

Offsite Mitigation Guidelines
Interview Questions for MWG Members
September 2010:

Pima County Regional Flood Control District (District) is drafting guidelines for an in-lieu fee program. The in-lieu fee option is allowed by the Floodplain and Erosion Hazard Management Ordinance and was created as an alternative option for impacts to Regulated Riparian Habitat (RRH) when onsite mitigation is not feasible.

Goal: Establishment of a fair, consistent fee structure that adequately addresses impacts to RRH resulting from development and grading of land.

Problem: Current fee structure is based on cost to mitigate onsite and does not include land costs or "soft costs" such as long term management, or restoration. Fees collected to date have not been adequate to acquire replacement habitat or to restore habitat.

Interview Questions:

1. What factors are most important to consider in fee structure development?
 - Biological value
 - Land value
 - Development value (type of development/land use)
 - Other
2. Which factors address the cost to replace riparian habitat, enhancement or restoration, and monitoring and maintenance?
3. What do you feel is a fair method in evaluating a fee for impacts to riparian habitat?
4. What expectations do you have for expenditure of in-lieu fees collected? Rate in order of importance:
 - _____ Fee-simple purchase of lands with riparian habitat
 - _____ Purchase of conservation easements to protect riparian habitat
 - _____ Enhancement of riparian habitat on existing Pima County owned property
 - _____ Restoration of riparian habitat on existing Pima County owned property
 - _____ Land stewardship of existing Pima County owned property, including fencing, invasive species removal, etc.
5. Have you implemented riparian restoration in the Sonoran Desert, and if so, can you provide detailed project costs?
6. What are your overall expectations for the offsite mitigation guidelines?