



# CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

## FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL

211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Main Line: 928-213-2000

Website: <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov>

August 1, 2022

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress  
318 Cannon HOB  
Washington DC 20515

RE: Rain Gauges for Pipeline West Flooding Area

Representative O'Halleran,

In the last few years, the Flagstaff community has been subjected to extreme flash floods emanating from the 2019 Museum Fire burn scar. Sadly, the risk of devastating flooding was expanded to the west side of Flagstaff this summer following the Pipeline fire.

The Pipeline Fire was reported on June 12, 2022, approximately 6 miles north of Flagstaff within the Coconino National Forest. It burned 26,532 acres, including portions of the Schultz Creek and Chimney watersheds. A burn scar assessment and flood modeling subsequently showed potential post-wildfire flood risk to neighborhoods on the west side of Flagstaff. Both the City of Flagstaff and the Coconino County Flood Control District are collaborating with public and private partners and taking extensive measures and precautions to mitigate damage from future potential flood events.

One tool that has proven to be instrumental in countering the effects of flooding from the Museum Fire Scar is the use of real-time rain gauges. The City and County have used the data from strategically placed gauges to monitor the prospect of floods and to warn residents of imminent flooding in real-time when certain rainfall thresholds are reported. For this reason, the City of Flagstaff is requesting \$200,000 for the purpose of installing up to 10 rain gauges in the Pipeline Fire burn area and other disturbed watersheds so that City and County officials can collect crucial data and send out emergency notifications when flash floods are imminent. Expanding the rain gauge system in the Pipeline Fire burn area and other watersheds disturbed in the last five years would be an invaluable and cost-effective tool for informing Flagstaff residents about dangerous and potentially life-threatening flash floods.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical project for the City of Flagstaff. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Public Affairs Director Sarah Langley at 928-213-2019 or [sarah.langley@flagstaffaz.gov](mailto:sarah.langley@flagstaffaz.gov). We look forward to working with your office to enhance the quality of life for all in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Deasy".

Paul Deasy,  
Mayor, City of Flagstaff, on behalf of the Flagstaff City Council