



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

www.fcd.maricopa.gov

William D. Wiley, P.E.
Chief Engineer and
General Manager
2801 West Durango Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85009
Phone: (602) 506-4708
Fax: (602) 372-0989

April 28, 2016

Colonel Kirk E. Gibbs
Commander and District Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 930
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Colonel Gibbs:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 205 or 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County is requesting Corps of Engineers assistance in addressing a flood control problem and a need for ecosystem restoration in the Gila River between the Agua Fria River and State Route 85 in southwestern Maricopa County.

We are fully aware of the following non-Federal requirements associated with projects under the Section 205 or 206 authorities.

Feasibility Phase: The first \$100,000 is funded by the Federal government. Costs above \$100,000 are shared 50% Federal and 50% non-Federal.

Design and Implementation Phase: The non-Federal sponsor is responsible for costs of all lands, easements, relocations and disposal areas. If this amount is less than 35% of the total project cost, the non-Federal sponsor must provide either in-kind services or an additional cash contribution to make the total equal 35% of the total project cost.

We are aware that this letter serves as an expression of non-Federal intent to cooperate on this project and is not a contract obligation. Either party may discontinue this effort at any point prior to construction.

Prior to the introduction of salt cedar, the Gila River in southwestern Maricopa County was a rich aquatic corridor filled with cottonwood, willow and mesquite. Today, the river is choked with salt cedar. Salt cedar blocks flood flows, poses a fire hazard to adjacent property, and consumes more water than native plants due to its dense growth pattern. Threat of flooding and fires in the river have put significant public infrastructure including a major highway and a water treatment plant at-risk.

Colonel Kirk E. Gibbs

Page 2

April 28, 2016

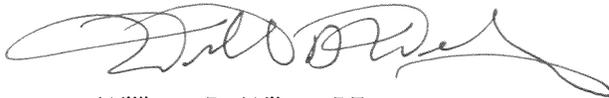
A recent floodplain delineation of the Gila River found that salt cedar growth has increased the size of the 100-year floodplain by seven square miles in the communities of Goodyear and Buckeye. This area includes hundreds of homes and tens of millions of dollars of critical public infrastructure including bridges, major electric transmission lines, and water delivery canals.

We are seeking Corps of Engineers assistance for a project in the Gila River on land owned by the Flood Control District. The proposed project could replace salt cedar with native species to restore the flood conveyance capacity, restore aquatic and riparian habitat, and conserve water. The project could also include a further flood damage reduction component through the construction of a levee or bank protection to protect critical infrastructure.

This project has significant support from local stakeholders, including the neighboring communities of Avondale, Buckeye and Goodyear, as well as backing from the Arizona Congressional delegation.

Please contact me at 602-506-4708 with any questions. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter of interest and hope you will find this project worthy of funding.

Sincerely,



William D. Wiley, PE
Chief Engineer and General Manager

WDW:pt

Cc:

*Supervisor Clint Hickman, District 4, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Steve Gallardo, District 5, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
Austin Kennedy, Office of Senator John McCain
Glen Miller, Office of Congressman Raul Grijalva
David Fitzhugh, City Manager, City of Avondale
Stephen Cleveland, City Manager, City of Buckeye
Brian Dalke, City Manager, City of Goodyear
Ed T. De Mesa, Los Angeles District, US Army Corps of Engineers*