



**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, Chief  
Terri Fead, P.E., CFM, Floodplain Mapping Coordinator  
Watershed & Flood Protection Section

**DATE:** May 5, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM:** Agenda Item 27. May 19-20, 2021 Board Meeting - Floodplain Rules and Criteria Manual Update

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**Background:**

CWCB's official regulatory and guidance documents relative to flood risk analysis are outdated (2010, and 2006, respectively) and require revision.

Flood risk analysis and mapping have evolved significantly over the last ten to fifteen years. There have been considerable advancements in technology for data collection, engineering analysis, mapping processes, and data management systems. In response to these advancements, there have been recent revisions to the FEMA Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) Technical References, Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Activities under the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) Program. The updated FEMA technical references, guidelines and standards define the details of the statutory and regulatory requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) mapping.

The Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplain in Colorado (Floodplain Rules), and the Colorado Floodplain and Stormwater Criteria Manual (Criteria Manual) need to reflect current standard engineering practices and improved data sources. Updates will ensure identification and mapping of flood risk, and subsequent responsible floodplain management in flood hazard areas comply with requirements of the FEMA NFIP.

Staff is making it a high priority to only revise Floodplain Rules to account for new methodologies (2-dimensional hydraulic modeling and Base Level Engineering analysis) for flood risk analysis consistent with recent FEMA updates. Policy level changes are not needed and will be outside the recommended scope of the rulemaking process.

Staff is planning extensive revisions to the Criteria Manual to address significant advancements in data collection, engineering analysis, mapping processes, and data management systems relative to flood risk, stormwater management, watershed management, flood hazard migration, stream restoration and resource preservation. Revisions are planned to be performed in two phases:

Phase 1 will address chapters and sections specifically related to floodplain mapping and the recent FEMA technical standards and guidance revisions.



Phase 2 will be much more extensive and will address updates to CWCB watershed protection and management programs, as well as the remaining sections of the Manual not updated in Phase 1.

**Staff recommendation:**

This is an informational item and no board action is requested at this time.

