New Mexico’s
Risk MAP Program

Valencia County Discovery Meeting
March 4, 2019
Los Lunas, New Mexico

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We’ve invited you to join us for this informational meeting because collaborative efforts involving federal, state, and local partners are ongoing in your local area to get a more holistic picture of local flood hazards, risks and mitigation efforts, and to begin watershed-wide discussions about increasing resilience to flooding. Throughout our engagement with the communities in this watershed, we will be helping communities identify mitigation actions they can take to reduce risk.

**Valencia County** has been chosen as a ‘area of interest’. Community involvement is so important in this process.

We will begin with a presentation that covers our approach to risk reduction,, the participants and the first step in the process- “**The Discovery workshop**”, data to be collected from the community, how we identify mitigation actions, and next steps.

After the presentation, we will be happy to answer your questions.
Risk MAP stands for Mapping, Assessment and Planning – Risk MAP is all about empowering communities. Risk MAP can help move us from conversations of “how high to build in a floodplain” to “where mitigation actions can prevent the next flooding disaster.”

The RISK MAP program combines flood risk identification, risk communication, and a call to action for communities to reduce risk using the most current information.

The Risk MAP Vision is:

“Through collaboration with State, Local and Tribal entities, Risk MAP will delivery quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property.”

The National Goals of Risk MAP are:
✓ Know Your Risk
✓ Know Your Role
✓ Take Actions to reduce Your Risk

The CTP and FEMA would like to work with local community officials to increase risk awareness throughout the community. The discovery effort allows the CTP and FEMA to better understand what makes your community “tick”.

What is Risk MAP?

• **Mapping** – Identification of areas of natural hazard risk
• **Assessment** – Review and analysis of hazard areas
• **Planning** – Mitigation activities to reduce risk
The Discovery Meeting acts to familiarize communities with the risk analysis, risk reduction and risk insurance programs, products and services available to communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The CTP and FEMA are interested in building strong community partnerships and to work together to increase a community’s capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against all hazards.

The Discovery meeting is an opportunity for us to meet with community officials and other interested parties to identify projects and mitigation actions that can be taken to further a community’s resilience to natural hazards.

The CTP and FEMA are moving forward with identifying risk on a watershed basis, rather than on a county-wide approach. This allows for a holistic view of a geographic area because watersheds cross jurisdictional boarders.

Through this watershed approach, communities can come together to develop partnerships, combine resources, develop a vision for the watershed, share flood risk information with the CTP and FEMA, and empower communities to implement mitigation actions to reduce their risk.

Throughout the Risk MAP process, the CTP and FEMA want to help communities identify mitigation actions they can take to reduce their local risks. The CTP and FEMA look for
opportunities to support those communities’ identified actions when possible through analysis, technical assistance and non-regulatory Risk MAP products.
Why is Discovery Important?

• First face-to-face meeting in the community
• Know your risk
• Review Mitigation Plans
• Discuss mitigation opportunities
• Provide flood risk information

Why is this important? The FIRST STEP for communities to participate in Risk MAP is during the Discovery Phase.

Community leaders and staff are invited to share data and prepare for the first Face-to-face meeting, including knowing the most effective staff to attend the Discovery meeting.

The Discovery Phase initiates partnerships in the watershed.

Know Your Risk: Flood risk and community vulnerabilities change over time, particularly in developing areas. Discovery is collecting flood risk information from communities and stakeholders.

During Discovery, the CTP and FEMA will review mitigation plans to understand local mitigation capabilities, hazard risk assessments and current or future mitigation activities.

FEMA and the CTP will discuss how we could use these mitigation plans to secure grant funding that would help to reduce future flood damage.

The CTP and FEMA reach out to local communities to gather information and data about local efforts and information related to flood hazards and flood risk.

The CTP and FEMA will collect information about local flooding history, capital improvement plans, land-use plans, comprehensive plans, master drainage plans, local
areas of mitigation activities, elevation data, building footprint or parcel data, development since last effective map, and details of the current flood risk communications process.

Once needs are identified, the CTP and FEMA can help support communities through technical assistance and training.
Why Valencia County Discovery?

- 2013 flooding Valencia county had no disaster declaration but sustained flooding damages
- 377 LOMCs
  - 325 LOMA
  - 52 LOMR-F
- 2018 Belen flooding
- Local community mapping concerns
We are requesting data and inviting representatives from state and federal agencies who work primarily with flood related issues to attend the Discovery Meetings. We are also coordinating with local elected officials and staff. We have been contacting other state, regional, and local organizations who deal with risk reduction, wildfires, and water quality issues as well. In total, we have mailed, emailed, or called approximately 80 people to encourage their participation in the Discovery Process.
The data that FEMA has available at the national and regional levels only tell part of the story. For a comprehensive picture of a community’s flood risk, FEMA relies heavily on information and data provided by the community itself. This is a list of some of the data FEMA hopes to gather during the Discovery Phase.

What Kind of Information?

- Areas of repeated flooding and insurance claims
- Future development plans
- Areas of low water crossings
- High water marks from recent floods
- Areas of evacuation during high water
- Master drainage plans, flood risk reduction projects and large areas of fill placement
- Other flood risk information
- Mitigation actions
What Mitigation Actions will you take?

- Mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property
  - What are some areas of mitigation interest in your community?
Land Use
Coastal Zone Management
Floodplain Management
Open Space Preservation
Stormwater Management
Subdivision Ordinance
Zoning

Building Code
Enforcement
International Building Code
International Residential Code

Management Best Practices
Integrate Natural Hazards into Planning Mechanisms
Other

Mitigation Projects
Acquisition
Elevation
Structure
Utilities

Flood Risk Management
Bridge
Culvert
Dams
Debris
Drainage Improvements
Jetties
Levees
Revetments
Seawalls

Forest or Vegetation Management
Natural Systems Restoration
Beach
Dune Rehabilitation
Nourishment
Wetlands

Soil Stabilization or Erosion Control
Retrofit
Non-Structural
Structural
Safe Room Construction
Underground Utilities

Community Identified Programs
Firewise
StormReady
NFIP
CRS
Next Steps

- FEMA and the CTP will determine the path forward and scope for the study based on data and discussions with community
- CTP plans to submit proposal for Valencia County BLE project for next FEMA funding cycle.
- Communities will be notified of the decision
- Information gathered will help the communities make better informed decisions to address the flood hazard risks that are identified

Next Steps:

There are three meetings with the communities during the Discovery Phase.

There will be a follow-up meeting with the communities to discuss Mitigation actions that were identified and tools FEMA can provide to support them.
FEMA will also share opportunities for technical support and training that were identified through the process.
Communities in the watershed will also receive the Discovery Report, the Flood Risk Report, a flood risk map and flood risk database.
Information gathered in this process will help the communities make better informed decisions to address the flood hazard risks that are identified.

Just to reiterate - the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a locally administered program.
FEMA, State Agencies, and CTPs act to support local governments in the administration of their program.
Community officials, upon NFIP entry, sign a resolution of intent to:
A community’s explicit desire to participate in the NFIP
A commitment to recognize flood hazards
Adoption of minimum (or higher) standards for community development

Discovery offers communities a chance to communicate with the CTP and FEMA on recent land change and its effect on the flood hazard within a community.
NFIP program requirements are intended to:
Prevent loss of life and property
Reduce taxpayer costs for disaster relief
Minimize economic and social hardships that result from flood events
• Not every watershed discovery becomes a study
• Not every study results in a flood map
Questions?

Valencia County Discovery Meeting

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FEMA