

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

PIMA COUNTY FLOODED HOMES ACQUISITION, REMOVAL, AND FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA HMGP 5434-002-002R

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to Pima County, Arizona, to mitigate future response and recovery costs resulting from flooding by acquiring, demolishing, and restoring the floodplain on two parcels that currently include residential structures (proposed action). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives that were considered.

The purpose of the proposed action is to eliminate repeated flood damage at two flood-prone properties. The proposed action consists of Pima County acquiring two properties identified as 6640 Placita Arquilla, Tucson, Arizona, 85718 (32.326706, -110.899270) and 6651 Placita Arquilla, Tucson, Arizona, 85718 (32.327402, -110.899874). Following demolition of built environment features, these two properties will be converted to open space. The proposed Scope of Work includes: a property inspection for asbestos and other hazardous materials; disconnection or capping of utility infrastructure; demolition of the residences and relevant appurtenances, including driveways, other impervious surfaces, and outbuildings; and debris removal. Restoration work includes re-establishing natural grade and drainage, and hydroseeding with native riparian plant mix. Staging will be within driveways and on parking areas. Property will revert to open space, be recorded as such in perpetuity on property deeds, and maintained by the County.

The properties are depicted on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel #04019C1685L, effective June 16, 2011. The proposed action lies within Zone AE, an area that has a 1-percent annual chance flood probability and where a base flood elevation has been established; it is not in a regulatory floodway. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory map, the properties are located adjacent to, but not within, riverine habitat wetlands.

A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain is available for public inspection. Parties interested in receiving a copy of the map should contact the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer using the contact information provided in this notice.

Two alternatives to the proposed action were considered: Alternative 1, No Action Alternative; and Alternative 2, Action Alternative. Alternative 1 would not involve any action regarding the subject properties and is not recommended. Due to the nature of the properties built environment (masonry resting on slab foundation) it is not practicable to reengineer these buildings for floodproofing. Therefore, the result of the No Action Alternative is leaving the properties, and

their respective utilities, at risk of future inundation and damage. Alternative 2 would include improvements such as levees or channelization at the properties subject to flooding. This Alternative is not recommended because work on private property would require lengthy homeowner coordination, involve challenging site topography engineering, and include the potential of the watershed to move large amounts of sediment thereby decreasing the effectiveness of this alternative's intended flood protection measures. FEMA has determined that the proposed project is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the proposed action must be in the floodplain. The proposed action would have no significant adverse impact on the floodplain and would benefit the area by reducing the risk of flooding and flood damage. The proposed action is the best solution for the community because the land will return to its natural condition, expanding upon adjacent biologically significant preserved riparian corridor public open space that is protected by both federal and local land ownership. Furthermore, response and recovery costs will be avoided in perpetuity. Pima County has stated that the proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards, and they would be responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the proposed action.

Additional information about FEMA's proposed action may be requested via mail to the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or via email to fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.