

# NOTICE TO CONGRESS: MONTHLY UPDATE ON FLOOD MAPPING

Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014

September 2020



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Flooding is a serious risk to life and property in the United States, but flood risk changes over time. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program helps communities understand and prepare for changing flood risks by updating flood maps. These updated flood maps help communities make decisions about building codes and other standards that make residents, homes, and businesses safer from flooding.

By law, FEMA must look at community flood maps every five years and decide whether to update or change them. FEMA must also tell Congress every month about any planned changes to community flood maps. This Notice to Congress includes information about:

- Communities that (in the next three months) are scheduled to receive updated draft maps from FEMA (called preliminary maps and revised preliminary maps)
- Communities that have received preliminary or revised preliminary maps from FEMA
- The period of time during which community notices will be published about the release of the maps and the appeals period
- Communities that have received Letters of Final Determination (LFDs) about their updated maps
- Communities where revised flood maps are considered final (called effective maps)

This monthly Notice to Congress will also include updates on the Risk MAP program, news on how communities are protecting themselves against flood risks, and other topics.

#### **Risk MAP Vision**

"The vision for Risk MAP is to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property."



## 2. RISK MAP NEWS

#### Mitigating Hazards Through Land Use Solutions Workshop Goes Virtual

On June 23 and 24, FEMA Region II worked with the New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to host Part One of its Mitigating Hazards Through Land Use Solutions (MHLUS) virtual workshop. The workshop was created to give help and advice to communities interested in forming a land use solution to protect them from natural hazards. The goal is for participating communities to put their solutions into action within 1 year of attending the workshop.

Eight communities in Ocean and Cape May Counties, NJ, participated in Part One of the workshop, which was held in two 4-hour virtual sessions. The workshop explored each community's problems, how to solve these problems through—and carry out—a land use solution, the best land use tools to reduce risk, and how to apply these tools.

Participants heard from Matt Campo of Rutgers University and Thomas Flynn of Woodbridge Township. Mr. Campo discussed the impacts of climate change and flooding on New Jersey and Mr. Flynn shared lessons learned from the Open Space Conservation/Resiliency Zone in Woodbridge. Each community was able to work one-on-one with subject matter experts to choose the right land use tool for their needs. Some of the land use tools chosen included overlay zoning, cluster developments, and density bonuses.

#### Workshop Part 1 Goal

- The MHLUS Workshop Part 1 is intended to assist your municipality with selecting and beginning to develop a land use tool that will mitigate flood risk.
- By the end of the workshop, you will have:
  - Learned about successful case studies in reducing risk through land use
  - Brainstormed how your selected land use tool will reduce risk and how the requirements will apply



Participants were excited to learn how land use tools can reduce their risk to natural hazards. Many found the workshop helpful for thinking about risk reduction from a new point of view. Part Two of the MHLUS workshop was held on July 14 and 15 and discussed the chosen land use tools and next steps for carrying out land use solutions.

## 3. NOTIFICATION

The following table shows preliminary and revised preliminary flood mapping studies that are expected to be released in the current month and the next two months. An additional table shows the studies where FEMA took action by issuing preliminary or revised maps; starting an appeal period; releasing an LFD or effective maps. All tables show the FEMA Region, state, and county where the action will take or has taken place. The tables also provide details on the flood mapping study status and estimated or actual dates.

### 3.1. ESTIMATED RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY MAPS

Some communities within the counties listed below have been studied to measure their flood risk. This flood hazard is shown in the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report. The table identifies the month that FEMA plans to deliver the preliminary FIRM and FIS report to the designated community officials.

The column called "Estimated Schedule of Community Meeting" shows which quarter of the calendar year a community meeting to discuss the FIS and preliminary FIRM might be scheduled. In some cases, several meetings are needed to cover all communities that were studied.

Finally, the column named "Estimated Public Notice and Starting Appeal Period" shows which quarter of the calendar year an appeal period starts in a study area. The appeals period starts after the second notice is placed in the local newspaper. In study areas that cover a number of communities, notices will have to be put in several local papers, which means each community in a study could have a different publication date.

Region	State	County Name	Estimated Preliminary Issuance	Estimated Schedule of Community Meetings	Estimated Public Notice and Starting Appeal Period
1	MA	Essex County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
1	MA	Middlesex County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
1	MA	Worcester County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
1	ME	Penobscot County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
2	NJ	Hunterdon County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
2	NJ	Somerset County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
3	PA	Luzerne County	September 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
3	VA	Alexandria City	September 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
3	VA	Arlington County	September 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
3	VA	Colonial Heights City	November 2020	Quarter 2, 2021	Quarter 3, 2021
3	VA	Dinwiddie County	September 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
3	VA	Fairfax City	September 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
3	VA	Falls Church City	September 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
3	VA	Fauquier County	September 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
3	VA	Hopewell City	November 2020	Quarter 2, 2021	Quarter 3, 2021
3	VA	Manassas City	September 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021

Region	State	County Name	Estimated Preliminary Issuance	Estimated Schedule of Community Meetings	Estimated Public Notice and Starting Appeal Period
3	VA	Manassas Park City	September 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
3	VA	Petersburg City	November 2020	Quarter 2, 2021	Quarter 3, 2021
3	VA	Prince Edward County	November 2020	Quarter 2, 2021	Quarter 3, 2021
		Prince William	0 1 1 0000	0 1 1 0001	0 1 0 0001
3	VA	County	September 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
4	AL	Colbert County	October 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
4	AL	DeKalb County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
4	AL	Etowah County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
4	AL	Franklin County	October 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
4	AL	Jackson County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
4	AL	Lauderdale County	October 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
4	AL	Lawrence County	October 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
4	AL	Marshall County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
4	GA	Barrow County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
4	GA GA	Gwinnett County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
4		Hall County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
4	GA KY	Liberty County	November 2020 November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
	KY	Daviess County		Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
4		McLean County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
4	KY SC	Webster County	November 2020 October 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
4	SC	Allendale County	October 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
4	SC	Bamberg County	October 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
4	SC	Barnwell County Hampton County	October 2020	Quarter 1, 2021 Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021 Quarter 2, 2021
5	IN	Allen County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	MI	Alcona County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	MI	Alpena County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	MI	Cheboygan County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	MI	Kalamazoo County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
5	MI	Kent County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
5	MI	Leelanau County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	MI	Mackinac County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	MN	Itasca County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	MN	Lyon County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	ОН	Allen County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	ОН	Clermont County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
5	ОН	Hamilton County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
5	ОН	Montgomery County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	ОН	Paulding County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	ОН	Van Wert County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
5	ОН	Warren County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
5	WI	Chippewa County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
5	WI	Florence County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 2, 2021
6	AR	Jackson County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 4, 2020
6	AR	Washington County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
6	AR	Woodruff County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 4, 2020
6	LA	La Salle Parish	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021

Region	State	County Name	Estimated Preliminary Issuance	Estimated Schedule of Community Meetings	Estimated Public Notice and Starting Appeal Period
6	TX	Dallas County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
6	TX	Tarrant County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
7	IA	Benton County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
7	IA	Plymouth County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
7	IA	Woodbury County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
7	KS	Brown County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
7	KS	Morris County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
7	KS	Nemaha County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
7	MO	St. Louis County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
7	NE	Cheyenne County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
7	NE	Deuel County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
7	NE	Scotts Bluff County	November 2020	Quarter 1, 2021	Quarter 1, 2021
7	NE	Wayne County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
8	CO	Denver County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
8	CO	Jefferson County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
8	CO	Larimer County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
8	CO	Weld County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
8	SD	Deuel County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
8	SD	Marshall County	September 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
8	SD	Roberts County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
9	CA	Riverside County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021
9	CA	San Bernardino County	October 2020	Quarter 4, 2020	Quarter 1, 2021

## 3.2. ESTIMATED RELEASE OF REVISED PRELIMINARY MAPS

In some cases, FEMA may decide to issue a revised preliminary map to address changes to preliminary flood hazard determinations, or to address changes to a non-technical issue. The table below shows the studies for which FEMA plans to release revised preliminary maps. The actual release dates are scheduled in coordination with the state and/or local governments.

The table below shows an estimate for the month the revised maps will be released. Community meetings, notices in local papers, and dates of appeal periods are not shown because these are often not needed for revised preliminary maps.

Region	State	County Name	Estimated Revised Preliminary Issuance
3	PA	Cumberland County	October 2020
3	PA	Montour County	October 2020
3	WV	Kanawha County	October 2020
4	MS	Rankin County	November 2020
4	NC	Carteret County	October 2020
5	IN	Bartholomew County	November 2020
5	MI	Allegan County	October 2020



Region	State	County Name	Estimated Revised Preliminary Issuance
5	MI	St. Clair County	October 2020
5	MI	Wayne County	October 2020
5	ОН	Ottawa County	November 2020
9	AZ	Maricopa County	October 2020
9	CA	Mendocino County	September 2020
10	OR	Harney County	October 2020

## 3.3. ACTIONS TAKEN BY FEMA

The table below shows the counties where FEMA released a preliminary FIRM and FIS report, began a 90-day appeal period, released a revised preliminary FIRM and FIS report, or sent LFDs in the previous month. It also identifies counties where FIRMs and FIS reports became effective during the previous month.

Region	State	County Name	Action Taken	Date
3	MD	Baltimore County	Preliminary	8/12/2020
3	PA	Juniata County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020
3	PA	Lackawanna County	Maps Effective	8/5/2020
3	PA	Union County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020
3	VA	Culpeper County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020
3	VA	Essex County	Appeal Start	8/31/2020
3	VA	Nottoway County	Preliminary	8/28/2020
3	VA	Pulaski County	Appeal Start	8/30/2020
3	VA	Rappahannock County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020
3	WV	Nicholas County	Appeal Start	8/6/2020
3	WV	Summers County	Appeal Start	8/12/2020
4	AL	Shelby County	Appeal Start	8/30/2020
4	FL	DeSoto County	Appeal Start	8/12/2020
4	FL	Hendry County	Appeal Start	8/13/2020
4	FL	Lee County	Appeal Start	8/12/2020
4	FL	Liberty County	Revised Preliminary	8/26/2020
4	GA	Hancock County	Preliminary	8/28/2020
4	GA	Morgan County	Preliminary	8/28/2020
4	GA	Putnam County	Preliminary	8/28/2020
4	KY	Jefferson County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020
4	SC	Georgetown County	Appeal Start	8/27/2020
4	SC	Horry County	Appeal Start	8/20/2020
4	TN	Cheatham County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020
4	TN	Robertson County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020
4	TN	Sumner County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020
4	TN	Williamson County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020

Region	State	County Name	Action Taken	Date
5	IL	Randolph County	Maps Effective	8/5/2020
5	IN	Lake County	Appeal Start	8/14/2020
5	MI	Van Buren County Appeal Start		8/18/2020
5	MN	Blue Earth County	Revised Preliminary	8/28/2020
5	MN	Scott County	LFD Issued	8/12/2020
5	ОН	Erie County	Appeal Start	8/5/2020
6	AR	Pulaski County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020
6	LA	Jackson Parish	Maps Effective	8/19/2020
6	LA	Winn Parish	Maps Effective	8/19/2020
6	TX	Archer County	LFD Issued	8/12/2020
6	TX	Jack County	LFD Issued	8/12/2020
6	TX	Nueces County	Revised Preliminary	8/13/2020
7	IA	Boone County	Appeal Start	8/27/2020
7	IA	Cherokee County	Appeal Start	8/26/2020
7	IA	Iowa County	Appeal Start	8/12/2020
7	IA	Osceola County	Appeal Start	8/19/2020
7	IA	Palo Alto County	Appeal Start	8/6/2020
7	IA	Winneshiek County	Appeal Start	8/27/2020
7	KS	Dickinson County	LFD Issued	8/21/2020
7	KS	Pottawatomie County	Appeal Start	8/20/2020
7	KS	Rice County	Appeal Start	8/13/2020
7	KS	Wabaunsee County	Appeal Start	8/6/2020
7	MO	Stone County	Appeal Start	8/27/2020
7	NE	Nemaha County	Appeal Start	8/6/2020
7	NE	Richardson County	Appeal Start	8/5/2020
8	MT	Butte-Silver Bow County	Preliminary	8/28/2020
8	ND	Stark County	Appeal Start	8/5/2020
8	ND	Ward County	Appeal Start	8/5/2020
8	SD	Turner County	Appeal Start	8/13/2020
8	UT	Davis County	Appeal Start	8/7/2020
9	CA	Kern County	Appeal Start	8/17/2020
9	CA	Los Angeles County	Preliminary	8/4/2020
9	HI	Kauai County	LFD Issued	8/26/2020
		Ketchikan Gateway		
10	AK	Borough	Revised Preliminary	8/28/2020
10	WA	King County	Maps Effective	8/19/2020

## Information on "Preliminary and Revised Preliminary" Actions

For the flood risk studies shown above, FEMA gave copies of either the initial or the revised FIRM and FIS report to all communities involved. Copies are also online at <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search">https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search</a> and <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/fmcv">https://msc.fema.gov/fmcv</a>.



FEMA encourages local officials to widely share their copies with residents, business owners, elected officials, and others in the community. This helps in adding to or correcting non-technical information such as layout and labeling of roads, bridges, and streams, and other features. Requests to change such information can be made during the community review period, at a community meeting, and during the 90-day appeal period. Approved changes will be shown on the final FIRM and in the final FIS report.

#### Information on "Appeal Start" Actions

Under the National Flood Insurance Act, there are limited rights to appeal findings in the preliminary FIRM and FIS reports. Appeals can be made by owners or renters of real property within a community who believe that their property rights are adversely affected, and/or by an affected community. Important information on the process can be found in the document called "Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping: Appeal and Comment Processing," which can be found at <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-02/Appeal\_Comment\_Processing\_Guidance\_Feb\_2019.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-02/Appeal\_Comment\_Processing\_Guidance\_Feb\_2019.pdf</a>.

#### Information on "LFD Issued" Actions

A statutory 90-day appeal period was held, and FEMA resolved any appeals or comments received during that period. FEMA has sent the LFD to the Chief Executive Officer of all affected communities, all individual appellants, and the State Coordinating Agency and will publish the final flood hazard information in the *Federal Register*. The updated FIRM panels will become effective six months from the date of the LFD. Final FIRM and FIS reports will officially be archived on the Flood Map Service Center (MSC) website at <a href="https://msc.fema.gov">https://msc.fema.gov</a>.

Property owners' flood insurance rates may be affected once a FIRM becomes effective. Resources are available to help homeowners understand the importance of flood insurance and the steps they can take to reduce their rates. For additional information about flood insurance, visit <a href="https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance">https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance</a>.

To view upcoming map changes, please visit the Flood Map Changes Viewer at <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/fmcv">https://msc.fema.gov/fmcv</a>.

#### Information on "Maps Effective" Actions

The updated FIRM and FIS report issued by FEMA have become effective. Effective FIRMs are used by communities to administer floodplain management regulations and mitigate flood damage. Local citizens use them to determine the flood zone for their property or structure. Lending institutions use them to determine whether flood insurance is required. Insurance rates may be affected for property owners once a FIRM becomes effective. To view the effective FIRMs, please visit the Map Service Center at <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search">https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search</a>.

Additional flood mapping information and resources can be found on the FEMA website at <a href="https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps">https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps</a>. In addition, the FEMA Map Information and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) is available to answer questions by telephone, toll free, at 1-877-336-2627 (FEMA MAP) or by email at FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com. A list of additional resources for information can be



found in *Appendix B* of this Notice to Congress. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information in this document, please contact the appropriate FEMA Regional External Affairs staff listed below.

**FEMA Regional External Affairs Contact List** 

FEMA Region	Name	Telephone Number	Email Address
1	Dennis Pinkham	617-956-7547	Dennis.Pinkham@fema.dhs.gov
2	Kevin Sullivan	202-480-1053	Kevin.Sullivan@fema.dhs.gov
3	Nicholas Morici	267-546-6419	Nicholas.Morici@fema.dhs.gov
4	Danon Lucas	770-220-5292	Danon.Lucas@fema.dhs.gov
5	Dan Shulman	312-408-4427	Dan.Shulman@fema.dhs.gov
6	Juan Ayala	940-898-5105	Juan.Ayala@fema.dhs.gov
7	Luis Zenteno	202-875-3473	Luis.Zenteno@fema.dhs.gov
8	Megan Floyd	303-235-4638	Megan.Floyd@fema.dhs.gov
9	Frank Mansell	510-627-7068	Frank.Mansell@fema.dhs.gov
10	Cam Rossie	425-487-4651	Camilla.Rossie@fema.dhs.gov

## 4. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Biggert-Waters), as amended by the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014, directs FEMA to notify Members of Congress when constituents in their districts will be affected by a flood mapping update. Public Law 112-141, div. F, title II, §100216, July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 927; Pub. L. 113-89, §§27, 30, Mar. 21, 2014, 128 Stat. 1033, 1034; 42 U.S.C. §4101b (d) (1)(G)(i) and (H) (2014). Under Biggert-Waters:

- The Administrator shall, not less than 30 days before issuance of any preliminary map, notify the Senators for each State affected and each Member of the House of Representatives for each congressional district affected by the preliminary map in writing of the estimated schedule for:
  - Community meetings regarding the preliminary map
  - o Publication of notices regarding the preliminary map in local newspapers
  - The commencement of the appeals process regarding the map

See Biggert-Waters, as amended, at 42 U.S.C. §4101b (d)(1)(G)(i).1

Biggert-Waters also states:

• The Administrator shall, upon the issuance of any proposed map and any notice of an opportunity to make an appeal relating to the proposed map, notify the Senators for each State affected and each Member of the House of Representatives for each congressional district affected by the proposed map of any action taken by the Administrator, with respect to the proposed map or an appeal relating to the proposed map.

See Biggert-Waters, as amended, at 42 U.S.C. §4101b (d)(1)(H).

In accordance with these requirements, this document serves as notification to Congress and provides details on studies with an estimated issuance of preliminary or revised preliminary flood maps in the current month and the next two months, and studies for which preliminary or revised preliminary flood maps and/or LFDs were issued last month.<sup>2</sup> LFDs are the actions taken by FEMA to finalize the flood hazard data shown on a preliminary FIRM. This document also provides details on statutory administrative appeal periods<sup>3</sup> that were initiated and maps that went effective last month.



<sup>1</sup>FEMA is working to develop the additional administrative process required to implement 42 U.S.C. §4101b (d)(1)(G)(ii) and will update this Notice as appropriate

 $_{\rm 2}\,\text{For}$  definitions of flood map, LFD, and other terms, please refer to Appendix B.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For more details, see "Information on 'Appeal Start' Actions" in Section 4.3.

## **APPENDIX A: RISK MAP PROCESS GRAPHIC**

The information graphic below shows the process for flood map creation and updates.

## **FEMA Risk MAP Process**



#### DISCOVERY

FEMA gathers information about local flood hazards and their risk in close coordination with the community to prioritize future mapping, risk assessment, or mitigation planning assistance.











Determination to move forward with Risk MAP study.









FEMA analyzes the information gathered during Discovery and develops the first draft of the maps, called "work maps".



#### FLOOD RISK REVIEW (if needed)

Community officials review and provide initial feedback on the work maps and engineering decisions. FEMA uses the feedback to modify the maps and develop the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Using this information, officials begin to identify and advance mitigation action in their community.





#### PRELIMINARY MAP RELEASE

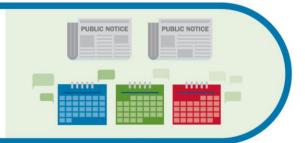
- Community Coordination and Outreach Meeting
   Community officials learn the implications of the updated map and the steps and timeline to adopt the updated map.
- Open House
   Citizens learn about their local flood risks, and what resources are available from the State, FEMA, and other partners to reduce risk.

## Risk MAP Process Continued



#### 90-DAY APPEAL AND COMMENT PERIOD

Following two public notices, community members can submit technical data to support a request to revise the FIRM though the 90-day appeals process. All appeals, including all supporting documentation, must be submitted through the appropriate community official.





#### **ADOPTION & COMPLIANCE**

Communities participating in the NFIP must adopt a compliant floodplain management ordinance by the map effective date to remain in good standing as an NFIP participant.



## 6 LETTER OF FINAL DETERMINATION

After all appeals are resolved, FEMA sends a Letter of Final Determination, kicking off a six-month period for communities to adopt the new flood maps.



#### RESILIENCE MEETING

FEMA, State and local officials, and partners work to identify and review resilience strategies, planning options, and potential actions to reduce risk.



#### **EFFECTIVE MAPS**

Once effective, new maps and products are available through FEMA's Flood Map Service Center. The new data will inform flood insurance decisions and local building regulations. Community members can submit data to amend or revise the FIRM as part of a Letter of Map Change (LOMC) process.







## **APPENDIX B: RESOURCES**

The following additional resources provide a better understanding of key elements of this report.

Implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act

Website fema.gov/flood-insurance/rules-legislation/laws	
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National Flood Insurance Progra	National Flood Insurance Program		
Website	fema.gov/flood-insurance		
Phone	888-379-9531 (toll free)		
E-mail	floodsmart@fema.dhs.gov		

Risk MAP Program	
Website	fema.gov/flood-maps/tools-resources/risk-map
Phone	877-336-2627 (toll free)
E-mail	FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com