

Project Name:	Town of Saguache/Saguache County Flood Risk and Mapping Updates
Meeting:	Resilience Meeting
Date & Time:	August 23, 2023, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Location (In Person):	Saguache County Road and Bridge Room 305 3 rd Street, Saguache, CO 81149
Virtual Location (Zoom)	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8717668202 or call +1 346-248-7799 and use Meeting ID 871 766 8202

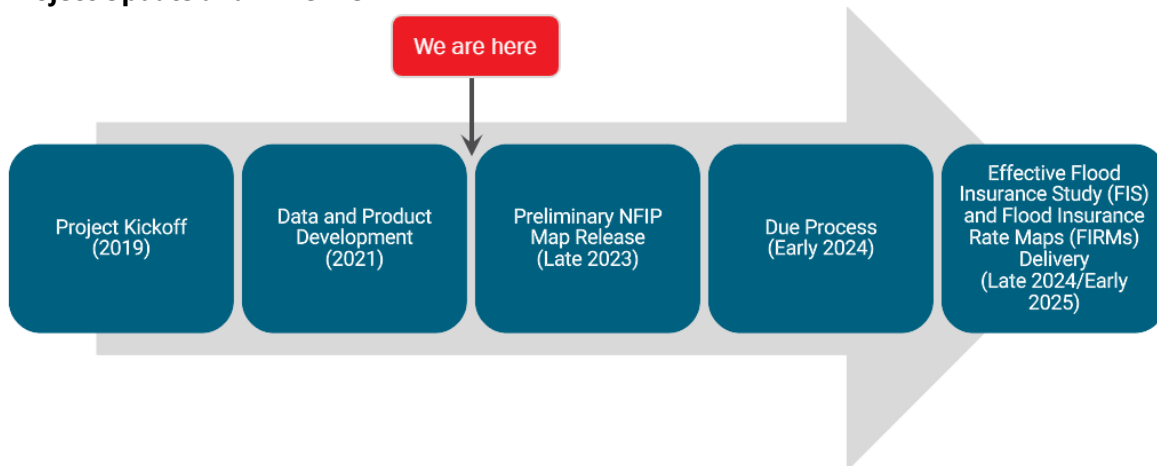
1. Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Goals

- Non-regulatory products will supplement the traditional FRP (Flood Risk Products), discuss mitigation
- Attendees (both in person and virtual) are listed here:
 - Wendi Maez, Amber Wilson, Bobby Woelz, David Frees – Saguache County
 - Iris Garcia, Amber Wilson (trustee) – Town of Saguache
 - Justine Hart, Mike Flynn, Chris Ide, Hermela Tuquabo - WSP
 - Terri Fead, Marta Blanco Castano, Doug Mahan – CWCB
 - Christine Gaynes - FEMA
 - Brian Campbell – CDOT Region 5
 - David Obsorn - CDPS

2. Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) Overview – under NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) Umbrella

- Not entire county mapped with this effort; only following the Saguache Creek
 - FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) Zone A = approximate, not a comprehensive amount of detail
 - Zone AE = detailed, includes bridges, structures, and field surveying information
 - all Zones relate to the 1% annual chance storm event
- Timeline:
 - Dates for future subject to change
 - Due process – community can submit any concerns or issues with technical data/errors

3. Project Update and Timeline



Last few years have been developing information and performing analysis.

Due Process – appeals to allow additional information to be considered,

Hoping for Effective (i.e., regulatory maps) by 2024-25

We can have more meetings in coming months to discuss information with local boards, trustees, etc.

4. **Flood Risk (Non-Regulatory) Products Available**

- General Considerations
 - i. These products meant to be used to alongside FIRMS, the additional information can help communities make more informed decisions; it also helps with risk communication, emergency management, etc.
- Resilience meeting packet & [web map](#) Overview
 - i. Web map shows draft floodplains as well as Flood Risk Products (FRPs)
 - ii. You can also search specific properties
 - iii. **Question (Iris): How does this tie to emergency management plan?** The point of this study is to update previous flood hazard data, so there will be updates to areas where there will be flooding, you can use this to update the mitigation plan; old map is from the 1976; part of hazard plan is to seek updated SFHA (Special Flood Hazard Area) maps
- [Colorado Hazard Mapping Website](#) Overview
 - i. Click on flood hazard box, click Saguache, agreement on left, categories at the top from CSLF (Changes Since Last FIRM) to Velocity grids those are FRPs
 - ii. The difference between the websites: CWCB (Colorado Water Conservation Board) has more information and in-depth background on the study, stakeholders, past meetings, etc. But the ArcGIS Online site is more visually friendly for these FRPs
- Available Flood Risk Products
 - i. Water Surface Elevation Grids (WSEL)
 - 1. Shows WSEL measured in feet at any point in floodplain - elevation of flood waters
 - ii. Depth Grids
 - 1. Visually more information, you can see the depth of the water at any spot, flooding depth in feet, you can focus on those that will be affected by more depth, especially for evacuation purposes or any other emergency management tasks
 - iii. Percent Annual Chance Grids
 - 1. Uses various events to determine % annual chance
 - iv. Percent 30-Year Chance Grids
 - 1. Gives homeowners a chance to see likelihood of a flood during the traditional lifecycle of a mortgage
 - 2. Table shows likelihood of event in 30yrs
 - v. Velocity Grids – how fast the flood waters are moving
 - vi. Changes Since Last Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) - CSLF
 - 1. Last time Saguache was mapped was 1976, so we can compare those areas to new mapping to see added or removed floodplains, or the floodplain delineation type changes, as insurance requirements might change also

2. **Question (Bobby):** will [parcel analysis] include properties in floodplain before? **Answer:** Yes, we compared parcels previously in the floodplain to those in it now. Information may impact insurance requirements. Please review the PowerPoint slides 25-26 for more information

5. Flood Risk in Your Community

- Saguache County Statistics
 - i. 40 Structures added, none removed (never mapped before)
 - ii. No communities are participating in Community Rating System – [CRS](#) can help reduce flood insurance rates by 5% per rank, ranks are 10-1, 10 is lowest/easiest to complete
- Town of Saguache Statistics
 - i. Added 5 structures to SFHA and removed 26
- Your role:
 - i. We will give you examples of what past communities have done to engage their residents with outreach and to review draft information, participate in future meetings, etc.
 - ii. Social media posts can help

6. Mitigation Planning & Communication

- i. How new maps indicate new or more risk and hazard mitigation plans
 1. May change priorities on where or how to mitigate
 - ii. Gives communities ideas on how to mitigate risks, mitigation grants
- Mitigation Financial Benefits
 - Mitigation Grants Available
 - i. HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)
 1. Available to ANY community in the state
 2. Post Fire grant type is there because of the relationship between fires and flooding, where areas burned usually see increases in flood potential due to hydrophobic soils, lack of vegetation to absorb water, etc.
 - ii. FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance)
 1. Only available to those who partake in NFP?
 - iii. PA (Public Assistance) - Section 406
 1. Not automatic after presidential declaration, must be approved
 2. Is not available for non-permanent work; goal is to fund projects that will take out structures or properties from the high-risk area
 - iv. BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities)
 1. Catch-all grant, competitive, the more previous disasters the more money granted
 - Mitigation Projects and Other Resources
 - i. Most federal grants are available to local communities, states, tribes, not individuals
 - ii. CWCB has the Mitigation Technical Assistance (MTA) funding that may help with small mitigation planning efforts, etc. - please reach out to CWCB for more discussion on this topic
 - iii. Other links to grants and funding resources on slide 35-36

7. Next Steps

- Your next steps & resources
 - i. Packets can spread virtually or printed to share at local community meeting areas, etc. Be on the lookout for the preliminary distribution of the mapping products and further meeting coordination in late 2023/early 2024
- Review of Draft FIRMs and Non-Reg products
 - i. **Parcel questions - is it better to get insurance before it is effective?**
 1. Being proactive is best
 2. There is a glide slope over a certain percentage over certain year
 3. Flood insurance goes farther than any grant federal response
 4. For more detailed information on insurance, please contact Erin May with FEMA's Region 8 support team: erin.may@associates.fema.dhs.gov or 571.422.7630
 - ii. **Other areas in Saguache County affected by flooding, based on community input:**
 1. Moffat, Crestone and KV estates, Jacks Creek, Spanish Creek, North Crestone Creek - Gunnison Valley areas
 2. We will study these areas during the countywide flood study that will take place in 2024 and future years.

Discussion – Web maps overview

- a. Saguache Resilience Website:
 - ArcGIS Online web map:
 - <https://amecei.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a2b2afca662949fab872a7f0bde6b5fd>
 - i. Stack symbol to show symbols, click and select products you want to see
 - ii. Regulatory products
 1. Draft flood hazard areas
 2. Effective – used to be paper maps, now converted to digital product
 - iii. Non regulatory
 1. Changes since lase FIRM
 2. Water Surface Elevation, Depth, Velocity, and Percent Annual Chance/Percent 30-yr Chance grids
 - Northern area by US Hwy 285
 - Many areas saw an increase because it was not previously mapped, areas with decrease closely overlaps with previous effective area
 - Expanding arrow shows ranges not as specific as [CWCB website](#)
 - WSP - At county level it only shows Saguache, should include "Crestone – coming soon/underway/being studied," so community knows
 - Map will not be public unless community decides to share it
 - Town boundary, does it look correct?
 - i. South of town, east of 285, flipped; need to look at town plat and adjust parcel viewer data. Iris provided this plat map and CWCB/WSP will fix asap
- b. CWCB Website:
 - More interactive map as you hover mouse above areas
 - Typically, you can see effective data and products but because they were previously paper maps, you will not be able to see effective here

Question: If there is a homeowner outside mapped area and they think it means they won't be affected by flooding?

- There will be a countywide in a few years, so if homeowner is outside, that means they have not been mapped yet. But please keep in mind that the data we're sharing with you today is still draft and subject to change.

Question: Hazard mitigation plan: actions to take phase one drainage study? - something that they can do and would be covered or superseded by base level engineering study?

- Drainage – taking models and putting in structures, does it make a difference and is it worth pursuing? A little more detail might help; Not necessarily, cannot do across whole county, but might highlight culverts to focus on in populated areas. CWCB may be able to help to some degree with a Mitigation Technical Assistance (MTA) project.

Question: How to reduce the blue (Zone A) on map?

- If certain event type works for your system, you can get to generalized answer of what you might need; if your town can only handle 25year events and it is comfortable with that, they can look to see what they need to do to make that happen

Question: Flooding issue with Hwy 285, if we want more culverts, CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation) is in charge (not county/town)

- CDOT contact: Brian Campbell - Brian.Campbell@state.co.us or 970.844.4001
- CDOT would need to make it a priority
- Town has applied for engineering for streetscape project to address flooding caused by HWY 285

8. Meeting Adjourn – Thank you for your participation!