



## COLORADO

### Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718  
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441  
F (303) 866-4474

Jared Polis, Governor

Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director

Lauren Ris, CWCB Director

**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Kevin Houck, P.E. CFM, Section Chief  
Watershed & Flood Protection Section  
Steve Reeves, Watershed and Flood Protection Specialist

**DATE:** July 17, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consent Agenda Item 3. July 17-18, 2024 Board Meeting - Floodplain Designations

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**Background:** Consent Agenda Item 3 includes 1 new floodplain study 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 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 24-744:** Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year and 500-year detailed and 100-year approximate floodplain information contained in said report within the City and County Denver, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Mile High Flood District, City and County of Denver, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.



## Attachment - Supporting Information

### *Consent Agenda Item 3 - Floodplain Designations*

**July 2024**

#### **Summary**

Consent Agenda Item 3 includes 1 floodplain study that is proposed for CWCB action. Staff is requesting Board designation and approval for this item. A brief summary of the study is 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 #24-744**

**Affected communities:** City and County of Denver

**Name of study to be formally acted on:** “Flood Insurance Study, City and County of Denver, Colorado”, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, dated July 3, 2024

**Studied streams:** The report includes detailed 100-year and 500-year floodplain information for Bear Creek, Box Elder Creek, Cherry Creek, Coon Creek, Detention Pond, Dry Gulch (Harvard Gulch Tributary), Dry Gulch (Lakewood Gulch Tributary), First Avenue Tributary, First Creek, First Creek Tributary T, Goldsmith Gulch, Harvard Gulch, Harvard Gulch Split, Lakewood Gulch, Martson Lake North Drainageway, Sand Creek, Sand Creek Smith Road Overflow, Sanderson Gulch, Sloan’s Lake Drainageway, South Monaco Street Parkway Overflow, South Platte River, Southmoor Park Tributary, Weir Gulch, West Harvard Gulch, Westerly Creek, and Westerly Creek Overflow.

It includes approximate 100-year floodplain information for Berkeley Lake, Rocky Mountain Lake, Second Creek, Third Creek, Westerly Creek, and Windsor Lake.

The subject reaches are in the South Platte watershed.

**Technical Issues:** This report utilized multiple Hydrologic Models and various versions of EPA SWMM, and CUHP and various versions of the Hydraulic Model HEC-RAS.

**Community response:** The action to designate this Study was initiated by the City and County of Denver. This study was initiated in October 2018 and multiple review, coordination and community outreach meetings occurred through 2020 and 2021. Stakeholders included the Mile High Flood District, City and County of Denver, the Community, CWCB, and various contractors.

**Staff findings:** CWCB staff has determined that the subject floodplain information for the City and County of Denver is in conformance with the CWCB’s rules and regulations for floodplain designation and approval.

**Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 24-744:** Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year and 500-year detailed and 100-year approximate floodplain information contained in said report within the City and County Denver, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Mile High Flood District, City and County of Denver, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

