



**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:** May 5, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consent Agenda Item 3. May 17-18, 2023 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 these items. 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 this item is attached.

**Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 23-735:** 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 San Juan County and its incorporated areas, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to San Juan County, Town of Silverton, and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

## **Attachment - Supporting Information**

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

***May 2023***

#### **Summary**

Consent Agenda Item 3 includes 5 floodplain studies/maps that are proposed for CWCB action. Staff is requesting Board designation and approval for these items. A brief summary of the studies 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 #23-735**

**Affected communities:** San Juan County (Unincorporated Areas), and the Town of Silverton

**Name of study to be formally acted on:** “Flood Insurance Study, San Juan County, Colorado and Incorporated Areas”, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, May 9, 2023.

**Studied streams:** The subject reaches are in the Animas, Rio Grande Headwaters, Uncompahgre, and Upper San Juan HUC 8 Basins. The report includes detailed 100-year and 500-year floodplain information for the Animas River, Cement Creek, and Mineral Creek. It includes approximate 100-year floodplain information for the Animas River, Cement Creek, Mineral Creek, North Fork Animas River, and West Fork Animas River.

**Technical Issues:** The study includes all major waterways within San Juan County and its incorporated communities.

**Community response:** The action to designate this Flood Insurance Study was initiated by CWCB staff. This study was prepared by FEMA in cooperation with San Juan 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 San Juan 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 23-735:** 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 San Juan County and the Town of Silverton, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to San Juan County, the Town of Silverton and FEMA. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

