



FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT OF MARICOPA COUNTY

About the District

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County was created in 1959 to reduce the risk of flooding to people and property.

Who are we?

The District is a municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Arizona. The District is governed by a Board of Directors, which double as the County Board of Supervisors, with the advice of a citizens' Flood Control Advisory Board.

What do we do?

- * Build and maintain structures
- * Identify and delineate floodplains
- * Issue permits for development in floodplains
- * Operate a flood warning system in coordination with local emergency responders
- * Conduct flood hazard studies to identify risks of flooding and potential solutions, both structural and non-structural

How are we funded?

Under Arizona enabling legislation, the Flood Control District is a special taxing district and is given the authority to levy a secondary property tax on property within Maricopa County. The District's flood control levy is 0.1792 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. At this levy rate, a typical property owner with an assessed valuation of \$100,000 pays an annual flood control tax of \$17.92. Other sources of funding vary and include: federal grants, the sale or lease of property and rights-of-way, permit fees, and project cost-sharing with other entities.

The District's budget supports routine operations (operating and maintenance, permitting, etc.) and its CIP (Capital Improvement Program). The annual operating budget is approximately \$33 million, with 98 percent of the District's revenue coming from the property tax. In Fiscal Year 2020, the CIP budget was \$85 million. The key to capital projects is local cost share with governments and developers. Except in unusual circumstances, the District requests at least a 50 percent cost share.

In 2015, the Board of Directors developed an updated strategic plan for the District recognizing that significant financial constraints limit the District's ability to fund capital projects. As a result, varying funding strategies have been implemented including emphasis toward achieving a 50/50 share by project partners; mirroring the County General Fund philosophy of a two-month cash reserve, plus utilizing the remaining fund balance for capital projects. The review also includes a reprioritization of the CIP procedure scoring which may include greater weight to:

- Project readiness and community prioritization
- Level of partner cost share with 50/50 as the standard
- Adding economic development considerations



District responsibilities

Flood Hazard Identification The District conducts Area Drainage Studies and develops Watercourse Master Plans for all of Maricopa County. These studies identify areas with flood risk as well as opportunities for potential solutions. Delineation studies survey specific reaches of rivers and washes and accurately identify the depth and velocity of flood waters within these water courses.

Structures Based on flood risk priorities and available funding, the District builds flood control structures such as dams, levees, channels, basins and storm drains. The District cost shares on structures and maintenance with cities and other agencies.

Floodplain Use Permits and Inspections The District issues Floodplain Use Permits and conducts inspections for unincorporated Maricopa County and for the cities and towns of Buckeye, Carefree, Cave Creek, Chandler, El Mirage, Gila Bend, Guadalupe, Litchfield Park, Mesa, Queen Creek, Surprise, Tolleson, Youngtown and Wickenburg.

The following communities have assumed floodplain management activities and permitting: Avondale, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Glendale, Goodyear, Paradise Valley, Peoria, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe.

Did you know?



- Approximately 2/3 of Arizona's major rivers run through Maricopa County
- Structures operated and maintained by the District:
 - 22 dams
 - 370 acres of basins
 - 122 miles of channels
 - 60+ additional structures (levees, drains, etc.)
- The County has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System since 1991. Through the FEMA accreditation process, the County is now at Class 4, which gives residents of unincorporated Maricopa County up to a 30% discount on their flood insurance.
- The Flood Control District provides on-demand weather, rainfall and streamflow information for use by cities and county emergency departments and National Weather Service this includes 335 automatic rain gages, 213 automatic stream gages, and 36 automatic weather stations.
- An average of 380 Floodplain Use Permits are processed by the Flood Control District each year.
- The Small Project Assistance Program which provides up to \$500K match for small flood projects is available for municipalities that need rapid implementation.

Why is flood control still needed today?

During Maricopa County's early history, floods caused millions of dollars worth of damage to homes, businesses and farmland. Today, rapid population growth has expanded the urban area and development with the urban core has modified watercourses resulting in flooding outside of historical areas. Flooding during the 2014 monsoon storms demonstrated the need for additional structures and controls.

Continued collaboration with citizens, municipalities, agencies and developers is vital to ensuring that people and property remain safe from floods as the county continues to grow.