



TEXAS COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAIN COALITION

Managing your Community's Floodplains

Local Control = Local Responsibility





Floodplain Considerations

- Identify risks and map hazards
- Maintain and expand infrastructure
- Develop and update standards and regulations
- Take preventative action before a disaster strikes
- Conduct public education and outreach



Requirements

- HB 1018 of the 76th Texas Legislature states, “the governing body of each city and county shall adopt ordinances or orders...to be eligible to participate in the NFIP.”





Requirements

- NFIP requires participating communities to regulate development in the floodplain, including elevation & location of structures, construction materials and other building and housing codes.





TEXAS COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAIN COALITION

Your Role As An Elected Official

As a local official, you may now have to deal with the consequences of those past decisions.





TEXAS COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAIN COALITION

**Unless you have recently flooded,
you may not know your actual flood
risk.**





Development can increase run-off, causing flooding in places that have never flooded before.



Functions of a Floodplain

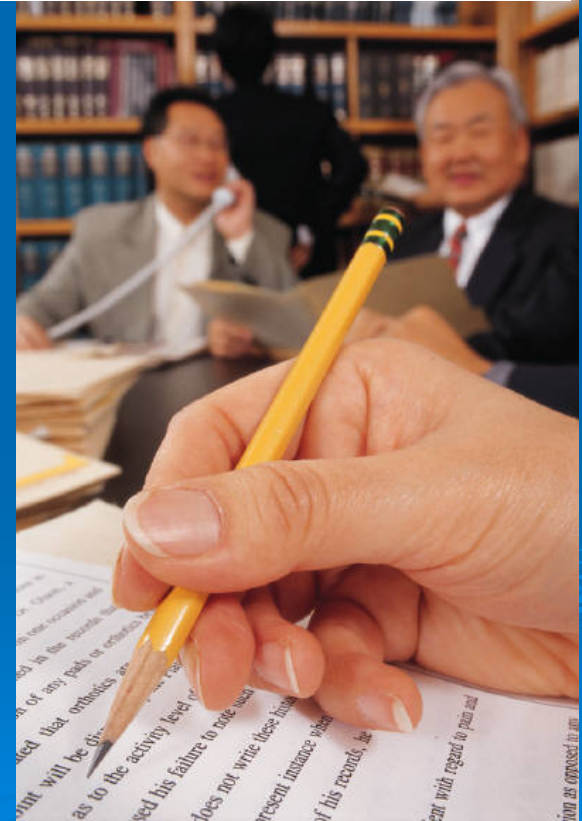
- Temporary storage for flood waters
- Filter sediments, nutrients, and impurities
- Support natural vegetation
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreational opportunities
- Education and scientific study



WHO DOES WHAT?

- Building Permits and Zoning
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Affairs
- Urban Renewal
- Planning
- Economic Development
- Public Works
- Emergency Management
- Fire and Police Departments

Take inventory





TEXAS COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAIN COALITION

National Flood Insurance Program



To allow flood insurance to be available to all citizens within your community, you promised to regulate development within identified floodplains.



Why Flood Insurance from the NFIP?

- **NFIP Insurance is often the only way to recover after a flood**
- **Disaster assistance is only available when Federal Disaster is declared**
- **Disaster assistance is often a loan your constituents have to pay back**



DEVELOPMENT

Any man made changes to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation, or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials.



TEXAS COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAIN COALITION

YOUR ROLE

Your commitment – and that of other elected officials – will determine the success or failure of your community's floodplain management effort. If you believe in the program's need and purpose, then you will take actions to ensure that it is carried out within the limitations of your community's resources.



TEXAS COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAIN COALITION

SUPPORT YOUR STAFF ...

Make sure they get the special training necessary and let them know what is expected of them.





Floodplain Ordinance

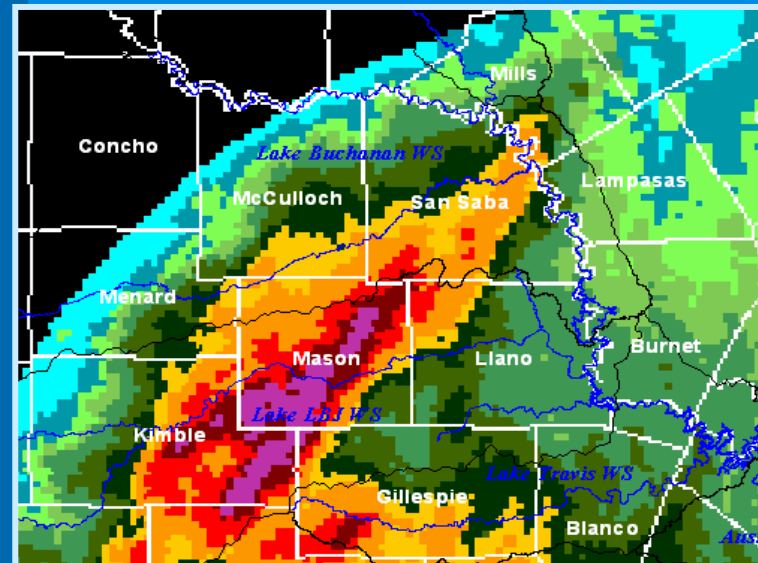
- ✓ Reserve sufficient floodplain area for conveyance of flood flows so flood heights and velocities will not be increased.





Floodplain Ordinance

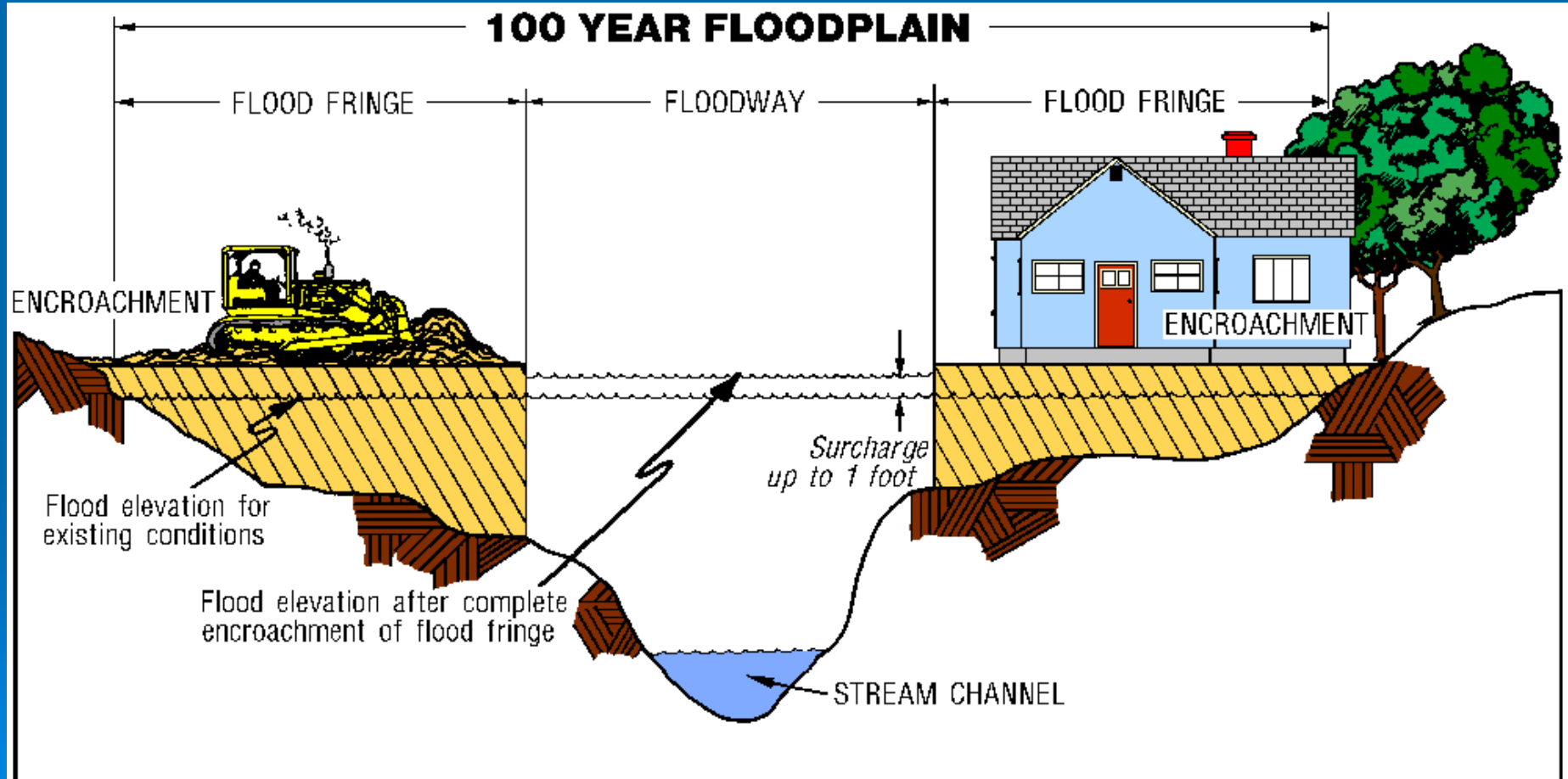
- ✓ Restrict or prohibit uses which are dangerous to health, safety or property in times of flood.





TEXAS COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAIN COALITION

Floodplain v. Floodway





***Variations?* - Don't do them!**

- **If you choose to approve a variance, follow FEMA guidelines**
- **Not a variance to flood insurance rates**
- **Places more people and property at risk**



COMMON MISTAKES

- **Adopt an action plan – without implementation**
- **Adopt floodplain management criteria – without enforcement**
- **Adopt minimum NFIP standards**
- **Agree to maintaining flood control project – fail to budget for maintenance**
- **“Piecemeal” - correct one problem – create another.**



Conclusions

- Floodplains are managed *locally*.
- It's each community's responsibility to join the NFIP and adopt an effective floodplain ordinance.
- Designate and empower your local floodplain administrator.





Conclusions

- Develop a robust local floodplain program.
- Working Together Makes Sense!
Get to know your upstream and downstream neighbors.





TEXAS COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAIN COALITION

Thank You!

- For more information, contact Heidi M. Carlin, CFM at LCRA:

512-473-3524

Heidi.Carlin@lcra.org

- Helpful websites: www.lcra.org or www.tcrfc.org