

§ 4102. Criteria for land management and use**(a) Studies and investigations**

The Administrator is authorized to carry out studies and investigations, utilizing to the maximum extent practicable the existing facilities and services of other Federal departments or agencies, and State and local governmental agencies, and any other organizations, with respect to the adequacy of State and local measures in flood-prone areas as to land management and use, flood control, flood zoning, and flood damage prevention, and may enter into any contracts, agreements, or other appropriate arrangements to carry out such authority.

(b) Extent of studies and investigations

Such studies and investigations shall include, but not be limited to, laws, regulations, or ordinances relating to encroachments and obstructions on stream channels and floodways, the orderly development and use of flood plains of rivers or streams, floodway encroachment lines, and flood plain zoning, building codes, building permits, and subdivision or other building restrictions.

(c) Development of comprehensive criteria designed to encourage adoption of adequate State and local measures

On the basis of such studies and investigations, and such other information as he deems necessary, the Administrator shall from time to time develop comprehensive criteria designed to encourage, where necessary, the adoption of adequate State and local measures which, to the maximum extent feasible, will—

- (1) constrict the development of land which is exposed to flood damage where appropriate,
- (2) guide the development of proposed construction away from locations which are threatened by flood hazards,
- (3) assist in reducing damage caused by floods, and
- (4) otherwise improve the long-range land management and use of flood-prone areas,

and he shall work closely with and provide any necessary technical assistance to State, interstate, and local governmental agencies, to encourage the application of such criteria and the adoption and enforcement of such measures.

(d) Flood mitigation methods for buildings

The Administrator shall establish guidelines for property owners that—

- (1) provide alternative methods of mitigation, other than building elevation, to reduce flood risk to residential buildings that cannot be elevated due to their structural characteristics, including—
 - (A) types of building materials; and
 - (B) types of floodproofing; and
- (2) inform property owners about how the implementation of mitigation methods described in paragraph (1) may affect risk premium rates for flood insurance coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program.

(Pub. L. 90-448, title XIII, §1361, Aug. 1, 1968, 82 Stat. 587; Pub. L. 91-152, title IV, §410(c), Dec. 24, 1969, 83 Stat. 397; Pub. L. 98-181, title I [title IV, §451(d)(1)], Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1229; Pub. L.

112-141, div. F, title II, §100238(b)(1), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 958; Pub. L. 113-89, §26(a)(1), Mar. 21, 2014, 128 Stat. 1032.)

AMENDMENTS

- 2014—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 113-89 added subsec. (d).
 2012—Subsecs. (a), (c). Pub. L. 112-141 substituted “Administrator” for “Director”.
 1983—Subsecs. (a), (c). Pub. L. 98-181 substituted “Director” for “Secretary”.
 1969—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 91-152 substituted provisions requiring development of criteria designed to encourage adoption of adequate State and local measures, for provisions requiring development of criteria designed to encourage adoption of permanent State and local measures.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of all functions, personnel, assets, components, authorities, grant programs, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management relating thereto, to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, see section 315(a)(1) of Title 6, Domestic Security.

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see former section 313(1) and sections 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

GUIDELINES

Pub. L. 113-89, §26(a)(2), Mar. 21, 2014, 128 Stat. 1032, provided that: “The Administrator [of the Federal Emergency Management Agency] shall issue the guidelines required under section 1361(d) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4102(d)), as added by the amendment made by paragraph (1) of this subsection, not later than the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Mar. 21, 2014].”

TASK FORCE ON NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE FLOODPLAIN

Pub. L. 103-325, title V, §562, Sept. 23, 1994, 108 Stat. 2276, established the Task Force on Natural and Beneficial Functions of the Floodplain to conduct a study on the functions of the floodplain that reduce flood-related losses and provided for its termination 24 months after its last member was designated.

§ 4102a. Repealed. Pub. L. 112-141, div. F, title II, § 100225(c), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 941

Section, Pub. L. 90-448, title XIII, §1361A, as added Pub. L. 108-264, title I, §102(a), June 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 714, created a pilot program for mitigation of severe repetitive loss properties by mitigating flood damage to such properties and losses to the National Flood Insurance Fund from such properties.

§ 4103. Repealed. Pub. L. 103-325, title V, § 551(a), Sept. 23, 1994, 108 Stat. 2269

Section, Pub. L. 90-448, title XIII, §1362, Aug. 1, 1968, 82 Stat. 588; Pub. L. 95-128, title VII, §704(b), Oct. 12, 1977, 91 Stat. 1145; Pub. L. 98-181, title I [title IV, §451(d)(1)], Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1229, related to purchase, by Director, of insured properties damaged substantially beyond repair by flood, for subsequent transfer to State or local agency upon negotiated conditions.

SAVINGS PROVISION

Pub. L. 103-325, title V, §551(c), Sept. 23, 1994, 108 Stat. 2269, required the Director of the Federal Emergency

Management Agency to comply with any purchase or loan commitment entered into before the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on Sept. 23, 1994, pursuant to authority under this section or section 551(b) of Pub. L. 103-325.

TRANSITION PHASE

Pub. L. 103-325, title V, §551(b), Sept. 23, 1994, 108 Stat. 2269, permitted the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to enter into loan and purchase commitments as provided under this section (as in effect immediately before the enactment of Pub. L. 103-325) during the 1-year period beginning on Sept. 23, 1994.

§ 4104. Flood elevation determinations

(a) Publication or notification of proposed flood elevation determinations

In establishing projected flood elevations and designating areas having special flood hazards for land use purposes with respect to any community pursuant to section 4102 of this title, the Administrator shall first propose such determinations and designations by publication for comment in the Federal Register, by direct notification to the chief executive officer of the community, and by publication in a prominent local newspaper.

(b) Publication of flood elevation determinations; appeal of owner or lessee to local government; scientific or technical knowledge or information as basis for appeal; modification of proposed determinations

The Administrator shall publish notification of flood elevation determinations and designations of areas having special flood hazards in a prominent local newspaper at least twice during the ten-day period following notification to the local government. During the ninety-day period following the second publication, any owner or lessee of real property within the community who believes his property rights to be adversely affected by the Administrator's proposed determination may appeal such determination to the local government. The sole grounds for appeal shall be the possession of knowledge or information indicating that (1) the elevations being proposed by the Administrator with respect to an identified area having special flood hazards are scientifically or technically incorrect, or (2) the designation of an identified special flood hazard area is scientifically or technically incorrect.

(c) Appeals by private persons; submission of negating or contradicting data to community; opinion of community respecting justification for appeal by community; transmission of individual appeals to Administrator; filing of community action with Administrator

Appeals by private persons shall be made to the chief executive officer of the community, or to such agency as he shall publicly designate, and shall set forth the data that tend to negate or contradict the Administrator's finding in such form as the chief executive officer may specify. The community shall review and consolidate all such appeals and issue a written opinion stating whether the evidence presented is sufficient to justify an appeal on behalf of such persons by the community in its own name.

Whether or not the community decides to appeal the Administrator's determination, copies of individual appeals shall be sent to the Administrator as they are received by the community, and the community's appeal or a copy of its decision not to appeal shall be filed with the Administrator not later than ninety days after the date of the second newspaper publication of the Administrator's notification.

(d) Administrative review of appeals by private persons; modification of proposed determinations; decision of Administrator: form and distribution

In the event the Administrator does not receive an appeal from the community within the ninety days provided, he shall consolidate and review on their own merits, in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (e) of this section, the appeals filed within the community by private persons and shall make such modifications of his proposed determinations as may be appropriate, taking into account the written opinion, if any, issued by the community in not supporting such appeals. The Administrator's decision shall be in written form, and copies thereof shall be sent both to the chief executive officer of the community and to each individual appellant.

(e) Administrative review of appeals by community; agencies for resolution of conflicting data; availability of flood insurance pending such resolution; time for determination of Administrator; community adoption of local land use and control measures within reasonable time of final determination; public inspection and admissibility in evidence of reports and other administrative information

Upon appeal by any community, as provided by this section, the Administrator shall review and take fully into account any technical or scientific data submitted by the community that tend to negate or contradict the information upon which his proposed determination is based. The Administrator shall resolve such appeal by consultation with officials of the local government involved, by administrative hearing, or by submission of the conflicting data to the Scientific Resolution Panel provided for in section 4104-1 of this title. Until the conflict in data is resolved, and the Administrator makes a final determination on the basis of his findings in the Federal Register, and so notifies the governing body of the community, flood insurance previously available within the community shall continue to be available, and no person shall be denied the right to purchase such insurance at chargeable rates. The Administrator shall make his determination within a reasonable time. The community shall be given a reasonable time after the Administrator's final determination in which to adopt local land use and control measures consistent with the Administrator's determination. The reports and other information used by the Administrator in making his final determination shall be made available for public inspection and shall be admissible in a court of law in the event the community seeks judicial review as provided by this section.