

# PRESS RELEASE

City of Los Angeles

Department of Public Works

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES' DRAFT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN  
AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW**

***30 day comment period runs from May 8 through June 7, 2015***

The City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works invites residents to review and comment on the recently completed Draft Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) for the City of Los Angeles. The public may provide input through the City's website at (<http://eng.lacity.org/projects/fmp/>), via email or at an upcoming public meeting set for May 19 at Pacoima City Hall from 7-8pm.

The Draft FMP is a comprehensive floodplain management plan intended to identify opportunities and actions to reduce the adverse impacts of flood hazards. This effort is implemented through the Community Rating System (CRS).

The CRS is a voluntary program within the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that encourages floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements, further increasing a community's protection from flood hazards. Flood insurance premiums for property owners are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risks resulting from community actions, which meet the following three goals of the CRS; reduce flood losses, facilitate accurate insurance rating, and promote awareness of flood insurance.

The City of Los Angeles has a class rating of 7 within the CRS, which translates into a 15 percent reduction in premium costs for structures located in special flood hazard areas.

City of Los Angeles engineer Gary Lee Moore explains that "Broad public participation in the planning process helps ensure that diverse points of view about the planning area's needs are considered and addressed." The 30-day public comment period begins on May 8 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 7, 2015. Please direct your comments and questions on the Draft Plan to Cindy Pham of the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, at [CityofLAFMP2015@gmail.com](mailto:CityofLAFMP2015@gmail.com).

**Floodplains and Flooding**

A floodplain is the area adjacent to a river, creek or lake that becomes inundated during a flood. Human activities tend to concentrate in floodplains. Human development can create local flooding problems by altering or confining drainage channels. This increases flood potential in two ways; it reduces the stream's capacity to contain flows and it increases flow rates or velocities downstream during all stages of a flood event. Human activities can interface effectively with a floodplain as long as steps are taken to mitigate the adverse impacts on floodplain functions.

In southern California, most flooding is the result of heavy precipitation over one or two days. Short streams and steep watersheds emptying onto lowlands that may be heavily populated produce large volumes of water in short

periods, and damage is often severe. The problem is sometimes compounded by the denuding of large areas of watershed by fire during the previous season.

The Los Angeles area has experienced 13 flooding events since 1969 for which federal disaster declarations were issued, many of which occurred in or impacted the City. Review of these events helps identify targets for risk reduction and ways to increase a community's capability to avoid large-scale events in the future. Still, many flood events do not trigger federal disaster declaration protocol but have significant impacts on their communities. These events are also important to consider in establishing recurrence intervals for flooding.