7. Hydrology

Overview

This section provides guidelines for evaluating a project's potential impacts on flood control facilities, drainage patterns, and regulatory watercourses. The impact analysis includes assessing the project's effects on water runoff, drainage, flood risk, and compliance with local floodplain management policies to mitigate adverse hydrological impacts.

This topic section is updated from the following section(s) from the existing ISAGs:

17a. Hydraulic Hazards – Non-FEMA
17b. Hydraulic Hazards – FEMA
31a. Flood Control Facilities/Watercourses – WPD
31b. Flood Control Facilities/Watercourses – Other Facilities

Thresholds of Significance

Impact analysis guidelines (formerly referred to as "Methodology") are provided accordingly for the following updated thresholds.

A project may have a significant impact if it would:

HYD-1 Substantially obstruct, impair, divert, impede, or alter the characteristics of the flow of water within flood control facilities and watercourses, Special Flood Hazard Areas, and regulatory channels both on- and off-site; or if it would result in substantial deposition of sediment and debris materials within existing channels and allied obstruction of flow, overflow of channels during design storm conditions, substantial increased runoff, or other adverse effects, resulting in exposure of adjacent property and the community to an increased risk of flood hazards.

HYD-2 Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site, substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site, create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

HYD-3 a) Conflict with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District's Comprehensive Plan for Flood Control, applicable building design and construction codes, ordinances, and standards regulating flow to and from natural and human-made drainage channels and facilities; and b) result in a significant adverse environmental effect due to that conflict.

Legend:

Derived from standards specific to the County

Derived from Appendix G of CEQA

Derived from a combination of specific County standards and Appendix G of CEQA

7. Hydrology (cont.)

Related Technical Terms

The following technical terms related to this topic section have been updated or incorporated:

- Base flood elevation
- Flood Insurance Rate Map
- Flood Insurance Study
- Regulatory Floodway
- Special Flood Hazard Area