

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** March 26, 2025

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Through:** Jackie Bryant, City Manager

**Subject:** Presentation and overview of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regional flood mapping projects. (For Discussion Only)

**From:** Trina Magoon, Utility Services Director

**Department:** Utility Services

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### **Summary:**

The City of Reno is involved in three major Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapping activities, which include revisions to Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) maps. These activities include:

- A Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for Swan and Silver Lakes in Lemmon Valley
- A Physical Map Revision (PMR) for the Truckee River and Tributaries
- FEMA initiated Risk Map floodplain revisions for south Reno tributaries to Steamboat Creek

Staff will provide a presentation and update on the FEMA mapping projects.

### **Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

### **Previous Council Action:**

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

### **Background:**

Flood mapping plays a crucial role in understanding flood risks within communities. By accurately identifying flood-prone areas, updated flood maps help ensure informed decision-making in planning, development, and emergency preparedness. These maps provide valuable data that assists in reducing flood damage to homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. They can also inform in flood protection measures and support effective resources for flood mitigation

projects.

Floodplain management empowers communities with the knowledge to assess risks and make sound financial decisions, including the purchase of flood insurance, which can significantly reduce the economic burden during a flood event. Ultimately, updated flood mapping fosters safer, more resilient communities, protecting lives, reducing economic losses, and guiding sustainable development practices.

Most of the FEMA flood delineations within the City of Reno are outdated, as they were established in the 1980s and 1990s using obsolete hydrologic and hydraulic analysis and mapping practices. In collaboration with FEMA and the Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA), the communities of Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County are participating in updates to flood maps to reflect more accurate floodplain delineations. The update of these maps are currently underway and once completed, will better reflect the impact of major floods on the Truckee River, its tributaries, local streams, creeks and waterbodies within the City.

**Attachments:**

Overall City Mapping Efforts.pdf