



Colorado River Headwaters

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Introduction

This document provides guidance for floodway analysis, and every one the components that accompany it. A floodway may be a tool to help communities in balancing development within the floodplain against the resulting increase flooding hazard. A regulatory floodway is defined because the channel of a river or other watercourse and therefore the adjacent acreage that's reserved from encroachment so as to discharge the bottom flood without cumulatively increasing the water-surface elevation by quite a delegated height. NFIP regulations and Standard SID 69 and 70 state: "Floodway surcharge values must be between zero and 1.0 ft. If the state (or other jurisdiction) has established more stringent regulations, these regulations take precedence over the NFIP regulatory standard. Further reduction of maximum allowable surcharge limits are often used if required or requested and approved by the communities impacted.", and "If a stream forms the boundary between two or more states and/or tribes, either the 1.0-foot maximum allowable rise criterion or existing floodway agreements between the parties shall be used.

The portions of the floodplain beyond the floodway are called the floodway fringe. The community is liable for maintaining the floodway to mitigate flood hazards; the community must not allow any activities causing an increase within the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) within the regulatory floodway.

The baseline model for the allowable surcharge is that the model wont to determine the BFEs the primary time a floodway was adopted for the reach. Unless it's demonstrated that the model should be revised for reasons aside from encroachments into the floodplain, all subsequent revisions to the floodway are limited to the utmost allowable surcharge above the elevations determined within the base model. That way, as hydraulic models are updated to reflect encroachments into the floodway fringe, the cumulative effect of these and future encroachments is restricted to the utmost allowable surcharge. If the model is revised for reasons aside from encroachments into the floodplain (such as increased discharges, shift in channel, modeling software advancements), the revised model, excluding any revisions due to loss of conveyance areas resulting from floodplain encroachment, is that the base model for future floodway analyses. Regulatory floodways aren't normally delineated in coastal high-hazard areas (i.e., Zones V1- 30, VE, and V). The computation of regulatory floodways on riverine flooding sources in coastal floodplains is predicated on the bottom flood discharge and elevations of the riverine flooding source only. The regulatory floodway must be terminated at the boundary of the V1-30, VE, or V Zone, or where the mean high water exceeds the 1-percent-annual-chance riverine flood elevation, whichever occurs further upstream.

Communities that participate within the NFIP that are given floodway data by FEMA are required to adopt a floodway that causes no quite one foot increase within the base flood elevation at any point within the community. the rise in base flood elevation from the "no floodway" to "with floodway" condition is named the surcharge. Most communities adopt the floodway provided by FEMA although they will adopt an alternate floodway provided it meets the one-foot criteria. Once a community adopts a floodway, it must prohibit development therein floodway unless it's been demonstrated through engineering analyses that there'll be no increase flooding stage. Some states and communities have adopted more restrictive floodway standards than those adopted by FEMA.

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