

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 11/20/03  
**Department Name:** Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054-04-04  
**Agenda Date:** 12/9/03  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara

**FROM:** Phillip M. Demery  
Public Works Director

**STAFF CONTACT:** Thomas Fayram Deputy Public Works Director, Ext. 3436  
Michael Parker, Engineer Tech, Specialist, Ext. 3449

**SUBJECT:** **Adopt a Resolution Forming a Floodplain Management Committee to Develop a Floodplain Management Plan for the County of Santa Barbara**

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Adopt the attached Resolution Forming a Floodplain Management Committee to develop a Floodplain Management Plan for the County of Santa Barbara.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The Recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS) Program. The CRS program provides credits to communities for adopting and implementing floodplain management practices and programs. The more credit points the County obtains, the lower flood insurance rates are made available to County residents. The County currently has a rating of seven, which entitles the residents of the unincorporated area of the County to receive a 15% reduction in their flood insurance rates.

To maintain our current rating, the County needs to develop a new comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) to address the community's floodplain problems more effectively. One key element the FMP addresses is repetitive losses, or flood losses on properties in more than one flood event. In Santa Barbara County (unincorporated areas) almost all of the repetitive losses are in the First District. However, the FMP will also be used as a guide for overall floodplain management within the County.

In order for the FMP to reach its goal, Santa Barbara County must:

- Form a committee to direct the process of the document;
- Solicit public input and coordinate public meetings;
- Coordinate with neighboring communities and local, regional, state, and federal agencies that implement floodplain management activities to incorporate any of their actions into the County's FMP;
- Research and report known flood hazards in the County as well as historical flood events in the FMP;
- Assess and report in detail the impact of flooding in the County;
- Detail the goals of the County's floodplain management program in the FMP;
- Conduct a thorough and careful review of possible floodplain management activities;
- Draft an action plan based on the review of possible floodplain management activities;
- Officially adopt the FMP; and
- Develop an ongoing monitoring and evaluation program of the FMP.

The Floodplain Management Committee established by your Board will consist of eight members. Four of the members are County staff, two members are local engineers (one North County, one South), one member is a local architect, and the other member is a local resident. All members have experience and interest in the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA requires that the committee be made up of equal number of County staff to local interests.

A public meeting was held on November 19, 2003, to solicit assistance in the development of the County's FMP. Floodplain residents, neighborhood advisory groups, homeowners and homeowners' associations, the Chamber of Commerce and other groups were invited to the meeting.

The FMP is scheduled to be completed in March 2004. The District anticipates returning to your Board at that time to adopt the final FMP.

#### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

Development of a new comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan is required by FEMA for the County to maintain our current CRS rating of seven.

#### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Costs associated with this plan were not included in Adopted 2003-04 Budget. Staff will process a budget revision for this expenditure. The plan is estimated to cost \$60,000. Costs will be paid from Dept: 054, Fund: 2610, Acct: 7460, Program: 3004.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the resolution and minute order to the Flood Control District office, Attn: Christina Lopez.

**Concurrence:** County Counsel