



# Countywide Flood Risk Reduction Policy Update and Recommendation

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## Recommendation needed: What Level of Service?

- The County can't eliminate **flood risk**, but it can reduce risk to life and property
- Recommended Level of Service: Protect structures against 100-year storm adjusted for climate change



# Three Interconnected Strategies



# Three Strategies for Flood Risk Reduction



# Board of Supervisors established STW Capital Expenditures

1. Mandated by state or federal regulations and critical/emergency dam safety issues.
2. Alleviating structures from damage by flood water or erosion.
3. Achieving stormwater quality improvement for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit (MS4 permit).
4. Alleviating severe streambank and channel erosion.
5. Alleviating moderate and minor streambank and channel erosion.
6. Alleviating yard flooding.
7. Alleviating road flooding.



# Interim Update: Programs (Services)

## Existing

- National Flood Insurance Program Community Ratings System
- Inclusive community engagement
- Grant launching 7/1/2024, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, \$250k current funding
- Individual high-risk properties acquired with FEMA grants (County applies for these, and they are rare)



## Recommended

- Expanded grant programs
  - ❖ Expand flood assistance to meet community demand
  - ❖ Add options to assist with severe erosion and sediment control and buyout options for owners
- Floodplain modeling incorporating climate change
- Targeted community outreach to vulnerable communities
- “Above and beyond” stormwater controls for County projects
- Enhanced outreach



# Interim Update: Projects

**TEN YEARS:** to complete \$95 Million flood-related projects in current CIP at current staffing and budget levels

**70 YEARS:** to complete \$600 Million projects to address confirmed structural flooding at current staffing and budget levels (noncoastal)



# Interim Update: Policies (Regulations)

## EXISTING REGULATIONS

Infill lot requirements established

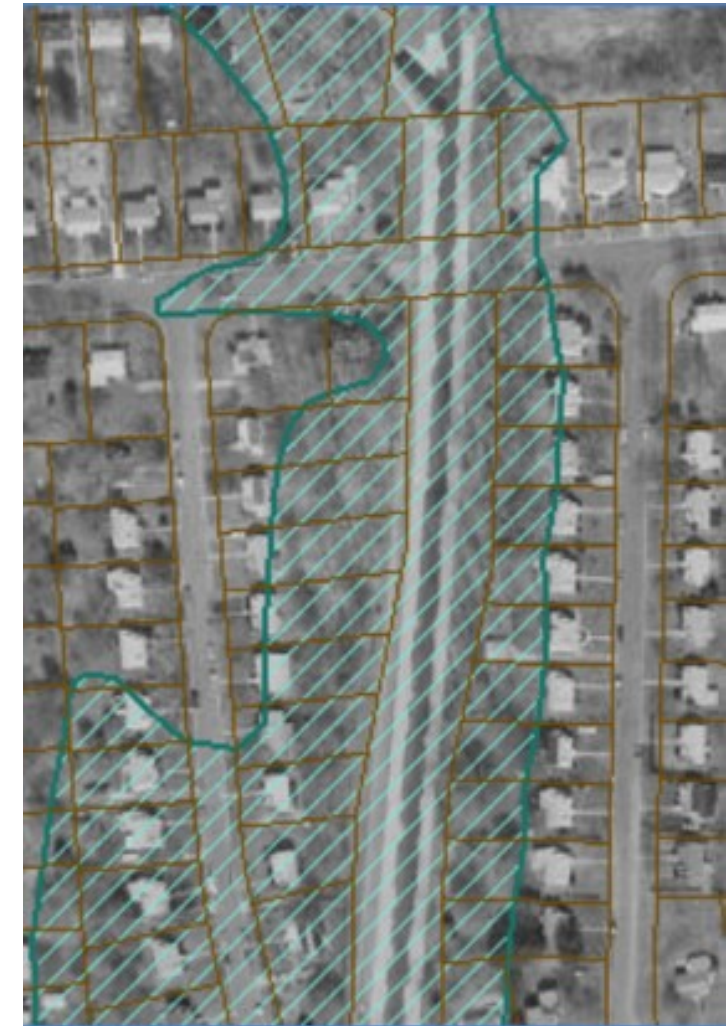
Additional drainage and flooding study now required

Current regulatory authority only accounts for added impervious area

## FUTURE REGULATION CONSIDERATIONS

Impervious cover is the main driver of runoff volume:

1. New state roads add impervious area - follow state requirements
2. Is it realistic for individual lots to fix existing downstream drainage issues? They still must do their part
3. Larger development sites can have more meaningful impact than smaller ones.



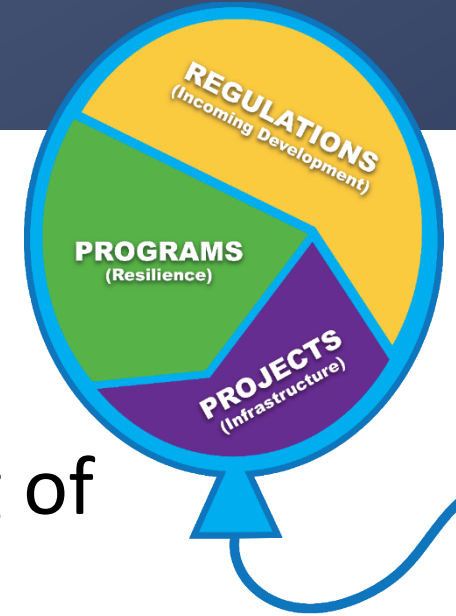
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# Board Recommendations Needed

- Level of service
- Programs: budget and staffing dictate scale and timing of grants and other programs
- Projects: budget and staffing dictate timing
- Regulations: how much risk reduction through redevelopment? Requires considering existing impervious area



# Recommended Next Steps

- Programs: increase funding for flood mitigation grant program and start up other grant programs
  - Staff report out Spring 2025 to advise next funding tranche
- Projects: add two staff teams to start projects for known flooded areas
  - Staff report out end of 2025 to advise next staffing and funding tranche
- Regulations:
  - JULY: STW state regs consolidation, eliminate single-family dwelling exemption
  - Complete cost-benefit analysis of detaining additional volume to identify options:
    - Require developers to detain for all impervious cover drainage, overland relief, other

