Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

JAN 09 2002

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Case No.: 02-09-034P

The Honorable Meredith H. Perkins
Mayor, City of Downey
City Hall
11111 Brookshire Avenue
Downey, CA 90241

Community: City of Downey, CA
Community No.: 060645
Panel Affected: 0005 A
Effective Date of This Revision: JAN 11 2002

102-D

Dear Mayor Perkins:

This responds to a request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revise the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for your community in accordance with Part 65 of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations. In a letter dated December 20, 2001, Mr. Rod H. Kubomoto, Assistant Deputy Director, Watershed Management Division, Department of Public Works, County of Los Angeles, requested that FEMA revise the FIRM to show the effects of completion and certification of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) Project, a federally sponsored flood-control project, along the Los Angeles River from the Southern Pacific Railroad to the confluence of Rio Hondo Channel and along Rio Hondo Channel from the confluence with the Los Angeles River to just downstream of the Whittier Narrows Dam. With a letter dated December 20, 2001, Col. Richard G. Thompson, District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, certified that the LACDA Project was designed and constructed to provide protection from the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (base flood).

All data required to complete our review of this request were submitted with letters from Mr. Kubomoto and Col. Thompson. 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 base flood along the left overbank (looking downstream) of the Los Angeles River from the intersection of Ventura Avenue and Century Boulevard to a point approximately 1,000 feet west and approximately 2,100 feet north of that intersection and along the left overbank (looking downstream) of Rio Hondo Channel in the area approximately bounded by Gardendale Street, the San Gabriel River, Telegraph Road, and Rio Hondo Channel. As a result of the modifications, the widths of the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), the areas that would be inundated by the base flood, for the Los Angeles River and Rio Hondo Channel decreased. The base flood is contained within the LACDA Project. Areas previously designated Zone A99, an SFHA to be protected from the base flood by a Federal flood-protection system under construction, with no Base Flood Elevations determined, were redesignated Zone X (shaded), an area protected from the base flood by a credited flood-protection system. In addition, the SFHA designated Zone A99 along the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds, located just west of Rio Hondo Channel from Suva Street to just downstream of the Santa Ana Freeway, was redesignated Zone X (shaded).

SFHAs designated Zone A are shown along Rio Hondo Channel and along the San Gabriel River within the City of Downey. These SFHAs are contained within the levees along Rio Hondo Channel and along the San Gabriel River. The remainder of the community is designated as Zone X (shaded) or Zone X (unshaded). Areas designated Zone X (shaded) or Zone X (unshaded) are areas of moderate or minimal flood hazard, respectively, where the purchase of flood insurance is not mandatory.

The modifications are shown on the enclosed annotated copy of FIRM Panel 0005 A. This LOMR hereby revises the above-referenced panel of the effective FIRM dated July 6, 1998.

Because this revision request also affects the Cities of Bellflower, Carson, Compton, Lakewood, Long Beach, Lynwood, Montebello, Paramount, Pico Rivera, and South Gate and the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles 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 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 physically revise and republish the previously cited FIRM panel and the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report to reflect the modifications made by this LOMR, and issue Preliminary copies for community review. So that we may provide your community with the most up-to-date information possible, we request that your community review the effective FIRM panel referenced above and the effective FIS report to determine if any additional changes are warranted. Examples of possible changes include updates to corporate limits, new streets within or adjacent to designated SFHAs, and revised floodway boundary delineations.

To assist us in processing the revised FIRM and FIS report in a timely manner, we request that your community submit changes within 30 days of the date of this letter. We will review all information received during this 30-day period and incorporate it as appropriate into the Preliminary copies of the revised FIRM and FIS report. The Preliminary copies are scheduled to be delivered for review in June 2002.

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 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 website 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 and FIS report to which the regulations apply and the modifications described in this LOMR.

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 calling the Chief, Community Mitigation Programs Branch, Mitigation Division of FEMA in San Francisco, California, at (415) 923-7184. If you have any questions regarding this LOMR, please call our Map Assistance Center, toll free, at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

Sincerely,

Matthew B. Miller

Matthew B. Miller, P.E., Chief
Hazards Study Branch
Federal Insurance and
Mitigation Administration

Enclosures

cc: (See attached list.)

Courtesy Copies List – City of Downey

The Honorable Stephen Horn
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky
Chairman, Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Ray T. Smith
Mayor, City of Bellflower

The Honorable Daryl Sweeney
Mayor, City of Carson

The Honorable Eric J. Perrodin
Mayor, City of Compton

The Honorable Robert G. Wagner
Mayor, City of Lakewood

The Honorable Beverly O'Neill
Mayor, City of Long Beach

The Honorable Arturo Reyes
Mayor, City of Lynwood

The Honorable Ed Vasquez
Mayor, City of Montebello

The Honorable Diane Martinez
Mayor, City of Paramount

The Honorable E.A. "Pete" Ramirez
Mayor, City of Pico Rivera

The Honorable Raul Moriel
Mayor, City of South Gate

The Honorable Don Knabe
Supervisor, Fourth District
Los Angeles County Board
of Supervisors

Ms. Connie Sziebl
Office of Representative Stephen Horn

Mr. Rod H. Kubomoto
Assistant Deputy Director
Watershed Management Division
Department of Public Works
County of Los Angeles

Mr. Chris Stone
Principal Engineer
Watershed Management Division
Department of Public Works
County of Los Angeles

Mr. Mario Suarez
City Planner
City of Bellflower

Mr. Victor Rollinger
City Engineer
City of Carson

Mr. Dante Segundo
Deputy Director
Public Works Department
City of Compton

Ms. Christina Vogel
Assistant to the City Manager
City of Downey

Mr. Hector J. Bordas
Department of Public Works
City of Downey

Mr. Jack R. Gonsalves
Assistant Director of Community Development
City of Lakewood

Mr. Lon Maddox
Construction Services Officer
Bureau of Engineering
Department of Public Works
City of Long Beach

Mr. Paul Nguyen
Civil Engineering Associate
City of Lynwood

Ms. Ana Marie LeNoue
Public Works Manager
City of Montebello

Mr. Christopher S. Cash
Public Works Manager
City of Paramount

Mr. Bob Spencer
Public Information Manager
City of Pico Rivera

Mr. Efrain Mino
City Engineer
Public Works Department
City of South Gate

Col. Richard G. Thompson
Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Los Angeles District

Mr. Nino Issakhan
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Los Angeles District

Mr. Jack Eldridge
Chief, Community Mitigation Programs Branch
Federal Emergency Management Agency,
Region IX

Mr. Michael Shore
Federal Emergency Management Agency,
Region IX