



# PINNACLE PEAK WEST AREA DRAINAGE MASTER STUDY

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## Public Meeting Summary

Two community meetings were held in May 2015 for the Pinnacle Peak West Area Drainage Master Study, one for each of the two geographic sub-areas: Northwest Watersheds and Rawhide Wash. Because of the differences in flood risks and potential next steps in each sub-area, the meeting purpose, presentation and comment forms were different for each meeting.

- 78 people attended the Northwest Watersheds Public Meeting
- 89 people attended the Rawhide Wash Public Meeting

More details regarding these meetings are provided in the summaries below.

## Public Meeting Notification

The following methods were used to provide public notification of the meetings:

- Meeting fliers were mailed to every household in the study area located in a designated floodplain, owners whose properties are identified as having a potential risk of structural flooding and households in unincorporated Maricopa County within the study area. Approximately 11,000 fliers were mailed April 21, 2015.
- Information about the meetings, as well as an electronic version of the newsletter, was e-mailed to HOA managers on April 6, 2015 for use in their communications with residents.
- A meeting notice advertisement was placed in the *Arizona Republic* north Scottsdale (circulation: 20,540) and north Phoenix community sections (circulation: 17,342) on April 29, 2015.
- The spring 2015 newsletter included the public meeting dates and locations. The newsletter was e-mailed to 211 recipients on the study mailing list on May 1, 2015.



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## Northwest Watersheds Area – Executive Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to: provide an update on the study and key findings about the flooding risks identified in the area, address community questions and concerns about flooding heard at the last public meeting, discuss the team’s approach for addressing the community’s concerns, and provide information about the proposed re-delineation of the fans 5 and 6 floodplains in this portion of the study area, which will more accurately reflect the flood risk.

District staff indicated many of the concerns heard from community members in this portion of the study area can be addressed through flood risk education, which is a major component of the overall approach. The study team prepared a draft of a Flooding Resource Guide to address common questions and concerns and asked for input on the draft content from attendees.

During the open house, many attendees visited stations to talk with staff from the District, Maricopa County Planning, MCDOT and the cities of Scottsdale and Phoenix, as well as computer modeling stations to see if their home was at risk of flooding.

- Several attendees indicated how valuable it was for staff from multiple jurisdictions to be in attendance to address their current issues, and also to know whether their home was potentially at risk of flooding.
- Community members indicated the Flooding Resource Guide is an excellent resource.
- Attendees indicated they are moderately to very concerned about flooding in their neighborhood. However, most indicated staff did a good job addressing their concerns about structural and roadway flooding and are satisfied that accurate information is available to the community.
- Some residents indicated they are still concerned about roadway flooding on Scottsdale Road, Tatum Boulevard and Lone Mountain Road and believe something should be done to mitigate flooding of these roadways. Some also mentioned they believe some roadway flooding locations were missing and provided these locations of concern.



Northwest Watersheds Public Meeting



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## Rawhide Wash Public Meeting – Executive Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to provide the key findings of the potential flooding risks identified within the Rawhide Wash focus area and seek input on potential options being considered for Rawhide Wash to address the flooding hazards and community input received during the first phase of the study. Three potential options were presented:

- No Action – No action to minimize the flood hazard or reduce the floodplain.
- No Build – Submit a request to FEMA to re-delineate the floodplain based on the updated modeling without any flood mitigation structures.
- Build – Construct flood control mitigation structures and re-delineate the floodplain based on the structural mitigation.

Following the formal presentation, District, City of Scottsdale and consultant staff facilitated interactive table discussions with attendees to seek their opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of each of the possible options. It was explained that no decision has been made. The community's input will be used to assist the District and City in determining the preferred approach for Rawhide Wash.

**Based on the comments received during the table discussion it appears a Build option is most preferred by participants, followed by the No Build option and the No Action option.** Because participants weren't asked to select a preferred option, the percentage of favorable and unfavorable comments for each option was used to determine the community's overall preferences.

Of ALL comments received:

- 31% were favorable and 22% were unfavorable toward a Build Option
- 16% were favorable and 12% were unfavorable toward a No Build Option
- 7% were favorable and 11% were unfavorable toward a No Action Option

Viewed another way, of only the favorable comments received for the three options:

- 57% were supportive of the Build Option
- 29% were supportive of the No Build Option
- 13% were supportive of the No Action Option

Among those who were favorable toward the build option, key reasons cited include:

- The reduction of potential flooding impacts from Rawhide Wash.
- The reduction in the number of property owners required to purchase flood insurance.
- More certainty in the benefits to community members.
- Less expensive overall to community because the potential build cost would be less than the projected flood insurance premiums paid by property owners.
- The possibility of cost sharing a structural option with private developers.



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Among those who DO NOT prefer a Build option, reasons cited include:

- Believe the modeling results are inconclusive and more analysis needs to be done.
- Want to try the No Build approach first.
- Feel public money should not be spent to reduce risk or flood insurance for those who purchased in a floodplain.
- Concerned about disturbance to the environment or owners.



Table discussion at the Rawhide area public meeting

Attendees are moderately to very concerned about flooding in their neighborhood and are satisfied that accurate information on flooding is available to the community. Most agreed Rawhide Wash represents a threat to surrounding homes and also support spending public money to reduce the floodplain.