PICACHO WASH
FCD GAGE ID# 74207 (5678)

STATION DESCRIPTION

LOCATION - The gage is located about 9 miles east of highway US60 along SR74. Latitude N 33° 50' 08.3"; Longitude W 112° 28' 31.6". Located in S28 T6N R2W, in the Hieroglyphic Mountains SW 7.5-minute quadrangle.

ESTABLISHMENT - The gage was installed on April 11, 2012.

DRAINAGE AREA – 17.8 mi^2

GAGE - The gage is a pressure transducer type instrument. The PT diaphragm is at gage height 0.07 feet gage height, levels of April 30, 2024. The PT is on the right bank of the wash.

There is one crest gage located at the site on the left bank of the wash. The pin elevation is 0.93 feet gage height, levels of March 28, 2019.

There are no staff gages at this site.

ZERO GAGE HEIGHT – Zero gage height is defined as 1,961.783 feet NAVD 1988, levels of February 21, 2018.

HISTORY – Gaging established on April 11, 2012. No previous gaging history at this location. Gage elevations were updated in September 2014 to NAVD88 elevations. This did result in changes to gage elevations. The changes were made effective back to the installation date.

REFERENCE MARKS

BM-50742 is an FCDMC brass cap located near the station tube on the right bank. It is at elevation 6.322 feet gage height and 1,968.105 feet NAVD88, levels of March 28, 2019.

RM-1 is a rebar stake on the right bank of the wash streamward from the gage house in the gage cross section. Elevation is 5.979 feet gage height, or 1,967.762 feet NAVD88, levels of March 28, 2019.

RM-2 is a rebar on the left bank of the wash 30 feet upstream of the gage cross section. It is at elevation 5.258 feet gage height and 1,967.041 feet NAVD88, levels of February 21, 2018.

RM-3 is a rebar on the right bank about 12 feet north of the bench mark brass cap. It is at elevation 6.449 feet gage height and 1,968.222 feet NAVD88, levels of March 28, 2019.

RM-4 is a rebar on the left bank of the wash in the gage cross section. It is at elevation 5.07 feet gage height and 1966.845 feet NAVD88, Levels of April 30, 2024.

RP-1 is the top of the sign rail stake that is securing the transducer housing. It is at elevation 1.383 feet gage height, levels of March 28, 2019.

CHANNEL AND CONTROL - The channel has a natural bottom and sides. The channel bottom is composed mainly of sand and small cobble. Upstream of the gage, the channel passes under SR74 from three separate culverts. Just upstream from the gage station, the channel comes together into a single channel.

There is no permanent control for low stages. The channel becomes control at about 1.0 feet gage height. Channel capacity is about six feet and about 3,400 cfs. There is a considerable left overbank that could handle additional flow. If flow overtopped the right bank, there would be considerable losses from the channel.

RATING - The current rating is Rating #2, dated April 15, 2024. Rating is reliability.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS - Direct measurements could be made by wading in the area near the gage. Higher flows can be measured by indirect methods. Three cross sections were monumented for this purpose.

POINT OF ZERO FLOW – Is about -0.1 feet gage height, levels of February 21, 2018.

FLOODS – The peak flow recorded was 2,012 cfs at 4.07 feet gage height on July 11, 2018. High water marks an post event analysis revised the discharge to 6,167 cfs for same event.

REGULATION - Some may occur in the watershed for cattle watering, but none are known.

DIVERSIONS - None known

ACCURACY - Poor

JUSTIFICATION - Monitor flows in Picacho Wash for flow data above the CAP canal.

UPDATED - July 15, 2024
E Thomas