



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
19P-A

December 18, 2006

The Honorable Robert Eckels  
Judge, Harris County  
1001 Preston, Suite 911  
Houston, TX 77002

Community: Harris County, Texas  
Community No.: 480287  
Map Panels Affected: See Attached List

Dear Judge Eckels:

This is to formally notify you of the final flood elevation determination for Harris County, Texas and Incorporated areas, in compliance with Title 44, Chapter I, Part 67, Section 67.11, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This section requires that notice of final flood elevations shall be sent to the Chief Executive Officer of the community, all individual appellants, and the State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator, and shall be published in the *FEDERAL REGISTER*.

On April 20, 2000, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) that identified the Special Flood Hazard Areas in your community. Recently, FEMA completed a re-evaluation of flood hazards in your community. On September 30, 2004, FEMA provided you with Preliminary copies of the FIS report and Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) that identify the existing flood hazards in your community, including elevations of the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (base flood). The proposed Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) for your community were published in the *Houston Chronicle* on December 16, 2004 and December 23, 2004, and in the *FEDERAL REGISTER* at Part 67, Volume 70, Number 130, Page 39469 on July 8, 2005.

The statutory 90-day appeal period, which was initiated on the second newspaper publication date cited above, has ended. The proposed BFEs for your community were appealed during that time. All technical data submitted in support of the appeal have been evaluated, and the appeal has been resolved. Therefore, the BFEs for your community are considered final. The Final Rule for BFEs will be published in the *FEDERAL REGISTER* as soon as possible. The FIS report and DFIRM for your community will become effective on June 18, 2007. Before the effective date, FEMA will send you final printed copies of the FIS report and DFIRM.

Because the FIS establishing the BFEs for your community has been completed, certain additional requirements must be met under Section 1361 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, within 6 months from the date of this letter. Prior to June 18, 2007, your community is required, as a condition of continued eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), to adopt or show evidence of adoption of floodplain management regulations that meet the standards of Paragraph 60.3(d and e) of the enclosed NFIP regulations (44 CFR 59, etc.) by the effective date of the DFIRM. These standards are the minimum requirements and do not supersede any State or local requirements of a more stringent nature.

It must be emphasized that all of the standards specified in Paragraph 60.3(d and e) of the NFIP regulations must be enacted in a legally enforceable document. This includes adoption of the current effective FIS and DFIRM to which the regulations apply and other modifications made by this map revision. Some of the standards should already have been enacted by your community in order to establish initial eligibility in the NFIP. Your community can meet any additional requirements by taking one of the following actions:

1. Amending existing regulations to incorporate any additional requirements of Paragraph 60.3(c, d, e, d and e);
2. Adopting all of the standards of Paragraph 60.3(d and e) into one new, comprehensive set of regulations; or
3. Showing evidence that regulations have previously been adopted that meet or exceed the minimum requirements of Paragraph 60.3(d and e).

Communities that fail to enact the necessary floodplain management regulations will be suspended from participation in the NFIP and subject to the prohibitions contained in Section 202(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) as amended.

In addition to your community using the FIS to manage development in the floodplain, FEMA will use the FIS to establish appropriate flood insurance rates. On the effective date of the revised DFIRM, actuarial rates for flood insurance will be charged for all new structures and substantial improvements to existing structures located in the identified SFHAs. These rates may be higher if structures are not built in compliance with the floodplain management standards of the NFIP. The actuarial flood insurance rates increase as the lowest elevations (including basement) of new structures decrease in relation to the BFEs established for your community. This is an important consideration for new construction because building at a higher elevation can greatly reduce the cost of flood insurance.

To assist your community in maintaining the DFIRM, we have enclosed a Summary of Map Actions to document previous Letter of Map Change (LOMC) actions (i.e., Letters of Map Amendment, Letters of Map Revision) that will be superseded when the revised DFIRM panels referenced above become effective. Information on LOMCs is presented in the following four categories: (1) LOMCs for which results have been included on the revised DFIRM panels; (2) LOMCs for which results could not be shown on the revised DFIRM panels because of scale limitations or because the LOMC issued had determined that the lots or structures involved were outside the Special Flood Hazard Area as shown on the DFIRM; (3) LOMCs for which results have not been included on the revised DFIRM panels because the flood hazard information on which the original determinations were based are being superseded by new flood hazard information; and (4) LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures cannot be revalidated through an administrative process like the LOMCs in Category 2 above. LOMCs in Category 2 will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of a previously issued LOMC; the letter will be sent to your community shortly before the effective date of the revised DFIRM and will become effective 1 day after the revised DFIRM becomes effective. For the LOMCs listed in Category 4, we will review the data previously submitted for the LOMA or LOMR request and issue a new determination for the affected properties after the revised DFIRM becomes effective.

The DFIRM and FIS report for your community have been prepared in our countywide format, which means that flood hazard information for all jurisdictions within Harris County has been combined into one DFIRM and FIS report. When the FIS and DFIRM are printed and distributed, your community will receive only those panels that present flood hazard information for your community. We will provide complete sets of the DFIRM panels to county officials, where they will be available for review by your community.

The DFIRM panels have been computer-generated. Once the FIS and DFIRM are printed and distributed, the digital files containing the flood hazard data for the entire county can be provided to your community for use in a computer mapping system. These files can be used in conjunction with other thematic data for floodplain management purposes, insurance purchase and rating requirements, and many other planning applications. Paper copies of the DFIRM panels may be obtained by calling our Map Service Center, toll free, at 1-800-358-9616, or via our Map Service Center Web site at <http://store.msc.fema.gov>. Copies of the digital files may be obtained by calling our Map Assistance Center, toll free, at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627). In addition, your community may be eligible for additional credits under our Community Rating System if you implement your activities using digital mapping files.

Because there are a number of ways to adopt the required floodplain management measures to join the NFIP, we urge you to contact Frank Pagano, Director, Mitigation Division of FEMA in Denton, Texas, at (940) 898-5165 for assistance. If you have any questions concerning mapping issues in general or the enclosed Summary of Map Actions, please contact Jack Graham of our staff in Denton, Texas, at (940) 898-5463.

Sincerely,



William R. Blanton Jr., CFM, Chief  
Engineering Management Section  
Mitigation Division

List of Enclosures:

Final Summary of Map Actions

“Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Effect That Revised Flood Hazards Have on Existing Structures”

“Lowest Floor Elevation Certifications for Flood Insurance Post Flood Insurance Rate Map Construction”

“National Flood Insurance Program Elevation Certificate and Instructions”

“National Flood Insurance Program Regulations”

Use of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Data as Available Data

cc: Community Map Repository

Raymond J. Anderson, P.E.  
Manager of Permits, Harris County

## FINAL SUMMARY OF MAP ACTIONS

Community: HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

CID: 480287

To assist your community in maintaining the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM), we have summarized below the previous Letter of Map Change (LOMC) actions (i.e., Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs) and Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs)) that will be affected when the revised DFIRM becomes effective on June 18, 2007.

**1. LOMRs and LOMAs Incorporated**

The modifications effected by the LOMRs and LOMAs listed below will be reflected on the revised DFIRM. However, these LOMRs and LOMAs will remain in effect until the revised FIRM becomes effective.

| LOMC | Case No.    | Date Issued | Project Identifier | Old Panel  | New Panel  |
|------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|--|--|
| LOMR | 01-06-2046P | 4/18/2003   | Big Gulch Creek    | 48201C0705J<br>48201C0710J<br>48201C0715J<br>48201C0720J | 48201C0705L<br>48201C0710L<br>48201C0715L<br>48201C0720L |

**2. LOMRs and LOMAs Not Incorporated**

The modifications effected by the LOMRs and LOMAs listed below will not be reflected on the revised FIRM panels because of scale limitations or because the LOMR or LOMA issued had determined that the lot(s) or structure(s) involved were outside the Special Flood Hazard Area, as shown on the DFIRM. These LOMRs and LOMAs will remain in effect until the revised DFIRM becomes effective. These LOMRs and LOMAs will be revalidated free of charge 1 day after the revised DFIRM becomes effective through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of the previous LOMC.

| LOMC | Case No. | Date Issued | Project Identifier | Old Panel | New Panel |
|------|----------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
|      |          |             | NO CASES RECORDED  |           |           |

## FINAL SUMMARY OF MAP ACTIONS

### 3. LOMRs and LOMAs Superseded

The modifications effected by the LOMRs and LOMAs listed below have not been reflected on the Final revised DFIRM panels because they are being superseded by new detailed flood hazard information or the information available was not sufficient to make a determination. The reason each is being superseded is noted below. These LOMRs and LOMAs will no longer be in effect when the revised DFIRM becomes effective.

| LOMC | Case No. | Date Issued | Project Identifier  | Reason Determination Will Be Superseded |
|------|----------|-------------|---|---|
| LOMA |          |             | ALL CASES   | 1, 4, 5, 6                              |
| LOMR |          |             | ALL CASES SUBMITTED PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1, 2001, WHICH IS THE DATE OF THE ACQUISITION OF THE NEW LIDAR TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION | 4, 5                                    |

1. Insufficient information available to make a determination.
2. Lowest Adjacent Grade and Lowest Finished Floor are below the proposed Base Flood Elevation.
3. Lowest Ground Elevation is below the proposed Base Flood Elevation.
4. Revised hydrologic and hydraulic analyses.
5. Revised topographic information.
6. Datum Change

### 4. LOMRs and LOMAs To Be Redetermined

The LOMCs in Category 2 above will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of the determination in the previously issued LOMC. For LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures has changed, the LOMC cannot be revalidated through this administrative process. We will review the data previously submitted for the LOMR or LOMA requests listed below and issue a new determination for the affected properties after the effective date of the revised DFIRM.

| LOMC | Case No. | Date Issued | Project Identifier   | Old Panel | New Panel |
|------|----------|-------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| LOMR |          |             | ALL CASES SUBMITTED SINCE OCTOBER 1, 2001, WHICH IS THE DATE OF THE ACQUISITION OF THE NEW LIDAR TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION |           |           |

Map Panels Affected:

48201C0015L, 0020L, 0065L, 0070L, 0090L, 0120L, 0140L, 0160L, 0170L, 0175L, 0180L,  
0185L, 0190L, 0195L, 0205L, 0210L, 0215L, 0220L, 0230L, 0235L, 0240L, 0245L, 0255L,  
0260L, 0265L, 0270L, 0280L, 0290L, 0295L, 0305L, 0310L, 0315L, 0320L, 0330L, 0335L,  
0240L, 0345L, 0260L, 0370L, 0380L, 0385L, 0390L, 0395L, 0405L, 0410L, 0415L, 0420L,  
0430L, 0435L, 0440L, 0445L, 0455L, 0460L, 0465L, 0470L, 0480L, 0485L, 0490L, 0495L,  
0505L, 0510L, 0515L, 0520L, 0530L, 0535L, 0540L, 0545L, 0555L, 0565L, 0580L, 0585L,  
0590L, 0595L, 0605L, 0610L, 0615L, 0620L, 0630L, 0635L, 0640L, 0645L, 0655L, 0660L,  
0665L, 0670L, 0680L, 0685L, 0690L, 0695L, 0705L, 0710L, 0715L, 0720L, 0730L, 0735L,  
0740L, 0745L, 0755L, 0760L, 0765L, 0770L, 0785L, 0805L, 0810L, 0830L, 0835L, 0840L,  
0845L, 0855L, 0860L, 0865L, 0870L, 0880L, 0885L, 0890L, 0895L, 0905L, 0910L, 0915L,  
0920L, 0930L, 0935L, 0940L, 0945L, 0955L, 0960L, 0965L, 0970L, 0985L, 1005L, 1010L,  
1030L, 1035L, 1045L, 1055L, 1060L, 1065L, 1070L, 1080L, 1085L, 1090L, 1095L, 1105L