



FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

VEKOL & SMITH WASHES WATERSHED PLAN/ ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

OVERVIEW

Pinal County is conducting the Vekol Wash and Smith Wash Watersheds Plan/Environmental Assessments (Plan/EAs) to develop and study potential alternatives to mitigate flood hazards and other natural resource concerns in the Hidden Valley/Maricopa/Stanfield area. This study is the first step in creating a comprehensive, regional, long-term plan for addressing flooding and resource concerns in the area.

The study will be conducted in association with the Natural Resources Conversation Service (NRCS) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines which require a strong environmental resource focus.

As part of the completion of the Plan/EAs, if the potential projects are found to have no environmental impacts, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued.

After the FONSI is issued, Pinal County will determine the next steps for implementation of any mitigation projects identified in the study. Mitigation projects could be funded through federal, state, or local dollars. Projects may also be implemented through partnerships with nearby cities, counties, special districts, and potentially private business entites.



PROJECT SCHEDULE

Summer 2020

- Data Collection
- Public Meeting #1
- Environmental Resource Studies
- Hydrologic Model of Existing Flood Hazards

Fall 2020

- Alternatives Formulation
- Preferred Alternative
- Public Meeting #2

Winter 2021

- Draft Watershed Plan/EAs
- Public Review of Plan/EAs

Spring 2021

- FONSI Issued
- Final Plan/EAs Complete

Environmental Resources to be Evaluated:

- Air Quality
- Agricultural Productivity (crops, grazing, etc.)
- Bodies of Water
- Cultural & Historic Properties
- Endangered & Non-Native Species
- Environmental Justice
- Erosion/Sedimentation
- Fish & Wildlife
- Flooding
- Natural Areas, Parklands, Farmlands, Wetlands
- Plants
- Recreational Opportunities
- Scenic Areas, National Parks, Monuments, Historical Sites
- Transportation
- Water Quality & Quantities
- Other Potential Resources

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Community input is a key element of this project. To understand existing issues and develop potential alternatives, the study team will be holding public and stakeholder meetings and surveying community members throughout the study period.

MORE INFORMATION:

Website:
www.pinalcountyaz.gov/PublicWorks/FloodControl

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