



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 17, 2009**

**CITY OF MOUNT VERNON WITHDRAWS COMPLAINT AGAINST FEMA  
FEMA to Continue Processing Request for Conditional Letter of Map Revision**

MOUNT VERNON – The City of Mount Vernon has voluntarily withdrawn its Federal Court action against FEMA relating to the City’s Downtown Flood Protection Project. The City was seeking a declaratory judgment to lift FEMA’s suspension of the City’s request for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) for the Flood Protection Project. That suspension, stated in a FEMA letter of June 23, 2009, was unexpected and was without prior notice to the City.

Since the filing of the action, Mount Vernon has been in continuous communication with FEMA through the agency’s attorneys. Following dismissal of the City’s action, the City understands that FEMA will continue to work on the CLOMR application; review information submitted by the City to date as well as any new information submitted by the City in the future should further information be requested; and, provide technical assistance to the City regarding the CLOMR request.

“This is definitely a step in the right direction and puts us back on track.” said Mount Vernon Mayor Bud Norris. The Mayor also expressed optimism regarding the process: “I look forward to the continued cooperation of FEMA so that Mount Vernon can achieve within a reasonable time frame, with FEMA’s assistance, recognition that this important community Project meets FEMA’s adopted standards. The City has been and continues to be ready and willing to provide any additional information and answer any questions regarding the Project to assist FEMA in its review.”

Mayor Norris further commented, “I am also very appreciative of all the written and verbal support we have received from our congressional delegation, the local community and other local governments both for the Project and for our request to have FEMA provide a prompt review of this Project on its merits.”

The City has received written support for the Project and its request for FEMA to continue its CLOMR review from private citizens, businesses, business associations, the Economic Development Association of Skagit County, and other local governments including Skagit County, the City of Burlington, the City of Sedro Woolley, and the Skagit Council of Governments - an organization consisting of Skagit County local governments whose purpose is to foster a cooperative effort in resolving problems, policies and plans that are common and regional.

The City will be seeking meetings with FEMA to continue the CLOMR process, as soon as agency representatives are available.

For further information, contact:

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