



Definition of Terms

2801 West Durango Street
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Flood/Flooding

A temporary condition caused by the accumulation of stormwater runoff from any source, which exceeds the capacity of a natural or manmade drainage system and results in inundation of normally dry land areas.

Flood Control

Various activities and regulations that help reduce or prevent damages caused by flooding. Typical flood control activities include: structural flood control works (such as riverbank stabilization, levees, and drainage channels), acquisition of floodprone land, flood insurance programs and studies, river and basin management plans, public education programs, and flood warning and emergency preparedness activities.

Area Drainage Master Study (ADMS)

A study to develop hydrology for a watershed, to define watercourses, identify potential flooding problem areas and drainage problems, and recommend solutions and standards for sound floodplain and stormwater management. The ADMS will identify flood control alternatives for a given flooding or drainage problem.

Area Drainage Master Plan (ADMP)

A plan which identifies the preferred flood control alternatives of those identified in an ADMS. An ADMP provides minimum criteria and standards for flood control and drainage relating to land use and development.

Cubic Feet Per Second (cfs)

The measuring unit of cubic feet per second (cfs), which is used to quantify the amount of flow in a wash. A cubic foot is equivalent to 7.5 gallons of water. Thus, 1 cfs is 7.5 gallons of water passing by a fixed location every second.



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Storm Drainage System

A drainage system for collecting runoff of stormwater on streets and highways, and removing it to appropriate outlets. The system includes inlets, catch basins, storm sewers, drains, reservoirs, pump stations, and detention basins.

Channel

An open trench or conduit for the transport of water. Channels can be natural or manmade. Channels have levees or dikes along their sides to build up their depth. Constructed channels can be plain earth, landscaped, or lined with concrete, stone, or any other hard surface to resist erosion.

Drainage Basin

A geographical area which contributes surface water runoff to a particular point. The terms "drainage basin," "tributary area," and "watershed" can be used interchangeably.

Watershed

An area from which water drains into a lake, stream or other body of water. A watershed is also often referred to as a basin, with the basin boundary defined by a high ridge or divide, and with a lake or river located at a lower point.

For a complete glossary, see the Glossary of Flooding Terms.