

**PROGRESS REPORT  
ON THE  
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT  
COMPONENTS  
OF THE  
CITY OF NOVATO  
REPETITIVE LOSS PLAN**

City of Novato  
Public Works Department  
75 Rowland Way #200  
Novato, CA 94945

September 13, 2010

## BACKGROUND

This progress report was prepared and is submitted for continued credit under the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. It is designed to provide an annual update and report on accomplishments toward continual implementation of the City of Novato's floodplain management activities. The City's floodplain management plan is the Repetitive Loss Plan (RLP). This Plan, originally prepared in 1995, was updated and adopted by the Novato City Council on December 12, 2000 by Resolution 139-00. The RPL can be found at <http://ci.novato.ca.us/Index.aspx?page=458> and is available for review at the Public Works Department located at 75 Rowland Way #200, Novato, CA 94945. The City is currently in the process of preparing an update of the RLP which is expected to be incorporated into the Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan (FHMP) which is a document that is much broader in scope and purpose.

The City of Novato has consistently managed the floodplain above and beyond the minimum standards of the NFIP. In 2010 the City's efforts were recognized by FEMA with a Class 6 rating which provides for automatic discounts of up to 20% being made to flood insurance policy holders. There are nearly 1500 flood insurance policy holders in Novato, and this discount amounts to a total savings of about \$220,000 for the community. See also: <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/>. Excluding the normal business of managing floodplains and drainage systems, the City estimates an annual expenditure of \$20,000 on administration of the CRS program, including periodic mailers and staff. This expenditure yields a significant measurable return to our residents.

Floodplain management activities described in the RLP are also addressed in Section 5 of the Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan) for the City of Novato and the Novato Sanitary District. This Plan was adopted by the Novato City Council on July 10, 2007 by Resolution 92-07, and is posted on-line <http://www.ci.novato.ca.us/>. Additionally, the City is preparing the FHMP that identifies flood prone areas, drainage projects, and various mitigation strategies.

## PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SECTION VIII OF THE REPETITIVE LOSS P PLAN

The recommendations and corresponding progress reports that follow are organized according to Section VIII of the RLP.

- A. Continue Existing Plan Activities: The City will continue to provide residents located within designated floodplain areas with annual notices. This notice is

published in our Vision Magazine yearly and when possible distributed as a flyer. The notice provides information regarding protective measures to minimize flood damage to their property. The City continues to provide sand, sandbags and sand bagging procedures to residents to flood proof or impede flood waters from entering their properties as part of the routine storm and flood operations.

- B. Emergency Services: City staff regularly meets with local emergency service authorities and implement storm and flood prevention and maintenance operations for the coming rain season (See Attachment D). The City continues to implement the current flood-warning program via Radio AM 530 and Storm Patrol operations, which is part of the Emergency Response Plan that meets the State's Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS) requirements. The Public Notice provides information on available flood-emergency services.

The City of Novato has hired an Emergency Services Manager who is actively participating in flood plain management activities such as flood warning, flood response, critical facilities protection, and health and safety maintenance. Other emergency preparedness programs include the Get Ready Marin Household Emergency Disaster Preparedness Program, described on-line at <http://ci.novato.ca.us/Index.aspx?page=729>.

- C. Property Protection: As of August 2009, the City has 37 repetitive loss properties and they are concentrated in three geographic areas. The process of auditing repetitive loss properties continues by staff. All properties located in the three repetitive loss areas continue to receive information on flood preparedness and how to reduce flood losses.
- D. Property Protection: The City has continued to acquire current FEMA forms and literature and has made this information available to the public in all our City Facilities and we have updated FEMA documents at the Novato Library. We have also completed the addition of our drainage facilities to our GIS AutoCAD files. This includes drainage structures, pipes outfalls and other drainage facilities for both City and the County of Marin. This resource provides instant information about public and private drainage systems for quick reference and problem solving.
- E. Public Information: The City has current FEMA literature and makes this information available to the public. Our FIRM maps have been available on stand-alone PC GIS application for several years. We have implemented a Web based GIS application available to all City Staff and public via our Intranet. The application includes the current FIRM maps including all LOMA's and LOMAR's. Property can be queried through any number of ways to

determine if it is within a Special Flood Hazard Area. In addition, we ensure that the public is aware of FEMA's mapping information platform and map viewer webpages.

The City's goal will be provide this GIS application to the general public via the Internet. It is currently undergoing Beta testing. The site contains certain information not permitted to post publically on the Internet. The authority stems from California Government Code Sections 6254.21 and subsequently 6254.24. Effective January 1, 1999, Senate Bill No. 1386, in part, amended the Public Records Act, and Government Code Section 6254.21, relating to the posting of certain information on the internet.

We anticipate much of this information will be available to the public in the future via the Web however, it will be necessary to "disable" some of its current functionality in order to comply with the above.

- F. Structural Projects: The City has a capital improvement program that progressively addresses flooding in all areas of Novato. Recently completed projects include the Cherry Street Drainage Project (at Highway 101) and the Diablo Avenue Drainage Improvements (near Warner Creek and Center Boulevard). The Rush Creek drainage project (Sweetser Ave. to Olive Ave. along the railroad right-of-way) is currently in the design phase with construction anticipated for 2010-2011 pending final funding. The Rush Creek drainage improvements will reduce flooding in the downtown on lower Grant Ave, Reichart, Sweetser and Vallejo.

Flooding along Vineyard Creek near Center Road was studied by both the Marin County Flood Control District and the City of Novato. In collaboration with the District, two projects to increase channel capacity and reduce flood levels were recently completed for Vineyard Creek.

## **OBJECTIVES FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

- C. Property Protection: Staff has attended two FEMA training programs including: "Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program" (FEMA E-273); and "Floodplain Management and Duties of the Local Administrator" (FEMA/DWR course).
- D. Public Information: Implementation of a Public Service Announcement System for the availability of FEMA literature has not been completed, although the City website is in the process of being redesigned, and this will provide increased opportunity for public outreach.

- E. Structural Projects: The City will continue working with the County for funding (used in conjunction with Local funding) to complete the capital improvement project to reduce flooding at critical locations.

## **NEW PROJECTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is anticipated the RPL update currently being prepared will include some revised recommendations and recommendations for new projects. Recent flooding events including the December 31, 2005 have lead to the increased awareness and importance of funding for flood control projects. Conceptual structural projects have been identified as a result of this flood event, with some having been completed (see Item F. Structural Projects, above).

Since the original RLP was prepared in November 200, the number of repetitive loss properties in the City of Novato has increased from 22 to 37. Future updates and progress reports will evaluate contributing factors for this increase and will develop mitigation measures intended to reverse this trend.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For more information, contact:

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Exhibit A  
City of Novato Repetitive Loss Areas  
2010 Progress Report

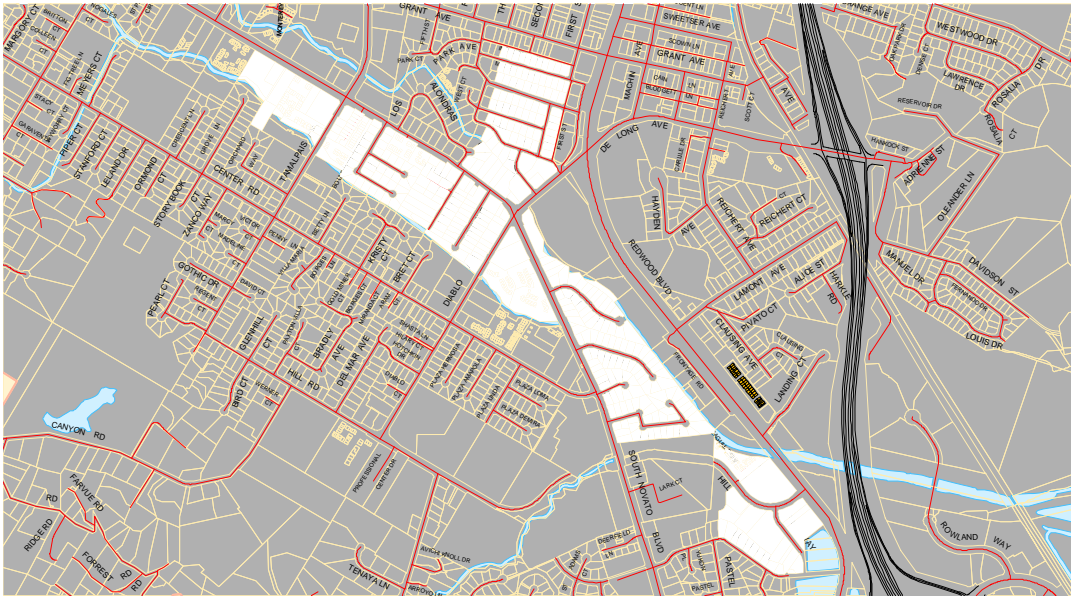


Figure 1 - Repetitive Loss Area #1

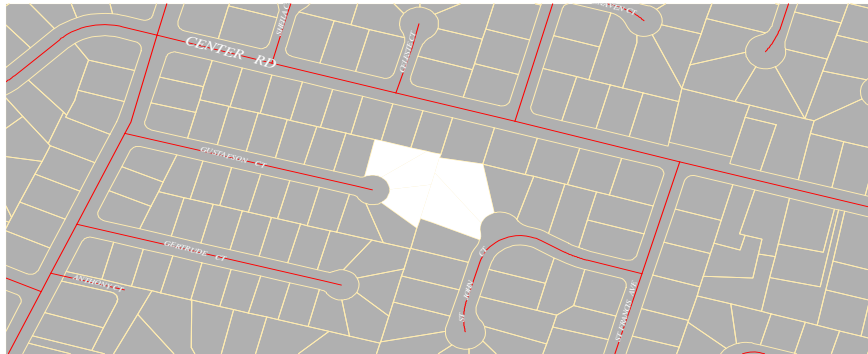


Figure 2 - Repetitive Loss Area #2

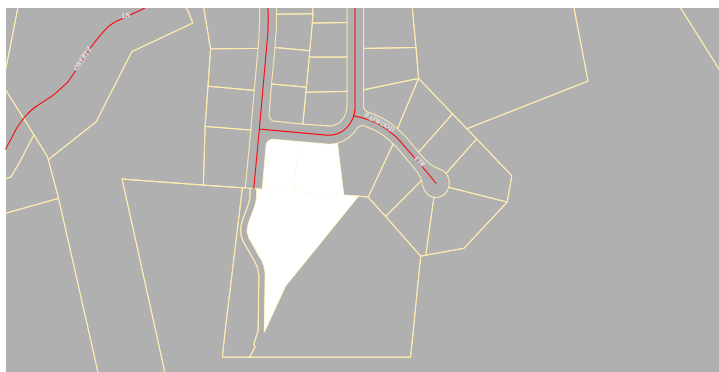


Figure 3 - Repetitive Loss Area #2