

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kevin Houck, P.E.  
Watershed Protection & Flood Mitigation Section

DATE: January 15, 2009

SUBJECT: **Consent Agenda Item 2, January 27-28 Board Meeting  
Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation – Floodplain Designations**

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Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

Harris D. Sherman  
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel  
CWCB Director

Dan McAuliffe  
CWCB Deputy Director

### Background

Consent Agenda Item 2 includes one new floodplain study/map that is proposed for CWCB action. Staff is requesting Board designation and approval for this item. A brief summary of the study is presented in the attached document.

CWCB staff performs technical reviews of floodplain information to assure the Board that the information is in compliance with the requirements of the CWCB's "Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado," 2 CCR 408-1. A further discussion of legislative authority and responsibilities delegated to the CWCB, is provided in the attached document. The CWCB's designation and approvals greatly assist local communities in meeting the statutory requirements of the State and the regulatory requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

The specific floodplain study being proposed for designation action is entitled "Flood Hazard Area Delineation, Dutch Creek, Coon Creek, Lilley Gulch, and Three Lakes Tributary", by PBS&J, March 2008. Designation action is being requested by the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District. Additional supporting information for this item is attached.

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed and approximate floodplain information contained in said study and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director reflecting the official designation and approval action. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

## **Attachment - Supporting Information**

### ***Consent Agenda Item 2 – Floodplain Designations January 2009***

#### **Summary**

Consent Agenda Item 2 includes one floodplain study/map proposed for CWCB action. Staff is requesting Board designation and approval for these items. A brief summary of the studies is presented below.

CWCB staff performs technical reviews of floodplain information to assure the Board that the information is in compliance with the requirements of the CWCB's "Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado," 2 CCR 408-1. Furthermore, Sections 31-23-301 and 30-28-111, Colorado Revised Statutes, state that legislative bodies of local jurisdictions may provide zoning regulations for land uses on or along any storm or floodwater runoff channel or basin only after designation and approval by the CWCB. In addition, Section 37-60-106(1)(c), Colorado Revised Statutes, directs the CWCB to designate and approve storm or floodwater runoff channels or basins and to make such designations available to legislative bodies of local jurisdictions.

The CWCB's designation and approvals greatly assist local communities in meeting the statutory requirements of the State and the regulatory requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Floodplain information is broadly categorized as detailed or approximate using the following definitions. Detailed floodplain information means floodplain information prepared using topographic base maps, hydrologic analyses, and hydraulic calculations to arrive at precise water surface profiles and floodplain delineations suitable for making land use decisions under statutorily authorized zoning powers. Approximate floodplain information means floodplain information prepared using a significantly reduced level of detail to arrive at floodplain (hazard delineation) without water surface profiles.

CWCB staff performs technical reviews on the following types of reports and maps for approval and designation by the Board:

- "Flood Insurance Study" (FIS), which is produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and used for floodplain management, regulation, and insurance purposes.
- "Flood Insurance Rate Map" (FIRM), which is produced by FEMA and used for floodplain management, regulation, and insurance purposes. A FIRM may be published with or without an associated hydrologic and hydraulic report.
- "Flood Hazard Boundary Map" (FHBM), which was produced by the Federal Insurance Administration and are used for floodplain management, regulation, and insurance purposes. An FHBM usually depicts approximate floodplain boundaries only, and does not have an accompanying report. Note: For all FHBM designations, the CWCB staff will perform (in-house or by contract with a consultant) hydrologic analyses.
- "Floodplain Information Report", which is produced by local governments, state and federal agencies, special districts, or the private sector, and are used for floodplain management purposes and sometimes adopted by FEMA for use in Flood Insurance Rate Map revisions.

- Various hydrology studies and related floodplain studies (community-wide or site specific) that depict 100-year floodplain information that is useful for floodplain management purposes.
- “Floodplain Information” is a generic term used to describe any of the above types of reports and/or maps in the CWCB’s “rules and regulations...”
- “Floodplain Resolution” is a formal document prepared by CWCB staff describing the Floodplain Information that is to be designated and approved by the Board.

### **Summary of Designation Action**

**Floodplain resolution number:** FPR 09-612

**Affected communities:** Arapahoe County, Jefferson County, City and County of Denver, Town of Columbine Valley

**Name of study to be formally acted on:** “Flood Hazard Area Delineation, Dutch Creek, Coon Creek, Lilley Gulch, and Three Lakes Tributary”, by PBS&J, March 2008

**Studied streams:** Dutch Creek, Coon Creek, Lilley Gulch, and Three Lakes Tributary

**Technical Issues:** This report was authorized by the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District (UDFCD) under joint sponsorship with Arapahoe County, Jefferson County, City and County of Denver, Town of Columbine Valley as well as the Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority. The purpose of this report is to update flood hazard data for said stream reaches due to increasing urbanization, updated topographical mapping, and updated land use information. New hydrology for the watershed was developed considering both existing and future conditions using the Colorado Urban Hydrograph Procedure. The total study area includes approximately 16 square miles of drainage area. Hydraulic analyses were carried out using the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) based on steady flow conditions. Floodways were computed assuming both 0.5’ and 1.0’ rise criteria, which are consistent with both FEMA and local jurisdiction regulations.

**Community response:** UDFCD transmitted a letter to the CWCB dated April 21, 2008 requesting CWCB designation and approval of the subject report. Although a designation request letter was not received from the affected communities, conversations with officials from this jurisdiction indicate that they request designation and approval of the subject report as well.

**Staff findings:** CWCB staff has determined that the subject 100-year detailed floodplain information for the studied stream reaches is conformance with the CWCB’s rules and regulations for floodplain designation and approval. The CWCB staff has relied on the technical competence of PBS&J, who produced the study, but also performed an independent technical review of the report. CWCB staff therefore endorses this study as containing the most current floodplain mapping available and urges the affected communities to adopt said study for land use regulation purposes pursuant to statutory authority.

**Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 09-612:** Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain information contained in said report within Arapahoe County, Jefferson County, City and County of Denver, and the Town of Columbine Valley, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to UDFCD, Arapahoe County, Jefferson County, City and County of Denver, Town of Columbine Valley, the Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.