

## Flooding in Marana causes evacuations, home damage

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The Santa Cruz River's rising waters forced about 80 northwest Marana families out of their homes for several hours on Monday.

Town officials Monday night told the occupants of all but one of those homes they could return, said Jessica Ziegler, a Marana spokeswoman.

Marana Mayor Ed Honea declared a disaster at a news conference Monday.

Runoff from the Tortolita Mountains in north Marana also caused flooding and damage to agricultural fields. On one property an irrigation system sustained an estimated \$300,000 to \$500,000 worth of damage, said Town Manager Mike Reuwsaat.

Most residential damage occurred in the flood-prone community of Berry Acres, which lies north of the town's bank protection of the Santa Cruz River. Town officials could not immediately estimate the cost of the damage.

The newer Continental Ranch and Gladden Farms communities did not flood because of the bank protection on the western side of the river, Honea said.

The town had tried to obtain the properties that had a risk for flooding, but many owners were unwilling to sell, Reuw-saat said. The town will now determine if it wants to extend the bank protection along the Santa Cruz River past North Sanders Road or continue to try and obtain those properties.

Congressman Jim Kolbe visited the town to find out the extent of the damage and see if it would need federal aid. He said he was unsure if the flooding would qualify for federal emergency funds.

"The bank protection that's working so well needs to be extended" as Marana grows north toward Pinal County, Kolbe said.

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