



Reata Wash Flood Control Study

January 2016

The Reata Wash floodplain encompasses a large area in north Scottsdale between approximately Pinnacle Peak Road and the Central Arizona Project Canal (see study area map). Approximately 30 years ago, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defined the 100 year Reata Wash floodplain.

There are more than 4,600 residential, public facilities and commercial structures located within the floodplain at potential risk of flooding in accordance with FEMA guidelines. Property owners within the floodplain with a federally-backed mortgage are required to carry flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

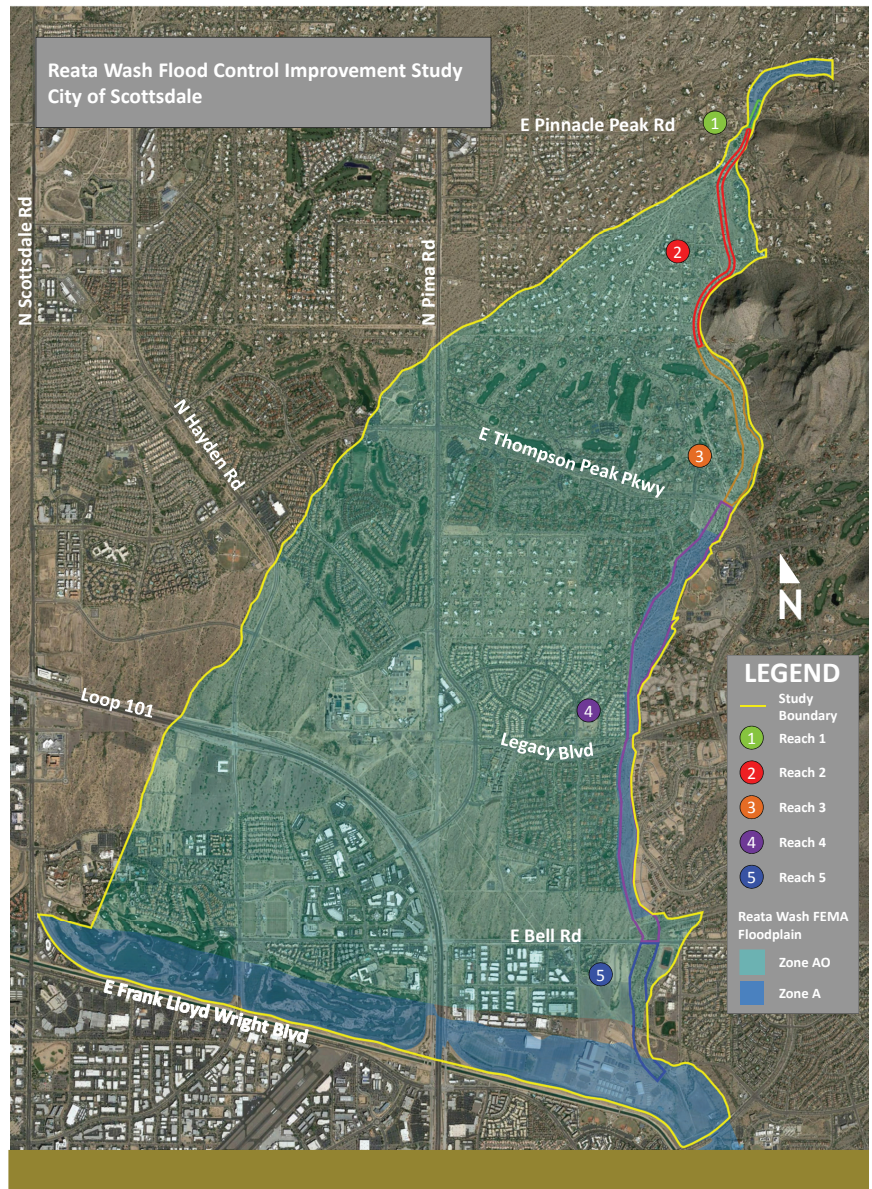
STUDY PURPOSE

The purpose of the study is to identify and recommend flood control measures that will reduce flood risks to residents, property and public infrastructure. We will work with the community to develop a solution that is cost effective, sensitive to the environment and compliant with federal regulations and guidelines. A secondary goal is to remove or reduce the size of the current floodplain designation established by FEMA. This would eliminate or reduce the requirement for many property owners to purchase flood insurance through the NFIP.

FLOODING RISKS IDENTIFIED

The Reata Wash floodplain poses significant flood risks to people, properties and infrastructure in north Scottsdale. The Reata Wash floodplain is a geological alluvial feature where stormwater and sediment travel down irregular terrain and spread out unpredictably in a fan shape.

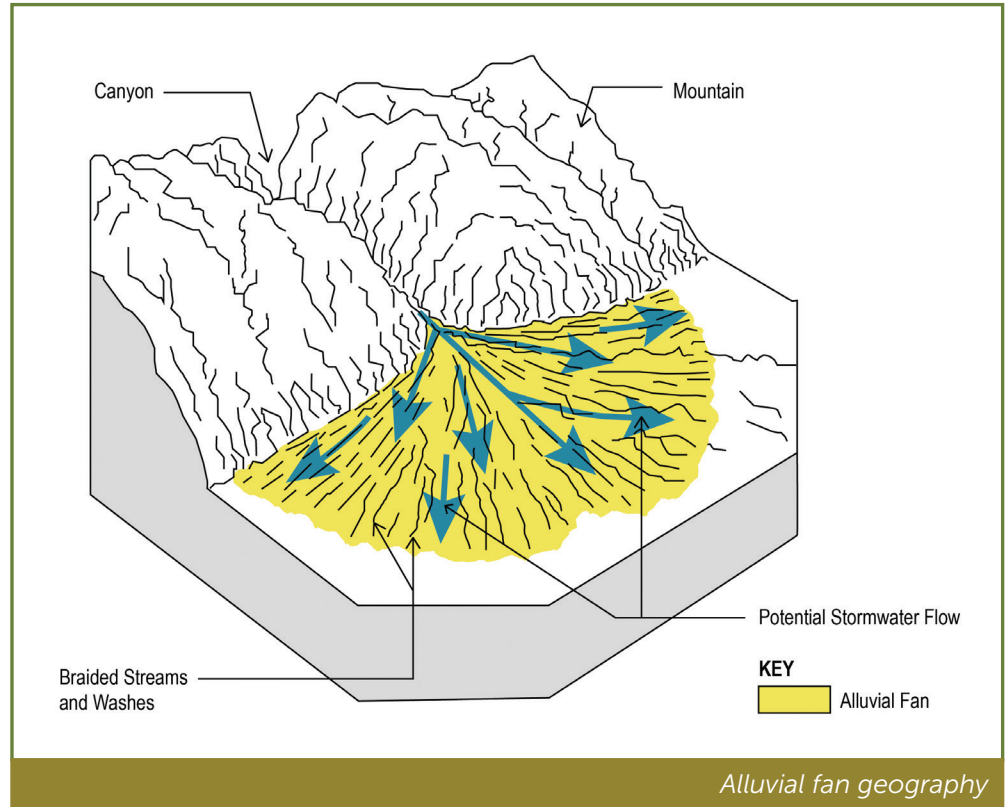
Properties and structures within the floodplain are at some risk of flooding from a major storm event. Flooding will vary depending on where the water spreads across the fan floodplain. In addition, several major transportation arterials – including Pima Road, Thompson Peak Parkway and Pinnacle Peak Road – are likely to be impassible and potentially damaged as the result of a major storm.



FLOOD CONTROL GAPS IN EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Since the FEMA floodplain was designated, bridges, drainage and flood control structures have been built to reduce the risk of flooding. Despite these measures, “gaps” remain in the existing flood control infrastructure – in particular within the upper and lower portions of Reata Wash. Due to these gaps, additional FEMA-compliant solutions for reducing or eliminating the FEMA floodplain are needed.

Reata Wash has been divided into five segments – or reaches – for the study. Flood mitigation measures will be evaluated and recommended in each segment based on existing drainage infrastructure and severity of the flooding predicted.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Public involvement will be a key element of this study. Affected residents will be invited to participate in the study and help evaluate potential alternatives. Community and stakeholder input will be used to help decide which flood control mitigation measures are best suited for each portion of Reata Wash. The city recognizes the unique desert environment in this area, and any options that would be considered would be context-sensitive to be compatible with the surrounding environment as much as feasible. The city is not considering recreational or multi-use opportunities as part of any flood mitigation solution.

Several community and stakeholder meetings will be held throughout the course of the study. The study team will also meet with individual stakeholders, including homeowners’ associations, to review the options being considered.

GET INVOLVED

For more information or to sign up for the study email list to receive updates and community meeting notices:

www.scottsdaleaz.gov, Search (Reata)

For questions or comments:

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