FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN
IN INVOLVING THE PUBLIC

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for the
Bureau of Engineering
Department of Public Works
City of Los Angeles

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IN INVOLVING THE PUBLIC IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES 2009 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN Community Outreach Summary

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Also available, responses to questionnaires (10 volumes)
Section 1 City of Los Angeles 2009 Floodplain Management Plan

1.1 Overview of the Floodplain Management Plan (FMP)

The City of Los Angeles has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since 1980 to ensure that residents in the City can purchase flood insurance from FEMA. In 1991, the City resolved to participate in the Community Rating System (CRS), a part of the NFIP that holds higher requirements for floodplain management and hazard mitigation.

By participating in the NFIP - CRS program, the City exceeds the minimum requirements of the NFIP and is given a number rating that allows Los Angeles to better serve its communities by providing a discount on flood insurance premiums for residents, business owners, and taxpayers. One requirement for participation in this program is to develop a Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) that addresses flooding hazards in the City and provides recommendations for programs and policies to mitigate these flooding hazards.

The objective of the FMP is to produce a program of activities that will best mitigate flooding hazards in the community; increase awareness about flood related issues, and develop a future-oriented approach to floodplain management. According to FEMA, a well-prepared plan will:

1) Complete a comprehensive review of possible activities and mitigation measures to ensure that the most appropriate solutions are used to address floodplain hazards.
2) Recommend activities that meet the goals and objectives of the community, are not in conflict with other activities, and are coordinated with departments and agencies to ensure efficiency and comprehensiveness.
3) Educate the public about flooding hazards, mitigation measures, and natural benefits of floodplains.
4) Build public and political support for the implementation of the plan and for projects that prevent new problems, reduce losses and protect the natural functions and benefits of floodplains in addition.

The preparation of the FMP requires a ten-step planning process that takes place in three distinct phases. These phases and steps are:

Phase 1 - Planning Process
- Organize and prepare the plan
- Involve the public
- Coordinate others
Phase 2 - Risk Assessment
- Assess the hazard
- Assess the problem

Phase 3 - Mitigation Strategy
- Set goals
- Review possible activities
- Mitigation strategy
- Adopt the plan
- Plan maintenance

Public involvement in the development of the FMP is critical in creating a comprehensive and well thought-out plan. Gathering input and hearing suggestions from the public greatly assists the City address known flood areas, hazards, and finding efficient ways to address community needs. The City worked hard throughout the planning process to ensure that a wide spectrum of geographies and populations were involved in the development of the 2009 FMP, which is being updated from the FMP that was developed in 2001.

The sections below describe the steps that were taken and outreach that was conducted to involve the public in the FMP planning process. Additionally, below sections provide an analysis of the results that were found from the public outreach efforts.

1.2 **Floodplain areas of the City**

There are many areas throughout the City of Los Angeles that fall into FEMA designated floodplains. Map 1 below shows the City’s boundaries with the major floodplain areas designated by FEMA.
Map 1 - City of Los Angeles Boundaries indicating FEMA designated floodplains
Map 2 - The Geographic Distribution of Citizen FMP Committee Members
Section 2  Approach: Public Involvement

2.1 Overview of Public Involvement in the 2009 FMP

The National Flood Insurance Program recognizes the importance of public information and participation in developing Floodplain Management Plans and updates. The City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, as the administrative agency for the City of Los Angeles, was committed to including the public, maximizing public awareness and understanding, and providing open two-way communication with the public about the plan and its development. The City has maximized the involvement of the public - in outreach and the FMP Planning Committee - throughout the 2009 FMP development process.

The participation of the public was crucial in the development of the 2009 Floodplain Management Plan (FMP). In order to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible, the City pursued many avenues of outreach including forming a planning committee to oversee the development of the plan, conducting presentations to neighborhood councils throughout the City for information and community input, distributing a questionnaire to stakeholders in and near floodplains to ask for their input and ideas, providing a hotline for stakeholders to call, and creating a regularly updated website with all updates on the plan, including notification of upcoming meetings.

The extensive outreach efforts yielded valuable input for the development of the updated plan from stakeholders. It allowed for the planning committee and the public to review and revise the 2001 FMP to reflect current issues and hazards. It also yielded suggested solutions to many of the noted hazard and problem areas in the City. Some of the suggestions are listed in Section 3 of this report.

Overall, public involvement in the planning of the 2009 FMP included the distribution of 56,525 questionnaires, presentations to over 25 neighborhood councils, and six meetings of the Planning Committee to oversee the planning process. The below sections further discuss the specificities of outreach efforts for the 2009 FMP.

2.2 FMP Planning Committee

The development, modification and revision of the FMP are accomplished through the oversight and supervision of an FMP Planning Committee and under the direction of a professional engineer. In order to facilitate information sharing and develop greater awareness of flooding issues within Los Angeles, and understanding that FEMA places a high priority on the establishment of such a committee to facilitate the development of an FMP, the Bureau of Engineering with the assistance of consultant formed a Planning Committee for
the 2009 FMP planning process. The Planning Committee consisted of both citizen and City members from diverse backgrounds and interests.

2.2.1 Planning Committee Membership

To determine who would be a part of the Planning Committee, the City reviewed the Planning Committee members from the last update which took place in 2001, along with stakeholders actively involved in floodplain management and stormwater endeavors throughout the City. Agencies who would be involved in the implementation of the Plan’s programs and other persons who have a stakeholder interest in floodplain management within the City were also targeted. The City’s Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) database of residents actively involved in community issues was used and those residents in high-risk areas for flooding were also invited. High-risk areas were identified as those in FEMA designated 100-year floodplains, areas with historical complaints of flooding and drainage problems, Repetitive Loss Properties and adjacent properties, hillside and sloped areas, and areas near the coast.

From this list, Planning Committee membership was developed based on the representation of a variety of flood problem areas across the City (with a focus on high-hazard zones), a reflection of the City’s diverse population, the presence of a cross-section of stakeholder interests, and a demonstrated individual interest in floodplain management and associated issues, dedication to their community, and commitment to fully participate FMP.

A written invitation to participate as a member of the Planning Committee in the development of the 2009 plan was sent out to those persons, followed by phone and email communications to verify committed participation and interest in floodplain management. The 2009 FMP Planning Committee consists of 61 members. While 39 members participated from City departments, only 9 were voting members on the Committee. 22 members on the Committee were citizen members, and 10 members had voting rights on the Committee. Over 50% of the overall voting members were citizen members. These citizen members represented different geographical areas of the City and different cross-sections of the population including property owners and renters within 100-year floodplains, homeowner/neighbor associations, local businesses, real estate agents, engineers, developers, neighborhood council members, planners, and concerned citizens. Map 2 shows the geographic distribution of the Citizen FMP Committee members.

The other members were representatives from City departments, Boards and Bureaus, and offices that would be involved in the implementation of the plan and/or whose input was invaluable in the development of the plan. These groups included the Planning Department, Department of Water and Power, the Environmental Affairs Department, Police Department, Board of Public Works,
Department of Building and Safety, Harbor Department, General Services Department, Department of Recreation and Parks, Public Affairs Office, Office of the Mayor, all 15 City Council districts, Fire Department, Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Sanitation, and Bureau of Engineering. In addition, members were recruited from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A roster of the Planning Committee members and their affiliation is provided in Appendix 1.

2.2.2 Planning Committee Meetings and Topics Covered

The Planning Committee provided an effective forum for discussing alternatives, debating goals and objectives, and adapting the technical requirements of a program to local situations. While the Planning Committee had established voting members to move the planning process forward, each committee meeting was open to the public and provided time for public comments and input from those not on the committee. The committee meetings were publicized on the City’s FMP website (http://eng.lacity.org/projects/fmp/index.htm) in addition to being emailed to a database of those stakeholders who indicated interest.

The committee met a total of six times and each meeting was designed to discuss planning steps required by FEMA for the plan. The meeting dates and topics covered are shown below in Table 1. The meeting minutes for each meeting are included as Appendix 2 of this document.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Topic(s) Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 26, 2009</td>
<td>- Overview of FMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Role of Planning Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2, 2009</td>
<td>- Overview of FMP Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Establishment of voting members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23, 2009</td>
<td>- Assess the hazard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Assess the problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Set goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20, 2009</td>
<td>- Assess the problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Set goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Review possible activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18, 2009</td>
<td>- Set goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Identify current and possible future activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Draft action plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20, 2009</td>
<td>- Public meeting to review, discuss and receive input on Draft 2009 FMP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 Public Presentations to Los Angeles’ Neighborhood Councils

Because the City of Los Angeles is home to nearly four million residents and covers over 400 square miles, the City knew that multiple public information meetings would be necessary to reach as many stakeholders as possible. In Los Angeles there is a system of Neighborhood Councils, which function as more locally-focused entities to discuss issues related to their communities and the City of Los Angeles. For the planning process of the FMP, the City determined that more stakeholders would be able to be reached for input on the 2009 FMP by presenting the project to Neighborhood Councils as part of their regularly scheduled public meetings.

2.3.1 Background of Neighborhood Councils

Because the City is so large both in population and in geographical area, in 2001 the City Council passed the “Plan for a System of Citywide Neighborhood Councils.” Neighborhood Councils are groups of people in local communities throughout the City who come together as a governing body to act on a grassroots, local level and guide the future of their neighborhoods. Each Neighborhood Council must be certified by the City as having fulfilled certain basic requirements, but act independently by electing their own leaders, determining their own Council boundaries and setting their own agendas based on current, local issues.

The objective of such a network is to empower citizens to become active and take part in the governance of their communities. Neighborhood Councils have the ability to affect citywide and local decision-making beyond what community groups have done in the past. Neighborhood Councils have been an extremely successful example of community-based leadership in Los Angeles and have proven to be an effective way to educate and receive input on both local and citywide issues.

In total, there are 89 Certified Neighborhood Councils in the City of Los Angeles as of August 2009, many of whom have properties that fall into FEMA designated floodplains. Neighborhood Councils meet regularly and are open to the public for participation, input, and presentations. Additionally, many Neighborhood Councils had committees focused on issues like water quality, public safety, and the environment. Each Neighborhood Council has designated seats for different kinds of stakeholders such as homeowners, business owners, youth representatives, and renters. A map of the Certified and Forming Neighborhood Councils can be found below as Map 3.
Map 3 - Map of Neighborhood Councils Meeting Locations
2.3.2 Outline of Presentation and Dates Presented

In order to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible to educate them about the update of the City’s Floodplain Management Plan and ask for their input in the development of the plan, the City chose to go out to Neighborhood Councils in areas with high numbers of parcels that fall into floodplains and present information on the update of the plan. These presentations acted as public information meetings in the planning process for the FMP to obtain input on the natural hazards, problems, and possible solutions of the local area.

In all, the City went out to 30 Neighborhood Councils to present the project, receive comments, answer questions, and distribute information. A list of the Neighborhood Councils that were given presentations, the number of parcels within each Council’s boundaries that fall into a floodplain, and the date the presentation was given are below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council Name</th>
<th>Number of Parcels in a Floodplain</th>
<th>Date of Presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Arleta NC</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>4/21/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Atwater Village NC</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>5/14/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bel Air - Beverly Crest NC</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>2/25/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Chatsworth NC</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>4/1/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Coastal San Pedro NC</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>3/16/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Del Rey NC</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>3/12/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Downtown LA NC</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3/4/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. East Hollywood NC</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>2/23/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Empowerment Congress Central Area</td>
<td>2149</td>
<td>4/27/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Empowerment Congress Southeast Area</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>3/24/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Foothill Trails NC</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>3/19/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Lake Balboa NC</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>4/1/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Lincoln Heights NC</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>4/2/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Mid City NC</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>4/13/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Olympic Park NC</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>4/6/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Pacoima NC</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>5/20/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Panorama City NC</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/23/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Park Mesa Heights NC</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>4/14/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Reseda NC</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>3/2/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Silver Lake NC</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>5/6/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Studio City NC</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>3/16/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Sun Valley NC</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>6/9/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Sunland-Tujunga NC</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>3/11/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. West Adams NC</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>5/18/09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The majority of presentations were held as part of each Neighborhood Council’s general board meeting, which consisted of the Council’s board members and public stakeholders. The presentations were approximately five minutes long, followed by a period for questions and answers, and receiving comments.

The information shared at each meeting included:
1) A background of the National Flood Insurance Program and why the City participates in it
2) The background of the update of the FMP and where the City was in the process
3) The goals of the plan
4) The purpose of the presentation: to inform and solicit public input on the 2009 FMP
5) An overview of how the public can be involved in the FMP planning process
6) How to receive more information and provide comments

The meeting notes taken at each Neighborhood Council meeting that the City attended, including the questions and comments received, are included as Appendix 3 to this document.

2.4 Distribution of Questionnaires

The City utilized GIS mapping to identify high-risk areas throughout the City to distribute questionnaires regarding the 2009 FMP. Areas with numerous historical drainage complaints, historical flood claims, Special Flood Hazard Areas, Repetitive Loss Properties and adjacent properties, hillside areas (where slope is greater than or equal to six-percent), FEMA designated 100-year floodplains, and areas near the coast were identified as high-risk.

This analysis yielded 56,525 addresses that would be high-risk and should receive the questionnaire. Over 90% of those properties that lie in FEMA designated floodplains were included in this group. Additionally the City sent a more specific version of the questionnaire to those properties categorized as Repetitive Loss Properties (properties that have filed flood claims more than two times in the past ten years). There are 146 Repetitive Loss Properties in the City of Los Angeles. Map 4 below indicates the distribution of the
questionnaires to Repetitive Loss Properties and those properties considered to be high-risk properties throughout the City. The questionnaires that were sent out are included in Appendix 4.

In addition to mailing a hard copy of the questionnaire to all of the aforementioned addresses, an online version of the questionnaire was made available through the project’s website. A link was created on the project website’s main page to have stakeholders fill out the general questionnaire. The online version was available in both English and Spanish. Additionally, the link was printed in the cover letter of the hard copy questionnaire to allow another way for stakeholders to provide input and comments. Providing this option allowed for more stakeholders to be reached for input and suggestions and yielded additional responses to the questionnaire. 119 stakeholders opted to complete the questionnaire online.

Map 5 below indicates the locations of those persons who completed and returned a questionnaire to the City.

The general questionnaire asked five questions in both English and Spanish and was distributed to the addresses determined by the GIS mapping analysis. A cover letter accompanied the questionnaires explaining its purpose, a background of the FMP process and additional ways to get involved including attending Planning Committee meetings and attending local Neighborhood Council meetings where the City would be presenting. A hotline number was also provided on the questionnaires to allow stakeholders a direct line of communication with the City regarding their questions and comments about the FMP.

The questions asked on this questionnaire were:

1) Do you find that there are often flooding problems in your neighborhood?
2) What ideas do you have for the City that could help reduce flooding in your neighborhood? What goals should the City establish for the 2009 Floodplain Management Plan?
3) What recommendations do you have to increase public awareness and understanding about the hazards of flooding, ways to reduce losses, and role of floodplains in the natural environment?
4) Are you aware of the current Floodplain Management Plan’s programs and policies to reduce flooding hazards?
5) Do you have flood insurance?

The analysis of the responses to this questionnaire can be found in Section 3 below.
Map 5 - Locations of Questionnaire Responses
2.5 Website and Media Outreach

The City reached out to stakeholders through the media and a dedicated project website in addition to other means. A website was created and updated regularly specifically for the 2009 Floodplain Management Plan. It provided visitors with background information on the FMP, provided online links to fill out the questionnaire in both English and in Spanish, provided up to date information on the progress of the plan, and provided information on the Planning Committee including notifications of meetings, meeting agendas, handouts, and meeting minutes. The website for the project is http://eng.lacity.org/projects/fmp/2009fmp.htm.

Additionally, the City’s Department of Public Works, Public Affairs Office published a press release on May 5, 2009 inviting the public to participate by filling out a questionnaire or attending a local Neighborhood Council meeting in their neighborhood. This press release is included as Appendix 5.

A hotline number and City contact information was also provided for stakeholder reference to utilize in the case of questions, comments, and suggestions for the FMP.
Section 3 Results: Public Feedback and Analysis

3.1 FMP Planning Committee Meeting Summaries

The FMP Planning Committee met a total of six times to discuss and determine the programs and policies for the 2009 FMP. Over the six meetings, the Committee addressed topics such as an overview of the FMP and roles of the Planning Committee, the assessment of the hazards and problems, setting goals for the plan, reviewing possible activities for mitigation and prevention, and drafting the action plan.

3.1.1 Meeting #1 - January 26, 2009

The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the project to the participating departments and agencies, and to explain the planning process roles of the City family, related agencies and community stakeholders in the creation of the 2009 FMP. Approximately 25 people were in attendance.

3.1.2 Meeting #2 - March 2, 2009

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the FMP, establish the voting members of the Planning Committee and determine the timeline for completion of the remaining tasks. Twenty-four Planning Committee members were in attendance.

3.1.3 Meeting #3 - March 23, 2009

The purpose of this meeting was to finalize the voting members of the Planning Committee and begin the planning process for the 2009 FMP. The Committee discussed different hazard and problem areas in the City and how these areas were addressed on the Floodplain maps. 21 members were present for the meeting.

3.1.4 Meeting #4 - April 20, 2009

The purpose of this meeting was to hear from the various City and County agencies involved in the planning process for the 2009 FMP in order to determine the goals and possible activities to be included in the 2009 FMP. Additionally, the Planning Committee discusses the goals and objectives for the Committee and for the Plan in order to begin drafting an action plan. Twenty people were in attendance.

3.1.5 Meeting #5 - May 18, 2009

The purpose of this meeting was to identify current City activities, determine potential five-year activities and draft an action plan. The Committee heard
presentations from departments that work with flood protection in the City and discussed the current programs of the FMP. The Committee also discussed possible additional programs to be included in the 2009 FMP. Twenty-one people were in attendance.

3.1.6 Meeting #6 - July 20, 2009

The purpose of this meeting was to review, discuss and receive input on the Draft 2009 FMP and public outreach strategies. The Committee heard from those who conducted the public outreach efforts and what was found from these efforts. Additionally, the Committee heard from members of the public on the programs and policies included in the Draft 2009 FMP.

The official meeting agendas and minutes for each Planning Committee meeting are included as Appendix 2. They are also available online at http://eng.lacity.org/projects/fmp/index.htm

3.2 Feedback from Neighborhood Councils and Community Organizations

By meeting with Neighborhood Councils to present the project and receive input, the City was able to reach out to a much wider cross-section of the Los Angeles population. The City received important feedback from diverse communities spread out over a very large geographical area.

At each meeting, the City representative presenting the project provided a brief presentation on the update of the FMP and then asked for questions and input from those present at the meeting. On average, between 15 and 30 people were at each meeting. At many meetings, stakeholders were unaware of the policies and programs in place through the FMP and did not have any questions to ask about the development of the 2009 Plan. At others, however, audiences were well-aware of flooding issues and offered ideas for the 2009 FMP. In every meeting, audience members were encouraged to complete the 2009 Floodplain Management Questionnaire.

The majority of input received at the meetings fell into three major categories. These categories were:

1) Public education and awareness of FMP issues
2) Floodplain maps
3) Stormdrains that clog
3.2.1 Public education and awareness of FMP issues

The City found that many of the questions were related to a lack of awareness about flooding, current floodplain management practices and floodplains in general, and water issues in Los Angeles. The City received many questions about the definition of a floodplain and many recommendations for what the City could do to increase public awareness about flood prevention and hazards.

The question that was asked most often by stakeholders at these meetings was “what is a floodplain?” or “where do we have floodplains in Los Angeles?” This question indicates that many people in the general public are unaware of flood hazards in Los Angeles and unaware of the programs and policies in place for flood prevention by the City. Many questions related to this focused on further explanation of the FMP and explanation of the need for flood insurance in a place that is technically a desert climate. Going to the Neighborhood Councils gave the City the opportunity to provide the basic information and help increase awareness.

Another question that was asked at virtually every meeting that the City attended was “how many parcels in our Neighborhood Council district fall into a floodplain?” This question was easily answered as presenters always had this figure available for the particular Neighborhood Council, though most were surprised by how many parcels actually were considered to be in a floodplain.

Many people commented that having this information easily available through the City - either in hard copy or through a website - would be very helpful in educating people about flooding in the City since it appears that few people are aware of how many properties actually fall into floodplains. Additionally, it was recommended at some meetings to work with the Neighborhood Councils to educate the public about some easy steps that can be taken to prevent flooding in local neighborhoods.

Many stakeholders also recommended that the City work within its different departments to ensure that flood prevention measures would be integrated into projects related to stormwater and water quality.

3.2.2 Mapping

The second most frequently heard comment at the Neighborhood Council meetings was the need to re-evaluate and update the designated floodplain maps for the City. Many asked questions about the accuracy of the current maps and of a need for floodplain designations at all. Most who commented about the floodplain mapping for the City felt that the maps were inaccurate since they had not been updated for many years.
Related to the need for a reevaluation of the maps, another question asked was the availability of maps showing specific properties that fall into floodplains. Those who asked these questions felt that the accessibility of this information could be better and asked that the maps be posted clearly on the City’s website for review and understanding by the general public.

Additionally, many stakeholders who did have properties in a floodplain felt that their property should not be in a floodplain as they had never had any flooding issues. This relates to the above comment of reevaluating the floodplain maps for the City.

3.2.3 Stormdrains

The other main category of questions and suggestions at Neighborhood Council meetings referred to the need for better upkeep of the City’s stormdrain system and the request that the stormdrain system be expanded to accommodate the large storms that come through periodically. More specifically, comments suggested that the City provide more street sweeping or more regular cleaning of the catch basins to ensure that they are free of debris and clogging that would cause flooding to streets and neighborhoods.

The input received during presentations to Neighborhood Councils throughout the City was extremely valuable to the outreach process. The questions that were asked and suggestions that were received were constructive in assisting the City develop the 2009 FMP. The meeting notes from each Neighborhood Council meeting are included as Appendix 3.

3.3 Responses to Questionnaires

Questionnaires were distributed by direct mail and at public meetings. The questionnaire was written in English and Spanish. The public was also informed they could provide input by completing the City’s web-based survey (also in English and Spanish) available through SurveyMonkey.com.

The questionnaire asked for public input on five questions:

*Question 1. Do you find that there are often flooding problems in your neighborhood after large storms?*

*Question 2. What ideas do you have for the City that could help reduce flooding in your neighborhood? What goals should the City establish for the 2009 Floodplain Management Plan?*
Question 3. What recommendations do you have to increase public awareness and understanding of the hazards of flooding, ways to reduce losses and role of floodplains in the natural environment?

Question 4. Are you aware of the current Floodplain Management Plan’s programs and policies to reduce flooding hazards?

Question 5. Do you currently have flood insurance?

3.3.1 Responses to question #1

Question #1 asked: “Do you find that there are often flooding problems in your neighborhood after large storms?”

- Total Responses: 1237
- Yes: 459
- No: 778

Do you find that there are often flooding problems in your neighborhood after large storms?

For those who answered yes, they were asked to also describe the type of problem that occurred most often and to tell the location of the flooding, hazards and/or other pertinent information.

The majority of responses were concerning four types of flooding or flood related hazards. These four categories were mudslides or erosion, clogged or not working stormdrains, flooding from drainage channels, and street flooding.
3.3.1.1 Mudslides and Erosion

Comments received concerning mudslides and erosion were focused around the grading on the responders property or on adjacent properties that caused erosion or slippage of land during storms.

3.3.1.2 Stormdrains

Many respondents commented on the inability or lack of stormdrains in their neighborhood to handle the heavy flow that occurs during a large storm. A sample of comments received in this category include:

1) “Clogged stormdrains”
2) “Gutters fill with debris and cannot move water”
3) “Covers on stormdrains block water from flowing into stormdrain”
4) “Drains are constantly blocked”
5) “No stormdrains”
6) “Water flow impeded by debris in gutters”

3.3.1.3 Flooding from Drainage Channels

Of 464 respondents, 146 mentioned “drainage channel flooding” as a significant issue in their neighborhood or on their property. Locations of specific drainage channel flooding are included in Section 3.3.1.5 below on the list of comments with specific locations.

3.3.1.4 Street Flooding

Regarding street flooding, responses ranged from simply stating that street flooding occurs to identifying specific locations where significant flooding occurs during or after storms. A list of the comments related to specific locations of street flooding is below.

3.3.1.5 Public Reporting of locations of street or storm drain channel flooding

1) Corner of Simshaw Ave. & Gridley St., the street drain screens become clogged and flooding is immediate.
2) Around the corner from Chalon Rd. is a pond that develops in the street. During severe storms my house floods downstairs to which point, I have had to install french drains.
3) Street flooding on Hillcrest Blvd. from Don Milagro Dr. to MLK Drive
4) Corner of Los Feliz Blvd. and New Hampshire Ave., northside. Storm drains back-up and flood
5) Street flooding on Ledgewood Dr. in Hollywood Hills during heavy storms
6) Street flooding @ Loadstone Dr. and Stone Canyon Ave in Sherman Oaks
7) Street flooding at Van Nuys Blvd. & Sherman Oaks Ave.
8) Street flooding on Winnetka Ave., Ventura Blvd. & Topeka Dr. after heavy rains
9) Haines Canyon & Topanga Canyon. Foothill intersection
10) Flooding at Burbank Blvd. & Hayvenhurst Ave.
11) Street & drainage channel flooding on Beverly Glen Blvd. & Knobhill Dr.
12) Speedway between Top Sail Lane and Lighthouse Way
13) Flooding on Sunland Ave. near Glen Oaks Blvd and then along Glen Oaks traveling south
14) Street flooding Roscoe near Goldwater and underpass
15) Street flooding at Fryman Rd. & Dona Cecilia Dr. at corner. Fryman Rd. & Oakdell Ln. at corner
16) Mud/debris in gutters near intersection of Maltman & Effie
17) Storm drain in front of 9424 La Reina PI
18) Street flooding, need more storm drains. Deerbrook Lane
19) Street flooding - Bundy Canyon between Chalon Rd. & Norman Place.
20) Fryman Rd. & Dona Maria Dr. corner debris also upper part of Fryman Rd.
21) Hart St. between Winnetka Ave. and Oso Streets becomes a river.
22) Winnetka Ave. south of Wells in Woodland Hills. Also intersection of Ventura Blvd. & Oakdale.
23) Street flooding at Zachau Debris basin & Seven Hills Dr.
24) Drainage/street flooding. Laurel Canyon Blvd. between 101 and Ventura Blvd., etc.
25) Street flooding on Will Rogers State Park Rd. inadequate storm drains.
26) Drainage channel flooding at the north end of Beverly Ridge Dr.
27) Intersection of Ellenview Ave & Calvert St.
28) Incomplete drainage into storm drain during heavy rains. Fountain of runoff coming up from Hillside manhole covers at Rodgerton Dr. & Ledgewood Dr.
29) Street drainage ditch on north side of D'Else Drive due to inadequate openings under driveway overpasses & loose vegetation.
30) Surface street flooding at intersections off of Roscoe Blvd. from Valley Circle to De Soto Ave..
31) Griffen Ave. between Montecito Dr. and Ave. 52 drainage gets clogged up & street floods
32) Flooding after EVERY rain on Speedway St., Mast St., Outrigger and Privateer.
33) Street & drainage channel flooding. Intersection at Clear View Dr. & Benedict Canyon Dr.
34) Gutter on odd numbered side of Meadow Valley Terrace overflows onto the sidewalk and into some properties
35) Laurel Canyon Blvd. floods & mudslides in rainy season.
36) Storm drain catch basin at the SE corner of Valley Meadow Rd. & Sepulveda Blvd. doesn't stop much of the water.
37) Hayvenhurst Dr. lots of standing water in street.
38) Flood waters come down Hillrose St. between Tujunga Canyon Blvd.
39) Storm drain on Revello Dr.
40) SW corner of Ventura Blvd. & Petit Ave. heavy drainage undermines paving and the road is torn up.
41) Street flooding @ Platt St. & Sherman Way, drains get clogged
42) Cotter Place always has water in the street
43) Drainage at corner of Foothill Blvd. & Maclay St. in front of Chevron station that has been clogged for a long time.
44) Mud & debris on Mulholland Drive and Calneva Dr.
45) 19th St & Alma Street when it rains.
46) Corner of 37th Street & Leland St. No drains for water.
47) Encino Ave. north of Ventura Blvd. has no drainage into the sewers.
48) All four corners of Echo Park Ave. & Sunset Blvd. Drains are clogged with trash and smell is very bad.
49) North side of Los Feliz Blvd. between New Hampshire Ave & Berendo St, East side of Vermont Ave.
50) Foothill Blvd., Sunland/Tujunga
51) Cadman Dr. from Griffith Park horse trail.
52) Where Glenalbyn Dr. dead ends at San Rafael Ave. at the top of Mt. Washington
53) Excessive water gets into the power vault at intersection of Hillcrest Dr. & Don Diablo Dr. causing power outages
54) Lack of storm drain on Park Ave. & Spring Oak Dr.
55) Street flooding at Main St. intersections (Burbank Blvd, Magnolia Blvd, Oxnard Blvd & Victory Blvd)
56) Burbank Blvd. & Roscoe Blvd. street flooding
57) Street flooding @ SE corner of 64th St. and St. Andrews Place
58) Commonwealth Ave. and Dundee Dr.
59) North of Sunset, Bundy Drive becomes a river
60) Street flooding at Ventura Blvd & Vineland Ave
61) Drainage channel at Ellen & La Tuna Canyon.
62) Cul de sac at 11500 block of Jeff Ave. street flooding
63) Ventura Blvd. & Whitsett Ave. intersection street flooding.
64) York Blvd. near Eagle Rock Blvd. street flooding
65) Chalon Rd. onto Bellagio Rd. street flooding
66) The corner of Griffith Park Blvd. & Scotland St. – street flooding
67) Street flooding - Ventura Blvd. between Coldwater Canyon and Tujunga Blvd.
68) Flooding under bridges on Silverlake Blvd. under Sunset Blvd., Hoover St. bridge. Lots of other areas.
69) Street flooding - Tujunga Canyon at the golf course curve. Clean the drains more often
70) SE corner of Foothill Blvd. & Pinewood St. gets flooded.
71) Gutters on W. side of Vestal, S. side of Cerro Gordo were at the top of the deluge on Echo Park Ave.
72) Heavy flooding at the NE corner of Balboa Blvd. & Saticoy St. Corner of Oak Park Ave. & Saticoy St. when it rains.
73) Prop. Flooding at Wild Oak Dr. & Dell Oak Dr. intersection as well as mud sliding near 2511 Wild Oak Dr.
74) Griffin St. & Montecito Drive street floods.
75) 221st Street & Halldale Avenue floods to top of curves on all four corners
76) Storm drain restricted due to broken asphalt & tree debris. Hollywood Hills Rd. & Sunset Crest Dr. was never resurfaced, just potholes.
77) Landslides at Tramonto Dr. going down to PCH and Porto Marina
78) Catch basin at SE corner of 2955 Hollyridge Dr. that gets plugged
79) Corner of St. Esteban St. & Haines Canyon has street flooding
80) Flooding at Foothill Blvd., Oro Vista Ave. and many side streets have flooding
81) St. flooding at Mt. Gleason Ave. just south of Wentworth St. intersection. Also at Tujunga Canyon Blvd. north of intersection with Hillrose St.
82) No stormdrains on Tujunga Ave. from Roscoe Blvd. south to Strathern. Major problems from Penrose landfill.
83) St. flooding at corner of Lehigh & Bradley, standing water at Sheldon Ave. & Rincon Blvd.
84) Street flooding at Sepulveda Blvd. between Mulholland Drive & Getty Center Drive
85) 31st Street & Carolina street has street flooding.
86) Drainage channel flooding at Simshaw Ave. & Gridley St. is covered with vegetation & doesn't drain.
87) Intersection at Jubilo Dr. & Paseo Nuevo water stands
88) Flooding where Pali Ave. runs into Tujunga Canyon.
89) Lindley Ave. & CSUN street flooding
90) No storm catch basins between the 800 to 900 block of N. Kenter Ave.
91) Corner of Foothill Blvd. & Wheatland Ave. "runoff" flows thru canyon
92) 10900 block north side of Exposition Blvd.
93) Street flooding that causing property flooding. Locations Buccaneer, 30th, 29th and Speedway.
94) Property flooding, neighbors bldg. non-code & non-permitted masonry walls
95) Street flooding on Los Feliz Blvd. east of Ferndale Ave.
96) Hayvenhurst Dr. at Lanai Rd. - SE corner & Hayvenhurst Dr. east of the corner.
97) No storm drains near 3800 block of Stone Canyon Ave. Water is high during rainy season
98) Street flooding on Hayvenhurst Dr. during heavy rain. Location 101
99) Freeway near Hayvenhurst Dr. exit and 405 Freeway going west/north

Flooding occurs at intersections of Coliseum St. & Sycamore St., Redondo, Alsace, Cloverdale, Cochran, Duray and Ridgeley. The storm drains are clogged or too small.

100) Tujuanca Canyon above & below Foothill Blvd., Apperson St. heading down towards Commerce Ave. and beyond.

101) Tujuanca Canyon close to the 210 Freeway.

102) Valley Circle in Lake Manor between Box Canyon and Plumber

103) Rancho between White Oak and Louise has street flooding

104) Griffith Park Blvd., Hyperion Ave., Vermont Ave. all have street flooding issues. Streets below hillsides collect water

105) Corner of Hillrose & Tujuanca Canyon all the hillside runoff floods this intersection.

106) Areas of Sepulveda Blvd. (near Burbank) and on Ventura Blvd.

107) Water flows down hill from surrounding mountains

108) Need curbs & gutters at 7100 block of Summitrose St.

109) Trees are blocking a storm drain in the area of 16100 of Alcima Ave

110) Glenoaks Ave. and Sunland Blvd. due to poor drainage

111) Harbor Blvd, Swenson to 4th; Channel St. and Gaffey St flooding

112) From Day St. down to Apperson St. with water build-up on Apperson St. between Sherman Grove and McVine St.

113) Russett Ave and Apperson St. has street flooding

114) Intersection of Benedict Canyon Dr. & Hutton Dr. has street flooding.

115) Stanley Hills Dr. and Wyndham Rd. has street flooding

116) San Vincente St. & S. Sawtelle St. corner floods

117) Huge puddles on Wells Dr. between Van Alden & Topeka Dr.

118) Meadville Dr. has street flooding in the 3600 block.

119) 157th St. between Vermont Ave. and Bonsello particularly at Orchard St. & 157th St. has street flooding

120) Water overflows the manhole on Cahuenga Blvd. & Broadlawn Dr. Property flooding at 3709 Broadlawn Dr.

121) Drainage channel flooding in front of 3713 Royal Woods Dr.

122) Corner of Glenalbyn Rd. & San Rafael Blvd. has street flooding.

123) 3600 Block of Lavell Dr. has street flooding


125) Mud/water flows into the street from vacant lost on 3700 block of Aguilar St.

126) Amigo St. between Van Owen Blvd. and Lemay St. has street flooding

127) Street flooding on Saticoy Ave. between Balboa Blvd. and White Oak Blvd. and also on Paso Robles Ave

128) 16100 block of Northfield St. has street and sewer drain problems

129) The LADWP "vault" on sidewalk up from Chastain Pkwy. West floods.

130) Alene Dr. and Hillhaven Rd. has street flooding
131) Live @ bottom of a hill - 31st. & Carolina water pours downhill from above Gaffey St. straight up my driveway. Floods backyard and garage
132) Foothill Blvd. just north of 210 freeway. And just east of Wheatland Blvd. has street flooding
133) Intersection of St. Estaban & Haines Canyon gets flooded.
134) Reseda Blvd. south of Tarzana St. floods in every rain storm
135) Drains around Hawaiian Ave. School don't take the water fast enough.
136) Ackerman going to Toland Way needs better drainage channel flooding
137) Street and property flooding at 8511 Brier Dr.
138) Street flooding at Knollwood Drive and Hagen Place and also at Knollwood Dr. and Gerald
139) Flooding at La Barca Dr. and Vanalden Ave.
140) Across Altman and Riverside Dr. has street flooding
141) Standing water at the intersection of Durand St. and Heather Dr
142) On Speedway & Buccaneer St. the drain floods
143) Street flooding on Normandie Ave. and Gage Ave. west bound.
144) Reseda Blvd. south of Ventura Blvd. (between Balboa Blvd. and 405 Freeway) has street flooding
145) Water and mud from property behind 11258 Jacinto Ave caused flooding
146) Drainage channel flooding on corner of St. Andrews St. and 66th Streets
147) Benedict Canyon Dr. and Hutton Drive has street flooding
148) At intersection at Chandler Blvd. & Laurel Canyon Blvd.
149) Sunnyslope Ave. and Ventura Blvd has street flooding
150) 1500 block on W. 61st between Denker and Halldale Ave. has street flooding
151) Hanna Ave. & Michael St. has street flooding
152) Corner of Beverly Glen & Knobhill Dr. mud & debris
153) Northside of Harvard Park by the swimming pool on 61st.
154) Oro Vista St. between Foothill & Hillrose St., Sunland always floods in lt. rain.
155) Intersection of Quail Dr. & Pheasant St.
156) Montlake Dr. around Lake Hollywood two areas where rainwater sits on the street
157) Street flooding on Wren Dr. & Museum Dr. after heavy storms
158) Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Haddon St. has street flooding causing pot holes
159) On the east corner of 64th at Halldale after heavy rains we have water puddles. Level the street.
160) Street flooding - on the north end of the 4700 block of Woodside Dr. (90042), the concrete folds in (it's cracked) and water will sit for a week or more after heavy rain fall.
161) My specific section of the block floods the street in big pools of water in several areas. There are no drains and the angle of the hill does not grade down in areas but lies almost flat encouraging pooling. Latrobe Street is the ONLY street that has not received attention since it was first
laid. We have buckling, cracking, bumps, pooling issues, potholes, you name it.

162) Frequently there is a power outage after heavy, and sometimes even moderate rains. 1700 Block Redcliff St.

163) Street flooding on Griffin Ave between Montecito Drive and Ave 52. Always after a hard rain the drain gets plugged. Also at 1476 and 1477 Montecito Drive there is no storm drain at the cul-de-sac so water runoff goes into a number of properties at the downward slope of the hill.

164) We have street flooding along Speedway between Washington St. to the North and Yawl St. to the South has several locations due to several factors. 1. The storm drains are clogged with sand 2. The street is not level and has low stops so it does not drain to the storm drain. Even if the storm drain were to work there is still flooding/major ponding of water in the street. The city knows and has to send pump trucks after every rain to pump the water.

165) Street flooding on Tramonto Drive because all rain water flows to that street where stormdrains are sometimes blocked by debris--leaves. Tramonto Drive in Pacific Palisades between Bellino Drive and Revello Drive (at the bridge) needs better engineering to handle runoff.

166) I live on Loadstone Drive off of Stone Canyon Ave. in Sherman Oaks. During heavy rains the drainage is not adequate. The entire street can become impassable. Without a four-wheel drive vehicle it can be dangerous or impossible to drive up my street during storms.

167) At Mulholland Dr. and Valmar Rd. in Woodland Hills, there is a large drain at the curb which is generally blocked by debris runoff from further up the hill.

168) Rosita Street gets flooded and makes cars hydroplane dangerously. Also, Ventura Blvd. gets flooded with water over the curbs.

169) Street flooding, significant debris flows in the street accumulating on private property and around parked cars. Constant groundwater run off erodes the street and makes it virtually impossible to maintain. At intersection of Oakshire Drive and Passmore Drive, Los Angeles, 90068.

170) The problem area is on Laurel Grove just South of Cantura Street, west side of the street, Studio City. The street has standing water more then 250 days per year. The area is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which carry the west Nile virus and other diseases. This ongoing problem has existed for many years.

171) There is typically flooding towards the lower portions of Westridge Ave. (below Bayliss), most especially by the narrow bridge and along the steep hillside. After a strong storm the hillside can drop a lot of debris onto the street making it very hazardous to drive, especially at night. Further down Westridge Ave., and just up from Mandaville, is an alley that washes a lot of water onto Westridge too and can create difficult driving conditions.

172) Both Paseo Miramar & Lucero Ave. lack proper maintenance and drainage. Both streets get flooded and are in desperate need of
rebuilding. The streets are used as drainage, but cannot handle the volume of water. As such, there are safety hazards for both human beings and homes.

173) Street flooding due to runoff from Griffith Park Blvd. via the Commonwealth Canyon gate.

174) Moorpark Ave. is always flooded during big storms. It becomes a veritable river. Also, I used to live in the hills and our street flooded terribly with water running into all the garages on the street.

175) Massive amounts of runoff come down Loadstone and Stone Canyon. The intersection of the two streets can have as much as 10 inches deep of fast rushing water.

176) Earth slippage & mud slides in the Kenter Canyon area in the mountains. North of Sunset Blvd. west of the 405 freeway.

177) Restore Arroyo Seco to its original river status to slow river down in storm conditions

178) Down the hill on Roscoe Blvd. & San Fernando Rd. Tujunga Canyon below Foothill Blvd. is a river.

179) Canoga Ave. between Panthensa St. down to Saticoy St.

180) Woodlake Ave from Fallbrook to Ventura Blvd.

181) Lots of runoff down Hillrose at Commerce/Seven Hills Drive

3.3.2 Responses to Question #2

Question #2 asked: “What ideas do you have for the City that could help reduce flooding in your neighborhood? What goals should the City establish for the 2009 Floodplain Management Plan?”

Of 769 surveys that provided responses to this question, five major categories of ideas and recommendations became apparent. These categories are:

1. Planning and Zoning Regulation
2. Engineering and Construction Recommendations
3. Maintenance Recommendations
4. Public Awareness and Education
5. Miscellaneous

The ideas that were recommended for each of the above categories are summarized below.

3.3.2.1 Planning and Zoning Regulation

98 people offered ideas related to planning and zoning regulations such as:

1) “Completely restudy the drainage patterns of the City and re-evaluate the floodplain maps.”
2) “Currently, developers have been allowed to create drainage plans flowing the stormwater on to the street. Require the drainage to be connected to the stormwater system under the street.”
3) “Don’t allow development in floodplains.”
4) “Hillside building codes and ordinances for landslide areas need to be established.”
5) “More careful review of building plans for new and/or major re-building. Many flood issues seem to be caused by new construction.”
6) “Take into account the detrimental effects new construction might have on the neighbors below in hillside neighborhoods. Require all new properties to install storm drain systems concurrently with any construction that might alter water flow.”
7) “The City should inspect properties for proper runoff and ensure that ordinances for drainage are complied with.”
8) “Ensure that the streets used for runoff can withstand the flooding and serve their purpose as drains. It seems to me that much of the problems could be reduced through the use of below street crossover drains and new curbs. The streets’ dilapidated conditions are a major cause of the flooding problems.”

3.3.2.2 Engineering and Construction Recommendations

214 responses were received regarding engineering and construction recommendations to assist in reducing flood problems and hazards.

Overwhelmingly, these responses were around the issue of needing additional catch basins throughout the City. Another major topic of recommendations in relation to the need for additional catch basins was the call for better drainage through the re-engineering of roads and the City’s underground storm drain system. These recommendations included:

1) “Add more drains and keep them clean.”
2) “Bigger storm drains to accommodate rain from the upper hill levels.”
3) “Correct improperly designed storm drains and regrade uneven streets to correct rain runoff.”
4) “City should establish catch basins under empty lots so that the water can go through them and get filtered into groundwater.”
5) “Higher curbs to retain flowing water or install under street storm drains.”
6) “Engineer a below-ground drainage system in the street.”
7) “Install more storm drains on hillsides before the water gets all the way down to the flat ground and floods the streets with mud and debris.”
8) “Need more storm drains and a way to collect the runoff for conservation purposes.”
9) “Fill potholes to reduce the amount of standing water in the streets after it rains.”
3.3.2.3 Maintenance Recommendations

246 offered ideas related to maintenance. The majority of the responses were regarding the upkeep and cleaning of the current storm drains throughout the City, however many other ideas were put forth in the questionnaires that were submitted like:

1) “Better scheduled maintenance of neighborhood storm drains and responsiveness to homeowners inquiries and requests.”
2) “Clear blocked storm drains, especially those that have been blocked for many years.”
3) “Create a more regular maintenance schedule and maintenance plan for the drainage channel.”
4) “Keep storm drains clear with regular street sweeping. Keep storm drains clean and streets in good repair. This will help greatly with flood issues.”
5) “Remove dirt before and after rains along narrow roads and streets that are prone to slides.”
6) “Clear out the trees and brush in the LA River more frequently to prevent flooding in major storms.”

3.3.2.4 Public Awareness and Education

67 responses offered ideas for ways the City can increase public awareness and education about flood related hazards, flood prevention and stormwater capture. These responses included:

1) “Create a ‘Plant a Plant Day’ to help stop erosion, provide understanding and increase awareness.”
2) “Educate people through an intensive program of door to door outreach - include information about not throwing trash in the streets and enforcement of related laws.”
3) “Address neighborhood specific concerns through targeted mailers or by working with neighborhood councils.”
4) “Have newscasters caution drivers about going through flooded areas and flood safety.”
5) “Help homeowners with ideas to capture rainwater rather than drain it into the streets.”
6) “Notify residents that curbs need to be kept clear of dirt and provide them with information about how to contact the City if needed.”
7) Increase public awareness through education in schools and through the news media.”
8) “Use inserts in Department of Water & Power bills as a way to reach out individually to residents and business owners.”
9) “Create a hotline to call when there are flooding issues.”

3.3.2.5 Miscellaneous

Additionally, 48 comments were received that were unrelated to the question.

3.3.3 Responses to Question #3

Question #3 asked: “What recommendations do you have to increase public awareness and understanding of the hazards of flooding, ways to reduce losses and role of floodplains in the natural environment?”

Of the 1,256 questionnaires that were completed, approximately half took the opportunity to provide suggestions for improving floodplain management in Los Angeles. Suggestions fell roughly into five general categories:

1. Public Education and Awareness (Responses targeted education as the key to helping the public understand and/or take individual responsibility for flood prevention where possible) -- Many different ways of educating and involving the public about solutions that inform individuals what they can do to prevent flooding and protect themselves during flood events; in most cases, the suggested public education would advise people on what they should do on their own properties to prevent flooding in the neighborhoods (318 suggestions).

2. Flood Prevention and Best Management Practices (Responses assumed immediately taking Individual responsibility) -- Things that people could do on their own properties to prevent flooding in the neighborhoods; these were often Best Management Practices that the City’s Watershed Protection Division public education group is currently advising (44 suggestions).

3. Planning, Zoning, and Regulations -- The use of planning and zoning restrictions to prevent future building in flood zones and on hillsides, and giving fines to people who obstruct or otherwise cause flooding (34 suggestions).

4. Public Works Programs -- Things the City of Los Angeles should do that are already the responsibilities of the Department of Public Works: maintenance, engineering, enforcement, developing plans for recycling urban and stormwater runoff, and others (95 suggestions).
5. **Miscellaneous** -- People took the opportunity to insert questions, and comments unrelated to the question (44 “other” comments).

The following summarizes the suggestions in the four relevant categories of responses to the question of how to increase public awareness and understanding related to the City of Los Angeles Floodplain Management Plan.

### 3.3.3.1 Suggestions Related to Public Education and Community Involvement

More than 300 suggestions related to public education and community involvement. Highlights of these responses are:

**Methods of communication recommended:**

1) 76 recommended the use of television and public service announcements to get out important basic information

2) 19 recommended publicizing information through newspapers and/or media campaigns

3) 96 recommended mailing printed informational materials; many of these mentioned sending targeted mailings to residents and businesses within flood prone areas

4) 48 recommended face-to-face communications through community meetings, presentations to Neighborhood Councils and homeowner/residents associations, participation in local events, and local cleanups or beautification projects

5) 14 suggested school programs and/or sending information home with students

6) 25 recommended putting up signs in areas that are prone to flooding, and many of these said to use the signs to not only warn the public of the potential for floods, but also to educate about floodplain management messages

7) 32 suggested using electronic communications, like websites, email blasts, Twitter, YouTube, and social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, MySpace)
8) 3 recommended a hotline for the public to call to report flood-related problems or related problems like a build-up of litter and debris

9) Several respondents recommended communications in multiple languages, primarily English, Spanish, and Armenian

“Think Outside the Box” Recommendations

The following “outside the box” ideas were submitted in response to this question:

1) “Classes for Real Estate brokers.”
2) “Get the Boy Scouts (Eagle and Hornaday projects) to help you free of charge. (Note: this suggestion was related to implementing Best Management Practices that promote soil and water conservation.)
3) “Educate everyone living in L.A. Make it mandatory to attend informational meetings or pay a fine.”
4) “On-line training and education program.”
5) “Create pools or cavities to store rain water.”
6) “Have insurance companies notify residents if they are in a floodplain.”
7) “Hold more meetings at Bolton Hall and have great speakers.”
8) “Implement ideas on http://expogreenway.org/Education.htm”
9) “Mailer once a year, before the rainy season starts.”
10) “The Mayor should have fireside chats on TV.”
11) “Inform insurance agents so they can inform the public.”
12) “Huell Howser on PBS.”
13) “Run 30-second infomercials on Channel 2.”
14) “Save a tree and stop mailings like this one.”
15) “Schedule emergency information workshops in flood prone areas.”
16) “Send (flood information) notice along with annual brush clearing notification.”
17) “Post information in schools, colleges, public places like the post office.”
18) “Produce a documentary film for TV and schools which demonstrate (things you can do to protect against flooding.)”
19) “Use peer-to-peer sharing methods (YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, MySpace).”
20) “TreePeople does a good job of informing people.”
21) “Work with HOA’s in the canyon area. Learn from the past.”
Many questionnaire respondents suggested key messages that informational materials or campaigns would emphasize.

**Recommended messages:**

1) “Circulate maps to show communities that would be threatened by flooding. Provide more education and resource information.”
2) “Connect flooding to issues of sustainability, drought, and water supply. Advise/educate the public that flooding is a waste of our water resources.”
3) “Connect the dots between litter and storm drains.”
4) “Control vegetation. Seed with well-chosen plants that promote soil and water conservation.”
5) “Educate people about keeping drains free of debris.”
6) “Educate people about not throwing trash in the streets.”
7) “Education and rebates for rain-sensitive irrigation controllers.”
8) “Education re: dangers of uphill water seepage into unstable hillsides.”
9) “Flyer with photo of flood damaged homes, etc.”
10) “For areas that have a greater risk of flooding, a brochure can be mailed describing the potential dangers from floods and how to help minimize damage to property and loss of life.”
11) “For hillside properties, give information on types of plants and vegetation that can protect hillsides.”
12) “Have (DPW) check streets and areas and communicate with the residents in that area (flyers) on the particular issues for that area; not a blanket mailer.” (Provide site-specific information.)
13) “Have a program where the property owners would be notified if flooding is expected.”
14) “Have the insurance companies notify residents if they are in a floodplain.”
15) “I believe it’s important to notify residents of neighborhoods what the different local floodplain levels are, and why they are so designated. Also, any changes to floodplain designations should be made known to residents, particularly if a zone level is modified.”
16) “(There) should be some form of indication in the property disclosures if the City is aware of a flooding problem.”
17) “I would happily sign up for regular email updates from the bureau on topics like cleaning in front of our homes and how this could reduce flooding.”
18) “Individual property owners must be made aware of the natural water course on their property and adjacent properties.”
19) “Provide incentives to recycle and divert water to landscaping and trees.”
20) “Let the public know where to call when there is a problem.”
21) “Mail out flyers letting people know where the most flooding occurs. Also, distribute information about where to get and when to use sand bags.”
22) “New residents are often unaware of potential dangers. Perhaps TV films of past floods would help inform people of danger.”
23) “Make sure people know their pesticides, herbicides, etc. contaminate runoff water and make it (the water) toxic.”
24) “Media campaigns with a more local message (i.e., related to LA city) as opposed to just relating storm drains to the ocean, mudslides and flooding with coastal mountain areas.”
25) “Meet and greet with the (Council District) representative with colorful handouts explaining what a flood plain is and other related topics.”
26) “Escape routes for at-risk areas.”
27) “Neighborhood meeting to re-landscape hilly areas. Contain underground streams.”
28) “Teach children at school about the danger of running water and to drive slowly.”
29) “Tell the individual cost to each resident to clean up existing channels.”
30) “Inform insurance agents so they can inform the public.”
31) “TV program by the City to cover elementary geology factor.”
32) “Publicize connection between flooding and the destruction of asphalt on city streets leading to potholes.”
33) “Put all flooding problems on AM radio (dedicated station) and on a website that broadcasts continuing updates on any/all problems in Los Angeles.”
34) “It seems that most people don’t know that flood is not a standard covered peril on their homeowners insurance and that a flood insurance policy must be purchased in order to have coverage for flooding.”
35) “Release traffic accident statistics.”
36) “Send a list of ordinances. Many homeowners want to follow the rules.”
37) “Send out annual flyers like they do for brush clearance.”
38) “Discourage concrete in new construction. Encourage landscaping that helps hold water on – site.”
39) “Signage and information on native plants that can be used to secure hillsides.”
40) “People should be informed that illegal parking can block access to emergency vehicles and delay evacuation of residents.”
41) “Property values decrease in flood areas.”
42) “PSA’s with specific suggestions, like DWP’s 5-minute shower and water twice a week.”
43) “Public awareness as to the cost of repairs vs. the cost of insurance and the likelihood of a flood in the specific area.”
44) “Public education about 100- and 500-year flood zones, retention and detention basins’ capacity, and drainage.”
45) “Understand how insurance costs are increased by poor management.”
46) “Use humor in advertising and true-life stories of Californians in flood zones who benefited from having flood insurance.”

47) “Ads should be easy to relate to, not stiff and preaching. Even getting the younger generation of elementary school students interested will bring news home to the parents who otherwise may have a difficult time being reached.”

48) “You might want to tell the residents how to obtain the LOMR and provide a list of licensed surveyors and their approximate cost. This might bring interest for those who are paying for flood insurance.”

3.3.3.2 Suggestions Related to Flood Prevention and Best Management Practices

More than 40 people submitted suggestions were things people can do to prevent flooding on their own properties and/or in their neighborhoods. These frequently were Best Management Practices that the City has been advocating through public outreach programs for some time. It was rewarding to see that these Best Management Practices are not only being implemented but also being promoted by the public as solutions to local flooding.

Local, individual practices that were recommended:

1) 23 recognized the role of litter and plant debris clogging drains and said that people should (a) maintain their properties to control leaves and (b) should not litter.

2) 7 recommended that communities work together to clean up litter and leaves to prevent local storm drains from clogging.

3) 6 recommended choosing plants carefully to stabilize hillsides and reduce runoff.

4) 5 comments involving public government in some way, such as the City providing low-cost inspections to help people learn where their private property might be at risk or contributing to a local flood problem. Other comments in this category recommended mandates that people prevent floods.

5) 3 people recommended installing systems or doing maintenance to reduce runoff, like SMART irrigation.

6) Only 1 person suggested learning how to use sandbags.
3.3.3.3 Suggestions Related to Planning, Zoning and Regulatory Approach

More than 30 people recommended more stringent planning, zoning, and fines in keeping development out of sensitive areas - hillsides as well as flood zones.

1) Of these, 22 encouraged that construction be avoided in natural drainage areas, hillsides, floodplains, or other areas that have an effect on flooding in Los Angeles.

2) 6 encouraged better planning in general (not specific to hillsides or floodplains).

3) 3 suggested imposing fines for those who contribute to flooding or water flow problems.

4) 1 person suggested that funding should not be provided to rebuild in flood or fire-prone areas.

3.3.3.4 Suggestions Related to Public Works Programs

Nearly 100 people made recommendations that were related to City of Los Angeles Public Works programs.

1) Of these, 29 recommended maintenance of storm drains and channels to keep the conveyance system flood-ready (no blockages from litter or debris).

2) 9 respondents focused on emergency preparedness, mainly having sandbags ready when needed.

3) 14 recommended inspections and enforcement to deal with a build-up of litter, leaves and other debris that can clog storm drains.

4) 15 recommended capturing and reusing runoff, including looking into the potential for capturing stormwater and creating rain gardens. Some felt this was an important untapped resource for water in Los Angeles.

5) In addition to these, 3 suggested creating additional spreading grounds, more parks, and pools in waterways to hold more stormwater.
6) 20 respondents focused on fixing or expanding the storm conveyance infrastructure.

7) 4 recommended linking with the City’s Green Trees LA (DWP) or TreePeople to plant more trees and to take a more integrated approach to solving the floodplain management challenges.

Selected specific recommendations:

1) “After cleaning drains, put mesh grating to block debris.”
2) “Better cleaning before winter time.”
3) “Create more spreading grounds, permeable driveways and parking lots. Recycle the water.”
4) “Enforcing regulations and assessing financial penalties will get violators’ attention.”
5) “Fix the drain system so it will handle current rains and floods.”
6) “Have sand and sandbags available for FREE at all fire stations.”
7) “Hillsides must be planted with flood resistant plants.”
8) “In flood zone areas, the City should capture the water for irrigation uses.”
9) “Keep drains clean.”
10) “Keep trees trimmed. (City) easements should be maintained by (City) for weed removal and proper care.”
11) “Provide solar powered warning lights and sirens that can be activated at hazardous locations during a severe storm.”
12) “Rather than channel this water into the ocean, channel it for use in the city landscape watering. ...our water rate increase is unacceptable, so much storm water washes away.”
13) “The City should truthfully, accurately and consistently determine/assess a neighborhood as being in a floodplain.”
14) “Create an urban forest.”

Specific locations mentioned as needed infrastructure improvements to protect from flooding:

1) Along Sunset from Livorno Drive to Salerno Drive
2) Along Pacific Coast Highway
3) 800 block of N. Kenter Avenue
4) 66th Street
5) Walnut Acres, Woodland Hills
6) Sepulveda Basin at Balboa and Burbank Boulevard
3.3.4 Responses to Question #4

Question #4 asked: Are you aware of the current Floodplain Management Plan’s programs and policies to reduce flooding hazards?
Total Responses: 1168    Yes: 160    No: 1008

3.3.5 Responses to Question #5

Question #5 asked: Do you currently have flood insurance?
Total Responses: 1189    Yes: 257    No: 920    Unsure: 12
### Appendix 1 - FMP Planning Committee Roster

#### Voting Citizen Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Representing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Carvel Bass/Ed Demesa</td>
<td>US Army Corps of Engineer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Clint Simmons</td>
<td>West Adams NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Iovanka Todt</td>
<td>Floodplain Management Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Lisa Sarkin/Chair</td>
<td>Studio City NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*George De La O /Rick Sun/Michael Chen</td>
<td>LADPW</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Mike Greespan</td>
<td>North Hills CCC</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Pat Rome</td>
<td>Wilmington NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Roy Forbes</td>
<td>900 Mullen Block</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Stewart Fliege/Vice Chair</td>
<td>Brentwood HOA</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Frank Wada</td>
<td>Lincoln Heights NC</td>
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#### Non-voting Citizen Advisory Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dan McManus</td>
<td>President Sunland-Tujunga NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Clyde Williams</td>
<td>LA32NC Sierra Club Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elena Popp</td>
<td>President Lincoln Heights NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose Aguillar</td>
<td>Private Resident</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jose Gutierrez</td>
<td>Interested Citizen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcia Hobbs</td>
<td>Interested Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mel Wilson</td>
<td>Southland Regional Assoc. of Realtors, Bd. of Dir.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Steele</td>
<td>LASGRWC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randall Davis</td>
<td>Dominguez Channel Watershed Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruben Chavez</td>
<td>Private Resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Horn</td>
<td>Real Estate Agent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracey Chavira</td>
<td>Central City Association</td>
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#### City Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Claire Bowin</td>
<td>DCP</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Colin Kumabe</td>
<td>B &amp; S</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Danilo Abalos</td>
<td>POLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Eric Baumgardner</td>
<td>EMD</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Jeffrey Elder</td>
<td>LAFD</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Martin Adams</td>
<td>DWP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Shahram Kharaghani</td>
<td>BOS/WPD</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Susan Shu</td>
<td>BOE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Thomas Grant</td>
<td>CAO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Gong</td>
<td>BOS/WPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chuck Richmond</td>
<td>DRP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Kovacs</td>
<td>BOS/HRDD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coleen Briggs</td>
<td>LAPD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cora Jackson-Fossett</td>
<td>PAO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dana Prevost</td>
<td>DBS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Paschal</td>
<td>GSD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Kahen</td>
<td>DCP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Mensman</td>
<td>CD 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dustin Shiau</td>
<td>Ofc. of the Mayor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fares Botros</td>
<td>BSS</td>
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<td>Jack Wise</td>
<td>LAFD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Sourial</td>
<td>CD 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith Garcia</td>
<td>EMD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Hsu</td>
<td>BOE</td>
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<td>Mark Mackowski</td>
<td>DWP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melinda Bartlett</td>
<td>EAD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miguel Franco</td>
<td>CD 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neeraj Bhatnagar</td>
<td>Ofc. of the Mayor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norman Mundy</td>
<td>BOE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Backstrom</td>
<td>CD 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Habib</td>
<td>CD 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romano Galassi</td>
<td>BOE</td>
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<td>Stacy Gerlich</td>
<td>LAFD</td>
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<td>Sterling Kippel</td>
<td>LADPW</td>
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<td>Thom Brennan</td>
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<td>Thu Quach</td>
<td>BSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Weng</td>
<td>B &amp; S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Cotter</td>
<td>BPW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yalin Tam</td>
<td>BSS</td>
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Appendix 2 - Planning Committee Meeting Agendas and Minutes

City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering
Floodplain Management Plan

City Family Briefing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
<th>Type of Meeting:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 29, 2009</td>
<td>City Department Briefing</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date:</th>
<th>Meeting Location:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 26, 2009</td>
<td>Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1035</td>
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<th>Note Taker(s):</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Wood, Harris &amp; Company</td>
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**Team Members Present:**
Cora Jackson-Fossett, City of Los Angeles, Public Affairs Office
Susan Shu, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering
Romano Galassi, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering
Rebecca Wood, Harris & Company

**Summary:**
This briefing was the first meeting for the Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) with the many departments and agencies involved in the plan. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the project to the participating departments and agencies, and to explain the roles of the City family, related agencies, and community stakeholders in the creation of the updated plan. The meeting began at 10:05 am and was adjourned at 10:55 am. Approximately 20 persons representing City and County departments and agencies were in attendance in addition to the project team.

**Meeting Notes:**
Cora Jackson-Fossett opened the meeting by welcoming stakeholders and asking all those in attendance to introduce themselves and their affiliation. She then gave a brief overview of how the plan is scored on a point system by FEMA before turning the meeting over to Susan Shu to provide a general overview of the project.

Ms. Shu explained the background the FMP and how it benefits stakeholders. She also provided a timeline schedule for the FMP, which will be completed by October 2009. As part of her overview, Ms. Shu explained the importance of City and stakeholder participation. At this point, Ms. Shu introduced Romano Galassi to speak more specifically about the roles of the City Family, Related Agencies and the Steering Committee.
Mr. Galassi went over the specific by-laws, policies and goals of the Steering Committee in addition to specifying who would be a part of the Steering Committee.

Mr. Galassi then went over more specific roles of the Steering Committee including that the Steering Committee would vote on programs and policies to include in the FMP in addition to providing feedback for the City on current policies and programs from the 2001 FMP. Mr. Galassi directed attendees to refer to the Program Sheet handout provided by the project team for examples of these programs (see attached). He also explained that the Committee would meet five to nine times between February and August of 2009 and that those meetings would be held at least once per month. Mr. Galassi explained that the City Family and Related Agencies roles would include participation in the Steering Committee.

At this point, Ms. Jackson-Fossett went over the next steps before opening the briefing for questions from attendees. The next steps for the project include:

1. Each City department appointing a representative for the Steering Committee by February 6, 2009.
2. Asking each Council District to think of additional community members in their districts who may assist with the FMP by being on the Steering Committee.
3. Acknowledgement that the first Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2009.

Below are the questions and responses that were asked during the Q&A period of the briefing:

1. Who is eligible for the 15% discount rate?
   a. Those who live in a 100-year floodplain. Those who live outside of the 100-year floodplain are eligible for a 5% discount.
2. Why would you get flood insurance if you aren’t residing in a floodplain?
   a. In a floodplain, it is mandatory. For those who live outside, it’s an extra precaution that many take, but is not required.
3. Will we be getting a copy of the floodplain map with Council Districts and flood zones?
   a. Yes. It is available online or you can let us know if you would like a copy and we will get it to you.
4. Correction: On the acronym sheet, GSD is marked as “General Services Division.” It should be “General Services Department.”
5. Program P-53 should have the CAO as the responsible agency, not GSD.
6. Were invitees to the Steering Committee sent to those people who live in floodplains, at least partially?
   a. Yes.
7. Carvel Bass of the US Army Corps of Engineers read an email from other USACE employees indicating that the floodplain areas marked in the City may not be entirely accurate as they haven’t been reevaluated in over 25 years.
8. Didn’t FEMA update the floodplain areas in 2007?
   a. No, no revisions were made – they only digitized the previous maps. Map revisions must be made by individual requests to FEMA. The City has asked for this before, but has been told that there are other higher priority areas that are in need of the funds allocated for revising maps.
9. Is there a way to get a copy of the floodplain map specifically for our council district?
   a. Yes, please email Susan Shu for this information.
10. Who issues floodplain insurance?
    a. FEMA is the only insurer for Flood insurance.
11. Is it correct that the City doesn’t update the floodplain maps? That it’s only FEMA, correct?
    a. Yes and no. FEMA is the only entity who can make official changes, however they encourage local entities to provide input to them for changes that should be made.
12. Doesn’t the USACE do a lot of the hydrological analysis? Don’t we have that input to ask FEMA to reevaluate the floodplains?
    a. We do not have all of the needed information, but continually work on it.
13. Do you know what time the Steering Committee meeting will be held on February 23rd?
    a. A time has not been set yet, but we will keep you informed.

Without any more questions, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.
City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
Floodplain Management Plan Briefing

March 2, 2009 – City Hall, Room 1060 – 10:00 a.m.

Conference Call Number: 888-323-9808
Password: 33840

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions – Cora Jackson-Fossett
2. Overview of Floodplain Management Plan – Susan Shu
3. The Role of FMP Steering Committee – Romano Galassi
4. Overview of FEMA’s Requirements for Steering Committee – Romano Galassi
5. Establish Steering Committee Voting Members
6. Elect Chairperson, and Vice Chairperson
7. Next Steps in the Steering Committee Process – Susan Shu
   - Committee Activities and Timeline
   - Next Meeting Date and Location
8. Q & A
9. Adjourn

FMP CONTACTS:
Susan Shu, 213-485-4493, susan.shu@lacity.org
Romano Galassi, 213-847-0405, romano.galassi@lacity.org
Cora Jackson-Fossett, 213-978-0319, cora.jackson@lacity.org
I. **Attendees** – A total of 11 citizen members, and 13 City staff attended the meeting

- **Citizen Member: *call-in***
  Clint Simmons/West Adams NC
  Carvel Bass/USACE
  Mike Chen/LACDPW
  Stewart Fliege/Brentwood HOA
  *Roy Forbes/900 Mullen Block
  Mike Greenspan/North Hills CCC
  Pat Rome/Wilmington NC
  Lisa Sarkin/Studio City NC
  Nancy Steele/LASGRWC
  *Ioavanka Todt/FMA
  Clyde Wers/LA32 NC

- **City Staff: *Voting Member***
  *Melinda Bartlett/EAD
  Coleen Briggs/LAPD
  Tom Cutter/DPW
  *Tom Grant/CAO
  Colin Kumabe/DBS
  *Danilo Abalos/POLA
  Doug Mensman/CD4
  Dana Prevost/DBS
  *Jeffrey Elder/LAFD
  *Fares Botros/BSS
  *Susan Shu/BOE
  Romano Galassi/BOE
  Cora Jackson-Fa/PAO

II. **Purpose of the Meeting** – This was the first meeting held by the 2009 FMP Steering Committee, the purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project to the committee members and to explain the roles of the City and community stakeholders in the creation of 2009 FMP update. The 2009 FMP update is scheduled to be completed by October 2009.

III. **Discussion Items**

1. Ms. Shu explained the background the FMP and how it benefits stakeholders. She also provided a timeline schedule for the FMP, which will be completed by October 2009. As part of her overview, Ms. Shu explained the importance of City and stakeholder participation. It provides direct input to the planning process by those most affected by flood hazards.

2. Mr. Galassi went over the specific by-laws, policies and goals of the Steering Committee in addition to specifying who would be a part of the Steering Committee. Mr. Galassi then went over more specific roles of the Steering Committee including that the Steering Committee would vote on
programs and policies to be included in the FMP in addition to providing feedback for the City on current policies and programs from the 2001 FMP. Mr. Galassi directed attendees to refer to the Program Sheet handout provided by the project team for examples of these programs (see attached).

4. Mr. Galassi asked for volunteers from Citizen Representatives to be the chairperson and the vice-chair. The duties for the chair and vice-chair are to chair the meeting, manage the meeting proceeding per agenda time allowance. Lisa Sarkin, President of Studio City NC, volunteered to be the chair, and Stewart Fliege, Brentwood HOA, to be the Vice chair.

5. Ms. Shu indicated that there are 5 key steps in the planning process
   a. Assess the hazard
   b. Assess the problem
   c. Set goals
   d. Review possible activities
   e. Draft an action plan

She expects a minimum of 4 meetings are necessary. One to assess the hazard and problem; second to set goals and identify possible activities. Third to review draft version of FMP, and finally approve the FMP, so the plan can forward to City Council for adoption by October, 2009.

6. Ms. Todt, Executive director of FMA, indicated the FMP has limited scope, which is to identify and mitigate the flood hazard, so all proposed activities need to focus on that goal.

7. Ms. Shu asked participants about future meeting schedule. First Monday of every month seems getting majority support. Due to time constraint to complete the planning document, the next meeting will be held on Monday, March 23rd to assess the hazard and the problem.

IV. Action Items

1-1 Create a webpage so committee is always in contact as well as email
1-2 Put goals on the webpage
1-3 Invite public to comment and leave their input
1-4 Show as many maps as possible regarding the Flood Hazard Areas.
1-5 Discuss the Repetitive Loss Area Analyses (RLAA), LA River Master Plan impacts and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
1-6 Email handouts to those who were on the telephone.

V. Next Meeting: Monday, March 23rd
City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works – Bureau of Engineering
2009 Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2009 – City Hall Room 1020 – 10:00am

I. **Attendees** – A total of 8 citizen members, and 13 City Staff attended the meeting

Citizen Member:
Clint Simmons/West Adams NC
Lisa Sarkin/Chair-Studio City NC
Roy Forbes/900 Mullen Block
Mike Greenspan/North Hills CCC
Tom Horn/Real Estate Agent
Pat Rome/Wilmington NC
Iovanka Todt/Floodplain Management Association
Carvel Bass/US Army Corps of Engineer

City Staff: * Voting Member
Tom Cotter/BPW
*Susan Shu/BOE
Romano Galassi/BOE
Cora Jackson-Fossett/PAO
Roy Forbes/Captain CD4
*Melinda Bartlett/EAD
*Claire Bowin/City Planning
*Thomas Grant/CAO
Dustin Shiau/Ofc. of Mayor
*Dana Prevost/DBS
*Jeffrey Elder/LAFD
*Cindy Kovacs/BOS
*Eric Baumgardner/EMD
*Colleen Briggs/LAPD (call-in)

II. **Purpose of the Meeting** – The purpose of this meeting was to approve the previous meeting minutes, finalize the Steering Committee Voting Members, begin the Planning Process and determine the next steps in the Steering Committee Process.

III. **Discussion Items**

1. Ms. Sarkin, Chairperson, called the meeting to Order. Mr. Fliege, Vice Chairperson, was absent from the meeting.
2. Mr. Simmons motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Mr. Roy Forbes seconded the motion. All the committee members then approved the meeting minutes.

3. Ms. Shu indicated that today’s goal is to assess and identify hazardous problems. She then suggested that Item No. III – Finalize Steering Committee voting members on the agenda to be delayed pending on the people turn out on today’s meeting. Ms. Shu also explained the Repetitive Loss Properties (RLP) and drainage complaints assessment and identification process. City will work with the L.A. County DPW to not duplicate the work.

4. Mr. Forbes indicated that he would like to see the RLP maps. Ms. Shu indicated that the maps and other documents are located on-line. Ms. Rome indicated that she cannot read the map on the internet. Ms. Shu explained that the maps are obtained from FEMA and that she will e-mail the maps to the committee members and will bring the RLP and floodplain maps to the next meeting. She also explained that the City provides flood zone information free of charge to the public.

Ms. Sarkin asked how the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) determined are. Ms. Shu explained that the maps are prepared by FEMA based on current knowledge of the existing topography and hydrology. Ms. Shu also explained that there are 2 ways to correction the FIRM. These are the Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) which typically removes a single lot or structure from a flood zone and Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) which changes the configuration of the floodplain. The LOMR has to be supported by the City and the applicant needs to provide a hydrological study and pay a fee.

Ms. Sarkin asked what are the benefits of being on the FIRM. Ms. Shu indicated that the City participates in the NFIP and CRS so that residents who fall in the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) will be able to obtain a 15% discount while those that are not in the SFHA will be able to obtain a 5% discount in the flood insurance policy.

5. Ms. Todt asked how we get the work done along the flood control channels such as the LA River. Mr. Bass explained the role of the Army Corp of Engineering and how they obtained the funding from congress. Ms. Shu indicated that the County and Army Corp need to set up priority for projects and funding.

6. Mr. Simmons indicated he is concerned about over building in floodplains due to inadequate consideration for drainage and that the watersheds have been taken away by developments. Ms. Shu indicated that the City encompasses 5 watersheds and that the storm drain system is designed to
handle 10 year storm event with the assumption that the streets are flowing full. The City’s Planning Department is responsible to set up private development policies.

7. Mr. Elder indicated that there are 3 action items for consideration
   a. Remove grating on catch basin
   b. Large infrastructure projects to be determined from the recommendations of the steering committee.
   c. Growth cannot be stopped.

8. Ms. Shu indicated that the City has set up many different systems to respond to inquiries from the public such as the 311 system. Ms. Todt indicated that all general plans are supposed to be amended to mitigate flooding issues. Ms. Bowin indicated that we cannot stop development; we can only modify the ordinance to lessen flooding impact.

9. Ms. Sarkin stated that to enforce the ordinance and to inform the residents will require money. She also would like to obtain an infrastructure report. Ms. Todt indicated that more resources and more funding are needed.

   Mr. Bass indicated that the Army Corp of Engineering did a joint study in 2002 with LA County identifying infrastructure projects based on economic feasibility. The City has a copy of this report and it can also be found on-line. Ms. Shu indicated that the LA River master plan has a goal to mitigate flood hazards.

10. Ms. Todt recommended that we should invite key planning people for presentation and goals at the next steering committee meeting. This should include LA County DPW, LA River Master Plan Team, Planning Department, Bureau of Sanitation, EAD, Code Enforcement and Local FEMA representative.

11. Mr. Greenspan recommended that Citizen Committee members who do not show up for 3 meetings should be removed from the committee. Ms. Shu indicated that the City will contact each member again before next meeting on April 20, Monday to find out if they would like to be included in the Steering Committee.

IV. Action Items

   2-1 Invite key people from different departments for presentation.
   2-2 Provide laptop presentation of the Floodplain related website.
   2-3 E-mail handouts and related web links to all members.
   2-4 Finalize Steering Committee Voting Members.
   2-5 Review the previous years Programs and Recommended Programs.
V. Next Meeting: Monday, April 20th, 10am. Room number to be determined.
City of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Works – Bureau of Engineering  
Floodplain Management Plan Steering Committee Meeting  

April 20, 2009 – City Hall, Room 1050 – 10:00 a.m. 

Conference Call Number: XXX-XXX-XXXX  
Pass code: XXXX  

Agenda  

1. Call to Order – Lisa Sarkin, Chair and Stewart Fliege, Vice Chair  

2. Approval of Minutes of March 23  

3. Department/Agency Presentations (5 minutes each):  
   - L.A. County Department of Public Works  
   - L.A. River Master Plan Team  
   - City of Los Angeles Planning Department  
   - City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department  
   - City of Los Angeles Building & Safety  
   - Bureau of Sanitation Watershed Protection Division  
   - DWP  
   - Local FEMA Representative  

4. Finalize Steering Committee Voting Members  

5. Next Steps in the Steering Committee Process  
   - Set Goals  
   - Review possible activities  
   - Draft action plan  

6. Next Meeting: TBD  
   Location: TBD  

7. Adjourn  

FMP CTY STAFF:  
Susan Shu, 213-485-4493, susan.shu@lacity.org  
Romano Galassi, 213-847-0405, romano.galassi@lacity.org  
Cora Jackson-Fossett, 213-978-0319, cora.jackson@lacity.org
VI. **Attendees** – A total of 6 citizen members, 9 City Staff, and 5 Visitors attended the meeting.

**Citizen Member:**
- Mike Greenspan/North Hills CCC
- Iovanka Todt/Floodplain Management Association
- Carvel Bass/US Army Corps of Engineer
- Stuart Fliege/Brentwood HOA
- Frank Wada/Lincoln Heights NC

**City Staff: * Voting Member**
- Tom Cotter/BPW
- *Susan Shu/BOE
- Romano Galassi/BOE
- Cora Jackson-Fossett/PAO
- *Melinda Bartlett/EAD
- *Claire Bowin/City Planning
- *Thomas Grant/CAO
- *Jeffrey Elder/LAFD
- *Colleen Briggs/LAPD (call-in)
- Paul Habib/CD 14

**Visitors**
- Sterling Klippel/County Dept. of Public Works
- Michael Chen/County Dept. of Public Works
- Mark Mackowski/Department of Water and Power
- Colin Kumabe/Department of Building and Safety
- Larry Hsu/BOE

VII. **Purpose of the Meeting** – The purpose of this meeting was to approve the previous meeting minutes, have key City’s departments make presentations pertaining to their projects relating to the Floodplain Management.

VIII. **Discussion Items**

1. Mr. Fliege, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order. Ms. Sarkin, Chairperson was absent from the meeting.
2. Mr. Greenspan motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Mrs. Todt seconded the motion. All the committee members then approved the meeting minutes.

3. The first presentation was from Mr. Klippel and Mr. Chen of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW). Currently LACDPW are working on 2 projects. The first project is the Tujunga Dam Tributary Area to the L.A. River. The dam did not meet the seismic standard. The cost of the project will be $100 million dollars to restore the dam and to protect life and property. The storage volume for this dam is 4500 Acre-Ft. This project will also help recharge the ground water. The expected completion date is 2011. The second is the Pacoima Dam Sediment Removal Project. This dam has a storage volume of 6000 Acre Ft. The problem is that half of the reservoir would be filled up with sediments. The project will remove 5 million cubic yard of sediments. Two major fires caused the watershed to be completely burned. The project is currently in the design phase with construction to start late summer of 2010. Ms. Todt would like to know if the County has a Flood Plain Management Plan. Ms. Shu indicated that the County doesn’t have a comprehensive plan only the plan that covers the repetitive loss properties.

4. The second presentation was from Mr. Hsu of the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Los Angeles River group. Before the Army Corp of Engineers channelized the LA River with concrete in the 1940’s, the river would erode yearly causing flooding to the surrounding areas. There are 300,000 acres of land along the LA River in the City of Los Angeles. Currently there is a grass root movement to revitalize the river. The aim is to create value out of the river features all without compromising flood control. Mr. Elder wanted to know how we will manage people accessing the river. Mr. Hsu indicated that right now it is illegal for people to go into the river. However, other parts of the world do allow pedestrian access into their rivers. Mr. Cotter indicated that during an emergency the gates can be locked to prevent pedestrian access to the river the same as with bicycle access. Mr. Hsu also indicated that different entities are being formed to manage the river. Mr. Fleige wanted to know if the plans for the LA River will affect the FMP. Mr. Hsu said no.

5. The third presentation was from Ms. Bowin of the City of Los Angeles Planning Department on the LA River Revitalization Master Plan. Ms. Bowin indicated that there are 40,000 Acres LA River open space areas which are mostly on the hillside. Currently there are 2 major plans that may impact floodplain planning effort. The LA River Overlay District which covers the full 32 miles of the LA River in support of the goals of the Master Plan. The corn field of Arroyo-Seco Specific Plan which covers 650 Acres and requires all new projects to treat and infiltrate the
first ¼ inch of the 85th percentile storm. Mrs. Shu indicated that the City policy is to preserve the open space.

6. The fourth presentation was from Ms. Bartlett of the Environmental Affairs Division on the landfills in the floodplain within the City of LA. Currently there are no landfills within the floodplain with the possible exception of Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Ms. Bartlett can provide addresses for the landfills so to verify their locations. To help mitigate flooding, concrete parkways are removed to increase impervious surfaces by redirecting the water into the ground. Mrs. Shu indicated that the SEQA Threshold Guidance should be looked at to see whether it will impact the FMP. Ms. Bartlett indicated that there are no funding at this time for the work.

7. The fifth presentation was from Mr. Kumabe of the City of Los Angles Department of Building and Safety (B & S) on their enforcement, permitting, inspection and overview of policies. The first step in the process is to determine if the applicant’s property is in the floodplain. If yes then refer the applicant to the DPW for permit clearance. Once the permit is approved, construction can start and the inspector will make sure that they are in compliance with all the requirements such as the Elevation and Floodproofing certificate. Mrs. Todt wanted to know if B & S deal with Repetitive Loss Properties. Mr. Kumabe indicated no. Mr. Kippel wanted to know if FEMA allows building in the Flood/way. Mrs. Shu indicated that the City Ordinance allows for building in a floodplain but not in a floodway.

8. BOS presenter did not show up.

9. The sixth presentation was from Mr. Mackowski of the Department of Water and Power (DWP) regarding the 23 dams and 10 reservoirs in the Owens valley. DWP is working in conjunction with the State Division of Safety of Dams. Mr. Mackowski indicated that he currently supervises a 6 person reservoir surveillance group. Dam inspections are done on a monthly basis and annual basis. Inspections are also done for ground water wells movement by monitoring settlement points. This is done through surveying with precision instruments. Other ongoing projects are the dam stability analysis, earthquake impacts analysis on dams using GIS, and updating inundation maps. Inundation is the areas below the dams that will be impacted by dam failure. This information is available to the public. Updating the inundation map can be part of the FMP programs.

10. FEMA was absent from the meeting.
11. Mr. Fliege indicated that the committee voting members should be finalized and a tentative voting members list should be included in the meeting minutes.

12. Ms. Todt recommended that the name of the Steering Committee be changed to Advisory Group. This will mean that only a few of the members will have voting privileges while the rest can act in advisory roles. Ms. Todt also indicated at that since many of the citizen members do not attend the meeting, therefore they should be removed from the committee due to non-participation.

13. Mr. Wada indicated that the IRP is a good example of mixing the steering committee with the advisory committee. Mr. Fliege also indicated that we need to get clarification with FEMA on the establishment of the committee membership. Mr. Greenspan wanted to know what to do if the members don’t show up to the meetings. Mr. Wada indicated that we should apply the standing rule.

14. Ms. Shu went over the next item on the agenda which is the Goals and Objectives. She indicated that each member should review the 2001 FMP and the Recommended Programs handout. Mr. Fliege wanted to set the Goals and Programs for the next meeting and that the Completed and On-Going items should be removed from the list. Ms. Todt wanted recommendations from City’s Staff for the next meeting.

IX. Completed Action Items

2-1 Invite key people from different departments for presentation.

X. Action Items

2-2 Provide laptop presentation of the floodplain related website.
2-3 E-mail handouts and related web links to all members.
2-4 Finalize Advisory Committee voting members.
2-5 Review and establish the goals and programs.

XI. Next Meeting: Monday, May 18th, 10am. Room number to be determined.
City of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Works – Bureau of Engineering  
Floodplain Management Plan Steering Committee Meeting  

May 18, 2009 – City Hall, Room 1050 – 10:00 a.m.  

Conference Call Number: 866-623-3538  
Pass code: 80396  

Agenda  

1. Call to Order – Lisa Sarkin, Chair and Stewart Fliege, Vice Chair  
2. Approval of Minutes of April 20  
3. Announce Steering Committee Voting Members  
4. Department/Agency Presentations (5 minutes each):  
   • Bureau of Sanitation Watershed Protection Division  
   • Local FEMA Representative  
5. Finalize Steering Committee Voting Members  
6. Set Steering Committee Goals  
   • Identify current City activities  
   • Determine potential five-year activities  
7. Next Steps in the Steering Committee Process  
   • Draft action plan  
8. Next Meeting: TBD Location: TBD  
9. Adjourn  

FMP CTY STAFF:  
Susan Shu, 213-485-4493, susan.shu@lacity.org  
Romano Galassi, 213-847-0405, romano.galassi@lacity.org  
Cora Jackson-Fossett, 213-978-0319, cora.jackson@lacity.org
XII. **Attendees** – A total of 7 citizen members, 12 City Staff, and 2 Visitors attended the meeting.

**Citizen Member:**
- Mike Greenspan/North Hills CCC
- Carvel Bass/US Army Corps of Engineer
- Stuart Fliege/Brentwood HOA
- Lisa Sarkin/Studio City NC
- Clint Simmons/West Adams NC
- Pat Rome/Wilmington NC
- Roy Forbes/900 Mullen Block
- Michael Chen/County Dept. of Public Works

**City Staff: * Voting Member**
- Tom Cotter/BPW
- *Susan Shu/BOE
- Romano Galassi/BOE
- Cora Jackson-Fossett/PAO
- *Claire Bowin/City Planning
- *Thomas Grant/CAO
- Dana Prevost/DBS
- *Jeffrey Elder/LAFD
- Eric Baumgardner/EMD
- Coleen Briggs/LAPD
- *Colin Kumabe/DBS
- Doug Mensman/CD 4

**Visitors**
- Alice Gong/BOS
- Ed Demesa/US Army Corp

XIII. **Purpose of the Meeting** – The purpose of this meeting was to finalize the Planning Committee voting members and advisory members, identify current city activities, determine potential five-year activities and draft an action plan.

XIV. **Discussion Items**
1. Ms. Sarkin, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.
2. Mr. Fliege motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Ms. Briggs seconded the motion. All the committee members then approved the meeting minutes.

3. Mr. Galassi explained that according to the Community Rating Coordinator’s Manual, the official name of the committee should be the Planning Committee with voting and advisory members and that the FMP Programs should be identified based on the Goals and Objectives established by the Planning Committee. Mr. Simmons indicated that the public should have some inputs in the selection of the programs. Ms. Shu agrees and indicated that programs are also prioritized with considerations to funding and budgeting. She also indicated that the committee needs to have a majority of the voting members be represented from the public. Since currently there are 9 citizen voting members (those who attended two or more of the committee meetings) and 6 city staff voting members, 2 more members on the city staff side were added. These are Mr. Eric Baumgardner from EMD and Mr. Jack Wise from LAFD. All the committee members then approved the nominations.

4. Ms. Alice Gong from the Bureau of Sanitation Watershed Protection Division presented on her division’s involvement with flood protection. Ms. Gong indicated that BOS is complying with the Clean Water Quality Act as required by the State of California and Federal Government. In addition, the Master Plan and the Project Selection Plan is being prepared with the construction to begin in 3 yrs. The projects are funded through grant monies.

   Mr. Simmons indicated that he would like to know what happened to the runoff water going into the ground water. Ms. Gong indicated that the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requires that developers capture and treat their water on site before discharging into the collection systems.

5. Mr. Demesa from the US Army Corp presented on how to help local entities implement flood control projects. Mr. Demesa indicated that they have ongoing feasibility study looking to improve LA River watershed. The study looks at the hydraulic and hydrology and what is being discharged. There is also a partnership established between the City of Los Angeles and Army Corp. Ms. Clare Bowin indicated the Army Corp is working with LA River team.

   Ms. Shu indicated that the FMP group is working with other agencies to find out what activities are being performed to help with flooding issues and monitor flood hazards. The last study Army Corp performed was in 1991 which was the inundation map study. The study looked at the cost benefit ratio analysis and was based on avoiding damages to existing and not future structures as part of the Hydrology & Hydraulic assumptions.
Ms. Sarkin indicated that new developments should eliminate additional runoff, studies should be provided to see how the flood water are generated and the impact to the community.

Ms. Shu asked if the LA River is designed to handle 100-yr storm event. Mr. Demesa indicated that the city’s FIRM may not reflect the result of LACDA study released in 1991. The study was done jointly with LA County. Mr. Demesa indicated that the Corp has no funding to update FIRM maps. The Army Corp would partner with local agencies to update maps if funding is provided. The Corp does not process applications to update maps. Ms. Shu indicated that if local agencies can provide matching funding or grants then the Corp can do the work.

Ms. Bowin indicated that the 1991 study shows the improvements needed at the time. However, it doesn’t identify specific projects to be worked on. This would require local sponsors to make a request for the projects. Mr. Demesa indicated that the Army Corp is funded by the federal government and congress. Local agencies can request City Council or Congress for studies to be done with the cost being shared. Federal budgeting process is 2 yrs. If the funding request coming from the congress, it can shorten to 1 yr. Most requests require matching fund.

6. Ms. Shu indicated that FEMA encourages local agencies to update the FIRM since many areas such as Studio City gets flooded even though they are not in a SFHA. In order to update the FIRM, the City needs to submit a Hydrologic and Hydrology study to FEMA. To do this, the City needs to make request to obtain funding for the study. If City can provide matching funding along with other federal funding, then Army Corp maybe able to shift their priority to do the work.

7. Mr. Simmons indicated that he would like to know how to report flooding complaints. Ms. Shu indicated that the City receive inputs through the drainage complaining process. Flooding problems are monitored through this process. Citizens can call 311 and BOS will respond to flooding emergencies since they are the facilities owner. Most problems are resolved through cleaning of the catch basins.

8. FEMA representative did not attend the meeting. Mr. Carvel Bass indicated that FEMA has an office in Pasadena. However, the office has minimal staffing. Ms. Shu indicated that the City run programs are based on the City’s Ordinance which complies with FEMA requirements. The City Ordinance is the enforcement of the Specific Plan.

9. Ms. Shu indicated that she would like the committee members to review the 2009 proposed programs which was proposed by the staff. To Be Determined (TBD) programs are important activities that have not been
funded or worked on. Ms. Shu would like the members to help prioritize the programs and E-mail the City staff with recommendations and inputs to the programs.

10. Mr. Elder indicated that there is a conflict between water quality and flood control. It is more difficult to clean the catch basins of debris because of the installed screens. Ms. Shu indicated that the City operates under the 2001 NPDES permit. The regional board will give us the new permit in 2009. The catch basin screens are installed per the NPDES requirements. If the city removes the screen, this may violate the NPDES and the City may be fined by the State. The Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) deals with water reuse and storm water run-off mitigations.

11. Ms. Shu indicated that the draft FMP report will be submitted for review by early July. There will be a meeting on July 20th, to finalize the report. Committee Members are encouraged to recommend additional projects/programs to be included into the report. Mr. Fliege would like the DWP inundation map to be included into the FMP. The inundation map study dam failures and is based on known dam locations. Ms. Sarkins would like the City to add flood zone studies in the program that would improve the accuracy of FIRM, and allow better review during private development process. The FMP programs will be separated into two parts, one is the activities that are on-going and has being done by current funded resource; the other is the work that requires additional resources. Mr. Elder would like the City Staff to inform the Neighborhood Councils (NC) of the activities of the FMP Committee meetings. Ms. Fossett indicated that public outreach efforts have been made through her office and the consultants by visiting most of the 81 NC.

XV. Action Items

2-1 Invite key people from different departments for presentation. (done)
2-2 Provide laptop presentation of the floodplain related website.
2-3 E-mail handouts and related web links to all members. (done)
2-4 Finalize Planning Committee voting members. (done)
2-5 Review and establish the goals and programs. (done)
3-1 Invite BOS for presentation. (done)
3-2 Post handout from various presenters into web site (done)
3-3 Confirm FEMA policy on Steering Committee vs. Advisory Committee (done)
3-4 Prepare Recommended Projects/Programs for implementation (done)
4-1 Review and recommend additional programs
4-2 Review and approve the 2009 FMP

XVI. Next Meeting: July 20, 2009, 10am. Room number to be determined.
XVII. Attendees – A total of 8 citizen members, 12 City Staff, and 2 Visitors attended the meeting.

Citizen Member:
Mike Greenspan/North Hills CCC
Carvel Bass/US Army Corps of Engineer
Michael Chen/County Dept. of Public Works
Stuart Fliege/Brentwood HOA
Frank Wada/Lincoln Heights NC
Clint Simmons/West Adams NC
Lisa Sarkin/Studio City NC
Pat Rome/Wilmington NC

City Staff: * Voting Member
Tom Cotter/BPW
* Susan Shu/BOE
Romano Galassi/BOE
Cora Jackson-Fossett/PAO
* Melinda Bartlett/EAD
* Thomas Grant/CAO
* Colleen Briggs/LAPD
Doug Mensman/CD 4
Deborah Kahen/Department of City Planning
Thu Quach/Bureau of Street Services
Stacy Gerlich/LAFD
Colin Kumabe/Department of Building and Safety (Call-in)

Visitors
Rebecca Wood/Harris & Company
Dr. Clyde Williams/NC 32

XVIII. Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to approve the previous meeting minutes, listen to a presentation by The City’s consultant, Harris &
III. Discussion Items

1. Ms. Joyce Dillard, a concerned citizen, stated that the FMP looks too similar to the previous one. She also wanted to look at the daily aspect of hillside in Lincoln Heights and review the soil's report. She also would like Prop O, Water and TMDL report to address bacteria concentrations and a GIS map of everything. She expressed concerns about the increasing density and wants community redevelopment included in the FMP. She recommended that the Neighborhood Councils (NC) be more involved with water quality and flood issues. In addition she stated that there was no water element in the general plan and do not feel it's an appropriate time for the FMP draft to come out.

3. Ms. Rebecca Wood of Harris & Company, the City's consultant, made a presentation on their involvement with the public outreach effort of the FMP. Ms. Wood indicated that in addition to the questionnaire mailer sent by the City, they distributed questionnaires to 90% of the residents in Downtown L.A. and Mid City. The questionnaires shared with the public on background information about the FMP and asked for public input. The responses were very valuable and help with the preparation or the FMP. The main responses by the public were:

   a) What is a floodplain?
   b) Where are the floodplains?
   c) How many properties fall into the floodplain?
   d) The flood map should be updated for flood insurance purposes.

The questionnaires contained 5 basic questions and were mailed out to 56,525 addresses, out of which approximately 1,000 were returned. The results of question 1 indicated that 63% of the people did not have any flooding problem with 37% stated that they did have flooding problems and gave details. Results of question 2 generally conveyed the idea that there had to be a reevaluation of the maps concerning planning and zoning, more catch basins should be constructed and streets be kept clean. Results of question 3 indicated that the public would like to be more educated and aware of floodplain issues and that planning and zoning restrictions should prevent building in flood zones and hillsides. Question 4 demonstrated that 86% of people are not aware of
4. Mr. Simmons stated that when Ms. Olga Morales from Harris & Company came out to make a presentation at the West Adams NC, she didn’t say much. He was concerned about Jefferson Blvd. and would like a presentation to provide more details. Mr. Simmons also expressed about flood insurance not being available.

5. Ms. Sarkin indicated that she would like a list of manholes for sewer and storm drains. She also would like to know how the City regulates where the water goes.

6. Ms. Rome indicated that she did not know anything about the FMP before she joined the committee and that FEMA, the state, and the counties do not communicate with each other effectively. Ms. Rome also requested maps to show the various floodplains.

7. Ms. Shu indicated that FEMA maps are available for regulating developments and that if a parcel was identified to be in the flood zone, then Building and Safety would flag the parcel and sends the case to the Stormwater Group for NFIP review. Ms. Sarkin asked how accurate are the maps because the last study was conducted in 1992 by the Army Corps for Griffith Park and that she would like to have a study done for all of the LA Rivers. Ms. Shu replied that the City is too large in size and has insufficient resources to do a study. The Army Corps can help but a formal request needs to be submitted.

8. Dr. Clyde Williams indicated that a study was being conducted right now concerning large development in the Tujunga Area (golf course development) and that we currently do not know the channel capacity of Tujunga Canyon. A 180 million dollar bond was being approved this afternoon. Dr. Williams also indicated that it shouldn’t be too complicated to perform a study on the area.

9. Ms. Shu indicated that the City maps do not have all the recorded information. Ms. Sarkin then asked how they wrote the report in 1992 with insufficient information; Ms. Shu replied that she believes that the 1992 Army Corp report did not take into account storm drain infrastructure or underground piping only looked into land use, topology and open channels.

10. Ms. Sarkin indicated that storm drain pipes were designed for a 10 year flood event and that the previous permeable square footage
was reduced due to development therefore the Floodplain Management plan is not adequate to address flooding issues. Mr. Simmons agreed with Ms. Sarkin on the reduced square footage due to development and expressed concern about Ballona Creek and the aquifer being recharged.

11. Ms. Shu stated that the fundamental issue was how FEMA created the FIRM maps in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. LA County was contracted by FEMA to perform the study. Ms. Shu also indicated that no one had the funding and resources to perform a full study at this time. She suggested that we identify the most damaged areas and set priority to perform studies for such areas when funding available. Ms. Sarkin indicated that all developments create water flowing into the river and doesn’t think focusing on the most damaged areas will help overall.

12. Mr. Greenspan wanted to know how many questionnaires were mailed out and if any particular part of the city received the questionnaires. Mr. Galassi indicated that the questionnaires were mailed out to anyone who was in the 100 year flood plain. Dr. Williams also indicated that the questionnaires may not have been received by the renters.

13. Ms. Dillard stated that she would like the watershed records be saved. However, she expressed more concern about contamination, development, and drainage issues.

14. Ms. Shu indicated that she would like comments on the 2009 FMP be submitted to the City by July 31st in order to compile document at the end of October 2009 following the annual progress report schedule. Any changes to the FMP can be done before council adoption. Ms. Sarkin indicated that she would like to have maps prepared for the recommended program number 38. Ms. Shu indicated that the City can require developers to prepare hydraulic studies and submit the study to FEMA if new regulation can be adopted by the Council.

15. Dr. Williams indicated that Tujunga wash capacity is unknown and that basic concern was about zero concentration time for developers and that the City needs to coordinate the runoff with the County. Ms. Shu indicated that the City did not have the resources to do these studies and that new development needs provide hydraulic and hydrology studies. The planning departments should look into this and propose a new regulation to make it a requirement for the accuracy of the FMP.
16. Mr. Simmons indicated that recommendations have not been effective, politicians are not responding to the issues and that only a major flood would result in the politicians trying to resolve the problems. Mr. Carvel Bass wanted to know the process of making recommendations to the Planning Department. Ms. Shu indicated that recommendations could be included in the report for the Planning Department to require Hydrology & Hydraulic Study with new developments. This will need Dept of Building & Safety approval and Planning Department review.

17. Mr. Greenspan indicated that he wanted to know if we have been able to extrapolate useful rain data from 1997 to 2005. Ms. Shu indicated that we have never experienced a 100 year flood event and do not know how much damage it will cause. Ms. Sarkin stated that we have no idea how the channels handle flood control. Ms. Shu indicated that this goes back to FIRM (map) and the City will continue to establish policies and make recommendations.

18. Ms. Shu indicated that new automatic spring loaded catch basin screens are being installed. Stormwater Group is in communication with Sanitation regarding flooding, cleaning, identifying locations and TMDL violations. So far the City has not experienced any major rain and it will depend on the 311 calls from the public to notify the City with any problems. Ms. Shu also indicated that in order for Sanitation to clean catch basins, request needs to be made through the 311 Call System.

19. Ms. Dillard indicated that we need other players to come to the meeting such as Street Services to discuss cleaning and to include more issues into the FMP. Ms. Jackson indicated that other City representatives have been here but have been unable to meet together due to furlough issues.

20. Mr. Simmons indicated e-mails are not available to all committee members. Ms. Woods indicated that Mr. Galassi can mail out the questionnaires and the FMP per request.

21. Dr. Williams indicated that he would like the FMP to be editable and copy-able. Mr. Fliege asked whether or not another meeting would be held and that he would like to invite the council to attend the meeting. Ms. Shu indicated that she will keep all members updated and that if we need another meeting, members will be notified 2 weeks in advance.
IV  Action Items

4-3  Review and recommend additional programs
4-4  Review and approve the Draft 2009 FMP

V.  Next Meeting:

To be determined.
## Appendix 3 - Neighborhood Council meeting notes

**City of Los Angeles,**  
**Department of Public Works**  
**Floodplain Management Plan**

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<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arleta Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>May 18th, 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date:</th>
<th>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 21, 2009</td>
<td>Olga Morales</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Location:</th>
<th>Number of Parcels:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Beachy Elementary School  
6757 Beachy Ave.  
Arleta, CA 91331 | 240 |

### Meeting Summary:

A short presentation was given to eight board members and five stakeholders despite the fact that the board did not have a quorum for the meeting. Multiple questionnaires and fact sheets were left with those present at the meeting.

### Questions Asked:

No Questions were asked.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atwater Village Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>May 18th, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date:</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14, 2009</td>
<td>Rebecca Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location:</td>
<td>Number of Parcels:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3852 Edenhurst Ave.</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA 90039</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Summary:**
A short presentation was given to 16 board members and 30 stakeholders. 25 questionnaires and fact sheets on the project were left for stakeholders.

**Questions Asked:**
No Questions were asked.
Meeting Summary:
Provided brief presentation during public comment period of neighborhood council meeting. 21 Neighborhood Council members and 11 community stakeholders were present at the time of the presentation. 1 questionnaire was handed out and multiple FAQ handouts were left for stakeholders to take after the meeting’s adjournment.

Questions Asked:

- Are there properties along Sunset and Mulholland that fall into floodplains? It’s so hilly; I wouldn’t think that there would be.
  
  There area approximately 800 parcels that fall into your Neighborhood Council district that fall into 100 year floodplains as determined by FEMA.

- Can we have your contact information for any follow up?
  
  Rebecca Wood, Rebeccajanewood@yahoo.com, (213) 590-0117

- Are all of the stormdrains in our neighborhood council district covered with screens to prevent the clogging of the stormdrain system?
  
  The City is currently working to get all of the catch basins in the City covered with screens. They have a schedule put together of how and when that will happen. If the catch basins in your NC district are not currently covered, they will be covered in accordance with the City’s schedule for this.

- How can we find out what properties fall into a floodplain?
  
  Properties that fall in the high risk flood areas (100 year floodplains) are required to carry flood insurance. If you would like to know the risk level of your property, you can go to www.floodsmart.gov and enter your address to receive that information. You can also contact Susan Shu, the City’s project manager at Susan.Shu@lacity.org for more detailed information.

- Is there a map that shows the floodplain areas and the properties in the floodplains?
  
  You can go to the City’s FMP website at www.eng.lacity.org/projects/fmnp for floodplain maps by City Council district. These maps will not show specific properties, but will show you the floodplain areas.

- Can we reach you by dialing 3-1-1?
  
  No, but I can be reached at the phone number I gave earlier.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chatsworth Neighborhood Council</strong></td>
<td><strong>July 15, 2009</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date:</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 1, 2009</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rebecca Wood, Harris &amp; Company</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location:</td>
<td>Number of Parcels:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lawrence Middle School</strong></td>
<td><strong>512</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10100 Variel Ave</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatsworth, CA 91311</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Summary:**

A brief presentation was given to 15 board members and over 30 stakeholders. 15 questionnaires and FAQ handouts were distributed and additional copies of the FAQ handout were left for future reference. No one signed up for future emails and information about the project.

**Questions Asked:**

- *Why is the City doing this?*
  The City participates in this program offered by FEMA voluntarily in order to provide the City’s residents and business owners with discounted flood insurance rates.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council: Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council</th>
<th>Today’s Date: July 15, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date: March 16, 2009</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s): Rebecca Wood, Harris &amp; Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location: Cabrillo Marina Community Building, Cabrillo Plaza, Berth 28 San Pedro, CA 90731</td>
<td>Number of Parcels: 85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Summary:**

A brief presentation was given to 15 board members and 15 stakeholders. 20 questionnaires and FAQ handouts were handed out and additional copies of the FAQ handout were left for future reference.

**Questions Asked:**

- *If we provide comments, how will they be incorporated? Will it matter?* All comments we receive are being recorded and taken into account for the update of the plan.
- *Is this plan going to redraw flood zone maps? Who determines those maps?* This plan will not be redrawing the flood zone maps as FEMA, and not the City, determine them.
- *How many properties are actually in a floodplain here?* 85 properties fall in your neighborhood council’s district.
Neighborhood Council: Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Meeting Date: March 12, 2009
Meeting Location: 13480 Maxella Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90292

Today’s Date: July 15, 2009
Attendee(s)/Presenter(s): Rebecca Wood, Harris & Company
Number of Parcels: 350

Meeting Summary:
A brief presentation was given to the Del Rey Neighborhood Council board and stakeholders. Approximately 30 stakeholders were present as were 11 board members. 10 questionnaires were handed out. Additional copies of the FAQ hand out were left for future reference.

Questions Asked:
No questions were asked by board members or stakeholders.
Meeting Summary:

Provided a 10 minute presentation to the members of the Public Safety and Health Committee of the Downtown LA NC. 5 Neighborhood Council members and 2 community stakeholders were present at the time of the presentation. 5 questionnaires and FAQ handouts were handed out. Additional copies of the FAQ handout were left for reference for other NC members. 2 Committee members signed up to stay updated on the project through email.

Questions Asked:

- What is a floodplain?
  
  *A floodplain is any land area susceptible to being inundated by flood waters from any source (floods, dam/reservoir inundation, coastal storm surge, tsunami, etc)*

- Wasn’t there a flood that came all the way up from Long Beach to the City of Industry not too long ago? Would that be the kind of flood we’re talking about for a 100-year flood zone?
  
  *Another stakeholder was able to answer the first part of this question noting that that flood happened back in the 1960s. A flood of that magnitude would more than likely qualify as a 100-year flood event; however that area lies outside of the City of Los Angeles.*

- Stormdrains are a major issue in downtown. Please make sure that they are kept clean and I think our flood risks will go down.

- How often does a 100-year flood event happen?
  
  *This question required follow up from City staff for accuracy.*

- Can you let us know approximately what level of water would occur (how deep?) for a 100-year flood event?
  
  *This question required follow up from City staff for accuracy.*
Meeting Summary:
Provided brief presentation during public comment period of neighborhood council meeting. 23 stakeholders were present at the time of the presentation. 6 questionnaires and FAQ handouts were given out in addition to contact information for follow up from stakeholders.

Questions Asked:
- Is the questionnaire available to all residents and business owners? Or only to property owners?
  The questionnaire is available to all residents, business owners and taxpayers. Renters may also fill out this questionnaire

- Is the FMP addressing any issues around the Los Angeles River? Can we submit suggestions for improvement to flood management around the river?
  The FMP will address issues related to flooding, flood hazards and flood mitigation around the LA River. We encourage you to submit suggestions of this nature as they will help the City and the Steering Committee to evaluate the issues that surround the LA River in terms of flooding. This project will not, however, evaluate and address issues of beautification related to the River.

- Do you have an email address that we can use to contact you?
  Please feel free to contact me at rebeccajanewood@yahoo.com with any questions. You can also contact Romano Galassi, who is with the City of LA, Bureau of Engineering at Romano.Galassi@lacity.org
**Neighborhood Council:**
**Empowerment Congress Central Area**

**Meeting Date:**
**June 22, 2009 @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):**
Vikki Zale Merryweather, Consultant, BOE

**Meeting Location:**
**Amistad Plaza, Community Room, 2nd Fl**
**6050 S. Western Avenue**
**Los Angeles, CA**

**Number of Parcels:**
2139

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**Meeting Summary:**

Brief presentation was given to 10 Neighborhood Council board members present at the time of the presentation, and 18 stakeholders. I left FAQs sheets, questionnaires and cards with all of the floodplain website links on their information table. No one signed up for more information.

---

**Questions Asked:**

One of the meeting attendees asked why the City doesn’t re-survey the properties to find out if they are still in a flood zone. We explained that he could contact the City to inquire about this, or fill out a survey and ask the question. He said he has contacted the City about this before, and all he got was a lot of paperwork. The President of the neighborhood council said that Public Works is good enough to come to the neighborhood council to inform them about these projects and it’s up to the people to take action.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council: Empowerment Congress – Southeast Area</th>
<th>Today’s Date: July 15, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date: March 24, 2009</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s): Rebecca Wood, Harris &amp; Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location: Constituent Service Center</td>
<td>Number of Parcels: 213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8475 S. Vermont Ave.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA 90044</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting Summary:
A brief presentation was given to 8 board members and 23 stakeholders. Many questionnaires and FAQ handouts were distributed and additional copies of the FAQ handout were left for future reference. No one signed up for future emails and information about the project.

Questions Asked:
*No questions were asked.*
## Meeting Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>July 15, 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date:</th>
<th>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 19, 2009</td>
<td>Rebecca Wood, Harris &amp; Company</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Location:</th>
<th>Number of Parcels:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stonehurst Elementary School</td>
<td>953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9851 Stonehurst Ave.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Valley, CA 91352</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Meeting Summary:

A brief presentation was given to 13 board members and 11 stakeholders. Many questionnaires and FAQ handouts were distributed and additional copies of the FAQ handout were left for future reference.

## Questions Asked:

No questions were asked.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>April 8, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date:</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 2009</td>
<td>Olga Morales, Consultant, BOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location:</td>
<td>Number of Parcels:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Balboa Studios</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7412 Balboa Blvd., Lake Balboa, CA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Summary:**
A brief presentation was given to 11 board members and 25 stakeholders. 30 questionnaires were given at the meeting along with 30 of the fact sheets.

**Questions Asked:**
No questions were asked.
Neighborhood Council:
Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council

Meeting Date:
April 2, 2009

Meeting Location:
Griffin Avenue Elementary School
2025 Griffin Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Today’s Date:
July 15, 2009

Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):
Rebecca Wood, Harris & Company

Number of Parcels:
404

Meeting Summary:
A brief presentation was given to 8 board members and 17 stakeholders. Numerous questionnaires and FAQ handouts were distributed and additional copies of the FAQ handout were left for future reference.

Questions Asked:

- *Can you give a few examples of locations in the City that are floodplains?*
  Many areas around the LA River and reservoirs or dams are considered floodplains. You can view a map of all of the designated floodplains by going to the project website.

- **How is the steering committee working? It needs to be handled like an IRWMP. Is this being included in the IRWMP plan?**
  The steering committee meets monthly with specific topics to move the development of this plan forward. You may attend these meetings as a non-voting member. The IRWMP is a separate plan.

- *Is this project reviewing the specific plans for the different communities of the City?*
  The City is reviewing all pertinent information that is related to the development of this plan - including working with the Planning Department and other City departments and agencies - to ensure that all aspects are covered.

- **If I have flooding problems from being on a slope and have had to get a pump to keep my basement clear, will that preclude me from getting flood insurance?**
  You would need to check with a flood insurance broker to determine eligibility and what kind of insurance you would need.

- **When will this plan be released?**
  The plan is currently being updated and will be released in later summer or early fall. You are more than welcome to attend steering committee meetings as a non-voting member to stay abreast of the development of the plan.
### Meeting Summary:
A fifteen-minute presentation was given to 17 board members and many stakeholders. Five questions were asked and many questionnaires and fact sheets were handed out to board members and stakeholders present at the meeting.

### Questions Asked:
- **Why do we need this program?**
  The City voluntarily participates in this program to provide LA residents, business owners and taxpayers with reduced flood insurance rates. In order to continue receiving those rates, the City must update its Floodplain Management Plan periodically in coordination with the requirements put forth by the National Flood Insurance Program.

- **We had heavy rains several years ago, and the city did not get flooded in any area, so why do we need to continue to pay for Flood Insurance?**
  *The City does not determine the Floodplains that fall within the City’s boundaries. They are determined by FEMA. If your property lies in a FEMA designated floodplain, you are required to carry flood insurance.*

- **Do you know when it was the last time the city was flooded?**
  *I believe that the last 100-year flood event was in 1938. Though there was significant flooding in 2005 as well.*

- **When did you say the plan was last revised?**
  *The FMP was last updated in 2001.*

- **How can we get more information or give our opinions?**
  *You can provide your contact information to us to follow up with you or fill out the questionnaire provided to you tonight and return it to the City.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council: Mission Hills Neighborhood Council</th>
<th>Today’s Date: May 15, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date: May 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s): Vikki Zale Merryweather, Consultant, BOE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location: Mission Area Community Police Station 11121 Sepulveda Blvd. Mission Hills, CA 91345</td>
<td>Number of Parcels: 200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting Summary:

Brief presentation was given to 8 Neighborhood Council board members present at the time of the presentation, and the 12 stakeholders. I left FAQs sheets, questionnaires and cards with all of the floodplain website links on their information table. No one signed up for more information.

Questions Asked:
None
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olympic Park Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>April 10, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date:</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6, 2009 at 7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Vikki Zale Merryweather, Consultant, BOE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location:</td>
<td>Number of Parcels:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAPD West Bureau Community Room</td>
<td>985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4849 W. Venice Blvd.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA 90019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Summary:**

Brief presentation was given to 12 Neighborhood Council board members present at the time of the presentation, and the 10 stakeholders. I left FAQs sheets and questionnaires on their information table. No one signed up for more information.

**Questions Asked:**

One person requested that we write all of the floodplain website links on the blackboard which we did.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacoima Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>May 21, 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date:</th>
<th>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday May 20, 2009</td>
<td>Olga Morales</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Location:</th>
<th>Number of Parcels:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacoima Community Center, Community Room 11243 Glenoaks Blvd Pacoima, CA 91331</td>
<td>382 Parcels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting Summary:

A ten-minute presentation was given to 13 board members and seven stakeholders. Thirty questionnaires and thirty Fact Sheets were handed out and left for future use by their board and stakeholders.

Questions Asked:

- *Do you have any maps of the parcels for the Pacoima?*

  Maps of floodplain areas of the City are available by Council district if you go to the project’s website at [http://eng.lacity.org/parcels/fem/2009fmp.htm](http://eng.lacity.org/parcels/fem/2009fmp.htm). You can also contact Romano Galassi with the City at (213) 847-0405.
Neighborhood Council: Panorama City Neighborhood Council
Meeting Date: April 23, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Location: Mission Community Hospital Medical Office Bldg., 2nd Floor, Room 208 14860 Roscoe Blvd. Panorama City, CA 91402

Today’s Date: April 27, 2009
Attendee(s)/Presenter(s): Vikki Zale Merryweather, Consultant, BOE
Number of Parcels: 276

Meeting Summary:
Brief presentation was given to 12 Neighborhood Council board members present at the time of the presentation, and the 10 stakeholders. I left FAQs sheets, questionnaires and cards with all of the floodplain website links on their information table. No one signed up for more information.

Questions Asked:
None
Neighborhood Council:  
Park Mesa Heights NC

Meeting Date:  
April 14, 2009

Attende(s)/Presenter(s):  
Olga S. Morales

Meeting Location:  
PMHCC Office 5349 S. Crenshaw Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA

Number of Parcels:  
270

Meeting Summary:  
A thirty-minute presentation was given to eight board members and many stakeholders. Many questionnaires and fact sheets were handed out and left for future reference.

Questions Asked:

- **Why should residents be required to have Flood Insurance?**  
Because it covers residents in the case of flooding damage to their property.

- **Is this a reaction of what took place in New Orleans?**  
The City has been participating in this program since 1980. New Orleans brought the issue of flooding to the public eye, but the City did not begin this process as response to Hurricane Katrina. It is a future-oriented approach to floodplain management that puts measures in place to mitigate flood hazards and provide public education.

- **How long has the City been aware that they needed to update the Plan?**  
I'm not sure

- **Is this part of the Stimulus Package/Fund?**  
No.

- **How does the City determine what homes belong in the flood zones?**  
Properties in floodplains are determined by FEMA maps which indicate where floodplains are in the region. You can visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) to see if your address falls into a floodplain.

- **What if people who are in the affected flood zone area do not receive the surveys via e-mail, how will they find out about?**  
Over 90% of those people who live in designated floodplains have received the questionnaire in hard copy, which has a link for the online version of the survey in it. Additionally, we are going to many of the City’s Neighborhood Councils who have a high number of parcels in floodplains to inform as many of the affected communities as possible. The hope is not only to inform as many people through these meetings as possible, but also that those who we’ve informed will inform others in their community who may be interested in completing the questionnaire.

- **Why can’t you use the media such as the TV, Radio, Newspapers, etc. to do the outreach?**  
The cost for doing the outreach through those means is extremely expensive.
and not always as effective as going out and meeting directly with the public. Additionally, we want to be able to share information with you directly and involve the public rather than simply ask to complete a questionnaire online.

- **How can you be sure that one house will not be impacted by the water if they are right next to a home that is in a floodplain even if they are not?**
  There are many requirements and standards for what determines a property to be in a floodplain. I don’t have a simple explanation for this, but do suggest that, if you’re one of those properties, that you discuss this issue more thoroughly with Romano Galassi at the City.

- **Will there be enough money to cover everyone who suffers property damages by a flood?**
  The City does not provide flood insurance directly. There are private lenders who provide this service.
| Neighborhood Council: Reseda Neighborhood Council | Today’s Date: March 5, 2009 |
| Meeting Date: March 2, 2009 | Attendee(s)/Presenter(s), Affiliation: Rebecca Wood, Consultant, BOS |
| Meeting Location: Reseda NC Offices, 18341 Sherman Way #102, Reseda, CA 91335 | Number of Parcels: 288 |

Meeting Summary:
Provided brief presentation during public comment period of neighborhood council meeting. 13 Neighborhood Council members and 8 community stakeholders were present at the time of the presentation. 10 questionnaires and FAQ handouts were handed out. Additional copies of the FAQ handout were left for reference for other NC members.

Questions Asked:

- Where do we get flood insurance?
  
  *Flood insurance premiums are determined by FEMA. You can find a list of providers in CA at [www.fema.gov/business/NFIP](http://www.fema.gov/business/NFIP)*

- Where can I find the old FMP that is currently being updated?
  
  *This can be found by going to the Floodplain Management Plan’s page on the Bureau of Engineering website. That page is [http://eng.lacity.org/projects/fmp/](http://eng.lacity.org/projects/fmp/)*

- How many properties that fall in a “100 year flood zone” are in our neighborhood council district?
  
  *288 properties*

- Who provides flood insurance?
  
  *See above question.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silver Lake Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>July 15, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date:</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 2009</td>
<td>Rebecca Wood, Harris &amp; Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location:</td>
<td>Number of Parcels:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micheltorena Street Elementary School</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1511 Micheltorena St.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA 90026</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting Summary:
A brief presentation was given to 8 board members and 20 stakeholders. Numerous questionnaires and FAQ handouts were distributed and additional copies of the FAQ handout and questionnaires were left for future reference.

Questions Asked:
- *Are there any properties in the Silver Lake area that are in a floodplain?*
  Yes, approximately 280 properties in your neighborhood council district fall into a floodplain.
- *Are there maps of the floodplains available online?*
  Yes, you can view them by going to the project website.
City of Los Angeles,
Department of Public Works
Floodplain Management Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council: Studio City Neighborhood Council</th>
<th>Today’s Date: July 15, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date: March 18, 2009</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s): Rebecca Wood, Harris &amp; Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location: 4024 Radford Ave. Editorial Building 2, Room 6 Studio City, CA 91604</td>
<td>Number of Parcels: 425</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meeting Summary:

A brief presentation was given to 15 board members and 30 stakeholders. 20 questionnaires and FAQ handouts were handed out and additional copies of the FAQ handout were left for future reference.

Questions Asked:

- *Can you explain to us what actually constitutes a floodplain?*
  
  A floodplain is any land area susceptible to being inundated by flood waters from any source (floods, dam/reservoir inundation, coastal storm surge, tsunami, etc.).

- *How many properties in our NC district fall into a floodplain?*
  
  85 properties fall in your neighborhood council’s district.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun Valley Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date: Monday,</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>***</td>
<td>Rebecca Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location:</td>
<td>Number of Parcels:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villa Scalabrini Retirement Center</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10631 Vinedale St.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Valley, CA 91352</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Summary:**

A brief presentation was given to 19 board members and 20 stakeholders. 25 questionnaires and fact sheets on the project were handed out. Additional copies of both the questionnaire and fact sheet were left for reference.

**Questions Asked:**

No questions were asked.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council: Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council</th>
<th>Today’s Date: ***, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date: Monday, ***, 2009</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s): Rebecca Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location: 7477 Foothill Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 91042</td>
<td>Number of Parcels: ***</td>
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Meeting Summary:

Questions Asked:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council: West Adams Neighborhood Council</th>
<th>Today’s Date: May 21, 2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Date: Monday, May 18, 2009</td>
<td>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s): Olga Morales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Location: Vineyard Recreation Center</td>
<td>Number of Parcels: 852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2942 S. Vineyard Avenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA 90016</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Summary:**

A brief presentation was given to ten board members and five stakeholders. 15 questionnaires and fact sheets on the project were handed out. Additional copies of both the questionnaire and fact sheet were left for reference. The President of the Neighborhood Council asked if we would come back in the future to provide a longer presentation since they had not provided adequate time for our presentation at this meeting.

**Questions Asked:**

No questions were asked.
Meeting Summary:

Brief presentation was given to 19 Neighborhood Council board members present at the time of the presentation, and the 20 stakeholders. I left FAQs sheets and questionnaires on their information table. No one signed up for more information.

Questions Asked:

One of the Board members asked if the FMP had anything to do with liquefaction. I responded that the plan is a pre-disaster approach to reduce loss of life and damage caused by floods from such events as a broken dam or a tsunami, and that I didn’t believe it was related to liquefaction.
### Meeting Summary:

Brief presentation was given to 18 Neighborhood Council board members present at the time of the presentation, and the 28 stakeholders. I left FAQs sheets, questionnaires and cards with all of the floodplain website links on their information table. No one signed up for more information.

### Questions Asked:

A meeting attendee asked if the City was going to re-do the floodplain map. I said I wasn’t sure but they could contact the City to find out. The person said anyone who is in a floodplain can hire a surveyor to prove that they are not in a floodplain because the terrain has changed, and you would then not be required to purchase flood insurance. A board member stated that the property would still be listed on title as being in a floodplain if you were to sell the property which is why the City should re-do the map.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilmington Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>June 3, 2009</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date:</th>
<th>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 27th, 2009</td>
<td>Olga S. Morales</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Location:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilmington Senior Center</td>
<td>223</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Summary:**

A brief presentation was given to 13 board members and 21 stakeholders. 20 questionnaires were handed out at the meeting as were 20 fact sheets on the project.

**Questions Asked:**

There were no questions asked by anyone in the neighborhood council meeting.
City of Los Angeles,  
Department of Public Works  
Floodplain Management Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winnetka Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>May 18, 2009</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date:</th>
<th>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 12, 2009</td>
<td>Olga Morales</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Location:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valley Village</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20830 Sherman Way</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnetka, CA 91306</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Summary:**

A brief presentation was given to seven board members and seven stakeholders. Multiple questionnaires and fact sheets were left for future use.

**Questions Asked:**

*No questions or comments were made by the board members or the stakeholders*
City of Los Angeles,
Department of Public Works
Floodplain Management Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood Council:</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Woodland Hills Neighborhood Council</strong></td>
<td><strong>May 15, 2009</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date:</th>
<th>Attendee(s)/Presenter(s):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vikki Zale Merryweather, Consultant, BOE</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Location:</th>
<th>Number of Parcels:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Woodland Hills Academy</strong>&lt;br&gt;20800 Burbank Blvd.&lt;br&gt;Woodland Hills, CA 91367</td>
<td><strong>453</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Meeting Summary:**

Brief presentation was given to 21 Neighborhood Council board members present at the time of the presentation, and the 28 stakeholders. I left FAQs sheets, questionnaires and cards with all of the floodplain website links on their information table. No one signed up for more information.

**Questions Asked:**

The questionnaire states that it is due back to the City by April 23, 2009. Obviously, this date has passed. What is the new date to submit the questionnaires? We told people that the date has been extended and they could submit through June.
Appendix 5 - FMP Press Release

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SEeks INPUT FROM RESIDENTS FOR 2009 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN
Residents in or near a Floodplain are Encouraged to Participate in Program Questionnaire

LOS ANGELES (May 1, 2009)—The Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering (BOE) is updating its Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) as a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to reduce or eliminate flood-related hazards in the city.

The National Flood Insurance Program requires the City to prepare and update regularly a Floodplain Management Plan that will guide future flood hazard programs, mitigation policies, and activities.

The program was established by Congress in 1968 and administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City of Los Angeles joined the National Flood Insurance Program in 1980 to ensure that all city residents can purchase flood insurance. The National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (NFIP/CRS) program was implemented by Federal Emergency Management Agency in 1990 as a program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards, and the City has been a voluntary participant in Community Rating System since 1991. The Community Rating System provides a flood insurance premium discount in participating communities that implement floodplain management activities above and beyond the minimum criteria of the NFIP.

An advisory committee was created for development of the 2009 FMP. Several meetings have been held to assess hazards, set goals, and develop implementation programs. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and US Army Corps of Engineers are also participating in this effort. Detailed information can be found online at http://eng.lacity.org/projects/fmp/pdf/2009_FMP_FAQ.pdf

-MORE-
2-2-2-2 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

Residents in or near a floodplain are asked to participate in the development of the 2009 FMP. To do so, please complete the program questionnaire by visiting http://eng.lacity.org/projects/fmp/2009/fmp.htm pertaining to flooding problems on your property or in your neighborhood. You may also attend a public meeting during the initial FMP development period. These public meetings will take place throughout the city as a part of multiple local Neighborhood Council general meetings. Please check with your local Neighborhood Council, or call Ms. Rebecca Wood at (213) 590-0117 to obtain information about meetings happening in your neighborhood.

An updated Floodplain Management Plan must be completed and adopted by the Los Angeles City Council by October 2009. For questions about this process, please contact Cora Jackson-Possetti-- (213) 978 0333.

The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works; the City's third largest municipal division focused on the essential needs for a better quality of life and environmental protection. With a $559 million operating budget, the Department awards more than $500 million in public service contracts annually that provide for the construction, renovation, and operation of public programs and services including: municipal buildings and treatment facilities; streets, street lights, and urban forests; bridges and sidewalks; sewers and storm drains; integrated solid waste management and recycling; and graffiti removal and beautification grants. The Board is committed to the delivery of quality customer service, to help neighborhoods thrive and benefit from healthier living and working environments. For more information, visit www.lacity.org/bpw.

Contact: Tonya E. Durrell
(213) 978-0328
E-mail tonya.durrell@lacity.org

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SEEKS INPUT FROM RESIDENTS FOR 2009
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN
Plan Available for Public Review for 30 Days

LOS ANGELES (December 11, 2009) — The Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering (BOE) has completed the 2009 Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) for the city of Los Angeles. The Plan is future oriented and serves to identify areas that are prone to flooding and assesses related risks. In addition, it is an educational tool to help people become more familiar with the floodplain management decision-making and to determine if they are in a flood zone.

The Plan has three distinct goals: GOAL 1 - Protect human life and property to the greatest extent feasible, from catastrophic events, such as tsunami, coastal flooding, or the rupture of water containing infrastructure, such as dams, reservoirs, and water tanks; GOAL 2 - To the greatest extent possible, reduce the risk from flood hazards, including shallow flooding and mud/debris flow, to life, property, public investment and social order in the City; and GOAL 3 - Minimize flood hazards and protect water quality Citywide by employing watershed-based approaches that balance environmental, economic, and engineering considerations.

The National Flood Insurance Program requires the City to prepare and update regularly a Floodplain Management Plan that will guide future flood hazard programs, mitigation policies, and activities.

The program was established by Congress in 1968 and administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City of Los Angeles joined the National Flood Insurance Program in 1980 to ensure that all city residents can purchase flood insurance. The National Flood Insurance Program/Community Rating System (NFIP/CRS) program was implemented by Federal Emergency Management Agency in 1990 as a program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards, and the City has been a voluntary participant in Community Rating System since 1991. The Community Rating System provides a flood insurance premium discount in participating communities that implement floodplain management activities above and beyond the minimum criteria of the NFIP.

-MORE-
2-2-2-2 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

Each year the public is intricately involved in the process of developing the City’s Floodplain Management Plan. The working committee consists of 36 members, including 20 citizen-members representing different geographic regions of the city. As such, the City would like to hear from constituents all across Los Angeles during this review process, and have their feedback included in the final document.

To view the FMP, please visit http://eng.lacity.org/projects/fmp/draft_plan.htm and send your comments to: Ms. Susan Shu, P.E., National Floodplain Insurance Program Coordinator, 1149 S. Broadway Street, Suite 810, Los Angeles, CA 90015 by January 11, 2010. Also check at your local library to view a copy of the Plan.

After the 30-day review process, the Plan will go on to the Mayor and the City Council for adoption. Once adopted, it will be implemented to proactively mitigate the effects of flood related damage within the city.

The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works; the City’s third largest municipal division focused on the essential needs for a better quality of life and environmental protection. With a $559 million operating budget, the Department awards more than $500 million in public service contracts annually that provide for the construction, renovation, and operation of public programs and services including: municipal buildings and treatment facilities; streets, street lights, and urban forests; bridges and sidewalks; sewers and storm drains; integrated solid waste management and recycling; and graffiti removal and beautification grants. The Board is committed to the delivery of quality customer service, to help neighborhoods thrive and benefit from healthier living and working environments. For more information, visit www.lacity.org/bpw.

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(213) 978-0328
E-mail tonya.durrell@lacity.org

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