

431.5 Floodprone & Riparian Land Acquisition

Location: Countywide

Scope: The Floodprone Land Acquisition Program (FLAP) enables the Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) to purchase flood and erosion-prone property and relocate residents to safer locations. This program allows the District to protect public safety by removing at-risk development out of hazardous floodplains and removing structures that are obstructions to flow. For FLAP properties, multi-purpose land management plans are developed to return riverine functions and preserve and restore riparian habitat so the land becomes a valued asset for the community. Under this program, interested property owners typically contact the RFCD. The RFCD then reviews the severity of flood hazards on the property, the property location in relation to other public lands, available funding, and other factors to determine whether to pursue acquisition.

Benefits: Acquisition and protection of open space within the region's river corridors provides multiple community benefits, including protecting life and property, preserving natural and cultural resources, enhancing groundwater recharge, and reducing flooding and costly structural flood control improvements.

Total Cost Estimate: \$5,000,000

Bond Funding Estimate: \$5,000,000

Other Funding Estimate: None available at this time.

Total Cost Estimate by Major Task: \$5,000,000 for land acquisition.

Implementation Periods: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Project Schedule by Major Task: Land acquisitions over 5 years.

Project Manager: Pima County Regional Flood Control District

Operator: Pima County Regional Flood Control District

Future Operating and Maintenance Costs: Based on the average cost to maintain existing flood and erosion-prone property, it is anticipated that future operations and maintenance will cost approximately \$25 per acre annually, which equates to approximately \$40,000 annually for an estimated 1,560 acres of newly acquired land (at an average cost of \$3,200 per acre).

Regional Benefits: The program is a key tool in the District's efforts in protecting public safety, minimizing future flood losses, and preserve riparian and floodplain functions. FLAP includes the purchase of flood and erosion-prone property to enhance public safety as well as riparian ecosystems, thereby restoring and preserving the natural floodplain characteristics of our watercourses. Preservation of floodwater storage in floodplains minimizes future flood damages, reduces the need for structural flood and erosion protection, facilitates groundwater recharge and improves surface water quality. Public acquisition of natural floodplains and high valued riparian property also creates passive-use recreational opportunities, maintains open space corridors, enhances riparian habitat, and promotes wildlife migration and biological diversity. This program compliments the goals of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.