



NEWS RELEASE

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Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor Hail Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Approval of Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan

Vision of creating a recreational corridor is one step closer to reality

PHOENIX, Ariz. (For Immediate Release, July 13, 2005) – The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan at its formal meeting on July 6, bringing a 32-plus mile stretch of the Agua Fria one step closer to becoming a multi-modal corridor for recreational uses.

Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor (Friends), a non-profit advocacy group that was formed two years ago to promote the project, celebrated the vote. “This is a very exciting and important step in the process,” said Roger Baele, president of the Friends. “With the approval of the Master Plan, we now have a great opportunity to take this project to the next level where physical improvements can start to occur.”

The Friends’ vision is to create a multi-modal, non-motorized corridor connecting residential areas, parks schools, recreation and commerce within and around the project site. The organization will provide input on planning and design, facilitate public events, help identify and secure funding sources, integrate non-vehicular trails connectivity, and promote linkages to adjacent uses.

Initiated by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, the Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan extends 32 miles from the Gila River to the New Waddell Dam at Lake Pleasant and flows through unincorporated Maricopa County and the jurisdictions of Avondale, El Mirage, Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix, Surprise and Youngtown. The general public and all of these communities have worked together for seven years to come up with a comprehensive plan. The Master Plan addresses flood control and public safety concerns, adds recreational opportunities and open space, accommodates existing economic activities, creates channelized streambed, and potentially transforms the floodplain designation for more than 3,000 acres of land along the river to mitigate flooding and support recreational and other development.

Add 1/Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan

“The potential for this project is extraordinary,” Baele said. “It provides health and wellness benefits, economic development opportunities and regional connectivity. It will be a landmark amenity not only for the West Valley, but for all of Maricopa County.”

The Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor (WVRC) is a 501(c) (3) organization comprised of nearly 1,000 stakeholders, including volunteers, public and private sector representatives and community leaders, who are dedicated to creating an enhanced corridor along the Agua Fria and New Rivers within Maricopa County. The group was initiated in 2001 through a partnership of WESTMARC and Valley Forward Association.

For more information or to join contact the Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor at (623) 695-4602, or visit www.friendsofwvrc.org.