

Lower Boulder Creek Floodway, Boulder County**COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**

721 State Centennial Building
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203

November 5, 2018

RESOLUTION**PREVIOUS FLOODPLAIN INFORMATION**

WHEREAS, the following floodplain studies have been designated by the CWCB for Boulder County:

Table 1**Previously designated floodplain information for Boulder County**

Report Date	Res. #	Report Title	Author
08/69	08	Floodplain Information Report - Boulder Creek and South Boulder Creek, Volume II, Boulder Metropolitan Region, Colorado	USACE, Omaha, NE
05/72	20	SFHIR - Boulder Creek, City of Boulder, Colorado	USACE, Omaha, NE
06/75	47	Flood Hazard Area Delineation, Boulder Creek & Dry Creek, Boulder County Colorado	Leonard Rice Consulting Water Engineers, Inc.
08/78	354.1	Flood Insurance Study, Boulder County, CO, Unincorporated Areas	HUD/FIA
01/83	215	Flood Hazard Area Delineation, Boulder Creek	Gingery Associates, Inc.
03/83	218	Flood Hazard Area Delineation, Lower Boulder Creek (Valley View Road to Boulder Weld County Line)	Muller Engineering Company, Inc.
05/87	281	Flood Hazard Area Delineation, Boulder and Adjacent Boulder County Drainageways	Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.
07/88	336	Flood Insurance Study, Boulder County, Colorado, Unincorporated Areas	FEMA
01/89	297	Request for Letter of Map Revision, Boulder Creek	Love & Associates, Inc.
07/90	337	Flood Insurance Study, Boulder County, Colorado, Unincorporated Areas	FEMA
06/95	536	Flood Insurance Study, Boulder County, CO and Incorporated Areas	FEMA
10/02	615	Flood Insurance Study, Boulder County, CO and Incorporated Areas	FEMA
08/14	654	Boulder Creek Hydrologic Analysis	CH2MHill
07/15	659	Boulder Creek Hydrologic Analysis, Phase 2: Boulder Creek Above St. Vrain Creek	CH2MHill
04/17	669	Colorado Hazard Mapping Program, Phase I and Related Study Areas, Boulder County	AECOM
12/12	677	Flood Insurance Study, Boulder County, CO and Incorporated Areas	FEMA

; and

WHEREAS, previous floodplain information consists of detailed and approximate information that has become outdated; and

FLOODPLAIN INFORMATION TO BE DESIGNATED

WHEREAS, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) completed a new report entitled "Colorado Hazard Mapping Program, Larimer and Boulder Counties"; and
WHEREAS, the said new report has the following sub-documents:

- Boulder County
 - Colorado Hazard Mapping Program Hydraulic Analysis, Technical Support Data notebook (TSDN) for the Big Thompson Watershed (HUC-8 10190006), by CWCB/AECOM, submitted March 21, 2017; and,
 - Colorado Hazard Mapping Program Hydraulic Analysis, Technical Support Data notebook (TSDN) for the St. Vrain Watershed (HUC-8 10190005), by CWCB/AECOM, submitted April 2018; and,
 - Colorado Hazard Mapping Program Hydraulic Analysis - Volume 2, Technical Support Data notebook (TSDN) for the St. Vrain Watershed (HUC-8 10190005), by CWCB/AECOM, submitted June 2018.
- Larimer County
 - CHAMP Colorado Hazard Mapping Program Hydrology Technical Support Data notebook (TSDN) for the Big Thompson Watershed (HUC-8 10190006), by CWCB/AECOM, submitted March 2016; and
 - CHAMP Colorado Hazard Mapping Program Year 1 and Year 2 Draft Hydraulics for the Big Thompson Watershed (HUC-8 10190006), by CWCB/AECOM, submitted March 2017 for Year 1 and March 2018 for Year 2."

; and

WHEREAS, said new report contains detailed 100-year and 500-year floodplain and floodway information for Little Thompson River, Fourmile Canyon Creek, Fourmile Creek, Gold Run, Left Hand Creek, St. Vrain Creek, and North St. Vrain Creek in Boulder County and Big Thompson River, Buckhorn Creek, Little Thompson River, Redstone Creek, Dry Creek, Dickson Gulch, Cedar Creek, Quillan Gulch, Long Gulch, Tributary BT-1, Tributary BT-2, Tributary BT-3, Noel's Draw, Dark Gulch, Fox Creek, Black Canyon Creek, Dry Gulch, Fall River, Fish Creek, North Fork Big Thompson River, and West Creek within Larimer County; and

WHEREAS, said new report contains approximate 100-year floodplain information for Geer Canyon, Little Thompson River, West Fork Little Thompson River, and James Creek in Boulder County and Buckhorn Creek, Dry Creek, Little Thompson River, North Fork Little Thompson River, West Fork Little Thompson River, and Redstone Creek in Larimer County; and

WHEREAS, said new report was designated by the CWCB Board at its July 2018 meeting in Glenwood Springs, but excluded the Lower Boulder Creek floodway; and

LOCAL REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, the study resulting in the said new report was prepared to assist government officials in managing and regulating the aforementioned stream reaches during the recovery from the 2013 flood event; and

WHEREAS, CWCB staff received a letter from Boulder County requesting designation of the subject streams on June 13, 2018. The letter indicated that the Board of County Commissioners was planning to meet in July 2018 to consider adopting the subject reaches at the county level. This letter also requests designation of the Boulder Creek floodway, which was not included in the July 2018 designation; and

WHEREAS, continuing conversations and correspondence with Boulder County officials indicated their ongoing desire for the Lower Boulder Creek floodway reach to be designated; and

WHEREAS, the study results were presented to staff of Boulder throughout various phases of the analysis and local staff and elected officials have been supportive of the study effort; and

WHEREAS, CWCB received correspondence from local residents and oil and gas operators opposing the request for designation, but for which no technical bases for proposed changes were identified; and

WHEREAS, CWCB staff concurs with the request from Boulder County for designation and approval of the Lower Boulder Creek floodway contained in said study; and

C.R.S. AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Section 37-60-106(1)(c), Colorado Revised Statutes, requires the Colorado Water Conservation Board to assist in the prevention of floods and flood damages therefrom; and

WHEREAS, Sections 31-23-301 and 30-28-111, Colorado Revised Statutes, provide 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 Colorado Water Conservation Board; and

WHEREAS, Section 37-60-106(1)(c), Colorado Revised Statutes, directs the Colorado Water Conservation Board to designate and approve storm or floodwater runoff channels or basins and to make such designations available to legislative bodies of local jurisdictions; and

CONSISTENCY WITH PREVIOUS FLOODPLAIN STUDIES

WHEREAS, the detailed 100-year and 500-year floodplain and floodway information for Little Thompson River, Fourmile Canyon Creek, Fourmile Creek, Gold Run, Left Hand Creek, St. Vrain Creek, and North St. Vrain Creek in Boulder County and Big Thompson River, Buckhorn Creek, Little Thompson River, Redstone Creek, Dry Creek, Dickson Gulch, Cedar Creek, Quillan Gulch, Long Gulch, Tributary BT-1, Tributary BT-2, Tributary BT-3, Noel's Draw, Dark Gulch, Fox Creek, Black Canyon Creek, Dry Gulch, Fall River, Fish Creek, North Fork Big Thompson River, and West Creek within Larimer County contained in Resolutions No. 677 and previous resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the approximate 100-year floodplain information for Geer Canyon, Little Thompson River, West Fork Little Thompson River, and James Creek in Boulder County and Buckhorn Creek, Dry Creek, Little Thompson River, North Fork Little Thompson River, West Fork Little Thompson River, and Redstone Creek in Larimer County contained in Resolutions 677 and previous resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the study includes a 2D floodway delineation for Lower Boulder Creek that was not designated previously; and

COMPLIANCE WITH CWCB TECHNICAL STANDARDS

WHEREAS, said new report is based on hydrologic information developed by CDOT and others using various hydrologic methods that are all acceptable under CWCB standards; and

WHEREAS, water surface elevations for the 100-year flood frequency and other frequencies for the studied stream reach were computed using the Corps of Engineers backwater computer model HEC-RAS 2D; and

WHEREAS, floodway limits for the 100-year flood frequency were computed using the Corps of Engineers backwater computer model HEC-RAS 2D; and

WHEREAS, development of 2D floodway models is an emerging science and CWCB staff do not have the technical resources to review the Lower Boulder Creek Floodway reach in-house; and

WHEREAS, CWCB staff announced its intention at the July 2018 board meeting in Glenwood Springs to wait for and rely on a FEMA review that was currently underway; and

WHEREAS, FEMA completed its review and indicated concurrence with the Lower Boulder Creek floodway information; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County should consider regulating new development and construction in floodplain areas on a case-by-case basis based on the information presented in said new report, or based on the best available floodplain information that is accessible to the communities; and

WHEREAS, this designation does not formally rescind previous resolutions as it is considered best available data, and previous data may be used at the discretion of Boulder County if deemed appropriate on a case by case basis; and

WHEREAS, information presented in this report does not formally alter the Flood Insurance Study or Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Boulder County at the time of designation; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County may continue to regulate according to the effective Flood Insurance Study or Flood Insurance Rate Maps if the communities deem this to be the most appropriate information available; and

DESIGNATION, APPROVAL AND RESCISSION ACTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colorado Water Conservation Board in a regular meeting assembled in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, this 19th day of September, 2018, that it does hereby designate and approve the detailed 100-year floodway information for Boulder County contained in said new report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Board is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to Boulder County and FEMA.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by a majority vote of the members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board in regular session assembled at Steamboat Springs, Colorado on the 19th day of September, 2018, at which a quorum was present.



Rebecca Mitchell, Director

