AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001657

MEETING DATE:	11/17/2026
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION:	Board of Supervisors and Orange County Flood Control District
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S):	All Districts
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:	OC Public Works
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S):	Justin Golliher, 949-344-3112 Jeff Ernst, 714-227-9564

SUBJECT: Approve Orange County Floodplain Management Plan and Related Documents

CEO CONCUR	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	CLERK OF THE BOARD
Concur	Approve resolution to form	CONSENT CALENDAR 3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: N/A	**Current Year Cost:** N/A	**Annual Cost:** N/A
Staffing Impact: No		**Sole Source:** N/A
Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A	**Funding Source:** N/A	**County Audit in Last 3 years:** No
Levine Act Review Completed? N/A		
Prior Board Action: N/A		

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Find that the proposed project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3) (Common Sense Exemption) since this project has no potential for causing any significant effect on the environment.

2. Adopt the Resolution adopting the 2026 Orange County Floodplain Management Plan.

3. Adopt the Resolution adopting the 2026 Orange County Program for Public Information.

4. Adopt the Resolution adopting the 2026 Orange County Repetitive Loss Area Analysis.

5. Authorize the Director of OC Public Works or designee, after review by County Counsel, to approve updated Orange County Repetitive Loss Area Analysis.

SUMMARY:

Adoption of the 2026 Orange County Floodplain Management Plan, 2026 Orange County Program for Public Information and 2026 Orange County Repetitive Loss Area Analysis will establish a framework to

identify and prioritize flood hazard mitigation, standardize flood messages to the public across government agencies, evaluate locations with repeated flood-related losses and identify potential solutions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Orange County is susceptible to flooding and has historically endured significant impacts due to flood events. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides federally backed flood insurance to encourage communities to enact and enforce floodplain regulations. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS) incentivizes community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards. As a CRS Class 5 community, the County of Orange's (County) participation in the CRS provides eligible NFIP policyholders within unincorporated Orange County with a 25 percent premium discount.

OC Public Works developed the Orange County Floodplain Management Plan (FMP), Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA) and Program for Public Information (PPI) to evaluate hazards and mitigation opportunities, identify strategies for reducing repetitive flood losses and coordinate public outreach regarding flood risks. The documents also support activities eligible for credit under CRS. The FMP analyzes the community's flood risk, while the RLAA provides guidance on reducing damage in repetitive flooding areas. The PPI enhances flood hazard outreach projects through an ongoing public information program. Adoption of all three documents will support the County's continued participation in CRS and its Class 5 rating, which currently provides eligible NFIP policyholders in unincorporated Orange County with a 25 percent premium discount. The FMP is required to receive state subvention funds for the Westminster Watershed Flood Risk Management Project.

On February 8, 2022, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the grant application to California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Floodplain Management, Protection and Risk Awareness (FMPRA) grant for the Orange County Floodplain Management Plan Project and adopted Resolution No. 22-018. On October 18, 2022, the Board approved acceptance of the FMPRA grant award of $975,000. The Funding Agreement for the FMPRA grant requires certain deliverables, including the FMP, RLAA, PPI and associated adoption documents, to be completed by December 31, 2026.

Floodplain Management Plan
OC Public Works developed the FMP to identify known flood problem areas and establish goals, objectives, policies and implementation programs aimed at reducing flooding and flood-related hazards. The FMP also addresses protection of the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplains. The long-term benefits of floodplain management planning include increased understanding of flood hazards faced by the County, a sustainable and disaster-resistant community, financial savings through partnerships that support planning and mitigation efforts and reduced long-term impacts to human health and structures, as well as reduced repair costs. The FMP is multi-jurisdictional, providing planning and analysis for unincorporated Orange County as well as five participating jurisdictions: the cities of Anaheim, Laguna Woods, Newport Beach, San Juan Capistrano and Santa Ana.

Repetitive Loss Area Analysis
The purpose of the RLAA is to help participating communities and homeowners understand and reduce flood risk in areas with NFIP repetitive loss properties in Orange County. The primary goal of a FEMA RLAA is to identify and evaluate locations within a community that experience repeated flood-related losses so the community can prioritize, design and implement cost-effective flood mitigation measures that reduce future damage, lower NFIP claims and increase public safety and resilience. For communities participating in FEMA's CRS program, an RLAA can enhance credit opportunities under CRS Activity

510, Floodplain Management Planning, contributing to the CRS community's floodplain management goals and potentially supporting an increased discount to NFIP flood insurance policyholders. The RLAA is multi-jurisdictional, providing analysis for unincorporated Orange County and three participating cities: Newport Beach, San Juan Capistrano and Santa Ana.

Program for Public Information
The PPI was prepared to design and transmit messages to the public that are most important for flood safety and the protection of the floodplains' natural functions. The PPI and outreach schedule were developed in accordance with the 2025 FEMA CRS Coordinator's Manual and in partnership with community stakeholders. A PPI committee was created, comprised of internal County staff and external members of the public, to review public information efforts that currently exist in the County, assess the County's needs, develop consistent messaging and identify methods to convey those messages. This committee evaluated the current target areas and identified audiences to expand communication opportunities, then developed messages in alignment with ten PPI topics. The efforts of the committee will have a long-term influence on community resilience to the impacts of flooding.

To qualify for CRS credit, the FMP, RLAA and PPI must be adopted by resolution. Additionally, annual progress reports and an update to the document at least every five years are required for each document.

OC Public Works recommends that the Board adopt the 2026 Orange County Floodplain Management Plan, 2026 Orange County Repetitive Loss Area Analysis and 2026 Orange County Program for Public Information.

Compliance with CEQA: The adoption of the 2026 Orange County Floodplain Management Plan, 2026 Orange County Program for Public Information, and 2026 Orange County Repetitive Loss Area Analysis is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3) (Common Sense Exemption) since there is no possibility that the adoption of the plans may have a significant effect on the environment.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
N/A

STAFFING IMPACT:
N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:
N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment A - Resolution Adopting the 2026 Orange County Floodplain Management Plan
Attachment B - Resolution Adopting the 2026 Orange County Repetitive Loss Area Analysis
Attachment C - Resolution Adopting the 2026 Orange County Program for Public Information
Attachment D - 2026 Orange County Floodplain Management Plan Volume I
Attachment E - 2026 Orange County Floodplain Management Plan Volume II
Attachment F - 2026 Orange County Repetitive Loss Area Analysis
Attachment G - 2026 Orange County Program for Public Information