News from Region X

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Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction
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Final Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures (LAMP) Released

Non-accredited levee systems are levee systems that do not meet all the requirements outlined in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 65.10 along the entire length of the levee system. FEMA recognizes that levee systems that do not fully meet the requirements set forth in 44 CFR 65.10 may still provide a measure of flood risk reduction. For this reason, FEMA has developed its *Analysis and Mapping Procedures for Non-Accredited Levees*, a suite of procedures for providing a more refined depiction of flood risks. The document provides a synopsis of FEMA's historic analysis in the vicinity of levee systems, an overview of how the new process was developed, the teams responsible for procedure development, response to public comments, and an understanding of each analysis and mapping approach.

The adopted suite of procedures – Sound Reach, Freeboard Deficient, Overtopping, Structural-Based Inundation, and Natural Valley – has gone through an extensive process of scientific review and public input. The procedures allow a levee system to be broken down into multiple reaches and allow the risks due to identified deficiencies to be better understood and determined.

FEMA will work with community officials and collect local input prior to determining the procedure(s) that will be used to identify the areas of potential flood hazard on the landward side of the non-accredited levee system for all current and future mapping projects.

The flood risk on the landward side of a non-accredited levee system will be determined through the use of the new levee analysis procedures. Once it has been

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LAMP Implementation Steps

FEMA will introduce the LAMP approach with a small number of pilot projects this year to understand the approach's impacts and benefits, and allow the agency to consider its broader implementation. The pilot will include about 10% of the current on-hold studies, where communities are interested in moving forward with the LAMP solution. (Of the 30 projects on hold in Region X, FEMA HQ has selected one pilot project in Pocatello, Idaho.)

FEMA will engage the pilot project communities to document the trial applications of LAMP, refine the standards and guidance for implementation, and prepare educational and training materials for future communities that will be engaged in LAMP.

FEMA will then implement LAMP on a larger scale across the nation. The LAMP approach requires considerable interaction between FEMA and the local communities and FEMA is committed to understanding the local knowledge and operation of a levee system prior to its determination of the appropriate LAMP procedures.

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LAMP *(Cont.)*

decided which procedures should be used, the flood risk will be determined, and the results will be identified on the FIRM as either a SFHA (Zone VE, AE, A, AH, or AO), or an area of possible but undetermined flood hazard (Zone D).

Levee owners are still required to provide levee certification documentation as outlined in 44 CFR 65.10 for levee systems to be shown on the map as accredited. Following receipt and acceptance of all required documentation identified in 44 CFR 65.10, Zone X designations may be used to indicate low-to-moderate flood risk on the landward side of accredited levee systems.

For more information on LAMP visit www.fema.gov or to view the Final Approach Document, visit www.starr-team.com.

Coastal Flood Hazard Mapping Studies Fact Sheet Now Available

Because of the importance of understanding the Nation's coastal flood risk, FEMA has initiated coastal flood risk studies for the populated coastline as part of Risk MAP.

To further explain the benefits of these studies, answer frequently asked questions, and to highlight coastal resources and other information, FEMA has created the Coastal Flood Hazard Mapping Studies Fact Sheet. It is available for download at www.starr-team.com.

For more information related to the Coastal Flood Hazard Mapping Studies, visit the new Coastal Flood Risk web pages on FEMA.gov including the Coastal Flood Risk Study Process page, Coastal FAQ page and Coastal Flood Risk Resources page.

New USGS Hurricane-Induced Coastal Erosion Hazards Report and Online Mapping Tool

USGS recently released two reports and an online mapping tool regarding the probability of hurricane-induced coastal change on sandy beaches from Florida to New York.

The two reports—one assessing the coastline from Florida to North Carolina and the other from Virginia to New York—can function as part of a "virtual toolkit" for US Atlantic coast community planners and emergency managers as they make decisions on how to best address coastline vulnerabilities. The reports show that even during the weakest hurricane, a Category 1 with winds between 74 and 95 mph, 89% of the dune-backed beaches from Florida to New York coast are very likely to experience dune erosion during a direct landfall. But scientists involved say the strength of the studies is in their ability to predict coastal change in specific areas.

The new online mapping tool, based on a USGS state-of-the-art model, will allow community planners and emergency managers to focus on a specific storm category and see the predicted coastal change in their area. This information may help with decisions ranging from changes to building codes and locations for new construction, to determining the best evacuation routes for future storms. These can serve as an important resource for coastal planners and emergency managers nationwide as they work to protect their communities from future storms.

For additional information on the reports and to use the online mapping tool, please visit coastal.er.usgs.gov/hurricanes.

NORFMA Conference Scholarship

NORFMA is reaching out to communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program to foster partnerships and information sharing. Communities that actively participate in NORFMA find that association with other communities in similar circumstances has the benefit of finding common solutions to floodplain management issues. However, budget restrictions may further limit the already scarce training opportunities of many communities, particularly smaller communities in rural areas.

NORFMA would like to help by offering a scholarship for free registration to our annual conference which will be held September 18-20th in Stevenson, WA, at the Skamania Lodge.

Participants will earn 12 CECs. Registration also includes your 2014 NORFMA annual membership.

Eligibility Requirements

Scholarships are available to staff of NFIP participating communities with some responsibility for floodplain management duties. First-time scholarships only; previous scholarship recipients are ineligible.

Visit www.starr-team.com for the Scholarship Application.

Ask the Help Desk

Have a question about a mapping project or mitigation planning? Ask the Region X Service Center!

We can be reached via email at RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

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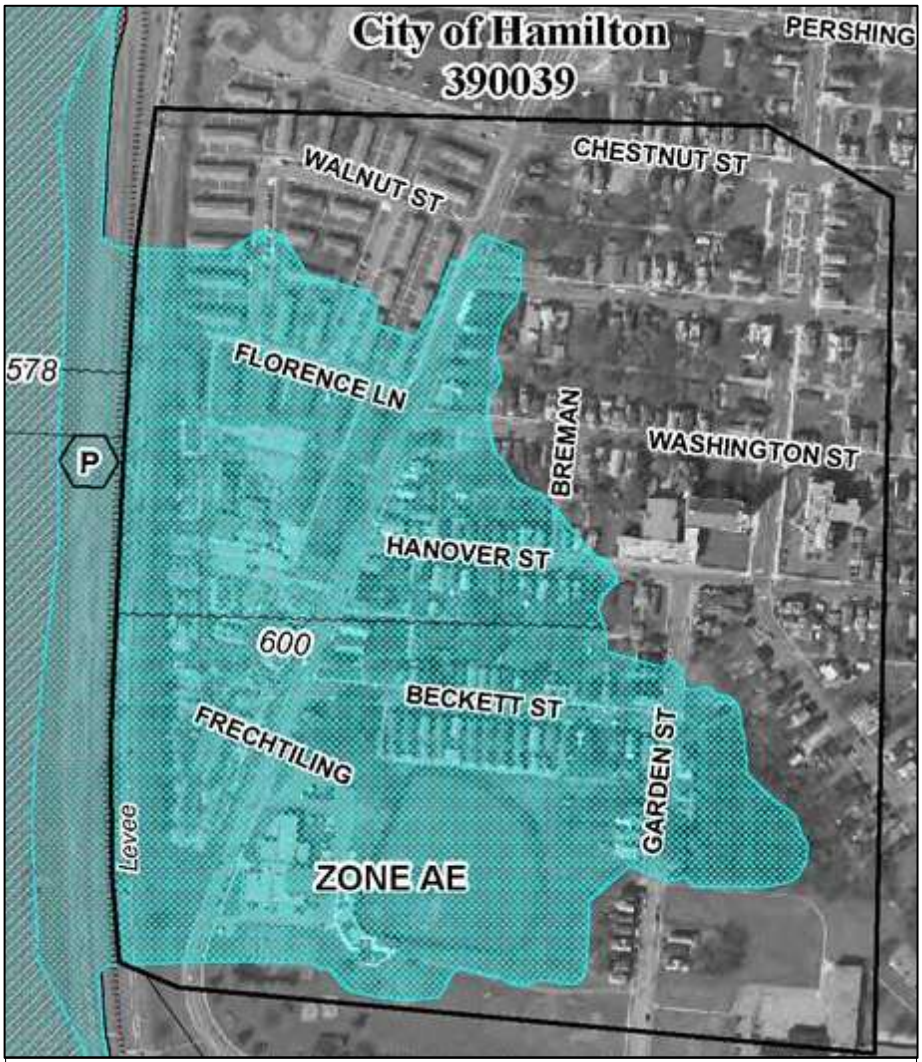
Mapping Non-Accredited Levees: Seclusion Method

In an effort to address the backlog of projects that have been on hold while waiting for guidance regarding the analysis and mapping of non-accredited levees, FEMA will implement a Levee Seclusion Method to isolate non-accredited levee areas to resume and finalize affected projects. Seclusion will only be used as an option for non-accredited levees and levees that were de-accredited without being offered a Provisional Accredited Levee (PAL) status. Expired PAL projects will not use the Seclusion Method, nor will it be immediately used on levees where the owner is actively working on improving the levee to meet 44 CFR 65.10.

Levee Seclusion involves clearly defining and creating a boundary around the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) impacted by the non-accredited levee system. Effective flood hazard information will be transferred onto the new/revised FIRM with a note indicating the source. The FEMA Region will commit to a revision of the FIRM to address the non-accredited structure's flood hazard at a later date.

As with all studies initiated by FEMA, the prioritization for where and when this will be applied will be coordinated with the state and the communities affected.



Attention: The levee, dike, or other structure inside this boundary has not been shown to comply with Section 65.10 of the NFIP Regulations. As such, the FIRM panel will be revised at a later date to update the flood hazard information associated with this structure. The flood hazard data shown inside this boundary (which have been re-published from the May 5, 2004, FIRM for the City of Hamilton, Ohio), should continue to be used until this FIRM panel is revised to update the flood hazard information in this area.

Levee Seclusion Guidelines

- Levee Seclusion will only impact the SFHA on the landward side of the levee when re-publishing the effective FIRM data.
- Projects will require incorporating the effective data from the current FIRM.
- The area not being updated (secluded area using the previous/current effective data) will have a black bounding box around the entire SFHA.
- A levee seclusion note will be added to the FIRM (see sample above).
- For de-accredited levees, the area shown in the bounding box should correspond to the area currently shown on the effective maps as the protected area and any interior drainage areas.
- For non-accredited levees, the area shown in the bounding box should approximate the natural valley area of the levee. Any Base Flood Elevations or static elevations shown on the effective FIRMs in this area will be carried over.
- If preliminary maps have already been issued for a project where the Levee Seclusion Method is being applied, revised preliminary maps should be issued to all communities impacted by the secluded area.

STARR developed these guidelines to assist mapping partners with projects delayed due to LAMP. Visit www.starr-team.com for more information, or email Josha.Crowley@starr-team.com.

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Featured Training

Using DFIRMs and Other Digital Flood Data

August 14, 9:00 am (Pacific)

This one-hour beginner level session will provide a basic overview of digital flood insurance rate maps (DFIRMs) including how to use the DFIRM database in ArcGIS, using flood hazard data for mitigation and public outreach, and online resources for non-GIS users. The target audience are state and local officials that use DFIRMs for day to day floodplain management duties and/or beginner level GIS staff that support those functions.

One CEC for CFMs

To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site online at j.mp/starrwebtraining or email RXTraining@starr-team.com

Puget Sound Floodplain Workshop

Floodplains by Design

October 2, 9:00am – 3:00pm

The partnership between the Nature Conservancy, local governments, and State and Federal agencies recently secured additional funding from the Washington State legislature to advance nine important floodplain projects in Puget Sound.

The partnership is planning a "Floodplains by Design" workshop for Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at the Edmonds Conference Center.

The partnership is working to improve the resiliency of the region's floodplains for the protection of human populations and the health of the ecosystem. Over the next ten years, this initiative will nurture and expand on the great work already being done, seek to address some of the common barriers to success and secure additional money and technical assistance to advance a suite of projects. The "Floodplains by Design" partnership comes at a time when population growth, increased bureaucracy, limited resources and a changing climate are putting new pressures on the ability to keep people safe and to make sure the Puget Sound basin is the kind of place people want to live. A National Estuaries Program Grant from Ecology, NEP funding from the Puget Sound Partnership, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy funds this effort over the next year

Location: Edmonds Conference Center – Edmonds, Washington

To RSVP, email Jim Kramer or call (206) 841.2145.

Suggested Reading

There is a great article in the High Country News from June of this year about Sequestration and how it is affecting stream gages in Idaho titled "Sequestration sinks stream gages" by Sarah Jane Keller. The article can be viewed at http://www.hcn.org. STARR

Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

Using DFIRMS and Other Digital Flood Data
August 14, 9am
Online* – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates for A Zones
Auguat 15, 10am
Online* – 2 CECs

Biggert-Waters NFIP Reform Act
August 21, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates
August 22, 10am
September 26, 10am
Online* – 2 CECs

Determining Base Flood Elevation
August 28, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

NFIP Basics
September 11, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

Floodplain Development Plan Review
September 18, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

Inspecting Floodplain Development
September 19, 9am
Online* – 2 CECs

*To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site online at j.mp/starrwebtraining, or email RXTraining@starr-team.com.

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