



Progress Report—Planning to Avoid Disaster: Action Plan to Update Floodplain Maps in British Columbia

July 2013

On March 8, 2013, with financial support from the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, the British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) hosted a workshop in Vancouver, to examine the state of floodplain maps in BC. The Floodplain Maps Action Plan was the key output of the workshop, and this report summarizes progress made.

The original, complete Floodplain Maps Action Plan is available online at: www.bcrea.bc.ca/docs/government-relations/floodplainmaps_action_plan.pdf.

Category	Action	Potential Partners	Proposed Timeline	Status
High-level	1. Establish a Working Group to implement and refine the Action Plan, suggest project leads, identify priorities and strategic opportunities.	BCREA	by June 2013	Working Group formed, met for the first time on June 24, and will meet quarterly.
High-level	2. Engage key organizations and associations to help with coordinated communications and awareness raising among decision makers. See also actions 13, 14, 15 and 16.	Working Group to lead	begin by October 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April, Okanagan Basin Water Board and ACT (Adaptation to Climate Change Team) SFU convened a full-day session (Not Waiting for Noah) with speakers from a variety of stakeholder groups on assessing flood risk during the BC Water and Waste Association conference. • May, Okanagan Basin Water Board submitted an article about floodplain mapping and the March BCREA workshop for publication in the summer issue of the BC Water and Waste Association newsletter. • May, the Joint Program Committee for Integrated Flood Hazard Management received a verbal report about the March

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				<p>BCREA workshop and Floodplain Maps Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June, ACT (Adaptation to Climate Change Team) SFU and BC Hydro held a small policy workshop to discuss the use of climate models in decision making. • ACT SFU and West Coast Environmental Law are hosting a Sea Level Rise Collaborative that will include facilitation of a regional approach to coastal flooding, with contributions from the BC Ministry of Environment, Fraser Basin Council and Metro Vancouver
High-level	5. Explore opportunities to advance flood hazard mapping through the proposed Regional Flood Management Strategy for the Lower Mainland.	Fraser Basin Council and others	begin by November 2013	As this project advances, the role of floodplain maps will be articulated.
High-level	6. Submit an expression of interest to conduct a workshop on updating floodplain maps at the 2013 UBCM Convention in Vancouver.	BCREA and Fraser Basin Council	June 2013	Done, with ACT (Adaptation to Climate Change Team) at SFU as an additional partner.
Technical	7. Facilitate a GIS pilot project to explore how to improve data-sharing protocols and procedures, and to resolve related technical and institutional issues, including proprietary interests and data management requirements.	Working Group to lead	begin by November 2013	In July and August, BCREA will contact various potential partners and contributors.
Technical	8. Assess best available flood hazard information and other data inputs necessary to develop flood hazard maps, identify data gaps and propose a plan to fill data gaps (e.g., LiDAR topography, hydrometric data, oceanographic data, inventory	Working Group to lead	deliver by March 2014	In June, the Working Group identified this as a priority; several tasks were articulated, including the scoping of a research project and the need to amend the action item to reference the need to integrate climate change into

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	of natural hazards).			planning and into the hydraulic analysis during floodplain mapping.
Technical	10. Recommend the provincial government develop guidelines and specifications to reflect current technologies and realities, improve consistency and build technical capacity to support utilization of a broader suite of technical tools (e.g., floodplain mapping, scenario analysis, risk assessment, etc.). Mandating the guidelines would likely increase their effectiveness and consistent application. Any new guidelines would complement existing guidelines.	Working Group	begin after March 2014	In June, the Working Group noted that this action should be amended to reference the need to integrate climate change into planning and into floodplain mapping guidelines, specifications and standards; this action will be informed by reviews of local and federal flood policy (by SFU ACT, report expected in 2014) and BC government flood policy (report expected in October 2013).
Political	12. Prepare and issue a news release and an op-ed piece regarding the importance of floodplain mapping / management, as well as the stakeholder workshop and Action Plan.	BCREA	by mid-April 2013	Done on April 18; an opinion-editorial was submitted to the <i>Vancouver Sun</i> on June 24, and a blog post published by BCREA on June 25.
Political	18. Ask the provincial government to clarify liability and access to emergency funds, with respect to local governments and residents, in designated floodplains.	BCREA	May 2013	In June, the Working Group identified this as a priority, but the provincial election caused a delay; BCREA will complete this task in July.
Financial	19. Conduct/commission research on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opportunities for new, innovative sources of funding to develop floodplain maps, and opportunities to incentivize floodplain mapping and management. 	BCREA, FBC, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Real Estate Foundation of BC	begin by January 2014	BCREA submitted a grant application to the Real Estate Foundation of BC in June, supported by the Fraser Basin Council, Insurance Bureau of Canada and Okanagan Basin Water Board.