

## SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Plan History

In 2003 and 2004, Maricopa County, two Indian Tribes, and all incorporated cities and towns in Maricopa County, participated in a multi-jurisdictional mitigation planning effort that resulted in the development of a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan with separate stand-alone annexes that covered each participating jurisdiction. The following is a list of those annexes:

- *Maricopa County Unincorporated Area Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Avondale Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Buckeye Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Carefree Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Cave Creek Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Chandler Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of El Mirage Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Fountain Hills Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Gila Bend Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Gilbert Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Glendale Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Goodyear Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Guadalupe Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Litchfield Park Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Mesa Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Paradise Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Peoria Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Phoenix Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Queen Creek Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Scottsdale Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Surprise Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Tempe Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *City of Tolleson Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Wickenburg Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- *Town of Youngtown Hazard Mitigation Plan*

Collectively and individually, these plans will be referred to herein as the 2004 Plan(s). The 2004 Plans received official FEMA approval on November 29, 2004. Additional planning was performed with the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation to upgrade their 2004 Plan to a “state level” plan, which was approved by FEMA and retains the November 29, 2004 approval date. The 2004 Plans are nearing the end of the 5-year planning cycle and are set to expire November 29, 2009.

### 2.2 Plan Purpose and Authority

The purpose of the Plan is to identify natural hazards that impact the various jurisdictions located within Maricopa County, assess the vulnerability and risk posed by those hazards to community-wide human and structural assets, develop strategies for mitigation of those identified hazards, present future maintenance procedures for the plan, and document the planning process. The Plan is prepared in compliance with DMA 2000 requirements and represents a multi-jurisdictional update of the 2004 Plans listed in Section 2.1.

Maricopa County and all of the Cities and Towns are political subdivisions of the State of Arizona and are organized under Title 9 (cities/towns) and Title 11 of the Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS). The Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District is also a political subdivision of the State and is organized under Title 48 of the ARS. The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation is a federally recognized sovereign nation that

was created by Executive Order on September 15, 1903 and is governed by a Tribal Council that is elected by tribal members pursuant to the Tribe's Constitution. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community was established by Executive Order on June 14, 1879 and is governed by community council comprised of a president, vice president and tribal council. As such, each of these entities are empowered to formally plan and adopt the Plan on behalf of their respective jurisdictions.

Funding for the development of the Plan was provided through a PDM planning grant obtained by MCDEM through the State of Arizona from FEMA. JE Fuller/ Hydrology & Geomorphology (JEF) was retained by MCDEM to provide consulting services in guiding the update planning process and Plan development.

### 2.3 General Plan Description

The Plan is generally arranged and formatted to be consistent with the 2007 State of Arizona Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (State Plan) and is comprised of the following major sections:

**Planning Process** – this section summarizes the planning process used to update the Plan, describes the assembly of the planning team and meetings conducted, and summarizes the public involvement efforts.

**Community Description** – this section provides an overall description of the participating jurisdictions and the County as a whole.

**Risk Assessment** – this section summarizes the identification and profiling of natural hazards that impact the County and the vulnerability assessment for each hazard that considers exposure/loss estimations and development trend analyses.

**Mitigation Strategy** – this section presents a capability assessment for each participating jurisdiction and summarizes the Plan mitigation goals, objectives, actions/projects, and strategy for implementation of those actions/projects.

**Plan Maintenance Strategy** – this section outlines the proposed strategy for evaluating and monitoring the Plan, updating the Plan in the next 5 years, incorporating plan elements into existing planning mechanisms, and continued public involvement.

**Plan Tools** – this section includes a list Plan acronyms and a glossary of definitions.