



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Requested Board Meeting Date: October 2, 2018

Title: Resolution Initiating a Floodplain Management Plan

Introduction/Background:

The Regional Flood Control District (District) wants to create a Pima County-wide Floodplain Management Plan (Plan) for floodplain management and flood control capital improvements. In order for this Plan to be appropriately acknowledged by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Plan must be initiated by the Board of Supervisors (BOS), sitting as the Flood Control District Board of Directors (Board) followed by a public process with final adoption of the Plan by the Board. This resolution is to initiate the process.

Discussion:

The District currently participates in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) and is considered a Class 5 community. This ranks Pima County as among the best in the nation and results in Pima County residents' ability to receive up to a 25% flood insurance premium discount. The creation and adoption of this Plan will allow for Pima County and the District to engage the public in a discussion about flood hazards and the appropriate structural and non-structural strategies to mitigate these hazards. The goal of this process is to create a comprehensive plan, by watershed, that will direct both floodplain management and capital improvement priorities.

Conclusion:

In addition to furthering the District's goal of providing comprehensive floodplain management services for the maximum benefit to the residents of Pima County, the Plan and the process to create it will help inform the public about flood hazards as well provide an opportunity for discussion regarding the District's strategy for addressing these hazards. Successful completion of this process and adoption of this resolution will provide an opportunity for Pima County to further improve its CRS ranking, potentially elevating the community to one of the top 15 in the country. The current Plan does not meet the prerequisite criteria for a Class 4 community. Improving the CRS ranking will increase the flood insurance premium discounts that residents enjoy.

Recommendation:

The District recommends that the Board adopt this resolution authorizing the District to develop a CRS Class 4 compliant Plan.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no impact to the General Fund, and this process will be administered by existing District staff. Successful adoption of this Plan will reduce flood insurance premiums for those Pima County residents that are required to, or desire to, obtain flood insurance.

Board of Supervisor District:

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☒ All

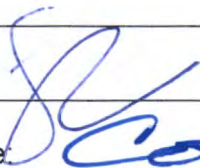
Department: Regional Flood Control District

Telephone: 724-4600

Contact: Eric Shepp - Deputy Director

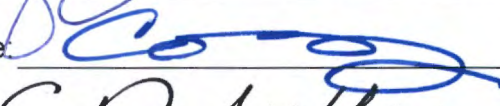
Telephone: 724-4610

Department Director Signature/Date: _____



9/10/18

Deputy County Administrator Signature/Date: _____



9/14/18

County Administrator Signature/Date: _____



9/14/18

DATE: September 10, 2018

TO: C. H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

FROM: Suzanne Shields, P.E.
Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Floodplain Management Plan – Public Process

The Pima County Regional Flood Control District (District) strives to provide premier floodplain management and flood control services and participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is a program that encourages floodplain management jurisdictions to exceed the minimum standards of the NFIP and incentivizes jurisdictions actions by reducing premiums for flood insurance proportional to a jurisdiction's efforts.

As you know, Pima County has achieved a Class 5 rating and the most recent audit confirmed that this rating should remain in effect through the next audit cycle. With a Class 5 rating, residents of unincorporated Pima County who are required to obtain flood insurance can receive up to a 25% flood insurance premium discount. Pima County continues to be rated amongst the best in the nation.

The District is well situated to improve our rating and in fact, based on the activities we currently perform, we could be considered a Class 4 community. However, in order to qualify a rating improvement based upon this score, there are prerequisites in two of the rated activity areas in which we must improve, floodplain management planning and flood warning.

District staff is currently addressing flood warning in cooperation with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Specifically, the District is providing maps of "inundation areas" for use in OEM's Everbridge MyAlerts mass notification system; District staff in consultation with the Sheriff's Department are writing specific flood warning messages. We anticipate the first messages will be available for use in the Tanque Verde Valley this winter. At that time, the District will inform residents of the Tanque floodplain of the availability of this service. Further, OEM is conducting annual flood response exercises in concert with the District, Sheriff's Department, Department of Transportation, Southern Arizona Search and Rescue and Rural Metro Fire Department among others.

With respect to floodplain management planning, the Interjurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is currently credited as our Floodplain Management Plan (FMP). While the HMP is clearly valuable to community resiliency, it does not meet the minimum requirements for an FMP for a CRS Class 4 community. The primary reason for not meeting these criteria is the lack of public process for the latest revision to the plan.

As such, the District wants to undertake the process to formally create and adopt a CRS Class 4 compliant FMP. There is considerable information available regarding watershed characteristics, flood hazards, and capital improvement needs throughout Pima County. This information is summarized in the latest version of the District's Five-Year Comprehensive Program Report, which would lay the foundation for a watershed-based FMP. You can find the latest Five-Year Comprehensive Program Report at: http://webcms.pima.gov/government/flood_control/reports/.

The CRS provides a very prescriptive process that we must follow to ensure adequate public input. The attachment provides a summary of the steps needed for a CRS Class 4 compliant FMP.

C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

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Successful completion of these pre-requisites may result in Pima County receiving a rating of Class 4 or perhaps even Class 3, elevating the Districts floodplain management program to become one of the top 15 elite communities in the nation.

The attached resolution constitutes Step 1 of the floodplain management planning process. The District recommends adopting this resolution in order to begin the process of assembling the Planning Committee and begin watershed scale review of the flood hazards. In addition to meeting the prerequisites for a Class 4 rating, the development of a FMP will further the District's goal of providing comprehensive floodplain management services for maximum benefit to the residents of Pima County.

In addition, attached is a Pima County Board of Supervisors Agenda Item Report for the October 2, 2018 meeting requesting approval by the Board of Supervisors sitting as the Board of Directors of the Flood Control District.

SS/tj

Attachments

- c: Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator – Public Works
- Eric Shepp, P.E., Deputy Director – Regional Flood Control District
- Andy Dinauer, P.E., Deputy Director – Regional Flood Control District
- Greg Saxe, Environmental Planning Manager – Regional Flood Control District

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-FC_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVING INITIATION OF
A FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS AS PART OF
THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM'S COMMUNITY
RATING SYSTEM**

The Board of Directors of the Pima County Flood Control District finds:

1. Pima County has experienced severe flood disaster events causing significant damage to public and private property, including homes and businesses, resulting in a need for insurance coverage for those who may be exposed to flood risks.
2. Relief from the economic hardships of flood damage is available in the form of federally subsidized flood insurance as authorized by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and its subsequent amendments.
3. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance protection against losses from flooding.
4. The Pima County Regional Flood Control District (District) participates in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) which provides a framework necessary for a community's actions and efforts in meeting the three goals of: (1) reduction of flood losses; (2) facilitation of accurate insurance ratings; and (3) promotion of awareness of flood insurance.
5. As part of the CRS, communities are encouraged to exceed minimum standards and in doing so qualify for a reduction in flood insurance premiums for policy holders. Based on the District's floodplain management efforts, residents in unincorporated Pima County currently enjoy a premium discount of up to 25%.
6. The District plans to further exceed the minimum NFIP standards through the design and implementation of a Floodplain Management Plan (FPM).

7. The FMP is a region-wide planning process including stakeholder involvement, hazard assessment, and identification of mitigation activities important to flood safety and the protection the natural beneficial functions of floodplains.
8. A component of the FMP includes incorporating the previously approved Program for Public Information, Repetitive Loss Area Analysis, Flood Insurance Coverage Assessment and a Coverage Improvement Plan that requires promoting of the purchase of or an increase in coverage of flood insurance.
9. Pima Prospers Flood Control and Drainage Element Goal 2 Implementation Measure D is "Create and adopt a Watershed Management Plan which identifies the watersheds impacting Pima County, their drainage characteristics, regulatory and infrastructure needs."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District's Board of Directors hereby:

1. Directs District staff to prepare for approval a written Floodplain Management Plan;
2. Directs District staff to engage the public in the Floodplain Management Plan process, including creation of a Planning Committee consisting of staff and stakeholders per NFIP guidelines; and
3. Authorizes District staff to do all things necessary to implement this Resolution.

Passed and adopted, this ____ day of _____, 2018.

Chairman, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Deputy County Attorney
KELL OLSON