



Public Works

Public Hearing and Ordinance to Amend Title 8 Floodplain Safety Overlay

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- The National Flood Insurance Program was created in 1968 with the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act. The County is a California community that has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program since 1978.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) frequently updates Flood Insurance Rate Maps, and Flood Insurance Study to maintain accuracy and ensure flood risk information aligns with current conditions and standards.
- The County needs to comply with and adopt floodplain regulations, as instructed in the November 2023 Letter of Final Determination from FEMA Headquarters, by May 8, 2024.

The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to eliminate the outdated Floodplain Safety Overlay and incorporate the latest FEMA maps, along with the updated Flood Insurance Study by FEMA and corresponding flood hazard regulations.

The proposed ordinance is important to retain eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program, which:

- Safeguards public health and safety,
- Guarantees the availability of flood insurance for residents, and
- Facilitates access to federal disaster assistance programs for flood hazard recovery and disaster impacts.

The updates to the ordinance include:

- **Chapter 82.14** – Update the chapter language and adopt the new flood study revision recently completed by FEMA.
- **Chapter 86.04** – Update the chapter language according to the model provided by the California Department of Water Resources, and minimum National Flood Insurance Program requirements.
- **Chapter 810.01** – Add the definition of Recreational Vehicle to align with FEMA definition.

The proposed amendment of the County Development Code will:

- Ensure that development within flood-prone areas aligns with the most accurate and up-to-date flood risk information available to enhance public safety and reduce the risk of flood-related damage to properties and infrastructure.
- Contribute to more resilient and sustainable development practices within the County and promoting responsible land use planning in flood-prone areas.

By incorporating the latest FEMA regulations, developers will have clearer guidelines and criteria to follow when planning and constructing new projects in floodplain areas.

The proposed amendment of the County Development Code was considered by the Planning Commission in a public hearing conducted on February 22, 2024.

There was no public testimony. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed ordinance by a 3-0 vote.



Questions?

