

Report of the Flooding in Laveen Storm of July 28, 1999

Afshin Ahouraiyan, Flood Control District of Maricopa County

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At about 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon, Ben Gregg of the Flood Control District's Regulatory Division had called in to the District that the Laveen area (Figure 1) had been hit quite hard because of the day's storm. The Laveen Elementary School had major flooding and the neighborhood to the east of the school was also inundated with floodwaters. The following is a collection of the comments received from the residents in the area regarding the flooding (Figure 2). The residents had concerns as to when the problem is going to be resolved. Included with this report are photos that show the inundated areas.

- 1- Photos of flooding were taken at Dobbins Road and La Mirada Drive. Based on conversations with Bob Ruiz at 9202 S. La Mirada Street and Judy Schoenberger of 9222 S. La Mirada Street, the flooding of this neighborhood has occurred for the past three storms of July 28, 1999, July 21, 1999, July 14, 1999. Their property flooded for all these events and they are tired of having to deal with the floodwaters getting to their properties. (Photos 1, 2, 3)
- 2- Next sign of flooding was in the neighborhood immediately to the west of 47th Avenue. Floodwaters had crossed over 47th Avenue and flowed westward along Piedmont and Redfield Roads and Olney Avenue. At the west end of Piedmont Road, discussions with neighbors indicated that the floodwaters were due to the breach in the tail water ditch on the East Side of 47th Avenue. Photos of high water marks were taken at Mr. Vernon St. John's residence (4842 W. Piedmont). The high water marks were from all the storms that had occurred recently. The flows pond at the end of Piedmont Road behind a Salt River Project (SRP) ditch that is used to water the residential fields. (Photos 4, 5, 6)
- 3- There were signs of erosion and undercutting by the intersection of 47th Avenue and Olney Avenue. The photos taken at this location clearly shows the high water marks and limits of ponding of the intersection. According to Mr. Cecil Miller (who called the District regarding the flooding of the area) the SRP's ditch located on the south side of the east extension of Olney at 47th Avenue is used as a delivery ditch. The flows within the ditch overtop its banks and cause the flooding. The water then makes its way to the tail water ditch on the east side of 47th Avenue and since the ditch is not kept up by the farmers any more, the ditch is breached sending the flows towards the neighborhood roads. (Photos 7, 8, 9, 10)
- 4- Mr. Frank Grimes of 4701 W. Dobbins Road (SW corner of 47th Avenue and Dobbins) discussed what he believes is the cause of the flooding at this location. The SRP's water delivery ditch on the South side of Dobbins Road is connected to a SRP ditch that is on the North side of the road. Since the SRP ditch on the North side carries water in it at all time, due to back water effects the water carried in the smaller ditch on the south side overtops its banks, sending flows down 47th Avenue and west

on Dobbins Road. This is the cause of flooding of the neighborhood of La Mirada and eventually the school site. (Photo 11)

He has taken videos of the last two storms (07-21-99 and 07-14-99) showing the overtopping and the flooding and is willing to share this with the District.

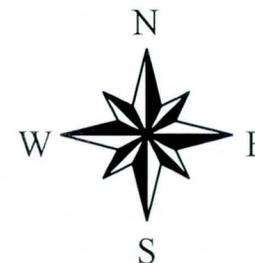
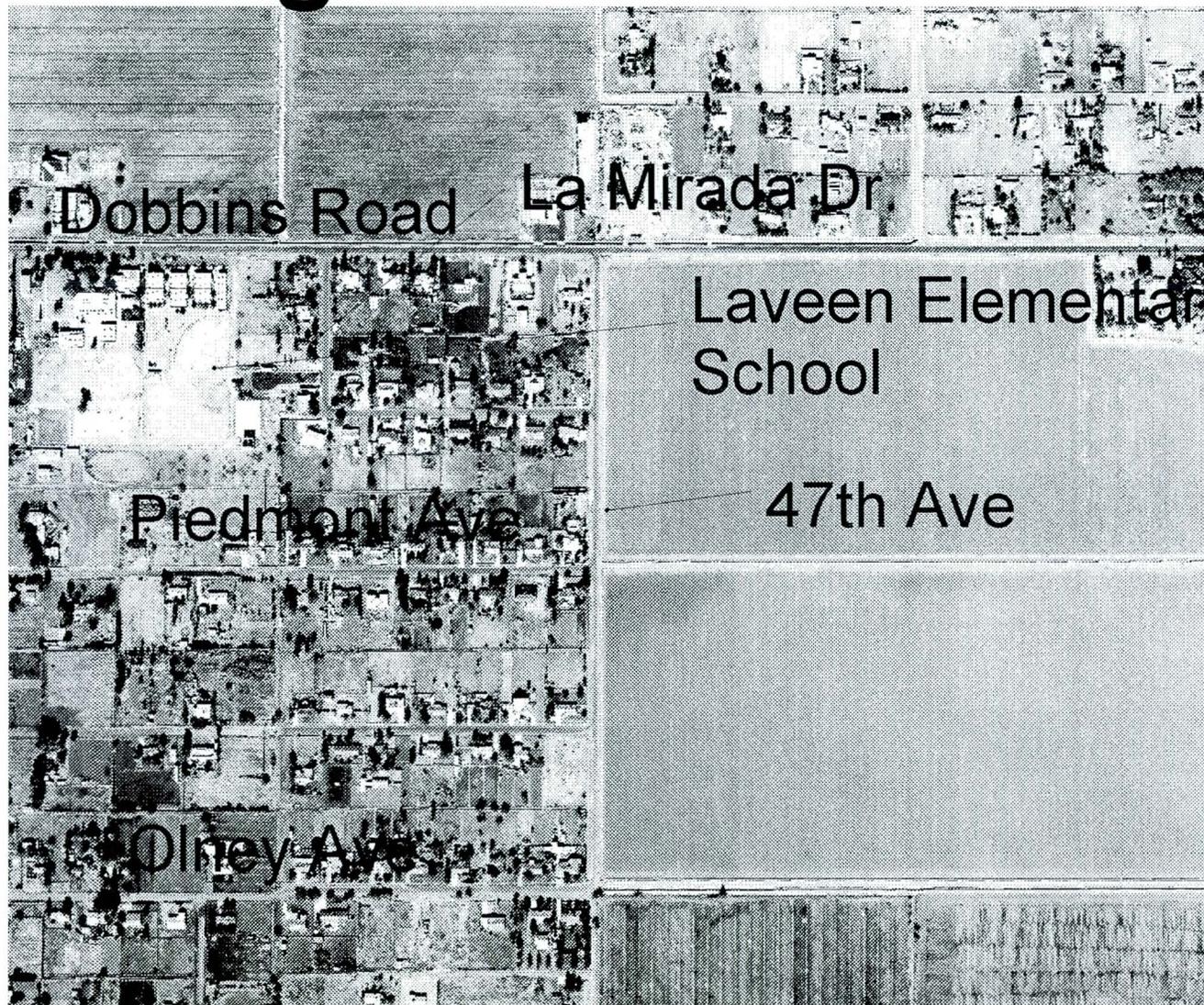
- 5- The Laveen Elementary School was also hit for the third time. Twenty classrooms were flooded, and the school has to repair the rooms before the start of the school. Picture of the high water mark clearly shows the limit of the flooding within the school area. Mrs. Linda Krapu, one of the 5th grade teachers was able to show us some of the flooded areas within the school. (Photo 12)
- 6- Mr. George Anderson residing at the corner of 47th Avenue and Redfield Road recorded the following precipitation at his residence. The explanation of the problem was the same as the others, the flows travelling south from 47th Avenue turns into their street and flooding the road and homes in the neighborhood. His precipitation readings were as follow;

Date	Precipitation
07-14-99	2.5 inches
07-21-99	2.1 inches
07-27-99	0.2 inches
07-28-99	1.90 inches

There were no signs of flooding inside the homes since sandbags protected most of the homes. The yards and the driveways had standing water and many had flooded water reach their doorsteps.

A frequency chart for these storms is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 1



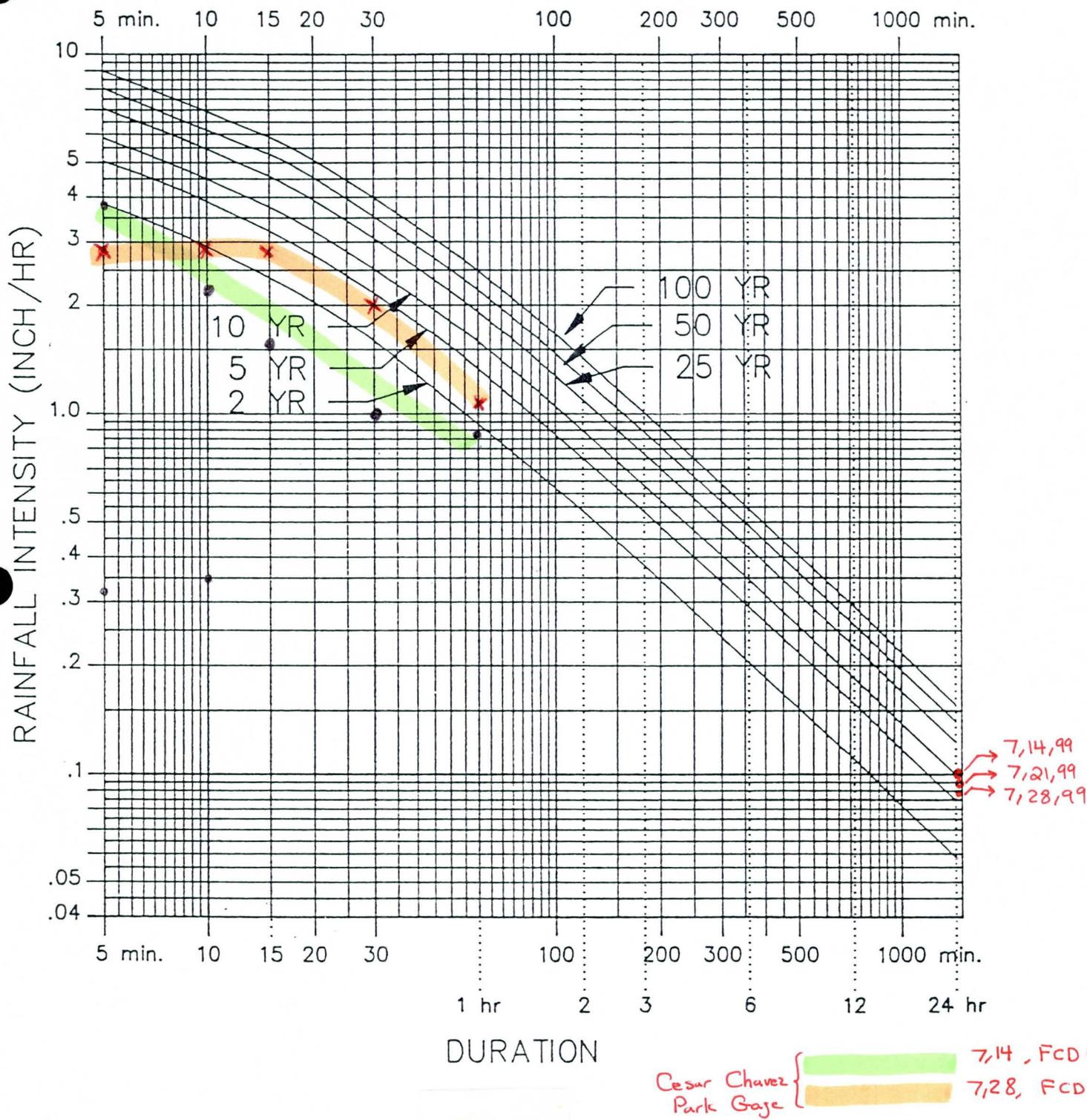


Figure 3
 Rainfall Intensity-Duration-Frequency Relation
 (Phoenix Metro Area)

Cesar Chavez Park Gage { 7/14, FCD Gage
 7/28, FCD Gage

Mr. George Anderson Gage, 47th Ave @ Red field



Photo ②

8/2/99 ENG AFA

LAVEEN FLOODING

Photo ①

LAVEEN FLOODI

8/2/99 ENG AF

8/2/99 ENG AFA

Photo ③

LAVEEN FLOODING



Photo ④

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Photo 5

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LAVEEN FLOODING



8/2/99 ENG AFA
Photo ①

Photo 12 8/2/99 ENG AFA