



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Flood Control
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: June 5, 2018
Placement: Set Hearing on June 5,
2018 for June 19, 2018
Estimated Time: 30 minutes on 6/19/18
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara County

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: Set Hearing to Consider Supplementing the Areas of Special Flood Hazards in
County Code Chapter 15A with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's
Interim Advisory Flood Maps for Santa Barbara County, First Supervisorial
District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board, acting jointly as the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Directors:

On June 5, 2018, set a hearing for June 19, 2018 to consider a recommendation by the floodplain administrator that Board of Directors supplement the areas of special flood hazards identified in County Code Chapter 15A with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Interim Advisory Flood Maps for Santa Barbara County (ESTIMATED TIME: 30 MINUTES).

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

- a) Consider and approve the recommendation of the floodplain administrator that the Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors supplement the areas of special flood hazards identified by County Code Chapter 15A with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Interim Advisory Flood Maps for Santa Barbara County; and

- 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).

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to set time on the departmental agenda for the Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors to consider and adopt the recommendation by the floodplain administrator that the Interim Advisory Flood Maps for Santa Barbara County developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supplement the areas of special flood hazards identified by County Code Chapter 15A pursuant to the authority in County Code Chapter 15A, Section 15A-7. On March 2, 2018, FEMA, the County Public Works and Planning and Development Departments entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) setting forth the terms and understanding between FEMA and the County to complete hazard recovery mapping for the coastal watershed impacted by the Thomas Fire. On March 12, 2018, FEMA executed a contract with STARR II and STARR II has been working on finishing the Interim Advisory Flood Maps for Santa Barbara County.

County Code Section 15A-5(29) states the "Floodplain administrator" is the Flood Control Director or his designated agent. The Flood Control Director is Thomas D. Fayram and Mr. Fayram recommends that your Board take the action described below.

The preliminary Interim Advisory Flood Maps are scheduled to be released sometime in May and the final interim maps are currently scheduled for completion on June 11, 2018. The Final Interim Advisory Map will be distributed to the Board and posted on the Board's website prior to the June 19, 2018 hearing in order to be made publicly available.

Upon action by your Board to consider and adopt the maps, the interim maps will be used to determine "the areas of special flood hazard" to which Chapter 15A applies and for development and rebuilding in the Montecito and unincorporated Carpinteria area until the permanent Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) mapping of the area can be completed. FEMA advises that these new maps be used in conjunction with the existing FIRMs, using whichever base flood elevation is higher, until the new FIRM is published. The new FIRMs are anticipated to take 4 to 5 years to complete.

The 1-9 Debris Flow significantly changed the landscape of the Montecito area and as such rendered the existing FEMA FIRMs not representative of on the ground conditions. FEMA has assembled a team to rapidly remap the area using new post debris flow LIDAR topo acquired by the State of California. These new maps will assist in bridging the time until new FIRMs are developed. These maps will help inform the County and the public in making rebuilding decisions in the post debris flow period.

Background:

Santa Barbara County is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and in being a participant; the County is eligible for disaster assistance. This also requires homes located in FEMA designated flood risk areas to have flood insurance if their mortgage is with a federally insured lending institution. However, any homeowner regardless of location is eligible to purchase flood insurance.

In addition, as a participant in the NFIP, the County has adopted floodplain management standards to protect new development and rebuilding of destroyed structures, in conformance with federal requirements. Typically, minimum finish floor elevation of new structures within the special flood hazard area is required to be two-feet above the 100-year flood plain as defined by FEMA.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

There are no fiscal impacts to set this hearing.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the stamped NOE and the minute order of these actions to the Flood Control District, Attn: Christina Lopez.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Notice of Exemption – Not a Project per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5)

Authored by:

Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436