

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.) has started the California Coastal Analysis and Mapping Project and Open Pacific Coast (O.P.C.) study. Goals of the study include:

- Determine the base flood elevation along California's coastal shoreline
- Create revised coastal flood insurance studies and associated flood insurance rate maps for all coastal counties
- Assist communities in risk assessment and hazard mitigation planning

Sonoma County has approximately 60 miles of coastline that will be studied to better determine the potential impact from coastal flooding due to storm surges. A revised coastal flood study will help local communities determine, assess and better understand the risk from coastal flooding.

One potential outcome is the requirement to purchase flood insurance. Currently, the flood mapping along our coastline is limited and very few structures, if any, are required to obtain flood insurance along the coast. A new and more detailed study has the potential to increase the number of structures, both residential and commercial, that may be required to obtain flood insurance.

This project consists of seven steps:

1. Discovery and Kick Off
2. Data Acquisition
3. Coastal Engineering Analysis
4. Floodplain Mapping
5. Map Production
6. Post-Preliminary Processing
7. Effective Map

The time line started in March, 2011 with a kick off meeting between F.E.M.A. and Sonoma County and ends with final floodplain maps being produced in fall, 2014, anticipated to become effective in 2015. The project is currently phasing from the kick off meeting to the data acquisition step. F.E.M.A. and their consultant, BakerA.E.C.O.M., wish to involve interested groups, such as local tribes, environmental groups, non-governmental organizations, local communities, development professionals, and others in the data acquisition step.

If you are interested in participating and/or have local knowledge that can be of assistance to this project, please contact:

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General information about this project can be found on F.E.M.A.'s O.P.C. web site at: <http://www.bakeraecom.com/index.php/region-ix/coastal-studies/621/>

Details regarding the Sonoma County O.P.C. study kick off meeting and a discovery map can be found on the Sonoma County page at: <http://www.bakeraecom.com/index.php/california/sonoma-county/>