



WYMAN M. "MAC" RISH
Mayor

JENNIFER T. CUNNINGHAM
City Administrator

MYRON E. CORLEY
Deputy City Administrator

RICHARD K. HODGE, CPA
City Treasurer

JOSEPH W. "JOE" OWENS
Utilities Director

MARTA VALENTINO MCKINNON
City Clerk



City of West Columbia

Bridging Past, Present and Future

PRESTON T. CANTRELL
Mayor Pro-Tem

KAREN K. BLACK

ROSEMOUNDA "PEGGY" BUTLER

SHERRY A. DODSON

ERIC L. FOWLER

L. DALE HARLEY

H. DOUGLAS REEVES

BILLY E. SCALLY

Council Members

October 26, 2000

Mr. Michael K. Buckley, P.E., Director
Technical Services Division
Mitigation Directorate
Federal Emergency Agency
Washington, D.C. 20472

Re: Comment on FIRM Panel 45063C0281
Community No. 450140

Dear Mr. Buckley:

On December 7, 1999 the City of West Columbia sent the attached letter to FEMA questioning the flood way delineation on the above-referenced preliminary FIRM panel. Compared to the current FIRM panel, there is a reduction in flood elevation between Gervais Street and Blossom Street on the west bank of the Congaree River, yet the area included in the floodway has increased.

Since FEMA established a 30-day comment period on the preliminary FIRM maps for Lexington and Richland counties, we think this is an appropriate time to again raise this question. This area is of prime interest to the city with respect to riverfront development and we would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Jennifer T. Cunningham
City Administrator

Enclosure

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W. EARLE "BUBBA" WILLIAMS, JR.
Council Members

December 7, 1999

Mr. Matthew B. Miller, P.E.
Hazards Study Branch
Mitigation Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D.C. 20472

Re: Revised Preliminary FIRM Panel Number 45063C0281 H
City of West Columbia, SC
Community Number 450140

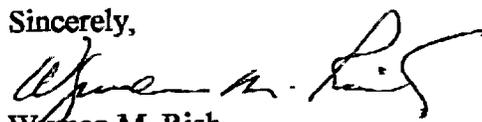
Dear Mr. Miller:

The City of West Columbia has reviewed the preliminary FIRM panels dated August 12, 1999. While reviewing the above-referenced FIRM panel, we noted the a 6-foot decrease in floodway elevation along the Congaree River between the Gervais Street bridge and the Blossom Street bridge from the previous official map dated July 17, 1995. Copies of the referenced map panels are enclosed:

| <u>Panel Number</u> | <u>Map Status</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Cross Section</u> | <u>Floodway Elevation</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 45063C0285 F | Official map | 7/17/95 | O | 157 feet |
| 45063C0281 H | Preliminary map | 8/12/99 | N | 151 feet |

Even though the floodway elevation decreased, the 100-year flood plain was not substantially diminished. Between cross sections M and N on the August 12, 1999 preliminary FIRM, the 100-year flood plain (Zone AE) seems to be closer to Alexander Street than on the previous official map. This area is critical to the city's riverfront development plans and we respectfully request a review of this information.

Sincerely,


Wyman M. Rish
Mayor

Enclosure

**PRELIMINARY
PANEL**

45063C0281H

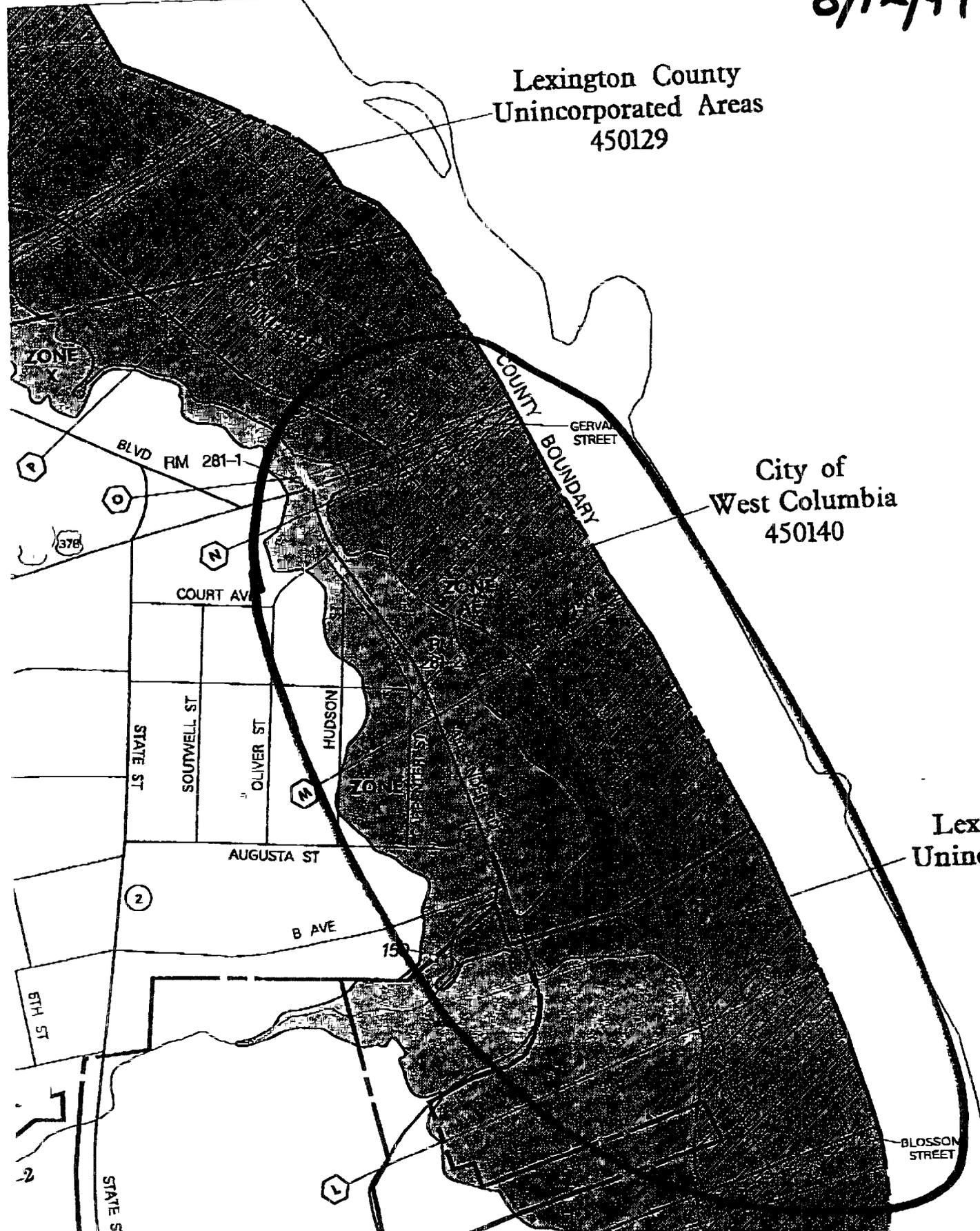
JOINS PANEL 0168

8/12/99

Lexington County
Unincorporated Areas
450129

City of
West Columbia
450140

Lexington C
Unincorporated
450129



PANEL 45063C0285 F

7/17/95



Lexington County
Unincorporated
Areas
450129

City of
West Columbia
450140

Lexington County
Unincorporated
Areas
450129

SOUTHERN
RAILWAY
TRANSPORTATION
RM 58