

CHANGES ARE MADE IN DETERMINATIONS OF BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS FOR THE CITIES OF SANTA CLARA AND SAN JOSE, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, UNDER THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

On January 20, 1999, and August 17, 1998, respectively, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency identified Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) in the Cities of Santa Clara and San Jose, Santa Clara County, California, through issuance of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). The Mitigation Division has determined that modification of the elevations of the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (base flood) for certain locations in these communities is appropriate. The modified Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) revise the FIRMs for these communities.

The changes are being made pursuant to Section 206 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) and are in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (Title XIII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Public Law 90-448), 42 U.S.C. 4001-4128, and 44 CFR Part 65.

A hydraulic analysis was performed to incorporate levee improvements along the revised reach of the Guadalupe River from just upstream of State Route 237 to just downstream of Interstate Highway 280 and has resulted in a decrease in SFHA width and establishment of BFEs for the revised reach of the Guadalupe River. The table below indicates existing and modified BFEs for selected locations along the affected lengths of the flooding source(s) cited above.

Location	Existing BFE (feet)	Modified BFE (feet)*
¹ Just upstream of State Route 237	None	2
² Approximately 11,850 feet downstream of Montague Expressway	None	3
² At intersection of Bellomy Street and Campbell Avenue	None	63
¹ Just upstream of Southern Pacific Railroad	None	75

*National Geodetic Vertical Datum, rounded to nearest whole foot

¹City of San Jose

²City of Santa Clara

Under the above-mentioned Acts of 1968 and 1973, the Mitigation Division must develop criteria for floodplain management. To participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the community must use the modified BFEs to administer the floodplain management measures of the NFIP. These modified BFEs will also be used to calculate the appropriate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings and their contents and for the second layer of insurance on existing buildings and contents.

Upon the second publication of notice of these changes in this newspaper, any person has 90 days in which he or she can request, through the Chief Executive Officer of the community, that the Mitigation Division reconsider the determination. Any request for reconsideration must be based on knowledge of changed conditions or new scientific or technical data. All interested parties are on notice that until the 90-day period elapses, the Mitigation Division's determination to modify the BFEs may itself be changed.

Any person having knowledge or wishing to comment on these changes should immediately notify:

The Honorable Ron Gonzales
Mayor, City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

OR

The Honorable Patricia Mahan
Mayor, City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050
