

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is the purpose of the study?

This Watercourse Master Plan (WCMP) will describe the existing conditions within the McClellan Wash watershed, characterize the amount and location of water flow during major flooding events, analyze the effects of existing and future development within the floodplain, and identify potential drainage improvement alternatives. The authorization for performing these types of studies can be found in Article XV of the Pinal County Floodplain Management Ordinance, and ARS 48-3609.01.

## What is the study schedule?

The project began in January 2010, and is anticipated to be completed in March 2011. During the next year, the study team will conduct field surveys and assess the conditions of the watershed. Two additional public meetings will be held during the study, tentatively scheduled for summer 2010 and winter 2010/2011.

## How will the results of the study be used?

The study will create a plan to alleviate future flooding of McClellan Wash based on potential drainage improvements. The plan will be submitted to the Pinal County Board of Supervisors for potential adoption. If the plan is adopted, it will be enforceable under the Pinal County Management Ordinance.

## How can I provide input?

There are a variety of ways to provide input, including attending public meetings, submitting comment forms and letters, and contacting the study team through phone or e-mail, as listed below.

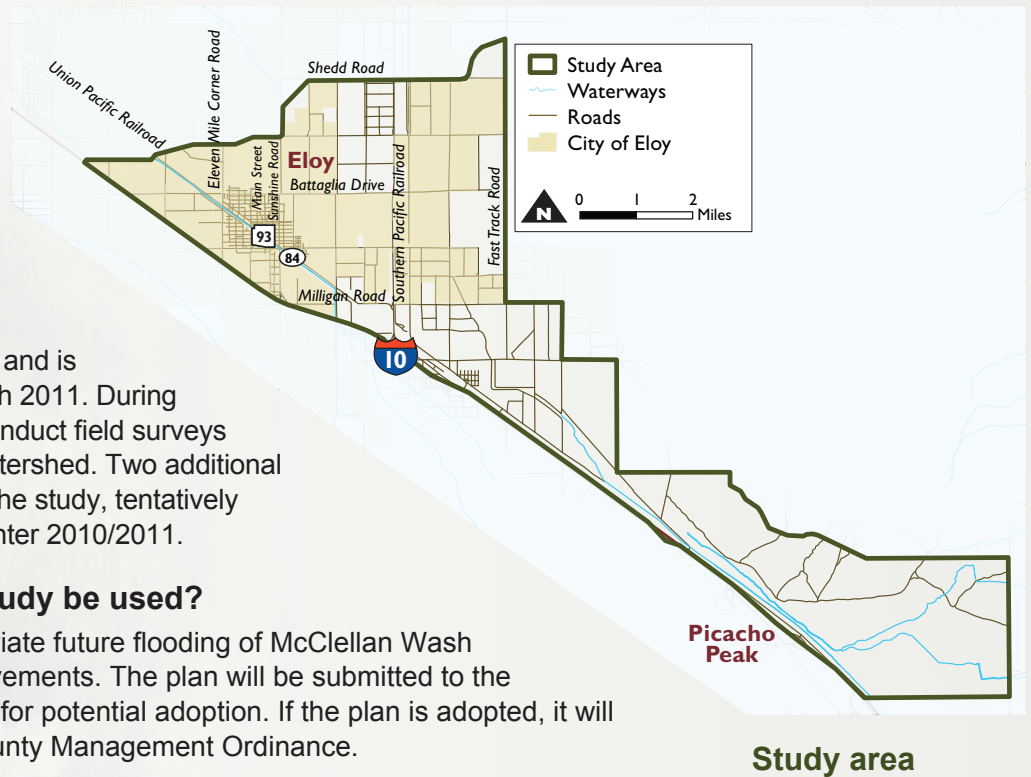
## Where can I find additional information?

For more information on the study, please contact Ami Brogan, Public Involvement Specialist, at 602-522-7768, or via e-mail at [ami.brogan@hdrinc.com](mailto:ami.brogan@hdrinc.com). Additionally, Pinal County will periodically update information on their Web site, [www.pinalcountyaz.gov](http://www.pinalcountyaz.gov).

## Terms/Definitions

**Watercourse**—a lake, river, creek, stream, wash, arroyo, channel or other topographic feature on or over which waters flow at least periodically. Watercourse includes specifically designated areas in which substantial flood damage may occur.

**Watercourse Master Plan**—a hydraulic plan for a watercourse that examines the cumulative impacts of existing development and future encroachment in the floodplain and future development in the watershed on potential flood damages. In addition, a watercourse master plan establishes technical criteria for subsequent development so as to minimize potential flood damages for all flood events up to and including the 100-year flood.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued)

**100-year base flood** – A flood elevation that has a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded each year. Since the term does not relate to a certain amount of time, a 100-year flood could occur more than once in a short period of time. The 100-year flood is used as a standard for both Federal and State agencies in floodplain management and the determination of flood insurance needs.

**Base Flood Elevation** – The height (in feet) or depth of the base flood above the ground surface.

**Floodway** – Floodways are designed and mapped through detailed engineering studies. Mapped floodways includes the channel of the river and adjacent land areas which in an unobstructed condition can discharge a 100-year flood/ Base Flood without any increase in water surface elevations.

**Flood Fringe** – The area between the floodway boundary and limit of the 100-year floodplain is termed the Flood Fringe. The Flood Fringe encompasses the portion of this floodplain that could be completely obstructed without increasing the water surface elevation of a 100-year flood event more than one foot at any point.

**Cross-section** – A drawing depicting the shape of a watercourse where the water flows and used in the calculation of the water surface elevation.

**Flood hazard zones** – The different area designations on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that define the level of potential risk of flooding for that area. These can be designated as Zone A, AE, B, C, and/or X.

**Zone A** – A special flood hazard area that is subject to flood from a 100-year flood. Because detailed hydraulic analysis has not been performed, no base flood elevations or depths are shown.

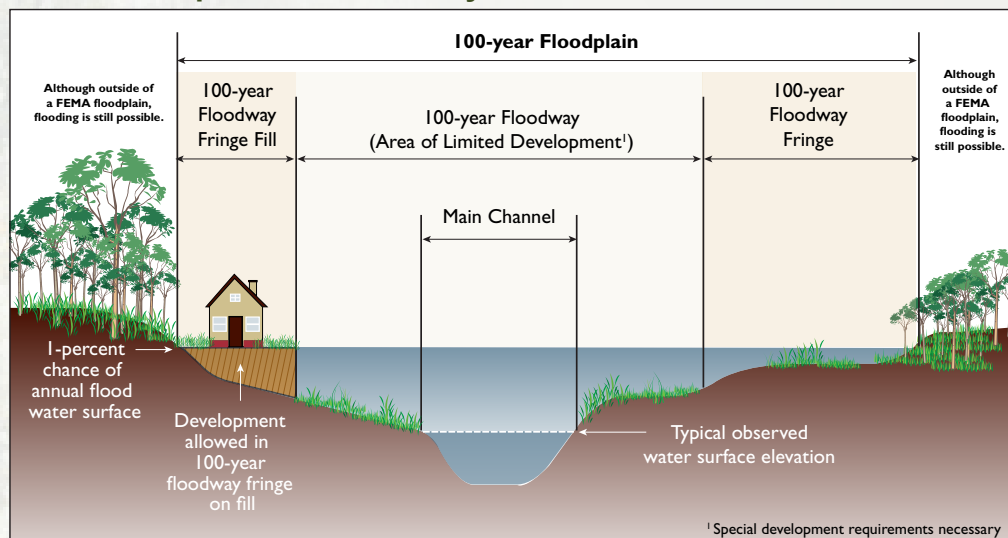
**Zone AE** – A special flood hazard area subject to flood by the 100-year flood determined by a Flood Insurance Study. Base flood elevations are shown within these zones.

**Zone B, C, and X** – Areas that have been identified as having moderate or minimal risk from flooding by the principal watercourse in the area. These zones are considered to be outside the 100-year floodplain. However, these areas could be subject to flooding by severe weather.

### What if my property is in a 100-year floodplain?

If your property is in a 100-year floodplain, it is vulnerable to flooding during a 100-year (one percent) flood. If you are unsure, please visit the Pinal County Flood Control District Web site at [www.pinalcountyz.gov/Departments/PublicWorks/FloodControlDistrict/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.pinalcountyz.gov/Departments/PublicWorks/FloodControlDistrict/Pages/Home.aspx).

### FEMA Floodplain and floodway cross section



McCLELLAN WASH

Watercourse  
Master Plan



Walton  
International Group Inc.



PINAL COUNTY  
wide open opportunity



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