



Alexandra Fischer
Sr. Communications Manager
(928) 266-6694
afischer@coconino.az.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2021

FOLLOW US ON   

New Preliminary Flood Maps Issued for Kachina Village/Mountaineire Area; Updated Maps Show Flood Risks Have Changed

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Coconino County announced today that updated, digital flood hazard maps for the Kachina Village and Mountaineire areas are available for public review and comment. The maps, known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), show the extent to which areas recently re-mapped in Kachina Village and Mountaineire are at risk for flooding. Used to help determine flood insurance and building requirements, the new flood maps replace maps that were based on studies more than 25 years old.

Residents and business owners can use the maps to obtain reliable information about their current flood risk on a property-by-property basis. The maps also provide flood zone and elevation data to help community planners, engineers, builders, and others decide where and how new structures, developments, and remodeling projects should be built. Information about the mapping project and how to view the preliminary maps can be found at www.coconino.az.gov/FEMAFloodplainRemapping. A virtual online Flood Risk Open House meeting is also being held for residents in the Kachina Village and Mountaineire areas to learn more about the project and how to view the maps.

“Flooding is an increasingly frequent and costly problem throughout this part of Arizona, and not just in high-risk areas,” said Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager and Coconino County Flood Control District Administrator. “Having more accurate and easily accessible maps is an important step in understanding the risk, so residents can take steps to mitigate the risk and insure against it.”

The maps were developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in partnership with Coconino County. The process included an extensive, multi-year review of the changes brought about by environmental, land use and other forces, use of state-of-the-art aerial mapping and risk modeling techniques, as well as new scientific data and a comprehensive pre-release review.

In reviewing the maps, some property owners in Kachina Village and Mountaineire will find that their risk is higher or lower than they thought. If the risk level for a property changes, then flood insurance and building standards requirements can change as well. FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program has cost-saving rating options to help reduce the cost of flood insurance for property owners whose properties flood risk has changed.

-More-

An online virtual flood risk open house has been scheduled so that Kachina Village and Mountaineire residents can learn how to view the new maps, understand how their properties may be affected, review options that they have and learn more about financial and material steps that they may need to take to protect their investment:

[Kachina Village / Mountaineire Virtual Flood Risk Open House - April 21, 2021 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.](#)

More information about the open house is available at the project website: www.coconino.az.gov/FEMAFloodplainRemapping. For those unable to attend, a livestream recording will be made and posted on this website.

The updated FIRMs are still preliminary and have not yet been officially adopted nor become effective. In addition to the virtual public meeting, there will be a Public Comment Period, which is targeted to run April 29 – July 28, 2021 where property owners can submit appeals, if they can show that the maps are technically or scientifically in error, and comments. Once all appeals and comments are received and addressed, the maps are expected to become effective in 2022. At that time, the new flood insurance requirements will take effect.

Residents can learn more about the remapping project, view the new preliminary flood maps and find the schedule and link to the upcoming meeting at www.coconino.az.gov/FEMAFloodplainRemapping. Individuals with general questions about the local map update efforts can also call the Flood Control District at 928-679-8300 during business hours or email FEMAFloodMap@coconino.az.gov. For information about flood insurance, contact your local insurance agent or visit www.FloodSmart.gov.

###