

# NEWS

FROM

# KNABE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **KNABE ANNOUNCES ELIMINATION OF FLOOD INSURANCE FOR LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER AREA HOMEOWNERS**

**LOS ANGELES, January 11, 2002** – Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe today announced, as a result of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) project, the elimination of flood insurance for the 50,000 Lower Los Angeles River area policy holders.

“This is an outstanding project for homeowners in the Lower Los Angeles River area and for the County of Los Angeles,” said Knabe. “Homeowners will no longer have to pay annual flood insurance premiums and will also be eligible for a refund on the current year’s premium. Not only did the project come in under the projected budget, but was also completed 5 years ahead of schedule. I am pleased to say that the County has been able to help ease the costs of 50,000 homeowners in this area.”

With the completion of this LACDA work, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), effective January 11, 2002, for the communities of Bellflower, Carson, Compton, Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach, Lynwood, Montebello, Paramount, Pico Rivera, South Gate and unincorporated Los Angeles County area of Rancho Dominguez. The Letter of Map Revision is the official FEMA document that based on minimum floodplain management criteria, revises the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and flood insurance requirements.

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The completed work along the Rio Hondo Channel and Los Angeles River has removed the flood zone designation and restored overflow flood protection to affected communities in a 47 square mile area. Removal of the flood zone will lift the mandatory requirement for the purchase of flood insurance to 50,000 property owners, saving residents \$22 million in annual insurance premiums. Affected property owners within the twelve communities will be eligible for a refund of their current year insurance premium.

For information on the areas covered by FEMA's Letter of Map Revision, to view the changes to any Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or to get information on flood insurance refunds and general flood insurance requirements, property owners should contact their communities at one of the numbers listed below or visit FEMA's website at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

<b><u>Communities in A99 Zone</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>
Bellflower	(562) 804-1424, Ext. 2248
Downey	(562) 904-7113
Lakewood	(562) 866-9771, Ext. 3566
Long Beach	(562) 570-6784
Lynwood	(310) 603-0220, Ext. 287
Montebello	(323) 887-1460
Paramount	(562) 220-2020
Pico Rivera	(562) 801-4415
South Gate	(323) 357-9606
Los Angeles County (Unincorporated area)	(626) 458-4321

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Knabe also announced that the official dedication of the LACDA project will be held Wednesday, February 6, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at a location to be announced.

**Background**

A study conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concluded Rio Hondo Channel, LA River and Compton Creek did not provide adequate flood protection to adjoining communities. The LACDA Project was developed to address this hazardous condition.

The LACDA Project is a flood control project which increases the flood-carrying capacity of the Rio Hondo Channel and Lower L.A. River. The Project was originally estimated to cost \$364 million. The current project cost is estimated at \$210 million. The LACDA Project overflow area was 82 square miles. 47 square miles are impacted by this final LOMR. The Project included raising the height of 21 miles of levees and modifications to 23 bridges. It was originally expected to take 10 years to construct. However, increased federal funding allowed the project to be completed in only 5 years. Construction started in 1996 and was completed at the end of 2001.

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