

Public Hearing: September 21, 2009

FACT SHEET

TITLE: Resolution to Recognize the Little Salt Creek Floodprone Area and Floodway as Best Available Information

SPONSOR: Public Works & Utilities

OPPONENTS: Unknown

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:
Building and Safety
Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: For

APPLICANT: Public Works & Utilities

REASON FOR LEGISLATION:

To formally recognize the Little Salt Creek 100-year Floodprone Area and Floodway as the best available information for local flood regulation purposes.

DISCUSSION

This is a resolution to formally recognize the updated Floodprone Area and Floodway of Little Salt Creek, as shown on the attached map, as the best available information for local regulatory purposes, in conformance with the Flood Standards for Existing Urban Areas and New Growth Areas. The Flood Standards include the regulation of floodprone areas “as determined by hydrologic and hydraulic studies completed by the City of Lincoln or other governmental agency, or other acceptable source as approved by the City where this is the best available information.”

Related Item

This resolution is related to Comprehensive Plan Amendment No. 09006, to amend the 2030 Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan to add the Little Salt Creek Watershed Master Plan to the list of subarea plans and amend the future land use map accordingly. These items were heard at the same time before the Planning Commission.

Technical Study

The City, as a Cooperating Technical Partner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), contracted with a consultant to develop revised floodplain mapping for Little Salt Creek. This technical study was undertaken as a major component of the proposed Little Salt Creek Watershed Master Plan, which is a cooperative effort of the City and the Lower Platte South NRD. The technical floodplain study component has been completed, certified by a licensed engineer, and is being reviewed by FEMA. The study has been completed in compliance with FEMA’s Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners. However, the FEMA maps are not expected to be formally updated for at least 1-2 years.

Flood Information Proposed for Adoption

Currently, the Little Salt Creek Watershed has a FEMA-mapped “Zone A” Floodplain which includes no detailed flood information and no Floodway designation, and is based on a study that is over 30 years old. The updated information provides detailed Floodprone Area and Floodway boundaries and flood elevations for Little Salt Creek and its tributaries up to the point where they drain 150 acres. This resolution indicates that the updated Floodprone Area and Floodway information for Little Salt Creek will be utilized as the best available information in any circumstance where this information is more restrictive than the FEMA floodplain, until such time as the revised FEMA floodplain map is finalized and adopted.

Public Information

As noted above, the Floodprone Area/Floodway mapping update was a major component of the Little Salt Creek Watershed Master Plan. The Plan, which was developed through an extensive public process to solicit input from a broad range of interest groups, included the involvement of a 16-member Citizen Advisory Committee and a 14-member Technical Advisory Committee, two public open houses, five newsletters, and a project web site. As part of that process, draft Floodprone Area/Floodway maps for Little Salt Creek were made available for viewing at a public meeting on February 24, 2009, and on the project website. Five issues of a watershed newsletter were mailed to nearly 1,000 residents and interested parties throughout the study in order to keep people informed. In addition, letters were mailed to owners of property within the existing floodplain or proposed floodprone areas to inform them their property may be at risk of flooding and to invite them to the public meeting or the project website where they could view the new flood maps.

Conclusion

Finalization and adoption of the revised FEMA floodplain maps is not anticipated until the 2011-2012 time frame. In the meantime, it is appropriate for the community to utilize the best technical information regarding flood hazards along Little Salt Creek to protect future homes and businesses and to ensure that any development in the floodprone areas conforms with the Flood Standards for Existing Urban Areas and New Growth Areas. Adoption of this information for local flood regulation purposes is consistent with the previous adoption of updated flood information for six other stream reaches in the Lincoln area, including Beal Slough, Southeast Upper Salt Creek, Stevens Creek, Cardwell Branch, Salt Creek, and Deadmans Run.

POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE: No. This resolution conforms with the Flood Standards for Existing Urban Areas and New Growth Areas.

FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:

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REVIEWED BY:

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