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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Citizens with concerns about new FEMA flood maps encouraged to attend public open houses**

SKAGIT COUNTY – The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the revised Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Skagit County on Thursday, July 1, 2010. The new information shows areas that will be inundated by the base (100-year) flood as well as the revised base flood elevations (BFE). The maps, once adopted by the community are utilized by lending institutions and insurance agents to determine who must purchase flood insurance. In addition, the maps will be used by community officials for floodplain management and permitting purposes.

The issuance of this study may directly affect many property owners, especially those owning property and/or living in the identified flood hazard areas or behind a levee. The open houses will be staffed by FEMA, County, and local community officials to answer questions.

Public Open Houses are scheduled at the following locations:

- **August 12**, 6:00-8:00 pm (La Conner)  
*Maple Hall 108 Commercial, La Conner*
- **August 17**, 6:00-8:00 pm (Burlington)  
*Burlington City Hall, 833 South Spruce, Burlington*
- **August 18**, 6:00-8:00 (Concrete)  
*Concrete Town Hall, 45672 Main Street, Concrete*
- **August 24**, 6:30-8:30 pm (Sedro-Woolley)  
*Sedro-Woolley Municipal Building Council Chambers, 325 Metcalf Street, Sedro-Woolley*
- **August 26**: 6:30-8:30pm (Mount Vernon)  
*Police Court Campus, 1805 Continental Place, Mount Vernon*

Some property owners may see significant changes in their base flood elevation due to changes in methodology utilized by FEMA. An updated analysis was performed on the Skagit River from Concrete to Skagit Bay, Padilla Bay, and Samish Bay.

FEMA produced the new map panels in the DFIRM standard panel layout based on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute quadrangle map grid. The grid is subdivided for the production of large-scale maps, which results in an increased number of map panels for individual communities.

The community has 90 days to review the DFIRM and FIS report. The review period will allow community members to identify changes or corrections to non-technical information. FEMA will then review all comments and changes received during this period and will incorporate them, as appropriate, before the DFIRM and FIS report become effective. The public comment period ends September 30, 2010.

The FEMA maps are available on the Skagit County website at [www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net)

For more information, contact Tim DeVries at 360-336-9410 ext. 3489