

**FEMA REGION IX FLOODPLAIN MAPPING PROGRAM  
DFIRM SCOPING MEETING MINUTES FOR YAVAPAI COUNTY, AZ**

**MAP IX-Mainland**

A Joint Venture of URS, Dewberry, Schaaf & Wheeler, Airborne 1, and TerraPoint



<b>Subject:</b>	DFIRM Scoping Meeting	<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	Thursday, July 1, 2004 9:30 am – 11:30 am
<b>Recorder:</b>	Jerry Sparks, MAP IX Mainland	<b>Location:</b>	Yavapai County Administration Building Board of Supervisors Meeting Room 10 South 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Cottonwood, AZ
<b>Purpose:</b>	Discuss countywide Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Coconino County and incorporated communities		
<b>Attendees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ken Spedding (Director/Floodplain Administrator, Yavapai County)</li> <li>• Charlie Cave (Project Engineer, Yavapai County Flood Control District)</li> <li>• Beth Escobar (Planner II, Town of Clarksdale)</li> <li>• Steven Brown (Planning Director, Town of Clarksdale)</li> <li>• Pat Clingman (Building Official, Town of Chino Valley)</li> <li>• Dick Mastin (Development Services Manager, City of Prescott)</li> <li>• Catherine Moody (GIS Specialist, City of Prescott)</li> <li>• Kevin Blake (GIS Coordinator, Yavapai County)</li> <li>• Terri Nelson (GIS Programmer/Analyst II, Yavapai County MIS/GIS)</li> <li>• Jim Young (Yavapai County Development Services, Floodplain Unit)</li> <li>• Dana Cole (City of Sedona)</li> <li>• Geogre Lagorio (City of Sedona)</li> <li>• Nancy Buckel (Senior Planner/GIS (Town of Camp Verde)</li> <li>• Tim Costello (Public Works Director, City of Cottonwood)</li> <li>• Larry Prentice (GIS Specialist, Town of Prescott Valley)</li> <li>• Jack Richardson (Town Civil Engineer, Town of Prescott Valley)</li> <li>• Robn Birnbaum (Engineer, Town of Prescott Valley)</li> <li>• Larry Wright, Sr. (Assistant Public Works Director, Town of Chino Valley)</li> <li>• Jan Mazy (GIS/CAD Technician, Town of Chino Valley)</li> <li>• Vicky Ferguson (Administrative Assistant P.N., Town of Chino Valley)</li> <li>• Ray Lenaburg (FEMA Region IX)</li> <li>• Massoud Rezakhani (MAP IX Mainland)</li> <li>• Jerry Sparks (MAP IX Mainland)</li> </ul>		

After introductions, Ray Lenaburg of FEMA Region IX overviewed FEMA’s plan to modernize the nation’s NFIP maps by 2009. Ray explained that it is Region IX’s intention to complete remapping of Arizona by the end of 2006.

To that end, Ray explained that FEMA has initiated a project this year to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Yavapai County. The current FIRMs for Yavapai County are in countywide format and were prepared using FEMA’s old (1995) digital FIRM (DFIRM) mapping specifications. This update will upgrade the countywide DFIRM to current FEMA mapping specifications, including development of a GIS-enabled DFIRM database. Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) will also be incorporated in the DFIRM, as appropriate. Ray also explained

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that FEMA intends to convert the vertical datum to North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88), provided that the county or incorporated communities having no strong objection. Due to budget constraints, FEMA does not intend to conduct new hydrology and hydraulic studies as part of this project. FEMA's Study Contractor, MAP IX Mainland (a joint venture of URS, Dewberry, Schaaf & Wheeler, Airborne 1, and TerraPoint), will be performing this project for FEMA.

Massoud Rezakhani, Program Manager for MAP IX Mainland, went over the briefing books that were provided to attendees. These books included: a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) partnership agreement template; a document overviewing the DFIRM and DFIRM database product and production process (including FEMA base map and topographic data requirements); a CTP fact sheet; CTP program guidance document for 2004; and a template CTP Mapping Activity Statement. Ray encouraged the county and/or any of the communities to consider becoming CTPs. As a CTP, the county and/or any of the communities can actively participate in this flood map project by contributing/sharing data for use by FEMA/MAP IX Mainland, conducting public outreach, etc. Ray requested that if the county or any communities are interested in participating as a CTP, they should fill out a draft partnership agreement using the template provided and send it to him at [Raymond.lenaburg@dhs.gov](mailto:Raymond.lenaburg@dhs.gov). Once a CTP agreement is executed, specific roles for the CTP in the project would be collaboratively determined by FEMA, MAP IX Mainland, and the CTP.

Jerry Sparks, also of MAP IX Mainland, then went over a 1-page summary of the current NFIP maps for the county and communities that was distributed to attendees with the briefing books. The current maps (dated June 6, 2001) are in countywide format based on FEMA's 1995 DFIRM mapping specifications. The entire City of Sedona, which is in both Coconino and Yavapai Counties, is currently shown on the June 6, 2001, countywide DFIRM for Yavapai County. With this project, the portion of Sedona located in Coconino County will be shown on the Coconino Countywide DFIRM (which is also being updated by FEMA this year); the portion of Sedona in Yavapai County will remain on the Yavapai Countywide DFIRM.

Jerry also explained that MAP IX Mainland is proposing to follow the same paneling scheme as the current DFIRMs, which followed the USGS tiling scheme for DOQs. The final product will include 183 total printed DFIRM panels at scales of 1"=500', 1,000', or 2,000'. MAP IX Mainland would like the county and communities to review the current paneling scheme and provide input early in the process.

Jerry then talked about the schedule for the project. We hope to receive the notice to proceed for the project from FEMA by early August. We are planning to distribute the preliminary countywide FIS and FIRM to the county and communities in January/February 2005. The county, communities, and citizens will be provided a 30-day period to review and comment on the preliminary FIS and FIRMs. During that 30-day review period, Region IX and MAP IX Mainland will meet with county and community representatives to present the preliminary FIS and FIRM, answer questions about the new maps, and receive local feedback on the maps. We are projecting the final countywide FIS and FIRM to become effective by end of September 2005.

Jerry explained that MAP IX Mainland is interested in any locally-available datasets that can be used for this project that will make the best possible final product for FEMA, the county, and

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communities. FEMA and MAP IX Mainland are most interested in base map information, topographic data that can be used to refine floodplain boundary delineations, and/or existing flood hazard data that can be incorporated.

Base maps provide the reference features (e.g., roads and road names, hydrographic features, corporate limits, etc.) that users need to use the maps. FEMA's first choice in preparing DFIRMs is to use base map data (raster or vector format) supplied by communities or other non-Federal sources (e.g., state or regional agencies). Jerry explained that the minimum FEMA criteria for base mapping is described on pages 4-7 of the document entitled "DFIRM Production" in the briefing books that were distributed. In the absence of locally-available base mapping, the USGS Digital Orthophoto Quadrangle (DOQ) maps will be used as the base map "backdrop" for the countywide DFIRM. While a single, integrated base data source for the entire county is preferred, FEMA will consider compiling the base map from multiple sources (including USGS DOQs) if the different jurisdictions have separate, partial coverage. If orthophotos (e.g., USGS DOQs) are used as the base map, we will need a local source for corporate limits and road names.

To facilitate compiling information about locally-available datasets that may be of use for this project, a "FEMA Digital Mapping Information Checklist" has been prepared. This checklist queries the county and communities about locally-available base map, topographic, and flood hazard data that may be useful for the project. A hardcopy of the checklist was provided with the invitation to the scoping meeting. Jerry indicated that the checklist would be distributed electronically (MS Word format) to those in attendance (the checklist was subsequently distributed via e-mail by Ron Rusell of MAP IX Mainland on July 2, 2004). The county and communities are requested to fill out this checklist by the end of July so that FEMA and MAP IX Mainland can evaluate local datasets early in the project and avoid redundancy/rework later. The county and communities should not go to the time/expense of providing data at this time. Rather, they are requested to complete the checklist and MAP IX Mainland will review the checklist and follow up with the county and each community accordingly on obtaining data that looks promising for the project.

The floor was then opened for input from the attendees. This discussion is summarized below:

- There was general agreement amongst the attendees to support conversion to NAVD 88 as the vertical reference datum.
- There was discussion of restudies underway/available for the county and Chino Valley indicated that they have restudies underway that can possibly be incorporated. Both are requested to submit information about these restudies with their digital mapping information checklist.
- Prescott Valley indicated that they have November 2003 available. They were requested to submit information about this data with their digital mapping information checklist.
- There was discussion of 1'-2' contour topo for the county. The county is requested to submit information about this data with their digital mapping information checklist.
- Prescott Valley raised concerns with problems caused by floodplain boundaries being shifted when compiling the 2001 countywide DFIRM; unfortunately, they were not aware of these problems until the maps became effective. They were asked to identify problem areas and carefully review the preliminary FIRMs to identify problem areas so they can be rectified on the final FIRMs.

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The following is requested from the county and each of the communities by the end of July 2004:

- Completed "FEMA Digital Mapping Information Checklist"
- Comment on current countywide FIRM paneling scheme and scale selection, if any
- Comment on conversion to NAVD 88 as vertical reference datum, if any
- Copy of up-to-date corporate limits map
- Any other mapping needs for consideration by FEMA

All information should be provided to:

Massoud Rezakhani, Program Manager  
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