City of Huntington Beach Planning Department

STUDY SESSION REPORT

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Scott Hess, AICP, Director of Planning
BY: Andrew Gonzales, Assistant Planner AG
DATE: July 8, 2008

SUBJECT: **2007-2008 FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW**

LOCATION: Citywide

PROJECT REQUEST AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Flood Management Plan Annual Review represents a request to review the progress made over the past 12 months (July 2007 to June 2008) in implementing the recommended activities in the Flood Management Plan (FMP).

The FMP was approved by the City Council in September 2000 following a recommendation of approval by the Planning Commission. The purpose of the FMP is to identify potential flood hazards and activities to mitigate flood damage. Section 8 (Recommendation) of the FMP contains activities to reduce or mitigate flood damage. A matrix outlining the various activities, responsible departments, and status of each activity is included as Attachment No. 1.

CURRENT LAND USE, HISTORY OF SITE, ZONING AND GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATIONS

Not applicable.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINES

DATE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION:	MANDATORY PROCESSING DATE(S):
Not applicable	October 1, 2008

The request is tentatively scheduled, as a non-public hearing item, for consideration by the Planning Commission on July 22, 2008 and by the City Council on August 18, 2008. Following city review the report must be submitted to FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) by October 1 of each year as part of the annual re-certification. Failure to adhere to this deadline will jeopardize the city's participation in the flood insurance program.

This is the eighth annual review of the FMP. The Planning Commission, City Council, and FEMA have accepted each past annual review as adequate and complete. The annual review and associated activities maintain the City's good standing with FEMA.

CEQA ANALYSIS/REVIEW

The annual review is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15306, Class 6 of the California Environmental Quality Act, which states that information collection that does not result in major disturbance to an environmental resource is exempt from any environmental review.

COMMENTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

Updates received to date from all responsible departments have been noted in Attachment No. 1.

PUBLIC MEETINGS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

A floodplain brochure containing flood protection information is sent out annually to over 15,000 owners and occupants of property located in a flood zone. In addition, flood protection information is also published annually in the Sands. No public meetings have been held regarding this item. No comments or concerns from the public have been received to date.

PLANNING ISSUES

The Flood Management Plan Annual Review provides an update on the progress made over the past 12 months in implementing the recommended activities in the FMP. Attachment No. 1 to this report is a matrix which outlines the various activities identified in the FMP, responsible departments, and current status of each activity. The Planning Commission's role is to review the report for adequacy and completeness and to forward a recommendation to the City Council. Staff believes that the annual review demonstrates that the City continues to actively pursue implementation of the FMP.

ATTACHMENT: 2007-2008 Annual Review Matrix

Updates since the last annual review are shown as follows:
Staff updates - bold and underlined

(July 8, 2008)

ATTACHMENT NO. 1

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008 ANNUAL REVIEW

Flood Management Plan Recommended Activities

Goal	Activity	Planning	Public Works	Fire	Building	Library	Administrative Services	Administration	City Council	Community Services	Schedule	Status
EH4 - Flooding	8.1.1 - Continue to enforce and update floodplain regulations when revised by the Federal government	X									Ongoing	Floodplain ordinance continues to be enforced including submittal of flood certificates for all new or substantially improved structures within the floodplain. No new or revised regulations.
	8.1.2 - Protect public facilities from flooding		X								Ongoing	The Public Works Department has an ongoing commitment to protect public facilities with all their resources.
	8.1.3 - Assist managers and owners of critical facilities as listed in Section 5.4.3 to develop flood protection plans			X							Ongoing	In 2005-06 the City worked with the school districts and Fountain Valley in preparing a Hazard Mitigation Plan which includes a flood component. **Booklets are available that describe how to develop flood protection plans. Flood preparedness information is provided to employee Safety Officers annually.**
	8.1.4 - Encourage floodproofing and retrofitting property/structures to prevent substantial flood damage and provide technical information	X		X	X						Ongoing	Planning and Building staff continue to provide floodproofing and technical information to the public.
	8.1.5 - Continue to update, distribute, and provide flood protection information and materials	X		X		X					Ongoing	Up-to-date flood protection materials received from FEMA and the State Office of Emergency Services are available at city hall and on the Internet. Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff continues flood preparedness education throughout the year to neighborhoods, schools, and

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Goal	Activity	Planning	Public Works	Fire	Building	Library	Administrative Services	Administration	City Council	Community Services	Schedule	Status
												businesses and through the City's CERT program. Earthquake and flood information was distributed to over 77,000 households in 2006. Floodplain brochure mailed to over 15,000 property owners fall of 2007. Flood protection information is also published annually in the Sands. Library maintains flood related reference materials.
	8.1.6 - Maintain adequate flood insurance on public structures						X				Ongoing	City maintains $45,000,000 earth-quake/flood insurance coverage.
	8.1.7 - Provide floodplain information to property and business owners, realtors, and prospective buyers and encourage flood insurance	X									Ongoing	Letter sent to lenders, realtors and insurance agents advising that flood zone information is available from the Planning Dept. In 2007 the Planning Department responded to approximately 800 flood zone inquiries.
	8.1.8 – Maintain close liaison with nearby cities and with County, State, and Federal agencies	X	X					X			Ongoing	The City has an ongoing relationship with the cities of Westminster and Fountain Valley street/engineering divisions as well as County, State and Federal agencies. Administration and Public Works staff work through League of Cities City Managers and the Orange County Council of Governments in pursuing common goals in the area of flood control.
	8.1.9 – Continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System	X						X			Ongoing	Annual CRS verification is due October 1, 2008; presently the City is rated Class 7 which allows flood insurance to HB property owners and residents with

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Flood Management Plan Recommended Activities

Goal	Activity	Planning	Public Works	Fire	Building	Library	Administrative Services	Administration	City Council	Community Services	Schedule	Status
												a reduction up to 15% on the premium. The City continues to implement all FEMA design regulations on new development and substantial improvements.
	8.1.10 – Continue to implement the City's emergency operation procedures as outlined in the City's Emergency Management Plan, in particular, the Flood Warning and Evacuation procedures			X							Ongoing	The EOC and Police Watch Commander constantly monitor the weather and any flood or storm threat. They are prepared to issue warnings whenever needed. The City has updated and the City Council has approved the new Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which describes alerting and warning and evacuation procedures. In 2005 the City received the StormReady designation from the National Weather Service. In 2007 the City received TsunamiReady designation from the National Weather Service. **In 2008 the EOP will be updated**.
	8.1.11 - Continue to utilize citizen volunteers, e.g., CERT and RACES			X							Ongoing	**The CERT program has over 600 graduates and RACES has 75 trained and equipped communications volunteers ready to respond.** This includes a CERT Sandbag Team complete with dispatchers, sandbaggers and a hotline phone number. **RACES includes Amateur TV (ATV) which shoots live video into the EOC improving our situation assessment ability.**
	8.1.12 - Continue to provide a sandbag program		X								Ongoing	Sandbag filling machine is on a scheduled service program. Sand is

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Goal	Activity	Planning	Public Works	Fire	Building	Library	Administrative Services	Administration	City Council	Community Services	Schedule	Status
												stockpiled in the Corporation Yard year round and available to public during possible flooding events. The Fire Department's CERT volunteers have a trained Sandbag Team ready to sandbag for elderly and disabled residents when called upon.
	8.1.13 – Encourage the State to modify the roadway profile of Pacific Coast Highway between Warner Avenue and Goldenwest Street to prevent street closure due to flooding	X	X					X			Ongoing	Elevating of PCH where it crosses the inlet as part of the Bolsa Chica restoration reduces the chances for PCH to flood near the inlet. The other unmodified portions of PCH will continue to be subject to flooding.
U3 - Storm Drainage	8.2.1 - Upgrade the City's flood control system (storm drains, catch basins, pump stations, and channels) to current FEMA standards (100-year flood) and concentrate on the repetitive flood areas first		X				X	X			October 2020	**Construction to begin on storm drain projects in the consolidated redevelopment area in FY 07/08. Design and property acquisition to be completed in FY 07/08 for the Heil pump station with construction proposed for FY 08/09 pending funding availability.** **Last year the City received a $20 million authorization in the Federal Water Resources Development Act to improve the City's storm water infrastructure.** The City continues to place funding for storm water infrastructure on its federal funding agenda. The City also continues to evaluate needed flood control improvements citywide.
	8.2.2 - Quarterly the City Council shall lobby the County to correct, upgrade, and maintain the								X		By January 2001 and	City Council works on this goal through direct contact with our County

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Flood Management Plan Recommended Activities

Goal	Activity	Planning	Public Works	Fire	Building	Library	Administrative Services	Administration	City Council	Community Services	Schedule	Status
	County's flood control system to current FEMA standards (100-year flood)										quarterly thereafter	Supervisor. Improvements to the Talbert channel have been completed. **A map amendment was issued in July 2007 removing an area between Yorktown and Adams along the Talbert channel from the flood zone. The last unimproved section of the Huntington Beach channel was recently completed by the County. They are in the process of finalizing an application for a map amendment.**
	8.2.3 - Evaluate existing street conditions for replacement and/or installation of facilities to allow proper conveyance of storm flows to the City's flood control systems		X								January 2010	Newland Street widening project will include new storm drain to alleviate area flooding. **The project is underway with an anticipated completion date of summer 2009.** Other streets will be considered as part of 8.2.5.
	8.2.4 - Maintain the City's flood control system and continue biannual inspection and cleaning of City's flood control system		X								Ongoing	Public Works implements a regularly scheduled maintenance program for the City's drainage system. At a minimum, all City-owned flood control channels are inspected twice a year and cleaned if needed. At a minimum, all catch basins are inspected yearly and cleaned if needed.
	8.2.5 – Update the City's Master Plan of Drainage to evaluate the effectiveness of the City's flood control system		X								2005	Master Plan of Drainage (MPD) Update was completed in FY 04/05.
	8.2.6 - Lobby the federal, state and county governments to study, pursue and expand the wetlands from Beach Blvd. to Brookhurst St. for	X	X					X	X		Ongoing	In addition to direct City contact with our county, state, and federal legislators, the City utilizes lobbyists at the state

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Flood Management Plan Recommended Activities

Goal	Activity	Planning	Public Works	Fire	Building	Library	Administrative Services	Administration	City Council	Community Services	Schedule	Status
	floodwater mitigation											and federal levels to help in securing funding for this purpose. The City also actively supports the successful efforts of the HB Wetlands Conservancy in soliciting state money to acquire and restore wetlands between Newland St. and the Santa Ana River. In addition to an 8-acre Caltrans sand dune property along PCH that has been previously acquired, the HB Wetlands Conservancy anticipates acquiring a 17-acre UC Riverside property near Brookhurst and PCH in about one year and a 46-acre Caltrans property near Beach and PCH in about three years.
	8.2.7 - Evaluate and upgrade open areas, e.g., Meadowlark Golf Course, Central Park, Good Shepherd Cemetery to eliminate offsite drainage and subsequent impact to private property.		X								Ongoing	Good Shepherd Cemetery has been conditioned to construct on-site detention and drainage facilities to replace the removal of the existing drainage swales. **The hydrology/hydraulic study and grading plan for Good Shepherd were approved and construction is currently underway. Construction is estimated to be completed in fall 2008.**
	8.2.8 - Continue to support reconstruction of deteriorating seawalls	X									Ongoing	Planning staff continues to prepare CEQA documentation for seawall repair as requested by applicants.
	8.2.9 - Pursue funding from County, State and Federal agencies		X					X	X		Ongoing	The City continues to seek Federal funding to improve flood control infrastructure.

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Goal	Activity	Planning	Public Works	Fire	Building	Library	Administrative Services	Administration	City Council	Community Services	Schedule	Status
												In 2005-06 the City in conjunction with Fountain Valley and the school districts prepared a Hazard Mitigation Plan to allow these jurisdictions to be eligible for pre-disaster mitigation grants.
	8.2.10 - Develop and support new funding sources to help accomplish drainage goals		X				X	X	X		Ongoing	In addition to the efforts of lobbyists, the city supports legislation that will achieve this goal.
	8.2.11 - Continue to participate in County watershed studies and programs		X								Ongoing	See 8.1.8
EH5 - Tsunami	8.3.1 - Update the Tsunami Emergency Operation plan, Operations Plan 2, as needed			X							Ongoing	A Tsunami Incident Action Plan was completed in 2007 and EOC and Public Safety Managers have been trained on the plan. A countywide Tsunami Exercise was conducted. **The City was designated TsunamiReady by the National Weather Service in 2007.**
	8.3.2 - Continue to provide tsunami warning to the community			X							Ongoing	The Police Watch Commander (alerting point for the City) and the EOC are prepared to issue tsunami warnings. This capability has been expanded to include weather radios in the Watch Commander, Battalion Chief, Marine Safety and EOC Offices and to enhance our electronic email warning systems. In 2007 the Fire Department upgraded and automated its warning sirens which are located at seven fire stations. The Police Department has a contract with a reverse 9-1-1 type telephone warning

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Goal	Activity	Planning	Public Works	Fire	Building	Library	Administrative Services	Administration	City Council	Community Services	Schedule	Status
												system called RapidNotify. Tsunami signs have been posted on the beach and on major streets along the coast to identify the tsunami hazard zone and evacuation route.
	8.3.3 - Educate the public regarding the potential threat of a tsunami			X							Ongoing	At outreach seminars the EOC provides the public with information on a tsunami threat and what residents should do if a tsunami warning is issued. In addition a Hazard Analysis was completed for schools identifying which should prepare for tsunamis. A Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed and one of the six hazards included is tsunami. The City Council, State OES, and FEMA have approved the plan. A Tsunami Plan was completed in 2007. A Tsunami Education Campaign was started in 2007 sending 21,000 letters to residents in the tsunami area. Booths are set up monthly to hand out tsunami and flood preparedness info to the public.
ERC2 - Biological Resources	8.4.1 - Implement best management practice plans and National Pollution Discharge Elimination Plans	X	X								Ongoing	As applicable, zoning entitlements include a condition of approval requiring NPDES plans to be submitted to and approved by Public Works prior to issuance of building permits and/or grading permits. Staff is continuously developing and implementing Best Management Practices where appropriate for both new and existing development as well as city owned properties.

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Flood Management Plan Recommended Activities

Goal	Activity	Planning	Public Works	Fire	Building	Library	Administrative Services	Administration	City Council	Community Services	Schedule	Status
	8.4.2 - Investigate and install in-line wetlands in drainage courses wherever feasible		X								Ongoing	Several potential areas have been identified in the City. Staff is working with County, Army Corps, Orange County Water District, Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game, Water Board, and environmental non-profit organizations to evaluate feasibility and funding. Partial funding has been obtained from the State for Talbert Lake diversion project phase I and II, and the Irby Park urban runoff treatment project. **A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared for the Talbert Lake project and is in the public comment period. The Talbert Lake project is anticipated to commence phase I construction in summer 2009.**
	8.4.3 - Prohibit filling of wetlands except as allowed by the General Plan	X									Ongoing	Filling of the Waterfront residential wetland parcel at Beach and Pacific Coast Highway was prohibited as part of the development project. The wetland parcel is owned by the Redevelopment Agency and has a conservation easement in place.
	8.4.4 – Encourage the State to maintain the coastal dunes adjacent to the Bolsa Chica wetlands and in the Huntington Beach wetlands to better protect the areas from storm surges									X	Ongoing	**The State has scheduled a maintenance dredging project to begin in September, 2008. The project will result in the city beaches receiving 100,000 – 150,000 cubic yards of sand between Seapoint and the cliffs at Dog Beach.**
	8.4.5 – Continue the Coastal Conservation District zoning on the wetlands	X									Ongoing	There was no change to Coastal Conservation District zoning on

ATTACHMENT NO. 1.9

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	zoning on the wetlands											wetlands.
EH2 - Erosion	8.5.1 – Establish building setbacks from all slopes including mesa and bluff edges	X									2010	Zoning Text Amendment to be pursued.
	8.5.2 – Participate in the bluff (between Goldenwest and Seapoint Streets) erosion study and implement recommendations		X								Ongoing	Army Corps of Engineers completed feasibility study in December 2004 and concluded that they would not pursue the project.
LU14 - Open Space	8.6.1 - Limit construction in existing open space areas only to necessary structures such as restrooms, picnic shelters	X								X	Ongoing	Only beach activity support structures were constructed on south beach area between Huntington and First St. **Five to seven restrooms will be constructed between 9th St and Seapoint St. but construction will not encroach onto the sand area of the beach.**
	8.6.2 – Evaluate the possibility of the City purchasing surplus school sites to allow playfields to remain as open areas and provide for floodwater retention areas									X	Ongoing	Quarterly meetings are held between the school districts and City to discuss use of school properties. In 2005 the City purchased 6 acres at Wardlow School and 2.6 acres at Lamb School from the Fountain Valley School District. **The city is currently negotiating a possible purchase of LeBard School. If purchased open turf areas will remain as sports fields for youth organizations.**
HCR1 - Historical Resources	8.7.1 - Encourage property owners to floodproof historical structures	X									Ongoing	Letters sent in June 2004. Addition to St. Bonaventure received a Letter of Map Revision based on fill removing the structure from the flood zone.

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Goal	Activity	Planning	Public Works	Fire	Building	Library	Administrative Services	Administration	City Council	Community Services	Schedule	Status
	8.7.2 - Encourage property owners of historical structures to maintain adequate flood insurance	X									Ongoing	Letters sent June 2004. Property owners have not changed since the letter was sent in 2004.

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