





RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Executive Order 13690

Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS)

FMA Annual Conference

**Rancho Mirage, CA
September 9, 2015**

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Overview

- President Obama signed the new Executive Order 13690 on January 30, 2015. Published in the Federal Register on February 4, 2015.
- Executive Order 13690 modifies floodplain management guidelines developed by Federal agencies as a result of Executive Order 11988 signed on May 24, 1977.
- This new Standard is intended to increase safety, reduce flood losses, and preserve natural floodplain functions.



FFRMS

Noble intent but as written many concerns have arisen.

For instance...



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Establishes 3 Options for Building/Rebuilding in Floodplains

- **Climate-Informed Science Approach** – Use the best-available actionable hydrologic and hydraulic data and methods that use current and future changes in flooding based on climate science.
- **Freeboard Value Approach** – Use a freeboard above the 100-year flood of +2 ft for non-critical structures and +3 for critical structures such as hospital and evacuation centers
- **500-Year Elevation Approach** – Use the 500-year flood elevation as the build height.



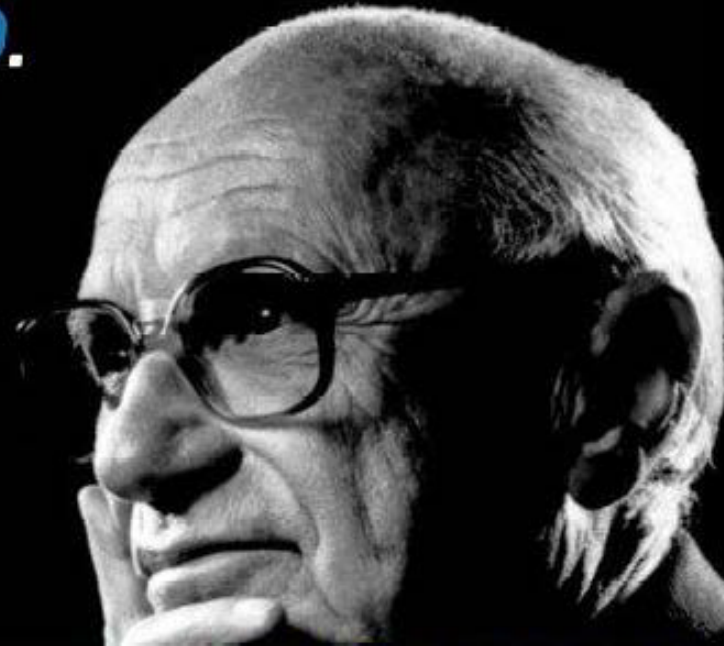
FFRMS

Concern

- Which of the 3 options apply?
- Does this vary across Federal agencies?



ONE OF THE GREAT MISTAKES IS
TO JUDGE POLICIES AND
PROGRAMS BY THEIR
INTENTIONS
RATHER THAN THEIR
RESULTS.



Milton Friedman, Author / Economist
Capitalism and Freedom, 1962



FFRMS

Other Concerns

- Floodplain
- Critical Action
- Facility
- Etc.



Applying the Standard

- ▶ Federal agencies will continue to implement Executive Order 11988, but replace the 100-year base flood elevation with the elevation component and corresponding horizontal floodplain of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard for projects that use Federal funding for new construction, substantial improvement, or to address substantial damage to a structure or facility.



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Only



SUMMARY

Beware of Unintended Consequences



The Cuyahoga River - 1969



The Santa Ana River





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Thank You!

