

**FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF SNOWFLAKE, ARIZONA
HIGH SCHOOL AND FIRE STATION
FLOOD CONTROL MITIGATION PROJECT**

PDMC-PJ-09-AZ-2017-003

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 the Town of Snowflake in Navajo County, Arizona. To mitigate the impact of flood hazards, new drainage features and detention basins are to be constructed along South 2nd Street West and West 4th Street South (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 construct new flood control features designed to intercept, detain, collect, and discharge flood flows and restore historic drainage patterns along South 2nd Street West and West 4th Street South in the Town of Snowflake. The proposed action consists of: 1) an earthen channel to supplement street drainage capacity along South 2nd Street West; 2) interceptor catch basins to direct flows (along with the channel) into an aquifer recharge and detention basin; 3) a second detention and collector basin, dredging of an existing unnamed watercourse that directs flows into Cottonwood Wash; and 4) two drywell/recharge systems located at low points downstream of the interceptor system (on the northern side of the fire station and the southern side of the high school ballfield).

The project area is depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Map Number 04017C4039E, effective date September 26, 2008. The proposed action lies within Zone X, an area that has a 0.2-percent probability of flooding every year.

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 contact information provided in this notice.

Three alternatives to the proposed action were considered: Alternative 1: Increase Capacity of Existing Silver Creek Stormwater System; Alternative 2: Detention of Runoff at School Track Field; and Alternative 3: No Action. Alternative 1 would require major reconstruction efforts of the underground stormwater system, sized to

accommodate street flows only. Significant disturbance to the neighborhoods, with a crossing under SR-77 would be required. Detailed analyses to determine the downstream impacts to the Silver Creek Special Flood Hazard Area would be required. This Alternative is not recommended due to the high cost, easement challenges, and the significant impacts of constructing a major crossing under SR-77. Alternative 2 would require the construction of a detention basin at the school track field, which would require the reconstruction of special subgrade and surface material. Due to the natural topography where the area ranges from 5-8 feet lower than the surrounding area, a lengthy underground drainage system toward Cottonwood Wash of approximately 0.5 mile would be required to drain the system. Because this alternative would not attenuate peak flows, existing roads would need to be lowered to increase street capacity, to prevent flood damage to upstream homes. The road system serving as a drainage channel would be subjected to high velocity, erosive flows. This Alternative is not recommended due to the high cost and significant construction impacts and challenges. Under Alternative 3, no improvements would be made, and the Town of Snowflake would continue to experience recurring flood damage. Therefore, Alternative 3 is not recommended.

FEMA has determined that the proposed project is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, a portion of the proposed action must be located 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. As a result, measures to minimize impacts on the floodplain are not necessary. The Town of Snowflake has declared that the proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards, and will be responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the proposed action.

Additional information about FEMA's proposed action may be requested by writing the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov, or calling (510) 627-7027. All requests should be received no later than February 16th, 2019. No action will be taken before this date.