# 24 CFR Part 58 Environmental Review for Recipients and Subrecipients

For additional information or questions contact HCD's Environmental Services Team at <a href="mailto:nepa@hcd.ca.gov">nepa@hcd.ca.gov</a> or Ganey Science at <a href="mailto:info@ganeysci.com">info@ganeysci.com</a>.



# Information for Viewing Speaker Notes

- This presentation and the speaker notes will be converted to a PDF and uploaded to HCD's Environmental Review webpage.
- To view the speaker notes you'll need to click on the yellow square in the upper left corner of the PDF.
- The speaker notes will open on the right side of the screen.





**Choice-Limiting Actions (24 CFR 58.22)** 

Choice-limiting actions are described in <u>24 CFR Part 58.22(a)</u> and **prohibit**:





# Why is Environmental Review Needed?

Federal regulations prohibit grant recipients from committing or spending HUD or non-HUD funds on any activity that could have an adverse impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives <u>BEFORE AN</u> ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW IS COMPLETED.



# **HUD Environmental Review Requirements**

All HUD-assisted projects require environmental review to ensure that the project does not negatively impact the surrounding environment or have adverse impacts on end users.







# **HCD's Roles on Environmental Review**

For federal grant programs HCD either serves as the federal grant recipient (Responsible Entity) and administers the federal grant directly

#### OR

HCD acts as HUD, becomes the grantee, and serves as a pass-through entity to subrecipients who become the Responsible Entity.



# Who is the Responsible Entity?

The unit of general local government with land use and building permit jurisdiction for the project site.

HUD regulations allow local units of government to perform environmental review responsibilities that would otherwise be completed by HUD.





# Who is the Certifying Officer?

- Certifying Officer is the official authorized to execute the Request for Release of Funds and Certification and has the LEGAL CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF 24 CFR 58.13.
- Certifying Officer is considered the "responsible federal official"
- Others may ASSIST, but local government CANNOT DELEGATE this responsibility to another entity or consultant.





# **Project Review by Certifying Officer**

Only the Certifying Officer can decide if a project complies with the regulations.

Others can make recommendations but not the final decision.

Understand who is the Certifying Officer for your organization.





# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969



 Founding national charter to protect the environment

- Requires that environmental values be given appropriate consideration in decision-making
- 24 CFR Part 58 is the section of HUD regulations that implements NEPA



# **NEPA Environmental Review - "Part 58"**

HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 allow a Responsible Entity (RE) to assume authority to perform environmental reviews. The RE is responsible for the scope and content of the review and all findings.

The RE's Certifying Officer, usually the mayor or governor signs and takes legal responsibility for the review.

Others may ASSIST, but local government CANNOT DELEGATE responsibility to another entity or consultant.





# **NEPA - Related Laws and Authorities**

- National Historic Preservation Act (1966)
- Floodplain Management & Wetlands Protection: Executive Orders (1977)
- Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972
- Safe Drinking Water Act (1974)
- Endangered Species Act (1973)
- Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (1968)
- Clean Air Act (1970)
- Farmland Protection Policy Act (1981)
- Environmental Justice Executive Order (1994)





# **NEPA - Related Laws and Authorities**

#### **HUD Environmental Criteria & Standards**

- Noise Abatement and Control
- Near Explosives or Flammable Sites
- Proximity to Airport Runway Protection Zones
- Proximity to Contamination and Toxic Substances







# **Environmental Review Timing**

HUD's regulations prohibit grant recipients from committing or spending HUD or non-HUD funds on any activity that could have an adverse impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF AN ENVIRONMENT REVIEW.





# **Choice-Limiting Actions (24 CFR 58.22)**

Choice-limiting actions are described in <u>24 CFR Part 58.22(a)</u> and **prohibit**:

- The commitment (including contractually) by a grant recipient or any participant in the development process and
- Starting an activity or project that would have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives

Until the Request for Release of Funds (RROF, Form 7015.15) has been approved and certified by the responsible entity and the Authority to Use Grant Funds (AUGF) has been received.





# **Examples of Choice-Limiting Actions**

#### Examples of choice limiting actions include:

- Property acquisition
- Entering into a contract or commitment
- Leasing property
- Demolition
- Rehabilitation
- New construction or conversion of buildings or structures
- Construction bidding
- Site improvements including, clearing, grading, and grubbing







# **Consideration of Alternatives**

- The consideration of alternatives is fundamental to the environmental review process and the "heart of NEPA."
  - e.g., alternative locations, project types, "no action" alternative
- Commitment of HUD or non-HUD funds before approval of the environmental review diminishes and biases an objective consideration of alternatives for the proposed project (including a no action alternative).





# **Define the Project**

Before beginning the environmental review process, define the project:

- Identify all funding sources that may be used for the project.
- Determine all activities involved in the project (regardless of funding source).
- Determine if there are any other activities occurring on or near the site that are closely related to the project, such as off-site improvements required for project operations.
- Consider future, affiliated projects that may occur in the next 3 to 5 years.





# **Project Description Details**

The project description should cover specific activities of the project including:

- Exact location(s)
- Existing conditions
- Size of the site parcel and existing/proposed buildings
- Proposed changes to land and structures
- Beneficiaries (numbers, types), impacts to the community





# **Include Construction Details**

The project description should include:

#### Ground Disturbance

- Location, dimensions, including depths
- May impact archaeological and paleontological resources, encounter contaminated soil, or cause soil erosion

#### Construction Equipment

May impact air and water quality or cause soil erosion.

#### Construction Schedule

 Needed to determine any impacts to biological resources or protected species





# **Project Aggregation**

If your project is part of a larger program or plan, you must group together and evaluate all activities as a single project. For instance, multiple phases or the same program impacting different areas should be analyzed as one.







# Levels of Environmental Review

- Project description and scope determines level of review, options include:
  - Exempt
  - "CENST" or Categorically Excluded Not Subject To\*
  - "CEST" or Categorically Excluded Subject To\*
  - "EA" or Environmental Assessment
  - "EIS" or Environmental Impact Statement

\* 24 CFR 58.5





## Levels of Environmental Review

Exempt CENST CEST EA\* EIS\*

All levels of review must comply with laws listed at 24 Part 58.6 -Airport Hazards, Coastal Barrier Resources Act, & Flood Insurance

+ 13 additional Laws and Authorities listed at 24 Part 58.5



# **Exempt Activities**

24 CFR 58.34(a) — No public notice requirement

- Grant management and administration;
- Environmental studies or assessments, engineering and design costs;
- Information and financial services;
- Public services;
- Purchase of insurance or tools;
- Technical assistance and training;
- Inspection and testing of properties;
- In general no physical component, only planning & admin





# Categorically Excluded Activities NOT Subject to 58.5

#### 24 CFR 58.35(b) - CENST Form

- Tenant-based rental assistance;
- Supportive services (e.g. health care, childcare);
- Operating costs, including maintenance, security, etc.;
- Economic development activities;
- Activities to assist homebuyers purchase existing dwelling units;
- Affordable housing pre-development costs, legal, consulting, admin costs (i.e., "soft costs");
- Adding supplemental assistance to a project previously approved under Part 58





# Categorically Excluded Activities Subject to 58.5

- 24 CFR 58.35(a) CEST Form
  - Acquisition, repair, improvement, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of existing public facilities and improvements (other than buildings) without change in size or capacity of more than 20 percent. For example:
    - Replacement of water or sewer lines
    - Reconstruction of curbs and sidewalks
    - Repaving of streets
  - Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility of and accessibility to the elderly and handicapped persons.





# Categorically Excluded Activities Subject to 58.5 (continued)

- Acceptable Activities (continued):
  - Rehabilitation of building and improvements under specific conditions
  - An individual action on a single-family property (maximum four units on one site) or scattered sites
  - Acquisition or disposition of, or equity loans on an existing structure, or acquisition of vacant land provided that the structure or land acquired, financed, or disposed of will be retained for the same use.
  - Combinations of the acceptable activities
  - Refer to 24 CFR 58.35(a) for a full list.



# **Environmental Assessment**

- If your project is not exempt or categorically excluded ("CEST" or "CENST"), an Environmental Assessment (EA) must be prepared.
- EAs are typically required when the proposed project has activities such as new construction or a change in land use.





### **EA Form**

HUD's EA template can be found here:

https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3140/part-58-environmental-assessment-form/.



**Project Information** 

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street, SW Washington, DC 20410 www.hud.gov

espanol.hud.gov

# Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects 24 CFR Part 58

This is a suggested format that may be used by Responsible Entities to document completion of an Environmental Assessment.

Project Name:
Responsible Entity:
Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):
State/Local Identifier:
Preparer:
Certifying Officer Name and Title:
Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):
Consultant (if applicable):
Direct Comments to:





# **EA Details**

- Always use the latest version of the HUD template
- EAs typically have technical studies attached
- Agency consultation will be necessary
- Many EA documents are hundreds of pages long
- Recommend engaging a professional experienced in preparing EAs under HUD





# **EA Documentation**

- Compliance with 24 CFR 58.5 Laws and Authorities
- Compliance with 24 CFR 58.6 Laws and Authorities
- Determine Impact of EA Factors
- Public Outreach
- Cumulative Impact Analysis
- Alternatives Analysis
- No Action Alternative





# **EA Factor Topics**



- Land Development
- Socioeconomic
- Community Facilities & Services
- Natural Features
- Climate and Energy



# **EA Factors & EA eGuide**

- Each EA Factor Topic has multiple factors requiring an impact evaluation
- More info is on the HUD EA eGuide found here: <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/environmental-assessment/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-assessment/</a>

# Explore the Environmental Assessment eGuide To navigate this eGuide, click through each of the factors and their categories to find relevant guidance and information. Land Development Socioeconomic Community Facilities & Services Natural Features Climate & Energy





## **EA Process**

- Complete necessary agency consultations and update mitigation measures. Document all determinations and include all supporting information.
- 2. Based on the evaluations within the EA, the Certifying Officer will decide either:
  - A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and begin the publication process OR
  - A Finding of Significant Impact based on the results of the EA.
- 3. Certifying Officer must sign the EA certification





# **Public Noticing Requirements**

- 1. If a FONSI is made, prepare a Notice of FONSI and Notice of Intent /Request for Release of Funds (NOI/RROF)
- 2. Provide a draft copy of the public notice to HCD
- 3. Publish the combined FONSI/NOI/RROF
- 4. After the public comment period, the Responsible Entity will send the RROF and affidavit of publication to HCD
- 5. WAIT, when the 15-day objection period is over, HCD issues the Authority to Use Grant Funds (AUGF) (HUD Form 7015.16).
- 6. Environmental Review Complete for EA. Maintain all documents as part of the Environmental Review Record (ERR).



# **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required when the project is determined to have a potentially significant impact on the human environment.
- An EIS is also required if the project results in the construction of hospitals or nursing homes containing 2,500 beds or more.
- An EIS is required if a project rehabilitates or removes 2,500 or more existing housing units or results in the construction of 2,500 or more housing units.
- An EIS is required if a project provides enough additional water and sewer capacity to support 2,500 additional housing units.



### **EIS Details**

- A project that requires an EIS is unlikely to be funded by HCD/HUD due to the significant environmental impacts. The process can be very time consuming
- There is no HUD template for an EIS.
- Regulatory provisions governing an EIS are found at:
  - Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508)
  - HUD (24 CFR § 58 Subpart G)
- If you believe your project may need an EIS immediately contact HCD's Environmental Services Team at <a href="mailto:need-an-EIS">need an EIS immediately contact HCD's Environmental Services Team at <a href="mailto:need-an-EIS">need an EIS immediately contact HCD's Environmental Services Team at <a href="mailto:need-an-EIS">need an EIS immediately contact HCD's Environmental Services Team at <a href="mailto:need-an-EIS">need an EIS immediately contact <a



## **HUD's Environmental Review Process**



- All HUD-funded projects must undergo the appropriate environmental review and keep all related documentation on file in an Environmental Review Record (ERR)
- The review process ensures the proposed project does not negatively impact the area and the surrounding environment will not have an adverse environmental or health effect on future occupants



#### **Environmental Review Record**

- The ERR is proof that you have completed ALL of the environmental review steps
- The ERR must contain the following and be available for inspection:
  - Description of the project and activities
  - Maps
  - Photographs
  - Site Plans
  - Correspondence
  - Technical Studies
  - Public Notices/RROFs



#### **Additional Info ERR**

- An incomplete ERR could result in loss of funding
- Common issues in ERRs:
  - Publication dates too short
  - Project description lacks detail
  - Inconclusive compliance and mitigation documentation
  - Mitigation measures not included in FONSI





# How to Review a Project for Environmental Compliance?

- 1. Become familiar with HUD's Environmental Review website <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/</a>.
- View the HUD Resources on Related Federal Environmental Laws and Authorities <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/federal-related-laws-and-authorities/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/federal-related-laws-and-authorities/</a>.
- 3. Select the topic you are trying to determine compliance for, review the guidance, and download the appropriate worksheet to assist with the compliance determination.





### **Environmental Review Resources**

#### Screen shot of **HUD Laws and Authorities** Webpage

Find by Topic



Air Quality



**Coastal Zone Management** 



**Airport Hazards** 



**Endangered Species** 



**Coastal Barrier Resources** 



**Environmental Justice** 



## **Environmental Review Resources**

Under the <u>HUD Laws and Authorities link</u>, each topic contains:

- Intro to the topic including the specific statutes and regulations that apply
- HUD specific guidance for that law/authority
- Links to federal environmental websites and databases for conducting research
- Worksheets with step-by-step instructions to follow to document compliance



### **Environmental Review Resources**

The following slides have information and links to specific HUD resources for each of the 16 Laws and Authorities under 24 Part 58.

Resources and assistance to support HUD's community partners







## **Airport Hazards**

- Regulation | 24 CFR 51, Subpart D
- Housing projects should not be in the immediate vicinity of an airport or military airfield
- Every project and activity must be evaluated for proximity to civil airports and military airfields
- Resource: <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/airport-hazards/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/airport-hazards/</a>
- Supporting documentation (map showing airport locations) must be provided





### **Coastal Barrier Resources Act**

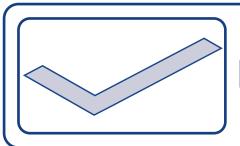


- Regulation | 16 USC 3501
- Applies to undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico coasts.
- Therefore, there are no coastal barriers in California.
- Resource:

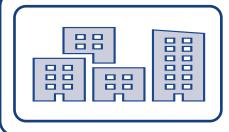
https://www.hudexchange.info/progra ms/environmental-review/coastalbarrier-resources/



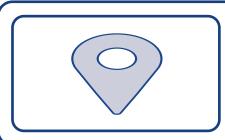
#### Flood Insurance



Regulation | 42 U.S.C. 4106



Flood insurance is required for projects located within a a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)



If a project is located within a SFHA the community must participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)





## Flood Insurance (cont.)

- Example of the National Flood Insurance Program online database is to the right.
- If a community does not participate in the NFIP, federal assistance cannot be used in the SFHA flood hazard area.
- Resource:

   https://www.hudexchange.info/
   programs/environmental review/flood-insurance/



#### Community Status Book Report Communities Participating in the National Flood Program

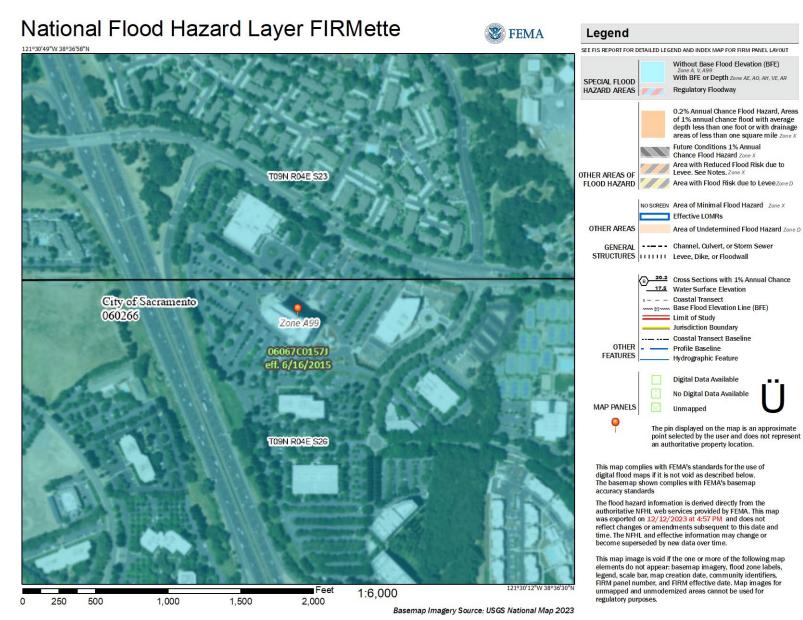


CALIFORNIA

CIID	Community Name	County	Init FHEM Identified	Init FIRM Identified		Reg-Einer Date	Tribal	CRS Entry Date	Ourr Eff Date	Curr Class		% Disc No SFHA
60011#	PIEDMONT, CITY OF	ALAMEDA COUNTY	06/28/74	08/03/09	(NSFHA)	11/15/79	No		1			
60032C	PINOLE, CITY OF	CONTRA COSTA COUNTY	05/24/74	08/15/80	03/21/17	08/15/80	No					
0309C	PISMO BEACH, CITY OF	SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY	03/26/76	08/01/84	05/16/17	08/01/84	No					
60033C	PITTSBURG,CITY OF	CONTRA COSTA COUNTY	06/21/74	08/15/80	03/21/17	08/15/80	No					
0229#	PLACENTIA, CITY OF	DRANGE COUNTY	06/14/74	02/15/80	12/03/09	02/15/80	No					
0239A	PLACER COUNTY*	PLACER COUNTY	07/12/77	04/18/83	11/02/18	04/18/83	No	10/01/91	05/01/09	5	25%	10%
50041#	PLACERWILLE, CITY OF	EL DORADO COUNTY	06/07/74	09/30/83	09/26/08	09/30/83	No					
50034C	PLEASANT HILL, CITY OF	CONTRA COSTA COUNTY	05/24/74	09/30/83	03/21/17	09/30/83	No	05/01/03	10/01/18	9	05%	05%
50012#	PLEASANTON, CITY OF	ALAMEDA COUNTY	06/28/74	12/16/80	08/03/09	12/16/80	No	10/01/92	10/01/17	7	15%	05%
50244#	PLUMAS COUNTY*	PLUMASCOUNTY	12/20/74	09/24/84	03/02/05	09/24/84	No					
90455#	PLYMOUTH, CITY OF	AMADOR COUNTY	11/19/76	12/01/90	05/20/10	12/01/90	No					
0185C	POINT ARENA, CITY OF	MENDOCINO COUNTY	10/18/74	08/03/84	07/18/17	08/03/84	No					
0149#	POMONA CITY OF	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	06/28/74	09/26/08	(NSFHA)	09/07/84	No					
5051F	PORT HUENEME, CITY OF	VENTURA COUNTY	06/28/74	09/24/84	01/29/21(4)	09/24/84	No					
0407 <b>#</b>	PORTERMILLE, CITY OF	TULARE COUNTY	04/12/74	07/18/83	06/16/09	07/18/83	No					
5052#	PORTOLA VALLEY, TOWN OF	SAN MATEO COUNTY	06/21/74	10/17/78	10/16/12	10/17/78	No					
90456#	PORTOLA, CITY OF	PLUMASCOUNTY	02/07/75	07/18/85	03/02/05	07/18/85	No					
50702E	POWAY, CITY OF	SAN DIEGO COUNTY	11/30/82	08/19/85	05/16/12	08/19/85	No	05/01/08	05/01/08	В	10%	05%
50772E	RANCHO CORDOVA, CITY OF	SACRAMENTO COUNTY	01/10/75	03/15/79	02/22/24(>)	09/15/04	No					
	USE SACRAMENTO COUNTY (CID 060262) FIRM PANELS 205E, 210E, 215E and 220E DATED May 22, 2000.											
60671E	RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CITY OF	SAN BERNARDING COUNTY		09/05/84	09/02/16	09/05/84	No					
0259E	RANCHO MIRAGE, CITY OF	RIVERSIDE COUNTY		09/14/79	04/19/17	09/14/79	No					
0464F	RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CITY OF	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	01/28/77	09/26/08	04/21/21	09/07/84	No					
0769#	RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CITY OF	DRANGE COUNTY	01/10/75	09/14/79	12/03/09	01/04/02	No					
	USE THE ORANGE COUNTY (060212) FIRM PANELS 06059C0058 AND 06059C0051.											
55053#	RED BLUFF, CITY OF	TEHAMA COUNTY	06/07/74	02/04/87	09/29/11	05/17/82	No					
60360#	REDDING, CITY OF	SHASTA COUNTY	12/20/74	07/03/85	03/17/11	07/03/85	No	10/01/96	10/01/22	7	15%	D5%
0279E	REDLANDS, CITY OF	SAN BERNARDING COUNTY	11/21/75	01/03/79	09/02/16	01/03/79	No	10/01/07	04/01/23	7	15%	05%
90150F	REDONDO BEACH, CITY OF	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	06/28/74	09/15/83	04/21/21	09/15/83	No					
0325D	REDWOOD CITY, CITY OF	SAN MATEO COUNTY	06/28/74	05/17/82	04/05/19	05/17/82	No					
0053#	REEDLEY, CITY OF	FRESNO COUNTY	03/01/74	09/30/82	02/18/09	09/30/82	No					
0280E	RIALTO, CITY OF	SAN BERNARDING COUNTY	06/07/74	03/18/96	09/02/16	02/12/79	No					
0035C	RICHMOND, CITY OF	CONTRA COSTA COUNTY	06/28/74	03/01/79	(NSFHA)	03/01/79	No	10/01/95	05/01/15	10		D96
0081#	RIDGECREST, CITY OF	KERN COUNTY	09/06/74	01/06/82	09/26/08	01/06/82	No					
0064B	RIO DELL CITY OF	HUMBOLDT COUNTY	05/24/74	05/03/82	11/04/16	05/03/82	No					
0371#	RIO VISTA, CITY OF	SOLANO COUNTY	05/17/74	05/19/81	05/04/09	05/19/81	No					
0457#	RIPON. CITY OF	SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY	01/03/75	09/24/84	10/16/09	09/24/84	No					
0391#					09/26/08		No					
003913F	RIVERBANK, CITY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY *	STANISLAUS COUNTY RIVERSIDE COUNTY	05/10/74	09/30/04	03/22/22	02/03/97	No No	10/01/10	04/01/22	6	20%	10%
			07/10/71	04/15/80				FOLOTATO	J4101122		zUTRI	1070
50260#	RIMERSIDE, CITY OF	RIVERSIDE COUNTY	07/19/74	01/06/83	08/28/08	01/06/83	No					
50242A	ROCKLIN, CITY OF	PLACER COUNTY	07/19/74	05/15/84	11/02/18	05/15/84	No					
90380F	ROHNERT PARK, CITY OF	SONOMA COUNTY	11/29/74	06/01/81	07/19/22	06/01/81	No					
5054F	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES, CITY OF	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	07/13/73	09/26/08	(NSFHA)	11/30/79	No					
50151F	ROLLING HILLS, CITY OF	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	06/28/74	09/26/08	(NSFHA)	05/26/78	No					
	ROSEMEAD, CITY OF	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	06/28/74	09/26/08	(NSFHA)	04/15/79	No					
0153#	ROSEVILLE, CITY OF	PLACER COUNTY	08/02/74	12/15/83	11/02/18	12/15/83	No	10/01/92		1	45%	10%
90153#	ROSENILL, CITTOR		03/29/74	02/04/81	03/16/16	02/04/81	No	05/01/15	05/01/15	В	10%	05%
0153# 0243A	ROSS, TOWN OF	MARIN COUNTY				an fer ha	No	10/01/92	05/01/17	2	40%	10%
60153# 60243A 60179D	· ·	SACRAMENTO COUNTY	01/10/75	03/15/79	02/22/24(>)	03/15/79	nu-	rotortas	DOVOTATA	e.	4070	1070
60153# 60243A 60179D 60262E	ROSS, TOWN OF			03/15/79 09/15/78	02/22/24(>)		No	10/01/91		3	35%	10%
60153# 60243A 60179D 60262E 60266E	ROSS, TOWN OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY*	SACRAMENTO COUNTY	01/10/75						10/01/21			
60153# 60243A 60179D 60262E 60266E 60202C	ROSS, TOWN OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY* SACRAMENTO, CITY OF	SACRAMENTO COUNTY SACRAMENTO COUNTY	01/10/75 01/10/75	09/15/78	02/22/24(>)	09/15/78	No	10/01/91	10/01/21	3	35%	10%



## **Example of a FEMA FIRM Map**







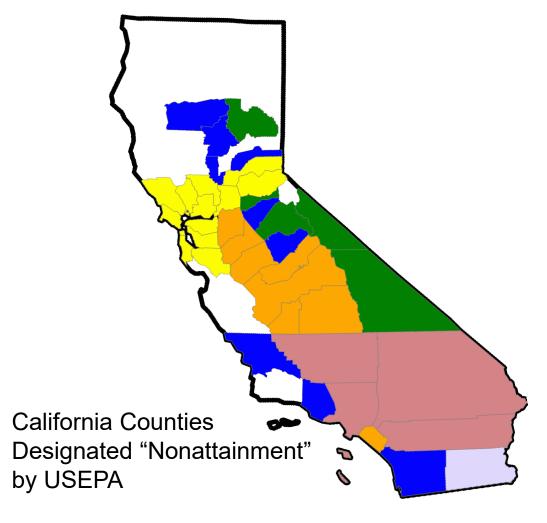
## **Air Quality**

- Regulation | Clean Air Act
- Air pollution and bad air quality can affect human health and the environment
- If a project is new construction, converts land use or has five or more dwelling units, it needs to comply with the Clean Air Act
- Resource: <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/air-quality/">https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/air-quality/</a>





## Air Quality (continued)



If the project is new construction, converts land use or has more than 5 units:

- Determine if the project's county is in "nonattainment" or does not meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act.
- If the county is in nonattainment, you'll need to provide evidence that construction and operations do not exceed criteria pollutants for the area.

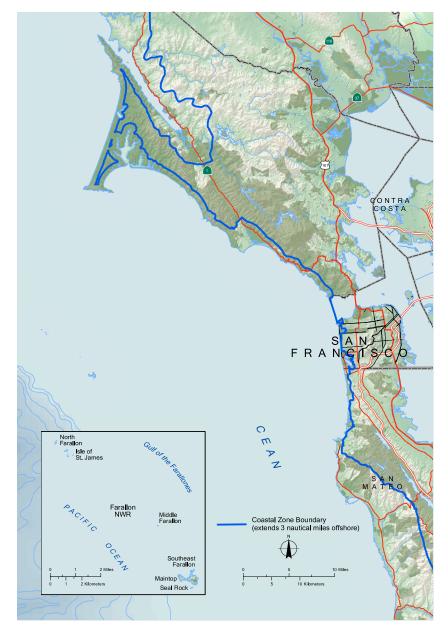


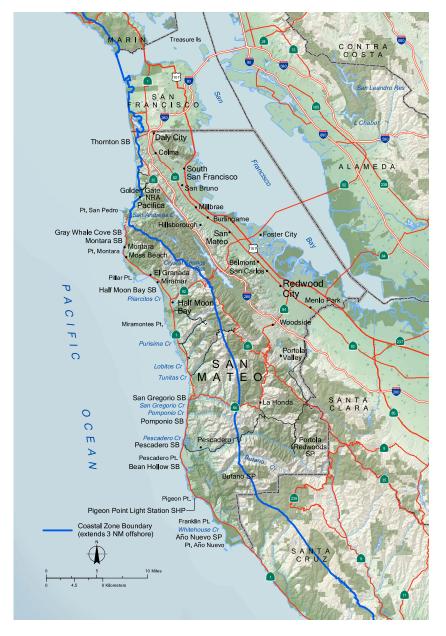
## **Coastal Zone Management**

- Regulation | 16 USC 1451 et seq
- The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 protects the nation's coastline including the Coast of California
- In California, the "coastal zone" can be narrow or wide, depending on habitat and land use
- Projects within the defined coastal zone need consultation with the California Coastal Commission
- Resource: <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/coastal-zone-management/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/coastal-zone-management/</a>



# **Coastal Zone Management (continued)**



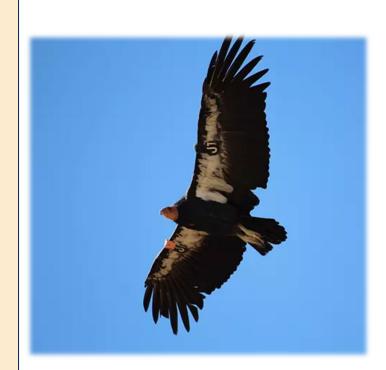






## **Endangered Species**

- Regulation | Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended
- The ESA conserves and protects endangered and threatened species and their habitats
- Certain project types will have "No Effect" on endangered species, such as rental assistance, purchasing exterior buildings, or interior renovations to existing buildings
- If the project "May Affect" listed species or critical habitats, consultation is required







## **Endangered Species**

- Regulatory agencies to be consulted with include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- A biological evaluation or assessment may need to be prepared and sent to the appropriate service office(s) with a request for consultation
- The environmental review report needs to have a final determination of either "No Effect," "May Affect, Unlikely to Adversely Affect," or "Likely to Adversely Affect"
- Resource: <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/endangered-species/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/endangered-species/</a>





### **Environmental Justice**

- Regulation | Multiple, Executive Order 12898
- Environmental justice is an evaluation to determine if a community or the project residents are currently disproportionately impacted and whether the proposed project will further negatively impact the community or project residents
- All people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income should have the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards
- The project must consider how federally assisted projects may have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and/or low-income populations





## **Environmental Justice (continued)**

The environmental review record should document the following:

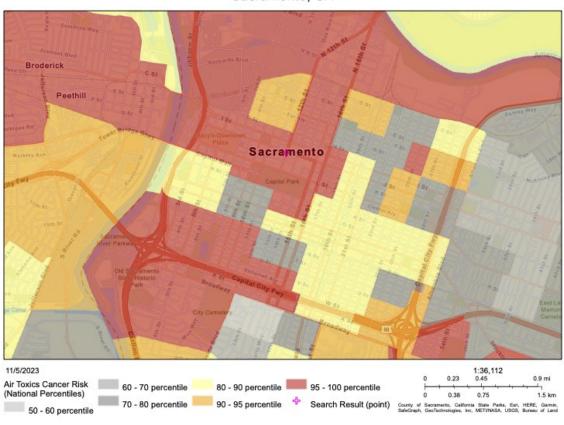
- Does the project create adverse environmental or human health impacts?
- If so, are these adverse environmental or human health impacts disproportionately high for low-income and/or minority communities?
- How did the project sponsor reach out to the community to identify mitigation measures to resolve adverse impacts?
- How will the adverse impacts be mitigated?





## **Environmental Justice (continued)**





- HUD provides a multitude of resources and important considerations to evaluate a proposed projects environmental justice
- Resource:

   https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental review/environmental-justice/





## **Explosive and Flammable Hazards**



- Regulation | 24 CFR Part 51, Subpart C
- Prevents HUD-assisted projects from being near hazardous facilities that store, handle or process flammable or explosive hazardous substances





### **Farmland Protection**

- Regulation | Farmland Protection Policy Act
- The purpose of this act is to minimize the effect of federal programs on the irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses
- Each proposed project is evaluated to determine if it potentially impacts farmland or changes land use
- Resource:

https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/farmlands-protection/





## Floodplain Management

- The requirement has been recently updated. Review the latest guidance at <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/floodplain-management/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/floodplain-management/</a>
- HUD's 2024 rule defined a new floodplain of concern, the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain, which extends beyond the 100-year floodplain.
- The Final Rule requires increased elevation for new construction, improved structures in the FFRMS floodplain, and provides other clarifications.
- Compliance with the new rule is required after June 24, 2024.



#### **Wetlands Protection**

- Regulation | Executive Order 11990
- HUD requires projects to avoid adverse impacts to wetlands
- Determine if the project is located within wetlands identified on the National Wetlands Inventory or consult directly with the USFWS
- If the new construction or other ground disturbance will impact an on- or off-site wetland, the 8-Step Decision-making Process must be completed
- Resource: <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/wetlands-protection/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/wetlands-protection/</a>



## Floodplain & Wetlands 8-Step Process

- Is the project in a floodplain?
- Notify the public and potentially affected parties for early review and decision making.
- Identify and evaluate alternatives.
- Identify direct and indirect impacts.

- Possibly modify or redesign the project to minimize potential adverse impacts.
- Re-evaluate the alternatives and determine if there are no practicable alternatives.
- Notify the public again before implementing the project.





#### **Historic Preservation**

- Regulation | 36 CFR Part 800
- The National Historic Preservation Act requires historic properties are protected and possible harm is avoided, minimized, or mitigated
- Section 106 Review is required
- Interested parties include the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and any nearby federally or state recognized Tribal Nations
- Resource: <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/historic-preservation/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/historic-preservation/</a>





#### **Historic Preservation – Section 106 Review**

Initiate consultation with interested parties, including SHPO, THPO, and any Tribal Nations

Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

Assess Effects on Historic Properties

Resolve Adverse Effects





#### **Noise Abatement and Control**

- Regulation | 24 CFR Part 51, Subpart B
- It is HUDs policy to protect citizens against excessive noise
- HUD has very specific noise analysis guidelines and prohibits supporting construction of noise sensitive uses on sites having unacceptable noise
- If your project has new construction for residential use, or rehabilitation of an existing residential property, proximity to major roadways, railroads, and airports needs to be evaluated
- Resource: <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/noise-abatement-and-control/">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/noise-abatement-and-control/</a>



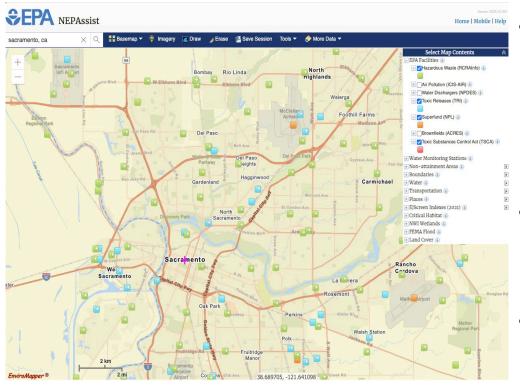


### **Site Contamination**

- Regulation | HUD Environmental Standards at 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2)
- HUD's environmental standards are intended to protect the health and safety of future occupants and the intended utilization of the property
- HUD requires that all properties for use in HUD programs should be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gases, and radon/radioactive substances
- Multi-family and non-residential projects must include an evaluation of prior uses, such as a Phase I ESA



#### **Site Contamination**



- Sites with known contamination, located near contaminated sites, or with an underground storage tank a Phase II environmental site assessment is required
- If project is Federal Housing Administration insured, refer to program guidance
- Resource:

https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/site-contamination/



## **Sole Source Aquifers**

- Regulation | Safe Drinking Water Act
- Sole Source Aquifers are areas where drinking water is only supplied by limited groundwater supplies
- There are five different sole source aquifers in California
- Each proposed project is evaluated to ensure it does not endanger the water source
- Resource: <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/sole-source-aquifers/">https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/sole-source-aquifers/</a>





#### Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Provides federal protection for certain free-flowing, wild, scenic, and recreational rivers designated part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- Three different databases to review:
  - Wild and Scenic Rivers
  - Study Rivers
  - Nationwide Rivers Inventory

Resource: <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-">https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-</a>

review/wild-and-scenic-rivers/



## **HUD Training Resources**

- The Web-Based Instructional System for Environmental Review (WISER) <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/wiser/">https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/wiser/</a>
- HUD Exchange Site https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/
- HUD Environmental Review Online System (HEROS)
   <a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/news/heros-quick-guides/">https://www.hudexchange.info/news/heros-quick-guides/</a>