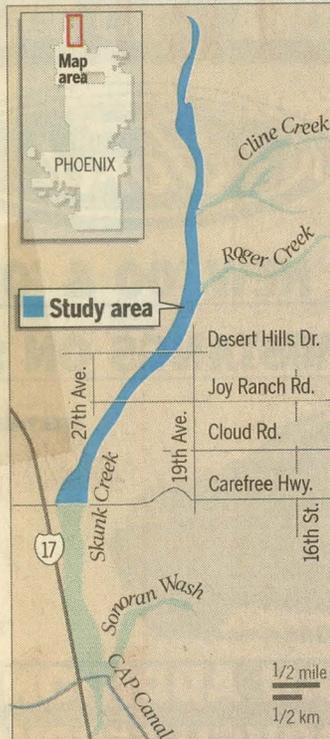
Thomas Loomis (left), Jonathan Fuller and George Sabol, flood-control consultants, survey Skunk Creek.

sible to develop.

H. "Woody" Woods, a local real estate agent, says flood-control rules "cost people sometimes their life savings and make it (property) completely worthless." He questions the risk of flooding from Skunk Creek because "it flows so

fast, it never backs up."

With such fast-moving water and fragile soil, erosion is the county's biggest worry, said Douglas Williams, regional planning manager for the Flood Control District.



Tony Bustos/The Arizona Republic

## Flood zone homes face buyouts

By Mike McCloy  
The Arizona Republic

Maricopa County taxpayers just bought Bill Cole's new house for \$146,000.

Not bad for four bedrooms on an acre. Triple garage, tile roof and a bay-window view of the desert hills near Carefree Highway and Interstate 17.

Except for one thing: The house never should have been

### Where to call

To find out whether your Maricopa County home site is in an area that could potentially flood, call (602) 506-1501.

built. A permit was issued in error by the Maricopa County Flood Control District, which monitors construction close to Skunk Tank Wash.

"We made a mistake," district General Manager Mike Ellegood said. "We couldn't let anybody occupy that house. We had to buy him out."

But that will not end the problem. Across the street, a house is even closer to the wash, and downstream there is another one. More than a dozen were built and occupied near Skunk Creek before the latest flood study officially put them

in danger.

The Flood Control District may offer to buy the homes, said Shanna Yager, district permit manager. The district is preparing a voluntary buyout program because a dam to protect the homes could be 10 times more expensive.

So far, 17 homes have been identified for buyout in this area. With owners claiming values of \$300,000 and higher,

the estimated cost could exceed \$5 million.

It is the price of growth, officials say.

The Valley is one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas and has been for more than 50 years. Flood control has been around for only 40.

"We're trying to get out ahead of development," Yager

See **DOOMED** | Page B2

X-999

MAX



Joshua G. Weisberg/The Arizona Republic

Jim and Kasey McKeag stand with son Jimmy by their home in the Skunk Creek flood zone. They may be forced to move.

## DOOMED | County may buy out homes

From Page B1

said. "Good luck to us."

By all accounts, Cole, a Mesa air conditioning contractor, did everything right. He got the required permits and inspections and raised the foundation to the specified level.

But a flood control agent apparently missed a new report on potential storms and local geography. Ellegood would not name the agent but said "he didn't do it with malice." The report said the house should not have been built because it is in a "floodway" that must be kept clear.

"It was a beautiful house," Cole said. "It just makes me

sick."

Maricopa County Supervisor Andy Kunasek, who represents the north Valley, is not feeling too well either.

"There was a screw-up," he said. "That's just unacceptable. It better not happen again."

The \$146,000 mistake was spotted when a neighbor, concerned about flood insurance requirements for a mortgage, asked why her house had to be elevated higher than Cole's, which was closer to the wash.

A flood control crew will tear down the house, bust up the foundation and dig out the septic system.

Meanwhile, flood control of-

### Costly mistake

County taxpayers are buying a house in the 36000 block of North 17th Avenue and tearing it down because of a permit error. The house is in the Skunk Creek flood area.



Kee Rash/The Arizona Republic

officials are bringing bad news to homeowners farther north.

Jim McKeag, 33, a retired sheriff's deputy, said he has little choice but to let the Flood Control District buy him out of what he considers the best place to live: a house on 3 acres near Seventh Avenue and Honda Bow Road that he said is worth about \$400,000.

The McKeags have been there eight years.

"Really, we don't want to move," McKeag said.

# Trees help seed W. Valley recreation area

By Eddie North-Hager  
The Arizona Republic

The dozen cottonwood saplings planted on the banks of the Agua Fria River on Thursday didn't do much to improve the looks of the 20-foot-high concrete levees that surround the dry and barren riverbed.

But one day trees in Coldwater Park will anchor the longest recreation corridor in the Valley: 47 miles of parks and trails stretching from Lake Pleasant to Avondale along the Agua Fria River and New River.

"I have hiked the Agua Fria and it's a real eyesore and it divides the West Valley," said developer John F. Long, who, along with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, is spearheading the project. "Instead of the detriment it is now, we should make it an asset. It could tie the West Valley together instead of separate it."

The trees, planted for Arbor Day, are only the most recent development along what is becoming the West Valley Recreation Corridor.

In the last nine months, more than \$14 million has been targeted toward the project that will wind its way through eight cities.

Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox offered Thursday to lend the county's lobbyist to Avondale, which is applying for a \$500,000 federal grant to build a two-mile trail and a pedestrian bridge to cross the Agua Fria River, linking two parks on the corridor.

Earlier this month the Tourism and Sports Authority awarded Avondale \$4.4 million toward a \$6.6 million sports complex along the Agua Fria River at McDowell Road.

Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer announced in February the county will allow



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Developer John F. Long and his 5-year-old grandson, Arron Long-Lewis, plant a tree at Coldwater Park in Avondale.

the cities to use maintenance roads — rights of way worth millions of dollars — along the New River and lower Agua Fria River for hiking and biking trails.

The Army Corps of Engineer started a yearlong study in October that should result in a \$5 million project to restore the last five miles of the Agua Fria to its natural state.

In February, Glendale designated \$2 million for trails along the New River in its long-

range plans.

In July, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office awarded \$10,000 in confiscated drug money to buy playground equipment in Coldwater Park.

But the West Valley Recreation Corridor still has years to go before it will be completed, as each city will propose its own plan with its own funding source.

"Planting trees is an important part of the river restoration, but it is only the beginning of the work we have to do," Brewer said. "We can rehabilitate this river. From a dry, barren chasm we can forge a place of watery abundance."

Long resurrected the idea of a river park about three years ago. He called the parks and recreation directors of each city for a private meeting, sold the idea and then held a regional get-together.

"Trying to get five or six pol-

## Input sought

Citizens can voice their opinions about the West Valley Recreation Corridor at three meetings of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County. For more information, call (602) 906-1411.

■ 6:30 p.m. May 29 at Estrella Mountain Community College, North Community Room, 3000 N. Dysart Road, Avondale.

■ 6:30 p.m. May 31 at Peoria High School Cafeteria, 11200 N. 83rd Ave., Peoria.

■ 2 p.m. June 1 at West Valley Art Museum, 17420 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise.

iticians together and agreeing on a plan would be hard and maybe it would never get accomplished," Long said.

Instead, city and county officials not only supported the idea but also acted on the vision.

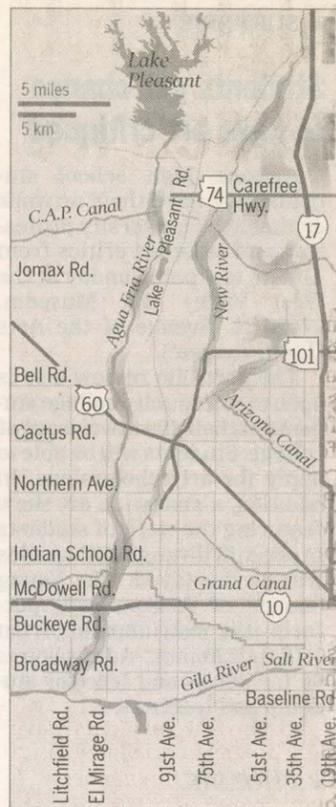
Phoenix, which has a six-mile trail system just south of Camelback Highway, plans to build Camelback Ranch Park along New River and Camelback Road in about a year.

Peoria will link its planned regional park along New River and Grand Avenue to the corridor, which is included in the city's parks and trails master plan.

The regional effort, touted as a tourist attraction, is also winning over critics. Surprise, initially reluctant because of tax-paying sand and gravel companies in the river bed, is now considering getting involved. "If we take a careful look now at creative alternatives to concrete ditches, we can shape our public space into lands that are attractive and serve useful purposes beyond flood control," said Mike Ellegood, Flood Control District general manager.

Reach the reporter at (eddie.north-hager@arizona-republic.com or 602) 444-6918.

## West Valley Recreation Corridor



Patti Valdez/The Arizona Republic

#101



Sections

West Valley View- News

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Your Community Newspaper!

# Options narrow for opponents of sand, gravel op

by Jeff Billington  
staff writer

Residents of a south Avondale neighborhood are running out of chances to stop a sand and gravel operation from being built in their neighborhood. Construction equipment already has made its mark on the site, located on the west side of Dys Road south of Avondale's wastewater treatment plant. Those who live in the area around the site have spent the last two weeks protesting the facility builder, New West Materials Inc., a subsidiary of Pulice Construction of Phoenix.



**Close to home**  
Residents opposed to the building of a sand and gravel operation near their Avondale homes met with county and city officials May 11 to discuss their concerns. The operation is planned for construction on county land west of Dysart Road, south of the Avondale Wastewater Treatment Facility and north of Southern Avenue. View photo by Scott D. Ruby

New West Materials applied last September to put the operation there, along with an asphalt batch plant. The city of Avondale has joined with area residents voicing opposition to the operation. But si

the planned facility is on county land and not in Avondale, the city has no legal voice in what it can be built.

At a meeting May 11, area residents were told most of their hopes for getting the operation would not happen. There had been some question regarding whether part of the land in the site plan actually fell within Avondale's jurisdiction - thus giving the city some land use control. "The land was not Avondale's, so that went out the window," Maricopa County Supervisor M Rose Wilcox said.

That leaves the land completely in county control, which is not restrictive on sand and gravel operations since it is considered mining, she said. Wilcox, who represents District 5, acknowledged that due to state law, the county has little control in mining operations. As long as they are in conformance with the Maricopa Flood Control District, a sand and gravel operation can be started there, Wilcox said.

The flood control district only requires that no new or expanded flooding is caused by the operation. Since New West met that standard, they could not legally be turned down for a permit, she said.

"There were no grounds on which to deny it," she said. "We could not hold it up for any purpose."

Following up on the residents' voiced concerns to the facility, the county checked to see if it could be stopped.

"We have looked at everything. The bottom line is we don't think we can overturn it," Wilcox said.

Even though the county may not be able to stop the sand and gravel operation, it may be able to halt the plans for the asphalt batch plant, she added. Since it requires a special use permit the county can say no to it.

"I'm not inclined by any percentage to vote for an asphalt batch facility," Wilcox said.

Mike Ellegood, chief engineer and general manager of the Maricopa County Flood Control District, said it is always better to be part of a municipality when it comes to land use. A city has more control in what land can be used for, he said.

"There's a prescribed set of rules that an applicant for a sand and gravel operation have to conform with [in county land]," Ellegood said.

If the operation does that, it can do whatever it wants, he said.

#### **Opposition to continue**

Todd Sundquist, one of the residents who has led the protest, said if they cannot stop the operation from happening, they will retaliate in other ways.

"If we can't stop them from coming in, we're going to make them wish they never did," he said. Using video cameras to record environmental law violations at the site is one of the plans the residents hope to use against New West, Sundquist said. The video cameras could transport images directly to a Web site, which could be accessed by anyone at any time to check for nonconformance at the operation, he explained.

Area resident, Joe Maroney, asked whether the company had all the permits that are needed for the facility. Ellegood confirmed New West has flood plain use, flowage easement and dust permits; the company still needed building, special use, haul rate and notice of intent permits, however.

There also are questions dealing with a 401 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Maroney asked if that was required before work can start at the site.

The application for the flood control district's permit says it is, but New West does not yet have one - even though they had already started ground work at the site, he said.

Ellegood said he did not believe it was needed until the company actually started mining. The Corps of Engineers also may waive the need of the permit.

Even though it may be too late to stop the sand and gravel operation from going in, Avondale City Manager Scott Schrader said residents still should look at being annexed into the city. That could help stop the asphalt batch plant, as well as keeping other operations like it out of the area.

#102

# Mosquitoes 'like biblical plague'

By David Madrid  
The Arizona Republic

For Jeff Esling, the attack of the hungry mosquitoes isn't a B-movie plot, it's a reality that he is afraid could drive him out of business this summer.

Esling is co-owner of the West Valley Driving Range near 99th and Northern avenues in Glendale.

"In September, it started like a biblical plague," Esling said. "There were billions and billions of them. You didn't go out there and get a couple of bites. At times, you could wipe your leg and kill about 50 of them."

And though Esling is hoping for relief from the problem this year, it is uncertain whether he will get it.

The swarms that plagued the driving range lasted into October, though Esling said the financial impact of the mosquito attacks lingered until January when customers finally returned in previous numbers.

He says he knows where the swarms are coming from. The driving range sits near the New River, where water accumulates in sitting ponds, giving mosquitoes the water they need to breed.

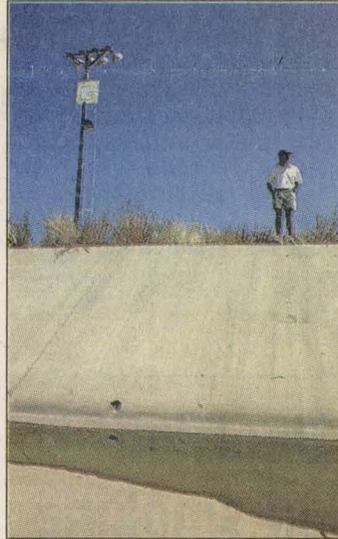
Peoria resident Chris Davia experienced similar mosquito problems at his home, where his family and neighbors kept the mosquitoes fed last year. He lives near where Skunk Creek meets the Arizona Canal Diversion Channel, which empties into the New River.

Davia can point across the channel to a big pond of standing water that is trapped at the mouth of Skunk Creek as a likely breeding ground for mosquitoes.

There are two types of mosquitoes in Maricopa County. The floodwater mosquito, which does not carry disease, can breed in water puddles that stand for more than three days.

The Culex mosquito, which can carry encephalitis diseases, breeds in more permanent bodies of water.

Most of the problems expe-



The Arizona Republic

**West Valley Driving Range co-owner Jeff Esling says mosquitoes breeding in this canal have hurt his business.**

rienced by Esling and Davia are from the aggressive floodwater mosquito, said John Townsend, Maricopa County vector control program manager. But a flock of sentinel chickens have been placed near 83rd Avenue and the Loop 101 so they can be monitored for the encephalitis strains.

"The big problem over there is the flood control channel goes into New River and kind of feeds all that stuff," Townsend said. "We try to treat all we can, but the channel was built years back to convey water from storms, and it's turned into something that collects water year around. We're getting a lot of problems coming from areas like that."

So why not just dredge the channel and the New River so the water flows?

Joe Munoz, a spokesman for the flood control district, said that in order to dredge a waterway, a 404 permit is needed from the Army Corps of Engineers.

"It is just an incredible process to get a 404 permit," Munoz said. "You have to prove to them you aren't messing with the environment and the ecology."

May 11/91

\*103

Art Mike El

# Let beneficiaries pay flood-control costs

**T**he old Fram oil filter commercial featured a grease-covered mechanic peering up from under a car hood to describe some of the costly mechanical repairs that lie ahead for those who don't invest in a \$5 oil filter today.

"You can pay me now," he said, "or you can pay me later."

Flood control is like that. This desert can fool people. Mostly dry, often hot conditions seem the antithesis of those ripe for devastating deluges of water. But when the rain comes, fast and furious, it can roar down out of the mountains, bringing oceans of mud and rocks the size of an SUV crashing into outlying homes and businesses. In urban areas, within seconds flash flooding can put waist-high torrents in living rooms.

But during the past year, major flood-control projects have been rejected in the East Valley. In March, Mesa voters rejected a \$21.5 million plan to expand the stormwater system. In January, the Scottsdale City Council unanimously turned down a \$100 million Desert Greenbelt project to channel floodwater from the McDowell Mountains. Its defeat could mean tens of millions of dollars in unforeseen spending will be needed to redesign roads in north Scottsdale to stand up better to runoff, because existing designs were made assuming the Greenbelt would be built.

Proponents of both proposals said

many more millions of dollars in property damage — which would send residents and business owners straight to the federal relief line paid for by taxpayers — could have been prevented. When designed correctly, flood-control projects have another benefit: providing recreational opportunities through hiking, bicycling and equestrian paths along channels.

Voters may want flood control, but as taxpayers they seem to be saying they don't want to pay for it. We suggest an alternative for flood protection throughout the East Valley that taxpayers from Indiana, New Jersey and South Carolina — or even from Wickenburg and Gila Bend — would not have to pay for: an improvement district created and funded by property owners in affected areas.

Those who benefit from flood protection pay a proportionate share of the cost based on the value of each property as a sound, relatively painless way to protect one's investment.

Unbuildable land near proposed channels and retention basins could be developed privately for recreational uses or sold or leased to the city or county for the same purpose.

Let those who will be the primary, if not the only, beneficiaries of flood control pay for it now, or possibly be looking into the eyes of that Fram mechanic later.

2-2-01

## Tribune

A FREEDOM NEWSPAPER

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The Opinion pages of the Tribune are dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to do the same. The Tribune's guiding philosophy rests on three tenets: The Declaration of Independence, the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule.

# Glendale/Peoria

Community Edition

SATURDAY

May 26, 2001

## Rivers corridor meetings slated

By Dennis Godfrey  
The Arizona Republic

Forty-seven miles of recreation corridor in the West Valley. It will take years — probably decades — to finish, but the West Valley Recreation Corridor is more than a dream.

Work is under way on a master plan for the combination recreation/flood control project along the Agua Fria and New rivers. Three meetings next week offer people the chance to see what has been done so

far. The schedule:

■ 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Estrella Mountain Community College, 3000 N. Dysart Road, Avondale.

■ 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Peoria High School, 11200 N. 83rd Ave., Peoria.

■ 2 p.m. Friday at West Valley Art Museum, 17420 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise.

The same information will be presented at each session, said Kris Baxter of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County. Participants will get an

update on the plan and be shown alternatives for different parts of the project.

After the formal presentations, participants will be able to meet informally with a variety of experts, Baxter said.

The West Valley Recreation Corridor is largely the dream of developer John F. Long. He envisioned an uninterrupted trail system from Lake Pleasant to Avondale punctuated by playgrounds, soccer fields, picnic areas and overnight campgrounds.

Even without a master plan, which is scheduled to be adopted by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors on Sept. 30, work is beginning. More than \$14 million has been committed to the project within the last year.

Information on the public meetings is available from Michelle Olson at (480) 998-2600 or at [www.agua-fria.org](http://www.agua-fria.org).

Reach the reporter at [dennis.godfrey@arizonarepublic.com](mailto:dennis.godfrey@arizonarepublic.com) or (602) 444-6921.



The Arizona Republic

#104

# Buyout sought for home in wash

May 28, 01

#105

By Mike McCloy  
The Arizona Republic

Kelly Graber's house was a \$45,000 repo, abandoned and overgrown with weeds.

But it's on 2 acres in the northwest Valley city of Surprise. Once her in-laws finished the wiring, septic tank and carpeting, the three-bedroom house was fine when Graber and her family moved there in February 2000.

Eight months later, it rained hard. Washes in western Maricopa County flooded, and Graber found herself in the middle of one.

Now Graber wants Surprise to buy her out because the city issued a permit for her home.

In a similar situation, the Maricopa County Flood Control District last month paid \$146,000 for a house because it was permitted, by mistake, too close to a wash in the north Valley.

Even though it does flood-plain management for Surprise, the district is not taking the blame for Graber's flood-prone home.

"The city never forwarded the permit to us," said Joe Munoz, a spokesman for the Flood Control District. "I hate to say it was their fault, but that's what happened."

Graber, a transplanted Minnesotan, said she did not realize the home was in M.E. Wash until the rain fell in October.

"We had to leave, carrying all the children out the window," Graber said. "It just rushed in the door."

In March, the home flooded again. "I called the city of Surprise," Graber said. "I was in a panic."

Mayor Joan Shafer said, "I feel sorry for the lady, but it's on private property. We can't go in and change the wash."

Ellis Perl, city engineer, admits the city issued a permit for the home in 1996, and "the building shouldn't have been located there."

Graber wants Surprise to stand behind the permit.

"I'm a waitress supporting five people," she said. "I can't afford to get out. I need them to buy me out."



Tim Koors/The Arizona Republic

Kelly Graber's flood-prone Surprise home sits in a wash. She has asked the city to buy her out.

## BUYOUT | Wanted for house in flood area

From Page B1

The State Division of Emergency Services apparently is on Graber's side. Assistant Director Chuck McHugh noted that federal regulations require local governments to keep homes out of washes.

"That's an issue that ... Surprise needs to address with Kelly Graber," McHugh said. "If communities do not comply with those regulations, there are consequences."

A moratorium on federal insurance for home loans probably would disrupt development and get the city's attention, McHugh said.

"That's the stick to compel communities to comply with federal regulations."

Perl said he has talked with

McHugh but not with Graber. "She should address her concerns to the city attorney," Perl said.

Graber said she will do that when state lawyers clear a letter of support from McHugh and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington. But the letter will take weeks, and any negotiations or federal sanctions against Surprise will take months.

"July 15 is the beginning of the monsoon, I hear," Graber said. "I want to go back to Minnesota. This place is nuts."

Reach the reporter at  
mike.mccloy@arizonarepublic.com  
or (602) 444-8111.

# Corridor plan in final phase

**CAROLYN DRYER**  
*Managing Editor*

Tame the wild rivers of Arizona? Create horse and people trails amid a park-like setting while protecting homes and preventing further erosion?

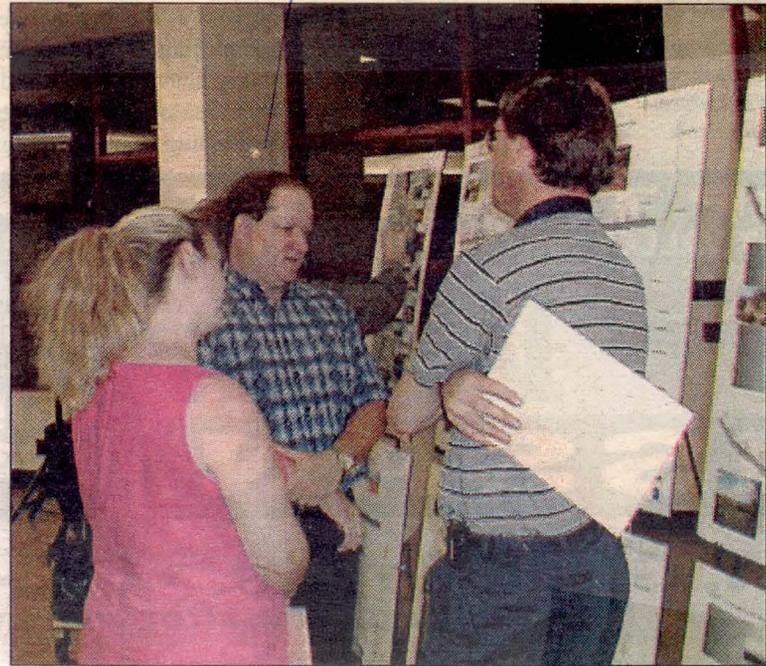
That first sentence could draw a guffaw from newcomers suffering from drymouth and raw sinuses. But for those who have weathered severe thunderstorms and resulting flooding during extremely wet Arizona winters, those dry washes represent real threats. And those wide expanses of dry river beds have proven their capacity to destroy.

The Agua Fria River is just one example

of a normally dry waterway that changes dramatically if the conditions are right. It is the main riverbed that flood control experts hope to make the centerpiece of the West Valley Recreation Corridor. The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is the lead agency in a cooperative effort entitled the Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan.

Instead of building dams and levees up and down the river to prevent further erosion, the master plan calls for a mix of control measures with other uses that can be utilized by the public for recreational purposes. At a public meeting

More PLAN on A24



→ Dave Johnson

West Valley residents discuss the Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan during a public meeting last week. The plan is key to implementing the 42-mile West Valley Recreation Corridor.

Photo by  
Carolyn Dryer

A100

## Plan, From A1

held last week at Peoria High School, Flood Control District personnel, hydrologists, engineers, biologists, geomorphologists, recreation specialists and consultants explained how the draft plan they put together would work. But first, these experts explained the why before they talked about the future what and how.

Jon Fuller, a geomorphologist, talked about the history of the Agua Fria River before 1980, after 1980 and after 1990. His staff studied the geomorphology of the Agua Fria: how much it flows, its character, hydraulics, how deep, how fast, as well as its history. What did it used to look like compared to now.

"These changes act together as a system," Fuller said.

What Fuller discovered through mapping was the Agua Fria River had moved 1,100 feet laterally after the 1980 flooding. There are now 11 bridges across the river with two more on the way, utility lines and four major canals.

"And lots of encroach-

ment, development that were once part of the river bed," Fuller said. "If we don't do anything, bridges will fail, homes could be undermined, scouring around the base of utility lines, people's homes destroyed, and habitat could be lost forever."

If people think what is going to be created along the Agua Fria and New River is a West Valley Indian Bend Wash, they need to get a clearer picture of the enormity of such an undertaking. The West Valley Recreation Corridor project, at 42 miles, is six times longer than the east Scottsdale park/flood control corridor known as Indian Bend.

Although that type of project cannot be done, "we are intrigued with that concept," said Doug Williams, regional manager for the Flood Control District.

There is a lot of potential for habitat restoration in a lot of areas, Williams said, and there will not be a stoppage of any sand and gravel operations. But the district will be looking at the technical aspects of those op-



Photo by Carolyn Dryer

**Engineer Doug Plasencia said there are five objectives to flood protection.**

erations and monitoring to see what they look like in the future.

"We don't want any craters," Williams said.

Maricopa Association of Governments transportation planner Dawn Coomer has been working with the district on its study goals. Coomer said those goals include planning for:

- shared, non-motorized use trails
- continuous and comfortable use
- access and mobility to connect people to places

- creation of a unique identity

- protection of natural resources from the negative effects of urban development.

The master plan is now in phase 3 and it is time to develop an action plan. Before that can happen, the draft master plan must be reviewed by the cities involved. That means the City Councils of Avondale, Glendale, Peoria and Phoenix, as well as the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors have to decide

how their own trails and recreation plans fit in with the corridor. Along the way, the environmental data and documentation must be brought together to form applications for federal grants.

Flood protection objectives, said Doug Plasencia, a consulting engineer with Kimley-Horn and Associates, are:

- Fix problems
- Do not create new problems
- Ensure solutions do not adversely impact other properties
- Ensure solutions and minimize current and future expenses
- Ensure solutions be consistent with the plan.

The West Valley Recreation Corridor is more than recreation. It is a flood control project, Plasencia said. Along with creating a place with multiple uses, long-term protection of taxpayer money is a major consideration.

Plasencia said when you look at escalating flood damage in the country, what the Flood Control Dis-

trict is attempting to do is give rivers the room they need, "do it smart and do it well."

Along Grand Avenue, where there is limited flooding, a structural solution mixed with multi-use trails is recommended to make flood control invisible. At Bell Road, the flood erosion prevention will likely be more structure than trails. In the north reaches of the river, structural solutions would accomplish nothing, Plasencia said, and it would not make a lot of sense. The canyon walls in the northern area create the river's natural channel.

As for who is paying for all of the work, there is no set estimate because the plan is not finalized. There is also no defined area where private land owners can and cannot build within the boundaries of the proposed corridor. The District officials told those attending the public meeting last week that they are working with the various cities involved to open up district maintenance roads for public use.

#107

6/13/01

## Restoration of riverbed put on hold

### Pollution seepage delays Salt project

By Elvia Díaz  
The Arizona Republic

Plans to beautify a stretch of the Salt River through Phoenix are on hold because millions of gallons of polluted water seeped into the riverbed after a warehouse fire last August.

Phoenix officials are awaiting the results of tests to determine the extent of the groundwater contamination. They hope to get the report this week.

"We're just trying to be prudent," said Don Rerick, project manager for the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, which is helping foot part of the \$85 million bill to restore a five-mile stretch of the Salt River.

The results of the city-commissioned test will determine whether workers will be al-

lowed to dig up a channel near 28th Street or wait for Phoenix to clean up the area. The project has been delayed for about two months, Rerick said.

Deepening the channel is necessary to keep water running through the riverbed.

Phoenix officials are confident the level of contaminants downstream of the 28th Street storm water outlet will not cause a long-term delay in the habitat project. But south Phoenix residents, who recently filed a class-action suit against Phoenix and other state agencies, allege that a significant number of plants and animals have died because of the runoff.

South Phoenix resident Steve Brittle is urging the Environmental Protection Agency to force Phoenix to clean up the site before the city can move ahead with the habitat restoration.

"The city had a duty to prevent this type of accident," said Brittle about the runoff. "This could happen again if no plans are put in place."

Donn Stoltzfus, environmental programs specialist for Phoenix, said preliminary results of the independent study shows levels of contaminated water aren't high enough to stop construction.

AZ RUDIS FILE. Date: 11/18

# Flood maps stun landowners

6/16/01

## Cast doubt on Rio Verde properties

By Lesley Wright  
The Arizona Republic

### FYI

**WHERE TO CALL:** To find out whether your Maricopa County home is in an area that could potentially flood, call (602) 506-1501.

desert enclave that begins outside Scottsdale's eastern border and runs downhill to the Verde River.

A flood plain study completed several years ago found

that John DiPietra's house was smack in the middle of a floodway, the hydrologic equivalent of setting a home on railroad tracks.

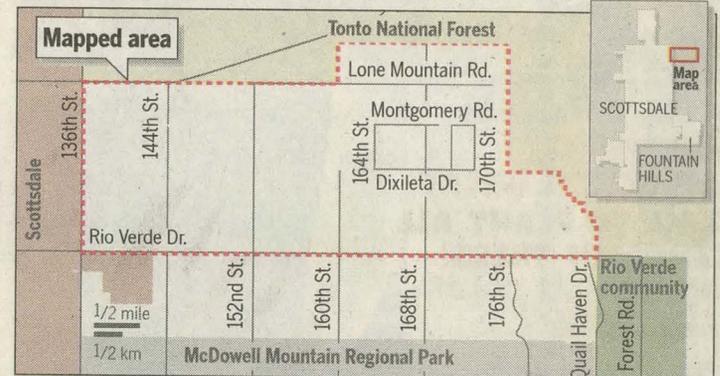
"You may as well say it's condemned," said Cecile Rudis, DiPietra's real estate agent. "He has a property now that has a stigma attached to it. He's almost ready to commit financial suicide."

The worst quickly was con-

See **FLOOD** | Page B4

### Worrisome floodplain maps

Hundreds of homeowners are worried that the Maricopa County Flood Control maps could designate their homes as flood-prone, drastically lowering their property values.



Tony Bustos/The Arizona Republic

4108

Glendale Star

# Condemned

## Glendale homeowner angry over FCD move

CAROLYN DRYER

Managing Editor

This property is condemned. It is an old cliché but it's a new problem for Glendale residents Bryan and Marjorie Johnson.

The Johnsons' property just south of the canal at the intersection of 83rd Avenue and Bethany Home Road was condemned two weeks ago by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County. Although the condemnation was not a surprise, the Johnsons said they did not like the way it was done, nor do they like the price.

The Johnsons said it does not seem to matter to the Flood Control District that the property has been home for the family since 1967.

As of May 21, the FCD owned the property and that would be fine with the Johnsons, except for certain things:

■ They have a grandfathered boarding license for animals that will not be allowed to transfer.

■ The comparables the FCD appraiser used to determine the value of their property do not compare favorably for the Johnsons. Instead of a horse-boarding property, the comparables list homes on small lots and no horses are

allowed.

■ The site plan drawing by the FCD is inaccurate.

But those are not the main reasons for the Johnsons' discontent.

Real estate agents have told the Johnsons their property is easily worth \$300,000, Johnson said. One letter from a local Realtor stated the Johnsons would have to relocate in southwestern Maricopa County; "however, you may lose some boarders due to the distance for boarders to travel to their horses, which I feel would have to be in an area with no homeowners' association, possibly board with no license."

"I just felt the way this whole project is going is really bad," Johnson said. "My main thing is fair price. I think the final thing was yesterday when our lawyer told us it would cost us \$1,200 a month."

Now that the FCD has gained control of the land, it is charging the Johnsons \$1,200 a month rent until they vacate. The Johnsons are also required to provide insurance on the property. Johnson said he and his wife have insurance through the Arizona Farm Bureau, "but it's not the million-dollar policy. We can't afford it."

Johnson said the FCD sent a letter

More CONDEMN on A13

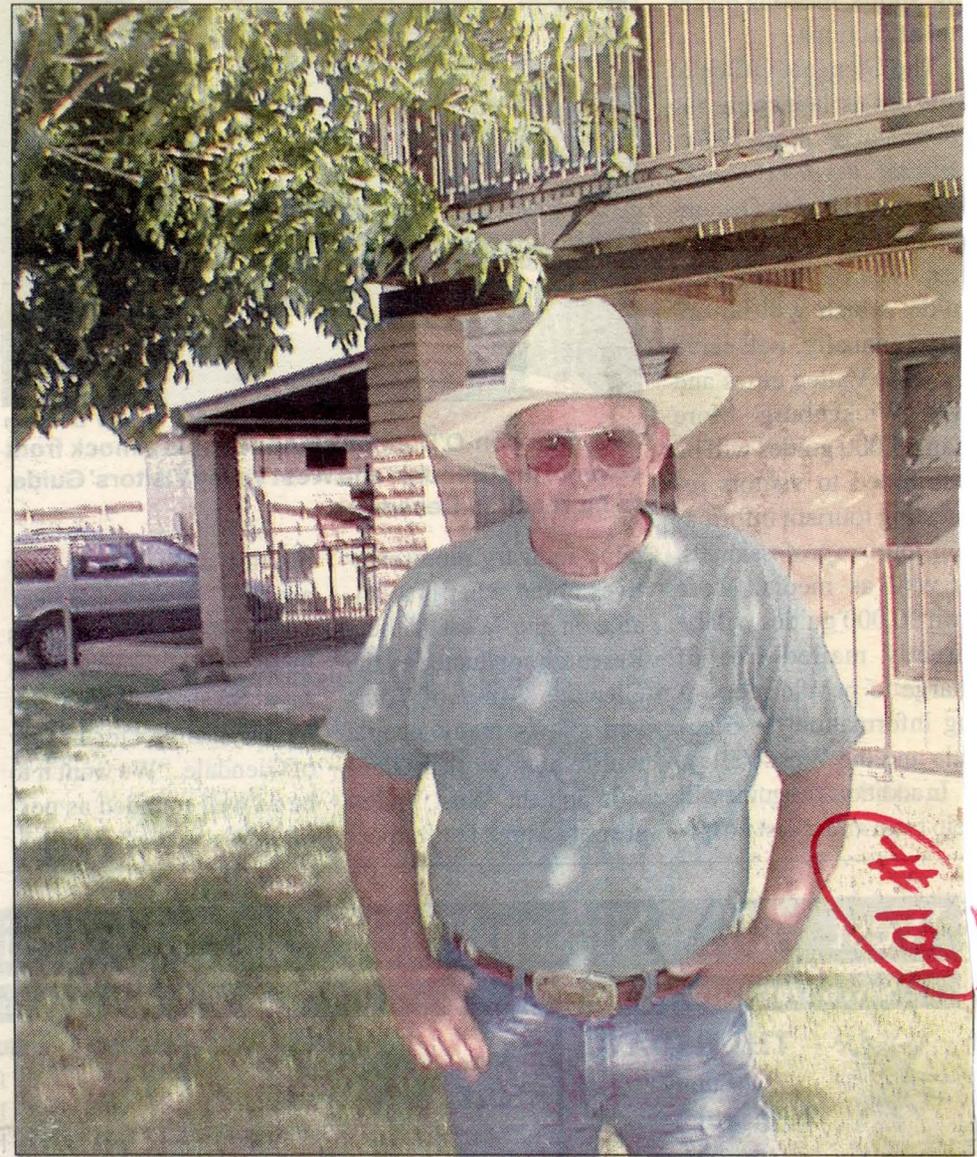


Photo by Carolyn Dryer  
Bryan Johnson's property on the southeast corner of 83rd Avenue and Bethany Home Road has been claimed through eminent domain by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

## Condemn, From A1

April 25 showing an appraisal of their property indicated it was worth \$170,000, not including personal property. Johnson said he and his wife learned about the condemnation through a phone call March 9.

Johnson said a call to Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer went unreturned. Brewer's aide, Kevin Tyne said because Brewer sits on the FCD board of directors, she did not want to infuse herself with the case.

Tyne said, "We urged him (Johnson) to get a lawyer. We said this was a legal process and he needed to proceed with legal counsel. He was very mad we couldn't meet with him."

Tyne said Brewer is not a fan of condemnation and she believes people have a right to get the value of their land.

"We're trying to be as helpful as we can," Tyne said.

Johnson's attorney David Postal said there is no appeal to condemnation but what property owners can do is attack whether it is necessary.

In this instance, Mike Ellegood, FCD chief engineer and general manager, said the choice was between 17 homes north of the Grand Canal or Johnson's property to the south of the Grand Canal and the property west of Johnson facing 83rd Avenue.

Ellegood said the FCD is doing a study of a major drainage for the Bethany Home Road outfall. Along Grand Canal, there has been major flooding, Ellegood said, and there were two alternatives: open the channel along Cavalier, which would involve the 17 homes that butt up against the canal on the north side; or put a siphon under the canal and run along the south side.

Ellegood said the purpose of acquiring the Johnson parcel and the parcel west of Johnson's is, "It avoids us having to acquire 17 properties, 17 homes."

"We really, literally hate to take people's proper-

ties. We live in homes," Ellegood said. "But in this instance, two homes is better than 17 ... We really agonized."

As to questions about the tactics and the perceived disparity between the FCD appraisal and the property owners' value, Ellegood said the FCD does not come in with "hobnailed boots." Instead, Ellegood said, an independent, certified appraiser is hired to set the price. Understanding there are disagreements between the FCD and property owners, Ellegood said, "we try to negotiate."

Postal said what the FCD has not taken into consideration is the fact Johnson's property is more unique than most.

"It's really a weird thing,"

Postal said. "The nut is this: Mr. Johnson's property is unique because he has a license on property to board up to 17 horses. So, it is commercial/residential on a single acre."

To do the same kind of operation today, Johnson would have to get a 10-acre parcel and special permits for a number of things.

"His property is unique, not just location, but grandfathered use," Postal said. "There's no replacing it."

Johnson is only one of two individuals who are in this situation, Postal said. As for the money, Postal said Johnson would have to spend \$300,000 for land and improvements to replicate what he has and "he wouldn't have a house."

Postal said it is difficult to find a place for \$170,000, much less a place for horses. What makes it more valuable, Postal said, is the trail that runs along Johnson's property, its proximity to the City park slated for construction just across the street to the north, and its nearness to the proposed Coyotes hockey arena down the road about two miles.

Postal said there would be certain types of events hosted at the arena which could require people to board horses.

What Postal is attempting to do for Johnson is prove his property is worth more than the value placed on it by the FCD. Part of Postal's argument will be the fact Johnson cannot put an acre business back into the ground and he cannot re-open his business elsewhere. So, the attorneys for the FCD are looking at the value of the business,

Postal said. What could hurt Johnson, however, is the fact he and his wife never "maxed" the business, Postal said. Once they heard the FCD was going to take their property, Johnson said, he and his wife have not taken any new boarding customers.

Ellegood said Johnson is not the only person to have property condemned.

**"We really, literally hate to take people's properties. We live in homes."  
- Mike Ellegood, FCD chief engineer and general manager**

# DESERT ADVOCATE

Vol. 11 No. 33

June 19, 2001

## Final Skunk Creek Master Plan Nears Completion

by Karen Seemeyer

Flood Control District of Maricopa County (Flood Control) will present to area residents the recommended floodplain management alternative selected for the northern portion of Skunk Creek at a Final Open House on Thursday, June 28, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Desert Mountain School. The purpose of the open house is to provide the public with the opportunity to comment on the recommended management alternative.

The study underlying the Master Plan covered the Skunk Creek watercourse from Carefree Highway to approximately 2,200 feet north of the Skunk Creek bridge crossing on New River Road.

According to Flood Control, goals of the study are to protect existing and future residents from a 100-year flood event and possible damage associated with channel erosion and lateral migra-

*Skunk Creek, Please see page 4*

## Skunk Creek,

*From page 1*

tion of Skunk Creek (and Sonoran Wash); to consider structural, nonstructural, and a combination of structural and nonstructural alternatives; to consider multiple-use opportunities for floodplain areas; to minimize future expenditures of public funds for flood control and emergency management; and to develop a watercourse management plan that generates widespread support, is implementable and conforms to the North Black Canyon Corridor Plan of the City of Phoenix.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines a 100-year flood as a flood that has a one-percent chance of occurring in any given year. According to the District's study team,

approximately four and a half to five inches of rain in 24 hours would produce a 100-year flood of Skunk Creek near the Carefree Highway.

Development of the Master Plan study began in August 1999 and, according to Flood Control, "represents a state-of-the-art approach to floodplain management" based on engineering, environmental and land-use considerations.

Primary Master Plan Goals are stated as 1) Protection from 100-year flood and lateral migration; 2) Development of a watershed specific floodplain management plan; 3) Consideration of structural and nonstructural alternatives; 4) Reduction of public funds spent on flood control; 5) Consideration of existing and future land uses; 6) Consideration of sensitive habitats and cultural

resources; identification of areas with unique characteristics; and 7) Consideration of multiple-use activities for flood plain areas.

Three floodplain management alternatives were initially proposed by the District's study. No. 1, the Full-Structural Alternative, is based on managing the watercourse using regulations currently in effect in Maricopa County. No. 2, the Low-Impact Structural Alternative, is based on managing the watercourse by allowing structures such as residences to be built outside the Lateral Migration Erosion Hazard Zone. And No. 3, the Nonstructural Alternative, is based on allowing structures to be constructed typically outside the Long-Term Erosion Hazard Zone.

Lateral Migration Erosion Hazard Zone is defined as: The area adjacent to the main channel likely to be eroded by a typical series of floods over a 60-year planning period, as well as the erosion that would be caused by a single major event such as the 100-year flood, and also includes the area required for natural channel movement.

Long-Term Erosion Hazard Zone is described as: The area defined by geologic evidence of channel movement over the past 60 to 1,000 years and represents expected or potential channel movement over the next 60 to 1,000 years in the future.

The first floodplain management alternative, the Full Structural Alternative, is based on current floodplain management policy that is widely used in highly urbanized areas. Levees constructed with concrete or fill would be used to protect future developments constructed within the FEMA 100-year floodway fringe.

The Low-Impact Structural Alternative is based on the premise that any encroachment into the FEMA 100-year floodplain will result in negligible impacts within the study area, as well as upstream and downstream of the study area. Structural measures are necessary for encroachments within the FEMA 100-year floodway fringe for two types of conditions: First, developments with densities less than 1 unit per acre where structures could be constructed using reinforced masonry foundations that extend to a depth of

June 16, 01

#111

# Flood plan targets homes

## 25 face demolition under district proposal

By David Madrid  
The Arizona Republic

Elva Hall loved the home that her family members built with their own hands so much that an image of the home was engraved on her headstone when she died and was buried.

Now that home could be destroyed under a plan being considered by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

Lorraine Hall Currence didn't know the home she and her brother and sister helped build was targeted for elimination to make way for a flood-

water channel.

By the time Currence and most of her neighbors found out that 25 homes would have to be bought and destroyed in order to build the 80-foot-wide channel, the decision to submit the drainage plan for approval to the County Board of Supervisors and to Peoria had pretty much been made.

Much to the horror of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, a contractor who was supposed to place information fliers on residents' doors about the public meetings skipped the neighborhood

because he ran out of fliers.

"We didn't have any clue that the people at Pinnacle Peak Road and 83rd Avenue were not participating in the process," said Kristina Baxter, a spokeswoman for the flood-control district.

Under this section of the Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan, the channel would run from about 83rd to 91st avenues along Pinnacle Peak Road. An open channel collector from Calle Lejos along 83rd Avenue would catch water from the north, while a 7-acre basin at Pinnacle Peak

and 83rd Avenue would also be created to catch excess water and to serve as a community park.

Currence has good reason to fret about the plan.

Her family bought 10 acres in the area more than 20 years ago. Her parents and their children built their house at 85th Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Road. Her mother died in the house, which has much sentimental value for the family.

"Our family and this home were everything to her," Currence said of her mother. "We don't want to lose the house."

And maybe they won't have

See **FLOOD CONTROL** | Page 5



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic,

Ron Currence (right), Lorraine Hall-Currence and neighbor Steve Simmons would lose homes in a flood-control plan.

## FLOOD CONTROL Homes threatened

From Page 1

to.

A new meeting has been called for 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Sunrise Mountain High School library, 21200 N. 83rd Ave.

Marilyn DeRosa, project manager for the drainage master plan, said that the purpose is to carry water from 100-year floods to the New and Agua Fria rivers, thus moving it away from neighborhoods south of Pinnacle Peak Road.

DeRosa said she believed that the plan to run the 80-foot-wide channel along Pinnacle Peak was the best plan. That is until she discovered that the residents affected had never been informed of the public meetings.

She'll discuss alternatives to her plan at the Wednesday public meeting.

Reach the reporter at david.madrid@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6926.

# Digging up Usery riles neighbors

## Channels to carry floodwater

By Robbie Sherwood  
The Arizona Republic

With the sun shining on the saguaros and the lush desert scrub bordering his northeast Mesa back yard, the prospect of a devastating "100-year flood" should be the furthest thing from Steve Springer's mind.

It's not the water that has Springer and a growing group of his neighbors so vexed. They are more troubled by the county's proposed antidote for a 100-year flood.

One of the plans on the table calls for a series of six drainage channels up to a mile long to be dug through Usery Mountain Recreation Area to divert flood water east, away from homes and the future path of the Red Mountain Freeway.

Springer and friends are afraid county engineers will plow through the pristine park like a giant six-clawed Garden-Weasel.

"If we carve these big ditches, it's going to alter the flavor of the park and upset the vegetation and wildlife," said Springer, 51, a management recruiter who works from home. "They are going to kill all those plants."

The plan mirrors a similar county flood-control proposal in north Scottsdale, the Desert Greenbelt project, that was finally rejected by the Scottsdale City Council last year after seven years in development. It, too, would have guarded homes and a freeway from a 100-year flood, a hypothetical event with a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.

Springer's group, made up of residents of the Boulder Mountain subdivision, has dubbed itself Save Our Parks. They are gathering petition signatures from hikers and gun range users at Usery Mountain Recreation Area to oppose the plan.

Maricopa County Flood Control officials say the drainage canals, called the Pass Mountain Alternative, are just one of four flood-control plans being



Paul F. Gero/The Arizona Republic

Carol and Steve Springer, along with dog Cassie, visit Usery Mountain Recreation Area. Their home is in the background.

**“**If we carve these big ditches, it's going to alter the flavor of the park and upset the vegetation and wildlife.**”**

**Steve Springer**

Protesting plan to build flood-control channels in Usery Mountain Recreation Area

discussed.

They won't pinpoint a preferred plan until later this summer, and the multimillion-dollar project ultimately would need approval by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and financial help

from Mesa, said Joe Munoz, flood-control spokesman.

Munoz also said the new canals would be landscaped and would be inconspicuous.

Though no cost figures have been determined, the Pass Mountain alternative would be the least expensive because the county already owns the park land and the other plans would require construction far to the south, along McDowell and McKellips roads.

To the area residents, that makes it the most likely to happen, a notion that Munoz doesn't dispute.

"It's not the only one, but if I was pragmatic, it's the one that destroys the least property and costs the least to build," Munoz said. "The bottom line is we still have to look at the taxpayers' money."

Area residents are also critical of the county's efforts to tell the public about the proj-



Eric Baker/The Arizona Republic

ect. The Flood Control District has held two information meetings since January, both advertised in the *East Mesa Independent* newspaper. Each attracted about 10 people.

"The *Independent* doesn't even circulate in Boulder Mountain because we are north of McKellips," said Dee Taylor, the executive assistant chief of police in Scottsdale who lives in the subdivision and is fighting the project.

Munoz said he also used fliers and door hangers in addition to advertising in the *Independent*. He plans to meet with area homeowners associations to go over the plan.

"We tried 101 different ways to get hold of people, but there's always one person who says you never got to me," Munoz said.

Despite the county's cooperation with the Mesa on the project, at least one city councilman said he was in the dark. Councilman Bill Jaffa, who lives in northeast Mesa, said he had not heard about the project and now has concerns.

"The scarring is going to be significant and it's right at the entrance to the park," Jaffa said. "I can't believe we weren't made aware of this."

For the area's leading desert preservationist, the flood-control plans came as a shock as well. Carol Owens has lived in the area for years and has fought developers to save the Sonoran Desert flora.

"I'll bring the rope, who do we lynch?" Owens said when told about the plans. "I usually keep a pretty good ear to the ground. If I haven't heard about it, I'm not surprised a lot of other people haven't either."

#113

# County budgets \$8M to improve drainage at Ellsworth low spot

BY JASON EMERSON  
TRIBUNE

Two years ago, William J. Kelley crashed when his sport utility vehicle hit a pool of water covering a low spot on Ellsworth Road.

Left with permanent brain damage and other severe injuries from the crash, the Chandler man sued Mesa and Maricopa County — the governments responsible for making sure the road is safe — for failing to warn drivers about the dangerous low spot on the road. In April, the suit was settled out of court for a reported \$355,000.

This week, Maricopa County officials set aside nearly \$8 million to build drainage basins and a channel they say will significantly reduce the amount of water that collects on Ellsworth after a heavy rain.

The money, part of the \$2.1 billion Maricopa County budget approved Monday, will be used to construct the so-called Elliot Road basins and channel. Two park-size drainage basins will be built

near Crismon and Elliot roads, and a channel will be constructed between the basins and Ellsworth.

County flood-control district officials said Kelley's crash and settlement had nothing to do with the timing of the project. Plans have been in the works for five years to build the flood-control system, said Kris Baxter, a spokeswoman for the flood-control district.

Work is expected to begin in early 2002, and the channel is scheduled to be built by the end of that year.

Neither Kelley nor his attorney, Kenneth Satin, could be reached for comment.

The budget also includes \$1.7 million to begin design work and acquire right-of-way to improve Ellsworth between Baseline and Germann roads. When complete, the 7½-mile-long project will widen much of Ellsworth to three lanes in each direction. Storm drains will be installed along the road, and signal lights will be put in at Elliot and Germann intersections.

Other money for East Valley projects included in the county budget:

■ \$10 million to buy land to expand the Southeast Regional Complex in Mesa. One of the properties county officials are trying to buy is an 18-acre recreational vehicle sales company adjacent to the complex, said county spokesman Al Macias. The RV company is in bankruptcy proceedings, and the county has told the court it is interested in acquiring the property, Macias said.

■ \$8.1 million to expand juvenile services at the Southeast Regional Complex in Mesa. Officials plan to add 120 beds to the 80,000-square-foot facility, along with educational and support programs, administrative offices and a courtroom.

■ \$1.1 million to begin work on a new bridge on Power Road over the Queen Creek wash. The existing bridge was built in 1955, and is not up to current load standards, said Andrzej Wojakiewicz, an engineer with the Maricopa County Department of Transportation.

#### Flood control:

**\$1.7 million** for downtown Chandler area drainage master plan

**\$8.3 million** for East Mesa flood control project

**\$2.1 million** for Higley flood control project

**\$1.1 million** for Queen Creek channelization

**\$92,000** for Sossaman channel

SOURCE: Maricopa County Budget Office

TRIBUNE

June 21, 01

EAST Valley TRIB

# Local News

SERVING COMMUNITIES OF THE EAST VALLEY

### Got a story?

South East Valley call Brian Cole,  
(480) 898-6514, e-mail bcole@aztrib.com  
North East Valley call Paul Giblin,  
(480) 970-2331, e-mail pgiblin@aztrib.com

A3

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2001

# Usery flood plan draws protest

## Parks official, residents rip idea to cut into mountains

BY JASON EMERSON  
TRIBUNE

Wednesday, a high-ranking Maricopa County parks official blasted a plan to dig flood-control channels through the Usery Mountains northeast of Mesa.

Addressing a meeting of more than 160 people, deputy director Bill VanAusdal squared off against a sister agency, the Maricopa County Flood Control District. He said his department opposes any plan that would change the look of the mountain preserve.

"We are adamant about not letting people come into a park and destroy it," he said.

The exchange took place at a Boulder Mountain Home Owners Association meeting, where flood-control officials outlined their plans for the mountains.

Flood-control officials contend they need to build a system to protect residents from a 100-year flood. The Usery Mountains sit in the Spook Hill Watershed. In 1987, the county developed a master plan to ease flooding caused by runoff from the Usery

Mountains, but no money was available to enact it.

The area has seen rapid growth, and flood-control officials say now more than ever a system is needed. They are basing their plans on the worst-case scenario, a so-called 100-year, 24-hour flood, which would be caused by about 4.2 inches of rain, said project manager Afshin Ahouraiyan.

Ahouraiyan proposed six flood-control options, two of which would require about a mile of channels through the mountains to divert water into an existing flood-control system. Another option he proposed would require the county to buy and level a number of homes near McDowell

and Ellsworth roads, so a large canal could be built.

Ahouraiyan said regardless of the option chosen, construction would not begin for at least six years.

Most of the residents who attended the meeting own homes in the Boulder Creek subdivision, near where the largest channel would be built. Homeowners contend that because there is no flooding in their neighborhoods or in the mountains, the county should focus its efforts farther west, where the flooding occurs.

Ahouraiyan countered that the best and least expensive option is to divert flood waters in the mountains, instead of trying to contain them at lower elevations.

Homeowners disagreed.

Dawn Fallon, part of the Save Usery Park effort, circulated a petition to prevent the flood-control measures.

"We do not want them to go through the mountains," she said.

Resident John Meisierhiem said the county needs to look elsewhere for flood control.

Sandy Bahr, president of the Arizona chapter of the Sierra Club, said the effort is shortsighted.

"To me, the basic problem is the city of Mesa is allowing developers to develop out there without really considering flood control," she said. "Now, the park has to suffer due to their lack of foresight."

4-114

# Glendale/Peoria

Community Edition

WEDNESDAY

June 27, 2001

## Distrust runs high at meeting

### Flood-control proposal angers residents

By David Madrid  
The Arizona Republic

Give the county Flood Control District this: It can draw an angry crowd to a meeting.

About 300 people attended a meeting last week to air their

concerns about a flood-control plan affecting residents in the area along Pinnacle Peak Road between 83rd and 91st avenues.

Though the meeting was held to address four options for building a drainage system in

the neighborhood, residents came armed with plenty of distrust and complaints aimed at not only the Flood Control District but Peoria and developers.

The catalyst for the meeting was the district's plan to buy 21

homes north of Pinnacle Peak in order to build an 80-foot-wide channel to carry floodwaters from the north to the New and Agua Fria rivers.

Despite several public meetings, no one invited the people most affected by the plan. A contractor for the Flood Control District told the district he ran out of fliers announcing

the meetings and missed notifying those neighborhoods.

Assuring the residents that they were inadvertently left out of the loop was a hard sell.

"I have a feeling this is ground zero and we were not notified on purpose," said Bob Romaneschi, who lives near

See **FLOOD** Page 3

#115

# FLOOD Proposal angers crowd

From Page 1

Pinnacle Peak Road and 83rd Avenue. "This crowd shows how controversial this is north of Pinnacle Peak."

Cheryl Johnson, who lives just north of the affected homes, says it's not hard to see what is going on.

"Future development to the north is the real reason they want to do this," Johnson said.

Marilyn DeRosa, project manager for the Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan, denied there is any sinister plot, saying the district must take a regional look at flood control.

"Government is so complicated," DeRosa said. "I'm working within the bureaucratic rules of this agency and the county. We're trying to get a plan together. The biggest lesson we learned here is we need to fix the way we notify citizens. Obviously there's a problem with that system."

DeRosa was reviewing comment sheets from the people who attended the meeting.

Of four possible plans, the plan that required the loss of the 21 homes did not fare well among those who commented, though DeRosa said she was surprised by the number of comments that favored that plan.

The fourth alternative, which calls for a retention basin north of Calle Lejos and storm drains within the neighborhood, appears to be favored by the residents, she said.

So what are the chances of 21 homes being bought to make way for an 80-foot channel north of Pinnacle Peak?

## FYI

Flood-control alternatives suggested by the Maricopa County Flood Control District:  
**ALTERNATIVE 1:** 80-foot-wide canal along Pinnacle Peak Road, taking out 21 homes. The cost is about \$8.14 million, not including the cost of buying the houses or the money the county would recoup by selling part of the land. The county considers this its most reliable plan.

**ALTERNATIVE 2:** Storm drain along Pinnacle Peak leaving all the homes intact. The cost would be about \$13.7 million. This is considered the least reliable plan.

**ALTERNATIVE 3:** Also has a storm drain along Pinnacle Peak and leaves all the homes intact. It has some minor differences from Alternative 2. An estimated \$11 million cost, with poor reliability.

**ALTERNATIVE 4:** An open channel and retention basin north of the affected neighborhood and a storm drain along Pinnacle Peak Road. This plan costs about \$12.3 million and is considered to be more reliable than Alternatives 2 and 3.

"Pretty slim," DeRosa said. "We're a government by the people and for the people, and if that many people are unhappy, I'm not in a position to make recommendations against them."

DeRosa said another meeting probably will be held in August after engineers redo the cost estimates on the alternative that requires the 21 homes to be destroyed. The estimates the county presented to the crowd did not include the cost of buying the 21 homes and then selling part of the land later.

More work must also be done on the fourth alternative to make sure there are no fatal flaws in it, she said.

Reach the reporter at david.madrid@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6926.

July 5, 2001

xc: Kris Baxter  
Mike Ellegood

#116

Mesa Tribune

7/5/01

### Flood control projects are foolish measures

A few years ago, those great berms parallel to Bell Road and Frank Lloyd Wright Boulevard were built to control the flood areas of the northern part of Scottsdale and Phoenix.

Mind my word that in years to come they'll spend millions and millions of dollars trying to put that earth back the way it was in the first place. Any fool ought to know that if you trap that water down there it will back up and then will flood many thousands of acres.

If the true object of these people is to condemn the land to where it is unable to be developed into anything, then why don't they condemn it and take it as a park, which certainly would be nice to do?

But the trouble is they would have to pay for that land. So if they stamp it as a flood control area they condemn the land to

no use or minimum use without having to pay a dime to the people who own that land.

I've lived in the wonderful state of Arizona for over 75 years and have yet to build a house or a business in a wash. Anyone should know better than that, and if we pay attention to where nature left the drainage areas, we can use all this wonderful land of ours without any danger of flooding. Not only in the hundred-year flood but in the million-year flood.

The only flood I know that would be significant would be the great flood that Noah faced when it rained for 40 days and 40 nights.

I hardly think that we'll see that again, for God promised not to.

**James P. Paul**  
Scottsdale

7/4-10/2001

#117

## Officials try to resolve Vulcan dispute

### Permitting process also discussed

By **JULI NESSETT**  
Independent Newspapers

Representatives from Sun City Homeowners Association, Vulcan Materials Company, the State Mine Inspector's Office and county and state government met June 25 at the State Senate building to determine the compatibility of mining, asphalt and concrete production plants to neighboring communities in the Valley.

The meeting was called by Sen. Brenda Burns, who had agreed to work with HOA on the topic.

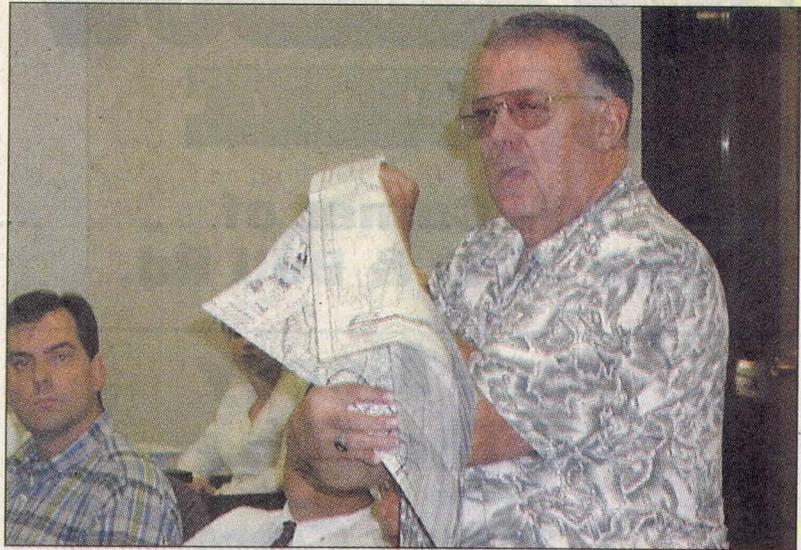


Photo by JULI NESSETT/Independent Newspapers

Dean Markee, resident of Sun City, explains just how much dust and dirt is stirred up in his neighborhood as a result of Vulcan's operations.

See ■ **VULCAN**, Page 3

■ VULCAN

Sen. Burns invited representatives from virtually every entity that may have something to do with the issue of mining and housing.

Attendees were briefed by Senate staff employee Susan Anable, about what agencies are responsible for monitoring air quality standards in the state.

Due to the implementation of the Federal Clean Air Act, the permitting process for plants such as Vulcan must be a very public process.

But some residents and officials believe the way this is currently handled in the state does not make it very easy for the public to gain access to this information or understand it.

There is a permit pending for the Vulcan El Mirage plant. The current permit was originally issued in 1998, but it now must be modified to bring it up to date with the plant's new equipment.

Legal ads for all new permits must be placed in two newspapers of general circulation.

Ads for this permit were placed in *The Record Reporter* and *The Arizona Business Gazette*.

But Sen. Burns and Sun City West resident Shirley McDonald both agreed that the general public does not generally read these papers or know what they are.

Although the date was not specified, the permit process will be opened to another 30-day public comment period.

During this time, the public can ask Maricopa County Environmental Services to change permit conditions.

Following that period, if it is asked for, a hearing will be conducted.

The current permit application lists the air contaminants to be emitted by the plant: particulate matter, products of combustion and hazardous air pollutants.

Once the permitting period and hearing process is over, the county may rewrite the permit to accommodate public response.

One of the major issues covered during the meeting was the possible need for new legislation in the mining and trucking industry. In addition, it was suggested that new legislation may be needed governing Realtors and developers.

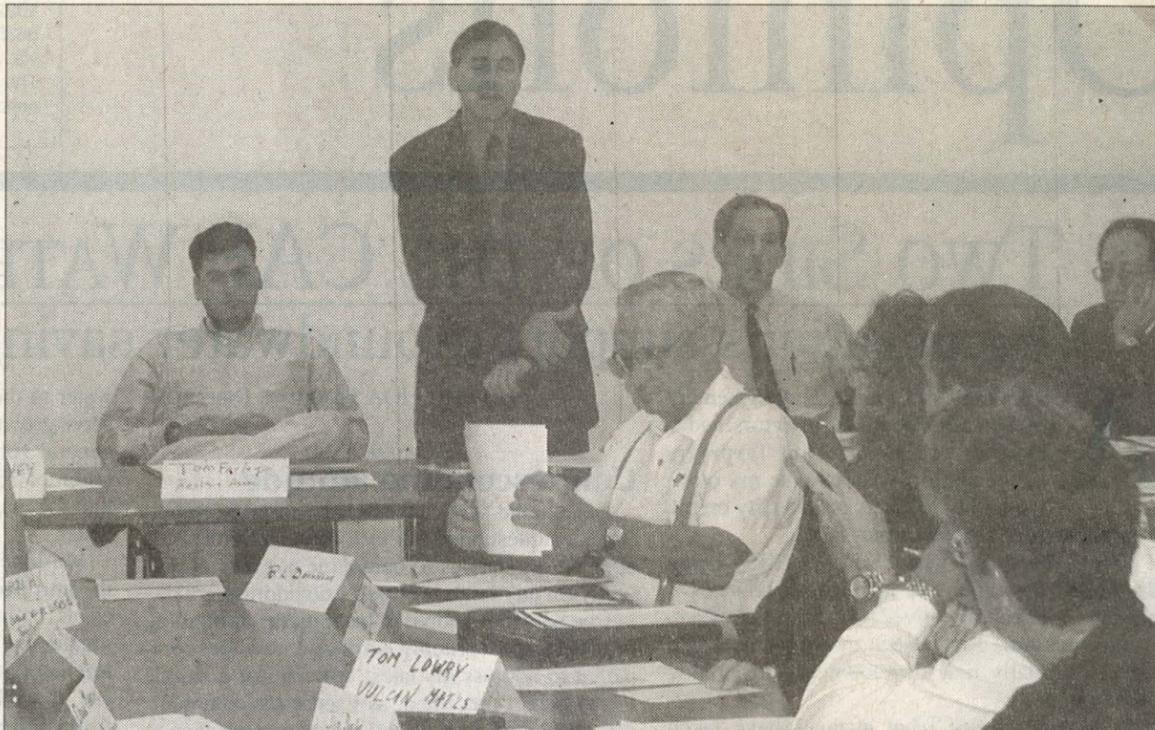


Photo by JULI NESSETT/Independent Newspapers

Al Brown, of Maricopa County Environmental Services, explains the requirements for mining permits in the state. Sun City Homeowners Association representative Blaine Donaldson sits in the foreground to Mr. Brown's left.

According to representatives from Arizona Department of Real Estate and Arizona Association of Realtors, both sellers and developers must disclose to buyers when potential annoyances, such as truck routes, are nearby.

Buyers have a 10-day inspection period on all homes and a five-day cancellation period where all money must be returned and the contract can be canceled.

However, many residents said that disclosure did not occur when they bought their homes and now they live very close to truck routes

or plants.

Ventana Lakes resident Dena Cigory blames excessive truck traffic, and resulting dust and emissions, for an increase in illnesses in her area.

On July 25 the Vulcan plant in El Mirage will be tested for particulate emissions. The results will then be given to the county for modeling.

According to Vulcan officials and DEQ officials, the plant is currently well below accepted limits.

But official results will not be in until after the July 25 test.

State Mine Inspector Doug

Martin was very concerned about who is monitoring the real estate agencies and developers in reference to disclosure.

"Who monitors this?" he asked. "This is definitely something we need to work on."

For more information about this issue, contact HOA at 972-5954.

To file a complaint about dust, call the county's environmental complaint line at 602-506-6616.

To contact the county about Vulcan's current permit process, contact Harry Chiu at MCESD at 602-506-6094.

MILLS

# Imagine a 'turquoise necklace' encircling the Valley with green

#118

Opinions The Arizona Republic July 9, 1991

In the 1890s, the pioneering landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his protégé, Charles Eliot, had a vision in green for metropolitan Boston.

They proposed an interconnected system of open spaces, parks, and parkways, which would address emerging water quality and flooding problems. Because this system ringed the region, Olmsted and Eliot dubbed their scheme "The Emerald Necklace."

It became the nation's first regional open-space system and a legacy of green areas and recreational opportunities that have served generations of Bostonians.

The Greater Phoenix area has the start of a similar vision: a "turquoise necklace" of connected open spaces.

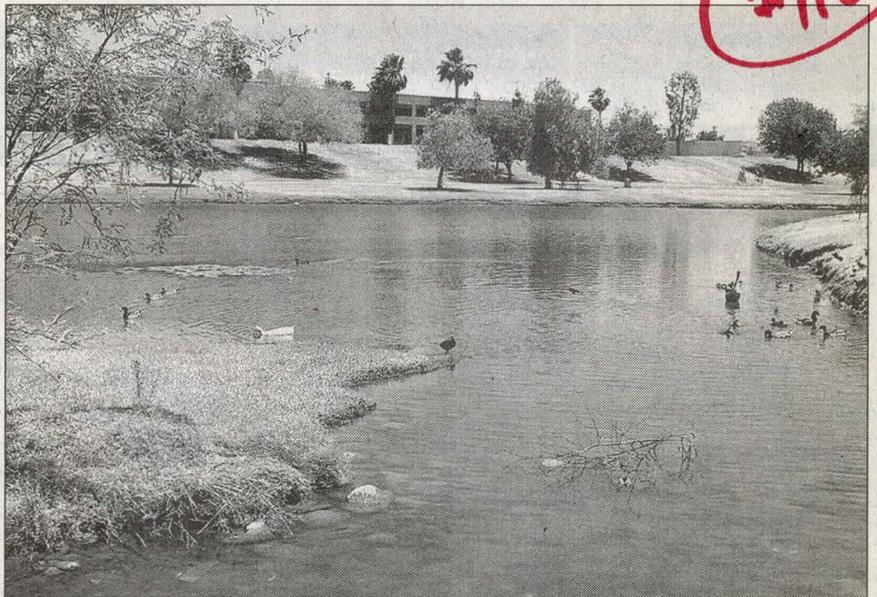
Imagine a green loop around the Valley. In the east, Scottsdale's grassy Indian Bend Wash already runs north to south, ending near Tempe's Towne Lake — a jewel in the regional necklace and part of the Rio Salado dream of restoring the parched bed of the Salt River.

To the west, Phoenix has begun its own Rio Salado project, including walkways and a constant stream of water. It will flow into the rapidly growing West Valley, past the inventive 27th Avenue Recycling Center to the city's innovative Tres Rios wetlands project and beyond to the Salt River's confluence with the Gila River.

Developer John F. Long's bold proposal for the Agua Fria Greenway could form the western section of the Turquoise Necklace. He envisions a recreational corridor, including trails, that would double as flood control along the Agua Fria River. To the north, there are possibilities for linkages with the Anthem community, Lake Pleasant, and national forests to the north.

Phoenix's new Sonoran Preserve would be the northern edge of the Turquoise Necklace, including major washes that are critical to wildlife.

Besides preserving the area's natural beauty and creating recreational opportunities, the necklace would enhance the region's appeal to businesses and tourists, creating an



The Arizona Republic

Stretches such as this at Indian Bend Park in Scottsdale already form a beginning for a 'turquoise necklace' around the Valley.



**Growth Making the Right Choices**

One in a series of editorials and commentaries on the challenges facing Arizona in managing its growth.

Imagine a green loop around the Valley. In the east, Scottsdale's grassy Indian Bend Wash already runs north to

MY TURN



FREDERICK STEINER

economic engine. Leading metropolises around the world have distinct characteristics. While Greater Phoenix is now one of the nation's largest urban regions, it still lacks identity.

The Turquoise Necklace would create a powerful, positive image. It contrast sharply with the barren desert that so many outsiders imagine our region to be.

How can we get from dream to reality? Leadership is essential. Partnerships are vital. Vision is crucial.

Arizona State University's former architecture dean, Jim Elmore, who has advocated for the Rio Salado since the late 1960s, exemplifies leadership. Long, with his Agua Fria pro-

posal, is another leader.

So are the current directors of the Maricopa Flood Control District, who have adopted a strategy to use natural washes instead of concrete channels to control storm water.

Officials from Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe and, now, Glendale and Peoria are putting together pieces of the necklace. The Maricopa Association of Governments contributed a regional perspective through its landmark Desert Spaces report.

The successful components of the Turquoise Necklace, thus far, have relied on partnerships. Take the first phase of Phoenix's Rio Salado. City agencies collaborated with the Maricopa Flood Control District, while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided financial support, thanks to support from key members of the Arizona congressional delegation. The Phoenix Arts Commission joined in, as well.

Boston's Emerald Necklace took shape because it became a shared community vision. If the Valley of the Sun residents embrace the desert version, perhaps a hundred years from now, residents will look back to the Turquoise Necklace and credit it for defining the desert lifestyle of Greater Phoenix.

How can we get from dream to reality?  
 Leadership is essential.  
 Partnerships are vital.  
 Vision is crucial.

Frederick Steiner, until recently director of the School of Planning and Landscape Architecture at Arizona State University, will head the School of Architecture at the University of Texas.

#119

# Editorials

Opinions expressed in the editorials below are those of the newspaper. All other opinions on this page and on the Opinion 2 page are those of the authors or artists.

## Stirred waters

### Floodplain owners shouldn't rely on government protection

**O**ur arid landscape hides the potential for rushing floodwaters, suddenly turning dusty-dry washes into fast-moving torrents several feet deep that endanger most anything in their path.

Through many modern methods we have been able to achieve amazing degrees of flood control. And yet there are still places where we should not build.

In December, Scottsdale's City Council weighed the options and decided that it would not fund a desert greenbelt on the alluvial fan spreading out of the McDowell Mountains. Council members decided the greenbelt's escalating price was too high and the environmental damage would be too great. They left the decision to build and occupy structures up to individuals, who would assume risks themselves.

Today, Maricopa County's parks and flood control agencies are at some odds over a proposal for flood-control channels through the Utery Mountains northeast of Mesa.

Homes went up at elevations below despite the possibility of a major flood. Now the county flood control district has proposed the channels to protect the area downstream. But as the Tribune reported last week, deputy parks director Bill VanAusdal told an East Valley audience such channels would too greatly alter the mountain preserve.

Taxpayers are tiring quickly of paying for huge, environment-altering flood control projects that protect relatively few other people. Buyers of floodplain land should beware the consequences and adequately prepare for catastrophe through building techniques and flood insurance.

Only then can the cycle be broken of people going to government to build such projects before floods, then holding their hands out for emergency aid afterward.

The opinion of The Arizona Republic

# DELAYS DAMAGING BOTH SIDES, WITH NO COMPROMISE IN SIGHT

## Trust-land debate needs sorting out

Nobody expected that talks to cobble together an initiative to preserve one million acres of state trust lands as open space would be easy.

In the Arizona growth debate, the countervailing pressures of preservation versus development are formidable. And the cast of characters in this debate — conservationists, developers, ranchers, lawyers and educators — don't see eye to eye among themselves, let alone each other.

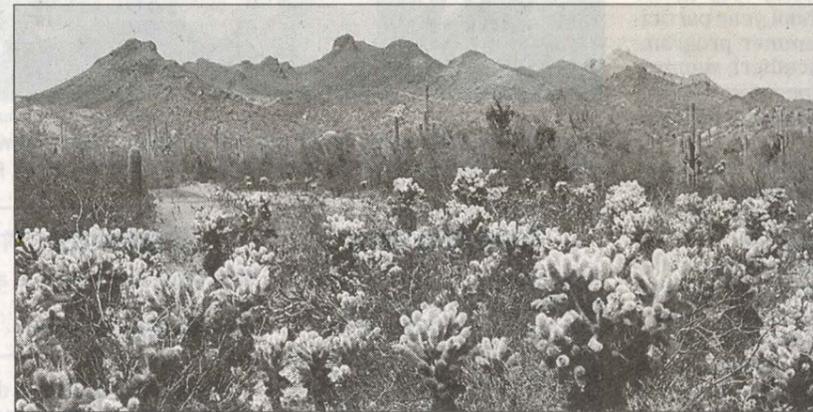
It is in the best interest of all Arizonans, however, for these people to succeed.

The discussions began in the wake of last November's defeat of two growth-oriented ballot measures: the conservationist-backed Proposition 202 that would have imposed strict growth boundaries around cities and which would have strangled the state economy, and the Gov. Hull-sponsored Proposition 100 to set aside up to 3 percent of the trust lands for preservation, which conservationists insisted wasn't sufficient.

Depending upon who's speaking, the discussions are either "going to hell in a hand basket" or there's reason to be "hopeful" that a consensus will emerge.

The crux of the issue, according to Ed Fox, a vice president at Pinnacle West and respected former director of the state Department of Environmental Quality, is calculating the "cost" of setting aside trust lands for preservation as open space rather than having the state sell them for development and use the money to help fund education. At issue are about 750,000 acres in rural areas and 250,000 acres of urban trust lands.

Once an economic analysis is



The Arizona Republic

Setting aside beautiful desert landscapes such as this near Lake Pleasant should be more than a matter of mere economics.

completed — discussions begin today and Fox says he'd like the finished product in 60 days — the task force should be able to determine the fiscal hit to the state trust of setting aside certain lands for preservation, and then calculate the corresponding boost in value of adjoining trust lands, whose proximity to planned open space would suddenly make them all the more desirable for development.

This analysis can't come too soon. Fissures are widening.

One fissure involves educators. The education community is an important component because the state is constitutionally required to manage the 9.3 million acres of trust lands to their "highest and best (economic) value" and to use income from the sale or lease of these public lands for public education.

But it's more than that. Passage by the voters last fall of a tax increase for teacher salaries also has the effect of diverting a portion of interest income from trust lands to teacher pay in-

creases. Thus, educators now have a very direct interest in protecting state trust land values. Says Mike Smith, who represents the Arizona School Administrators: "We need a compensation scenario that we are comfortable with."

Last weekend, the Arizona School Boards Association adopted a resolution supporting a preservation initiative "that would serve to maximize the earnings of the school trust lands."

A spokeswoman said it wasn't intended as a flat-out rejection of anything less than full market value and that there's flexibility in its interpretation. If so, that's good. But the resolution also

suggests that trust lands won't be set aside as open space without compensation — a bedrock principle of the defeated Proposition 100 that would have preserved 3 percent of trust lands without requiring cities or other jurisdictions to "purchase" the land from the trust.

Will this pose a make-or-break problem for conservationists?

It shouldn't because a couple of cities, Scottsdale and Phoenix, already have agreed to purchase some lands for conservation. Moreover, without the education community on board, the fight to preserve trust lands could easily digress into an ugly cactus-vs.-kid battle. And nobody wants that.

For the conservationists, there's the important question of timing. They had wanted matters wrapped up by July. That way, if they didn't like the group's consensus, they'd have sufficient time to circulate an initiative of their own in time for the 2002 ballot. The longer they wait for a compromise to develop, the smaller that window becomes.

The business community wants some measure of certainty that the lands *not* designated for preservation will be opened for development in a timely manner. Conservationists want a process established now to set aside other lands down the road. Developers want assurances that they won't have to fight protracted battles every time a parcel goes on the auction block.

Whether a broad-based compromise is possible is unclear.

But the parties should keep trying. Setting aside pristine landscapes shouldn't hinge on economics alone. There is intrinsic value to preserving our heritage for future generations.



**Growth Making the Right Choices**

One in a series of editorials and commentaries on the challenges facing Arizona in managing its growth.

#120

Depending upon who's speaking, the discussions are either "going to hell in a hand basket" or there's reason to be "hopeful" that a consensus will emerge.

#121

THE EDITOR

Editorial  
AZ Republic  
July 9, 01

# Public must not be denied access to public land

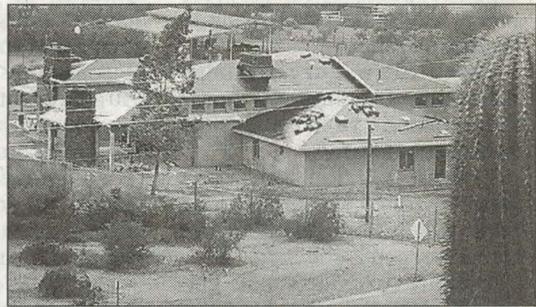
I have a perspective on the mountains preserve arsonist that I haven't seen mentioned in *The Republic*.

It's not nearly as sensational as the current stance of "the nasty enviro freak burning down the poor little rich guy's house." But I believe it's an issue the paper should address, and force to the Legislature.

One of the problems with the obscenely wealthy building their mansions adjacent to preserve land, or indeed any public land, is that they then block public access to that public land. It certainly is nice that the wealthy can have their very own private access to public land. What's not so nice is the fact that they then block out the vast majority of citizens the public land was intended to benefit.

I moved to Phoenix from Tucson. While living in Tucson, I was a member of the Southern Arizona Hiking Club. I know about the fights and games required to maintain or reacquire access to public land and to pre-existing public trails, when the wealthy or businesses build adjacent to that public land. It can take a very long time to resolve.

There's a chance the access will be lost forever. I seriously doubt that Phoenix is any more realistic about its public land. I expect it cares even less. I find Phoenix to be anything but an "outdoors" city — snowbirds on golf courses in the winter exempted. I would guess that 99.999 percent of the population here thinks concrete is beautiful, and a trip to the mall is a marvelous outing.



The Arizona Republic

**This luxury home near the Phoenix Mountains Preserve was damaged by an eco-arsonist, but construction has continued.**

It's well past time for our Legislature to put a statewide clamp on developers. It's well past time for guaranteed, permanent, usable public access to public land. Developers must be required to provide permanent, usable access easements when they build adjacent to public land. And they shouldn't be allowed to price-gouge the public for the smidgen of land required.

As long as the rich, business or individual, are allowed to screw the public, problems like the preserve arsonist will continue.

Personally, I'm sorry they caught him. I never would have thought that way before I saw the fights over public trail access in Tucson.

**—Donna McCabe  
Phoenix**

#122

# Land Buyouts an Option for 11 Desert Hills Properties

By Caleb Soptelean

**DESERT HILLS/NEW RIVER** – The recent release of Phase II of the Skunk Creek Watercourse Master Plan, developed by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, has resulted in the possibility of land buyouts for 11 property owners in Desert Hills. The total cost of the buyouts is estimated at \$3.145 million.

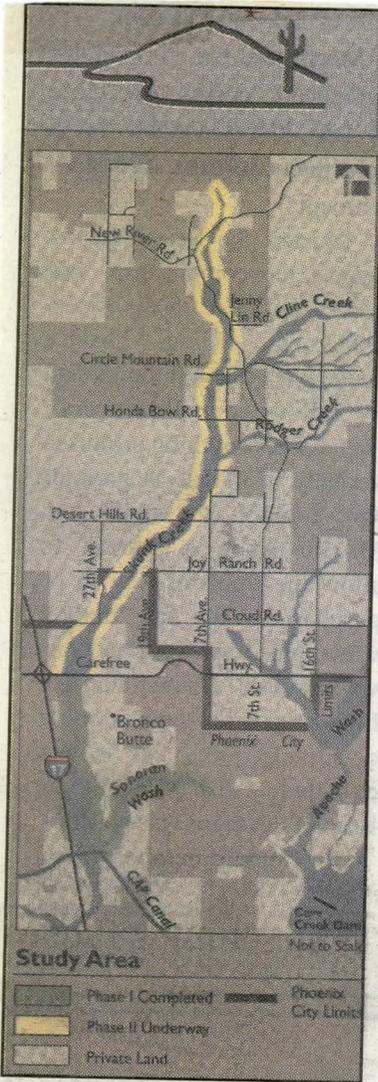
Under the Plan, the 11 property owners who own land in the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) 100-year floodway can remain in their homes, but if a fire or other catastrophe destroys a home, it cannot be rebuilt.

Sharon Geraci is one of the

property owners who may be forced to sell due to her land sitting in the Skunk Creek floodway. Geraci moved into her home on Honda Bow nearly three years ago, with plans to continue her leather business started a year before at her previous home in Desert Hills.

At a meeting in March, Flood Control official Shanna Yeager reportedly told Joe and Claudia Hines, who also live in the floodway, that they can improve their home but the value of an addition can't exceed 50 percent of the home's appraised value. That's not what Geraci was told, however, and she has been unable to properly conduct her business since moving because she cannot obtain a building permit for an enclosed barn, as all of her five acres are located in the floodway. Geraci repairs saddles and makes chaps and other

**Land Buyouts,**  
*Please see page 6*



Courtesy photo  
Geraci stand in front of Skunk Creek Wash which her home sits next to. Geraci hopes the county buys out her land, otherwise its value will plummet due to its floodway designation.

# Land Buyouts,

From page 1

leather items.

Before she moved, Geraci says a county official told her she could build a barn or shop, but not a custom home. She shut down her business after she moved because the county wouldn't give her a building permit to build a barn to store leather goods. She has nearly \$25,000 worth of materials stored at another location. "They won't even give me a permit to enclose the open porch" at her home, she said. Ironically, Geraci's present livelihood is selling fire-proof barns. "That's the pits, because you sell the things but you can't build one on your own place," she says. "I moved out here (from 20th Street and Joy Ranch) because it was getting way too residential," said Geraci, adding that she had no qualms about moving next to the wash because she just wanted to live in peace, with state land to the east and the wash to the west. Six months later she began to hear rumblings about having to move because of the floodway. "At this point in time, I just want out," she said. "You're spinning your wheels just sitting here."

Geraci would like to sell to the county but doesn't know where she'd move if it ever happens. "In the last two years, things have just skyrocketed out here," she said, referring to rapidly escalating land and home prices in the area.

The proposed voluntary land buyout would need approval by the county Board of Supervisors, but funding is a question. Project Manager Marilyn DeRosa said if the plan is approved, it will take time to implement—possibly years—because of funding constraints.

The District estimates three of the 11 properties have a 20-percent chance of flooding, the highest of any of the properties. Geraci's home has a 6.3-percent chance of flooding.

Additionally, there are 18 houses and five mobile homes located outside the floodway but inside severe erosion hazard zones. Flood Control recommends these properties be included in the proposed buyout.

At this time the District is considering a flood warning system for the affected homes. Geraci says they're thinking about giving the property owners pagers and a weather radio which would provide homeowners updates on activity in the wash. "It should give us 15 minutes to get out (in case of potential flood)," said Geraci.

The Skunk Creek Watercourse Master Plan was begun in August, 1999. Phase I of the Plan focused on the portion of the creek between the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal and Carefree Highway in Phoenix, while the recently released Phase II covered the area from Carefree Highway to approximately 2200 feet north of the bridge crossing at New River Road.



County construction equipment cleans out the debris which has collected under the newly construction bridge over New River Wash.

# THE WICKENBURG SUN

75¢  
per copy

Vol. 69 • No. 21

WICKENBURG, AZ (www.wickenburgsun.com)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2001

## Town to pay for flood wall

### 'To hell with FEMA,' says vice mayor

By Janet DeTufio  
Staff Writer

A hot topic of discussion at the July 2 meeting of the Wickenburg Town Council was the extension of the Sols Wash Flood Protection Wall at Coffinger Park, and attempts by government bureaucracies to call the shots on the project.

In the end, the council, with a "to hell with FEMA" comment from the vice mayor highlighting its discussion, voted to go ahead

and build the wall, with or without such agencies' help.

Taking turns on the council's hot seat before its eventual vote were FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the Flood Control District of Maricopa County; and ADOT, the Arizona Department of Transportation, the builder of the much-maligned Sols Wash Bridge.

Flood control issues remain contentious in Wickenburg and

patience is wearing thin with the agencies involved in helping the town deal with such measures. Before possible flooding of the Sols Wash begins again, council members and town staffers said they wanted to be sure the Coffinger Park area is more protected than it has been in the past.

"During the floods in October, the wall we built earlier in the year at the park really helped a lot," said Town Manager Fred Carpenter. "So we decided that we

wanted to build a longer wall and improve what we already had."

Several months ago, the town decided to make repairs and improvements on the Coffinger Park wall and Carpenter had hoped that an approximate \$21,000 FEMA grant would be awarded to the town. This would have covered the cost of an the extension.

"We talked to FEMA, and the Flood Control District, and told them what we were going to do,"

Carpenter said. "We got the project designed and put out bid and we thought everything was going fine, but apparently it wasn't."

The schedule was halted when FEMA sought authorization of the project by county flood control and when the county agency said it was unaware of the project, FEMA went into a holding pattern.

Reportedly, FEMA said that

Wall continued, page A-6

#1123

# Wall

Continued from page A-1

until it got an OK from flood control, it could not grant the funds to Wickenburg, and if the wall project was started before a decision was made, the funds would no longer be available.

"To hell with FEMA," said an angry vice mayor, Lon McDermott. "And you can send them a thank you letter."

Council member William "Bill" Johnson, then put the blame squarely on Maricopa County, and said the agency "should be held accountable and a strong letter should be written."

After Carpenter reiterated the fact that the town had good working relationships with both FEMA and county flood control, Johnson said, "I'm sick of the bureaucrats and a letter should go to the state."

When the discussion came to an end, the council concluded that it was more important to pro-

tec. its residents now, instead of waiting on any FEMA grant money.

A vote was taken to begin the project immediately - including the 200-foot extension - which would be funded exclusively from the town's capital improvement program.

The bid was awarded to Mordex Contracting, for a total package cost of \$46,900, and work should begin in the next few weeks.

"We're going ahead and building the wall," Carpenter said. "We can't wait for the floods to start again."

Carpenter said the council was justifiably upset because the engineers had the design approved by the Army Corps of Engineers, and said that the county knew what was being done. He said he is anticipating a letter from flood control, stating the agency is aware that the wall is being repaired and extended.

#124

West Valley View  
July 11, 01

# Courts may become involved in gravel dispute, Wilcox warns

by Jeff Billington  
staff writer

The future of a sand and gravel operation near Avondale now rests with the Maricopa County Board of Adjustment.

New West Materials Inc., the company that owns the operation west of Dysart Road and north of Southern Avenue, is going to the board to request an exemption from a special-use permit.

Currently, the operation is limited to sand and gravel excavation. However, the company wants to expand to produce asphalt, for which the county requires a special-use permit. Going to the board could provide New West with a loophole around the special-use permit.

The Board of Adjustment is a five-member panel that includes one member from each of the county's five districts. The Board of Supervisors appoints its members.

Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, D-District 5, previously said she would do all in her power to prevent New West — which is owned by Phoenix-based Pulice Construction — from getting a special-use permit.

Because of the state's lenient laws with regard to mining, the county was not able to prevent the sand and gravel operation from starting up. Avondale also was unable to prevent the business because it is located on an unincorporated county island and not in the city's jurisdiction.

New West is expected to argue that the asphalt plant is part of the mining operation, so it does not need a special use permit, Wilcox said.

"If the board of adjustment approves it [the exemption], we're going to court," she said.

The county's Planning and Zoning Department feels strongly that a special-use permit is needed in this case, Wilcox said.

If the Board of Adjustment were to approve the exemption, it would apply to any and all of New West's sites in the county — including one in Mesa that is being fought by

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*If the board of adjustment approves it [the exemption], we're going to court.*

— Mary Rose Wilcox  
Maricopa County Supervisor  
D-District 5

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citrus farmers, she said.

"That's why we're going to fight it; we don't want it to set precedent," Wilcox said.

No date has been set for New West to appear before the Board of Adjustment, but it probably will be around the first of August, she said.

Board of Adjustment meetings are open to the public.

Todd Sundquist has been protesting the company since it first started its operation on Dysart Road about two months ago. He and his neighbors, who live across the street from the site, consider the operation a threat to them and their children.

Many of the area's residents ride horses on Dysart Road, and the trucks could frighten them, causing someone to get hurt, Sundquist told the *West Valley View*.

Avondale also opposes the operation because the site could be a part of the city in the future. Avondale previously had sent a list of recommendations to New West on how to make the operation more neighbor-friendly.

With Avondale having no power to force compliance, New West declined to follow the recommendations.

Calls to New West to get its latest position were not returned as of press time.

# Property owners fear the worst

## Residents may have to make way for flood control project

By CAROLYN DRYER

When the maps outlining a proposed Glendale/Peoria Master drainage plan were unveiled last month at an open house at Sunrise Mountain High School, there were residents living in the affected area who were unaware their property might be condemned to make way for ditches and culverts.

Two of those residents were Mike and Irene Mead, whose one-acre-plus homesite sits on the northwest corner of 83rd Avenue and Camino de Oro.

Mike Mead said last week, "The only thing I know is I didn't know anything about it. They're intending to take people's property."

The Meads moved onto their property in early 1999 and Mike Mead operates his excavation business out of his home. He has heavy equipment parked near his house and has a steady stream of

customers because of the rapid growth taking place in that part of the county.

The Glendale/Peoria Master Drainage Plan, which includes a proposed retention basin on the southeast corner of his property, came as a surprise to Mead.

"When I first heard it, I didn't believe it," Mead said. "And then, I started asking around."

What he heard from some of his fellow residents was "very aggressive" in their remarks and attitudes, Mead said.

It was not long before Mead and his wife started writing letters and attending meetings held at his neighbors' homes. Mead said he got a call back from Project Manager Marilyn DeRosa of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, who explained the drainage situation and told him she thought everybody knew about it. Mead said DeRosa confirmed to

More DRAINAGE on A20



Photo by Jean Bihn  
Mike Mead drives onto his property at 83rd Avenue and Camino De Oro. Part of Mead's property is depicted on one Flood Control District brochure as a possible site for a drainage and retention basin. A public meeting on the situation is being held June 20 at Sunrise Mountain High School.

Peoria Times July 15, 01

#125

## Drainage, From A1

him that, yes, the possibility of the ditch and retention basin on his property was a consideration.

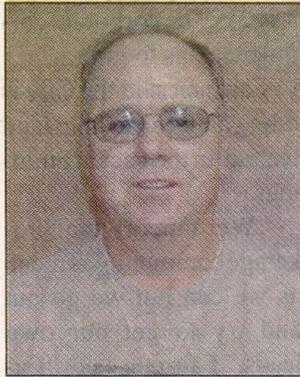
Mead said he was "pleased to get the phone call," but some of his neighbors seem to be more concerned than he. Still, Mead is content with what he has.

"I don't want to relocate," Mead said. "If they put drainage alongside my property, I prefer a buried pipe."

Mead said the plan he first saw includes a 40-foot-wide piece of ground on the east side of his property along 83rd Avenue that would be an open ditch leading all the way from Sunrise Mountain. It needs to be a storm drain pipe, not a huge canal, Mead said.

"Everybody's in favor of drainage control but not a big, open ditch," Mead said.

Around the corner at 8512 W. Pinnacle Peak Road is Lorraine Hall Currence's home. Hall Currence's home is just one that sits on 10 acres purchased by her parents more



**Mike Mead, who has lived in the area just over two years, would like to see buried pipes, not open ditches along Pinnacle Peak Road and 83rd Avenue.**

than 20 years ago. The home was built for her parents by Hall Currence, her parents, her brother, sister and other members of the extended family. Hall Currence's brother, sister and niece have also built homes on the property. Hall Currence moved into her parents' home after they died nine years ago.

The home was a meeting place for the family, Hall Currence said, and her mother's headstone is engraved with a picture of the home.

Like Mead, Hall

Currence is not in favor of a large, open ditch and retention basin along 83rd/Pinnacle Peak. Hall Currence believes that if any drainage is built, it should be buried and families' lives disrupted as little as possible.

In her letter to DeRosa, Hall Currence wrote, "I am in disbelief that someone would take the home I love and which I have such deep emotional ties and ask me to build elsewhere. I would hope that you would consider how important this home is to me and look at other options or decide to bury the pipes so that I and my neighbors may continue to live in an area that we have chosen to stay and raise our families."

Hall Currence said she and about 20 of her neighbors in the area were never notified about any of the four meetings that have been held since March 2000, nor did they receive any pamphlets or door hangers describing the drainage project. Hall Currence said she is not against flood control, but she also believes



**Lorraine Hall Currence, left, and her neighbor, Susan Steyaert, look over a stack of papers Hall Currence has collected and letters she has written dealing with the drainage situation along Pinnacle Peak Road.**

the Flood Control District failed in its job to adequately notify those residents most affected by its ultimate decision.

Business owner J. D. Campbell is more stoic about the situation, saying he realizes the FCD does not yet know what type of

drainage will eventually be built.

"We're trying to work with them," Campbell said. "Nobody is happy. I'm not trying to second-guess them."

Campbell said he understands one of the reasons for the drainage project is

to relieve the flooding near Westbrook Village that affects a greater number of homes. But Campbell said he also believes residents along Pinnacle Peak Road should receive ample restitution if they are displaced.

(See page A7 for FCD response to situation.)

# Flood Control District studies try to beat the growth wave

By Michael S. Ellegood, P.E.  
Chief Engineer and  
General Manager  
Flood Control District of  
Maricopa County

I'd like to respond to the Peoria Times editorial of June 8 regarding flood control projects affecting Peoria, most particularly, the Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan as it applies to the 83rd Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Road neighborhood.

The editorial alludes to confusion regarding the various studies and projects that are in progress in the north Glendale/Peoria area. You are quite correct on one count at least - there is a lot going on. As probably the fastest growing area in Maricopa County, this area, your neighborhoods desperately need these studies to prevent catastrophic flooding during future storm events. Indeed, the need for these studies were confirmed by flooding in the Ventana Lakes area this past summer.

As Chief Engineer and General Manager of your flood control district, I have challenged our professional staff to get out ahead of development so that the rights of way can be preserved without the need to impact peoples lives and, to the extent possible, build the necessary drainage system as the development goes in.

Unfortunately and despite a herculanean effort, we have not been successful, so far,

in getting ahead of the growth wave. This means that people and their property and homes are sometimes impacted. The Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan is a study, which examines flooding issues within portions of these two cities - using state-of-the-art engineering techniques - and recommends cost-effective solutions that consider the area's character, as well as its recreational and environmental needs.

An important part of the study process is gathering community comment. Three rounds of public meetings attended by more than 125 people were hosted during the course of the study, with residents providing a great deal of positive comment on this project. The District regrets that residents of the 83rd Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Road area did not get flyers at their doorsteps informing them of the last meeting. It was not the District's intent to leave them out of the process. Now that the Study Team knows that these residents were missed, they are rectifying the situation by hosting a special meeting at 6 p.m., June 20 at Sunrise Mountain High School Library, 21200 N. 83rd Ave.

The results of any study are heavily influenced by community comment. When residents of this neighborhood expressed their concerns, the District immediately began work to find new

More CONTROL on A10

#126

Peoria Times July 15, 01

## Control, From A7

drainage solutions for this area. The Study Team will offer these alternatives for comment at the June 20 meeting. It is important for residents to understand that at this point, we are developing a plan. We have no authority to begin work on this plan until it is approved by both the District's Board of Directors (the Maricopa County Board of Supervi-

sors) and the City Council of the applicable municipality.

Thus, we will not be condemning properties in the near future and certainly not without substantial public input.

Will we need to acquire property to construct drainage facilities?

Probably, but we don't know just where yet and

we don't know when. The answer to these questions is in the process of being developed. All of us here at the District are well aware of the trauma caused by a forced relocation and we avoid it whenever we can. But it is necessary from time to time - particularly in developed areas. Where relocation is required, the affected family

is fairly compensated for their property and for the costs of their relocation. We use federal and state guidelines and we make every effort to make fair and equitable compensation to the homeowner.

Your bottom line, the need for the District "to mend some fences" is well taken. It was an unfortunate oversight that an en-

tire neighborhood was not properly notified of an important public meeting. I can assure you we have taken corrective action with those parties responsible for the notification process. Our project manager and our public information staff have personally called or contacted each individual in the neighborhood. We are having at least one more

public meeting to gather input. We have gathered our fence pliers and some replacement wire and are in the process of "mending fences." Your continued coverage will serve to keep an informed public.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your editorial - I hope this will help to set the record straight.

#127

# Ahwatukee Foothill

## New

[Home](#)

## Pecos Park construction makes slow progress

[Community](#)

By Doug Murphy Staff Writer

[Education](#)

Construction is moving forward on Ahwatukee Foothill's newest recreation area, \$ Pecos Park.

[Sports](#)

[Entertainment](#)

But with all the dust in the air, it's hard to see the progress.

[Calendar](#)

The 66-acre park, at 48th Street and Pecos Road, will hold multiuse ball and soccer community swimming pool, a 40,000-square-foot community center, skateboard park, rock climbing wall. If enough space remains, it could even contain a special dog park.

[Crime](#)

[Opinion](#)

But don't hunt for your Frisbee just yet.

[Cooking](#)

The construction bids for the park amenities on the west side of the park won't be going to bidders until late September, at the earliest.

[Weather](#)

[Classified](#)

Progress is being made on the park's east side. More than 900,000 cubic yards of dirt have been removed to create a giant 36-acre water retention area.

[Business Directory](#)

The basin eventually will hold most of the organized athletic fields for the park. Jointly by the city of Phoenix and the Maricopa County Flood Control District, the \$4.6 million basin will be done by July, in time for the monsoon.

[Real Estate](#)

[AFN Info](#)

Then it will be up to the city alone to build bathrooms, install lighting and construct athletic fields.

[Tell It to the AFN](#)

[Contact](#)

If all goes according to plan, construction bids will go out in the fall for the rest of the park including the community swimming pool, skateboard park, picnic areas, roads and parking lots, according to Bruce Swanson, an administrator with the Phoenix Parks Preserve Initiative. Construction of the community center would begin a year or two later because funding for that project is separate, coming from the voter-approved bond program.

[Search](#)

It's taken longer than anticipated to get construction started, Swanson said.

"It's not an easy site to do," he admitted.

Swanson would not commit to a completion date until after the bids go out.

Park planners had to coordinate their project with the Maricopa County Flood Control District and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), which is building Road ramps onto Interstate 10.

The highway ramps will form the northern border for the park and should be completed by December.

Construction has followed a logical sequence with the retention area being completed first to accommodate runoff water that floods Gila River Indian Community land that borders the park on the south.

Completion of the Pecos Road ramps in December will allow crews to build a road through the park. That, in turn, will provide construction crews a way in to build the rest of the park's features.

Adding to the complexity, Swanson pointed out that a wide range of utilities follow Pecos Road, including high voltage power lines and underground natural gas and fuel pipelines.

Cutting the park partly in two and ending in a parking lot will be 48th Street, which the Gila River Indian Community officials would like extended to their border.

"We realized there was always that potential," said Swanson of 48th Street bisecting the park and carrying large amounts of traffic in and out of the Indian community, which is how the park was laid out as it was.

"I think it's still a big 'if,' " he said.

Swanson pointed out that if the road does connect eventually to a similar road on the community side of the park, "we'll work out a system that is safe."

One problem park planners have not had is money.

Funding for the park came from the 1999 voter-approved sales tax increase for parks, preserves and the bond program approved by voters last March.

Included in the one-tenth-of-a-cent sales tax increase is money to build nine regional parks, including Pecos Park, and to purchase 13,000 acres of Sonoran desert in the north.

"Out of the nine regional parks, Pecos and Indian School have the largest (monetary) allocations," said Swanson, who estimated that Pecos Park will cost \$12 million in design, land acquisition and construction. The flood control district contributed \$3.5 million toward the retention area.

Funding for the \$4.6 million community center will come from the \$750 million bond program.

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**Flood basin - Bird basin**

The 36-acre \$4.6 million water retention basin that makes up half of Pecos Park will hold more than athletic fields and water treatment areas.

It also will contain a mini oasis in the desert that will help clean runoff and could easily become a prime location for bird watching.

According to Kristina Baxter, public information officer for the Maricopa County Flood Control District, "It will surely be a good place for bird watching."

The water treatment areas will look like wetlands complete with rushes, river rocks and other plants which will help remove the worst particles from runoff water that used to flood the intersection of Chandler Boulevard and 48th Street every time it rained.

Water, during dry periods, will come from a Salt River Project canal, so that the area thrives year round, Baxter said.

It's part of what Baxter called the "kinder and gentler" flood control district which is moving away from the classic concrete-lined hole in the ground toward multiuse facilities.

"Even though this is a basin, that it can double as a recreation facility just makes sense," she said.

### **Pecos is pocket park**

Pecos has been billed as a district park, the largest type of park built by Phoenix, at with Encanto and Papago parks.

But at 66 acres it is one-third the size of the average Phoenix district park and far below the 100-acre minimum the parks department uses to define a district park.

Mountain Vista and the partially constructed Desert Foothills parks, at 40 and 44 acres respectively, are nearly as large.

Bruce Swanson, an administrator with the parks preserve initiative understands the problem of not having a larger site available for a district park.

"But it's the biggest site we had," he said.

Swanson is hoping that negotiations on the state-owned 620 acres of land between 27th Avenue, Pecos Road and South Mountain Park could help increase park acreage and facilities.

The current development plan for the state land calls for between a 20-acre and 40-acre site. The Ahwatukee Foothills Village Planning Committee, backed by the city planning department, would like 40 acres for a park and 200 acres for open space north of Chandler Boulevard eventually will go.

# Rains raise road issues at new Arlington school site

by Beth Kristin Ott  
staff writer

Heavy rains in the far West Valley recently raised new questions concerning the relocation of Arlington School.

Centennial Wash crosses the roads leading to the proposed new location at about 410th Avenue and Elliot Road, and they customarily are under water after heavy rainfall.

"Those kids couldn't have gone to school today," Arlington resident Jim Garner, who is opposed to the proposed school site, said after a storm two weeks ago. "Buses can't drive through that. It's just not a good place for a school."

Superintendent Ron Fletcher acknowledged that the roads may need some work, however, the current school would have had problems with the rainfall, as well. The rural elementary school has been located in the Gila River Floodway since 1957 — before there was a County Flood Control District, which was formed in August 1959.

"If we had school here that day, we would have had to keep the kids all night due to the flooding, and it wouldn't be the first time," Fletcher said.

## Why the school must move

Controversy in Arlington District has surrounded the school relocation issue for about six months. Many residents do not want to lose the current school for nostalgic reasons. Others are concerned about the new location because it is closer to power plants. Now, road quality has come into question.

Although some residents have made statements that they would like to see the school improved at its current location — that is not permissible. Following a fire that burned a couple of classrooms and damaged a restroom, the Maricopa County Flood Control District will not allow the school to do any further construction or remodeling at its current location.

(See Arlington on page A15)

# Arlington

(From page A1)

"The bottom line is we will not issue them a permit to reconstruct the burnt classrooms," said Michael Ellegood, chief engineer and general manager of MCFCFD. "With four flood events in the last 50 years that all caused damage, why would you rebuild there anyway?"

The classrooms must be more than 50 percent damaged for such an order to be made, Ellegood said, and they are.

The fire damage estimate given by State Risk Retention Trust Company was \$375,438.20, added Fletcher. The damaged building is estimated to be worth \$317,135.

"No new permanent buildings can be constructed and no substantial improvements can be made to existing buildings," Ellegood wrote in a letter to Fletcher.

The buildings do not have to be torn down, however, they cannot be improved for future school use. Maricopa County Flood Control District, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will buy out the school property so the school can use the money to build elsewhere, Ellegood said.

"The value of the school is approximately \$1.2 million," he said. "Neither FEMA nor the flood district will accept the risk of the school staying there."

## Addressing further concerns

The roads around the new school site are the biggest concern, not the actual proximity to the nuclear power plant, according to Ruth Aud, emergency services planner for the Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management.

"Right now, when the washes are running, you can't go west," Aud said. "The roads need to be upgraded to the point that you could evacuate to the west."

The emergency planning zone around Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant is 10 miles, Aud said. The current school and the proposed new location are both within that zone.

Aud works closely with the staffs at Arlington, Ruth Fisher and Palo Verde schools on safety issues — should anything ever happen at Palo Verde, the schools would be ready, she said.

"We're not trying to get involved in the politics of this site," Aud said. "The only problem with relocating there is the exit route."

Aud sent a letter to the Maricopa County Department of Transportation recommending the agency look into road improvement due to the consideration of a school.

"The roads are very nice during nice weather," Aud said. "We're just trying to get this added now, before a problem arises."



Photo courtesy of Maricopa County Flood Control District

## Underwater classes

Arlington Elementary School grounds were completely flooded in 1993. The school sits in the Gila River floodplain.

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# At war with sand, gravel outfits

## Valley residents hindered by loopholes

By David Madrid  
The Arizona Republic

In the war between sand and gravel operations and the residents who don't want them nearby, sand and gravel is winning.

Residents around the Valley have found themselves fighting a \$2 billion industry that feeds the state's ravenous construction needs.

And the fights have been time consuming, frustrating and usually fruitless.

Here is a sample of battles erupting across the Valley as

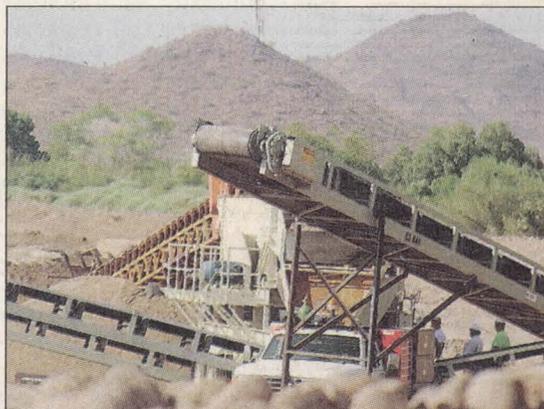
### Inside

Sand-and-gravel pits need local controls. **Editorial, B6.**

once vacant stretches of prime property near riverbeds are being developed:

■ County residents near Avondale find a sand and gravel operation disrupting their rural equestrian lifestyle. There were no public meetings warning that the business was

See **BATTLE** Page A4



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Neighbors are battling this sand and gravel pit operating on farmland near Avondale.

# BATTLE Over sand, gravel outfits

From Page A1

moving in. A company manager says no notice was required. He is correct.

■ Peoria residents in Ventana Lakes complain that three huge sand and gravel operations run a fleet of trucks through their neighborhood daily, leaving exhaust, dust and garbage in their wake.

■ Sun City residents complain that Vulcan Materials Co. began working day and night as it added an asphalt recycling plant without notice. The company acknowledges it could have done a much better job of informing neighbors and will do so in the future, even though it doesn't have to.

■ In Mesa, an old orchard is dug up by New West Materials in order to get materials for Loop 202, even though the state built the loop around the groves. New West says it owns the land and it is within its rights to mine it.

■ Rockland Materials claims in a countersuit with Maricopa County that it does not need a flood-control permit as the county insists it does because it has a permit from the state mining inspector to operate.

If Rockland wins, county officials are afraid it will set a precedent, and that others in the industry will challenge the county's right to demand the permit.

■ After trying for about five years to stop Peoria-based Rainbow Enterprises from illegally dumping solid waste, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and the Attorney General's Office settled. The company will pay \$25,000 of a \$100,000 fine, while the state holds the other \$75,000 over the company's head in case it violates the law again. But the company inspects itself.

Although plenty of agencies regulate a piece of the industry, no one agency has comprehensive jurisdiction. Therefore, when a resident goes to an agency for relief, they usually get the same response: There's nothing we can do.

Regulation of the industry is riddled with loopholes, too many agencies with narrow jurisdiction and the usual costs of growth: strained governmental staffs, development that outpaces policy, and confusion.

Industry representatives say sand and gravel outfits have plenty of laws and regulations they must follow. Ken Quartermain, president of the Arizona Rock Products Association, asks why cities continue to approve developments next to sand and gravel operations without buffers, knowing the complaints that will follow.

He points out that sand and gravel is a \$2 billion a year industry in the state, employing about 10,000 Arizona residents. The total direct and indirect economic impact of the



Photos by Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Neighbors of a sand and gravel operation near Avondale put up signs, like this one along Dysart Road, protesting the operation and the increased truck traffic it has caused.

business to the state is as much as \$3.5 billion a year, he says.

Of the laws and regulations required, Maricopa County winds up having more control over the sand and gravel industry than any other entity. But county Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox says the county, too, is limited. The county has jurisdiction over problems with dust, traffic and potential flooding problems that operations create. It also oversees special-use permits for concrete and asphalt plants.

But the county's authority can be challenged, as Rockland Materials has done in its countersuit, she says.

One of the biggest problems with the sand and gravel industry isn't so much a lack of environmental regulations, as it is the absence of zoning and public notification requirements.

Depending on what kind of operation they're running, companies have to meet regulations from air quality and aquifer to flood control and mining permits. Operators must prepare dust-control plans and a pollution-prevention plan and if it's a larger producer, have a fleet emissions inspection permit.

Few, if any, zoning and notification requirements exist. Cities approve developments arguing that home buyers can see that sand and gravel operations are in the riverbeds.

In the cases of special-use permits, disclosure is required, but some residents near the operations complain that they never see the notices, which are printed in obscure publications.

For Todd Sundquist, that meant waking up one morning to find a sand and gravel operation had opened for business in his neighborhood, a 30-year-old community of horse properties in the southwest Valley. Like other Valley residents, Sundquist soon found that his protests were to no avail.

In addition to the surprise factor, residents complain of



Todd Sundquist (left) and Joe Maroney, who live close to a sand and gravel pit near Avondale, look out over the Agua Fria aquifer that runs next to the pit. Their neighborhood is a 30-year-old community of horse properties.

businesses that operate day and night; of trucks and equipment firing up as early as 4 a.m. and the constant sound of rocks being crushed and dumped.

A lot of heartache could be avoided if businesses were required to inform residents they are moving into the area or altering their operations, said state Mining Inspector Douglas Martin, who is writing a handbook dealing with the sand and gravel industry.

"Right now, the industry is trying to avoid it (disclosure) because it always lengthens the process," Martin said.

In the 13 years he has been mining inspector, Martin has seen complaints increase threefold.

"In the past, we didn't have a Sun City or people out in Cave Creek and Carefree," he said. "The same with the Queen Creek area. Those are all new developments. ... Demand for aggregate products has increased tremendously, so

there are quite a few new operations."

On the Agua Fria River alone, stretching from north Peoria to Avondale, 30 sand and gravel sites are operating or proposed.

And although real estate laws require that developers tell home buyers they will be sharing their neighborhoods with a business that creates dust and traffic, homeowners complain that too often that isn't happening. And real estate officials say that nobody is responsible for checking whether developers are adhering to the law.

"I'm getting about two (complaints) a week," Martin said. "Generally the complaints are about noise and truck traffic, the dust and smell. Then I ask, 'Did you know this plant was 200 feet from your backyard?'"

Many did not, he said. The homebuyers say that when it is time to sell their homes, they must disclose that



the sand and gravel operation is nearby, making it harder to sell the houses and reducing their value.

But the businesses operate where the rock is, and because the state has a lot of caliche in its dirt, it is difficult to harvest the rock in most places, except in or near riverbeds, where the rock is easy to mine.

"We have had our operations in dry riverbeds for decades," Quartermain said. "We are supplying raw materials to build Arizona. That is the pri-

mary reason we are there." Quartermain says that he knows there are things the industry can do to improve.

"We basically have a new paradigm the industry is dealing with and grappling with: How do we operate and get the material to the public, and be as neighborly as possible?"

Reach the reporter at david.madrid@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6926.

Mike, FYI - Scott U.

8/7/01

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## Flood project in troubled waters

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### 7 DAY ARCHIVE

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By Diana Balazs

The Arizona Republic  
Aug. 04, 2001

The chairwoman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has reiterated in a letter what residents opposed to a flood-control project in Paradise Valley say they've been arguing all along, that the project on Doubletree Ranch Road is going nowhere as currently proposed.

The town received a letter dated June 27 from Jan Brewer stating that she is "not inclined" to put the project on the supervisors' agenda for a vote.

Residents opposed to the project say it's time to move on and make less drastic improvements. But town officials remain convinced that they can persuade the county to change its mind.

Residents obtained a copy of the letter and brought it to light at the July 26 council meeting.

Mayor Ed Lowry said the town was not hiding the letter.

"It's just another piece of correspondence that happens to deal with Doubletree and happens to be from one of the key players," he said. "We don't make a practice of sending everyone in the town a copy of every letter that comes in,"

The letter is in response to a resolution the council passed in May, asking the supervisors to approve an intergovernmental agreement for the project. Last year, the town approved an agreement with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, but the district's advisory board twice rejected it.

The project includes adding curbs and gutters to about two miles of Doubletree and installing pipes and storm drains along the road from Tatum Boulevard to Indian Bend Wash and from the wash to Invergordon Road.

In her letter, Brewer repeated what she said she told town officials in a meeting with them April 5 - that she will not bring up the matter to a vote over the "loud objections" of the advisory board.

Brewer added that if the town makes changes to the project or presents something new, she would encourage it to bring it back to the advisory board.

Lowry said the town has spent about \$600,000 on engineering plans with the Flood Control District on a project that district officials said is very much needed. The district would pay for the bulk of the project, \$11.4 million, with the town chipping in \$2.7 million, plus another \$3.1 million for road improvements.

"We are entitled to an answer from the board that has the authority to give us an answer," he said.

He added that the town's staff needs to take a look at the project and see if any adjustments are needed.

Last week, residents urged the council to proceed with a less-ambitious plan. George Dopp suggested that the town appoint a committee of residents to work with an engineer to design something acceptable to everyone.

"The residents of the Doubletree Road corridor have been held hostage long enough. I think we deserve better," he said.

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Christine Keith/The Arizona Republic

An early evening dust storm rolls into Phoenix during a recent summer, swallowing South Mountain and dimming visibility at Sky Harbor International Airport. The dust storms, called haboobs, are part of the temperamental monsoon.

# Arizona's monsoon mayhem

Moody summer phenomenon unleashes destructive storms

6/20/01

By Kerry Fehr-Snyder  
The Arizona Republic

The sky turned eerily dark, the wind stopped stirring and the birds fell silent.

The next thing George Robson knew, he and his daughter were gripping the bumper of the pickup truck in their carport as a wall of debris slammed into them.

"We got nailed pretty hard," Robson said of the microburst that hit his east Mesa home two years ago. "We were really scared."

Arizona's weather is fairly blase compared with other states. Mostly sunny, triple-digit temperatures are as predictable as residents' annual escape to San Diego each sum-

mer.

But Mother Nature gets interesting when the monsoon season hits, typically in mid-June.

Robson, 58, thought he'd seen his share of nasty weather after 12 years in Indiana. But when a storm plucked the shingles off his roof and turned his wooden fence into kindling, the machinist developed a new respect for Arizona's wild summer monsoon season.

"This sucker was like a baby tornado," he said.

The storm wreaked \$15,000 in damage to Robson's home. A saguaro in his front yard still shows damage of the fierce winds, which hit 100 mph.

Robson's insurance com-

pany picked up the cost of repairs. His neighbors, who also lost fences and roofs, filed for similar reimbursements.

That summer, the tab for residential monsoon damage hit \$30 million, according to the Arizona Insurance Information Association.

Last year, the season ran from June 17 through Aug. 31, according to the National Weather Service. It included 51 monsoon days, compared with the average season of 56 days.

Strong winds are the biggest cause of damage, followed by heavy rain.

The worst season for damage was in 1996, when three consecutive nights of high winds and heavy rain cost homeowners and their insurance companies \$160 million.

"That one in 1996 was a real aberration," said James Frederikson, executive director of the Arizona Insurance In-

formation Association.

But it illustrates the potential.

Storms during the monsoon are powered by intense surface heating combined with strong moisture. Generally, meteorologists define monsoon conditions as those characterized by three consecutive days of dew point temperatures that reach 55 or higher.

Muggy conditions are uncomfortable, a nuisance most learn to accept even in the "but it's a dry heat" Arizona summer.

More dangerous is lightning.

Arizona ranks 19th in the country for fatalities, according to a Global Atmospherics Inc., which runs a national lightning detection network.

The state is 30th for lightning injuries and about in the

6/20/07

# MAYHEM Summer storm season is full of pitfalls

From Page M2

middle in the country at 23rd for lightning flashes per square mile. Taken together, the statistics are striking for a state with a relatively short storm season.

Another byproduct of the monsoon are wind gusts that knock down utility poles, bringing with them power outages and sometimes stranding motorists.

Last year, a mild year by any account, resulted in nearly 1,100 separate power outages for customers of the state's largest utility, Arizona Public Service Co. The average outage lasted more than 47 minutes.

Strong winds and lightning also delayed planes at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Almost half of the departures delayed 15 minutes or more during last year's monsoon season were stalled because of bad weather. In August alone, typically the most active month for storms, more than 900 flights were delayed for departure, nearly 20 times the amount in the calm weather month of November.

## Driving pitfalls

For those not traveling by air but by car, the monsoon can bring treacherous driving conditions. One minute, motorists can be cruising along the road with relative ease. The next, a wall of dust known as a haboob



Jack Kurtz/The Arizona Republic

**Martha Bonin of Mesa cleans out her parents' home in Mesa in September 1999 after a violent monsoon thunderstorm, including a possible microburst, ravaged the East Valley.**

(from *habb*, the Arabic word for wind) can envelop their cars.

The most intense dust storms force motorists off the road, where they are advised to turn off their lights and wait until the sky has cleared.

Driving rain that follows also can cause problems for motorists who ignore warning signs and enter low-lying flood wash areas. In the worst cases, the water stalls car engines and marooned motorists must be rescued. The most dramatic of those involve airlifting mo-

torists by helicopter.

## Flood of rescues

In 1995, state legislators believed the problem was so bad and so costly to local fire and police departments that they passed a "stupid-motorist law." Although no one has been prosecuted under the law, motorists could face a fine of up to \$2,000 for driving around barricades to cut through flooded washes.

The number of water rescues rises and falls depending on how severe the monsoon

season turns out to be. During last year's relatively mild season, the Phoenix Fire Department responded to 20 water rescue calls.

The year before, the department fielded 33 such calls by mid-July.

Sometimes rescues have nothing to do with swollen washes and more to do with snapped power poles falling on cars.

## Scary scenarios

That's what happened to Cheryl Van Horn, a captain

with the Sun Lakes Fire Department.

Two years ago, while driving to her Queen Creek home from the grocery store, two poles along Rittenhouse Road fell on her pickup truck. One snapped in half and jugged through the windshield; the other fell across the back of the truck bed.

"All the wires were outside my door popping and cracking so I knew they were still electrified," she said.

"I just kept hoping the truck wouldn't go on fire because the doors were crushed and I was trapped."

Van Horn waited an hour and a half to be rescued.

When the Salt River Project finally cut the power so the poles were no longer electrified, a Mesa Fire Department paramedic ripped off her back windshield with his bare hands and pulled her to safety. She was treated for cuts and a concussion at Chandler Regional Hospital and released.

Today, Van Horn can identify the pole along the dirt road to her house that trapped and almost killed her. Although the pole is new, it stands as a beacon for the storms that strike every year.

"I'm not too fond of the monsoon season anymore," she added.

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