



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

MAY 12 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

The Honorable Laurann Cook
Mayor, City of Fountain Valley
P.O. Box 8030
Fountain Valley, CA 92728

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Case Nos.: 00-09-153P, 00-09-154P and
00-09-449P

Community: City of Fountain Valley, CA
Community No.: 060218
Panels Affected: 06059C0028 F, 0036 F, and
0037 F

Effective Date of
This Revision: JUN 14 2000

102-I-C

Dear Mayor Cook:

This responds to a request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revise the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Orange County, California and Incorporated Areas (the effective FIRM for your community), in accordance with Part 65 of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations. In a letter dated November 22, 1999, the Honorable Charles V. Smith, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Orange County, requested that FEMA revise the FIRM to show the effects of the completion and certification of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project (project) from the Pacific Ocean to Imperial Highway. As a prerequisite for removing the Santa Ana River floodplain upon completion of the project, FEMA required that all underlying residual floodplains be identified and mapped for other watersheds in the affected communities. This request also includes hydrologic and hydraulic analyses for the residual watersheds in your community.

All data required to complete our review of this request were submitted with letters from Ms. Vicki L. Wilson, Director, Public Facilities and Resources Department, Orange County, and Mr. Smith. Because this Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) shows the effects of a federally sponsored flood-control project where 50 percent or more of the project's costs are federally funded, fees were not assessed for the review.

We have completed our review of the submitted data and the flood data shown on the effective FIRM. We have revised the FIRM to modify the floodplain boundary delineations and zone designations of the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (base flood) along the Santa Ana River from Garfield Avenue to approximately 1,600 feet downstream of McFadden Avenue. As a result of the modifications, the width of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), the area that would be inundated by the base flood, for the Santa Ana River decreased. The zone designation within the levees along the Santa Ana River changed from Zone A99 to Zone A and the zone designation for the overbank areas changed to Zone X (shaded), an area protected from the base flood by construction of a levee, in those areas not affected by residual flooding. The width of the SFHA associated with residual flooding increased compared to the effective SFHA width. The residual floodplains along the East Garden Grove-Wintersburg Channel and the Ocean View Channel have been designated Zone A. The report entitled "Approximate 100-Year Floodplain Delineation Study Report, East Garden Grove-Wintersburg Channel (C05) / Ocean View Channel (C06) and Laterals," prepared by WEST Consultants, Inc., dated February 14, 2000, represents the best available data for the East Garden Grove-Wintersburg and Ocean View Channels. Your community may use this data in its floodplain management programs. The study to determine the residual floodplains along Huntington Beach, Talbert and Fountain Valley Channels is still underway; therefore, the SFHA along these channels will remain designated Zone A99 until such time that the study is complete. We anticipate completion of the study within one year. The modifications are shown on the enclosed annotated copies of FIRM Panel(s) 06059C0028 F, 0036 F, and 0037 F. This LOMR hereby revises the above-referenced panel(s) of the effective FIRM dated January 3, 1997.

Because this revision request also affects the Cities of Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Orange, Santa Ana, and Westminster, and the unincorporated areas of Orange County, separate LOMRs for those communities were issued on the same date as this LOMR.

The modifications are effective as of the date shown above. The map panel(s) as listed above and as modified by this letter will be used for all flood insurance policies and renewals issued for your community. A review of the determination made by this LOMR and any requests to alter this determination should be made within 30 days. Any request to alter the determination must be based on scientific or technical data.

We will incorporate the modifications described in this LOMR into the above-mentioned FIRM panels and the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report as a physical map revision. Under separate cover, we will send you preliminary copies of the revised FIRM panels and FIS report for review by your community.

The LOMRs, Letters of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-Fs), and Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs) issued previously for the above-mentioned FIRM panels have not been shown on the annotated FIRM panels issued with this LOMR. The FEMA case number (when available), property identifier, FIRM panel number, and current flood insurance zone for these LOMRs, LOMR-Fs, and LOMAs are listed on the enclosed table. As of the effective date shown above, these LOMRs, LOMR-Fs, and LOMAs will revise the effective FIRM and will remain in effect until the final publication of the FIRM panels. We will incorporate the modifications described in those LOMRs, LOMR-Fs, and LOMAs as appropriate before final publication of the FIRM panels.

This LOMR is based on minimum floodplain management criteria established under the NFIP. Your community is responsible for approving all floodplain development and for ensuring all necessary permits required by Federal or State law have been received. State, county, and community officials, based on knowledge of local conditions and in the interest of safety, may set higher standards for construction in the SFHA. If the State, county, or community has adopted more restrictive or comprehensive floodplain management criteria, these criteria take precedence over the minimum NFIP criteria.

Because this LOMR and the revalidated LOMRs, LOMR-Fs and LOMAs will not be printed and distributed to primary users, such as local insurance agents and mortgage lenders, your community will serve as a repository for these new data. We encourage you to disseminate the information reflected by this LOMR throughout the community, so that interested persons, such as property owners, local insurance agents, and mortgage lenders, may benefit from the information. We also encourage you to prepare an article for publication in your community's local newspaper. This article should describe the changes that have been made and the assistance that officials of your community will give to interested persons by providing these data and interpreting the NFIP maps.

Interested persons and lenders who wish to obtain a copy of this LOMR may contact the FEMA Map Assistance Center, toll free, at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) or may visit our Web site at www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/ST_order.htm. Persons who wish to obtain copies of all Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) as they are issued may subscribe to the LOMC Distribution Service. Information regarding this subscription service is available through the FEMA Map Service Center by calling, toll free, 1-800-358-9616.

This determination has been made pursuant to Section 206 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) and is 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. Pursuant to Section 1361 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, communities participating in the NFIP are required to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations that meet or exceed NFIP criteria. These criteria are the minimum requirements and do not supersede any State or local requirements of a more stringent nature. This includes adoption of the effective FIRM to which the regulations apply and the modifications described in this LOMR.

FEMA makes flood insurance available in participating communities; in addition, we encourage communities to develop their own loss reduction and prevention programs. Through the *Project Impact: Building Disaster Resistant Communities* initiative, launched by FEMA Director James Lee Witt in 1997, we seek to focus the energy of businesses, citizens, and communities in the United States on the importance of reducing their susceptibility to the impact of all natural disasters, including floods, hurricanes, severe storms, earthquakes, and wildfires. Natural hazard mitigation is most effective when it is planned for and implemented at the local level, by the entities who are most knowledgeable of local conditions and whose economic stability and safety are at stake. For your information, we are enclosing a copy of a pamphlet describing this nationwide initiative. For additional information on *Project Impact*, please visit our Web site at www.fema.gov/impact.

If you have any questions regarding floodplain management regulations for your community or the NFIP in general, please contact the Consultation Coordination Officer (CCO) for your community. Information on the CCO for your community may be obtained by contacting the Director, Mitigation Division of FEMA in San Francisco, California, at (415) 923-7177. If you have any questions regarding this LOMR, please contact the FEMA Map Assistance Center, toll free, at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

Sincerely,



Max H. Yuan, P.E., Project Engineer
Hazards Study Branch
Mitigation Directorate

For: Matthew B. Miller, P.E., Chief
Hazards Study Branch
Mitigation Directorate

Enclosures

cc: (See Attached List)