

FEMA Update

12/20/2007

Good News- Relief from FEMA thanks to Arizona delegation

Thanks to Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Senator Jon Kyl and Senator John McCain, FEMA has issued an administrative policy withdrawing draft maps previously issued throughout Southern Arizona that would have declared a significant number of properties as floodplain areas, requiring these property owners to buy flood insurance.

In summary, FEMA agreed to an extension until October 2008 to allow counties and municipalities more time to work with FEMA on completing hydrological studies to show the impact of levee-like structures on flood control. New drafts maps will be released in October 2008. A 90-day appeal process will begin at that point, so in effect, maps will not go into effect until Jan 2009. The previous draft maps will no longer be published on the FEMA website. FEMA has outlined the terms of this policy in a [letter](#) to the Southern Arizona delegation.