



## Santa Barbara County Public Works Department

Flood Control ♦ Water Agency ♦ Project Clean Water  
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**SCOTT D. MCGOLPIN**  
Director

**THOMAS D. FAYRAM**  
Deputy Director

### MEMORANDUM

Date: June 18, 2018

To: Michael Allen, Clerk of the Board

From: Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director  
Thomas D, Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director

**RE: Map and Additional Information to be included in the FEMA Mapping item which is D-3 on the June 19, 2018 BOS Agenda**

On June 5, 2018, the Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors set a hearing for June 19, 2018 to consider what was identified at that time as the “Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Interim Advisory Flood Maps for Santa Barbara County.” After the 1-9 Debris Flow, because the existing Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (“FIRMs”) were no longer representative of on the ground conditions, FEMA assembled a team to rapidly remap the Montecito and Carpinteria area using new post debris flow LIDAR topo acquired by the State of California. On June 11, 2018, the County received from FEMA the final “Recovery Map” for the Montecito and Carpinteria area. The Recovery Map is included here as Attachment A and also available in an interactive format online at:

<https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=85304fbd44344071aa126716894be054>  
or by visiting <https://readysbc.org/maps/> and navigating from the main page.

FEMA is also working on an additional model run that uses slightly different assumptions than the Recovery Map that may be available before the hearing on June 19, 2018. If FEMA provides any additional information or maps before the hearing, Flood Control will provide them to the Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors and to the public through the Clerk of the Board.

County Code Chapter 15A currently defines the special flood hazard area as the area “identified by the Federal Insurance Administration of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the Flood Insurance Study dated September 1978 and the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), dated March 15, 1979, and all subsequent amendments and/or revisions, are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this chapter.” (Sec. 15A-7.) The Flood Insurance Study includes the water surface elevation of the base flood. (Sec. 15A-5(27).)

Chapter 15A sets forth a process by which use of the Flood Insurance Study and FIRM maps “may be supplemented by studies for other areas which allow implementation of this chapter and which are

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recommended to the board of directors by the floodplain administrator.” (Sec. 15A-7.) Flood Control Director Thomas D. Fayram is the “floodplain administrator” under Chapter 15A and recommends that the Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors supplement the FIRM mapping with the Recovery Map which designates high hazard areas and provides advisory flood elevations. FEMA advises that the Recovery Map be used in conjunction with the existing FIRMs, using whichever advisory flood elevation or base flood elevation is higher and the hazard area that is wider, until the new FIRM is published. The new FIRMs are anticipated to take 4 to 5 years to complete.

Upon action by the Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors to consider and adopt the Recovery Map, the Recovery Map will immediately be effective and used by the County in conjunction with the FIRM map to determine: 1) “the areas of special flood hazard” to which County Code Chapter 15A applies; and 2) within the special flood hazard area, to determine the elevation height at which development and rebuilding is required to be built (if applicable).

The Recovery Map does not replace the current effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and does not impact rating for Flood Insurance.

In addition to referencing the Recovery Map, property and business owners should consult with the local building official to fully understand how this new data can be used to support rebuilding efforts. The County continues to encourage persons interested in rebuilding to consult with their case manager by contacting the Planning and Development Zoning Counter at 123 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara 93101, calling (805) 568-2090, or emailing pad@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

On June 19, 2018, the floodplain administrator recommends that the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Directors:

- a) Consider and approve the recommendation of the floodplain administrator that the Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors supplement the Flood Insurance Study dated September 1978 and the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), dated March 15, 1979, and all subsequent amendments and/or revisions with the FEMA Recovery Map (provided to the County on June 11, 2018, included as Attachment A) to be used by the County in conjunction with the FIRM map to determine: 1) “the areas of special flood hazard” to which County Code Chapter 15A applies; and 2) within the special flood hazard area, to determine the elevation height at which development and rebuilding is required to be built (if applicable);
- b) Find that the proposed action is an administrative activity of the County, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is therefore not a “project” as defined for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) as discussed in the Notice of Exemption included as Attachment B; and
- c) Waive the 6-day posting requirement for the revised Notice of Exemption for good cause pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section V.D.2.

Attachment A: FEMA Recovery Map dated June 11, 2018

Attachment B: CEQA Notice of Exemption, Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5) (“Not a Project”)