FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: Friday, March 20, 2009
CONTACT: Nancy Loliva or Eric Coyne
PHONE: (559) 713-4535 or (559) 786-5339

CITY, COUNTY HOST PUBLIC MEETINGS ON NEW FEMA FLOOD MAPS

The City of Visalia and Tulare County will host three public meetings to inform property owners how the high-risk flood zones on the new FEMA flood maps, which take effect June 16, may or may not require them to purchase flood insurance.

The public information meetings will be held at the following locations:

- 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, Divisadero Middle School Gymnasium, 1200 S. Divisadero St.
- 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, Valley Oak Middle School Gymnasium, 2000 N. Lovers Lane.
- 6-7 p.m. Thursday, April 2, La Joya Middle School Gymnasium, 4711 LaVida Ave.

At the information meetings, City and County engineers and FEMA representatives will discuss changes in the flood zones. These flood zone determine if property owners will now either have to purchase or no longer need flood insurance policies. Federal flood insurance for properties in a high-risk zone may cost up to three times the annual rate for homeowners insurance.

FEMA has a "grandfathering rule" that greatly reduces flood insurance premiums for property owners who purchase flood insurance before the new FEMA flood maps take effect on June 16. It is important to attend these meetings in order to learn how to obtain the lowest flood insurance rate possible.

For more information:
City of Visalia residents can call 713-4640, email fema-info@ci.visalia.ca.us, or go to the City's website at http://www.ci.visalia.ca.us/depts/engineering/fema/default.asp.
Tulare County residents can call 733-6291 or go to the County's website at http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/rma/engineer/flood_control.asp