



COMPTON CREEK AND DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL LEVEE ALTERNATIVES STUDY PROJECT UPDATE - MAY 2012



Dear Neighbor:

Last year, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) held community meetings to discuss flood risk management issues pertaining to communities near the Compton Creek and Dominguez Channel. The purpose of these meetings was to gather public input and to develop a number of possible solutions for inclusion in a Flood Risk Mitigation Alternatives Study (Alternatives Study).

The Alternatives Study is designed to identify projects that will lead to the recertification of the levees along Compton Creek and the Dominguez Channel, as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Currently, certain segments of the levees along these two water bodies do not meet FEMA standards; therefore, property owners with federally backed mortgages in these areas will be required to purchase flood insurance in the near future.

The original timeline for purchasing mandatory flood insurance has been extended, as FEMA continues to revise its flood hazard maps and mapping procedures. FEMA's new mapping procedures are intended to provide a more accurate depiction of the flood protection provided by the levees, as well as the properties that may be affected by flood hazard zone remapping. At this time, it is not known when the revised guidelines will take effect.

Public Works engineers have identified solutions and sites that can potentially be developed into projects to improve the protection provided by the levees. These potential solutions are now being analyzed in greater detail. The draft Alternatives Study report is scheduled for completion in late fall 2012. As development of the Alternatives Study moves forward, we will hold additional community meetings to share our proposed plan of action and to share our final recommendation.

Another issue relevant to the Alternatives Study and FEMA's Levee Certification Program, is Legislative Bill House Resolution No.1309 (HR 1309), known as the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011. This Bill contains provisions that may delay the implementation of mandatory flood insurance requirements. To date, HR 1309 has been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives. The U.S. Senate has not yet taken action on the Bill.

To view frequently asked questions on FEMA's Levee Certification Program, please visit the following website at: www.lawatersheds.org and click the Quick Links for Levee Certification FAQs.

For more information on the Alternatives Study, please contact the following Public Works staff: Mr. Diego Rivera at (626) 458-3978 or dirivera@dpw.lacounty.gov or Mr. Bill Johnson at (626) 458-4319 or wjohnson@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works