

**GILA RIVER AT MARICOPA ROAD
FCD GAGE ID# 0778**

STATION DESCRIPTION

LOCATION – The gage station is located along Maricopa Road (SR 347) approximately 10 miles south of Chandler and five miles north of Maricopa. The gage is operated by the USGS. The gage house is on the left bank between the highway bridges. The PT is located near the USGS orifice line on the second pier from the left bank of the northbound roadway bridge. Latitude N 33° 10' 18.0", Longitude W 112° 00' 20.4". Located in the NW1/4 NE1/4 SW1/4 S13 T3S R3E in the Pima Butte 7.5-minute quadrangle.

ESTABLISHMENT – The District established its gaging on April 9, 1995.

DRAINAGE AREA – 19,915 mi²

GAGE – The FCD gage is a pressure transducer type instrument. The PT diaphragm is at 1.36 feet gage height, levels of April 9, 1995.

There are four staff gages at this location. The first is located on the right side of the second pier near the PT and USGS orifice. The second is located on the left side of the pier. Both read in gage height. The third and fourth staff gages are painted on piers. It is not known whether these staff gages are tied to the gage height datum. It is likely they are not, but there is no certainty.

The District does not operate crest gages at this location.

ZERO GAGE HEIGHT – Zero gage height is that of 0.00 on the staff plates at the level sensor.

HISTORY – No previous gaging at this site. The USGS established gaging during Water Year 1995 to replace the gage Gila River near Laveen, several miles downstream. The District began gaging this site April 9, 1995.

REFERENCE MARKS –

RM1 – is a USGS brass cap located near the gage housing. It has not been surveyed by the District.

The USGS staff gages serve as a reference point since they read in gage height.

CHANNEL AND CONTROL – The channel is a wide, shallow natural watercourse. The bed is sand and gravel.

The control for low flow is unknown. For high flows, the channel is control.

RATING – The USGS developed the current rating, Rating #2.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS – Low flows could be measured by wading. High flows may be attempted from the southbound bridge downstream side. However, caution should be exercised due to heavy fast moving traffic.

POINT OF ZERO FLOW – Undetermined

FLOODS – Several large floods have occurred on the Gila River. No significant flows have been recorded since this gage was installed.

REGULATION – Coolidge Dam upstream provides irrigation to the Indian community and to Coolidge and Florence.

DIVERSIONS – Coolidge Dam diverts water to canals for irrigation purposes.

ACCURACY – Poor

JUSTIFICATION – Monitor flows in the Gila River as a potential warning to Holly Acres near the confluence of the Salt and Gila Rivers.

UPDATE – July 18, 2011
D E Gardner