Of all the Gila Valley Prehistoric Hanging Bajada Canals, the TB Ponding Area centered on 32.76621 -109.73602 would seem quite significant.

Because...

1. The TB Ponding Area appears to be an obvious end use area with several associated habitation sites to the southwest and some rock alignments combined with ag artifacts to the north. Such proven destinations remain quite uncommon to date in the study area.

2. The TB Ponding Area is fed by a pair (!) of feeder canals, namely the TB East Canal that has been presently researched from 32.76066 -109.73487 to 32.76350 -109.73461, and the TB West Canal studied from 32.76191 -109.74414 to 32.76755 -109.73766.

3. Evidence of prehistoric origins are exceptionally strong in that the TB East Canal clearly underlies a historic cemetery. Low construction energy combines with zero historic rework evidence.

4. The ponding area is far more obvious on satellite imagery than any other known canal known segment in the bajada system to date.

5. The ponding area might be further threatened in that portions of it have been obliterated by a town water project.

6. The area appears to be single walled unlike the double walled spoil banks typical of most delivery canals in the study area. There also are branching distribution channels typical of end delivery use.


8. Significant engineering skills are reflected in a short counterflow segment that descends into rising terrain.
Outliers shown above are the possible still unresolved water sources of Marijilda via Lebanon, Marijilda via Rincon, and Deadman East. Ownership is a mix of CNF, state and private lands, with heavy modern ag development mid route.

Total studied distance is three kilometers with a projected total from takeins of up to ten kilometers. Present western study elevations range from 3251 to 3199 feet with an average slope of 1.5 percent. Comparable eastern study elevations seem similar.

An artesian source for the TB East canal has not yet been ruled out, although elevations presently seem to make this unlikely. A more credible intermediate source would be an extension of the Marijilda Canal via a Lebanon Reservoir routing, perhaps going through 32.74915 -109.74031.

Preliminary access is via graded dirt roads and very rough 4wd tracks, followed by moderate brushy hikes. Portions of the area are posted. The paved town water road is usually locked.

The principle ponding area is found from 32.76740 -109.73756 to 32.76486 -109.73415. As noted, retainment is single walled and quite obvious on satellite images. Multiple diversion channels are present and sometimes appear redundant.
Here are some noteworthy TB Ponding Area features and locations...

- 32.76486 -109.73415  Presently studied PB East Canal.
- 32.76057 -109.73461  Presently studied PB West Canal.
- 32.76740 -109.73756  Approximate cultural features area.
- 32.76116 -109.74360  Approximate habitation area.
- 32.76761 -109.73542  Approximate rock alignment ag area.
- 32.76293 -109.74347  Crossing obliterated by town water project.
- 32.76320 -109.73406  Short counterflow segment for wash crossing.
- 32.76571 -109.73427  Bizarre historical rework north of canal routing.
- 32.75966 -109.73295  Possible artesian area likely too low to source.
- 32.74034 -109.76228  Possible Rincon Canyon linking route.
- 32.70620 -109.77740  Marijilda Lebanon Canals takein.
- 32.73623 -109.81439  Deadman canal takein.
- 32.75664 -109.77970  Possibly Deadman linking route.
Further TB Ponding Area work might include…

1 — Verify the "north = down" slope of TB East Canal.
2 — Exclude TB East artesian source due to altitude.
3 — Determine TB East route northward to its water source.
4 — Improve TB East survey in the cemetery maint area.
5 — Do a detailed mapping of the main TB ponding area.
6 — Further explore ag artifacts to the north.
7 — Determine relationship with southwest habitations.
8 — Significantly improve photography of entire canal complex.
9 — Determine whether TB West source is Rincon or Deademan East.
10 — Evaluate relationship of TB West canal with other Rincon features.
12 — Attempt to mitigate future city water project damage.
12 — Determine flood survivability of Rincon Canyon artifacts.
13 — Do fly over drone and videotape survey.
14 — Mentor students and create field camps.

New Hanging Canal Discoveries: http://www.tinaja.com/whtnu17.shtml, etc…
RINCB1 – The end use destination TB Ponding area is much more obvious in aerial images than typical canal routine. It is fed by a pair of TB East and TB West canals. Obvious damage was caused by a town water project. The view is "north = up" and "straight down" from 32.76606 -109.73581.

RINC2 – The ponding area consists of single walled retaining structures highly atypical of the paired spoil banks of the related canals. Note the barrel cactus that adds credibility to its ancient age. View is to the north near 32.76583 -109.73482.