

**BERNALILLO COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-29**

1 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BERNALILLO COUNTY CODE, CHAPTER 38**  
2 **ARTICLE II, FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION, SECTION 101**

3  
4 **ARTICLE II**

5 **DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY**  
6

7 **Sec. 38-31. - Purpose of article.**

8 The regulations and restrictions of this article are designed to promote the public health, safety, and  
9 general welfare and/or minimize public and private losses due to flooding in flood hazard areas as shown  
10 on the flood insurance rate map.

11 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04; Ord. No. 2008-10, 8-26-08, eff. 9-25-08)

12 The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to  
13 them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

14 *Appeal* means a request for a review of the county floodplain administrator's interpretation of any  
15 provision of this article or a request for a variance.

16 *Area of shallow flooding* means a designated AO or AH zone on a community's flood insurance rate map  
17 (FIRM) with a one percent or greater annual chance of flooding to an average depth of one to three feet  
18 where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable, and where  
19 velocity flow may be evident. Such flow is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.

20 *Area of special flood hazard* is the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or  
21 greater chance of flooding in any given year. The area may be designated as Zone A on the Flood  
22 Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM). After detailed rate making has been completed in preparation for  
23 publication of the FIRM, Zone A usually is refined into Zones A, AO, AH, A1—30, AE, A99, AR, AR/A1—  
24 30, AR/AE, AR/AO, AR/AH, AR/A, VO, V1—30, VE or V.

25 *Base flood* means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given  
26 year.

27 *Base flood elevation (BFE)* means the elevation shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and  
28 found in the accompanying Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Zones A, AE, AH, A1—A30, AR, V1—V30, or  
29 VE that indicates the water surface elevation resulting from the flood that has a 1 percent chance of  
30 equaling or exceeding that level in any given year - also called the base flood.

31 *Basement* means any area of the building having its floor sub-grade (below ground level) on all sides.

32 *Critical feature* means an integral and readily identifiable part of a flood protection system, without which  
33 the flood protection provided by the entire system would be compromised.

34 *Development* means any manmade change to improved or unimproved land including, but not limited to,  
35 buildings or other structures on the land, mining, filling, paving, excavation, or drilling operations or  
36 storage of equipment or materials located within the area of special flood hazard.

CONTINUATION PAGE 2, ORDINANCE 2016-29.

1 *Elevated building* means a nonbasement building:

2 (1) Built, in the case of a building in zones A1—30, A, AO, AH, B, and C to have the top of the  
3 elevated floor elevated above the ground by means of pilings, columns (posts and piers), or shear  
4 walls parallel to the flow of the water; and

5 (2) Adequately anchored so as not to impair the structural integrity of the building during a flood of  
6 up to the magnitude of the base flood. In the case of zones A1—30, A, A99, AO, AH, B, and C the  
7 term "elevated building" also includes a building elevated by means of fill or solid foundation  
8 perimeter walls with openings sufficient to facilitate the unimpeded movement of floodwaters.

9 *Existing construction* means, for the purposes of determining rates, structures for which the "start of  
10 construction" commenced before the effective date of the FIRM, or before January 1, 1975, for FIRMs  
11 effective before that date. The term "existing construction" may also be referred to as "existing  
12 structures."

13 *Existing structures.* See "existing construction."

14 *Existing manufactured home park or subdivision* means a manufactured home park or subdivision for  
15 which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be  
16 affixed (including, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site  
17 grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed before the effective date of the floodplain  
18 management regulations adopted by a community.

19 *Expansion to an existing manufactured home park or subdivision* means the preparation of additional  
20 sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be  
21 affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the  
22 pouring of concrete pads).

23 *Flood or flooding* means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally  
24 dry land areas from:

25 (1) The overflow of inland waters.

26 (2) The unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

27 *Flood elevation study* means an examination, evaluation and determination of flood hazards and, if  
28 appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations, or an examination, evaluation and determination of  
29 mudslide (i.e., mudflow) and/or flood-related erosion hazards.

30 *Flood insurance rate map (FIRM)* means the official map of a community, on which the Federal  
31 Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk  
32 premium zones applicable to the community.

33 *Flood insurance study.* See "flood elevation study."

34 *Flood protection system* means those physical structural works for which funds have been authorized,  
35 appropriated and expended, and which have been constructed specifically to modify flooding in order to  
36 reduce the extent of the areas within the community subject to a special flood hazard, and the extent of  
37 the depths of associated flooding. Such a system typically includes dams, reservoirs, levees or dikes.  
38 These specialized flood modifying works are those constructed in conformance with sound engineering  
39 standards.

40 *Floodplain or floodprone area* means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any  
41 source. See the definition of flooding.

42 *Floodplain administrator* means an assigned public official certified in floodplain administration per NM  
43 State statute 3-18-7 NMSA 1978

CONTINUATION PAGE 3, ORDINANCE 2016-29.

1 *Flood proofing* means any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or  
2 adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real  
3 property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.

4 *Floodway* means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be  
5 reserved in the order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface  
6 elevation more than a designated height.

7 *Functionally dependent use* means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located  
8 or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are  
9 necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair  
10 facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities.

11 *Highest adjacent grade* means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction  
12 next to the proposed walls of a structure.

13 *Historic structure* means any structure that is:

14 (1) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the  
15 Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the  
16 requirements for individual listing on the National Register;

17 (2) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the  
18 historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the  
19 Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;

20 (3) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation  
21 programs which have been approved by the Secretary of Interior; or

22 (4) Individually listed on a local inventory or historic places in communities with historic  
23 preservation programs that have been certified either:

24 a. By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or;

25 b. Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

26 *Levee* means a manmade structure, usually an earthen embankment, designed and constructed in  
27 accordance with sound engineering practices to contain, control or divert the flow of water so as to  
28 provide protection from temporary flooding.

29 *Levee system* means a flood protection system which consists of levees and associated structures, such  
30 as closure and drainage devices, which are constructed and operated in accordance with sound  
31 engineering practices.

32 *Lowest floor* means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area, including the basement. An unfurnished  
33 or flood-resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage in an area  
34 other than a basement area, is not considered a building's lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is  
35 not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable nonelevation design requirement of  
36 section 60.3 of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations.

37 *Manufactured home* means a structure transportable on one or more sections, which is built on a  
38 permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when connected to  
39 the required utilities. The term "manufactured home" does not include recreational vehicles.

40 *Manufactured home park or subdivision* means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or  
41 more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

42 *Mean sea level.* Effective November 19, 2003 the mean sea level means for purposes of the National

**CONTINUATION PAGE 4, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 Flood Insurance Program, the National American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD '88) to which base flood  
2 elevations shown on the community's flood insurance rate map are referenced.

3 *Mobile home.* See "manufactured home."

4 *New construction* means, for the purpose of determining insurance rates, structures for which the "start of  
5 construction" commenced on or after the effective date of an initial FIRM or after December 31, 1974,  
6 whichever is later, and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures. For floodplain  
7 management purposes, "new construction" means structures for which the "start of construction"  
8 commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by a community  
9 and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.

10 *New manufactured home park or subdivision* means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which  
11 the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed  
12 (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading  
13 or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of floodplain management  
14 regulations adopted by a community.

15 *Recreation vehicle* means a vehicle which is (i) built on a single chassis; (ii) 400 square feet or less when  
16 measured at the largest horizontal projections; (iii) designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable  
17 by a light duty truck; and (iv) designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary  
18 living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

19 *Special flood hazard area.* See "area of special flood hazard."

20 *Start of construction* means substantial improvement and means the date the building permit was issued,  
21 provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, placement, or other improvement was  
22 within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement or permanent  
23 construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the  
24 construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured  
25 home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing,  
26 grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways; nor does it include  
27 excavation for basement, footings, piers or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it  
28 include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as  
29 dwelling units or not part of the main structure.

30 *Structure* means a walled and roofed building, a mobile home, or a gas or liquid storage tank, that is  
31 principally located above the ground.

32 *Substantial improvements* means any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of  
33 which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either:

34 (1) Before the improvement or repair is started, or

35 (2) If the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred.

36 For the purpose of this article, substantial improvement is considered to occur when the first alteration of  
37 any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of a structure commences, whether or not that alteration  
38 affects the external dimensions of the structure. Exception: Any project for improvement of a structure to  
39 comply with existing state or local health, sanitary, safety, and building code specifications which are  
40 solely necessary to ensure safe living conditions and any alteration of a structure listed in the National  
41 Register of Historic Places or in the state inventory of historic places are exempted from the definition of  
42 the term "substantial improvement."

43 *Substantial damage* means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring  
44 the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the  
45 structure before the damage occurred.

**CONTINUATION PAGE 5, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 *Variance* means a grant of relief from the requirements of this article which permits construction in a  
2 manner that would otherwise be prohibited by this article.

3 *Violation* means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's  
4 floodplain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate,  
5 other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in sections 38-71(b)(1), 38-72, 38-101, and  
6 38-102 is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

7 *Water surface elevation.* Effective November 19, 2003 the water surface elevation means the height, in  
8 relation to the National American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD '88) for floods of various magnitudes and  
9 frequencies in the floodplains of riverine areas.

10 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04; Ord. No. 2008-10, 8-26-08, eff. 9-25-08)

11 **Cross reference—** Definitions generally, § 1-2.

12 **Sec. 38-33. - Penalty for violation of article.**

13 Except as otherwise provided in this article, violations of this article are punishable as provided in Chapter  
14 1, section 1-6 of the Bernalillo County Code.

15 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

16 **Sec. 38-34. - Interpretation of article and conflicting provisions.**

17 The regulations, restrictions and requirements of this article shall be held to be the minimum standards to  
18 carry out the purpose of this article. This article is not intended to interfere with, abrogate, or annul any  
19 easement, covenant or other agreement between parties or other valid ordinances. Where this article  
20 imposes a greater restriction upon the use of land or building, or upon the height and method of  
21 construction of a building than is imposed by other rules, regulations, easements, covenants, agreements  
22 or ordinances, the provisions of this article shall control.

23 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

24 **Sec. 38-35. - Methods and provisions for achieving purpose of article.**

25 In order to accomplish its purpose, this article includes methods and provisions for:

26 (1) Restricting or prohibiting uses which are dangerous to health, safety, and property due to  
27 water or erosion hazards; or which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or  
28 velocities.

29 (2) Requiring that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be  
30 protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction.

31 (3) Controlling the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective  
32 barriers, which help accommodate or channel floodwaters.

33 (4) Controlling, filling, grading, and other development which may increase flood damage.

34 (5) Preventing or regulating the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert  
35 floodwaters or which may increase flood hazards in other areas.

36 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

37 **Secs. 38-36—38-70. - Reserved.**

38

1 DIVISION 2. - ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

2

3 **Sec. 38-71. - Floodplain Administrator; creation of position; duties and responsibilities.**

4 (a) Pursuant to NM state statute 3-18-7 NMSA 1978

5 There is hereby created by the county the position of county floodplain administrator to administer and  
6 implement this article by granting or denying development permit applications in accordance with  
7 Bernalillo County and State of New Mexico codes, rules, ordinances and statutes.

8 (b) The floodplain administrator shall enforce this article, and, in addition thereto and in furtherance  
9 thereof, shall:

10 (1) Review all applications for development permits to assure sites are reasonably safe from  
11 flooding and to determine:

12 a. That the permit requirements of this article have been satisfied.

13 b. That all necessary permits have been obtained from those federal, state or local  
14 governmental agencies from which prior approval is required.

15 c. Whether or not the proposed development adversely affects the flood-carrying capacity  
16 of the area of special flood hazard. For the purpose of this article the expression "adversely  
17 affects" means damage to adjacent properties because of rises in flood stages attributed to  
18 physical changes of the channel, arroyo and adjoining areas.

19 1. If it is determined that there is no adverse effect, then the permit shall be granted  
20 consistent with the provisions of this article

21 2. If it is determined that there is an adverse effect, then flood damage mitigation  
22 measures shall be made a condition of the permit.

23 (2) Obtain, review and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation data and floodway data  
24 available from a federal, state or other source until base flood elevation data is made available by  
25 the federal insurance administrator, in order to carry out the provisions of this article.

26 (3) Obtain and maintain records of the actual elevation, in relation to mean sea level, of the lowest  
27 habitable floor, including the basement, of all new or substantially improved structures.

28 (4) Obtain and maintain records of actual elevations, in relation to mean sea level, to which  
29 structures have been floodproofed and keep the floodproofing certifications required by this article.

30 (5) Notify adjacent communities, the state and other affected agencies prior to any alterations or  
31 relocations of a watercourse, and submit evidence of such notification to the federal insurance  
32 administrator.

33 (6) Require that maintenance is provided within the altered or relocated portion of watercourse so  
34 that the flood-carrying capacity is not diminished.

35 (7) Make interpretations and determine, when needed, the exact location of the boundaries of the  
36 areas of special flood hazards in case of conflict between a boundary shown on the flood hazard  
37 boundary map and actual field conditions.

38 (8) Review all subdivision proposals and other proposed new development, including  
39 manufactured home parks and subdivisions for compliance with the provisions of this article and to  
40 ensure that the proposals are reasonably safe from flooding.

**CONTINUATION PAGE 7, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 (9) When a regulatory floodway has not been designated, the floodplain administrator must  
2 require that no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill)  
3 shall be permitted within Zones A1—30 and AE on the community's FIRM, unless it is demonstrated  
4 that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and  
5 anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than  
6 one foot at any point within the community.

7 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04; Ord. No. 2008-10, 8-26-08, eff. 9-25-08, Ord. No. 2012-17, 8-14-12)

8 **Sec. 38-72. - Development permits.**

9 (a) A development permit shall be obtained before construction of development begins within any area  
10 of special flood hazard as shown on the flood insurance rate map.

11 (b) An application for a development permit (same as building permit) shall be made to the county  
12 building section. The applicant shall submit to the county administrator plans drawn to scale showing the  
13 nature, location, dimensions and elevations of the area to be developed, existing and/or proposed  
14 structures, fill, storage of materials, drainage facilities and the location of the foregoing.

15 (c) The plans mentioned in subsection (b) of this section shall specifically include the following  
16 information:

17 (1) Elevation, in relation to mean sea level, of the lowest floor, including the basement, of all  
18 structures.

19 (2) Elevation, in relation to mean sea level, to which any structure has been floodproofed.

20 (3) Certification by a registered professional engineer that the floodproofing methods for any  
21 nonresidential structure meet the floodproofing criteria set forth in section 38-102(2)c.

22 (4) Description of the extent to which any watercourse will be altered or relocated as a result of  
23 proposed development.

24 (d) Fees. An application for a development permit shall be accompanied by a filing fee in accordance  
25 with the following schedule:

26 (1) Twenty dollars for new buildings of 1,000 square feet or more, or additions of 1,000 square  
27 feet or more to existing buildings.

28 (2) Ten dollars for new buildings of less than 1,000 square feet, additions of less than 1,000  
29 square feet to existing buildings, or for the erection of structures other than buildings.

30 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

31 **Sec. 38-73. - Variances and appeals.**

32 (a) In passing upon applications for variances and appeals, the county floodplain administrator shall  
33 consider all technical evaluations, all relevant factors, standards specified in other sections of this article  
34 and:

35 (1) The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others;

36 (2) The danger of life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;

37 (3) The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of  
38 such damage on the individual owner;

39 (4) The importance of the services provided by the proposed facility to the community;

CONTINUATION PAGE 8, ORDINANCE 2016-29.

- 1 (5) The availability of alternative locations for the proposed use which are not subject to flooding  
2 or erosion damage;
- 3 (6) The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
- 4 (7) The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive and floodplain management  
5 program of that area;
- 6 (8) The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
- 7 (9) The expected heights, velocities, duration, rate of rise, and sediment transport of the  
8 floodwaters and the effects of wave action, if applicable at the site; and
- 9 (10) The costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions, including  
10 maintenance and repair of public facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, water system, and streets  
11 and bridges.

12 (b) The county floodplain administrator shall maintain the records of all appeal actions, including  
13 technical information, and report any variances to the Federal Insurance Administration upon request.

14 (c) Conditions for a variance are as follows:

- 15 (1) Generally, variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvements to be  
16 erected on a lot of one-half acre or less in size, contiguous to, and surrounded by, lots with existing  
17 structures constructed below the base flood level, and not in a designated floodway, providing items  
18 in subsection (a) of this section have been fully considered. As the lot size increases beyond the  
19 one-half acre, the technical justification required for issuing the variances increases.
- 20 (2) Variances may be issued for the reconstruction, rehabilitation or restoration of structures listed  
21 on the state cultural properties register, without regard to the procedures set forth in the remainder  
22 of this division.
- 23 (3) Variances shall not be issued within any designated floodway if any increase in flood levels or  
24 adverse realignment during the base flood discharge would occur as a result of allowing such  
25 discharge variances.
- 26 (4) Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum penalty,  
27 considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.

28 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

29 **Secs. 38-74—38-100. - Reserved.**

30

31 **DIVISION 3. - PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION**

32

33 **SEC. 38-101. - GENERAL STANDARDS.**

34 For development in all areas of special flood hazards, the following standards must be complied with:

- 35 (1) *Anchoring.* All new construction or substantial improvements shall be designed or modified  
36 and adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement of the structure resulting  
37 from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy.
- 38 (2) *Construction materials and methods.* All new construction and substantial improvements shall  
39 be constructed:

CONTINUATION PAGE 9, ORDINANCE 2016-29.

1 a. With materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage; and

2 b. Using methods and practices that minimize flood damage.

3 (3) *Utilities.*

4 a. All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or  
5 eliminate infiltration of floodwaters into the system.

6 b. New and replacement sanitary sewerage systems shall be designed to minimize or  
7 eliminate infiltration of floodwaters into the systems and discharge from the systems into  
8 floodwaters.

9 c. Onsite waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to them or  
10 contamination from them during flooding.

11 All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed with electrical, heating,  
12 plumbing, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, and other service facilities that are  
13 designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the  
14 components during conditions of flooding.

15 (4) *Subdivision proposals in special flood hazard areas.* Subdivision proposals in special flood  
16 hazard areas shall conform to the following:

17 a. All subdivision proposals shall be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage  
18 and shall be reasonably safe from flooding.

19 b. All subdivision proposals shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas,  
20 electrical and water systems located and constructed to minimize flood damage.

21 c. All subdivision proposals shall have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to  
22 flood damage.

23 d. Base flood elevation data shall be provided for subdivision proposals and other  
24 proposed development which contain at least 50 lots or five acres, whichever is less.

25 (5) *Floodways.* Located within areas of special flood hazard established by the Federal  
26 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the current report entitled "The Flood Insurance Study  
27 (FIS), Bernalillo County, New Mexico and Incorporated Areas" dated November 4, 2016 and  
28 accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) dated September 23, 2008, August 16, 2012  
29 and November 4, 2016, or any other subsequent study, are areas designated as floodways. Since  
30 the floodway is an extremely hazardous area due to the velocity of floodwaters which carry debris,  
31 potential projectiles and erosion potential, the following provisions shall apply:

32 a. Encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements  
33 and other developments unless certification by a registered professional engineer is provided  
34 demonstrating that encroachments shall not result in any increase in flood levels during  
35 occurrence of the base flood discharge.

36 b. If subsection (5)a. of this section is satisfied, all new construction and substantial  
37 improvements shall comply with all applicable flood hazard reduction provisions of this section.

38 c. Prohibit placement of any mobile homes, except which meet the requirements of section  
39 38-102(4).

40 (6) *Standards of areas of shallow flooding (AO and AH zones).* Located within the areas of  
41 special flood hazard established by "The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Bernalillo County, New  
42 Mexico and Incorporated Area" dated November 4, 2016 and accompanying Flood Insurance Rate

**CONTINUATION PAGE 10, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 Maps (FIRMs) dated September 23, 2008, August 16, 2012 and November 4, 2016, or any other  
2 subsequent study, are areas designated as shallow flooding. These areas have special flood  
3 hazards associated with base flood depths of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel  
4 does not exist and where the path of flooding is unpredictable and indeterminate. Therefore, the  
5 following provisions apply:

6 a. All new construction and substantial improvements of residential structures must have  
7 the lowest floor, including the basement, elevated 1 foot or more above the base flood  
8 elevation or the highest adjacent grade at least 1 foot above the depth number specified in  
9 feet on the county flood insurance rate map (at least two feet if no depth number is specified).

10 b. All new construction and substantial improvements of nonresidential structures must:

11 1. Have the lowest floor, including the basement, elevated to or above the base flood  
12 elevation or the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in  
13 feet on the county flood insurance rate map (at least two feet if no depth is specified); or

14 2. Together with attendant utilities and sanitary facilities be designated so that below  
15 the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the  
16 passage of water and with structure components having the capability of resisting  
17 hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads of effects of buoyancy.

18 c. A registered professional engineer shall submit a certification to the county floodplain  
19 administrator that the standards of this section, as proposed in section 38-102(1), (2) and (3)  
20 are satisfied.

21 d. Require within zones AH and AO, adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes,  
22 to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.

23 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04; Ord. No. 2008-10, 8-26-08, eff. 9-25-08, Ord. No. 2012-17, 8-14-12)

24 **Sec. 38-102. - Specific standards.**

25 In all areas of special flood hazards where base flood elevation data has been provided, the following  
26 specific standards apply:

27 (1) *Residential construction.* New construction and substantial improvements of any residential  
28 structure shall have the lowest floor, including the basement, elevated to 1 foot or more above the  
29 base flood elevation.

30 (2) *Nonresidential construction.* New construction and substantial improvement of any  
31 commercial, industrial or other nonresidential structure shall either have the lowest floor, including  
32 the basement, elevated to or above the base flood elevations, or it, together with attendant utility  
33 and sanitary facilities shall:

34 a. Be floodproofed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls  
35 substantially impermeable to the passage of water;

36 b. Have structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads  
37 and effects of buoyancy; and

38 c. Be certified by a registered professional engineer that the standards of this subsection  
39 are satisfied and that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with  
40 acceptable standards of practice as outlined in this subsection.

41 (3) *Enclosures.* New construction and substantial improvements, with fully enclosed areas below  
42 the lowest floor that are subject to flooding, shall be designed automatically to equalize hydrostatic  
43 flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters. Designs for meeting

1 this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer, or meet or exceed  
2 the following minimum criteria:

3 a. A minimum of two openings on separate walls having a total net area of not less than  
4 one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided.

5 b. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade.

6 c. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves or other coverings or devices,  
7 provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

8 (4) *Manufactured homes.*

9 a. All manufactured homes to be placed or substantially improved within Zone A shall be  
10 installed using methods and practices which minimize flood damage. For the purpose of this  
11 subsection, manufactured homes must be elevated and anchored to resist flotation, collapse  
12 or lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-  
13 top or frame ties to ground anchors. This requirement is in addition to applicable state and  
14 local anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces.

15 b. Manufactured homes to be placed or substantially improved within Zones AH and AE on  
16 the community's FIRM (i) outside of a manufactured home park or subdivision, (ii) in a new  
17 manufactured home park or subdivision, (iii) in an expansion to an existing manufactured  
18 home park or subdivision, or (iv) in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision on  
19 which a manufactured home has incurred "substantial damage" as a result of a flood, shall be  
20 elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is  
21 elevated to or above the base flood elevation and be securely anchored to an adequately  
22 anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.

23 c. Manufactured homes placed or substantially improved on sites in an existing  
24 manufactured home park or subdivision within Zones AH and AE on the community's FIRM  
25 that are not subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) of this section shall be elevated so that  
26 either:

27 1. The lowest floor of the manufactured home is at or above the base flood elevation,  
28 or

29 2. The manufactured home chassis is supported by reinforced piers or other  
30 foundation elements of at least equivalent strength that are no less than 36 inches in  
31 height above grade and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation  
32 system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.

33 (5) *Recreational vehicles.* Recreational vehicles placed on sites within Zones AH and AE shall  
34 either (i) be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, or (ii) be fully licensed and ready for  
35 highway use, or (iii) meet the permit requirements of these regulations, and the elevation and  
36 anchoring requirements for "manufactured homes" in paragraph (4) of this section. A recreational  
37 vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by  
38 quick disconnect type utilities and security devices, and has no permanently attached additions.

39 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04; Ord. No. 2008-10, 8-26-08, eff. 9-25-08, Ord. No. 2012-17, 8-14-12)

40 **Secs. 38-103—38-140. - Reserved.**

41

42 **ARTICLE III**

43

**CONTINUATION PAGE 12, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 **DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY**

2

3 **Sec. 38-141. - Purpose and intent of article.**

4 It is the purpose of this article to promote the public health, safety and general welfare, and to minimize  
5 public and private losses due to flooding by provisions designed:

6 (1) To establish policies, procedures, criteria and requirements to complement and to supplement  
7 Article II of this chapter for the assistance and guidance of county officials, county staff and all  
8 persons and entities within the jurisdiction of the county.

9 (2) As to flood control, to:

- 10 a. Prevent the loss of or injury to human life.
- 11 b. Minimize flood damages to public and private property.
- 12 c. Provide for timely and effective construction and maintenance of flood control facilities.

13 (3) As to storm drainage, to:

- 14 a. Prevent the creation of public safety hazards and seek to eliminate existing problems.
- 15 b. Prevent, to the extent feasible, the discharge of storm runoff from public facilities onto  
16 private property.
- 17 c. Prevent the increased risk of damage to private property caused by storm runoff from  
18 other private property.
- 19 d. Coordinate with the MRGCD, AMAFCA and the City of Albuquerque the discharge of  
20 storm runoff into MRGCD and AMAFCA facilities and minimize impact on downstream  
21 facilities.
- 22 e. Provide a reasonable level of public health and convenience at reasonable cost.
- 23 f. Provide for timely and effective construction and maintenance of storm drainage  
24 facilities.
- 25 g. Design storm drainage facilities, which provide effective storm drainage and flood,  
26 control protection as well as promote quality of life and further other adopted county policies,  
27 including development of multiple use drainage facilities.
- 28 h. Improve the quality of storm runoff.

29 (4) As to erosion control, to:

- 30 a. Protect the hydraulic capacity of flood control and storm drainage facilities from losses  
31 due to sedimentation and degradation.
- 32 b. Preserve public health, safety and convenience from jeopardy due to erosion and  
33 sedimentation in private and public facilities of all types.
- 34 c. Preserve the quality of surface runoff.

35 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

CONTINUATION PAGE 13, ORDINANCE 2016-29.

1 **Sec. 38-142. - Definitions.**

2 The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to  
3 them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

4 *AMAFCA* means the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority. *BMP* means best  
5 management practice. Best management practices are schedules of activities, prohibitions or practices,  
6 maintenance procedures and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of  
7 the United States. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to  
8 control runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal or drainage from raw material storage. With  
9 regard to construction these practices may include structural devices or nonstructural practices that are  
10 designed to prevent pollutants from entering water or to direct the flow of water.

11 *Board of adjustment* means board of adjustment as defined in the comprehensive zoning ordinance of the  
12 county, as may be amended from time to time.

13 *Channel* means any arroyo, stream, swale, ditch, diversion or watercourse that conveys storm runoff,  
14 including manmade facilities.

15 *Channel stability* means a condition in which a channel neither degrades to the degree that structures,  
16 utilities or private property are endangered, nor aggrades to the degree that flow capacity is significantly  
17 diminished as a result of one or more storm runoff events or moves laterally to the degree that adjacent  
18 property is endangered.

19 *Channel treatment measure* means a physical alteration of a channel for any purpose.

20 *City* means the City of Albuquerque.

21 *Comprehensive plan* means the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan and amendments  
22 thereto.

23 *Conceptual grading and drainage plan* means a plan prepared in graphical format showing existing and  
24 proposed grading, drainage, control, flood control and erosion control information in sufficient detail to  
25 determine project feasibility.

26 *Conservancy district engineer* means the MRGCD's engineer or appointed representative.

27 *County engineer* means the engineering manager of the engineering division of the county public works  
28 department or his designee.

29 *County surface water hydrologist* means a staff professional engineer designated by the county engineer  
30 to exercise primary responsibility for drainage control, flood control and erosion control matters assigned  
31 to the office of the county engineer.

32 *Design storm* means a storm which deposits a stated amount of precipitation within a stated period over a  
33 defined area and which is used in calculating storm runoff and in designing drainage control, flood control  
34 and erosion control measures.

35 *Developed land* means any lot or parcel of land occupied by any structure intended for human  
36 occupation, including structures intended for commercial enterprise.

37 *Developer* means any individual, estate, trust, receiver, cooperative association, club, corporation,  
38 company, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate or other entity engaging in the platting, subdivision,  
39 filling, grading, excavating or construction of structures or facilities.

40 *Downstream capacity* means the ability of downstream major facilities to accept and safely convey runoff  
41 generated upstream from the 100-year design storm.

CONTINUATION PAGE 14, ORDINANCE 2016-29.

- 1     *Drainage* means storm drainage.
- 2     *Drainage covenant* means a legal document executed between a real property owner and the county and,  
3     in general, identifies, addresses and defines a drainage facility or facilities, maintenance, county's right of  
4     entry, demand for removal or repair, failure to perform by owner and emergency work by county, liability  
5     of county, indemnification, cancellation of agreement and release of covenant, assessments, notification,  
6     term, binding of property, changes and severability. The drainage covenant shall be in a form provided by  
7     the county.
- 8     *Drainage management or treatment* means the treatment and/or management of surface runoff from all  
9     storms up to and including a ten-year design storm.
- 10    *Drainage management plan* means a plan prepared and adopted by the county, city or AMAFCA which  
11    details the drainage controls required within a particular watershed, arroyo corridor or other designated  
12    drainage district. The drainage management plan shall comply with an arroyo corridor plan if one has  
13    been adopted.
- 14    *Drainage plan* means a short, detailed plan prepared in graphical format with or on a detailed grading  
15    plan addressing onsite and off-site drainage control, flood control and erosion control issues for lots or  
16    parcels of less than five acres.
- 17    *Drainage report* means a comprehensive analysis of the drainage, flood control and erosion control  
18    constraints on and impact resulting from a proposed platting, development or construction project.
- 19    *Drainage right-of-way* means a public right-of-way acquired whether in fee or in easement, by the city,  
20    county, AMAFCA, the MRGCD, or the state for the primary purpose of handling storm drainage.
- 21    *East Mountain Area* means that portion of the county between the eastern limit of the county and the  
22    eastern limit of the city, which is more particularly described as that portion of the county east of the east  
23    line of Township 4 East of the New Mexico Principal Meridian and as such line is projected through land  
24    grant boundaries (being 24 miles east of the New Mexico Principal Meridian).
- 25    *EPA* means United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- 26    *Erosion control* means treatment measures for the prevention of damages due to soil movement and to  
27    deposition.
- 28    *Erosion control plan* means a plan for the mitigation of damages due to soil erosion and to deposition.
- 29    *Flood control* means the treatment measures necessary to protect life and property from the 100-year  
30    design storm runoff.
- 31    *Flood hazard area* means an area subject to inundation from the 100-year design storm runoff.
- 32    *Floodway* means the channel of a river, arroyo or other watercourse and adjacent land areas that must be  
33    reserved in order to safely discharge the 100-year design storm runoff.
- 34    *Freeboard* means that part of the drainage channel that is designed to contain the wave action of the 100-  
35    year design storm.
- 36    *Fully developed watershed* means a hydrologic condition in which all areas upstream and downstream of  
37    a point in question are assumed completely developed, including any undeveloped areas which are  
38    assumed to be developed in accordance with mid-range development densities as established by the  
39    comprehensive plan, appropriate area plans or sector plans, adopted facilities master plans and the  
40    hydraulic and hydrologic standards established by this article.
- 41    *Grading plan* means a plan describing the existing topography and proposed grading, including retaining  
42    wall locations and details, interfaces with adjacent properties, streets, alleys and channels, referenced to

**CONTINUATION PAGE 15, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 mean sea level (1929 or 1988 datum) such as city benchmark or NMSHTD benchmark, and showing  
2 sufficient contours, spot elevations and cross sections to allow a clear understanding by reviewers,  
3 contractors and inspectors.

4 *Maintenance* means the cleaning, shaping, grading, repair and minor replacement of drainage, flood  
5 control and erosion control facilities, but not including the cost of power consumed in the normal operation  
6 of pump stations.

7 *Major arroyo* means any channel whose watershed exceeds 320 acres in a 100-year design storm,  
8 whether such watershed is in its natural or unaltered state or has been altered by development, runoff  
9 diversions or detention facilities.

10 *Major facility* means any facility, including a street or alley, which would collect, divert or convey a peak  
11 discharge of more than 50 cubic feet per second (50 cfs) or store two acre-feet or more of runoff in the  
12 event of a 100-year design storm.

13 *Master planned facility* means any drainage control, flood control or erosion control facility recommended  
14 in the Albuquerque Master Drainage Plan (1981), amendments thereto, or any voter approved general  
15 obligation bond financed drainage control, flood control or erosion control facility.

16 *Minor facility* means any facility which would collect, divert or convey a peak discharge of 50 cubic feet  
17 per second (50 cfs) or less, or store less than two acre-feet of runoff in the event of the 100-year design  
18 storm.

19 *MRGCD* means the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

20 *Multiple use facility* means a drainage control, flood control or erosion control facility in which other  
21 secondary uses are planned or allowed including, but not limited to, recreation, open space,  
22 transportation and utility location.

23 *NOI* means notice of intent.

24 *NPDES Phase II* means National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, Phase II.

25 *Nuisance waters* means those waters leaving a site and entering a public street, which do not result from  
26 precipitation, such as landscape overwatering or car washing.

27 *100-year design storm* means that storm whose precipitation within a six-hour period and resulting runoff  
28 has a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. A special condition may  
29 require/allow use of storms of longer duration.

30 *Project design swale (drainage ditch, borrow ditch or bar ditch)* means a swale or ditch parallel to the  
31 driving surface to convey stormwater runoff from the street right-of-way.

32 *Prudent line (erosion limit line)* means that line which will not be disturbed by erosion, scour or  
33 meandering of a natural (unlined) arroyo, channel or watercourse over a period of 30 years and which will  
34 not be disturbed by a 100-year storm occurring at any time during the 30-year period. The prudent line  
35 shall be so located as to include all freeboard required to contain the wave action of the 100-year design  
36 storm.

37 *Storm drainage system* means arroyos, storm drains, roadways, culverts, bar ditches, ponds, pump  
38 stations, dams, detention ponds, retention ponds, inlets and appurtenant structures and other facilities  
39 which convey stormwater.

40 *Stormwater* means stormwater runoff, which is flow on the surface or in the subsurface that percolates  
41 from the ground resulting from precipitation.

42 *Stormwater pollution prevention plan* means the information and program required by EPA, NMED and/or

CONTINUATION PAGE 16, ORDINANCE 2016-29.

1 the county for construction phase stormwater management.

2 *Stormwater quality control* means the treatment methods necessary to protect and enhance the quality of  
3 stormwater.

4 *Temporary drainage facility* means a nonpermanent drainage control, flood control or erosion control  
5 facility constructed as part of a phased project or to serve until such time that a permanent facility is in  
6 place including, but not limited to, desilting ponds, berms, diversions, channels, detention ponds,  
7 retention ponds, bank protection and channel stabilization measures.

8 *Ten-year design storm* means that storm whose precipitation within a six-hour period and resulting runoff  
9 has a ten percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. A special condition may  
10 require/allow use of storms of longer duration.

11 *Urbanized area* means that area identified in the most current US Census as having a population in  
12 excess of 50,000 persons, or a density of 1,000 persons per acre or greater.

13 *Watercourse* means any river, creek, arroyo, canyon, draw or wash, or any other channel having definite  
14 banks and bed with visible evidence of the occasional flow of water.

15 *Zoning administrator* means the official designated to enforce the county comprehensive zoning  
16 ordinance, as may be amended from time to time.

17 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

18 **Sec. 38-143. - Violations of article; procedures for remedy; penalty.**

19 (a) *Notice of violation; noncompliance; abatement by county; lien.* Where, after investigation, a notice  
20 has been issued by the county engineer to the owner of the property on which a violation has occurred  
21 and the order is not complied with, within such reasonable time as may be prescribed by the county  
22 engineer, or if the responsible party or violator cannot be found or determined, the county engineer may  
23 cause such remedies as are necessary to be made. The reasonable cost of such remedies shall  
24 constitute a lien against the property on which the violation occurred and was remedied. The lien shall be  
25 imposed and foreclosed in the manner provided in NMSA 1978, Sections 3-36-1—3-36-6.

26 (b) *Notice of violation; noncompliance; abatement by county; other remedies.* Where, after  
27 investigation, a notice has been issued by the county engineer to the owner of the property on which a  
28 violation has occurred and the order is not complied with, within such reasonable time as may be  
29 prescribed by the county engineer, the county may revoke or refuse to renew or issue any permit to the  
30 violator and/or the property owner until such remedies as are necessary are made, or if remedy is made  
31 by the county, until the cost of such remedies is paid to the county.

32 (c) *Service of notice; publication; right to appeal.* It shall be sufficient notice under the provisions of this  
33 section to make delivery of such notices by registered mail. If the name and address of the owner cannot  
34 be reasonably ascertained from the current county tax rolls and the premises are unoccupied, it shall be  
35 sufficient notice under this section to publish the notice in English in a newspaper of general circulation in  
36 the county once a week for four consecutive weeks. The owner of the property shall have the right to  
37 appeal pursuant to section 38-172

38 (d) *Penalty.* Except as otherwise provided in this article, violations of this article are punishable as  
39 provided in Chapter 1, section 1-6 of the Bernalillo County Code.

40 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

41 **Sec. 38-144. - Interpretation of article.**

42 In the interpretation and application of this article, all provisions shall be:

CONTINUATION PAGE 17, ORDINANCE 2016-29.

- 1 (1) Considered as minimum requirements;
- 2 (2) Liberally construed in favor of the county;
- 3 (3) Deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under state statutes; and
- 4 (4) Deemed not to limit any ordinance unless expressly stated herein.

5 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

6 **Sec. 38-145. - Warning and disclaimer of liability.**

7 The degree of flood protection required by this article is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes  
8 and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. Larger floods can and will occur on rare  
9 occasions. Flood heights may be increased by manmade or natural causes. This article does not imply  
10 that land outside flood hazard areas or uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood  
11 damages. This article shall not create liability on the part of the county or on any officer or employee of  
12 the county for any flood damages that result from reliance on this article or any administrative decision  
13 lawfully made under this article.

14 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

15 **Sec. 38-146. - Jurisdiction of article.**

16 This article shall apply to all unincorporated lands within the county with respect to site development, land  
17 use changes, building permits, major or minor subdivisions, or replatting matters.

18 NPDES Phase II requirements for post-construction stormwater quality controls shall apply in the  
19 urbanized area of the county.

20 This article shall not apply to federal lands and reservations, and the city. This jurisdiction is not exclusive.  
21 In particular AMAFCA and the MRGCD, where applicable, share jurisdiction in matters of flood control  
22 and stormwater quality.

23 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

24 **Sec. 38-147. - Stormwater quality protection.**

25 (a) *Construction phase stormwater quality protection.* For all construction, development and  
26 redevelopment projects with land disturbances equal to or greater than one acre, including sites which  
27 disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development, a stormwater pollution  
28 prevention plan in accordance with EPA NPDES Phase II regulations for construction site storm water  
29 runoff control and certification that a notice of intent has been submitted to the EPA shall be submitted to  
30 the county engineer, prior to the issuance of a grading or paving permit. This requirement is in addition to  
31 any other provisions of this article that may apply.

32 The stormwater pollution prevention plan shall outline the BMPs to be undertaken by the operator/owner  
33 of the project to protect stormwater quality during the construction phase of the project. These BMPs shall  
34 be maintained by the owner of the property. Inspection of these BMPs shall be made at a minimum once  
35 a week by the owner, and a log of this inspection shall be kept on-site for review by the county engineer.  
36 The county shall also inspect these BMPs on a periodic basis. These BMPs shall be subject to the  
37 approval of the county engineer.

38 (b) *Post-construction stormwater quality protection.* For all development and redevelopment projects  
39 with land disturbances equal to or greater than one acre, including sites which disturb less than one acre  
40 but are part of a larger common plan of development, that discharge into the county's storm drainage  
41 system, within the urbanized area of the county, post construction water quality BMPs are required. This  
42 requirement is in addition to any other requirements that may apply. These BMPs shall be subject to the

**CONTINUATION PAGE 18, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 approval of the county engineer.

2 Maintenance responsibility of stormwater quality control facilities is the responsibility of the property  
3 owner up to the point where stormwater enters public facilities.  
4 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

5 **DIVISION 2. - ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

6

7 **Sec. 38-171. - Generally.**

8 (a) The design, construction and maintenance of all drainage control, flood control, erosion control and  
9 stormwater quality control facilities within the county shall be performed in accordance with procedures,  
10 criteria and standards formulated by the county engineer and in accordance with the policies established  
11 in this article or an adopted drainage management plan.

12 (b) All construction activities within the jurisdiction of the county shall conform to the requirements of the  
13 county engineer with respect to drainage control, flood control, erosion control and stormwater quality  
14 control. Original construction and modifications and/or additions to existing structures are excluded when  
15 they constitute less than 500 square feet in plan view and the county engineer determines that this  
16 change will not adversely affect other properties and/or will not alter, block or divert any arroyos,  
17 watercourses, swales, designated 1% annual chance floodplain or easements,

18 (1) Construction, grading or paving on any lot within the jurisdiction of the county shall not  
19 increase the damage potential to upstream, downstream or adjacent properties or public facilities.  
20 Damages shall be defined as those caused by flooding, erosion and sedimentation from the 100-  
21 year design storm and all smaller storms.

22 (2) During the months of July, August or September, any grading within or adjacent to a  
23 watercourse defined as a major facility shall provide for erosion control and the safe passage of the  
24 ten-year design storm runoff during the construction phase and until the permanent improvements  
25 are completed.

26 (3) Grading, cut, fill or importation of material in excess of 500 cubic yards or grading of any area  
27 of one acre or more, or any grading which will adversely affect other properties, arroyos,  
28 watercourses or easements shall conform to drainage control, flood control, erosion control and  
29 stormwater quality control policies and to standards, criteria and procedures established by the  
30 county engineer with respect to drainage, flood control, erosion control and stormwater quality  
31 control. A grading permit, issued by the county engineer, shall be required for projects involving  
32 more than 500 cubic yards of material or one acre or more in area. Applications for development of  
33 areas known to have been sanitary landfills shall be accompanied by a report which discusses  
34 potential health and soil mechanics problems and their solutions. Such reports shall be prepared by  
35 a state professional engineer competent in soil mechanics. The application processing fee and the  
36 grading permit fee shall be as shown in the attached fee schedule. Any fees applicable under this  
37 article shall be reviewed from time to time by the county manager and any changes to these fees  
38 shall be made by resolution of the board of county commissioners. The issuance of a grading permit  
39 by the county engineer does not relieve the owner/developer from obtaining any additional grading  
40 or fill permits that may be required by other county departments, agencies or governmental bodies.  
41 A grading permit may be issued for rough grading of large projects provided the applicant has made  
42 a written request and submitted and received approval of a conceptual grading & drainage plan for  
43 the project.

44 (4) Paving an area larger than 1,000 square feet shall require a paving permit. Applications for  
45 paving permits shall be accompanied by a drainage plan if deemed necessary by the county  
46 engineer. Repaving of existing paved areas in which no grading is planned is excluded. The  
47 application processing fee and the paving permit fee shall be as shown in the attached fee

**CONTINUATION PAGE 19, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 schedule.

2 **Editor's note**— The attached fee schedules are not set out herein, but are on file and available for inspection  
3 in the offices of the County.

4 (5) The county engineer shall not issue a grading or paving permit unless the proposed grading or  
5 paving is in compliance with the policies of this article and the standards and criteria of the county  
6 engineer, as provided for by section 38-173. All construction activities within MRGCD land or rights-  
7 of-way shall conform to the requirements of the conservancy district engineer of the MRGCD.

8 (c) The county may participate with the private sector, other public bodies, and agencies operating  
9 within the jurisdiction of this policy in order to accomplish the goals and implement the policies adopted in  
10 this article. This includes, but shall not be limited to, the development and adoption of master plans,  
11 participation in the construction of projects, and exercising control through the planning, platting, zoning  
12 and permitting processes.

13 (d) It shall be the responsibility of the county engineer to produce, approve, make and retain records of  
14 all drainage plans, drainage reports, design analyses, design drawings, as-built drawings and  
15 maintenance schedules related to all drainage control, flood control, erosion control and stormwater  
16 quality control facilities constructed within county rights-of-way or easements.

17 (e) Application for all land use changes shall address drainage control, flood control, and erosion  
18 control in terms of the interaction of these parameters with other requirements and needs produced by  
19 the proposed land use changes, and shall comply with an adopted drainage management plan.

20 (f) Requests for building permits, site plan approval, or the platting of land for the purpose of major or  
21 minor subdivisions, and for replats, shall be accompanied by appropriate grading, drainage control, flood  
22 control, erosion control and stormwater quality control information. Drainage information requirements for  
23 building permits will be waived where a drainage report meeting the requirements of this article have  
24 been previously approved by the county or AMAFCA, and a copy of such report is filed with the county  
25 engineer. Drainage information requirements for bulk land plats will be waived, provided that plat  
26 language indicates that drainage information, meeting the requirements of this article and AMAFCA, if  
27 applicable, will be submitted prior to any subdivision.

28 (g) The county engineer shall not approve any plan or report pertaining to proposed construction,  
29 platting or other development where the proposed activity or change in the land affected would result in  
30 downstream capacity being exceeded. Downstream capacity is determined based on the assumption of  
31 fully developed watersheds. This assumption prevents the first come, first served approach where  
32 downstream development unduly constrains upstream development. Parameters used in the  
33 determination of downstream capacity include, but are not limited to:

34 (1) Channel stability and location of prudent line.

35 (2) Crossing structure hydraulic capacity.

36 (3) Reservoir capacity.

37 (4) Hydraulic capacity of street, storm sewer or channel.

38 (5) Public safety.

39 (6) Maintenance constraints.

40 Planned public storm drainage facilities are assumed as in place in determining downstream capacity,  
41 provided that construction funds are available and design has progressed to the point where capacity can  
42 be ascertained.

43 (h) Temporary facilities are only allowed and/or required on a case-by-case basis as determined by the

**CONTINUATION PAGE 20, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 county engineer. The level of protection to be provided by temporary facilities shall be determined by  
2 considering:

3 (1) The likelihood and consequences of a failure.

4 (2) Length of time until permanent facilities will be in place.

5 The acceptance by the developer of maintenance responsibilities and legal liabilities.

6 (i) Requests for approvals of site development plans, building permits, major or minor subdivisions or  
7 replatting proposals to the county engineer shall be accompanied by drainage control, flood control and  
8 erosion control information and/or commitments. The particular nature, location and scope of the  
9 proposed development defines the degree of detail. One or more of the following levels of submittal may  
10 be required based on the following:

11 (1) *Conceptual grading and drainage plan.* A graphic representation of existing and proposed  
12 grading, drainage, flood control and erosion control information. The information should be of  
13 sufficient detail to determine project feasibility. The purposes of this plan are to check the  
14 compatibility of the proposed development within grading, drainage, flood hazard and erosion  
15 control constraints as dictated by on-site physical features as well as adjacent properties, streets,  
16 alleys and channels. Modifications to the comprehensive plan and the development of area plans,  
17 sector plans, site development plans and landscaping plans on tracts of five acres or more are  
18 appropriate applications of conceptual grading and drainage plans.

19 (2) *Drainage plan.* A short, detailed presentation required for approval of small, simple  
20 development approvals. Drainage plans are prepared with or on the detailed grading plan and  
21 address both on-site and off-site drainage control, flood control and erosion control issues. Drainage  
22 plans are required for building permits, minor subdivision less than six lots, site development plans  
23 and landscaping plans for development involving less than five acres.

24 (3) *Drainage report.* A drainage report is a comprehensive analysis of the drainage control, flood  
25 control and erosion control constraints on and impacts resulting from a proposed platting,  
26 development or construction project. Drainage reports are required for major subdivisions  
27 containing more than five lots or constituting five acres or more, platting or construction within a  
28 designated flood hazard area and for any platting or development adjacent to a major arroyo.

29 (4) *Erosion control plan.* An erosion control plan is usually incorporated into the drainage plan or  
30 drainage report. Erosion control plans address all phases of each project from initial grading through  
31 and including final occupancy. The ten-year design storm shall be used to determine the treatment  
32 measures necessary for the prevention of damage due to soil movement for the on-site area of  
33 development. Where an arroyo or watercourse abuts or traverses the site of development, or a  
34 development or subdivision proposes to discharge to any arroyo or watercourse, a more stringent  
35 criteria, including determination of the prudent line, may be appropriate and will be determined on a  
36 case-by-case basis by the county engineer. Phased projects require special attention. All  
37 construction projects, both public and private, within the jurisdiction of this article, unless specifically  
38 excluded, require an approved erosion control plan prior to the start of construction. The erosion  
39 control plan must address stormwater quality where the land disturbance is one acre or greater, or  
40 is part of a larger common plan of development.

41 (5) *Special provisions for East Mountain Area.*

42 a. Drainage reports and/or plans will not be required where the tract, lot or parcel is 40  
43 acres or less and is subdivided into lots, tracts or parcels of five acres or more and is zoned  
44 strictly for single-family dwelling (R-1).

45 b. Drainage reports and/or plans will not be required where the tract, lot or parcel is five  
46 acres or less, and the total impervious area is 15 percent or less of the area of the tract, lot or

1 parcel. The impervious area shall include all existing improvements, proposed improvements  
2 and future improvements if applicable. Impervious areas are defined as that area not covered  
3 by grass or natural vegetation. Dirt, gravel and paved roads, streets, drives, walks, trails, play  
4 areas and areas of human activity shall be considered impervious. Roofs shall be considered  
5 impervious. Landscaping that is underlain by an impervious membrane (plastic) shall be  
6 considered impervious.

7 c. Drainage easements and/or dedicated rights-of-way shall be required for any arroyo,  
8 watercourse or storm drainage facility flowing through or adjacent to any lot, tract or parcel.

9 1. For an upstream drainage basin of ten acres or more, the minimum width of  
10 drainage easement or right-of-way for natural arroyos or watercourses shall include the  
11 top of each definable bank of the arroyo or watercourse and be set back from the top of  
12 each bank a horizontal distance equal to 1.2 times the difference in elevation between  
13 the top of each definable bank and the adjacent flowline of the greater. The minimum  
14 width shall be 50 feet. For an upstream drainage basin of ten acres or less the minimum  
15 width of drainage easement or right-of-way for natural arroyos or watercourse shall  
16 include the top of each definable bank of horizontal distance equal to 1.2 times the  
17 difference in elevation between the top of each definable bank and the adjacent flowline  
18 of the arroyo or watercourse, or the 100-year floodplain, whichever is greater. The  
19 minimum width shall be 25 feet for natural channels, arroyos or watercourses. It shall be  
20 ten feet for line channels where adequate maintenance and vehicular access is  
21 available.

22 2. The minimum width drainage easement or right-of-way for an improved drainage  
23 facility shall be defined as the width necessary to contain a trapezoidal concrete lined  
24 channel, having a bottom width of ten feet and two to one side slopes, designed to  
25 convey the full 100-year design storm, including necessary freeboard and also the outer  
26 limits of a maintenance road 12 feet wide on one side of the channel.

27 3. The centerline of any arroyo, watercourse or storm drainage facility requiring a  
28 drainage easement or right-of-way shall be located by field survey prior to platting or  
29 development.

30 The special provisions for the East Mountain Area are exclusive of the drainage requirements established  
31 in the county street standards (Ordinance No. 88-42).

32 (j) All drainage submittals shall be prepared under the direction of and signed by a registered  
33 professional engineer competent in surface hydrology and drainage, and shall include a statement that  
34 the engineer has personally inspected the land, and a statement as to whether it appears that grading,  
35 filling or excavation has occurred thereon since the existing contour map was prepared.

36 (k) Drainage control considerations specifically address safety, convenience and economics for both  
37 private property and public facilities.

38 (l) The county 100-year design storm is the 100-year six-hour storm as defined by the National  
39 Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and by the storm distributions for time and areas as  
40 developed by the city engineer of the City of Albuquerque, AMAFCA, and the county engineer, as  
41 applicable. The 100-year storm has a one percent probability of occurring in any year. Watersheds with  
42 times of concentration greater than six hours will require the use of the 100-year, 24-hour storm volumes  
43 and distributions. Detention basins with longer than six-hour evacuation times shall use a 24-hour or  
44 longer storm volume and distribution. Design circumstances may require larger or smaller storm  
45 frequencies or volumes. Examples are emergency spillways for dams and erosion control plans,  
46 respectively. The sources for rainfall data are current NOAA publications. When the need for other design  
47 storms is apparent, the county engineer will provide requirements concerning appropriate storms,  
48 frequencies and durations.

**CONTINUATION PAGE 22, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 (m) The county engineer shall, within 21 calendar days after the submission to him of a request in  
2 writing for the approval of a plat, development plan, drainage submittal or exemption, approve or deny the  
3 request and mail a copy of his decision to the applicant. If the request is denied, the reasons for such  
4 denial shall be stated in writing. Appeal of such decisions is as provided in section 38-172

5 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04, Ord. No. 2012-17, 8-14-12)

6 **Sec. 38-172. - Appeals from county engineer determinations.**

7 An appeal of a determination of the county engineer may be made in the manner prescribed in this  
8 section:

9 (1) An appeal shall be made in writing and shall be filed in duplicate in the office of the county  
10 engineer on forms provided by the county engineer. Such appeal must set forth specifically wherein  
11 it is claimed there was an error or an abuse of discretion by this action, or where the decision is not  
12 supported by evidence in the matter. A filing fee of \$40.00 shall accompany each appeal. When an  
13 appeal is withdrawn, the filing fee shall not be refunded.

14 (2) Any appeal not filed within 15 days after the rendition in writing of the decision appealed from  
15 shall be dismissed by the board of adjustment.

16 (3) Within ten days after the filing of the appeal, the county engineer shall transmit to the board of  
17 adjustment all papers involved in the proceedings, a copy of his findings and determination relative  
18 thereto, and one copy of the appeal. In addition, he may make and transmit to the board of  
19 adjustment such supplementary report as he may deem necessary to present clearly the facts and  
20 circumstances of the case.

21 (4) Upon receipt of the record, the board of adjustment shall set the matter for hearing and give  
22 notice by mail of the time, place and purpose thereof to the appellant, to the county engineer,  
23 zoning administrator and to any interested party who has requested in writing to be so notified. No  
24 other notice need be given.

25 (5) Upon hearing of such appeals, the board of adjustment may affirm the change or modify the  
26 ruling, decision or determination appealed from or, in lieu thereof, make such other or additional  
27 determination as shall deem proper in the premises.

28 (6) The decision of the board of adjustment upon the appeal shall be in writing, concurred in by a  
29 majority of the members present of the board of adjustment, which shall forthwith transmit a copy to  
30 the appellant and to the county engineer and zoning administrator. Any decision shall, in all  
31 instances, be the final administrative decision and shall be subject to judicial review as may be  
32 provided by law.

33 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

34 **Sec. 38-173. - Rule change procedures; criteria and standards.**

35 (a) Rules concerning procedures, criteria and standards shall be adopted, amended or abolished in  
36 compliance with the policies of this article and as provided by the procedures of this section.

37 (b) Proposed rule changes relating to procedures, criteria and standards pursuant to this article are  
38 initiated by the county engineer, or any person may submit such proposed rule changes to the county  
39 engineer. If a person other than an official of the county submits such a proposal, there may be a  
40 processing fee of up to \$50.00 set by a rule of the county engineer.

41 (c) Prior to the adoption, amendment or repeal of any rule pursuant to this article (hereafter, rule  
42 change), the county engineer shall:

43 (1) Publish summary notice of the proposed rule change and solicit comments in a daily

1 newspaper of general circulation in the county and also where appropriate in trade, industrial or  
2 professional publications as will reasonably give public notice to an interested person;

3 (2) Send the proposed rule change to all applicable county departments, AMAFCA, the City of  
4 Albuquerque and MRGCD.

5 (3) Send the proposed rule change to any person or group filing written request for notice of all  
6 such rule changes. A fee may be charged those requesting notices to cover reasonable county  
7 costs.

8 (4) Solicit written comment on any proposed rule change for a period of 30 days from the date of  
9 its distribution and consider all comments before ruling on proposed rule changes.

10 (5) Upon adoption of a contested rule change, issue a concise statement of his principal reasons  
11 for the rule change and statement of positions rejected in adopting the rule change together with the  
12 reasons for the rejection. All persons who submit any writing to be considered in connection with the  
13 proposed rule change shall promptly be given a copy of the decision, by mail or otherwise.

14 (d) If a proposed rule change is approved by the county engineer after receiving comments, notice shall  
15 be posted in a conspicuous place in the city/county government center, and a reasonable effort shall be  
16 made to notify all interested parties. Proposed rule changes shall not take effect sooner than 30 days  
17 from posting of notice or sooner than 90 days from the original distribution for comment.

18 (e) In the event of an emergency, the chairman of the board of county commissioners may direct that  
19 rules concerning procedures, criteria or standards take effect immediately upon their posting and  
20 distribution. The chairman's finding of an emergency and brief statement of the reasons for this finding  
21 shall be incorporated in the emergency and brief statement of the reasons for this finding shall be  
22 incorporated in the emergency rule change. Upon adoption of an emergency rule change which change  
23 shall remain in effect for longer than 60 days, notice to the public shall be given within seven days, and  
24 opportunity for public comment shall be given in the manner required in this section for proposed rules.

25 (f) Appeal of the county engineer's rulemaking decisions is as provided in section 38-172. Regular  
26 rules, adopted under subsection (d) of this section, do not take effect until an appeal is decided if they are  
27 appealed prior to taking effect. Emergency rules adopted under subsection (e) of this section and regular  
28 rules which have taken effect prior to appeal are in effect until such time as they may be reversed by  
29 appeal action.

30 (g) Recommendations for changes to this section may be prepared by a county technical standards  
31 advisory council, as established by the county street standards, Ordinance 88-42 or the most current  
32 version of this ordinance, or the county engineer. Proposals for standards changes shall be forwarded to  
33 the county engineer for his recommendations when changes are prepared by the county technical  
34 standards advisory council. The county engineer shall then forward his recommendations either for or  
35 against the proposed change to the board of county commissioners for their approval or disapproval.

36 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

37 **Sec. 38-174. - Inspections.**

38 Whenever necessary to make an inspection to enforce any of the provisions of this article, the county  
39 engineer or his authorized representative may enter such premises at any reasonable time to inspect the  
40 premises or to perform any duty imposed upon him by this article; provided, however, that if such  
41 premises is occupied, he shall first present proper credentials and demand entry. If such premises is  
42 unoccupied, he shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other persons having charge or  
43 control of the premises and demand entry. If entry is refused or if the owner or other responsible person is  
44 not found, the county engineer or his authorized representative shall proceed to obtain a search warrant  
45 by filing a complaint made in the metropolitan court or district court upon oath or affirmation. The  
46 complaint shall:

**CONTINUATION PAGE 24, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

- 1 (1) Set forth the particular premises, or portion thereof sought to be inspected;
- 2 (2) State that the owner or occupant of the premises, or portion thereof, has refused entry;
- 3 (3) State that inspection of the premises, or portion of the premises is necessary to determine  
4 whether it complies with the requirements of this article;
- 5 (4) Set forth the particular provisions of this article sought to be enforced;
- 6 (5) Set forth any other reason necessitating the inspection, including knowledge or belief that a  
7 particular condition exists in the premises or portion of the premises which constitutes a violation of  
8 this article; and
- 9 (6) State that the complainant is authorized by the county to make the inspection. Each inspector  
10 shall be furnished with an identification card signed by the county engineer indicating his authority  
11 and must present such card to the metropolitan court or district court for the purpose of this section,  
12 and to other persons, when requested to do so during the performance of his duty. No owner or  
13 occupant or any other person having charge, care or control of any premises shall fail or neglect,  
14 after proper demand is made as provided in this section, to promptly permit entry therein by the  
15 authorized inspector for the purpose of inspection and examination pursuant to this article.

16 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

17 **Secs. 38-175—38-200. - Reserved.**

18

19 **DIVISION 3. - DESIGN STANDARDS**

20

21 **Sec. 38-201. - General provisions.**

22 (a) The county is and shall remain an active participant in the National Flood Insurance Program. The  
23 county endorses the program goal of flood damage reduction through the regulation of development  
24 within flood hazard areas and the preservation of floodways. This article is intended to complement and  
25 supplement article II of this chapter, and shall be administered in concert therewith.

26 (b) All developed land within the county shall be provided with adequate drainage, flood control and  
27 erosion control facilities. The protection of life and property shall be considered the primary function in the  
28 planning, design, construction and maintenance of drainage control, flood control and erosion control  
29 facilities, but other concerns, not limited to the following, shall be addressed: channel capacity, watershed  
30 characteristics, channel stability, maintenance, transitions between treatment types, multiple use goals  
31 and appearance. The needs of the community in transportation, utility services, recreation and open  
32 space shall be considered in planning, design, construction and maintenance (especially in the selection  
33 of channel treatment measures). These needs shall always be considered subsidiary to the primary  
34 function of the drainage control, flood control and/or erosion control facility.

35 (c) The design, construction and maintenance of dams, levees and diversions that fall within the  
36 jurisdiction of the state engineer shall meet or exceed standards established by the state engineer.

37 (d) The design, construction and maintenance of flood control and stormwater quality control facilities  
38 that fall within the jurisdiction of AMAFCA shall be coordinated with AMAFCA. The design, construction  
39 and maintenance of flood control and stormwater quality control facilities that fall within the jurisdiction of  
40 the city shall be coordinated with the city.

41 (e) The design, construction and maintenance of flood control and stormwater quality control facilities  
42 shall not allow any additional flows to be routed into MRGCD facilities unless specific plans are approved

**CONTINUATION PAGE 25, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

1 by the district. It shall be the responsibility of the developer to obtain all necessary approvals and permits  
2 from the MRGCD.

3 (f) All major facilities shall be constructed within dedicated rights-of-way or recorded drainage  
4 easements granted to and accepted by the proper public authority or historic channels and watercourse  
5 when easements or rights-of-way cannot be obtained.

6 (g) All detention ponds that are also defined as minor facilities shall be constructed on private property,  
7 as follows unless otherwise authorized by the county engineer:

8 (1) Except as is necessary for the treatment of nuisance water or to prevent smaller and more  
9 frequently occurring storms from damaging downstream property, arroyos and watercourses, ponds  
10 shall be designed and constructed to be emptied in 24 hours or less. Ponds with evacuation times  
11 greater than six hours and less than or equal to 24 hours shall be designed to safely carry a 100-  
12 year, 24-hour storm.

13 (2) Ponds may be designed to be emptied for periods longer than 24 hours and up to 96 hours  
14 where downstream capacity limits allowable discharge and when such ponds are either:

15 a. Designed to safely carry a 100-year, 96-hour storm; or

16 b. Designed to safely carry a ten-year design storm (six-hour) followed immediately by a  
17 100-year design storm (six-hour).

18 (3) Where the lack of an adequate outfall prevents the discharge of stormwater to a downstream  
19 facility of adequate capacity, the design may provide for on-site retention of the storm runoff. The  
20 volume of the retention facility shall be equal to the volume of runoff generated from the site for: a  
21 100-year, ten-day storm, or two consecutive 100-year design storms (six-hour). Design of retention  
22 facilities may include the influence of long-term soil infiltration rates where substantiated by tests  
23 and documentation. In no case shall retention facilities be smaller than the volume required to hold  
24 a 100-year, 24-hour storm without infiltration. Retention facilities shall be considered temporary  
25 facilities unless demonstrated to be otherwise to the satisfaction of the county engineer.

26 (4) Detention ponds may be designed to include a retention capacity for a portion of the pond  
27 volume. Sizing of the pond shall be based on the storm length equivalent to the time to empty the  
28 entire pond.

29 (5) Where detention and retention ponds are designed based on impervious areas being less  
30 than 40 percent of the total drainage area, or where undeveloped areas contribute flow to the  
31 ponds, ponds shall provide for additional volume to accommodate sediment. Detention and  
32 retention ponds should, where practical, be located in such a manner as to allow for discharge to  
33 future outfall facilities when they become available. In computing runoff, no credit will be given to  
34 individual lot ponding in residential zones except when such ponds are protected by a drainage  
35 covenant and are accessible to and maintainable by county maintenance equipment. All retention  
36 and detention ponds shall be constructed on private property unless otherwise authorized by the  
37 county engineer. Any water draining from public right-of-way that is conveyed through or ponded on  
38 private property shall require a drainage covenant and/or a drainage easement except in recorded  
39 drainage or flood control easements or rights-of-way or historic channels and watercourses where  
40 easements or rights-of-way cannot be obtained.

41 (6) All detention and retention ponds with side slopes steeper than 3:1, with a ponding depth greater  
42 than 18" deep and will pond water longer than 96 hours shall have safety fencing. Safety fencing  
43 shall be a minimum height of 42" and conform to the City of Albuquerque's Standard Specifications  
44 for Public Works Construction current edition.

45 (h) All detention and retention facilities shall have a designated overflow spillway. The overflow spillway  
46 shall, as a minimum, be capable of safely discharging the runoff entering the facility from a 100-year

CONTINUATION PAGE 26, ORDINANCE 2016-29.

1 design storm. Safety shall be considered in the design of detention and retention facilities.

2 (i) Where a site development, building permit, a major or minor subdivision or a replat alters the  
3 elevation or location of any designated 100-year floodplain, as shown on current FEMA flood insurance  
4 rate maps, the developer shall be required to provide to the county engineer all necessary data needed to  
5 effect the flood boundary revision or amendment. Any required fees for processing shall be the  
6 responsibility of the developer.

7 (j) Site development and major or minor subdivisions for or replats for industrial activities shall be  
8 designed and constructed such that non-stormwater discharges into storm sewers, arroyos or  
9 watercourses will not occur.

10 (k) Where flood control, drainage or erosion control improvements are necessary within dedicated or  
11 proposed public open space, such improvements shall be designed and constructed in a manner  
12 reasonably consistent with the natural surroundings. All construction and maintenance activities in  
13 dedicated open space shall be performed so as to minimize the disruption and destruction of vegetation  
14 and adjacent land forms. Where such disturbance or destruction is unavoidable, revegetation shall be  
15 performed at the earliest practical time by the responsible person responsible for such disturbance and/or  
16 destruction.

17 (l) The county engineer is responsible for establishing criteria, procedures and standards for design  
18 and construction of flood control, drainage control and erosion control improvements within the county.  
19 The county engineer shall be responsible, subject to the direction of and approval by the board of county  
20 commissioners, for preparing and adopting a drainage management plan for all watersheds in its  
21 jurisdiction unless AMAFCA has assumed responsibility therefor. The county engineer is also the  
22 designated flood control official for the county in accordance with the requirements of the Federal  
23 Insurance Administration.

24 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04, Ord. No. 2012-17, 8-14-12)

25 **Sec. 38-202. - Surface use of streets for drainage and flood control purposes.**

26 (a) *Generally.* The surface of streets may be used for drainage and flood control purposes, to the extent  
27 such use does not interfere with the safe transportation of people and vehicles.

28 (b) *Urban streets.*

29 (1) The 100-year design storm runoff shall be contained within the street right-of-way and shall  
30 not exceed a depth of 87 percent of the difference between the gutter flowline elevation and the  
31 adjacent right-of-way elevation, and shall in no event exceed 0.87 feet. Storm runoff from the 100-  
32 year storm and smaller storms shall not enter private property from a street, except in recorded  
33 drainage or flood control easements or rights-of-way or historic channels and watercourses where  
34 easements or rights-of-way cannot be obtained.

35 (2) The ten-year design storm runoff shall not exceed a depth of 50 percent of the difference in  
36 elevation between the gutter flowline elevation and the adjacent right-of-way elevation and shall flow  
37 such that one 12-foot driving lane in each direction is free of flowing or standing water in any arterial  
38 street. Arterial streets that are in the state highway system may require more stringent drainage  
39 criteria.

40 (3) The ten-year design storm runoff shall not exceed a depth of 50 percent of the difference in  
41 elevation between the gutter flowline elevation and the adjacent right-of-way elevation in any  
42 collector street. Collector streets that are in the state highway system may require more stringent  
43 drainage criteria.

44 (4) The product of depth times velocity shall not exceed 6.5 at any location in any street in the  
45 event of a ten-year design storm (with velocity calculated as the average velocity measured in feet

**CONTINUATION PAGE 27, ORDINANCE 2016-29.**

- 1 per second and depth measured at the gutter flowline in feet).
- 2 (5) The discharge of nuisance waters to public streets shall be discouraged. Arterial and collector
- 3 streets shall be protected from damages to the prevent surface and from the safety hazards created
- 4 by surface flow of nuisance waters across them.
- 5 (6) All developed land, with urban street sections, within the county shall be served by an access
- 6 that shall be an all-weather facility during a 100-year design storm, with all channel crossing
- 7 structures beneath the roadway being able to pass a 100-year design storm runoff event.
- 8 (c) *Rural streets.*
- 9 (1) The design flow depth and velocity in the project design swale (see County Street Standards,
- 10 Ordinance No. 88-42) shall be such that the integrity of the street surfacing is not endangered.
- 11 (2) Design and construction of the project design swale shall include provisions for erosion
- 12 control. Measures to minimize erosion of the project design swale may include, but are not limited
- 13 to, granular (gravel) filter and riprap lining, soil cement or asphalt lining.
- 14 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)
- 15 **Sec. 38-203. - Crossings.**
- 16 (a) Channel crossing structures shall be provided on all arterial and collector streets to safely pass the
- 17 100-year design storm runoff from major arroyos assuming a fully developed watershed.
- 18 (b) Streets other than arterial, collector and sole access streets to major subdivisions may cross major
- 19 arroyos and other watercourses by means of a dip section or overflow section, provided that depth times
- 20 velocity (with velocity calculated as the average velocity measured in feet per second and depth
- 21 measured in feet at the upstream edge of the roadway including sidewalk, if applicable) does not exceed
- 22 6.5 for that portion of the ten-year design storm runoff crossing the street. However, the depth of flow
- 23 shall not be greater than 0.67 feet for urban or rural streets.
- 24 (c) Where feasible, temporary crossings shall be designed so they may be incorporated into the future
- 25 permanent crossing structure and so that they meet street design standards established by the county
- 26 engineer.
- 27 (d) Crossing of major arroyos by arterials and collectors shall be constructed at public expense,
- 28 provided that public funds are available. Crossing of arroyo by streets other than arterials and collectors
- 29 shall be constructed at the developer's expense and shall meet street design standards established by
- 30 the county engineer.
- 31 (e) Temporary crossing required for access, including those on arterials and collectors, shall be
- 32 constructed at the developer's expense.
- 33 (f) Temporary and permanent crossings of MRGCD and AMAFCA facilities shall be coordinated with
- 34 the MRGCD and/or AMAFCA, as applicable.
- 35 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)
- 36 **Sec. 38-204. - Financial responsibility and guarantee.**
- 37 (a) The county may participate in the construction of permanent flood control facilities to the extent that
- 38 public benefits are derived from such construction and subject to the availability of public funds.
- 39 (b) The county may participate in the costs of channel crossing structures on arterial and collector
- 40 streets which are required for sole access to a development, provided that public funds are available.

1 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all drainage control, flood control facilities and  
2 stormwater quality control facilities that directly result from a proposed subdivision or site development  
3 are the responsibility of the developer. Developer-financed facilities include all those within the  
4 boundaries of the development, those required for development adjacent to a major arroyo or within a  
5 flood hazard area and all temporary and permanent off-site drainage facilities. If the construction of such  
6 facilities is a condition of plat approval or building permit issuance, then financial guarantees of such  
7 construction satisfactory to the county engineer shall also be provided as a prerequisite. The format of  
8 such guarantees shall be as set forth in the county street standards improvements agreement. The  
9 county engineer shall coordinate the construction and location of temporary facilities with AMAFCA and  
10 the city where applicable. If the ultimate on-site drainage control, flood control, and/or erosion control  
11 facilities require permanent rights-of-way or easements, such rights-of-way or easements shall be  
12 dedicated at the time of platting or building permit issuance, whichever occurs first.

13 (d) Except as allowed by AMAFCA Resolution 81-8 and amendments thereto, the dedication of land for  
14 public purposes does not relieve a developer of responsibilities for the construction of drainage control,  
15 flood control, erosion control and stormwater quality control facilities that would otherwise be necessary.  
16 The dedication of rights-of-way or easements for drainage control, flood control or erosion control facilities  
17 does not relieve a developer of responsibilities that would otherwise exist for the construction of other  
18 public infrastructure.

19 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

20 **Sec. 38-205. - Multiple use rights-of-way and easements.**

21 Multiple use is encouraged for drainage rights-of-way and drainage easements including, but not limited  
22 to, utility corridors and recreation trails. Where multiple use is planned by the county, another public  
23 agency or a public utility, the county may require that dedication statements include language which  
24 permits such specified multiple uses in addition to the primary drainage function. However, land required  
25 to be dedicated for drainage rights-of-way shall be limited to those land areas necessary for drainage  
26 control, flood control, erosion control and necessary appurtenances.

27 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

28 **Sec. 38-206. - Maintenance responsibility.**

29 (a) Except as otherwise noted in this section, the county or other public body shall maintain all  
30 permanent major facilities that receive drainage from public rights-of-way. The maintenance of multiple  
31 use facilities to which the general public is denied access shall be the responsibility of the owners and  
32 shall be performed to county engineer standards. The county engineer may allow private maintenance  
33 within public rights-of-way or easements, provided that adequate guarantees and indemnifications are  
34 supplied.

35 (b) Their owners to county engineer standards shall maintain minor facilities. Based on likelihood and  
36 consequence of failure, or failure to maintain, the county engineer may require a drainage covenant.

37 (c) The maintenance of temporary facilities constructed at private expense is the responsibility of the  
38 developer until permanent facilities are in place. However, those temporary facilities which, in the event of  
39 failure of the facility, or failure to maintain, would endanger existing downstream facilities, other properties  
40 or the general public shall require a drainage covenant.

41 (d) The maintenance of major facilities that only serve private property or a development is the  
42 responsibility of the developer and/or owner. In each case, a drainage covenant shall be required.

43 (Ord. No. 04-4, 2-24-04)

44  
45

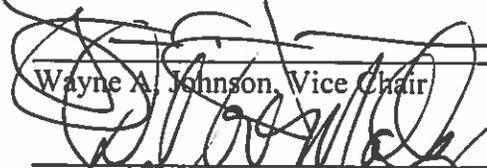
1 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF**  
2 **BERNALILLO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.  
3  
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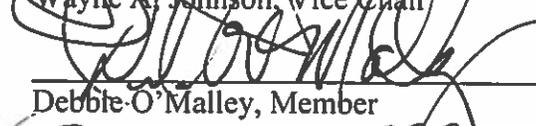
5 **APPROVED AS TO FORM**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

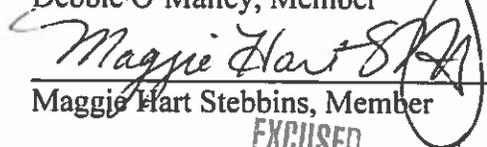
6   
7 W. Ken Martinez, County Attorney  
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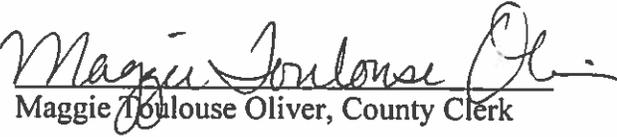
  
Art De La Cruz, Chair

  
Wayne A. Johnson, Vice Chair

  
Debbie O'Malley, Member

13 **ATTEST:**

  
Maggie Hart Stebbins, Member  
**EXCUSED**

14   
Maggie Toulouse Oliver, County Clerk

Lonnie C. Talbert, Member



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