



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Flood Insurance Workshop
New Biggert-Waters Federal Flood Insurance Regulations**

December 2 through 6 is Flood Awareness Week in Santa Barbara County. As part of this year's public outreach, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will be hosting a public workshop regarding issues relating to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Last year, the U.S. Congress passed new legislation regarding the NFIP, called the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012. These new federal flood insurance regulations can have significant financial impacts to property owners who own property in the floodplain. However there are important factors the public needs to know about the Biggert-Waters Act.

"The Biggert-Waters Act stands to increase costs to property owners who own property in a FEMA designated floodplain", said County Supervisor and Chair of the Board Salud Carbajal. "However, the County has taken steps to lower premiums up to 20% for properties in the unincorporated County thanks to our participation in the Community Rating System (CRS)."

While the NFIP is a federal program, with insurance requirements dictated by the federal government, the workshop is being hosted by the County to help inform residents and business owners on what changes are in store for the NFIP. Representatives from FEMA will be in attendance to help answer questions.

Also, during Flood Awareness Week, anyone can request a free Flood Hazard Review by contacting the Flood Control District office at 568-3440. See details of the workshop below:

Workshop Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Two locations:
County Administration Building, Board Hearing Room, Fourth Floor
105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara

And

Via remote video at
Orcutt Room, Social Services Building

2125 Centerpointe Parkway, Santa Maria, CA (in the Betteravia
Government Center, Santa Maria)

The agenda will include an introduction of the NFIP, a presentation by FEMA representatives, and time for questions and answers. The workshop will be recorded and replayed on County Government Access TV for those unable to attend.

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