

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Across the United States, natural and human-caused disasters have led to increasing levels of death, injury, property damage, and interruption of business and government services. The toll on families and individuals can be immense and damaged businesses cannot contribute to the economy. The time, money and effort to respond to and recover from these emergencies or disasters divert public resources and attention from other important programs and problems. With 51 federal or state declarations, 281 other events, and a combined total of 336 disaster events recorded, the 28 jurisdictions contained within Maricopa County, Arizona and participating in this planning effort, recognize the consequences of disasters and the need to reduce the impacts of natural and human-caused hazards. The County and jurisdictions also know that with careful selection, mitigation actions in the form of projects and programs can become long-term, cost effective means for reducing the impact of natural and human-caused hazards.

The elected and appointed officials of Maricopa County and the 26 other participating jurisdictions demonstrated their commitment to hazard mitigation in 2003-2004 by preparing the first Maricopa County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2004 Plan). The 2004 Plan was comprised of a multi-jurisdictional, county-wide umbrella plan and 27 jurisdiction specific annexes that addressed specific planning elements for each jurisdiction. The 2004 Plan was approved by FEMA on November 29, 2004 and requires a full, FEMA approved, update prior to the November 29, 2009 expiration.

In response, the Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management (MCDEM) secured a federal planning grant and hired JE Fuller/ Hydrology & Geomorphology, Inc. to assist the County and participating jurisdictions with the update process. MCDEM reconvened a multi-jurisdictional planning team (MJPT) comprised of veteran and first-time representatives from each participating jurisdiction, various county departments and organizations, Arizona Division of Emergency Management, National Weather Service, Arizona Geologic Survey, and Arizona Public Service. The MJPT met monthly through July 2009 in a collaborative effort to review, evaluate, and update the 2004 Plan into a single, consolidated Maricopa County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan). The Plan also contains a Tribal Annex for each of the two participating Indian Tribes, that address Tribal specific planning elements. The Plan will continue to guide the County and participating jurisdictions toward greater disaster resistance in full harmony with the character and needs of the community and region.

The Plan has been prepared in compliance with Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act or the Act), 42 U.S. C. 5165, enacted under Sec. 104 the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, (DMA 2000) Public Law 106-390 of October 30, 2000, as implemented at CFR 201.6 and 201.7 dated October, 2007. The Plan identifies hazard mitigation measures intended to eliminate or reduce the effects of future disasters throughout the County, and was developed in a joint and cooperative venture by members of the Maricopa County MJPT.

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