

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

CC: 4C
Amend No. _____

Date prepared: February 1, 2011

Council Meeting Date: March 1, 2011

TO: Carl Swenson, City Manager
THROUGH: Susan J. Daluddung, Deputy City Manager
FROM: Andrew Granger, P. E., Engineering Director
SUBJECT: New Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) project

RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion and possible action to create a new FEMA project for the review of new preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and assistance to residents and businesses affected by the changes.

Also, authorize the following action to fund the project in the not to exceed amount of \$30,000:

- the use of reserves and a budget transfer in the amount of \$30,000 from the General Fund Contingency Account 1000-0300-570000 to the Engineering Administration Division General Fund Other Professional Services Account 1000-0750-520099.

SUMMARY:

The City of Peoria is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which allows property owners to purchase flood insurance. Properties do not need to be located in a flood hazard area to be eligible for flood insurance, however, properties that are located in identified flood hazard areas are required by law to be insured.

As part of its administration of the NFIP, FEMA publishes FIRMs. The purpose of a FIRM is to show the areas in a community that are subject to flooding and the risk associated with these flood hazards. The flood hazard and risk information presented

on the FIRMs is the result of engineering studies that are performed by engineering companies, other Federal agencies, or communities, which are reviewed for compliance with FEMA guidelines and approved by FEMA. As a property owner/renter, you can use this map to get a reliable indication of what flood zone you are in. However, maps are constantly being updated due to changes in geography, construction and mitigation activities, and meteorological events.

The City of Peoria is actively working with FEMA to verify the accuracy of the recently released FIRM, and is prepared to provide assistance to property owners affected by the changes. If the currently effective FIRM shows properties outside the SFHA and the newer preliminary FIRM shows properties as being in the SFHA, the owners are welcome to contact the Engineering Department to determine whether the City is planning to appeal the information shown on the newer preliminary FIRM.

For properties correctly designated as a SFHA, the city will help residents obtain an elevation certificate, which can provide some relief to property owners on their flood insurance rates. An elevation certificate is an official record that shows new buildings and substantial improvements in all identified SFHAs are properly elevated. This certificate verifies the elevation of the lowest floor of your house relative to the ground. It is especially important if your house/building is in a high-risk flood area.

Staff is requesting the creation of a new project in the amount not to exceed \$30,000 to hire a consulting engineer to provide the study and survey services necessary to prepare the FEMA forms required to appeal the findings of the newer preliminary FIRMs and to prepare elevation certificates.

FISCAL NOTE:

Upon authorization of the recommended transfer, payment will be from the Engineering Administration General Fund Other Professional Services Account 1000-0750-520099.

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