



RIO

REIMAGINED

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GOODYEAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

ASU - UNIVERSITY CITY EXCHANGE

Cecilia Riviere
Director



RIO SCALE & STAKEHOLDERS



- **6 cities, 2 tribal nations, Maricopa County, SRP, MAG, Non-profits**
- **Study area: 55+ miles, 1- 2 miles N/S of river banks** (Granite Reef Diversion Dam to SR 85)
- Priority projects differ by stakeholder – existing and designed, with **key federal partners** (EPA, DOI, USDA)
- **Diverse conditions:** health, hydrology, infrastructure, public access, planning structure, cultural history
- Opportunity to elevate **regional strategy** | approach for leveraged resources + projects over long-term
- **Diverse land ownership-** significant by federal agencies and private sector legacy industry
- **Multi-sector leadership** & commitment required: public / private / non-profit / academic / community

PROJECT ASPIRATIONS (2017 -)

- **RECONNECT THE COMMUNITY TO THE RIVER**
 - Acknowledge industrial and agricultural legacy of river industries
 - Expand public access for recreation, etc.
 - Reinforce environmental/ecosystem value of open space
- **ESTABLISH A METROPOLITAN VISION**
 - Signal an exemplary regional collaboration for a metro region
 - Increase access to education, training, housing, employment & health services
- **CATALYZE ECONOMIC GROWTH & INCLUSION**
 - Recognize and empower the next generation of leaders
 - Acknowledge/address threats of gentrification
 - Create test bed for innovative financing and technology
- **DEMONSTRATE SUSTAINABLE PLANNING**
 - Identify opportunities for water storage, reuse, harvesting
 - Develop community-led solutions for climate change challenges



RIO PARTNERSHIP

RIO SIGNATORIES



FEDERAL



STATE



NGO'S PARTIAL



RIO FEDERAL ENGAGEMENT



Tempe Town Lake

ON - GOING GRANTS + ASSISTANCE \$27M

- **USDA FOREST SERVICE | AZ DEPT. OF FORESTRY + FIRE MANAGEMENT**
West Mesa River Community Heat Action Grant - AZSA + ASU Spring 2020 – 2022
- **US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**
Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant - Cities of Phoenix, Tempe + Avondale Spring 2020 - 2023
- **US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**
Revolving Loan Fund – City of Phoenix + LISC Spring 2020 - 2023
- **US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY | AZ WATER SCIENCE CENTER**
Water Quality Cooperative Matching Funds – Flood Control District of MC Summer 2020 – 2023
- **US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**
Environmental Justice Grant - RAIL CDC Urban Spring 2022 – 2023
- **USDA FOREST SERVICE | AZ DEPT. OF FORESTRY + FIRE MANAGEMENT**
Healthy Urban River Ecosystems Grant - Wildlife Habitat Council + ASU Spring 2022 – 2024
- **US DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION | RAISE GRANT**
3rd Street Corridor Pedestrian + Bike Bridge - City of Phoenix Spring 2022 – 2026

FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION INTEREST & SUPPORT

■ RIO VISITS FROM CABINET MEMBERS + SENIOR STAFF

- Sept 2021: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Administrator Reagan + AZ Delegation Briefing on Rio Reimagined with Stakeholders
- Feb 2022: Dept. of the Interior - Secretary Haaland, Asst. Secretary of Water Trujillo + AZ Delegation Briefing on Rio Reimagined with Stakeholders
- March 2022: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9 Administrator Guzman and Asst. Director of Water Marincola hold RIO Roundtable with Stakeholders + River Tour
- August 2022: U.S. Department of Transportation | Secretary Buttigieg - Announcement of \$25M RAISE Grant to City of Phoenix for 3rd Street Pedestrian/Bike Bridge Across the Salt River



URBANWATERS

FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

20th Location - FEDERAL DESIGNATION

Funding
Network Resources
Agency Access
Ambassador

Environmental Protection Agency | EPA Region 9



US Army Corps
of Engineers



FEMA



15 FEDERAL AGENCIES
28 NATIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
20 LOCATIONS – PEER to PEER NETWORK
DIRECT FUNDING TO RIO PARTNERS



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RIO EVENTS & PROJECTS



CURRENT ACTIVITY IN THE CORRIDOR

- **BROWNFIELDS COALITION – Phoenix / Tempe / Avondale**

- Inventory conducted of sites with environmental concerns for clean-up
- Formed Community Advisory Council- Diverse Members of Commercial + Community Development as well as Key Non-Profits + CBO's
- Hiring consultant to market \$funding\$ for assessment/clean-up



- **PROJECT PRIORITIES**

- City of Phoenix | Economic Development General Obligation Bond - \$23M
- City of Phoenix | Tres Rios Wetlands/Trailhead (91st Ave) Final Phases
- City of Phoenix | Rio Oeste Habitat Restoration (13 miles, Ave.)
- City of Phoenix | Bloomberg Associates - RIO Urban Planning + Alternative Transportation
- West Valley | El Rio Confluence Lake - Concept Plan for Water Management, Conservation + Eco-Tourism
- West Valley | State Forestry funded Restoration work
- City of Tempe | Unsheltered/Homeless Services, Vegetation Management
- Audubon Center | Revitalization

OPPORTUNITY - EL RIO CONFLUENCE LAKE



- ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
- OPEN SPACE | RECREATION
- ECONOMIC TOURISM
- WATER CONSERVATION + MANAGEMENT

Confluence of the Gila River and the Agua Fria River
200 Acre Feet - Similar size as Tempe Town Lake



LOWER GILA RIVER COLLABORATIVE – Western Reach of the RIO

- **STATE GRANT FUNDING (\$10M available)**
 - Fuel Reduction + Invasive Species Removal
- **FEDERAL FUNDING**
 - Multi-modal Trail / Open Space Connectivity
 - City of Phoenix Tres Rios Phase 3 – US Army Corps of Engineers \$
 - USGS Water Quality Study – Habitat Restoration & Recreation
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**
 - State Route 30 – LGRC Integration
 - Arizona Rock Products Association / Wildlife Habitat Council
 - 2022 WORKSHOP SERIES August to November



LOWERGILARIVER.NET

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **NEW RIO DESIGNATION - URBAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP**

- **Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds**

- Metro Phoenix program to conserve migratory birds through education, hazard reductions, community science, conservation actions, and conservation and habitat improvement strategies

- **Annual RIO Urban Wildlife Conservation Day - October 2023**

- **RIO CONSERVATION EVENTS + WORKSHOPS, 2022-24**

- Engage Community in Environmental Action along the River Corridor: Tree Planting / Invasive Species Removal

- **TRASH FREE WATERS**

- 2022 Stormwater Litter Collection Pilot Project to expand. River Network, Coke Foundation, Osprey Initiative, City of Phoenix
 - Bi-monthly and annual Salt & Gila River Cleanup Events





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RIO AMBASSADOR TO URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP



RIO AMBASSADOR POSITION

FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL serving regional needs

- **New FEDERAL/LOCAL CO-SHARE MODEL**

- Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) in draft, precedent for RIO Non-profit co-share
- Ambassador Advisory Council (Funders) – annual priorities / supervisory
- Federal Funding (EPA, U.S. Forest Service) \$50K for first two years, add to local funding

- **POSITION FOCUS**

- **LOCAL LIAISON** to US EPA's Urban Waters Federal Partnership, connecting local needs to federal resources and national learning network
- **STRATEGIC LEADER** to Resource and Manage Federal Development and Funding Priorities of Local Stakeholders
- **REGIONAL CONVENER & FACILITATOR** for Project Collaboration

RIO AMBASSADOR LOCAL FUNDING

RIO STAKEHOLDERS committed to supporting the RIO Ambassador - \$15K for four years:

- **MARICOPA COUNTY**
- **SRPMIC**
- **CITY OF PHOENIX**
- **CITY OF AVONDALE**
- **CITY OF GOODYEAR**
- **CITY OF BUCKEYE**
- **CITY OF TEMPE**
- **CITY OF MESA**
- **SALT RIVER PROJECT [SRP]**
- **ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY [ASU]**
- **MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS** – in-kind/fiscal agent, 'employer' of RIO Ambassador (independent contractor)
- **PENDING:** Gila River Indian Community



MOVING FORWARD

- **URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP AMBASSADOR**
 - Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA)
 - Federal Funding transfer to MAG
 - Goodyear representative on Advisory Council
 - **HIRING PROCESS Begins—Q2 2023**
- **ON-GOING GRANTS / FUNDING TO PUBLIC & NON-PROFIT PARTNERS**
- **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT**
- **FORMATION - RIO REIMAGINED | 501 C3 – Greater Phoenix Leadership / Pulliam Trust**

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The Rio Salado project has the potential to transform the Salt River bottom and realize an untapped Valley treasure.

- U.S. Senator John McCain

THANK YOU