

Anti-flood features took pounding in '06

By Erica Meltzer

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Pima County has spent the last year undoing the damage to flood-control projects along several major waterways from last year's floods.

The projects include restoration of bank protection, removal of sediment, repairing flood gates and removing debris from around bridges.

In preparation for the current monsoon season, the county has been spending as much as \$45,000 a week during the last five months.

Regional Flood Control Deputy Director Chris Cawein said the area's flood control infrastructure held up remarkably well last year and the county is as prepared as possible for this monsoon.

"This (last year) was 120 percent of the flow of a 100-year-event, and given that, the soil-cement bank protection held up remarkably well," he said. "We've seen the pictures of the '83 flood, buildings falling in the water, and we didn't have any of that."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency gave Pima County \$8 million for 16 projects, 11 of which have been completed. Another federal program paid for the removal of storm debris under the Mount Lemmon Short Road last fall.

The county has put more than \$1 million of its own money into the maintenance projects as well.

The maintenance projects include repairing bank protection and removing sediment from the Rillito River, removing debris that could have threatened bridge supports along the Rillito, Pantano Wash and Santa Cruz River, removing sediment from tributaries that weren't draining, depositing rock along the bank of the Pantano Wash to prevent future erosion, repairing flood gates along the Rillito and Santa Cruz and protecting roads that run along washes in Green Valley.

The five projects that remain undone are either lower priority because alternative protections exist in those areas or require additional local money that isn't available. The latter is the case for permanent bank protection along the Pantano; the rock installation is a temporary fix that should last for several years.

Related story:

Pima County may be in the market for your flood-susceptible property **Monsoon Blog**

Monsoon is a blog consisting of submissions from our readers and weather specialists regarding Tucson's annual monsoon season

Go to blog

Complete monsoon coverage

Find the latest news and information about monsoons.

Go to site

Related story:

Pima County may be in the market for your flood-susceptible property **Monsoon Blog**

Monsoon is a blog consisting of submissions from our readers and weather specialists regarding Tucson's annual monsoon season

Go to blog

Complete monsoon coverage

Find the latest news and information about monsoons.

Go to site

All content copyright © 1999-2006 AzStarNet, Arizona Daily Star and its wire services and suppliers and may not be republished without permission. All rights reserved. Any copying, redistribution, or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the expressed written consent of Arizona Daily Star or AzStarNet is prohibited.