

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROPOSED FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP REFLECTS CHANGES TO LOCAL FLOOD RISK

90-Day Appeal Period for Filing Appeals and Comments Begins [Date]

[City, State, Date] — **Updates to [County name’s]** Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) are nearly complete. The new map will provide [County name] with up-to-date flood risk information and tools that can be used to enhance local mitigation plans and help officials and residents make better decisions about reducing flood risks and purchasing flood insurance. The county’s mapping project is part of a nationwide effort led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to increase local knowledge of flood risks and support actions to address and reduce those risks. The work in [Name] County has been led by FEMA Region [Roman numeral], in partnership with local community officials. Before the new Flood Insurance Rate Map is finalized, a 90-day appeal period will give residents and business owners a chance to provide additional technical data or non-technical comments for FEMA’s consideration.

“During the past couple of years, we have worked closely with FEMA to make sure we have the most accurate picture possible of our flood risk,” said [Name and title of Community CEO/Emergency Manager/ Floodplain Manager]. “This information will help members of our community understand their risks from flooding, and take actions—such as purchasing flood insurance—to better protect them from these risks. It will also help us make informed decisions about other actions we can take to protect [County] from what might otherwise be devastating flood events.”

[County] officials encourage residents and business owners to review the proposed map changes, learn about local flood risks and potential flood insurance requirements, and share any concerns or questions.

If members of the community notice incorrect information that does not involve changing the flood hazard-related information—such as a missing or misspelled road name or an incorrect corporate

KEY MAPPING MILESTONES

[Date]—Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map released

[Date]—Flood Risk Community Open House

[Date]—Start of 90-day Appeal Period

[Target Date, Month, or Season—e.g., Fall 2014]*—New FIRM becomes effective; new flood insurance requirements are applied

Visit [website address] to see the preliminary FIRM.

For information about the deadline for submitting an appeal or comments, call

[Name of local call center or contact] at [(xxx) xxx-xxxx].

For general information, contact a Map Specialist with any questions at 1-877-336-2627 (toll free) between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m ET.

**Date subject to change, pending completion of appeal review process.*

boundary—a written correction, or “comment,” can be submitted. If members of the community have concerns about certain areas of the map and have technical and scientific information—such as detailed hydraulic or hydrologic data—that can be used to improve the maps, they may file an appeal during the 90-day appeal period. All comments and appeals must be submitted through the local officials. Because submitting an appeal requires some time and effort, we encourage property owners and renters to review the updated flood maps now. If you are interested in submitting an appeal, we highly recommend that you first discuss it with your local officials so they can provide guidance on the process. For more details about this process, visit [\[enter website address\]](#).

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