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**For release: August 3, 2009**

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## **Public invited to comment on proposed flood maps at August open houses** *New flood risk designations may affect property owners' insurance requirements*

**LITTLETON, CO** – Arapahoe County residents and community leaders are invited to attend an open house on August 13 or 25 to review and comment on proposed Flood Insurance Rate Maps for areas of unincorporated Arapahoe County and the City of Centennial, which may drive changes in flood insurance requirements for property owners.

Citizens are welcome to attend either open house:

**Thursday, August 13— 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Koelbel Library, 5955 S Holly St., Littleton**

**Tuesday, August 25 — 4 - 7 p.m. at Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 E. Quincy Ave, Aurora**

The modifications to the county's FIRMs, last updated in 1995, are part of a federal effort by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to update and modernize the nation's flood maps. This will include converting all maps from paper to digital format, and proposed changes to floodplains and flood risks.

Citizens may comment on newly-proposed base flood elevations (the level that flood waters have a one-percent chance of reaching in any given year), which determine a property's flood-risk designation and affect its insurance rating. Flood insurance is optional but recommended for properties in a low- or moderate flood-risk zone. Flood insurance is required for mortgages from a federally-regulated lender in a high-risk zone, known as a Special Flood Hazard Area, where there is at least a one-percent annual-chance of flooding.

New base flood elevations have been proposed near the following county channels: Bear Gulch and Bear Gulch Tributary, Blackmer Gulch, Box Elder Creek, Cherry Creek, Coyote Run, Goldsmith Gulch and Goldsmith Gulch West Tributary, Greenwood Gulch, Little Dry Creek, Murphy Creek, Prentice Gulch, Quincy Gulch, SJCD 2600 and Willow Creek.

Arapahoe County, Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority and the City of Centennial are hosting the open houses to seek public comment during the 90-day comment and appeal period, which ends on September 22. Representatives from FEMA, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and the Colorado Water Conservation Board will also be on-hand to answer questions from the public. The process will only address appeals of the BFEs that can be supported with scientific and/or technical data.

Those who cannot attend may request to view the existing and proposed flood maps at the Arapahoe County Public Works Department, 10730 E. Briarwood Ave, Centennial.

For more information, please visit [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us) and click on the flood map-related link under "What's New."

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