COCHISE COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
"Public Programs...Personal Service"

1 December 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CECW-CE, Lisa Kiefel
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Re: Request for proposals WRRDA

Dear Ms. Kiefel,

Cochise County is requesting the assistance of the USACE for a feasibility study and possible river restoration project per Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 and the Federal Register request for proposals dated August 5, 2014.

Project Background.

Project: San Pedro River Restoration Study

Location: Portion of NE ¼ S36 T17S R20E G&SRM, approx. 31°54'59.5" N, 110°14'59.8"W

A concrete irrigation diversion dam built in the early 1900's by a now defunct irrigation district is possibly affecting the San Pedro River's main channel stability, which could cause flooding of nearby residents and roadways. We are requesting a feasibility study of its ecological and hydraulic effects and the pros and cons of removing it, along with river restoration measures for the options of removing or maintaining it in place.

Estimated cost: $400,000

We understand that, if funded, after the reconnaissance phase and feasibility study there would be a non-federal match that can include in-kind services. Cochise County is prepared to partner if the project's feasibility phase shows a viable, cost effective project.

The diversion dam is acting as a grade control structure for the river. The elevation difference from the top of the structure to the downstream river channel grade is approximately 10 feet. This structure is in danger of failure; both bank structures are either damaged or missing. There is scour immediately downstream. Sudden failure could happen at any of these three locations and cause immediate damage to adjacent and downstream properties. It would also allow the headcut to travel quickly upstream toward a State Highway bridge about three quarters of a mile upstream. There is also a confluence of a major stream with the San Pedro River just downstream of the highway bridge (State Route 80) that would be negatively impacted by the headcut.

Local support does exist, however neither Cochise County nor ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) has adequate funding for a feasibility study.

The Cochise County Flood Control District could support some cost share of a feasible restoration project. There might also be state funding available, although I cannot speak for ADOT.

In closing, we reiterate our request for USACE assistance for this project per Section 7001 of the WRRDA 2014. We will gladly provide any information we can to assist in your analysis of our request.

Sincerely,

Karen C. Riggs, P.E., L.S
County Engineer, Highway & Floodplain Division Director
Community Development Department
1415 W. Melody Lane
Bisbee, AZ 85603