



## Santa Cruz County Flood Control District: Chula Vista Flood Control Project

For Immediate Release July 21, 2010

NOGALES – The Santa Cruz County Flood Control District Board of Directors, at their regular Board Meeting July 14, 2010, directed staff to begin to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers (CORPS) on a plan to immediately replace a bridge that was demolished over two years ago and a process to transition the CORPS out of the Chula Vista Flood Control Project.

This Project has been held up due to unforeseen design problems and major cost increases. The decision to move in this direction comes after months of analysis and value engineering in hopes an alternative design could be constructed at a significantly lesser cost. Unfortunately, every solution that has been considered brings with it other problems that negatively impact the cost and further delay construction of the project.

Initial discussions regarding a transition plan revolve around the CORPS building a bridge over the Nogales Wash to re-connect Old Tucson Road and the County Flood Control District taking over the construction of the flood collection system on Potrero Creek. Other details that have yet to be solidified are the Design Storm and the component of work to be done by Flood Control District personnel and/or external contractors.

While the County was hoping for a flood control project that would alleviate the flooding hazard for the Chula Vista Subdivision and remove them from the floodplain it was clear that the funding was not available and was entirely dependent upon annual congressional appropriations. Under such a scenario, it would take approximately 25 years to construct the project based upon annual appropriations to date.

With the Federal Government out of the picture the County can use local design standards to develop a flood control solution that falls within the Flood Control District's budgetary constraints. The flood protection would offer relief of flooding from smaller more frequent flooding events but would not be able to accommodate the 1% chance storm (100-year flood). Additionally, any locally designed solution would not include a levee as a component of the protection. As the residents have historically experienced flooding on what seems to be a 2-year interval, the benefit of reducing the more frequent floods should be satisfactory to both the residents and the District.

- For Additional information contact Santa Cruz Public Works Department (520) 375-7830