***Altar Valley Timeline***

Arroyo formation in Altar Valley began sometime between 1886 and 1923

1908 Anvil Ranch headquarters established at current location

1930s Diversion dikes installed in Altar Wash to move water onto floodplain. Photographs show hay agriculture in wash in Palo Alto area and possibly Pozo Nuevo.

1943 Flood events

1960 Farming began on 98 Ranch

1983 Big flood events

1970s and 80s Pima Natural Resource Conservation District (Pima NRCD) promotes concept of installing sediment retention projects in the Altar Valley.

Fall 1995 Altar Valley Conservation Alliance formed

Circa 2000 AVCA in partnership with Sonoran Institute and US Army Corps of Engineers briefly rekindle sediment retention structure planning, which is soon derailed by federal priority changes related to 9/11.

2005 Bill Zeedyk’s first visit to Altar Valley

2005 to present Numerous workshops to teach people about low-tech arroyo restoration techniques and water harvesting from ranch roads, with Bill Zeedyk and Steve Carson.

January 2012 Elkhorn – Las Delicias Watershed Demonstration project installed.

January 1, 2013 (approx.) AVCA begins implementation of 2nd National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that includes watershed restoration projects in six upland areas, combined with prescribed fire.

2014 Sierrita Pipeline constructed and $1 million settlement to AVCA. Settlement funds invested and considered endowment for AVCA, with valley wide watershed work as major focus of group.

November 3, 2015 Bond election includes $1 million Altar Wash project. Election failed, but represents years of investment in collaboration with Pima County to develop project; and lays groundwork for continued work in future bond elections and partnership opportunities.

December 3 – 5, 2015 Retreat AVCA and Pima County NRCD invest approximately $20,000 in retreat to advance and focus planning for watershed restoration projects, with particular focus on Altar Wash and its major tributaries.