



Town of Morristown
Department of Public Works
Division of Engineering

200 South Street, P.O. Box 914
Morristown, NJ 07963-0914
973-292-4894, Fax: 973-292-6663

NOTICE

TO: Morristown Property Owners and Lessees
FROM: Anthony M. DeVizio, P.E., P.L.S. - Town Engineer
**SUBJECT: Revised Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) Issued by FEMA
Appeal Period in Progress
File 711**
DATE: March 28, 2018 (POSTED TO: www.townofmorristown.org)

ATTACHMENTS

Please be advised that the Town of Morristown has received notice from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that proposed revisions to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for our municipality have been made public. These maps, issued under FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), determine areas and limits for flooding and are the basis by which flood insurance requirements for properties are determined. They also determine the floodplain management measures that are required of the municipality.

Morristown has limited areas subject to flooding, largely concentrated around the Whippany River and some tributaries. The Morristown Engineering Division conducted a general review and comparison of the proposed flood mapping with the current version and found areas of apparent change (both increase and decrease) in the special flood hazard area. Any property affected by a change in the special flood hazard area may be subject to different flood insurance requirements than currently secured.

The municipality, as well as individual properties, may appeal the proposed FIRMs. Notice of the proposed flood hazard determinations was published by FEMA in the Federal Register, and notice of the appeals process was published in the Daily Record on or about February 8, 2018, and February 15, 2018. **The appeal period ends 90 days from the second newspaper publication, which is May 15, 2018. It is the responsibility of an affected property owner to submit any desired appeals along with supporting data from his/her engineer and/or land surveyor to the Town prior to this deadline.** The Town must consolidate all appeals and municipal comments into one comprehensive community appeal and submit such before the May 15, 2018 deadline. There is no requirement to appeal. Detailed guidance on this process may be found in the attached documents from FEMA.

The proposed maps may be viewed on FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata> or via Morris County's website at <https://planning.morriscountynj.gov/firms/property-owners>

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the Morristown Engineering Division at 973-292-4894.

Thank you -



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

February 1, 2018

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

IN REPLY REFER TO:
APPEAL START

The Honorable Timothy P. Dougherty
Mayor, Town of Morristown
200 South Street
2nd Floor, Room 239
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Case No.: 14-02-2566S
Community: Town of Morristown,
Morris County,
New Jersey
Community No.: 340352

Dear Mayor Dougherty:

On February 26, 2016, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided your community with revised preliminary copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Morris County, New Jersey (All Jurisdictions). FEMA has posted digital copies of these revised FIRM and FIS report materials to the following Website: <https://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata>. The revised preliminary FIRM and FIS report include proposed flood hazard information for certain locations in the Town of Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey. The proposed flood hazard information may include addition or modification of Special Flood Hazard Areas, the areas that would be inundated by the base (1-percent-annual-chance) flood; base flood elevations or depths; zone designations; or regulatory floodways.

We have published a notice of the proposed flood hazard determinations in the *Federal Register* and will publish a public notification concerning the appeal process (explained below) in the *Daily Record* on or about February 8, 2018, and February 15, 2018. We will also publish a separate notice of the flood hazard determinations on the "Flood Hazard Determinations on the Web" portion of the FEMA Website (<https://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe>). We have enclosed copies of the notice published in the *Federal Register* and the newspaper notice for your information.

These proposed flood hazard determinations, if finalized, will become the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community must adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). However, before any new or modified flood hazard information is effective for floodplain management purposes, FEMA will provide community officials and citizens an opportunity to appeal the proposed flood hazard information presented on the revised preliminary FIRM and FIS report posted to the above-referenced Website.

Section 110 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) is intended to ensure an equitable balancing of all interests involved in the setting of flood hazard determinations. The legislation provides for an explicit process of notification and appeals for your community and for private persons prior to this office making the flood hazard determinations final. The appeal procedure is outlined below for your information and in the enclosed document titled *Criteria for Appeals of Flood Insurance Rate Maps*.

During the 90-day appeal period following the second publication of the public notification in the above-named newspaper, any owner or lessee of real property in your community who believes his or her property rights will be adversely affected by the proposed flood hazard determinations may appeal to you, or to an agency that you publicly designate. It is important to note, however, that the sole basis for such appeals is the possession of knowledge or information indicating that the proposed flood hazard

determinations are scientifically or technically incorrect. The appeal data must be submitted to FEMA during the 90-day appeal period. Only appeals of the proposed flood hazard determinations supported by scientific or technical data can be considered before FEMA makes its final flood hazard determination at the end of the 90-day appeal period. Note that the 90-day appeal period is statutory and cannot be extended. However, FEMA also will consider comments and inquiries regarding data other than the proposed flood hazard determinations (e.g., incorrect street names, typographical errors, omissions) that are submitted during the appeal period, and will incorporate any appropriate changes to the revised FIRM and FIS report before they become effective.

If your community cannot submit scientific or technical data before the end of the 90-day appeal period, you may nevertheless submit data at any time. If warranted, FEMA will revise the FIRM and FIS report after the effective date. This means that the revised FIRM would be issued with the flood hazard information presently indicated, and flood insurance purchase requirements would be enforced accordingly, until such time as a revision could be made.

Any interested party who wishes to appeal should present the data that tend to negate or contradict our findings to you, or to an agency that you publicly delegate, in such form as you may specify. We ask that you review and consolidate any appeal data you may receive and issue a written opinion stating whether the evidence provided is sufficient to justify an official appeal by your community in its own name or on behalf of the interested parties. Whether or not your community decides to appeal, you must send copies of individual appeals and supporting data, if any, in one of the following ways:

- Digital submissions are recommended, handled more efficiently, and should be sent to:
Robert.Schaefer@fema.dhs.gov
- For submittals sent via standard mail, please use the following below:
Attention: Robert J. Schaefer, Senior Civil Engineer
FEMA Region II Mitigation Division
26 Federal Plaza, Room 1807
New York, New York 10278
- For submittals sent via FedEx, UPS, or other overnight delivery services, please use the following below:
Attention: Robert J. Schaefer, Senior Civil Engineer
FEMA Region II Mitigation Division
1 World Trade Center
52nd Floor – Mail Room
New York, New York 10007

If we do not receive an appeal or other formal comment from your community in its own name within 90 days of the second date of public notification, we will consolidate and review on their own merits such appeal data and comments from individuals that you may forward to us, and we will make such modifications to the proposed flood hazard information presented on the revised FIRM and in the revised FIS report as may be appropriate. If your community decides to appeal in its own name, all individuals' appeal data must be consolidated into one appeal by you, because, in this event, we are required to deal only with the local government as representative of all local interests. We will send our final decision in writing to you, and we will send copies to the community floodplain administrator, each individual appellant, and the State NFIP Coordinator.

All appeal submittals will be resolved by consultation with officials of the local government involved, by an administrative hearing, or by submission of the conflicting data to an independent scientific body or appropriate Federal agency for advice. Use of a Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) is also available to your community in support of the appeal resolution process when conflicting scientific or technical data are

submitted during the appeal period. SRPs are independent panels of experts in hydrology, hydraulics, and other pertinent sciences established to review conflicting scientific and technical data and provide recommendations for resolution. An SRP is an option after FEMA and community officials have been engaged in a collaborative consultation process for at least 60 days without a mutually acceptable resolution of an appeal. Please refer to the enclosed "Scientific Resolution Panels" fact sheet for additional information on this resource available to your community.

FEMA will make the reports and other information used in making the final determination available for public inspection. Until the conflict of data is resolved and the revised FIRM becomes effective, flood insurance available within your community will continue to be available under the effective NFIP map, and no person shall be denied the right to purchase the applicable level of insurance at chargeable rates.

The decision by your community to appeal, or a copy of its decision not to appeal, should be filed with this office no later than 90 days following the second publication of the flood hazard determination notice in the above-named newspaper. Your community may find it appropriate to call further attention to the proposed flood hazard determinations and to the appeal procedure by using a press release or other public notice.

If warranted by substantive changes, during the appeal period we will send you revised preliminary copies of the revised FIRM and FIS report. At the end of the 90-day appeal period and following the resolution of any appeals and comments, we will send you a Letter of Final Determination, which will finalize the flood hazard information presented on the revised FIRM and FIS report and will establish an effective date.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed flood hazard determinations, revised FIRM panels, or revised FIS report for your community, please call our FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX), toll free, at (877) 336-2627 (877-FEMA MAP) or e-mail the FMIX staff at FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com.

Sincerely,



Luis Rodriguez, P.E., Director
Engineering and Modeling Division
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

List of Enclosures:

Newspaper Notice
Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations *Federal Register* Notice
Criteria for Appeals of Flood Insurance Rate Maps
"Scientific Resolution Panels" Fact Sheet

cc: Anthony Devizio, Engineer, Town of Morristown
Jeff Paul, Office of Emergency Management Director, Morris County
Jennifer McCulloch, Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator, Morris County

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Morris County, New Jersey (All Jurisdictions)

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued revised preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Morris County, New Jersey (All Jurisdictions). These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the revised preliminary FIRMs and/or FIS reports for Morris County, New Jersey (All Jurisdictions). These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe>, or call the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institutes of Health, Two Democracy Plaza, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Michele L. Barnard, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Review Branch, DEA, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health, Room 7353, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892-2542, (301) 594-8898, barnardm@extra.niddk.nih.gov.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Special Emphasis Panel, NIDDK-KUH-Member Conflict SEP.

Date: February 7, 2018.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Embassy Suites at the Chevy Chase Pavilion, 4300 Military Road NW, Washington, DC 20015.

Contact Person: Xiaodu Guo, MD, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Review Branch, DEA, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health, Room 7023, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892-5452, (301) 594-4719, guox@extra.niddk.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Special Emphasis Panel, NIDDK-KUH-Fellowship Review.

Date: February 7, 2018.

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Embassy Suites at the Chevy Chase Pavilion, 4300 Military Road NW, Washington, DC 20015.

Contact Person: Xiaodu Guo, MD, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Review Branch, DEA, NIDDK, National Institutes of Health, Room 7023, 6707 Democracy Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892-5452, (301) 594-4719, guox@extra.niddk.nih.gov.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.847, Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Research; 93.848, Digestive Diseases and Nutrition Research; 93.849, Kidney Diseases, Urology and Hematology Research, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 18, 2018.

David Clary,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2018-01192 Filed 1-23-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Docket ID FEMA-2018-0002; Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-B-1800]

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Comments are requested on proposed flood hazard determinations, which may include additions or modifications of any Base Flood Elevation (BFE), base flood depth, Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundary or zone designation, or regulatory floodway on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), and where applicable, in the supporting Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports for the communities listed in the table below. The purpose of this notice is to seek general information and comment regarding the preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, the FIS report that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided to the affected communities. The FIRM and FIS report are the basis of the floodplain management measures that the community is required either to adopt or to show evidence of having in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In addition, the FIRM and FIS report, once effective, will be used by insurance agents and others to calculate appropriate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings and the contents of those buildings.

DATES: Comments are to be submitted on or before April 24, 2018.

ADDRESSES: The Preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, the FIS report for each community are available for inspection at both the online location <https://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata> and the respective Community Map Repository address listed in the tables below. Additionally, the current effective FIRM and FIS report for each community are accessible online through the FEMA Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov> for comparison.

You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. FEMA-B-1800, to Rick Sacbibit, Chief, Engineering Services Branch, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA, 400 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472,

(202) 646-7659, or (email) patrick.sacbibit@fema.dhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Sacbibit, Chief, Engineering Services Branch, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA, 400 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-7659, or (email) patrick.sacbibit@fema.dhs.gov; or visit the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) online at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx_main.html.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FEMA proposes to make flood hazard determinations for each community listed below, in accordance with section 110 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, 42 U.S.C. 4104, and 44 CFR 67.4(a).

These proposed flood hazard determinations, together with the floodplain management criteria required by 44 CFR 60.3, are the minimum that are required. They should not be construed to mean that the community must change any existing ordinances that are more stringent in their floodplain management requirements. The community may at any time enact stricter requirements of its own or pursuant to policies established by other Federal, State, or regional entities. These flood hazard determinations are used to meet the floodplain management requirements of the NFIP and also are used to calculate the appropriate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings built after the FIRM and FIS report become effective.

The communities affected by the flood hazard determinations are provided in the tables below. Any request for reconsideration of the revised flood hazard information shown on the Preliminary FIRM and FIS report that satisfies the data requirements outlined in 44 CFR 67.6(b) is considered an appeal. Comments unrelated to the flood hazard determinations also will be considered before the FIRM and FIS report become effective.

Use of a Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) is available to communities in support of the appeal resolution process. SRPs are independent panels of experts in hydrology, hydraulics, and other pertinent sciences established to review conflicting scientific and technical data and provide recommendations for resolution. Use of the SRP only may be exercised after FEMA and local communities have been engaged in a collaborative consultation process for at least 60 days without a mutually acceptable resolution of an appeal. Additional information regarding the SRP process can be found

online at https://www.floodsrp.org/pdfs/srp_overview.pdf.

The watersheds and/or communities affected are listed in the tables below. The Preliminary FIRM, and where applicable, FIS report for each community are available for inspection at both the online location <https://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata> and the

respective Community Map Repository address listed in the tables. For communities with multiple ongoing Preliminary studies, the studies can be identified by the unique project number and Preliminary FIRM date listed in the tables. Additionally, the current effective FIRM and FIS report for each community are accessible online

through the FEMA Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov> for comparison. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 97.022, "Flood Insurance.")

Dated: January 9, 2018.

Roy E. Wright,
Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Community	Community map repository address
Essex County, New Jersey (All Jurisdictions)	
Project: 17-02-0794S Preliminary Date: June 30, 2017	
Borough of North Caldwell	Borough Hall, 141 Gould Avenue, North Caldwell, NJ 07006.
Borough of Roseland	Public Works Department, 300 Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ 07068.
Township of Livingston	Township Hall, Engineering Department, 357 South Livingston Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039.
Township of West Caldwell	Municipal Building, 30 Clinton Road, West Caldwell, NJ 07006.
Morris County, New Jersey (All Jurisdictions)	
Project: 14-02-2566S Preliminary Dates: February 26, 2016 and August 22, 2017	
Borough of Butler	Borough Municipal Building, 1 Ace Road, Butler, NJ 07405.
Borough of Chatham	Borough Municipal Building, 54 Fairmount Avenue, Chatham, NJ 07928.
Borough of Florham Park	Borough Hall, 111 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park, NJ 07932.
Borough of Kinnelon	Borough Municipal Building, 130 Kinnelon Road, Kinnelon, NJ 07405.
Borough of Lincoln Park	Borough Building Department, 34 Chapel Hill Road, Lincoln Park, NJ 07035.
Borough of Madison	Borough Hall, Hartley Dodge Memorial Building, 50 Kings Road, Madison, NJ 07940.
Borough of Mendham	The Phoenix House, 2 West Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945.
Borough of Morris Plains	Borough Hall, 531 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, NJ 07950.
Borough of Mount Arlington	Borough Hall, 419 Howard Boulevard, Mount Arlington, NJ 07856.
Borough of Netcong	Borough Municipal Building, 23 Maple Avenue, Netcong, NJ 07857.
Borough of Riverdale	Borough Municipal Building, 91 Newark-Pompton Turnpike, Riverdale, NJ 07457.
Borough of Rockaway	Borough Municipal Building, 1 East Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866.
Borough of Victory Gardens	Victory Gardens Borough Municipal Building, 337 South Salem Street, Dover, NJ 07801.
Borough of Wharton	Borough Hall, 10 Robert Street, Wharton, NJ 07885.
Town of Boonton	Town Hall, 100 Washington Street, Boonton, NJ 07005.
Town of Dover	Engineering Department, 100 Princeton Avenue, Dover, NJ 07801.
Town of Morristown	Town Hall, 200 South Street, Morristown, NJ 07960.
Township of Boonton	Township Municipal Building, 155 Powerville Road, Boonton Township, NJ 07005.
Township of Chatham	Township Municipal Building, 58 Meyersville Road, Chatham, NJ 07928.
Township of Chester	Township Building, 1 Parker Road, Chester, NJ 07930.
Township of Denville	Engineering Department, 1 Saint Mary's Place, Denville, NJ 07834.
Township of East Hanover	Township Municipal Building, Construction Department, 411 Ridgedale Avenue, East Hanover, NJ 07936.
Township of Hanover	Hanover Township Municipal Building, 1000 Route 10, Whippany, NJ 07981.
Township of Harding	Harding Township Municipal Building, 21 Blue Mill Road, New Vernon, NJ 07976.
Township of Jefferson	Jefferson Township Municipal Building, 1033 Weldon Road, Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849.
Township of Long Hill	Long Hill Township Hall, 915 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ 07933.
Township of Mendham	Mendham Township Building, 2 West Main Street, Brookside, NJ 07926.
Township of Mine Hill	Municipal Building, 10 Baker Street, Mine Hill, NJ 07803.
Township of Montville	Township Municipal Building, Engineering Department, 195 Changebridge Road, Montville, NJ 07045.
Township of Morris	Morris Township Municipal Building, 50 Woodland Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960.
Township of Mount Olive	Mount Olive Township Hall, 204 Flanders-Drakestown Road, Budd Lake, NJ 07828.

Community	Community map repository address
Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills	Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Hall, 1001 Parsippany Boulevard, Parsippany, NJ 07054.
Township of Pequannock	Pequannock Township Municipal Building, 530 Newark-Pompton Turnpike, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444.
Township of Randolph	Township Municipal Building, 502 Millbrook Avenue, Randolph, NJ 07869.
Township of Rockaway	Township Municipal Building, 65 Mount Hope Road, Rockaway, NJ 07866.
Township of Roxbury	Township of Roxbury Town Hall, 1715 Route 46, Ledgewood, NJ 07852.
Township of Washington	Washington Township Municipal Building, 43 Schooley's Mountain Road, Long Valley, NJ 07853.

Passaic County, New Jersey (All Jurisdictions)

Project: 17-02-0805S Preliminary Date: August 30, 2017

Borough of Totowa	Municipal Complex, Clerk's Office, 537 Totowa Road at Cherba Place, Totowa, NJ 07512.
Township of Little Falls	Township Hall, 225 Main Street, Little Falls, NJ 07424.
Township of Wayne	Township Hall, Engineering Department, 475 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470.

Erie County, New York (All Jurisdictions)

Project: 17-02-0762S Preliminary Dates: February 19, 2016 and September 29, 2017

Town of Amherst	Amherst Town Hall, 5583 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221.
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[FR Doc. 2018-01216 Filed 1-23-18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 9110-12-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-4350-DR; Docket ID FEMA-2018-0001]

Mississippi; Amendment No. 1 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Mississippi (FEMA-4350-DR), dated November 22, 2017, and related determinations.

DATES: This amendment was issued January 2, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dean Webster, Office of Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2833.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Mississippi is hereby amended to include the following areas among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the event declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of November 22, 2017.

Hancock County for Public Assistance. Stone County for emergency protective measures [Category B] under the Public Assistance program.

The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households In Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas; 97.049, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance—Disaster Housing Operations for Individuals and Households; 97.050, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households—Other Needs; 97.036, Disaster Grants—Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

Brock Long,
Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

[FR Doc. 2018-01218 Filed 1-23-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111-23-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-4353-DR; Docket ID FEMA-2018-0001]

California; Amendment No. 1 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster for the State of California (FEMA-4353-DR), dated January 2, 2018, and related determinations.

DATES: This amendment was issued January 10, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dean Webster, Office of Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2833.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that the incident for this disaster has been expanded to include flooding, mudflows, and debris flows directly related to the wildfires. During the incident period, only those areas within the designated areas specifically determined by the Federal Coordinating Officer to be damaged or adversely affected as a direct result of the compromised watershed conditions and fire-generated debris caused by the

Criteria for Appeals of Flood Insurance Rate Maps

November 30, 2011



FEMA

This document outlines the criteria for appealing proposed changes in flood hazard information on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) during the appeal period. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) applies rigorous standards in developing and updating flood hazard information and provides communities with an opportunity to review the updated flood hazard information presented on new or revised FIRMs before they become final.

1. Background

The regulatory requirements related to appeals are found in Part 67 of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations. Additional FEMA procedural details are provided in Procedure Memorandum No. 57, *Expanded Appeals Process*, dated November 30, 2011. Detailed information on appeals can also be found in *Appeals, Revisions, and Amendments to National Flood Insurance Program Maps—A Guide for Community Officials* and FEMA's *Document Control Procedures Manual*. All referenced documents are accessible through the "Guidance Documents and Other Published Resources" webpage, located at: http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/frm_docs.shtm.

As outlined in these documents, an appeal period is provided for all new or modified flood hazard information shown on a FIRM, including additions or modifications of any Base (1-percent-annual-chance) Flood Elevation (BFE), base flood depth, Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundary or zone designation, or regulatory floodway. SFHAs are areas subject to inundation by the base (1-percent-annual-chance) flood and include the following SFHA zone designations: A, AO, AH, A1-A30, AE, A99, AR, AR/A1-A30, AR/AE, AR/AO, AR/AH, AR/A, VO, V1-V30, VE, and V. Therefore, a statutory 90-day appeal period is required when a flood study, Physical Map Revision (PMR), or Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) is proposed in which:

- New BFEs or base flood depths are proposed or currently effective BFEs or base flood depths are modified;
- New SFHAs are proposed or the boundaries of currently effective SFHAs are modified;
- New SFHA zone designations are proposed or currently effective SFHA zone designations are modified; and
- New regulatory floodways are proposed or the boundaries of currently effective floodways are modified.

Clarification on the necessity for an appeal period is provided for certain specific circumstances outlined below:

- Edge matching of effective floodplain boundaries or information. This usually occurs in first-time countywide flood mapping projects when effective BFEs, base flood depths,

SFHAs, or floodways are extended to an adjacent community that previously had differing or no BFEs, base flood depths, SFHAs, or floodways shown on their effective FIRM in order to fix a map panel to map panel mismatch. In these instances, **an appeal period is required** because BFEs, base flood depths, SFHAs, or floodways are changing or being shown for the first time in the area.

- Redelineation of effective floodplain boundaries. This occurs when an effective SFHA boundary is redrawn on the FIRM using new or updated topography to more accurately represent the risk of flooding. In these instances **an appeal period is required** because the SFHA boundary is changing. However, the appeal period will only apply to the updated SFHA boundary delineations, not the methodology used to originally establish BFEs/flood depths (since this will not have changed).
- Revisions to SFHA zone designations. A revision to an SFHA zone designation may occur with or without a BFE and/or boundary change. For example, when a Zone VE floodplain is changed to a Zone AE designation to reflect the updated location of a Primary Frontal Dune (PFD), the BFE and SFHA boundary may not necessarily change. For any change in SFHA zone designation, including the *removal* of an SFHA designation from a FIRM, **an appeal period is required.**
- Regulatory floodway boundaries. When the effective floodway boundary is redrawn on the FIRM to more accurately represent the extent of the encroachment, **an appeal period is required.**
- MT-1 cases. When the SFHA or floodway boundary is amended due to the issuance of a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letter of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F), Letter of Map Revision – Floodway, or other MT-1 case, **an appeal period is not required.**
- Annexation of effective floodplain boundaries. When a new or revised FIRM shows new community boundaries which include effective BFEs, base flood depths, SFHAs, or floodways, **an appeal period is not required**, provided no BFE, base flood depth, SFHA, or floodway changes apply.

However, in cases where the flood hazard information in the annexed area has never received due process (for example, if the area is shown for information only on all FIRMs depicting the area), **an appeal period is required.**

- Reissuance of effective LOMRs: When a LOMR is reissued after not being incorporated into a revised FIRM, **an appeal period is not required.**

- Updates that do not impact flood hazard data: When flood studies, PMRs, or LOMRs result in changes to FIRMs that do not impact BFEs, base flood depths, SFHAs, or floodways, **an appeal period is not required**.
- Datum Conversions: **An appeal period is not required** specifically for a datum conversion (e.g., a conversion from NGVD 29 to NAVD 88).

1.1. Additional Procedures for LOMRs

Beginning with LOMRs issued on or after December 1, 2011, the following procedures will apply:

In order to provide sufficient due process rights for changes due to LOMRs, any LOMR in a compliant community that requires an appeal period will become effective 120 days from the second newspaper publication date, following FEMA's current policy. This allows time to collect appeals, as well as provides for newspaper publication schedule conflicts. LOMRs in non-compliant communities or in communities that require adoption of the LOMR will become effective following the six month compliance period.

Evidence of public notice or property owner notification of the changes due to a LOMR will continue to be requested during the review of the LOMR request. This will help to ensure that the affected population is aware of the flood hazard changes in the area and the resultant LOMR. However, evidence of property owner acceptance of the changes due to a LOMR will no longer be requested. Because all LOMRs that require an appeal period will become effective 120 days from the second newspaper publication date, the receipt of such acceptance will have no effect on the effective date of the LOMR; therefore, there is no need for the requester to pursue acceptance.

2. Appeal Eligibility Requirements

Areas that are eligible for appeal include:

- Areas showing new or revised BFEs or base flood depths
- Areas showing new or revised SFHA boundaries (including both increases and decreases in the extent of the SFHA)
- Areas where there is a change in SFHA zone designation
- Areas showing new or revised regulatory floodway boundaries (including both increases and decreases in the extent of the regulatory floodway).

The area of concern must be within the scope of the new or modified BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA boundaries, SFHA zone designations, and/or regulatory floodway boundary changes and

be supported by scientific and/or technical data. The criteria for data submittals are outlined in Title 44, Chapter 1, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 67.6(b) and in this document.

The statutory 90-day appeal period cannot be extended. FEMA may provide an additional 30 days for a community after the 90-day appeal period has ended to submit supporting and clarifying data for an appeal received during the appeal period. No appeals will be accepted after the 90-day appeal period.

Challenges that do not relate to new or modified BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA boundaries, SFHA zone designations, or floodways are not considered appeals. Challenges received by FEMA during the appeal period that do not address these items will be considered comments. Comments include, but are not limited to the following:

- The impacts of changes that have occurred in the floodplain that should have previously been submitted to FEMA in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 65.3;
- Corporate limit revisions;
- Road name errors and revisions;
- Requests that changes effected by a LOMA, LOMR-F, or LOMR be incorporated;
- Base map errors; and
- Other possible omissions or potential improvements to the mapping.

Any significant problems identified by community officials or residents (at formal meetings or otherwise) will be addressed appropriately.

3. Supporting Data and Documentation Required for Appeals

The BFEs and base flood depths presented in Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports and shown on FIRMs are typically the result of coastal, hydrologic and hydraulic engineering methodologies. Floodway configurations, generally developed as part of the hydraulic analyses, are adopted by communities as a regulatory tool for floodplain management and are delineated on FIRMs along with SFHAs.

Because numerous methodologies have been developed for estimating flood discharges and flood elevations/depths, and other flood hazard information under a variety of conditions, FEMA contractors, mapping partners, and others whose data and documentation FEMA approves and uses, such as communities, regional entities and State agencies participating in the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Program, use their professional judgment in selecting methodologies that are appropriate for the conditions along a particular segment of a particular flooding source.

For FEMA contracted flood studies and PMRs the approach to be used will usually be discussed with community officials at the beginning of the flood study or PMR mapping process.

Because the methodologies are the result of attempts to reduce complex physical processes to mathematical models, the methodologies include simplifying assumptions. Usually, the methodologies are used with data developed specifically for the flood study, PMR, or LOMR. Therefore, the results of the methodologies are affected by the amount of data collected and the precision of any measurements made.

Because of the judgments and assumptions that must be made and the limits imposed by cost considerations, the correctness of the BFEs, base flood depths and other flood hazard information is often a matter of degree, rather than absolute. For that reason, appellants who contend that the BFEs, base flood depths, or other flood hazard information is incorrect because better methodologies could have been used, better assumptions could have been made, or better data could have been used, must provide alternative analyses that incorporate such methodologies, assumptions, or data and that quantify their effect on the BFEs, base flood depths or other flood hazard information. FEMA will review the alternative analyses and determine whether they are superior to those used for the flood study, PMR, or LOMR and whether changes to the FIS report and/or FIRM, or LOMR are warranted as a result.

Unless appeals are based on indisputable mathematical or measurement errors or the effects of natural physical changes that have occurred in the floodplain, they must be accompanied by all data that FEMA needs to revise the preliminary version of the FIS report and FIRMs. Therefore, appellants should be prepared to perform coastal, hydrologic and hydraulic analyses, to plot new and/or revised Flood Profiles, and to delineate revised SFHA zone and regulatory floodway boundaries as necessary.

An appeal must be based on data that show the new or modified BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA boundaries, SFHA zone designations, or floodways to be scientifically or technically incorrect. All analyses and data submitted by appellants must be certified by a Registered Professional Engineer or Licensed Land Surveyor, as appropriate. The data and documentation that must be submitted in support of the various types of appeals are discussed in the subsections that follow.

3.1. Appealing BFEs, Base Flood Depths, SFHA Zone Designations, or Regulatory Floodways

Scientifically incorrect BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA zone designations, or regulatory floodways:

Proposed BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA zone designations, or regulatory floodways are said to be scientifically incorrect if the methodology used in the determination of the BFEs,

base flood depths, SFHA zone designations, or regulatory floodways is inappropriate or incorrect, or if the assumptions made as part of the methodology are inappropriate or incorrect. An appeal that is based on the proposed BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA zone designations, or regulatory floodways being scientifically incorrect would, therefore, contend that the use of a different methodology or different assumptions would produce more accurate results. A list of National Flood Insurance Program-accepted hydrologic, hydraulic and coastal models is available on FEMA's website at http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/en_modl.shtm. To show that an inappropriate or incorrect coastal, hydraulic or hydrologic methodology has been used, an appellant must submit the following data, as applicable:

- New hydrologic analysis based on alternative methodology and if applicable, updated hydraulic/floodway or coastal analyses based on the updated discharge values;
- New hydraulic/floodway analysis based on alternative methodology and original flood discharge values (if the appeal does not involve the hydrologic analysis);
- New coastal analyses based on alternative methodology and original stillwater elevations (if the appeal does not involve the hydrologic analysis);
- Explanation for superiority of alternative methodology;
- As applicable, revised Summary of Discharges Table, Flood Profiles, Transect Data Table, Summary of Stillwater Elevations Table, and Floodway Data Table (FDT); and
- Revised SFHA zone boundaries and, if applicable, regulatory floodway boundary delineations.

Technically Incorrect BFEs, Base Flood Depths, SFHA Zone Designations, or Regulatory Floodways:

The proposed BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA zone designation or regulatory floodways are said to be technically incorrect if at least one of the following is true.

- **The methodology was not applied correctly.**
 - To show that a hydrologic methodology was not applied correctly, an appellant must submit the following:
 - New hydrologic analysis in which the original methodology has been applied differently;
 - Explanation for superiority of new application;
 - New hydraulic/floodway or coastal analysis based on flood discharge values from new hydrologic analysis;

- Revised Summary of Discharges Table and/or Flood Profiles and, if applicable, FDT; and
 - Revised SFHA zone boundary and, if applicable, regulatory floodway boundary delineations.
 - To show that a hydraulic methodology was not applied correctly, an appellant must submit the following information. *(Please note that an appeal to a floodway configuration cannot be solely based on surcharge values.)*
 - New hydraulic/floodway analysis, based on original flood discharge values, in which the original methodology has been applied differently;
 - As applicable, revised Flood Profiles, FDT and other FIS report tables as needed; and
 - Revised SFHA zone boundary and, if applicable, regulatory floodway boundary delineations.
 - To show that a coastal methodology was not applied correctly, an appellant must submit the following:
 - New coastal analysis, based on the original stillwater elevations, in which the original methodology has been applied differently;
 - Revised SFHA zone boundary and, all applicable FIS report tables, including the Transect Data Table.
- **The methodology was based on insufficient or poor-quality data.**
 - To show that insufficient or poor-quality hydrologic data were used, an appellant must submit the following:
 - Data believed to be better than those used in original hydrologic analysis;
 - Documentation for source of data;
 - Explanation for improvement resulting from use of new data;
 - New hydrologic analysis based on better data;
 - New hydraulic/floodway or coastal analysis based on flood discharge values resulting from new hydrologic analysis;
 - Revised Summary of Discharges Table, Flood Profiles and, if applicable, FDT; and
 - Revised SFHA zone boundary and, if applicable, regulatory floodway boundary delineations.
 - To show that insufficient or poor-quality hydraulic data were used, an appellant must submit the following:

- Data believed to be better than those used in original hydraulic analysis;
 - Documentation for source of new data;
 - Explanation for improvement resulting from use of new data;
 - New hydraulic analysis based on better data and original flood discharge values;
 - Revised Flood Profiles and, if applicable, FDT; and
 - Revised SFHA zone boundary and, if applicable, regulatory floodway boundary delineations.
- To show that insufficient or poor-quality coastal analysis data were used, an appellant must submit the following:
 - Data believed to be better than those used in original coastal analysis;
 - Documentation for source of new data;
 - Explanation for improvement resulting from use of new data;
 - New coastal analysis based on better data and original stillwater elevation values; and
 - Revised SFHA zone boundary and, all applicable FIS report tables, including the Transect Data Table.
- **The application of the methodology included indisputable mathematical or measurement errors.**
 - To show that a mathematical error was made, an appellant must identify the error. FEMA will perform any required calculations and make the necessary changes to the FIS report and FIRM.
 - To show that a measurement error (e.g., an incorrect surveyed elevation used in the flood study, PMR, or LOMR) was made, appellants must identify the error and provide the correct measurement. Any new survey data provided must be certified by a Registered Professional Engineer or Licensed Land Surveyor. FEMA will perform any required calculations and make the necessary changes to the FIS report and FIRM.
- **The methodology did not account for the effects of natural physical changes that have occurred in the floodplain.**
 - For appeals based on the effects of natural physical changes that have occurred in the base floodplain, appellants must identify the changes that have occurred and provide the data FEMA needs to perform a revised analysis. The data may include new stream channel and floodplain cross sections or coastal transects.

3.2. Appeals to SFHA Boundaries

The supporting data required for changes to SFHA zone boundaries will vary, depending on whether the boundaries are for flooding sources studied by detailed methods or flooding sources studied by approximate methods, as discussed below.

Flooding sources studied by detailed methods

Usually, detailed SFHA zone boundaries are delineated using topographic data and the BFEs and base flood depths resulting from the hydraulic analysis performed for the flood study, PMR, or LOMR. If topographic data are more detailed than those used by FEMA or show more recent topographic conditions, appellants should submit that data and the revised SFHA zone boundaries for FEMA to incorporate into the affected map panels. All maps and other supporting data submitted must be certified by a Registered Professional Engineer or a Licensed Land Surveyor and must reflect existing conditions. Maps or data prepared by an authoritative source, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, or a State department of highways and transportation, are acceptable without certification as long as the sources and dates of the maps are identified. For further information on submittals involving topographic data, please refer to the section below *Additional Guidance on Appeal Submittals Involving Topographic Data*.

Flooding Sources Studied by Approximate Methods

Usually, where BFEs or base flood depths are not available, flood zone boundaries are delineated with the best available data, including flood maps published by other Federal agencies, information on past floods, and simplified hydrologic and hydraulic analyses. If more detailed data or analyses are submitted, FEMA will use them to update the flood hazard information shown on the affected map panels. Such data and analyses may include the following:

- Published flood maps that are more recent or more detailed than those used by FEMA;
- Analyses that are more detailed than those performed by FEMA or that are based on more detailed data than those used by FEMA;
- Topographic data and resulting updated SFHA boundaries.

For further information on submittals involving topographic data, please refer to the section below *Additional Guidance on Appeal Submittals Involving Topographic Data*.

Please note that, when applicable, appeals related to the *methodology* used to develop an approximate flood zone boundary must follow the guidelines established for appeals to BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA zone designations, or regulatory floodways under Section 3.1 above. However, since flood profiles, FDTs, Summary of Discharges Tables, Transect

Data Tables, and Summary of Stillwater Elevations Tables are not developed in support of approximate floodplain boundaries, these data will not need to be submitted for appeals to flooding sources studied by approximate methods.

All submitted data and analyses must be certified by a Registered Professional Engineer or a Licensed Land Surveyor. Maps prepared by an authoritative source, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, or a State department of highways and transportation, are acceptable without certification as long as the sources and dates of the maps are identified.

Additional Guidance on Appeal Submittals Involving Topographic Data

For appeal submittals that involve topographic data, the following additional guidelines must be followed:

- The data must be more detailed/accurate, and/or reflect more recent topographic conditions, and be in a digital Geographic Information System (GIS) format preferably;
- The appeal submittal must clearly state which flooding sources are being appealed based on the updated topographic data;
- Updated SFHA boundary delineations that reflect the submitted topographic data for each appealed flooding source must also be provided, preferably in digital GIS format;
- All topographic data submitted must adhere to FEMA's current data capture standards for such data;
- If necessary, a data sharing agreement must be provided.

4. Appeal Period Procedures

Appeals and comments must be resolved by following the procedures below:

- Acknowledgement by FEMA of the receipt of an appeal in writing, ensuring that acknowledged appeals include ALL of the criteria discussed above.
- Acknowledge the receipt of comments. This can be done either in writing, by FEMA, or through a documented phone conversation between the mapping partner and the community that submitted the comments. At a minimum FEMA must notify the community in writing that it did not receive any appeals. This can be done by separate correspondence or by the inclusion of language in the Letter of Final Determination (LFD).

- FEMA or the mapping partner will evaluate any scientific or technical data submitted for compliance with existing mapping statutes, regulations, or Guidelines and Standards.
- FEMA or the mapping partner will request any additional scientific or technical data required to properly review the appeal or comment.
- FEMA or the mapping partner will make a recommendation to FEMA on the resolution of the appeal or comment.
- FEMA or the mapping partner will prepare a draft appeal resolution letter (if **all** the criteria for an appeal are met).
- The assigned mapping partner shall dispatch the signed FEMA appeal resolution letter and if warranted, Revised Preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS report to the community CEO and floodplain administrator and all appellants. All correspondence must be prepared and issued on FEMA Headquarters or FEMA Regional letterhead.
- FEMA provides a comment period of 30 days following the date the appeal or comment resolution letter is issued. Any comments received during the 30 day comment period must be addressed and resolved before proceeding with the LFD. Extensions to this 30 day period can only be granted with FEMA Headquarters approval.

5. General Technical Guidance

Detailed guidance on the supporting documentation that must be submitted in support of an appeal can be found in *Appeals, Revisions, and Amendments to National Flood Insurance Program Maps—A Guide for Community Officials*.

Unless appeals are based on the use of alternative models or methodologies, the hydrologic and hydraulic analyses that appellants submit must be performed with the models used for the flood study, PMR, or LOMR. Generally, when appellants are required to submit hydrologic or hydraulic analyses, those analyses must be performed for the same recurrence interval floods as those performed for the flood study, PMR, or LOMR. The vertical datum used in any data submitted must match the datum used in the preliminary FIS report and FIRM. Further, SFHA boundaries are to be shown on a topographic map (preferably, in digital form) whose scale and contour interval are sufficient to provide reasonable accuracy.

New flooding information cannot be added to a FIRM in such a way as to create mismatches with the flooding information shown for unrevised areas. Therefore, in performing new analyses and developing revised flooding information, appellants must tie the new BFEs, base flood

depths, SFHA boundaries, SFHA zone designations, and/or regulatory floodway boundaries into those shown on the maps for areas not affected by the appeal.

All analyses and data submitted by appellants, including those that show mathematical or measurement errors must be certified by a Registered Professional Engineer or Licensed Land Surveyor, as appropriate.

6. Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP)

FEMA's Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) process reinforces FEMA's commitment to work with communities to ensure the flood hazard data depicted on FIRMs is built collaboratively using the best science available.

When changes to the FIRMs are met with conflicting technical and scientific data, an independent third party review of the information may be needed to ensure the FIRMs are updated correctly. The SRP serves as the independent third party. To be eligible for an SRP, an appeal must include supporting information or data to substantiate that the BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA boundaries, SFHA zone designations, or floodways proposed by FEMA are scientifically or technically incorrect. An SRP request is an option only after FEMA and a local community have been engaged in a collaborative consultation process for at least 60 days without a mutually-acceptable resolution of an appeal.

OVERVIEW

SCIENTIFIC RESOLUTION PANELS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through its flood hazard mapping program, Risk MAP (Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning), identifies flood hazards, assesses flood risks, and partners with states, tribes and local communities to provide accurate flood hazard and risk data to guide them in taking effective mitigation actions. The resulting National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps provide the basis for community floodplain management regulations and flood insurance requirements.

What is a Scientific Resolution Panel?

FEMA's Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) process reinforces FEMA's commitment to work with communities to ensure the flood hazard data depicted on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are developed collaboratively, using the best science available.

Flood hazards are constantly changing, and FEMA updates FIRMs through several methods to reflect those changes. When proposed changes to a FIRM are met with conflicting technical and/or scientific data during a regulatory appeal period, an independent third-party review of the information may be appropriate. An SRP serves as an independent third party.

The SRP process benefits both FEMA and the community:

- ▶ It offers a neutral review process by independent third parties.
- ▶ It confirms FEMA's commitment to using the best science for the purpose of accurately depicting flood hazards on flood maps.
- ▶ It provides an additional opportunity for resolving community appeals involving conflicting technical and/or scientific data.

While FEMA had previously established an SRP process, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 formally established a statutory SRP process. The *Appeal and Comment Processing Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping*, which incorporates the legislative requirements for the SRP, is available at www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping.

RISK MAPPING, ASSESSMENT, AND PLANNING PROGRAM (RISK MAP)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Risk MAP Program delivers quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action to reduce risk to life and property. Risk MAP is a nationwide program that works in collaboration with states, tribes, and local communities using best available science, rigorously vetted standards, and expert analysis to identify risk and promote mitigation action, resulting in safer, more resilient communities.

For Additional Information

For more information on appeals, see the FEMA document *Appeals, Revisions, and Amendments to National Flood Insurance Program Maps: A Guide for Community Officials* at www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/17930

Part 67 of the NFIP regulations, which pertains to appeals, is available at <http://www.fema.gov/guidance-documents-other-published-resources>

FEMA's Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping webpage includes the *Appeal and Comment Processing Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping*: www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping

Templates and Other Resources: www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/32786?id=7577

Other Important Links:

- NIBS Scientific Review Panel website: www.floodsrp.org/
- Risk MAP: www.fema.gov/risk-mapping-assessment-and-planning-risk-map
- Information on Recent and Upcoming Map Changes: www.fema.gov/status-map-change-requests
- Flood Insurance: www.floodsmart.gov

Who Can Request an SRP?

A community, tribe, or other political entity with the authority to adopt and enforce floodplain ordinances for the area under its jurisdiction can request that FEMA use an SRP when conflicting technical and/or scientific data have been presented. For additional information, review the *Appeal and Comment Processing Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping* at www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping.

When Can Communities Request an SRP?

A community can request an SRP if the following requirements have been met:

- ▶ It has not yet received a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) from FEMA.
- ▶ Conflicting technical and/or scientific data, submitted during the 90-day appeal period, resulted in different flood hazards than those proposed by FEMA.
- ▶ At least 60 days of community consultation with FEMA (but no more than 120 days) have taken place.

Additionally, a community that receives a FEMA-issued resolution letter and has not previously exercised the SRP process will have 30 days from the issuance of the letter to request an SRP.

Independent Panel Sponsor

The SRP process is managed by the National Institute for Building Sciences (NIBS), a non-profit organization independent of FEMA. NIBS will administer the SRPs, ensuring that proper guidelines and procedures are employed and maintaining a cadre of experts from which panel members are selected.

Panel Member Selection

Five panelists are convened for each appeal brought to the SRP request. Panel members are technical experts in surface water hydrology, hydraulics, coastal engineering, and other engineering and scientific fields that relate to the creation of FIRMs and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) throughout the United States.

Based on the technical challenges associated with each request, NIBS develops a list of potential members with relevant expertise, from its cadre of experts. NIBS also checks that those listed are available to serve, do not reside in the state from which the appeal or data were filed, and have no personal or professional interest in its findings for the flood risk project.

NIBS provides the list to the community and FEMA to select the panel members. The community selects at least the simple majority (three), and FEMA selects the remaining panel members from the short list of cadre members, based on the technical challenges of the appeal or data submittal.

The Process

To request a review by an SRP, the community's Chief Executive Officer or designee completes an SRP Request Form and submits it to FEMA during the time periods outlined above. Once FEMA confirms that the situation and the conflicting technical and/or scientific data are eligible for an SRP, it forwards the SRP Request Form to NIBS, which will initiate the panel selection process and develop a list of potential members.

Once the panel is convened, panel members are provided with a summary of the issue, FEMA's data, and the data the community submitted during the 90-day appeal period. Panel members review the data and, on a point-by-point basis, deliberate and make a decision based on the scientific and/or technical challenges.

If the community feels it is necessary to make an oral presentation in support of its request, it must include a justification on the SRP Request Form.

Resolution

The panel must present its written report to the community and FEMA within 90 days of being convened, and that report will be used by the FEMA Administrator for making the final determination. A panel determination must be in favor of either FEMA or the community on each distinct element of the dispute, and the panel may not offer any alternative determination as a resolution. In the case of a dispute submitted by the community on behalf of an owner or lessee of real property in the community, the panel determination must be in favor of either FEMA, the community, or the owner/lessee on each distinct element of the dispute.

If changes to the maps are recommended in the panel's determination, and FEMA elects to implement the panel's determination, FEMA will incorporate the changes into a revised Preliminary FIRM and, if appropriate, FIS report. The revised products will be available to the community for review, with a resolution letter, before FEMA issues an LFD.

Once the SRP provides its determination and FEMA issues its resolution letter to implement the recommendations, the SRP recommendations are binding on all appellants and not subject to judicial review.

If the FEMA Administrator elects not to accept the panel's findings, the Administrator will issue a written justification within 60 days of receiving the report from the SRP. Under these circumstances, the appellants maintain their right to appeal FEMA's final determination to the appropriate Federal District Court.

Figure 1: SRP Timeline

