



## Floodplain/Floodway Delineations Studies

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) identifies flood hazards by conducting Floodplain Delineation Studies. Floodplain/ floodway delineations identify special hazard areas that are subject to inundation by a 100-year flood (one percent chance of occurring each year). The studies allow for sound floodplain management so that future development will not impede, divert, or retard the movement of floodwaters.

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**There are two types of delineation studies that the District uses to identify flood hazard zones: detailed and approximate.**

**Detailed** studies are conducted in developed areas and identify the floodplain limits using detailed technical information. Base flood elevations within the floodplain are determined.

**Approximate** studies are conducted in areas with limited or no development. As the name of the study suggests, these studies provide approximate floodplain boundaries.

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Along with the delineations contracted by the Flood Control District, developers in the area were required to perform delineations on eight other alluvial fans occurring within the Sun Valley ADMP study area. Those delineations will include Alluvial Fan Approximate Zone A designations as well as Alluvial Fan Approximate Zone A Administrative Floodway designations.

The District manages floodplains located within both Unincorporated Maricopa County and the Town of Buckeye which are being delineated under this study.

After the delineations are submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the approval process can take a year or more. Flood insurance will not be

required for affected homeowners until it is adopted and the FIRM panels updated. However, the delineation maps will be used as best technical information to guide adjacent development.

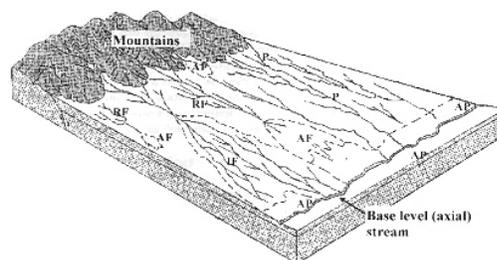
There are many areas of the county that haven't been studied and although floodplains exist, they are not documented yet. It is also important to note that just because your property wasn't in a floodplain when you moved in, that could change in the future. As development increases, the floodplain has the potential to change. In addition, new technology allows the District to create more accurate delineations.

Many of these issues, as well as the construction of new structures and flood control facilities, can remove people from the floodplain in the future.

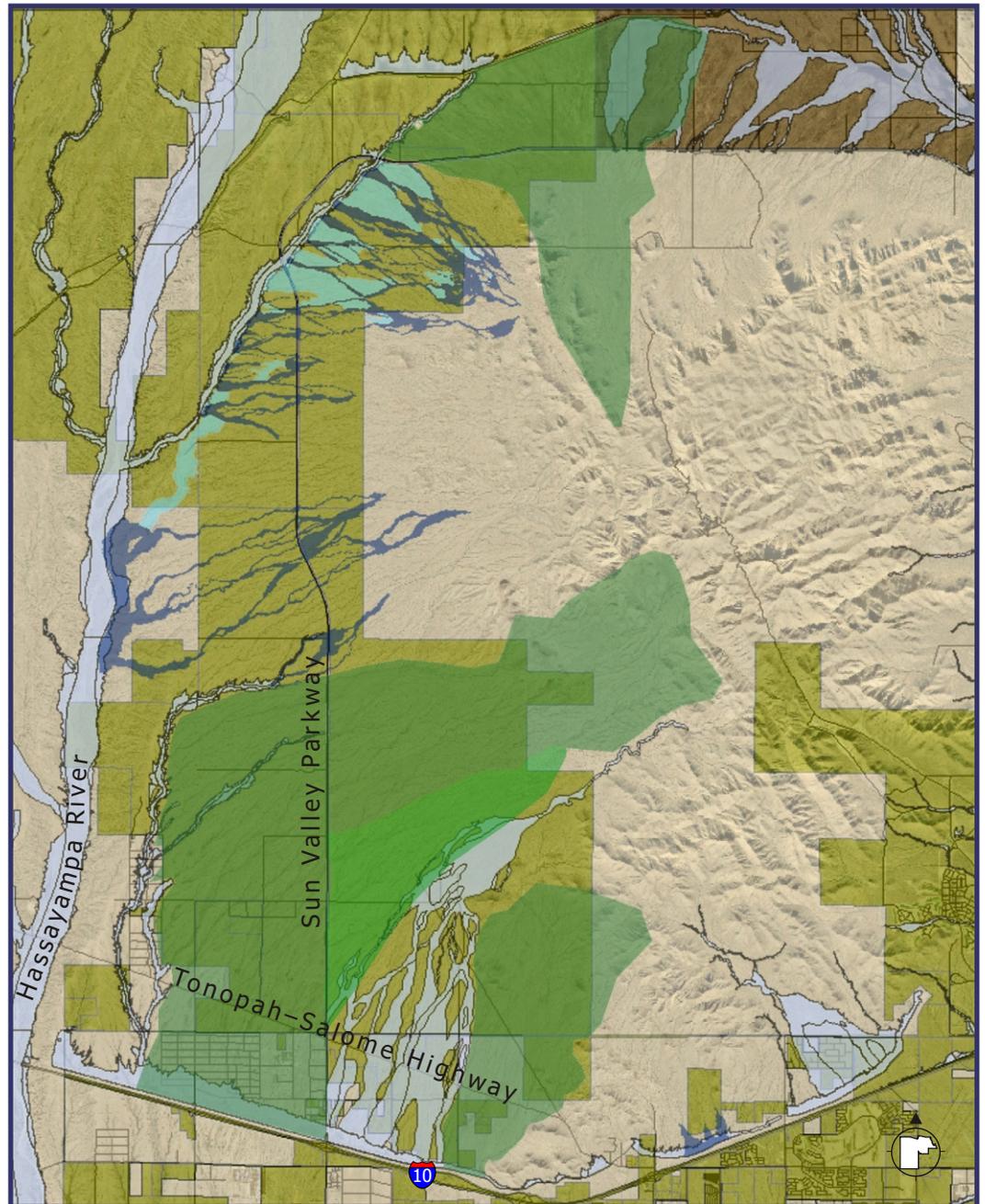
A **floodplain** is the area adjoining a watercourse that may be covered by water during a flood.

An **Apex** is the most upstream portion of an alluvial fan landform where flow is no longer contained in a single channel.

**Alluvial fan flooding** is a special flood hazard that is characterized by unstable channel positions and unknown flow distributions at and downstream of the apex.



- Unincorporated Maricopa County
- Buckeye
- Surprise
  
- Existing FEMA Floodplains
- Proposed Floodway Delineations
- Proposed Floodplain Delineations
- On-going Studies



Map not to Scale.

As part of the Sun Valley Area Drainage Master Plan (ADMP) the District performed floodplain/floodway delineations resulting in approximately nine square miles of alluvial fan floodplain delineations. These included Alluvial Fan Approximate Zone A designations, as well as Alluvial Fan Approximate Zone A Administrative Floodway designations.

The delineation study area is generally bounded by the Central Arizona Project Canal on the North, Wagner Wash and the Hassayampa River on the West, White Tank Mountains on the East, and the Buckeye Flood Retarding Structures 1 and 2 on the South.