



COLORADO

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Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kevin Houck, P.E. CFM, Section Chief
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DATE: March 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda Item 5. March 19-20, 2025 Board Meeting - Floodplain Designations

Background: Consent Agenda Item 5 includes 1 new floodplain study that is proposed for CWCB action. Staff is requesting Board designation and approval for this item. 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 these items are attached.

Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 25-752: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain and floodway information contained in said report within the City of Littleton, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to the City of Littleton, and the Mile High Flood District. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.



Attachment - Supporting Information

Consent Agenda Item 5 - Floodplain Designations

March 2025

Summary

Consent Agenda Item 5 includes 1 floodplain study that is proposed for CWCB action. Staff is requesting Board designation and approval for this item. A brief summary of the study 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 #25-752

Affected communities: City of Littleton

Name of study to be formally acted on: “Santa Fe Park South, Dad Clark Gulch FHAD Floodplain Development Permit”, by Westwood, dated December 2024.

Studied streams: The subject reach is in the South Platte Basin. The report includes detailed hydrologic and hydraulic information for the 100-year floodplain and floodway for Dad Clark Gulch.

Technical Issues: This report utilized the previous 1990 FHAD model run in HEC 2, which was then imported into HEC-RAS 5.0.7. Further proposed modeling utilized HEC-RAS 6.4.1.

Community response: The action to designate this Study was initiated by the Mile High Flood District. This study was initiated by the approval of new development on property that includes the Dad Clark Gulch channel.

Staff findings: CWCB staff has determined that the subject 100-year floodplain and floodway information for Dad Clark Gulch is in conformance with the CWCB’s rules and regulations for floodplain designation and approval. The CWCB staff has relied on the technical competence of Westwood, who produced the study, but also performed a limited independent technical review of the report. CWCB staff therefore endorses this study as containing the most current floodplain mapping available and urges the affected communities to adopt said study for land use regulation purposes pursuant to statutory authority.

Requested action for Floodplain Resolution 25-752: Staff recommends that the Board: 1) designate and approve the 100-year detailed floodplain and floodway information contained in said report within the City of Littleton, and 2) authorize staff to prepare a floodplain resolution to be signed by the Director and transmitted to the City of Littleton, and the Mile High Flood District. This action is recommended in order to meet statutory requirements.

