

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kevin Houck, Acting Section Chief.
Watershed & Flood Protection Section

DATE: September 2, 2010

SUBJECT: **Consent Agenda Item 2**
Sept. 13-15, 2010 Board Meeting
Watershed & Flood Protection Section – Floodplain Designations

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Background

Consent Agenda Item 2 includes 3 new floodplain studies that are proposed for CWCB action. Staff is requesting Board designation and approval for these items. 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.

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 studies and 2) authorize staff to prepare floodplain resolutions to be signed by the Director reflecting the official designation and approval actions. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

Attachment - Supporting Information

Consent Agenda Item 2 – Floodplain Designations September 2010

Summary

Consent Agenda Item 2 includes 3 floodplain studies/maps that are 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 Actions

Floodplain resolution number: FPR 10-632

Affected communities: Mesa County, City of Grand Junction, Town of Fruita, Town of Palisade, Town of Collbran, Town of Debeque

Name of study to be formally acted on: “Flood Insurance Study, Mesa County and Incorporated Areas”, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, July 2010

Studied streams: This report includes detailed 100-year floodplain information for Big Salt Wash, the Colorado River, Gold Star Canyon, Grove Creek, Horizon Drive Channel, Indian Wash, Kannah Creek, Kannah Creek Lower Split Flow, Kannah Creek Upper Split Flow, Leach Creek, Little Salt Wash, Plateau Creek, Red Canyon, Roan Creek, and West Creek. It includes approximate 100-year floodplain information for the Dolores River, Gunnison River, Colorado River, Buzzard Creek, Lewis Wash, Reed Wash, and Mesa Creek. The studied streams are in the Colorado Mainstem, Gunnison, and Dolores River watersheds.

Technical Issues: This study includes all major waterways within Mesa 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: The action to designate this Flood Insurance Study was initiated by CWCB staff. This study was prepared by FEMA in cooperation with Mesa 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 on April 23, 2009 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 Mesa 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 10-632: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain information contained in said report within Mesa County, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Mesa County, City of Grand Junction, Town of Fruita, Town of Palisade, Town of Collbran, Town of Debeque, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

Floodplain resolution number: FPR 10-633

Affected communities: La Plata County, City of Durango, Town of Bayfield, Town of Ignacio

Name of study to be formally acted on: “Flood Insurance Study, La Plata County Unincorporated Areas”, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, August 2010

Studied streams: This report includes detailed 100-year floodplain information for the Animas River, Hermosa Creek, Junction Creek, Junction Creek Lower Split Flow, Junction Creek Upper

Split Flow, Dry Gulch Creek, Lightner Creek, Los Pinos River, Los Pinos River Divided Flow Path, Vallecito Creek, D Creek, Berri Creek, South Bear Creek, Middle Creek, and Grimes Creek. It includes approximate 100-year floodplain information for the Animas River, Hermosa Creek, Florida River, La Plata River, Los Pinos River, Spring Creek, Wilson Gulch, Wildcat Canyon, and Coal Gulch. The studied streams are in the San Juan River watershed.

Technical Issues: This study includes all major waterways within La Plata 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: The action to designate this Flood Insurance Study was initiated by CWCB staff. This study was prepared by FEMA in cooperation with Mesa 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 on March 30, 2009 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 Mesa 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 10-633: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain information contained in said report within La Plata County, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to La Plata County, City of Durango, Town of Bayfield, Town of Ignacio and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

Floodplain resolution number: FPR 10-634

Affected communities: Delta County, City of Delta, Town of Cedaredge, Town of Paonia, Town of Crawford, City of Orchard City, Town of Hotchkiss

Name of study to be formally acted on: "Flood Insurance Study, Delta County Unincorporated Areas", by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, August 2010

Studied streams: This report includes detailed 100-year floodplain information for Cedar Run, Gunnison River, Minnesota Creek, North Fork Gunnison River, Surface Creek, and the Uncompahgre River. It includes approximate 100-year floodplain information for Alkali Creek, Bell Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Crawford Reservoir, Current Creek, Fruit Growers Reservoir, Little Dominguez Creek, Roeber Reservoir, Roubideau Creek, Smith Fork Creek, Tongue Creek, and Ward Creek, portions of Cedar Run, Gunnison River, Minnesota Creek, North Fork Gunnison River, and Surface Creek. The studied streams are in the Gunnison River watershed.

Technical Issues: This study includes all major waterways within Delta 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: The action to designate this Flood Insurance Study was initiated by CWCB staff. This study was prepared by FEMA in cooperation with Delta 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 on November 9, 2009 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 Mesa 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 10-634: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain information contained in said report within Delta County, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Delta County, City of Delta, Town of Cedaredge, Town of Paonia, Town of Crawford, City of Orchard City, Town of Hotchkiss, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 10-632: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain information contained in said report within Mesa County, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Mesa County, City of Grand Junction, Town of Fruita, Town of Palisade, Town of Collbran, Town of Debeque, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 10-633: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain information contained in said report within La Plata County, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to La Plata County, City of Durango, Town of Bayfield, Town of Ignacio and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 10-634: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain information contained in said report within Delta County, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Delta County, City of Delta, Town of Cedaredge, Town of Paonia, Town of Crawford, City of Orchard City, Town of Hotchkiss, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.