



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
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DATE: January 14, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda Item 2 January 26-27, 2026, Board
Meeting - Floodplain Designation

Background: Consent Agenda Item 2 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 26-754: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain and floodway information and approximate 100-year floodplain information contained in said report within Town of Avon, Town of Basalt, Eagle County, Town of Eagle, Town of Gypsum, Town of Minturn, Town of Red Cliff, and Town of Vail, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to Town of Avon, Town of Basalt, Eagle County, Town of Eagle, Town of Gypsum, Town of Minturn, Town of Red Cliff, and Town of Vail. This action is recommended to meet statutory requirements.



Attachment - Supporting Information

Consent Agenda Item 2 - Floodplain Designation

January 2026

Summary

Consent Agenda Item 2 includes 1 floodplain study that is proposed for CWCB action. Staff is requesting Board designation and approval for this item. A 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 perform 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 #26-754

Affected communities: Town of Avon, Town of Basalt, Eagle County, Town of Eagle, Town of Gypsum, Town of Minturn, Town of Red Cliff, and Town of Vail.

Name of study to be formally acted on: “Flood Insurance Study, Eagle County, Colorado, and Incorporated Areas”, dated January 9, 2026.

Studied streams: The report includes detailed hydrologic and hydraulic information for the 100-year and 500-year floodplain and floodway for Bighorn Creek, Black Gore Creek, Booth Creek, Brush Creek, Buffehr Creek, Colorado River, Eagle River, East Mill Creek, Emma Road Split, Frying Pan River, Gore Creek, Lower Gore Creek, Middle Creek, Pitkin Creek, Red Sandstone Creek, Roaring Fork River, South Side Split (Roaring Fork River), Spraddle Creek, Taylor Creek, Turkey Creek, Upper Gore Creek, and West Mill Creek. The report also includes approximate hydrologic and hydraulic information for the 100-year for the Colorado River.

Technical Issues: This report utilizes the 1999 HEC-RAS 2.2/Bulletin 17B Stream Gage Analysis model for Bighorn Creek, Black Gore Creek, Booth Creek, Gore Creek, Pitkin Creek, & Red Sandstone Creek; the 1979 HEC-2/Discharge vs Drainage Area Relation model for Brush Creek (confluence with Gore Creek & ~3.3 miles upstream of Sylvan Rd.), Eagle River (~3800’ above County Rd & ~1260’ above First Denver & Rio Grande RR), Gypsum Creek, Taylor Creek, and Turkey Creek; the 2003 HEC-RAS 3.0.1/Discharge vs Drainage Area Relation model for Brush Creek ~320’ downstream of Sylvan Rd; the 1999 HEC-RAS 2.2/Discharge vs Drainage Area Relation model for Buffehr Creek, East Mill Creek, Lower Gore Creek, Middle Creek, Upper Gore Creek, and West Mill Creek; the 2019 HEC-RAS 5.0.7/Bulletin 17C Stream Gage Analysis model for the Colorado River; the 2003 HEC-RAS 3.0.1 Bulletin 17B Stream Gage Analysis model for Eagle River (Confluence with Colorado River); the 2018 HEC-RAS 5.0.7/FLO-2D model for Emma Road Split; the 1978 HEC-2/Discharge vs Drainage Area Relation model for the Frying Pan River; the 2019 HEC-RAS 5.0.7/Bulletin 17B Stream Gage Analysis model for the Roaring Fork River; the 2018 HEC-RAS 5.0.7/HEC-RAS Split Flow Analysis model for South Side Split; and the 1999 HEC-RAS 2.2/Rainfall-Runoff Relationship model for Spraddle Creek.

Community response: The action to designate this Flood Insurance Study was initiated by CWCB staff. This study was prepared by FEMA in cooperation with Eagle County and its incorporated areas. Prior to establishing the new study, a final coordination meeting was held on May 30, 2023, 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: CWCB staff has determined that the subject 100-year and 500-year floodplain and floodway information for the 100-year and 500-year floodplain and floodway for Bighorn Creek, Black Gore Creek, Booth Creek, Brush Creek, Buffehr Creek, Colorado River, Eagle River, East Mill Creek, Emma Road Split, Frying Pan River, Gore Creek, Lower Gore Creek, Middle



Creek, Pitkin Creek, Red Sandstone Creek, Roaring Fork River, South Side Split (Roaring Fork River), Spraddle Creek, Taylor Creek, Turkey Creek, Upper Gore Creek, and West Mill Creek, and the approximate hydrologic and hydraulic information for the 100-year floodplain for the Colorado River 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 WSP/Wood, 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.

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