

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: 08/16/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

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: **Set Hearings to Review and Adopt the Floodplain Management Plan for the County of Santa Barbara**

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Set the first hearing to receive and review the Floodplain Management Plan for the County of Santa Barbara (SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 ESTIMATED TIME: 15 MINUTE); and
- B. Set the second hearing to adopt a Resolution Adopting the Floodplain Management Plan for the County of Santa Barbara (SEPTEMBER 20, 2005 ESTIMATED TIME: 5 MINUTE).

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 County of Santa Barbara 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 Class 7 rating, which entitles the residents of the unincorporated area of the County to receive a 15% reduction in their flood insurance rates.

FEMA is now requiring all communities that have Repetitive Loss (properties that have received flood loss in more than one event) and participates in the CRS Program to develop a new comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan. FEMA also awards CRS credit to all communities that develop such a Plan. Since the County has Repetitive Loss properties, the County, to continue participation in the CRS program, was required to develop a new comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan (Plan) that describes how the community will deal with its flooding problems and protect the natural and beneficial functions of its floodplains. To comply with this

requirement, your Board formed a Floodplain Management Committee on December 9, 2003 to develop this Plan for the County.

The principal goal of the Floodplain Management Program and this plan is to minimize losses associated with flooding. Other goals of this plan include:

- Increase government, professional and public awareness of risk, vulnerability and mitigation options associated with flooding in Santa Barbara County,
- Promote public safety from the effects of flooding,
- Protect existing structures and infrastructure from damages from flooding with emphasis on Repetitive Loss properties,
- Promote safe future development in Santa Barbara County, and
- Increase capabilities to support and implement effective flood mitigation and floodplain management measures.

While this Plan provides an overall summary of flooding issues in the County and describes existing programs and capabilities, it is intended to primarily address concerns with Repetitive Loss. However, the Plan will also be used as a guide for overall floodplain management within the County.

As part of the process, public meetings were held to allow the general public, floodplain residents, neighborhood advisory groups, homeowners and homeowners' associations, the Chamber of Commerce and other groups the opportunity to meet with the planning consultants and committee members to ask question, and provide comments and input on the draft Plan.

FEMA has tentatively approved the Plan. The next step required by FEMA is for the Board to hold two public meetings, one to review the Plan and one to adopt the Plan. Once the Board has taken these actions, FEMA will officially approve the Plan. Staff is requesting the first hearing be set for September 13, 2005 and the second hearing be set for September 20, 2005.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Development of a new comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan is required by FEMA for the County to continue participation in the CRS Program. In addition, since points will be award for developing this Plan, the County anticipates receiving enough credit to quality for a Class 6 rating. If a Class 6 rating is achieved, this will entitle residents in the unincorporated area to receive a 20% reduction in their flood insurance rates. This is an increase in services level because currently residents receive a 15% insurance rate reduction.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Costs associated with development of this Plan were paid out of the 2003-04 and 2004-05 budgets. Services identified in the Plan are part of our ongoing floodplain management program and were included in the 2005-06 Adopted Budget under the Development Cost Center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-326 in the budget book.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. publish notice of these hearings in the Santa Barbara News-Press as provided in Section 6061 of the Government Code (publish notice once at least ten days before hearings); and
2. send a copy of the resolution and minute order to the Flood Control District office; attn: Christina Lopez

Concurrence: County Counsel