

STATE OF COLORADO

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: May 7, 2010

SUBJECT: **Consent Agenda Item 3, May 18-19 Board Meeting**
Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation – Floodplain Designations

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

James B. Martin
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Background

Consent Agenda Item 3 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 Insurance Study, Boulder County and Incorporated Areas", by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, October 2002. Designation action is being requested by Boulder County. 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 3 – Floodplain Designations May 2010

Summary

Consent Agenda Item 3 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 10-615

Affected communities: Boulder County, City of Boulder, Town of Erie, Town of Jamestown, City of Lafayette, City of Longmont, City of Louisville, Town of Lyons, Town of Nederland, Town of Superior

Name of study to be formally acted on: “Flood Insurance Study, Boulder County and Incorporated Areas”, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, October 2002

Studied streams: This report includes detailed 100-year floodplain information for Airport Creek, Arapahoe Avenue Overflow, Bear Canyon Creek, Big Dry Creek, Boulder Creek, Brandywine Creek, Bullhead Gulch, City Park Channel, City Park Channel South Tributary, Clover Basin Tributary, Coal Creek, Dry Creek, Dry Creek No. 1, Dry Creek No. 2, Dry Creek No. 3, Elmers Twomile Creek, Fourmile Canyon Creek, Fourmile Creek, Gay Reservoir Channel, Gay Reservoir Channel North Tributary, Goodhue Ditch, Goose Creek, Indian Peaks Tributary, James Creek, Lefthand Creek, Little James Creek, Little Thompson River, Loomiller Basin, Middle Boulder Creek, Middle St. Vrain Creek, Nissen Reservoir Channel, North Beaver Creek, North Branch Airport Creek, North St. Vrain Creek, Prince Tributary East Branch, Prince Tributary West Branch, Rock Creek, Skunk Creek, St. Vrain Creek, South Boulder Creek, South St. Vrain Creek, Spring Gulch, Steele Lakes Tributary, Twomile Canyon Creek, Unnamed Tributary to Little James Creek, Westlake Channel, Westlake Channel North Tributary, and Wonderland Creek. It includes approximate 100-year floodplain information for Little Thompson River, North St. Vrain Creek, St. Vrain Creek, Unnamed Tributary to Lefthand Creek, Gregory Creek, Goose Creek, Twomile Canyon Creek, Wonderland Creek, Boulder Reservoir, Goose Creek Overflow to Wonderland Creek, Indian Peaks Tributary, Barker Reservoir, Bluebell Canyon Creek, Kings Gulch, Bear Canyon Creek, Unnamed Tributary to Boulder Creek, Coal Creek, and Empire Drive Shallow Flooding. The studied streams are in the South Platte watershed.

Technical Issues: This study includes all major waterways within Boulder County and its incorporated communities. This restudy incorporates a number of new studied stream reaches and numerous revisions of existing studied stream reaches throughout the County. A number of Letters of Map Revision were also incorporated.

Community response: Boulder County transmitted a letter to the CWCB dated April 13, 2010 requesting CWCB designation and approval of the subject report. This study was prepared by FEMA in cooperation with Boulder County and its incorporated municipalities. One key element of the map update program is community involvement throughout the process. Prior to publishing the new study, a final coordination meeting was held in which all affected communities were invited. The study was fully accepted and endorsed by all agencies at this meeting.

Staff findings: The subject Flood Insurance Study revises and therefore supersedes previous versions of the County’s regulatory floodplain information. CWCB staff has determined that the subject floodplain information for Boulder County and its incorporated municipalities is in conformance with the CWCB’s rules and regulations for floodplain designation and approval.

Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 10-615: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain information contained in said report within Boulder County, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to UDFCD, Boulder County, City of Boulder, Town of Erie, Town of Jamestown, City of Lafayette, City of Longmont, City of Louisville, Town of Lyons, Town of Nederland, Town of Superior, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.