

Zone 6
Report to the Zone Commissioners
for Calendar Year 2016
By Jason Uhley, General Manager-Chief Engineer
January 2017

Accolades & Accomplishments

LID Project

In 2012, the District completed a \$2.5 million retrofit of our headquarters in Riverside, CA to incorporate Low Impact Development features and landscaping. Since its construction, this project has received numerous awards, including the latest received from the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) in 2016: "Top Overall Project" – Stormwater Management Green Infrastructure Awards.

Eagle Canyon Dam

In November 2015, the District completed the Eagle Canyon Dam project, which not only put an end to this canyon's repeated damaging flash flooding, but also included \$1.2 million in environmental clean-up (funded by Palm Springs and Cathedral City) at this long blighted location. This \$10 million project has since received several awards, including:

- ASCE Overall Project of the Year (San Bernardino/Riverside Branch)
- ASCE Flood Management Project of the Year (Los Angeles Section)
- APWA Project of Merit Award (Southern California Chapter)
- ASCE Outstanding Flood Management Project (Statewide)

Romoland/Homeland Project

In 2016, the District completed the \$27 million Romoland MDP Line A project, the largest single contract the District has ever issued. Construction of Romoland Line A's follow-up stage, the \$14.3 million "Homeland Line 1 and Juniper Flats Basin" contract will be complete in early 2017. These projects are good examples of the District and County working to achieve "smart growth" by ensuring that important infrastructure is built concurrently with the new development rather than retrofit afterward.

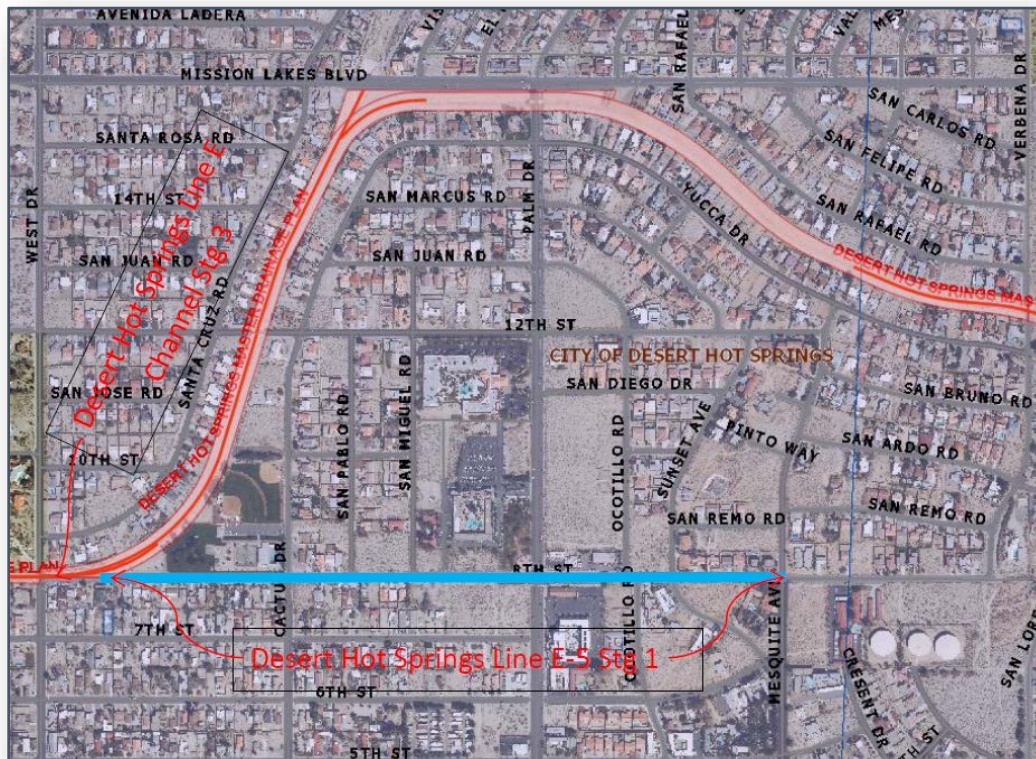
Water Conservation & Water Quality

District staff continues to meet with regional water agencies in an effort better understand local groundwater basins and to promote joint stormwater recharge and other water conservation projects. To help locate and prioritize projects, the District is investigating/tracking dozens of existing basin/dam facilities which could be retrofitted to improve stormwater capture and recharge. The Stormwater and Water Conservation Geodatabase system (rivco.permitrack.com) continues to be used to assist the Cities, County and developers with addressing flood control and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater quality requirements.

Capital Improvement Plan Projects

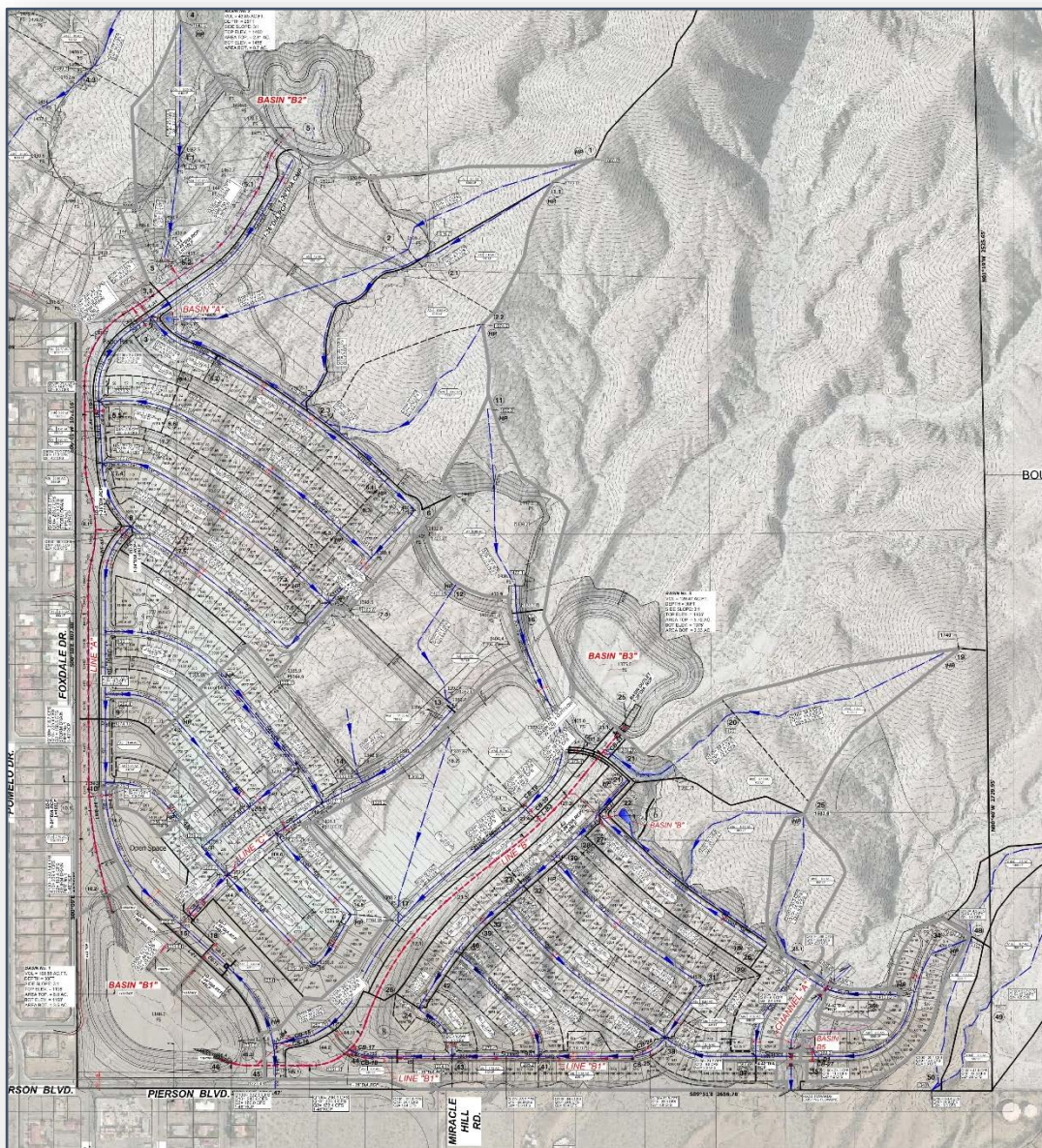
Desert Hot Springs MDP Line E-5, Stage 1 (6-8-00035-01)

The City of Desert Hot Springs requested the District to fund this project in early Fiscal Year 2012. The Line E-5 project will consist of an underground storm drain system to be constructed in 8th Street from approximately Mesquite Avenue extending westerly to outlet into the District's existing Line E near West Drive. In November 2012, the District and City entered into an agreement in which the District would fund the City's design and construction contract administration efforts. In August 2016, the City of Desert Hot Springs requested that the District take over contract administration. The District is working on a revised cooperative agreement with the City and initiating a task order to the City's consultant, PACE, to complete the Project Plans and Specifications. The District will assume operation and maintenance of the constructed facility. The District coordinated with the City and PACE to complete a potholing investigation to confirm the current design. Additional potholing may be required prior to submitting 90% plans.



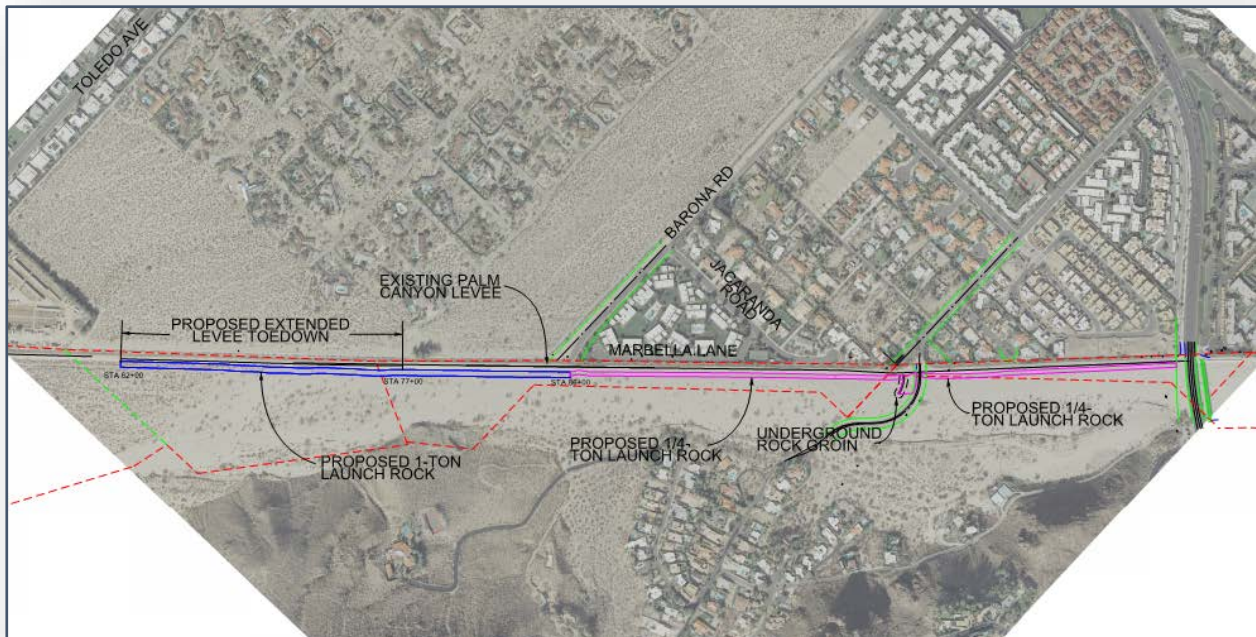
Desert Hot Springs Pierson Basins (6-8-00036-00)

Since the adoption of the Desert Hot Springs Master Drainage Plan (MDP) in 1982, the District has evaluated a variety of proposed projects to address the existing flood hazard near the area of Foxdale Drive and Pierson Boulevard in the City of Desert Hot Springs. The MDP identifies the "Pierson Control Levees" and "Line B" as the recommended flood protection and drainage facilities. More recently, the District has further studied and budgeted for the construction of alternative flood protection works including the "Desert Hot Springs Pierson Dam." The project site was recently acquired by the Walton Group who, in conjunction with its proposed development plans, has expressed a willingness to work cooperatively the City and the District to address the regional flooding issue via a proposed "public-private partnership." The proposed regional drainage facilities include three detention basins connected via two major storm drains. The details of the proposed partnership are under discussion.



Palm Canyon Wash Levee, Stage 93 (6-8-00040-93)

The purpose of this project is to restore and improve the reach of the existing Palm Canyon Wash Levee west of East Palm Canyon Drive, which has been damaged in various floods or is at risk of damage. The project consists of the construction of approximately 1,500 feet of extended levee paving in the reach subject to impinging flows and the installation of approximately 2,350 feet of 1-ton launch rock and approximately 3,350 feet of ¼-ton launch rock along the toe of the levee. Plans are currently being developed for this project. Some property/construction rights will need to be acquired. Additionally, since this levee is located within an area that is designated as critical habitat for the Casey's June Beetle by the Fish and Wildlife Service, mitigation for potential impacts may be required. Given the potentially extended timelines for regulatory approvals and property acquisitions, this project is estimated to advertise for construction in 2018.



Palm Springs MDP Line 41, Stage 3 (6-8-00160-03)

The proposed project consists of the construction, operation and maintenance of approximately 6,000 lineal feet of storm drain ranging in pipe diameter size from 48" to 108", collection structures, appurtenances and a detention basin. The project alignment begins at the upstream terminus of Palm Springs Line 41, Stage 2 and generally extends westward along East Palm Canyon Drive and Gene Autry Trail to Matthew Drive, where a detention basin is proposed on a vacant parcel (APN 681-170-066), and thence continuing to Cherokee Way (see Figure 1).



FIGURE 1: PALM SPRINGS MDP LINE 41, STAGE 3 - UNDERGROUND STORM DRAIN WITH DETENTION BASIN

Although the existing downstream Stage 2 storm drain was only designed to convey the 10-year flood, the City of Palm Springs and the City of Cathedral City requested in 2005 that the existing FEMA Zone A 100-year floodplain be removed as part of this Stage 3 project. In 2011, right of way was acquired through eminent domain for \$4 million for the construction of a detention basin that, when added to the Stage 3 system, would allow removal of the 100-year floodplain.

The detention basin footprint has also been identified to be critical habitat for the endangered Casey's June Beetle (CJB). Onsite and offsite mitigation measures for impacts within the basin footprint have been proposed in the December 11, 2013 submittal of the 404 Permit application. The District has compiled and submitted project-related documents for the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to reply to comments received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. More recently, the District has submitted information for the CJB Draft Biological Opinion, and continues to request that the Corps obtain the Draft Biological Opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as soon as possible.



Due to the potentially significant mitigation costs for this project, the District anticipates that assistance from local benefitting owners/developers and the City of Palm Springs will be needed to fully fund this project.