

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Monte Carlo, Challenger, and Chihuahua Washes Stormwater Detention and
Sedimentation Basins Project
FEMA-1347-DR-AZ, HMGP #1347-6-5

The City of Nogales has applied through the Arizona Division of Emergency Management (DEM) to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance with a storm water detention and sedimentation basin project. FEMA is proposing to fund the project under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as part of the recovery from the flooding event of 2000, which was a Presidentially declared disaster; and under the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.

FEMA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts of the proposed action. The EA has been prepared according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA's implementing regulations (44 CFR Part 10).

The Monte Carlo Estates and Monte Carlo Hills subdivisions frequently experience damaging effects from flooding along the Monte Carlo, Challenger, and Chihuahua washes, particularly after the intense rainfalls associated with thunderstorms. After each storm event, the City of Nogales Public Works Department deploys dump trucks, front-end loaders, and flagmen for traffic control to remove sediment at all street crossings and drainage structures. During significant storm events, the Nogales Fire Department is also deployed to rescue people from flooded homes.

The storm water detention and sedimentation basins would be designed to temporarily store water during a 100-year flood event, reducing the outflow to a discharge that approximates the existing 2-year peak flow in the washes. Each basin would consist of a soil cement dam with outlet structure and an earthen berm. The Monte Carlo basin would also be designed to provide the City of Nogales with the opportunity to construct a soccer field within the sediment basin.

The EA for this action is available for public review and comment. The document may be obtained online at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>. A Spanish-language version of the EA will be made available upon request.

Based upon the conditions and information contained in the EA for the Stormwater Detention and Sedimentation Basins Project, dated July 2003, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared based on the fact that there will be no short or long-term adverse impacts to the natural environment resulting from this project.

For more information, contact Sandro Amaglio, FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer, at (510) 627-7027. No action will be allowed to occur until 15 days after publication of this notice.