



**Date:** December 8, 2008

**To:** Alluvial Fan Task Force Members

**From:** Ricardo Pineda  
DWR Alluvial Fan Task Force Program Manager

**Re:** DWR Guidance on Model Ordinance

Consistent with the Charter adopted by the Alluvial Fan Task Force (AFTF), DWR has prepared a **GUIDANCE STATEMENT** on the Model Ordinance (Model Ordinance) Governing Proposed Development on Alluvial Fans for distribution to the AFTF members premised on the **PURPOSE** and **PRIMARY GOALS** listed below.

**PURPOSE OF MODEL ORDINANCE:** To provide a model for local governments that supports future land use decisions related to flood risks associated with development on alluvial fans to use at their discretion.

**PRIMARY GOALS OF MODEL ORDINANCE:** (1) To ensure public health, safety, and general welfare, (2) to minimize public and private losses and damages that may result from the flood risks and related hazards posed by development located on alluvial fans and (3) to give consideration to the beneficial floodplain and other values that enhance the sustainability of watersheds as defined in Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP's).

**GUIDANCE STATEMENT ON MODEL ORDINANCE:** Consistent with the purpose and primary goals listed above and guided by comments that DWR received from local governments, the application should be designed to reflect the following criteria:

- **Non-prescriptive:** That the Model Ordinance is non-prescriptive and flexible allowing local governments to adapt to their local conditions and each development proposal.
- **Implementable:** That the Model Ordinance is implementable and does not duplicate, expand, or reduce the legal requirements for data collection or applicable state and federal laws such as CEQA, NEPA, ESA, CESA, etc.
- **Sustainable:** That the Model Ordinance identifies and encourages multiple project benefits for developments on alluvial fans that include not only alluvial fan flood management protections but also other ecological values that are unique to the alluvial fan environment.
- **Tool-based:** That integral to the Model Ordinance is a set of Local Planning Tools (tools) unique to the alluvial fan environment that were developed by the AFTF for local governments and flood management agencies to use at their discretion in working with developers and property owners on alluvial fans. The AFTF Planning Manual describes each tool, what each tool represents, and how to apply them.