

**Yakima County Flood Control District's
Response to
SEPA Final Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance
For the Updated Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management
Plan**

The July 22, 2005, Final Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance issued by Steven Erickson, SEPA Responsible Official, for the updated Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan, identified 3 mitigation measures to be addressed in the amended Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan.

The following identified Mitigation Measures have been addressed in the amended Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan in the following areas in the plan:

1. Mitigation A1: Language proposed by the Flood Control Zone District that is substantively similar to the language below, shall be added as the first paragraph of Chapter 8 or other appropriate introductory location in the CFHMP:

“Contemplated Future Actions”.

The CFHMP is a policy document which contains recommended actions or policy changes to reduce flood hazard in a comprehensive fashion. Recommendations in the CFHMP Amendment include studies related to those actions or policy changes. These recommended studies are either of a general nature (i.e. study the available sediment supply in this reach) or specific, such as the recommendation for further study of the effects of levee relocation on adjacent infrastructure. For instance, such studies and environmental analysis will include assessing impacts to the City of Yakima WWTP outfall, mixing zone, and resultant water quality of the Yakima River, including identification and evaluation of mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potentially significant adverse impacts caused by levee relocation.

Location in updated Upper Yakima CFHMP: *This paragraph is located in the second paragraph of Chapter 8 of the updated Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. (page 8-1)*

2. Mitigation A2: The FCZD responses to the SEPA Responsible Official's January 14, 2004 request for additional information responding to comments and providing science sources as attached to this MDNS shall also be referenced in appropriate sections or appendices of the CFHMP to guide the process of initiating studies, and determining impacts of subsequent actions and implementing subsequent actions.

Location in updated Upper Yakima CFHMP: *Throughout the updating process, the appropriate science sources have been referenced in the updated plan and in the Reference section of the updated plan.*

3. Mitigation A3: Prior to adoption of the plan, all chapters of the plan shall be updated to reflect current situations and a new action shall be added to the plan to perform additional environmental review that comprehensively assesses the environmental impacts to public infrastructure resulting from actions proposed in the plan:

1. If the assessment indicates that impacts from plan projects are likely, then the FCZD shall work with affected agencies to secure funding to conduct further project-level environmental review.
2. The FCZD shall work closely with affected agencies to propose mitigation projects that specifically address impacts; and, ensure that mitigation for project impacts is funded and constructed as an integral part of the project(s). The FCZD shall endeavor to secure state and federal funding for all project related needs, including mitigation.
3. Flood hazard reduction projects shall not proceed unless associated mitigation projects are also funded and constructed on a timeframe that ensures that the concerns about the WWTP compliance and other public infrastructure related to said project(s) are eliminated.
4. Flood hazard projects shall be subject to all applicable state and federal environmental laws, including project specific reviews under SEPA and NEPA.

Location in updated Upper Yakima CFHMP: All of the Chapters in the updated Upper Yakima Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan have been updated to reflect current situations.

The last paragraph of the Executive Summary (Page ES-13), and included below, addresses the above mentioned issues with a general statement requiring environmental review and permitting of all projects resulting from this plan.

“Environmental review and permitting will be required for structural projects. Mitigation for impacts identified during additional studies and environmental review will be developed in cooperation with affected agencies or jurisdictions. Projects shall not proceed to construction unless impacts are mitigated in accordance with state and federal laws, local policies and codes, and this CFHMP.”

Chapter 8 of the updated CFHMP on page 8-4 under the title “**Actions Necessary to Meet SEPA Requirements**” also reinforces the above mentioned requirements to meet all applicable SEPA and NEPA requirements, pursue funding for project-level environmental review, work closely with affected agencies on mitigation and funding, and to insure that mitigation measures are an integral part of all projects.

Issue NA1 and RW20 are issues that have been introduced in the updated Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan that were not identified in the original 1998 plan. Both of these issues while new to the updated plan, are modifications of

issues that were identified in the original 1998 plan.

Issue NA1 is the outcome of a very recent study “Lower Naches River Partnership Group” that occurred in 2005 and is an update of original issue **RW12 Protection of State and County Roads** and originated from SR12 near 16th Avenue damage which was identified in the original 1998 study.

Issue **RW20** is listed as a new issue in the updated Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan, but was part of the original issue **RW3 Channel Migration** from the original 1998 plan. This issue relates to an improved understanding of river geomorphology directly impacting several issues and would initiate a long term study rather than implement any structural development.