

Thomas Fire FEMA Recovery Mapping

**Santa Barbara County Flood Control
and Water Conservation District**

June 19, 2018

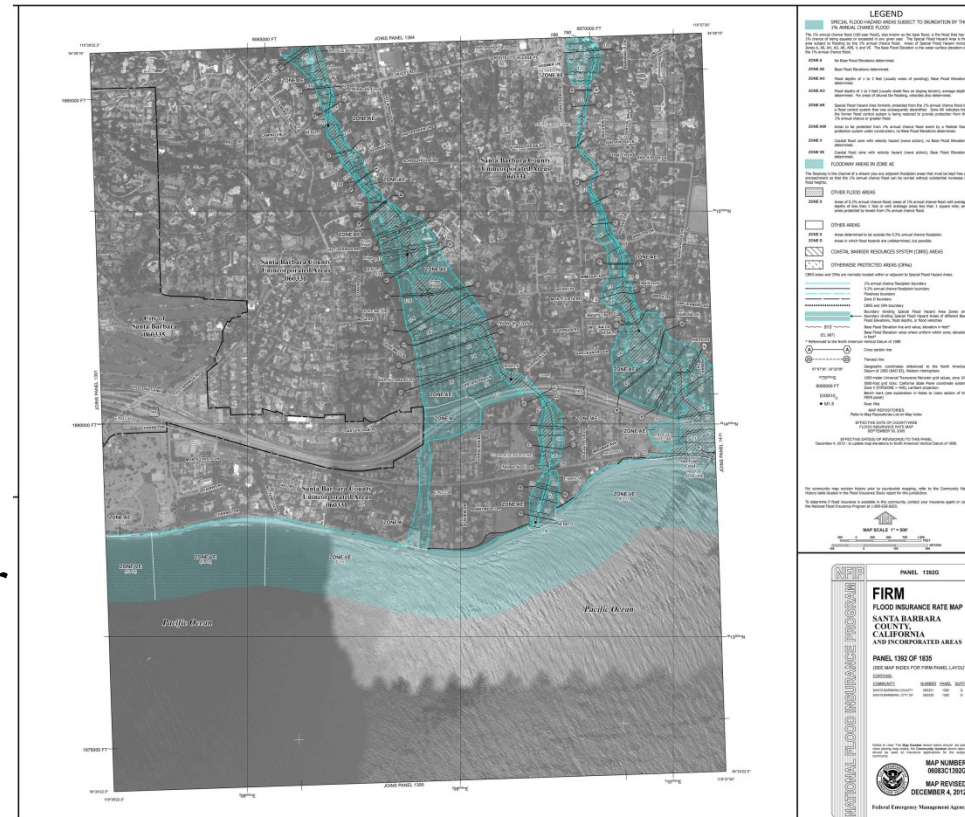
Purpose

- The 1-9 Debris Flow changed flow conditions in Montecito and Carpinteria
- Elevated risks now exist due to watershed conditions and changes in topography
- Current Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) no longer reflect true risk
- New FIRMs several years from completion



Interim Recovery Map

- Interim mapping is for use until new FIRMs are developed
- Does not impact flood insurance rates or boundaries (existing FIRM governs)
- FEMA recommends utilizing the new interim mapping or the effective FIRM which ever is more conservative
- Use to ensure resilient re-development/reconstruction of structures



Mapping Product

- Utilizes January 2018 LIDAR Topography
- Advisory Flood Elevations included on maps
- Graphically illustrates depth of flows



Source: Aerial Imagery, Civil 3D, Digital Elevation Models, ESRI, Santa Barbara County, California. Data provided by Santa Barbara County Geomatics. The Recovery Maps were developed by Santa Barbara County Geomatics. The Recovery Maps were developed by Santa Barbara County Geomatics. The Recovery Maps were developed by Santa Barbara County Geomatics. The Recovery Maps were developed by Santa Barbara County Geomatics.

RECOVERY MAP ELEVATIONS	USAGE	LEGEND
<p>Recovery Maps do not replace the current effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), but the advisory flood elevations from the new Recovery Maps are based on sound science and engineering, new analyses, and are derived from post-fire flows and post-debris flow ground conditions. In many cases, the Recovery Map advisory flood elevations reflect higher elevation than the current effective FIRM.</p>	<p>The Recovery Maps for Santa Barbara County have the benefit of using the latest modeling technology and topographic data available and can provide valuable insight into what would happen during a large-scale event. The modeling and analysis also provide a basis for future mapping that may be used to update the FIRM for Santa Barbara County. However, due to the complex nature of debris flow events and the inherent degree of uncertainty of the reconstruction models, actual areas of future inundation depend on conditions that may be different from what is shown in the mapping tool. The Recovery Maps should only be used to guide rebuilding along with information from the FEMA Flood and Core systems. The Recovery Mapping will NOT be used to determine evacuations. Evacuations will be based on other factors and mapping.</p>	<p>Recovery Map Depth Grids (ft)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.5 - 1.0 1.0 - 3.0 3.0 - 5.0 5.0 - 10.0 >10.0 <p>Other Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essential Facilities Care Facility School Fire Station Police Station Stream Centrelines Political Boundary High Hazard Area

NOTES

Disaster History: The Thomas Fire burned more than 281,000 acres in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties from early December 2017 into January 2018. Afterwards, winter storms caused debris flows that resulted in a range loss of life and significant damage to infrastructure and changes to the ground conditions. After these events, Recovery Maps were developed to that communities and citizens make better informed decisions about rebuilding.

Mapping Purpose - Recovery Maps for Safer Rebuild. Mapping hazards is vital for safe disaster recovery. It provides the data necessary for new construction and creates awareness of risk. As construction recovers from the devastating effects of these recent events, it is important to recognize vulnerable locations. Santa Barbara County plans to use the updated elevation information generated from this study to rebuild stronger, safer, and with reduced vulnerability to future disaster events. When making building elevation decisions, compare the effective FIRM to the new Recovery Map, and use the higher elevation and wider high-hazard areas. Property and business owners should consult with their local building official to fully understand how this new data can be used to support rebuilding efforts. The Recovery Maps do not impact rating for flood insurance.

High Hazard Areas on Recovery Maps. The changed ground conditions due to mud on the ground and clogged waterways caused the need to map the existing conditions hazard. The areas colored in the overlay are the mapped High Hazard Areas which represent areas that are wet in the new hydraulic models, including shallow flow areas. To facilitate a safety awareness appropriate to the changed conditions within the High Hazard Areas, the rebuilding will be informed by the water surface elevations within the boundary.

Depth Grids for Additional Safety Information. Depth grids are additional safety information within the High Hazard Areas that clearly shows with the greatest vulnerability. The depth grids can help your community better understand, communicate, and relay the usability and severity of post-wildfire hazard at any given location of the study area. The depth grids are represented in various shades of purple and blue in the mapped High Hazard Area Color Legend. The map only shows depth greater than 0.5 foot based on a 1% annual return rainfall. The depth represents the modeled water depth on top of the post-event terrain (i.e., water depth on top of the debris/mud deposit). The depth grids should be reviewed and taken into consideration during the rebuilding process.



Recommendations

- 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);
- 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

Recommendations Continued

- Waive the 6-day posting requirement for the revised Notice of Exemption for good cause pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section V.D.2.