Urban Level of Flood Protection Criteria

Briefing to the Flood Managers Association

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Timeline of ULOP Requirements

- **2007**
  - SB 5 – Urban Level of Flood Protection requirements
  - AB 1665 – Not penalized by delayed state fund
  - SB 1070 – Excluding Fresno area

- **2014**
  - SB 1278, AB1965 – Reset General Plan/Zoning Ord Deadlines; Exempt shallow flooding and local drainage

- **2015**
  - CVFPP Adoption

- **2016**
  - ULOP Criteria Release

- **2017**
  - ULOP Criteria Refinement WG

- **2018**
  - SB 1278 map released

- **2019**
  - ULOP Criteria

- **2020**
  - GP update
  - Zoning Ord.
“Urban level of flood protection” means the level of protection that is necessary to withstand flooding that has a 1-in-200 chance of occurring in any given year using criteria consistent with, or developed by, the Department of Water Resources.

“Urban level of flood protection” shall not mean shallow flooding or flooding from local drainage that meets the criteria of the national Federal Emergency Management Agency standard of flood protection.
ULOP Criteria

- Document Contents
  - Introduction
  - Criteria
  - Other Considerations
- DWR’s Principles for Criteria Development
  - Satisfy legislative requirements without interfering with local land use authority
  - Provide reasonable details and flexibility
  - Promote prudent floodplain management
Cities and counties can use either these criteria or other consistent criteria.

DWR does not have enforcement authority.

DWR may include the ULOP Criteria in future requirements for State funding eligibility, where appropriate.

DWR currently does not have plans to convert the ULOP Criteria into regulations.
The California Department of Water Resources developed the Urban Level of Flood Protection Criteria (Criteria). For affected land use decisions, cities and counties in specific locations within the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins need to make a finding related to an urban level of flood protection based on substantial evidence in the record. Cities and counties may use criteria consistent with this Criteria or apply this Criteria directly.
ULOP Criteria

- Applicable Location
  - Urban/urbanizing area
  - Within FEMA FIRM
  - Within Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley
  - Within area with potential flood depth greater than 3 feet
  - Within watershed with a contributing area of more than 10 square miles
• Findings
  1. Currently have 200-year flood protection
  2. Imposed conditions
  3. Making adequate progress
  4. Within an undetermined risk area

• Substantial Evidence
  - Depends on type of finding (could include CE report, review from Independent Panel of Experts)
  - A previous finding can be used to support a new finding, when applicable
Developing A Guidance Document for General Plan Amendments

- All cities and counties within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley must update their General Plans by July 2015
More Information

http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/urbancriteria/

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