



# Flood Control District of Maricopa County

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## **Flood Control District Web Site Features FEMA's Preliminary 2012 Flood Insurance Rate Maps**

*Property Owners May View the Preliminary Maps Online  
during a 90-Day Public Comment Period*

PHOENIX (Oct. 25, 2011) – The preliminary 2012 Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) for Maricopa County from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX are available for viewing by the public. Property owners and other interested persons may view the countywide maps on the [Map Applications](#) page of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County's Web site. [Additional information](#) may be found on FEMA's Web site.

Property owners will have the opportunity to review the preliminary maps until January 18, 2012. During this formal, 90-day Appeal and Protest Period, property owners may submit appeals and protests to FEMA if they disagree with the floodplain delineations shown on the maps. The appeal process can be started right from the map application on the District's Web site.

The preliminary maps are part of a larger effort to modernize the nation's aging flood maps to reflect the areas of high, moderate or low flood risks, especially in those areas which have seen recent homebuilding and other development activity. FEMA's current flood insurance rate maps date back to Sept. 30, 2005.

The preliminary 2012 maps are the result of a countywide effort to update the current maps to conform to the new standard of reporting a base flood elevation — the depth of water in a 100-year flood, or a flood with a one-percent chance of occurring in a given year. These base flood elevations ultimately determine the areas of 100-year floodplains.

Additionally, the preliminary maps include localized map changes such as Letters of Map Revision (LOMR) and Best Available Data Letters issued since 2005, FEMA-initiated flood studies, updated base map aerial photography, inclusion of local survey benchmarks, updated community jurisdictional boundaries, and a revised DFIRM panel numbering system. Provisional Accreditation of Levees notations will also be incorporated into the map revisions. These changes are based in part on studies conducted by the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

Property owners may find that their flood risk based on the preliminary 2012 DFIRMs is higher or lower than previously determined. If the risk level for a property changes, so may the requirement to carry flood insurance.

The updated flood hazard maps are still preliminary and have not been officially adopted by FEMA. Once public appeals and protests are received and addressed by FEMA, the maps are expected to be adopted in late 2012 or early 2013. At that time, any new flood insurance requirements will take effect. The revised maps will also allow community planners, engineers, builders and others to make informed decisions about where and how new structures and developments should be built in Maricopa County.