



## UPPER YAKIMA CFHMP 2018 COWICHE ADDENDUM

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YAKIMA - The City of Yakima and Yakima County are approaching the final stages of the addendum to the 2007 Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP), a long-range plan undertaken in response to the 2016 and 2017 Cowiche Creek flood overflows into the City of Yakima. The extent of the 2017 inundation is provided on the following page. The CFHMP plan extends from Cowiche Creek eastward to 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Yakima.

Those Cowiche Creek flood overflows caused widespread flooding at Riverside Manor, at and near the intersections of 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Fruitvale Boulevard, at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and River Road, and adjacent to Myron, Willow, and Aspen Lakes. "The 2016 and 2017 flooding and recent studies have demonstrated the current risks to residents and property within the City posed by the failing of and/or undersized infrastructure in this area. The impact of a 100-year flood would be much greater," stated Terry Keenhan, Water Resources Senior Manager for Yakima County Public Services.

Accordingly, joint flood preparation actions were provided prior to the fall 2017 flood season by the Yakima Office of Emergency Management, City of Yakima, Yakima County and the Washington State Department of Transportation. The formation of an advisory committee comprised of state and local officials and citizens working during the winter and spring of 2017-2018 to develop the draft CFHMP plan followed.

The CFHMP identifies, for a range of floods up to the 100-year flood, the flooding threats to the City and County through examination of the hydraulic capacities of Lower Cowiche Creek and Naches River from Powerhouse Road to the Naches confluence 0.7 miles downstream with the intent of preventing future flooding events in those areas.

"The current risk and urgency for risk mitigation within the Cowiche Creek study area led to the development within the plan of near-, short-, and long-term recommendations that match the risk with the agencies' ability to provide in a timely manner, the infrastructure modifications required to reduce the current flood hazard," noted Mr. Keenhan.

He added that near-term mitigation actions preceded the 2017-2018 flood season and incorporate flood warning and response measures pending the future plan-recommended structural actions. Long-term actions will provide the significant infrastructure changes with long lead times, while short-term actions must bridge the intervening period by planning and aligning ongoing infrastructure changes with the long-term

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plan developed here. As several agencies will be involved in this effort, the plan must provide enough detail to develop coordinated individual capital improvement plans (CIPs).

### Next Steps

A joint study session between the Yakima City Council and the Board of County Commissioners to consider the draft plan will be scheduled in the next few weeks. Joint City-County public hearings to consider adoption will follow later in the year.

FEMA will separately provide new Flood Insurance Maps for a portion of this area which will be available in a preliminary form late fall 2018.

The public is invited to review the draft plan posted at: <http://www.yakimacounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/17844/Upper-Yakima-River-CFHMP-2018-Cowiche-Addendum>. Comments may be submitted now to the Yakima County Public Services Water Resources Division, or during the public hearing process.

For more information, please contact Yakima County Public Services Water Resources Division at (509) 574-2300.

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