



FEMA

September 5, 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL
Return Receipt Requested

Honorable Bud Norris
Mayor of Mount Vernon
PO Box 809
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Dear Mayor Norris:

On September 4, 2007 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was notified by the City of Burlington Public Works Director that the Cities of Mount Vernon and Burlington intend to sign a joint resolution to independently prepare Flood Insurance Rate Maps that will apply only to the two cities. The resolution indicates that the cities will perform their own analysis outside of the current Skagit County-wide Flood Insurance Study (FIS) process.

Please be advised that the cities' resolution will not change the data currently being used to produce the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). Those maps will contain the authoritative data that has been generated, reviewed, and approved by the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and FEMA with input from other local entities. The maps will still contain the base flood elevations and the special flood hazard area for unincorporated Skagit County (downstream of Sedro-Woolley) to the bays and will include the cities of Burlington and Mount Vernon.

However, as we have maintained from the outset of this study, we will use the best available data that is technically accurate in the formulation of our study and maps. FEMA has two formal processes to receive information like what you are planning to submit: the statutory 90-day appeals period and a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) (Physical Map Revision). If we receive your data prior to, or during, the pending appeal period, we will consider your mapping and analysis (among any others received) as a formal appeal to the preliminary results shown on our maps. Appeals must be based on data that show the proposed base flood elevations to be scientifically or technically incorrect pursuant to 44 CFR Part 67.

If the data is received after the close of the appeal period, the cities may follow the LOMR-PMR process. In this instance, the data will be evaluated in the context of the current effective FIS and the preliminary FIS. There may be fees collected for this review. Any proposed revisions to the published or preliminary base flood elevations must meet section 65.6 of 44 Code of Federal Regulations.

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Either as an appeal or a LOMR, FEMA will consider your information and will revise the maps if the data provided warrants such a change. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Ryan Ike of my staff. He can be reached at the above address, or by calling (425) 487-4767.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl L. Cook, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl L. Cook, Jr., Director
Mitigation Division

cc: Jana Hanson, Director, Mount Vernon Community and Economic Development Dept
Mayor Roger "Gus" Tjeerdsma, City of Burlington
Chal A. Martin, P.E. Public Works Director / City Engineer, City of Burlington
Margaret Fleek, Planning Director, City of Burlington
James E. Voetberg, Director, Skagit County Public Works
Chuck Steele, WA Dept of Ecology
Col Michael McCormick, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

RI:bb