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Marian Sheppard, BOS
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RESOLUTION NO. 08-06-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA, DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY WITHIN GILA COUNTY AS A RESULT OF HEAVY RAIN AND SNOWFALL CAUSING REPETITIVE FLOODING CONDITIONS.

WHEREAS, a series of strong rain and snow storms flowed through Arizona between December 2007 and March 2008 causing saturation in many areas of Gila County along the Tonto Creek and Pinto Creek watersheds, Dripping Springs Wash and Pinal Creek in the Town of Miami, increasing snowmelt and runoff with each episode; and

WHEREAS, flooding impacted the citizens of Gila County by creating conditions of peril relating to public safety, health and welfare including isolation, evacuation and loss of property during events that include:

- January 27, 2008 evacuations from Tonto Basin, displacing approximately 20 persons;
- January 27, 2008 evacuations from Gisela, displacing approximately 20 persons;
- Road closures in Tonto Basin isolating approximately 600 residents:
 - The Store Crossing (at Greenback) located in Punkin Center north of Tonto Basin-closed for approximately 12 weeks;
 - The Bar X Crossing located at the southern end of Tonto Basin-closed for approximately 10 weeks;
 - The A-Cross Crossing located at the confluence of the Tonto Creek and Roosevelt Lake-closed for approximately 16 weeks;
- January 28, 2008 washout of the Macky's Camp bridge in the Town of Miami causing isolation of approximately 20 residents for 24 hours;
- January 28, 2008 failure of the dyke at Deer Farms Road in Dripping Springs causing isolation of residents for approximately 24 hours;
- Personal property losses, mud and debris due to encroachment of floodwaters onto private properties; and

WHEREAS, citizens and communities in Gila County have experienced severe flooding due to both winter rains and summer monsoons on many occasions during the last ten (10) years that resulted in loss of life, property, economic hardship and threats to the public health and safety during the following significant events:

- March 2006-3 day isolation of approximately 600 Tonto Basin residents living on the east side of Tonto Creek;
- January 2005-Two (2) fatalities due to impassable floodwaters in Tonto Creek;
- February 2005-Presidential Disaster Declaration issued for Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Mohave, Pinal and Yavapai Counties;



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- February 2004-4 week isolation of Tonto Basin residents living on the east side Tonto Creek;
- September 2003-evacuation and loss of property in Roosevelt Estates resulting in county purchase of 3 private properties;
- Additional repetitive events of similar impact and pattern occurring intermittently over that last 10 year have increased the frequency of significant events; and

WHEREAS, repetitive flood events are occurring along the Tonto Creek and Pinto Creek watersheds, Dripping Springs Wash and Pinal Creek during both the winter rain season and summer monsoons, repetitive flooding is becoming more the expectation than the exception; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the Gila County Board of Supervisors recognized the significant threat posed by natural and human caused disaster by adoption of Resolution 06-05-02 authorizing the Gila County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official plan for the reduction of hazard risk to Gila County, in which Goal 5 is specifically defined: “Reduce the potential level of damage and losses to people, existing and future critical facilities/infrastructure and other community assets due to floods.”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gila County Board of Supervisors, recognizing an increased risk to life and property due to repetitive flooding events now declares an emergency and directs the following actions:

- a. The Gila County Emergency Operations Plan is hereby activated and in effect until further notice; and
- b. During this emergency, local government agencies assigned emergency roles in the Gila County Emergency Plan are directed to work together with state and federal agencies to identify mitigation projects; and
- c. Request assistance from state and federal agencies with the goal of developing and implementing a master plan of defined mitigation projects that will reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from repetitive flood events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to execute for and on behalf of Gila County any documents for the purpose of obtaining Federal and State assistance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of June 2008, at Globe, Gila County, Arizona.

Attest:

GILA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Steven L. Besich
Clerk of the Board

José M. Sanchez
Chairman

