




# MEMORANDUM

Date: March 14, 2025

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner   
County Administrator

Re: **Additional Information Board of Supervisors March 18, 2025, Agenda – Item #10  
Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Tucson for Rita Ranch Detention Basin**

The agenda for the Board of Supervisors' meeting on March 18, 2025, includes an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Pima County Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) and the City of Tucson (City) to enhance groundwater recharge at the Rita Ranch detention basin.

The RFCD owns the basin which is located on a vacant 48-acre parcel within the City between I-10 and the Union Pacific Railroad east of Kolb Road. The parcel includes a channel that collects and conveys stormwater from the Rita Ranch master planned community to the basin. Prior to the RFCD's acquisition of the parcel in 2021, the basin was not designed or constructed to use the stormwater for groundwater recharge. In the summer of 2024, RFCD and Tucson Water staff began discussing improvements that would enhance stormwater infiltration at the basin and potentially recharge the local aquifer.

In December 2024, RFCD installed two large infiltration trenches within the basin. The trenches are filled with gravel to enable stormwater to soak into the ground more easily. The trenches are approximately 16 feet deep, 18 inches wide, and 100 and 230 feet long respectively. Both include capped observation wells with a sensor that monitors the amount of water that infiltrates into the trench. The RFCD has already recorded flows during a February 14, 2025, storm.

The IGA between the RFCD and the City will allow Tucson Water to access the property to monitor groundwater levels and soil and water quality in the basin and perform a geophysical analysis of the basin's soil. RFCD and the City will collaborate on further alterations to the basin that will enhance groundwater recharge. In addition, RFCD is working with City staff to direct surface flows from an adjacent development directly to the trenches, increasing the frequency and volume of water to the infiltration trenches.

JKL/anc

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator  
Eric Shepp, Director, Regional Flood Control District

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RM