

DESERT MOUNTAIN FLOODPLAIN DELINEATION STUDY RESULTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



STUDY OVERVIEW

What is this study?

An engineering study conducted by the Flood Control District to better understand how runoff moves across the landscape during significant storm events. The study uses current local data and the latest analysis methods to identify areas where flooding may occur.

Why is this study being done now?

The Flood Control District began this effort as an Area Drainage Master Study (ADMS) for the Desert Mountain area and surrounding communities. An ADMS evaluates how stormwater moves through an area under existing conditions.

Based on the ADMS results, the City of Scottsdale requested that the project proceed to a floodplain delineation study. While an ADMS identifies flood hazard, a floodplain delineation study formally maps the 1-percent-annual chance flood risk on FEMA's National Flood Insurance Rate Maps, which is then used for regulatory and insurance purposes.

Is the study complete?

The engineering analysis for this study is complete. The current phase of the study is public notification, during which the District presents the study results before submitting the information to FEMA.

How will the results be used?

Final floodplain information will be used to inform development decisions and improve understanding of flood risk.



INSURANCE & PROPERTY

Will this affect my flood insurance?

The study does not set insurance rates or requirements; once it's incorporated into the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, it may change insurance requirements. Property owners with insurance-related questions should consult FEMA resources or speak with an insurance professional.

Do I need to make changes to my property?

No. The study does not mandate construction, mitigation, or property improvements. However, future development will require compliance with regulations governing development in a floodplain.

Does this change HOA rules?

No. HOA requirements are separate. Contact your HOA for details.



FLOODPLAINS & FLOODING

What is a floodplain?

An area where water may flow or collect during large storm events. Floodplain maps show where flooding is possible not when or how often it will occur.

How does flooding work in the desert?

Desert storms can be short but intense. Flooding is often fast-moving, shallow, and localized, especially in washes and natural drainage paths.

What does "draft floodplain information" mean?

The "draft floodplain information" has not been approved by FEMA, however it is the result of a completed study, and may only be revised based on new technical information provided before FEMA approval.

Are the flood maps showing what will definitely happen?

No. Flood maps illustrate modeled flood conditions using specific criteria for modeling 1-percent-annual-chance storm events. They do not predict when flooding will occur and do not represent annual flooding.

Does being mapped in a floodplain mean my property floods every year?

No. Floodplain maps identify the 1% annual chance flood risk. This does not guarantee flooding or lack of flooding. Residents could experience flooding more than once a year or not for many years.



PUBLIC INPUT & NEXT STEPS

How can I review the study?

Visit the project webpage for maps, materials, and updates.

Can I provide comments?

Yes. Public input is part of the process. Instructions are available on the project webpage. New technical information provided before FEMA approval is welcome.

What happens next?

After the public comment period, the study will be submitted to FEMA for review and final approval.



LEARN MORE

View the proposed maps and get more information at

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