

**Los Angeles County Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division (SWED)
Check List for County Building Permit Applications for
Projects in Severe Flood Hazard Areas
June 2025**

For questions, please email us at FloodAnalysis@pw.lacounty.gov

*Note: Building in severe flood hazard areas is a significant and complex undertaking, and doing so without impacting existing buildings and neighboring parcels can be very difficult to achieve, and at times may not be feasible. For this reason, this Check List and the **Workbook for the Check List** are extensive. It is recommended that the Applicant go over the **Workbook** and complete this Check List with the assistance of a California licensed design professional with experience in building in severe flood hazard areas in Los Angeles County.*

Project Location (Required)

Address: _____

Assessor's Parcel No. _____

- ☐ Applicant used the **Workbook for Check List** to provide the following information. (Required) following information. (Required) Download at: <https://pw.lacounty.gov/wmd/nfip/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)- Mapped Flood Hazard Areas:

Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel No: _____

- ☐ The proposed project parcel is in **Zone X** (outside the 0.2 percent annual chance (500-year) flood area).
- ☐ The proposed project parcel is in **Zone D** (area of possible but unknown flood risk).
- ☐ Project parcel **does not** have a streambed (blue-line stream) flowing into or through it.
- ☐ Project parcel **does** have a streambed (blue-line stream) flowing into or through it.
- ☐ County (Public Works-SWED) provided flow information
- ☐ County (Public Works-SWED) did not provide flow information
- ☐ The proposed project parcel is in **Zone X-Shaded** (0.2 percent annual chance (500-year) flood area, or 1 percent annual chance (100-year) flood area with flood depth of less than 1 foot).
- ☐ The proposed project parcel is in a **Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)** (1 percent annual chance (100-year) flood area):
- ☐ Zone A (No Base Flood Elevations defined)
- ☐ Applicant received County's (Public Works-SWED's) approval to use **USGS StreamStats website** Base Flood flow(s); or County provided Base Flood information.
- ☐ Applicant is providing their hydrologic analysis to define Base Flood flow(s).
- ☐ Zone AE
- ☐ Zone AH (____ ft)
- ☐ Zone AO (____ ft)
- ☐ One or more proposed project elements are in a **Regulatory Floodway** within the SFHA.

County-Mapped Flood Hazard Area (Capital Flood):

- ☐ The proposed project parcel is in a flood hazard area mapped by an adopted County Floodway Map, not-adopted County Floodway Map, or County Assessor's Map.
- ☐ The proposed project parcel is in a flood hazard area mapped by an adopted County Floodway Map, not-adopted County Floodway Map, or County Assessor's Map.
- ☐ Applicant has contacted the County (Public Works-SWED), which has determined one of the following to be the best available information for County-mapped flood hazards:
 - ☐ **Adopted County Floodway Map** (___ - ML ____, dated __ / __ / __)
 - ☐ Map's Capital Flood flows and Water Surface Elevations apply.
 - ☐ Elevations being converted to NAVD88 Datum by Applicant
 - ☐ Elevations on map are already based on NAVD 88 Datum
 - ☐ Updated Malibu Creek/Santa Clara River Capital Flood flows apply, County (Public Works-SWED) has provided flow information. (Applicant is providing hydraulic analyses to define existing condition and proposed project condition Water Surface Elevations.)
 - ☐ One or more project elements are in the floodway of the Capital Flood floodplain.
 - ☐ **Not-Adopted County Floodway Map** (___ - ML ____, dated __ / __ / __)
 - ☐ Map's Capital Flood flows and Water Surface Elevations apply.
 - ☐ Elevations being converted to NAVD88 Datum by Applicant.
 - ☐ Elevations are already based on NAVD 88 Datum.
 - ☐ Updated Malibu Creek/Santa Clara River Capital Flood flows apply, County has provided flow information. (Applicant is providing hydraulic analyses to define existing condition and proposed project condition Water Surface Elevations.)
 - ☐ One or more project elements are in the floodway of the Capital Flood floodplain.
 - ☐ **County Assessor's Map**

Applicant is providing hydraulic analyses to define existing condition and proposed project condition Water Surface Elevations.

 - ☐ County-provided Capital Flood flow(s) apply. (Applicant is providing hydraulic analyses to define existing condition and proposed project condition Water Surface Elevations.)
 - ☐ Updated Malibu Creek/Santa Clara River Capital Flood flows provided.
 - ☐ Other Capital Flood flows provided.
 - ☐ Applicant is providing hydrology and hydraulic analyses to define the existing and proposed project conditions' Capital Flood flow(s) and Water Surface Elevations.
 - ☐ One or more project elements are in the floodway of the Capital Flood floodplain.

Repetitive Loss Area:

- ☐ Applicant has contacted County (Public Works-SWED), which has determined the proposed project parcel is **not** in a Repetitive Loss Area.
- ☐ Applicant has contacted County (Public Works-SWED), which has determined the proposed project parcel **is** in a Repetitive Loss Area.
 - ☐ County provided information
 - ☐ County did not provide information

Best Available Information for Proposed Project

- ☐ FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map
- ☐ County-mapped flood hazard selected by County
- ☐ Repetitive Loss Area

Critical Facilities

- ☐ **No** proposed project elements are Critical Facilities.
- ☐ **One or more** proposed project elements are Critical Facilities.

Basis of Design:

- ☐ No special flood resiliency requirements apply.
- ☐ FEMA Base Flood – show the Base Flood Elevations on the project plans
- ☐ FEMA 500-Year Flood* - show the 500-Year flood elevations on the project plans
- ☐ County Capital Flood* - show the Capital Flood Water Surface elevations on the project plans
- ☐ Repetitive Loss Area* - show on the plans the reference elevation(s) designated by County

*Elevation Certificates for buildings will still have to use FEMA Base Flood Elevation information.

Substantial Improvement Substantial Damage (SI/SD) Consideration:

- ☐ The proposed project **does not** involve alteration of existing structure(s) in a FEMA-mapped SFHA or County flood hazard area.
- ☐ The proposed project involves alteration of existing structure(s) in a FEMA-mapped SFHA or County flood hazard area.
 - ☐ SI/SD does **not** apply
 - ☐ SI/SD **applies**
 - ☐ Applicant reviewed the Workbook's Compliance Matrix (Required)*:
 - ☐ Pre-FIRM structures involved
 - ☐ Post-FIRM structures involved

* The project will not be reviewed by Public Works-SWED until Applicant confirms they reviewed FEMA's Compliance Matrix.