



**PIMA COUNTY
REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT**
97 EAST CONGRESS STREET, THIRD FLOOR
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1797

**SUZANNE SHIELDS, P.E.
DIRECTOR**

**(520) 243-1800
FAX (520) 243-1821**

September 22, 2010

Dear Mitigation Working Group Members:

Pima County Regional Flood Control District (District) is developing Offsite Mitigation Guidelines to provide mitigation options for riparian losses. Over the past couple of years you have participated in a mitigation working group (MWG) whose purpose is to assist the District in drafting these Guidelines. The first phase was to develop Onsite Mitigation Guidelines; now the focus is to develop Offsite Mitigation Guidelines (Guidelines).

Under the Floodplain and Erosion Hazard Management Ordinance No. 2010-FC5 (Ordinance), onsite mitigation is the preferred method for mitigating losses to riparian habitat; although preferred, onsite mitigation is not always feasible or practicable. Section 16.30.050 of the Ordinance allows for "*Mitigation banking, or other alternative mitigation measures as approved by the Board*" with the purpose of compensating the impacts to Regulated Riparian Habitat (RRH) when onsite mitigation is not feasible.

A total of two meetings will be held with the MWG over the next few months. Our first meeting is tentatively scheduled for **October 20, 2010, between 3:00-5:00 p.m., at 97 E. Congress Street, 3rd Floor conference room**. An agenda for this meeting along with the draft Guidelines will be sent to MWG members one week prior to the meeting date. During the initial meeting, the District will provide an overview of the draft Guidelines and begin discussions on the concepts presented in the draft.

District staff would like to **meet individually with each MWG member for an informal interview prior to the first meeting** to obtain preliminary input regarding their experience with offsite mitigation options, primarily in-lieu fees, and how funds obtained from in-lieu fees should be used to mitigate riparian losses. For your convenience, enclosed is a list of interview questions.

The District has scheduled a two-week window, September 28th through October 8th, to hold interviews. Please contact me or Marisa Rice at 243-1800 or at: carla.danforth@rfcd.pima.gov and/or marisa.rice@rfcd.pima.gov to set up a time to meet. Alternatively, please contact us if you are unable to join the MWG or will be unavailable to attend the meeting on October 20, 2010.

Your attendance is appreciated and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla Danforth".

Carla Danforth
Environmental Planning Manager – Water Resources Division

CD/tj
Enclosure

cc: Suzanne Shields, Director – Regional Flood Control District
Chris Cawein, Deputy Director – Regional Flood Control District
Tom Helfrich, Division Manager – Water Resources Division
Marisa Rice, Senior Hydrologist – Water Resources Division