

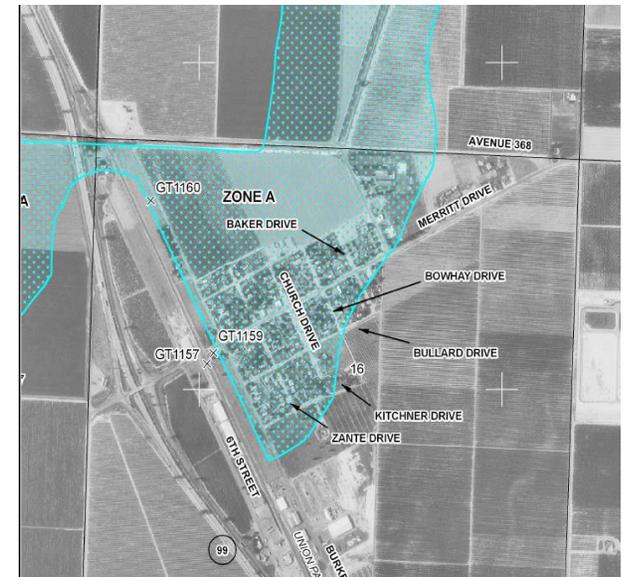
Flooding

“Flooding is a natural occurrence in the Central Valley because it is a natural drainage basin for thousands of watershed acres of Sierra Nevada and Coast Range foothills and mountains. Two kinds of flooding can occur in the Central Valley: general rainfall floods occurring in the late fall and winter in the foothills and on the valley floor; and snowmelt floods occurring in the late spring and early summer. Most floods are produced by extended periods of precipitation during the winter months. Floods can also occur when large amounts of water (due to snowmelt) enter storage reservoirs, causing an increase in the amount of water that is released.”⁸ “Flood events in the Tulare Lake region are caused by rainfall, snowmelt, and the resultant rising of normally dry lakes. Although significant progress has been made to contain floodwaters in the region, improvements to the flood control system are still needed to lessen the flood risk to life and property.”⁹

“Official floodplain maps are maintained by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA determines areas subject to flood hazards and designates these areas by relative risk of flooding on a map for each community, known as the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). A 100-year flood is considered for purposes of land use planning and protection of property and human safety. The boundaries of the 100-year floodplain are delineated by FEMA on the basis of hydrology, topography, and modeling of flow during predicted rainstorms.”¹⁰ Although some areas of Tulare County have experienced major flooding along its major rivers, the Traver Plan Area has not.

Development within flood prone areas not only threatens property and life , but can also increase the possibility of flooding downstream. Additionally, the County and its property owners risk the loss of federally-sponsored flood insurance programs if the County’s development regulations do not minimize the risks of flooding. The 100-year flood plain is the basic planning criteria to identify areas in which precautions should be taken. A substantial portion of the planning area in Traver is subject to 100-year flood hazard (Flood Zone A; see **Figure 3**).

Figure 3 – 100 Year Flood Zone



⁸ General Plan Background Report, page 8-13

⁹ California Water Plan Update 2009, Tulare Lake, page TL-28 to TL-29

¹⁰ General Plan Background Report, page 8-14