



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Louis District

# Information Paper

## Lower Meramec Basin, MO

### Investigations (FRM)

**Location:** The lower Meramec basin is comprised of the lowermost 51 miles of the Meramec River and the Bourbeuse River at Union, Missouri. The study area includes portions of three counties and nine communities.

**Description:** Since August 2015, record river stages have been recorded on all gages in this two million acre basin. The December 2015 flood was devastating and resulted in \$97 million in federal disaster assistance (DR-4250-MO). Sixteen months later (May 2017) new and near record levels on all Meramec Basin gaging stations has occurred. Presidential Disaster Declaration (DR-4317-MO) was made June 2017 making federal assistance available to supplement state and local recovery efforts. Repetitive flood damages in the Meramec River Basin are attributed to many factors including increased frequency of severe storms and heavy rainfall, geology, topographic relief, development, storm water runoff, loss of wetlands and open space. Development in the lower Meramec floodplain and other flood-prone areas of the watershed has reduced storage and cumulatively results in unintended and unknown consequences for neighboring properties and communities. These factors collectively contribute to repetitive damages in the lower basin to include water and wastewater treatment plants, electric substations, closure of Interstates 44 and 55 (10 days total within 16 months), as well as 1,000 homes and hundreds of businesses directly flooded.

**Status:** A partnership has been established between Federal and State agencies, county and local governments, and NGOs to assist in the development of a multi-jurisdictional floodplain management plan. Funds are being requested through the FY18 Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS) for funding apportioned to interagency work. The communities of Pacific, Eureka and Arnold have also provided a letter of intent stating their interest in partnering in a Continuing Authorities Program (Section 205) for small flood control projects. FY18 budget submissions have been submitted for the communities' written interest under CAP.

**Importance:** The lower Meramec River has historically been prone to flooding, but has experienced an increase both in frequency, depth and extent in recent years.



*City of Eureka May 2017*

**Risk:** Based on the Regional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan dated July 2015 and approved by FEMA, flooding potential is identified as a high probability of occurrence and is demonstrated by the frequency of recent record setting floods. The lower Meramec Basin is identified as highly vulnerable based on socio-economics, location of communities and school districts, repetitive loss claims and hazard event history.

**Consequence:** In the absence of a Floodplain Management Plan, the multiple jurisdictions continue with status quo. Until this effort is funded and initiated, USACE continues to communicate with the local and regional leaders and the public on interim risk reduction measures.

**Activities for FY 17:** Flood Inundation Mapping at Pacific and Union, Missouri.

**Activities for FY 18:** Upon receipt of funds, initiate a Flood Plain Management Plan to evaluate current and technically sound risk reduction measures and CAP studies for federal interest of project implementation.

**Acquisition Strategy:** No contracts are anticipated

**Project Sponsor/Customer:** Interagency Floodplain Management Planning. CAP Pacific, Eureka and Arnold.

**Congressional Interest:** Senate: Blunt House: Wagner

Phase	FY 17 Allocation	FY18 Budget
Investigations	\$0	\$0