

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only

Meeting Date

__/__/__

Agenda Item No:

Department: Community Development Commission

() 4/5 Vote Required

Contact:

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Board Date

November 3, 2009

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Revisions to the Sonoma County Flood Elevation Program Design

REQUESTED COMMISSION ACTION:

Approve revisions to the Sonoma County Flood Elevation Program Design.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

Estimated Cost

Amount Budgeted

Other Avail Approp

(Explain below)

Additional Requested:

Explanation (if required):

ADDNL. FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

Contingencies

(Fund Name:)

\$

Unanticipated Revenue

(Source:)

\$

Other Transfer(s)

(Source:)

\$

Add'l Funds Requested:

\$

Prior Board Action(s):

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: Elements of the existing Flood Elevation Program Design would be inconsistent with changes in the FEMA programmatic requirements.

Background: [Draft Sonoma County Flood Elevation Program Design on file with Clerk of the Board]

In response to the winter storms of January and March of 1995, the Board of Supervisors authorized three applications to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding from FEMA. In 1997, three HMGP grants were approved for Sonoma County in the combined amount of \$9,353,250 to elevate approximately 238 dwellings and the funds were appropriated to the Flood Elevation Program to be expended over three distinct Phases. As of the 12/31/2008 completion date for the last of the three HMGP-funded Phases, the Program had completed 216 elevations, expending \$14.4 million in grant funds plus the required matching contributions, which were provided by the County, the Community Development Commission, and property owners. HMGP funding is a congressional allocation tied to a specific federally-declared natural disaster.

In addition to HMGP, FEMA administers several hazard mitigation programs to reduce the risk to individuals and property from natural hazards while simultaneously reducing reliance on Federal disaster funds. Two of these programs are funded from National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) premiums and are compatible with the Sonoma County Flood Elevation Program. The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program is authorized by Section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (NFIA), having the goal of reducing or eliminating NFIP claims. The Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) program is authorized by Section 1361A of the NFIA, having the goal of reducing flood damage to residential properties that have experienced severe repetitive losses under flood insurance coverage that will result in the greatest savings to the NFIP funds in the shortest period of time. Funding from these programs is provided on an annual cycle and is administered by California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA). The Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services, coordinating through the Community Development Commission, has submitted FMA funding applications for calendar years 2007, 2008, and 2009 funding cycles and an application for 2008 SRL funding. Currently \$9.8 million has been awarded as a result of these applications and \$1.7 million remains outstanding, but probable. In addition, the County Department of Emergency Services is preparing to submit approximately \$3.5 million of additional FMA and SRL funding applications for 2010 to continue to sustain funding for the Flood Elevation Program.

The original Flood Elevation Program Design was drafted based on the HMGP program and, at that time, Sonoma County was a nationwide pilot program for elevating structures as a flood hazard mitigation measure. In order to bring the existing Flood Elevation Program Design into better alignment with the current FEMA regulations for the FMA and SRL programs, and to generally update the Program Design to reflect current procedures, the Program Design document has been revised and in many cases, streamlined, as shown on the attached Summary of Revisions

REQUESTED COMMISSION ACTION

Approval of this agenda item will approve the changes to the Sonoma County Flood Elevation Program Design, on file with Clerk of the Board.

Attachments: Summary of Proposed Sonoma County Flood Elevation Program Revisions

On File With Clerk: Draft Sonoma County Flood Elevation Program Design dated November 3, 2009

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: