

File # OAM2022-000667

Ordinance Amendment Memo

Repealing and Replacing Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

Public Body	Salt Lake County Council
Proposal	An Ordinance of the Salt Lake County Council Repealing and Replacing Chapter 19.74 of the Salt Lake County Code Entitled Flood Damage Prevention and bring it into consistency with updated FEMA Regulations.
Memo Date	August 23, 2022
Planner	Brian Tucker

BACKGROUND

The National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 was enacted by Congress as a comprehensive effort to minimize both flood damage and the financial impacts of floods on individuals and federal, state, and local governments. A major component of the 1968 Act was the establishment of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), through which federally backed flood insurance is made available to property owners and residents in communities that choose to participate in the Program. In return for the availability of such insurance, communities adopt and enforce minimum floodplain management requirements within the Special Flood Hazard Area of the community (as depicted on a map issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)). These requirements are designed to prevent new development from increasing the flood threat and to protect new and existing buildings from anticipated flooding.

Once a community with flood-prone areas is mapped with a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) issued by FEMA, it may choose to participate in the NFIP. Participation in the NFIP makes property owners in the community eligible to purchase federal flood insurance and receive other benefits not available in nonparticipating communities. The NFIP is a voluntary program administered by FEMA, a component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. Salt Lake County has elected to join the program, participate, and enforce a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, as well as the requirements and regulations of the NFIP.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

In recent years FEMA has remapped much of Salt Lake County, using more accurate elevation and other data than was available when the previous FIRM maps were created in the 1980's. In addition to the new maps, FEMA is evaluating the floodplain regulations adopted by the various jurisdictions for compliance with updated FEMA regulations. FEMA has created a new model ordinance for communities to use as the basis for their floodplain regulations. Zach Shaw from the DA's office has taken that model code and adapted it to Salt Lake County. Mr.

Shaw has distributed a number of drafts for comment to the MSD, Salt Lake County Engineering and Salt Lake County Flood Control. Mr. Shaw then sent the modified draft to FEMA for an evaluation, and FEMA representatives support the draft.

PROPOSED ACTION

The next step in the process is to adopt the updated Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The MSD, Salt Lake County Engineering and Flood Control, and the DA's Office request that the Salt Lake County Council schedule an informational briefing at the earliest available Council Work Session to authorize commencement of the public review process.

ATTACHMENT

- A. Proposed Ordinance