

**Carson City Board of Supervisors
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: January 20, 2012

Agenda Date Requested: February 2, 2012

Time Requested: 10 minutes

To: Mayor and Supervisors

From: Carson Water Subconservancy District

Subject Title: For Possible Action: To support the Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed which will identify, assess, communicate, and plan for flood risk within the Carson River Watershed, (Ed James)

Staff Summary: The Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed will provide for a collaborative effort between Local, State and Federal agencies to identify, assess, communicate, and plan for flood risk within the Carson River Watershed. The flood risk information provided can be used to enhance hazard mitigation plans, make informed decisions to improve resilience after flooding, protect the beneficial functions of floodplains, and raise awareness about local flood risks.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)

Resolution Ordinance
 Formal Action/Motion Other (Specify)

Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: Yes No

Recommended Board Action: I move to support the Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed and authorized the Mayor to sign the Charter document.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: In 2008, all counties along the Carson River adopted the "Carson River Watershed Floodplain Management Plan" (FPM Plan) that describes the long-term goals and objectives for floodplain management. The Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed is consistent with the FPM Plan and would be the first one for Nevada.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation:

Fiscal Impact: none

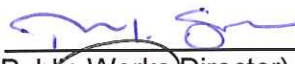
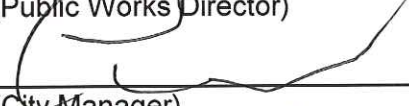

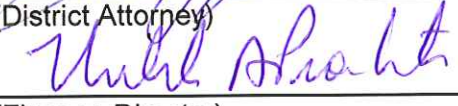
Explanation of Impact: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Alternatives: Not to support the Charter.

Supporting Material: Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed document

Prepared by: Robert D. Fellows, Carson City Floodplain Administrator

Reviewed By:  Date: 1/24/12
(Public Works Director)
 Date: 1/24/12
(City Manager)
 Date: 1/24/12
(District Attorney)
 Date: 1/24/12
(Finance Director)

Board Action Taken: Aye/Nay

Motion: _____ 1) _____ _____
2) _____ _____
3) _____ _____
4) _____ _____
5) _____ _____

(Vote Recorded By)

Risk MAP Charter

FEMA has recently developed a new program called Risk MAP. The goal of this program is to work closely with communities to better understand local flood risk, mitigation efforts, and spark watershed – wide discussions on flood awareness. Historically, FEMA has dealt with flood mapping and issues on a county by county basis. The Risk MAP process allows FEMA to focus on flood issues on a watershed wide basis, with local input.

For the last six months, Carson Water Subconservancy District, FEMA, State of Nevada, local flood administrators, and other federal agencies have been working on a Risk MAP Charter (Charter) for the Carson River Watershed. This Charter represents a good-faith effort by all parties to share data, communicate findings, and plan mitigation activities to protect communities within the watershed from flood risks. The Charter does not legally bind nor preclude communities from participating in FIRM appeal process.

On October 19, 2011, CWSD Board of Directors voted to become a signatory to the Charter (See the attachment). The Board also directed CWSD to present the Charter to each county and to invite them to become a signatory to the Charter.

Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed

Purpose:

Working in a close collaborative effort, Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD), FEMA Region IX (FEMA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), State NFIP Coordinator, State Hazard Mitigation Office, and other partners (as listed on page 5) will identify, assess, communicate, and plan for flood risk within the Carson River Watershed (watershed), which includes portions of Alpine County in California and Douglas, Carson City, Storey, Lyon, and Churchill Counties in Nevada. The flood risk information provided can be used to enhance hazard mitigation plans, make informed decisions to improve resilience after flooding, protect the beneficial functions of floodplains, and raise awareness about local flood risks.

This charter:

- Details the long-term flood hazard mapping vision for the watershed;
- Describes the desired mapping, assessment, planning information, and planning products;
- Describes the assistance that CWSD and FEMA will provide;
- Summarizes local flooding concerns and indicates areas where floodplain changes are expected; and
- Describes the roles and responsibilities of the CWSD, FEMA, and other signatory partners.

Watershed Vision:

In 2008, all counties along the Carson River adopted the “Carson River Watershed Floodplain Management Plan” (FPM Plan) that describes the long-term goals and objectives for floodplain management. These goals are based on identification and mapping of floodplains to create a broad-based awareness of flood hazards and provide the data necessary to support community floodplain management programs. The mapping program will provide many benefits to watershed communities, property owners, and citizens. These include:

- Increased public awareness and action to reduce risk to life and property;
- Ability to build upon flood hazard data and maps produced during the Flood Map Modernization (Map Mod) program;
- Assess present and future risk;
- Address gaps in flood hazard data to form a solid foundation for risk assessment and floodplain management and provide entities with information needed to mitigate flood related risk;
- Protection of the natural and beneficial function of drainage-ways and floodplains, including trail corridors, parks, recreation, wildlife habitat, flood storage, and groundwater recharge; and,
- Encouraging “Good Neighbor Policies” throughout all communities within the watershed.

Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed

Mapping and Assessment:

The watershed experiences flooding incidents on an average of every five years. Types of flood hazards include riverine and alluvial fan flooding and debris flows. Major flood events are typically the result of rain on snow events. Flood storage in the upper watershed is limited and that storage available is not regulated. Therefore, flood flows are not actively managed and large flows can occur downstream. The watershed contains areas of open floodplains that are continually under threat of change and development. The FPM Plan calls for the protection of the natural function of these floodplains, especially lands within Carson Valley, which provide the bulk of the flood storage for the entire watershed.

Based on previous studies, information obtained during community public meetings for the development of the FPM Plan, and discovery meetings for mapping activity statements, a Five-Year Master Mapping Plan was developed for the watershed. The plan identifies the sequence of work to be performed in order to meet the goals and objectives for floodplain mapping and associated assessments and is consistent with the community goals described in the FPM Plan.

Regulatory Products:

FEMA will provide Churchill, Lyon, Carson City, Storey, Douglas, and Alpine Counties with the following updated regulatory products to support floodplain management and flood insurance administration.

- **Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report:** Describes the county's flood history and provides technical information on the study.
- **Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM):** Identifies the county's flood hazard zones, base flood elevations, and flood way boundaries. This map is also used to determine where flood insurance may be required.

Flood Risk Products:

CWSD and partners will work closely with FEMA to produce the products listed below which identify locations and causes of flood hazard changes and quantify the risks associated with those changes. This will allow Churchill, Lyon, Carson City, Douglas, Storey, and Alpine Counties can use these updated data and products to make informed hazard mitigation, land use and development, and emergency management decisions.

- **Changes Since Last Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM):** Identifies areas where the floodplain, floodway, and/or flood zone designations have changed since the previous flood study. Engineering factors that may have contributed to any changes will also be identified.
- **Areas of Mitigation Interest:** Identifies areas where conditions may contribute to the severity of the flood hazard and associated losses. These include areas with a history of flood claims, hydraulic or other structures that contribute to backwater impacts, and areas experiencing land use change or development.

Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed

FEMA Resources to Support Flood Mitigation Actions:

FEMA encourages floodplain management activities that exceed minimum requirements through programs such as the Community Rating System (CRS). The watershed currently has two CRS communities, Douglas County and Carson City. FEMA also offers Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs that fund eligible mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. Information on these programs will be provided, along with other related State, Federal, and association resources throughout the project.

Communication and Coordination:

FEMA, CWSD, and partners will work together to establish a consistent flow of information about project status, timelines, and next steps. In addition to regular status reports, CWSD will coordinate with the counties, cities, and other entities in the watershed. CWSD will establish a Flood Mapping Project Management Team (PMT) that will meet on a regular basis to ensure that the goals of this charter are implemented in a coordinated manner. The PMT includes representatives from all counties, cities, Federal, State, and other governmental entities throughout the watershed. CWSD is also the coordinating entity for the Carson River Coalition (CRC), a large watershed-wide stakeholder group. The CRC will be provided opportunities to review and comment on mapping programs and the implementation of the living river concept as described in the adopted Carson River Watershed Regional Floodplain Management Plan.

FEMA will work with Churchill, Lyon, Carson City, Storey, Douglas, and Alpine Counties to enhance their ability to communicate flood hazards and associated risk to people who live and work within the watershed.

Specific meetings for each phase of mapping include:

- **PMT Meetings:** These meetings will focus on: setting project expectations, roles and responsibilities of the PMT; and validating and gathering data.
- **Community Coordination Officer (CCO) Meeting/Open House:** Local officials will be provided with FIS and FIRM information and requirements for map adoption. Meetings will be closely followed by open house meetings where FEMA, CWSD, and local community officials will present project results to local citizens and explain the impact that the results will have on development, planning, and flood insurance.
- **Flood Study Review Meeting:** Local officials, State, Federal, Tribal, and non-governmental entities will be provided the opportunity to view and comment on drafts of the engineering analyses and flood risk data. This meeting may also include highlights of hazard mitigation planning and implementation of best management practices to reduce flood hazards in the watershed.

Roles and Responsibilities:

This Risk MAP Charter represents a good-faith effort by all parties to share data, communicate findings, and plan mitigation activities to protect the communities within the watershed from flood risk. It is not legally binding nor does it preclude a community from participating in the FIRM appeal process. The parties listed in the signature block below agree to collaborate on flood hazard identification activities, risk analysis products,

Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed

and will consult with each other to integrate contributions into flood hazard identification efforts. It is intended to provide a common “Good Neighbor” strategy to address flood hazards and increase resilience within the watershed.

FEMA and CWSD will provide local officials with regular updates on project status, the data and products described above, and outreach guidance to include local awareness of flood risk. These efforts will better enable local communities to take action to reduce risk, through the adoption of the maps, development or enhancement of mitigation plans, and increased communication with citizens to inform them of their risk and the steps that they can take to mitigate that risk.

Alpine, Douglas, Carson City, Lyon, Storey, and Churchill Counties, and other entities will provide input and updates throughout the study process to verify data and ensure that the information accurately represents their community.

CWSD, FEMA, and local officials agree to communicate as needed over the course of each project outlined in the mapping program to review project milestones, outcomes, and impacts. CWSD and the PMT will meet at least twice a year to discuss, plan, and coordinate all mapping program projects.

We, the undersigned, agree to work together to implement this Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed to the best of our abilities and within our legal authorities and delegations.

Risk MAP Charter for the Carson River Watershed

Doug Johnson, Chairman
Carson Water Subconservancy District
Date Signed: _____

Sally Ziolkowski, Director
FEMA Region IX Mitigation Division
Date Signed: _____

Kim Davis, NFIP Coordinator
Nevada Division of Water Resources
Date Signed: _____

Elizabeth Ashby
Nevada Department of Public Safety
State Hazard Mitigation Office
Date Signed: _____

Thomas Sweeney, Chairman
Alpine County, California
Date Signed: _____

Michael Olson, Chairman
Douglas County, Nevada
Date Signed: _____

Bob Crowell, Mayor
Carson City, Nevada
Date Signed: _____

Joe Mortensen, Chairman
Lyon County, Nevada
Date Signed: _____

Bob Kershaw, Chairman
Storey County, Nevada
Date Signed: _____

Norm Frey, Chairman
Churchill County, Nevada
Date Signed: _____

Alicia Kirchner, Chief
USACE Sacramento District,
Planning Division
Date Signed: _____