

Department of Public Works

Bureau of Engineering
Report No. 1

September 29, 2020
CD Nos. All

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD
PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY
of Los Angeles California
AND REFERRED TO THE MAYOR

BPW-2020-0593

SEP 29 2020

AND REFERRED TO THE CITY COUNCIL


Executive Officer
Board of Public Works

APPROVAL OF 2020 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN - (WORK ORDER NO. SSPA0056)

RECOMMENDING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS (BOARD):

1. APPROVE and forward this report, with its transmittals, to the Mayor and the Los Angeles City Council (Council).
2. RECOMMEND the Mayor and the Council adopt the 2020 Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) so that the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) can submit it to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) prior to October 30, 2020, in order to remain in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (NFIP/CRS).
3. DIRECT LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) and the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) to provide the City Engineer with annual reports on the progress of the implementation of the programs identified in Chapter 13 Mitigation Action Plan, of the 2020 FMP.
4. REQUEST that the Mayor and the City Council direct other responsible departments including Emergency Management, Water and Power, Building and Safety, Fire, Harbor, General Services, and City Planning to provide the City Engineer with annual reports on the progress of the implementation of the programs identified in Chapter 13, Mitigation Action Plan, of the 2020 FMP.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Funding for those "On Going" activities identified in the 2020 FMP, Table 13-4, Recommended Flood Mitigation Actions (Transmittal No. 1), will remain the same and therefore there should be no additional fiscal impact to the General Fund. Other activities identified in the 2020 FMP that are not currently "On Going", will remain on the Recommended Flood Mitigation Actions List until responsible department(s) can identify appropriate funding for implementation.

TRANSMITTALS

1. Table 13-4, Recommended Flood Mitigation Actions.
2. Ordinance No. 172081 adopted by Council on June 17, 1998 and approved by the Mayor on June 22, 1998.
3. NFIP CRS Guide: CRS Classes, Credit Points, and Insurance Premium Discounts.

4. Letter dated January 9, 2020, from KanDee Davis of Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), FEMA consultant, regarding the City of Los Angeles' (City) Five Year Cycle Review of the NFIP CRS program.
5. List of FMP Steering Committee Members.
6. The 2020 FMP Final Draft.

DISCUSSION

Background

The NFIP was established by the United States Congress with the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, to provide flood insurance to flood prone communities. The City joined the regular phase of the NFIP in 1980 and adopted Ordinance No. 154405, which made federally backed mortgage insurance and loans available to all City residents. The ordinance was amended in 1988, and again most recently in 1998, by Ordinance No. 172081 (Transmittal No. 2).

The NFIP/CRS was implemented in 1990, as a program for recognizing and awarding community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards by reducing flood insurance premium rates according to the reduced flood risk. Under the NFIP/CRS, there are a total of ten CRS classes: Class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the largest premium reduction, and Class 10 receives no premium reduction (Transmittal No. 3). Since October 2007, the City has received a Class 7 rating which means the residents within the FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard Zones (SFHA) receive a 15 percent flood insurance premium discount and others in the City, outside the SFHA, receive a 5 percent discount.

In January 2020, the City was notified that a 5-year cycle CRS verification visit would be conducted by ISO, a consultant firm under the FEMA contract. The purpose of this 5-year cycle visit is to ensure that the City continues to implement creditable activities to reduce flood risks. Among the activities identified under the 5-year cycle visit is the updating of the FMP (Transmittal No. 4).

FMP Development

The FMP was designed to (1) identify the City's known flood problem areas, (2) establish goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs to reduce flooding and flood related hazards, and (3) ensure that the natural and beneficial functions of our floodplains are protected.

Among the primary emphases FEMA places on developing the FMP is public participation. To this end, the FMP was prepared under the guidance of a FMP Steering Committee that met a total of eight times over a nine-month period. This Committee consisted of 23 members, with 12 members representing the public and 11 members representing government agencies. The 12 members representing the public were

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from different geographic areas of the City, representing owners/renters in the 100-year floodplains, homeowner/neighborhood associations, local businesses, educational institutions. Each Steering Committee member could designate an alternative person who attended the meeting in his/her absence and such person had full voting privileges. All Steering Committee meetings were open to the public to allow members of the public the opportunities to participate in the process. Transmittal No. 5 is a list of members of the FMP Steering Committee.

Also, during various stages of the FMP development process, three public outreach meetings were conducted to inform the public of the plan preparation and to solicit public comments on the draft plan. The first two of the public meetings were in-person while the last one was a virtual meeting due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Social media newsletters and messages were sent out using various social networking platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to promote public participation in completing a Flood Hazard Assessment Questionnaire posted on the FMP website. In a joint outreach effort with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, approximately 250 completed questionnaires were received for analysis of the public perception and opinions of flood risk. All responses have been entered into a database and the information was used to analyze the flood hazard and proposed implementation programs.

The draft FMP was posted on the City's website for public review from May 19, 2020, through June 9, 2020. A press release was issued by the Board's Public Affairs Office and several flyers were distributed by email to all council offices and representatives of neighborhood councils as public notification of the review period.

To maintain the City's current Class 7 rating, the City must adopt an updated FMP (Transmittal No. 6) in October of 2020, as required under CRS Activity 510. When adopted, the 2020 FMP will replace the previous FMP adopted in October of 2015. The 2020 FMP contains four parts: Part 1 describes the plan background and the planning process, Part 2 assesses the flood risk in the City from several sources, Part 3 identifies mitigation strategy, and Part 4 describes the process for the plan maintenance including annual progress report.

The City must annually evaluate the progress of those implementation programs identified in the FMP and submit the progress report to FEMA during its annual CRS recertification. This annual report will be prepared under the guidance of the same committee that developed the FMP. Failure to submit an annual evaluation report will revert the City's CRS rating to Class 10 and eliminate the insurance premium discount for the City's resident.

All newly identified flood hazard areas will continue to be reviewed in light of new data. New data collection and mitigation actions will be supported through the implementation of goals, objectives and policies outlined in the FMP. No specific public Capital Improvement Projects are identified in the FMP. The majority of the Citywide mitigation programs in the FMP are planning and public outreach activities.

Affected Departments

Under the guidance of the Steering Committee, the following goals were established and listed in Chapter 11 of the FMP:

- Reduce flood risk
- Protect life
- Protect property
- Increase resilience of critical facilities and infrastructure
- Increase community awareness and public education
- Pursue cost-effective, environmentally sound and multi-benefit mitigation measures
- Coordinate with other programs that can support or enhance flood mitigation

Under each of the goals there are specific objectives and programs. The FMP was written with the maximum utilization of existing programs and resources. The goals, objectives, policies and programs of the FMP do not authorize any new construction project or program. For each program, one or more responsible parties are identified.

The following City Departments are included in the FMP as implementing parties:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Airport (Los Angeles World Airport) | • Library |
| • Building and Safety | • Police |
| • City Planning | • Public Works - BOE |
| • City Administrative Officer | • Public Works –LASAN |
| • Emergency Management | • Public Works – Streets LA |
| • Fire | • Recreation and Parks |
| • General Services | • Water and Power |
| • Harbor | |

Environmental Requirements

The FMP is exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which requires preparation of an environmental document for projects which have the potential for causing a significant adverse effect on the environment (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(2) and City CEQA Guidelines Article III). Since the FMP does not authorize any new construction project or program, it is readily apparent that its adoption would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

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Respectfully submitted,



Electronically signed by 7166 on 09/29/2020 at 4:39:21 PM

Gary Lee Moore, PE, ENV SP
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