



COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

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

DATE: November 1, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda Item 3. November 15-16, 2023 Board Meeting - Floodplain Designations

Background: Consent Agenda Item 3 includes 2 new floodplain studies that are proposed for CWCB action. Staff is requesting Board designation and approval for these items. A brief summary of the studies are presented in the attached document.

CWCB staff performs technical reviews of floodplain information to assure the Board that the information complies with the requirements of the CWCB’s “Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado,” 2 CCR 408-1. The attached document provides a further discussion of legislative authority and responsibilities delegated to the CWCB. 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 these items are attached.

Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 23-736: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year and 100-year approximate floodplain information contained in said report within Archuleta County and its incorporated areas, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Archuleta County, Town Pagosa Springs, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 23-737: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year and 500-year detailed floodplain and floodway information contained in said report for City Park Channel Upstream of Main Street and City Park Channel South Tributary, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Mile High Flood District, City of Broomfield and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

Attachment - Supporting Information

Consent Agenda Item 3 - Floodplain Designations

November 2023

Summary

Consent Agenda Item 3 includes 2 floodplain studies that are proposed for CWCB action. Staff is requesting Board designation and approval for these items. A brief summary of the studies are presented below.

CWCB staff performs technical reviews of floodplain information to assure the Board that the information complies 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 Designation #23-736

Affected communities: Archuleta County (Unincorporated Areas), and the Town of Pagosa Springs

Name of study to be formally acted on: “Flood Insurance Study, Archuleta County, Colorado and Incorporated Areas”, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, October 5, 2023.

Studied streams: The subject reaches are in the Alamosa-Trinchera, Conejos, Piedra, Rio Chama, and Upper San Juan HUC 8 Basins (all part of the SW basin). The report includes detailed 100-year information for McCabe Creek, North Fork McCabe Creek, Rio Blanco, San Juan River, Stollsteimer Creek, and West Fork McCabe Creek. It includes approximate 100-year floodplain information for Burns Canyon, Cat Creek, Devil Creek, Mill Creek, Montezuma Creek, Navajo River, Piedra River, Rio Blanco, San Juan River, Stollsteimer Creek, and West Fork San Juan River.

Technical Issues: This Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report covers the entire geographic area of Archuleta County. This restudy incorporates a number of new studied stream reaches and numerous revisions of existing studied stream reaches throughout the County.

Community response: The action to designate this Flood Insurance Study was initiated by CWCB staff. This study was prepared by FEMA in cooperation with Archuleta County and its incorporated areas. One key element of the map update program is community involvement throughout the process. Prior to establishing the new study, a final coordination meeting was held on March 18, 2021, in which all affected communities were invited. The results of the countywide project, including the Zone A level hydrologic and hydraulic analyses, were presented, and reviewed at the final Community Coordination (CCO) meeting attended by representatives of FEMA. The study was fully accepted and endorsed by all agencies present 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 Archuleta 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 23-736: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed and 100-year approximate floodplain information contained in said report within Archuleta County and the Town of Pagosa Springs, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Archuleta County, the Town of Pagosa Springs, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.



Floodplain resolution number: FPR Designation #23-737

Affected communities: City and County of Broomfield

Name of study to be formally acted on: “Flood Hazard Area Delineation, City Park Channel Upstream of Main Street and City Park Channel South Tributary”, by Loewen Engineering and Mile High Flood District, dated April 25, 2023.

Studied streams: The report includes detailed 100-year and 500-year hydrologic and hydraulic information for the City Park Channel watershed upstream of Main Street and City Park Channel South Tributary. The studied streams are in the South Platte Basin. The City Park watershed that is tributary to this study drains an area of 2.05 square miles.

Technical Issues: This report was authorized by the Mile High Flood District, under joint sponsorship with the City and County of Broomfield. All hydrologic analysis were performed with EPA SWMM, from a 2015 Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) study and were not updated for this study. All updated hydraulic analysis utilized HEC-RAS (V5.0.7). Floodways were computed assuming 0.5’ rise criteria, which is consistent with both state and local jurisdiction regulations.

Community response: Mile High Flood District transmitted a letter to the CWCB dated October 27, 2023, requesting CWCB designation and approval of the report. No request letters were received from other affected local governments. Conversations with staff from the partner jurisdictions indicate their desire for designation of this study.

Staff findings: CWCB staff has determined that the subject 100-year and 500-year detailed floodplain and floodway information for the studied stream reaches is in conformance with the CWCB’s rules and regulations for floodplain designation and approval. The CWCB staff has relied on the technical competence of Loewen Engineering, who produced the study, but also performed a limited 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 23-737: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year and 500-year detailed floodplain and floodway information contained in said report for City Park Channel Upstream of Main Street and City Park Channel South Tributary, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Mile High Flood District, City of Broomfield, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

