

# Santa Cruz River, Paseo de las Iglesias Pima County, Arizona 18 October 2005



**Abstract:** The recommended plan provides for ecosystem restoration and recreation along approximately 7.5 miles of the Paseo de las Iglesias section of the Santa Cruz River. The plan includes the following features to support ecosystem restoration: five water harvesting basins at existing grade control structures; eight water harvesting basins at tributary confluences; flattening approximately 56,000 linear feet of existing steeply eroded channel banks to about a 5-to-one side slope; reestablishment of vegetation; an irrigation system to

establish vegetation and provide reclaimed water during drought conditions; and maintenance roads and ramps for safety and river access. Public recreation use of the restored area would be confined to locations where compatible uses would not degrade restored ecosystem features and consist of about 5 miles of multi-use, non-motorized, decomposed granite trails, pedestrian bridges, parking lots, comfort stations, and interpretive signs.

Restoration of this resource in this urban setting is significant because riparian areas in the Southwest represent only 1 percent of the landscape yet the survival of 75 to 90 percent of life in the Southwest is dependant on riparian areas. In Arizona, over 90 percent of riparian areas have been lost due to impacts from historic settlement and urbanization. The US Fish & Wildlife Service refers to the habitat types being restored as "exceedingly rare and high-value habitat types." The restored area would also help reconnect wildlife corridors. The recommended plan would restore and improve approximately 1,098 acres of habitat, including 71.8 acres of mesquite bosque, 356 acres of riparian shrub, 18 acres of cottonwood/willow, and 6 acres of emergent marsh. Recreation features of the recommended plan would provide average annual benefits of about \$135,000, and have a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.3.

The estimated first cost of the recommended plan is \$92,100,000. The estimated Federal share of the total project cost would be approximately \$59,700,000 and the estimated non-Federal share would be approximately \$32,400,000. The estimated cost of the ecosystem restoration portion of the recommended plan is \$90,900,000, which includes approximately \$2,500,000 for 5 years of monitoring and adaptive management necessary to ensure success of the project. Additionally, the estimated cost of the recreation features is \$1,200,000. The total estimated annual operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement costs for the recommended project are \$800,000. Additionally, supplemental irrigation water costs are estimated as \$1,100,000 annually. The Pima County, Arizona, Flood Control District is the non-Federal sponsor for the project.

**Report Documentation:** Pertinent documentation on the project, the results of the CWRB, and subsequent Washington Level Review Actions are linked below.

- [CWRB Briefing Agenda](#)
- [Project Summary](#)
- [CWRB Briefing Slides](#)
- [CWRB Lessons Learned](#)
- CWRB Meeting Record
- [Documentation of Review Findings](#)
- [Signed Chief of Engineers Report](#) d
- ASA (CW) Memo to OMB
- [OMB Clearance](#)
- Congressional Notification
- Authorization
  - [Section 1001 \(3\) WRDA 2007](#)
  - [Full WRDA Text](#)

**Additional Information:**

[South Pacific Division](#)

[Los Angeles District](#)

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Project Information](#)