# Staff Report

Meeting Date: 10-07-2025

To: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

From: Seth Curry, Floodplain Administrator
 James Phelps, Planner

Subject: **1st Reading** **of the Floodplain Management Ordinance** (Title 10 Chapter 10 of the Siskiyou County Code)

## Background

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has completed updating the flood mapping for Siskiyou County.

In order to remain in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the County is required to revise its floodplain management ordinance to incorporate the new FEMA flood maps, among other things. The new ordinance must be effective by 12-11-2025 to meet federal requirements. Failure to meet the required deadline will result in suspension from the National Flood Insurance Program.

Staff has completed drafting the new ordinance. The new ordinance has been reviewed and conditionally approved by FEMA. The new ordinance also meets all state law requirements.

In order to meet the FEMA deadline, the 2nd reading must occur on 10-21-2025.

The Planning Commission recommends approval (4-0 vote).

Notice of the project was published and posted as required prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting and no public comment was received as of the preparation of this staff report.

## Analysis

The project consists of the adoption of a floodplain management ordinance that establishes regulations consistent with FEMA requirements, state building codes, and local standards to reduce flood hazards, protect life and property, and prevent environmental damage caused by unregulated development in flood-prone areas. The ordinance applies countywide and provides criteria for siting, design, and permitting of development within designated flood hazard zones.

Siskiyou County is a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program. If suspended from the program, residents will not be able to obtain flood insurance and could face potential foreclosure. The county will not be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding. In addition, no federal grants or loans will be authorized for projects located in the floodplain.

## Environmental Review

Adoption of the Floodplain Management Ordinance is exempt from CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3) (*Common Sense Exemption*) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment. The ordinance establishes regulatory standards to limit and manage development within flood-prone areas, thereby reducing potential environmental and public safety impacts rather than creating them.

Additionally, the ordinance qualifies for a categorical exemption under §15307 (*Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources*) and §15308 (*Actions of Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment)* as an action by a regulatory agency to protect natural resources and the environment by preventing degradation of floodplains, riparian areas, and water quality. Future projects subject to this ordinance will undergo separate environmental review, as applicable.

## Recommended Action

Began the process to repeal and replace Title 10 Chapter 10 of the Siskiyou County Code regarding flood damage prevention, by making the recommended motion below.

## Recommended Motion

I move to take the following actions:

1. Introduce, waive, and approve the 1st reading of the draft ordinance, to repeal and replace Title 10 Chapter 10 of the Siskiyou County Code regarding flood damage prevention; and
2. Direct the Clerk to schedule a continued public hearing on the CEQA exemption determination and a 2nd reading of the draft ordinance for 10-21-2025.

## Attachments

1. Draft Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, an Ordinance of the County of Siskiyou, to repeal and replace Title 10 Chapter 10 of the Siskiyou County Code regarding flood damage prevention.
2. Resolution of the Planning Commission recommending that the Board repeal and replace Title 10 Chapter 10 of the Siskiyou County Code regarding flood damage prevention (PC 2025-014).