

11 Response to Comments from Federal Agencies

Submission 15 (Gregor Blackburn, FEMA Region IX, January 17, 2012)

01-17-12 10:55 RCVD
3657
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA. 94607-4052



January 12, 2012

John Mason
California High-Speed Authority
770 L Street, Suite 800
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Mason:

This is in response to your request for comments on Public Notice, Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Meeting, Bay Area to Central Valley Partially Revised Draft Program Environmental Impact Report, January 2012.

Please review the current effective countywide Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the Counties of Alameda (Community Number 060001), Santa Clara (Community Number 060337), San Mateo (Community Number 060311), Merced (Community Number 060188), Stanislaus (Community Number 060384), Sacramento (Community Number 060262), San Francisco (Community Number 060298), and San Joaquin (Community Number 060299), revised various dates. Please note that the various Cities within the above-referenced Counties in the State of California are participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The minimum, basic NFIP floodplain management building requirements are described in Vol. 44 Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR), Sections 59 through 65.

A summary of these NFIP floodplain management building requirements are as follows:

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- All buildings constructed within a riverine floodplain, (i.e., Flood Zones A, AO, AH, AE, and A1 through A30 as delineated on the FIRM), must be elevated so that the lowest floor is at or above the Base Flood Elevation level in accordance with the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map.
- If the area of construction is located within a Regulatory Floodway as delineated on the FIRM, any development must not increase base flood elevation levels. The term **development** means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings, other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, and storage of equipment or materials. A hydrologic and hydraulic analysis must be performed prior to the start of development, and must demonstrate that the development would not cause any rise in base flood levels. No rise is permitted within regulatory floodways.

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- All buildings constructed within a coastal high hazard area, (any of the "V" Flood Zones as delineated on the FIRM), must be elevated on pilings and columns, so that the lowest horizontal structural member, (excluding the pilings and columns), is elevated to or above the base flood elevation level. In addition, the posts and pilings foundation and the structure attached thereto, is anchored to resist flotation, collapse and lateral movement due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components.
- Upon completion of any development that changes existing Special Flood Hazard Areas, the NFIP directs all participating communities to submit the appropriate hydrologic and hydraulic data to FEMA for a FIRM revision. In accordance with 44 CFR, Section 65.3, as soon as practicable, but not later than six months after such data becomes available, a community shall notify FEMA of the changes by submitting technical data for a flood map revision. To obtain copies of FEMA's Flood Map Revision Application Packages, please refer to the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/forms.shtm>.

Please Note:

Many NFIP participating communities have adopted floodplain management building requirements which are more restrictive than the minimum federal standards described in 44 CFR. Please contact the local community's floodplain manager for more information on local floodplain management building requirements. The *Fremont* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Norm Hughes, City Engineer, at (510) 491-4700. The *Gilroy* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Wendie Rooney, Community Development Director, at (408) 846-0450. The *Livermore* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Pamela Lung, Associate Civil Engineer, at (925) 960-4538. The *Menlo Park* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Virginia KF Parks, Associate Engineer, at (650) 330-6740. The *Merced* floodplain manager can be reached by calling John M. Bramble, City Manager/City Clerk, at (209) 385-6866. The *Modesto* floodplain manager can be reached by calling William A. Crew, Chief Building Official, at (209) 577-5232. The *Mountain View* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Ron Metsers, CRS Coordinator, at (650) 903-6306. The *Oakland* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Ray Derania, Deputy Director, Building Services, at (510) 238-4780. The *Palo Alto* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Glenn Roberts, City Engineer, at (650) 329-2325. The *Pleasanton* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Jayasree Santhosh, Assistant Engineer II, at (925) 931-5662. The *Sacramento* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Dave Brent, Engineering Manager, at (916) 808-1423. The *San Francisco City and County* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Linda Yeung, Deputy City Administrator, at (415) 554-7124. The *San Jose* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Maria Angeles, Floodplain Manager, at (408) 535-3555. The *Stockton* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Michael N. Niblock, Community Development Director, at (209) 937-8444. The *Tracy* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Kevin Jorgensen, Chief Building Official, at (209) 831-6415. The *Alameda County* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Hank Ackerman, Department of Public Works, at (510) 670-5553.

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The *Santa Clara County* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Scott Johnson, Representative, Planning and Development, at (408) 299-5706. The *San Mateo County* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Kelly Moran, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors, at (650) 363-4161. The *Merced County* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Kellie L. Jacobs, Floodplain Administrator, at (209) 385-7602. The *Stanislaus County* floodplain manager can be reached by calling Steve Treat, Chief Building Official, at (209) 525-7592. The *Sacramento County* floodplain manager can be reached by calling George Booth, Senior Civil Engineer, at (916) 874-6484. The *San Joaquin County* floodplain manager can be reached by calling John Maguire, Head of Engineering Services, at (209) 953-7617.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Cynthia McKenzie, Senior NFIP Planner of the Mitigation staff at (510) 627-7190.

Sincerely,



Gregor Blackburn, CFM, Branch Chief
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch

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cc:
Norm Hughes, City Engineer, City of Fremont
Wendie Rooney, Community Development Director, City of Gilroy
Pamela Lung, Associate Civil Engineer, City of Livermore
Virginia KF Parks, Associate Engineer, Department of Public Works, City of Menlo Park
John M. Bramble, City Manager/City Clerk, City of Merced
William A. Crew, Chief, Building Official, City of Modesto
Ron Metsers, CRS Coordinator, City of Mountain View
Ray Derania, Deputy Director of Building Services, City of Oakland
Glenn Roberts, City Engineer, City of Palo Alto
Jayasree Santhosh, Assistant Engineer II, City of Pleasanton
Dave Brent, Engineering Manager, City of Sacramento
Linda Yeung, Deputy City Administrator, City and County of San Francisco
Maria Angeles, Floodplain Manager, City of San Jose
Michael N. Niblock, Community Development Director, City of Stockton
Kevin Jorgensen, Chief Building Official, City of Tracy
Hank Ackerman, Department of Public Works/Engineering and Construction, Alameda County
Scott Johnson, Representative, Planning and Development, Santa Clara County
Kelly Moran, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors, San Mateo County
Kellie L. Jacobs, Floodplain Administrator, Merced County
Steve Treat, Chief Building Official, Stanislaus County
George Booth, Senior Civil Engineer, Sacramento County
John Maguire, Head of Engineering Services, San Joaquin County
Ray Lee, WREA, State of California, Department of Water Resources, North Central Region Office
Ed Perez, WREA, State of California, Department of Water Resources South Central Region Office
Sarah Owen, NFIP Planner, CFM, DHS/FEMA Region IX
Jane Hopkins, NFIP Planner, DHS/FEMA Region IX
Cynthia McKenzie, Senior NFIP Planner, DHS/FEMA Region IX
Gregor Blackburn, CFM, Branch Chief, Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch, DHS/FEMA Region IX
Alessandro Amaglio, Environmental Officer, DHS/FEMA Region IX

Response to Submission 15 (Gregor Blackburn, FEMA Region IX, January 27, 2012)

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The 2008 Final Program EIR addresses hydrology and water resources, including impacts on floodplains, at a program level. Refer to Chapter 3.14 of the 2008 Final Program EIR for a discussion of program-level hydrology and water resources impacts. Detailed project-level design will adhere to NFIP floodplain management building requirements, and potential impacts will be evaluated in each project-level EIR/EIS using the latest FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (and revisions). Local agencies will be consulted as part of each project-level EIR/EIS.

