

Amending
Chapter 15A (Floodplain Management)
of the Santa Barbara County Code

County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors Hearing

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Background of Chapter 15A

Chapter 15A – Floodplain Management

- Originally adopted in 1970s to conform to Federal Emergency Management's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which allows residents in the community to purchase flood insurance
- Ordinance is intended to promote public health, safety, and general welfare, and minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions
- Contains various standards for development within special flood hazard areas

Proposed Ordinance Changes

- Proposed changes consist of updates to elevation datum and Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) processing
- Adoption of FEMA Recovery Mapping

Proposed Ordinance Changes

Chapter 15A – Floodplain Management

- Item (8) of Section 15A-5 includes reference to the Advisory Flood Elevation to be used if higher than the base flood elevation in the FIRM map.
- Item (49) of Section 15A-5 includes reference to the FEMA Recovery Map.
- Item (51) of Section 15A-5 deletes reference that base flood elevations are relative to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929.
- Item (67) of Section 15A-5 includes reference to the FEMA Recovery Map “high hazard area”.
- Item (74) of Section 15A-5 updates the elevation datum referenced from the NGVD of 1929, to the NGVD of 1988. The current definition includes the phrase “(or other FEMA-specified datum)” and will continue to do so.

Chapter 15A – Floodplain Management

- Item (77) of Section 15A-5 defines FEMA Recovery Map as Recovery Map provided by FEMA to County on June 11, 2018.
- Section 15A-7 will add that the FEMA Recovery Map will supplement the FEMA Flood Insurance Study.
- Item (c), Notifications to Other Agencies, of Section 15A-15 will add:
 - (3) Base Flood Elevation changes due to physical alterations:
 - a. Within 6 months of information becoming available or project completion, whichever comes first, the floodplain administrator shall submit or require that the permit applicant submits technical or scientific data to FEMA for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

Chapter 15A – Floodplain Management

b. All LOMR's for flood control projects are approved prior to the issuance of building permits. Building Permits must not be issued based on Conditional Letters of Map Revision (CLOMR's). Approved CLOMR's allow construction of the proposed flood control project and land preparation as specified in the "start of construction" definition.

Chapter 15A – Floodplain Management

c. Changes in County boundaries:

Notify FEMA in writing whenever the County boundaries have been modified by annexation or other means and include a copy of a map of the community clearly delineating the new County limits.

Recommendations

- Approval of actions a, b, and c – First Reading and Introduction; and
- Return on August 21, 2018 for Second Reading and Adoption (admin agenda).

Thank you

Questions