



# City Council Report

**Date:** May 18, 2020  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Kari Kent, Assistant City Manager  
**From:** Beth Huning, City Engineer  
Rob Kidder, Assistant City Engineer  
**Subject:** New Floodplain Ordinance  
City Project No. M99-2020-015  
Citywide

## Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Council regarding the attached revised Floodplain Ordinance. Staff recommends that the Council adopt this revised ordinance.

## Background

On March 18, 2020, the City of Mesa was notified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that revised dates for Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) would become effective as of September 18, 2020. The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Council regarding the attached revised Floodplain Ordinance to remain in conformance with both State and Federal floodplain regulations under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

## Discussion

Based on the letter notice from FEMA and discussions with representatives from the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), Mesa needs to revise the Floodplain Ordinance to reference the current Flood Insurance Study, FIRMs, and Floodplain Regulations for Maricopa County. The revised wording in the Floodplain ordinance complies with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 44 Part 60 Section 60.3 - Flood plain management criteria for flood-prone areas. These changes would also comply with state and local regulations needed for being a participant in the NFIP.

Community Impact – This revised Floodplain Ordinance will keep the City of Mesa in conformance with the NFIP and allow residents to make informed decisions regarding flood insurance.

## **Alternatives**

One alternative would be for the City not to make the changes to the ordinance as identified in the letter from FEMA. This alternative is not recommended since the revisions to the ordinance are necessary to keep the City in compliance with State and Federal floodplain regulations. Also, failure to update this ordinance could result in the loss of participation in the NFIP, and therefore loss of opportunities for citizens to purchase flood insurance.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The revised ordinance is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the City; however, keeping the City in compliance with State and Federal floodplain regulations allows new and existing developments in floodplain areas to receive flood insurance rates under the NFIP.

## **Coordinated With**

The Development and Sustainability Department, ADWR, and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (FCD) have reviewed the ordinance and concur with this recommendation. Further, City Attorney's Office has been engaged for the legal review of these ordinance changes.