



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**WATER RESOURCES CORE SERVICE AREA
ADOPTION OF UPDATES TO
THE COMPREHENSIVE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN,
PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION, AND THE REPETITIVE LOSS AREA
ANALYSIS IN CONNECTION WITH THE COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE
NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Public Works is seeking Board approval to adopt the updates to the Los Angeles County Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan, its Program for Public Information, and the Los Angeles County Repetitive Loss Area Analysis to enable Los Angeles County to retain its eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the recommended actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act for reasons stated in this Board letter and in the record.
2. Approve and adopt the updates to the Los Angeles County Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan and its Program for Public Information dated September 3, 2025.
3. Approve and adopt the update to the Los Angeles County Repetitive Loss Area Analysis dated September 3, 2025.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Works or his designee to annually certify to the Federal

Emergency Management Agency, on behalf of Los Angeles County, the County's implementation of its Community Rating System activities, and submit to the Federal Emergency Management Agency annual progress reports on the updated Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan, its Program for Public Information, and the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions will approve and adopt updates of the County's Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan, its Program for Public Information, and the County's Repetitive Loss Area Analysis and find that they are not subject to and exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as described more specifically below. These documents provide an overall strategy of programs, projects, and measures to reduce the adverse impacts of flooding in the unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County; a risk assessment for all properties in the community subject to flood hazard and mitigation initiatives that may be implemented; and a program for flood risk outreach. These actions will also authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to perform annual progress reporting on the implementation of these plans and annual certification of the County's Community Rating System (CRS) activities.

The County has been a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since 1980 and the NFIP's CRS program since 1991. The NFIP and the CRS program are administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Participation in the NFIP enables the County to obtain Federal assistance and makes flood insurance available for property owners and renters in the unincorporated County areas. Participation in the CRS program, which requires the County to exceed the NFIP's minimum requirements, allows property owners in the unincorporated County areas to qualify for discounted flood insurance premiums. The County currently has a CRS Class 6 rating, resulting in up to a 20 percent reduction in premium for NFIP flood insurance policy holders in the unincorporated areas.

As part of its CRS activities to achieve a Class 6 rating, the County developed a Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan, which includes a Program for Public Information. The County also prepared a Repetitive Loss Area Analysis that identifies and analyzes properties that have suffered recurring flood damage (repetitive loss properties). The Board adopted the Floodplain Management Plan, its Program for Public Information, and Repetitive Loss Area Analysis on June 15, 2021.

To retain its CRS Class 6 rating, the County is required, every 5 years, to update and re-adopt the Floodplain Management Plan, its Program for Public Information, and the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis. The updated documents were developed following the prescribed steps in the NFIP's 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual and are consistent with the 2025 CRS Coordinator's Manual. The updated documents can be viewed at: <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/NFIP/FMP2025>. FEMA has reviewed these updated documents and determined that they meet the NFIP's requirements, subject to their adoption by the Board.

In addition, the County is also required to annually certify to FEMA its implementation of its CRS activities and prepare and submit to FEMA annual progress reports on the Floodplain Management Plan, its Program for Public Information, and the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis.

The annual certifications will be available at Public Works.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These recommendations support the County Strategic Plan: North Star 2, Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Focus Area Goal D, Sustainability, Strategy i, Climate Health, by identifying mitigation measures that can be implemented by the County, property owners, and organizations to improve the community's flood emergency preparedness.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

Funding for CRS activities is included in the Flood Fund Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget. The adoption of the updated plans and analysis will have no binding funding obligation on the County or the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan, which includes a Program for Public Information, is an overall strategy of programs, projects, and measures to reduce the adverse impacts of flooding in the unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County. It includes a risk assessment for all properties subject to flood hazard, mitigation initiatives that may be implemented, and a program for flood risk outreach to the public.

The Repetitive Loss Area Analysis addresses over 50 repetitive loss properties in the unincorporated areas plus almost 200 adjacent properties that may be subjected to the same flood hazards. These properties have been divided into 28 repetitive loss areas. The Board adopted the previous Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan, which contained the Program for Public Information, and the previous Repetitive Loss Area Analysis on June 15, 2021.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The approval and adoption of the updates of the County's Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan, its Program for Public Information, and the County's Repetitive Loss Area Analysis are exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15262 of the CEQA Guidelines and Section 21102 of the California Public Resources Code. These actions are activities relating to planning and feasibility studies for possible future actions, which the Board has not adopted, approved, or funded.

By approving these updates, the County does not commit to or otherwise endorse, authorize, or approve any specific project. Any future recommendations on any proposed development remain subject to the Board's sole discretion to approve, deny, or modify a proposed project and to consider factors that would accompany CEQA review. Authorization of any future project activities would occur only following compliance with CEQA, and the County department undertaking a future project will return to the Board for consideration of appropriate environmental documentation.

Upon the Board's approval of the recommended actions, Public Works will file a Notice of Exemption with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in accordance with Section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code.

The delegation of authority to the Director of Public Works or his designee to annually certify to

FEMA the County's implementation of its CRS activities, and submit to FEMA annual progress reports on the updated County Comprehensive Floodplain Management Plan, its Program for Public Information, and the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis, are not subject to CEQA because they are activities that are excluded from the definition of a project by Section 21065 of the California Public Resources Code and Section 15378(b) of the CEQA Guidelines. The delegation of authority is an organizational or administrative activity of government, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no adverse impact on any other current services and/or projects as a result of this action. If the plans are not adopted, the County's participation in the CRS program could be terminated.

CONCLUSION

Please return an adopted copy of this Board letter to Public Works, Stormwater Engineering Division.

Respectfully submitted,



MARK PESTRELLA, PE

Director

MP:SK:cg

c: Chief Executive Office (Christine Frias)
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors