FEMA Region 6 Federal Regional Center 800 North Loop 288 Denton, TX 76209-3698



**September 30, 2013** 

The Honorable Wayne Brascom Llano County Judge 801 Ford Street Llano, TX 78643

RE: Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report Llano County (Unincorporated Areas), Texas, Community No. 481234

## Dear Judge Brascom:

We are pleased to present your community with preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS Report dated September 30, 2013, for Llano County, Texas and incorporated areas for your review and comment. This preliminary version of the FIRM and FIS Report incorporates Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) Case No. 12-06-0160P and updated flood hazard information for Buttery Creek, Buttery Creek Tributary 1, Buttery Creek Tributary 2, Flag Creek, and Llano River. We have revised only those FIRM Panels with updated flood hazard information.

We are sending the preliminary copies at this time to give your community an opportunity to review them. Additionally, in an effort to assist you in circulating the information, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has posted digital copies of the revised FIRM, FIS Report materials, and supporting database on the following page of the Map Service Center: http://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata. Meeting materials, project milestone dates, and related project information are posted on: https://www.rampp-team.com/TX.htm. In addition, communities can interact with both the current effective data and the preliminary flood hazard data to estimate flood risk at any given address within the study area at: http://maps.riskmap6.com/TX/Llano/. A fact sheet on using this Interactive Web Tool is available at

http://www.riskmap6.com/documents/resource/What%20is%20your%20Flood%20Risk.pdf.

We will contact you to schedule a formal community coordination meeting (a "Consultation Coordination Officer [CCO]" Meeting) to discuss the revised flood hazard information, ordinance adoption, and other frequently asked questions and concerns. In the meantime, we encourage you to circulate the enclosed copies as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other individuals or organizations in the community that would have an interest in the FIRM and FIS Report so that they will have the opportunity to review them thoroughly before the formal community coordination meeting.

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To assist your community in maintaining the FIRM, we have enclosed a Summary of Map Actions (SOMA) to document previous Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) (i.e., Letters of Map Amendment [LOMAs], Letters of Map Revision [LOMRs]) that will be superseded when the FIRM becomes effective. Information on LOMCs is presented in the following four categories:

- (1) LOMCs for which results have been included on the FIRM;
- (2) LOMCs for which results could not be shown on the FIRM because of scale limitations or because the LOMC issued had determined that the lots or structures involved were outside the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on the FIRM;
- (3) LOMCs for which results have not been included on the FIRM because the flood hazard information on which the original determinations were based is being superseded by new flood hazard information; and
- (4) LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures cannot be revalidated through an administrative process like the LOMCs in Category 2 above.

LOMCs in Category 2 will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of a previously issued LOMC; the letter will be sent to your community prior to the effective date of the FIRM. These Category 2 LOMCs will become effective one day after the FIRM becomes regulatory.

For the LOMCs listed in Category 4, we will review the data previously submitted with the LOMA or LOMR application and, if requested issue a new determination for the affected properties after the FIRM becomes effective.

Your community should be aware that recently approved LOMCs, specifically LOMRs, may have been issued for your community. The LOMR process is dynamic and FEMA is reviewing LOMR applications regularly. To complete production of the preliminary FIRM, which includes incorporating the effects of "mappable" LOMRs issued since the last map effective date, a specific cutoff was established. FEMA will address any approved LOMRs issued after the cutoff date when the final SOMA is distributed. If your community has concerns regarding a specific case, please submit the LOMR case number, as well as any appropriate documentation, to our FEMA Regional Office before the end of the comment or appeal periods discussed in the paragraph below.

After the CCO Meeting, we will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for certain communities within Llano County. A statutory 90-day appeal period is required when FEMA adds or modifies Base (one-percent-annual-chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs), base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAS), flood zone designations, or regulatory floodways within a community, as shown on the preliminary FIRM. If your community is identified as requiring an appeal period, we will send you a letter approximately two weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period to detail the appeal process. The letter will forward information regarding notifications to be published in the *Federal Register* and local newspaper(s) and will provide the first and second publication dates. The appeal period will start on the second publication date. Additional information concerning the 90-day appeal period will be provided during the CCO Meeting.

The appeal period provides community officials and citizens in the affected communities with an opportunity to submit scientific or engineering data to modify the proposed BFEs, SFHAs, and floodways; and to identify changes or corrections to non-technical information, such as corporate limits, road names, and stream names on the FIRM or in the FIS Report. All comments and changes received during this review period will be incorporated, as appropriate, before the FIRM and FIS Report become effective. Comments may be sent to:

Frank Pagano
Mitigation Division Director
c/o Appeals Coordinator
FEMA Region 6
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698

To assist you in this effort, we have listed the contact information of representatives who can answer your questions and respond to your concerns:

- Mapping Larry Voice, larry.voice@fema.dhs.gov (940) 898-5419
- Compliance Glen Beard, glen.beard@fema.dhs.gov, (940) 898-5170
- Insurance Jack Graham, jack.graham@fema.dhs.gov, (940) 898-5463

After the appeal period has ended and we have addressed all comments/appeals, we will initiate final preparation of the FIRM and FIS Report. The new FIRM and FIS Report for your community will become effective approximately seven to ten months later. Prior to the effective date, you will be notified in writing of the official FIRM and FIS Report effective date and asked to adopt floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances, as necessary, that correspond with the new FIRM or FIS Report. If you or other community officials have any questions regarding floodplain ordinances, you may address them with our FEMA Regional Office or you may discuss those issues with your NFIP State Coordinator. Several months before the effective date, we will mail one set of printed copies of the finalized FIRM and FIS Report and digital copies of the FIRM and FIS Report products.

Your community's comments on the enclosed materials are an important part of our review process and will be carefully considered before we publish the FIRM in its final form. If you are interested in discussing the NFIP, the enclosed materials, or if you have questions about the formal community coordination meeting, the FEMA Regional Office in Denton, Texas is available to assist your community by telephone at (940) 898-5127.

Singerely,

Frank Pagano

Mitigation Division Director

Enclosures: Preliminary FIRM Panels: 0175D, 0190D, 0195D, 0225D, 0275D, 0300D, 0305D, 0310D, 0350D and 0375D

**Preliminary FIS Report** 

CD containing the Preliminary FIRMs in digital format

**Preliminary SOMA** 

Floodplain Management Bulletin 1-98, Use of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Data

as Available Data

cc: Michael Segner, NFIP State Coordinator, Texas Water Development Board Rigel Rucker, RSC 6 Coordinator

bcc: Lisa Jennings, Senior Natural Hazards Program Specialist, FEMA Region 6
(Preliminary letters/FIRM/FIS Report to be hand-delivered)

Larry Voice, FEMA Region 6 (E-mail digital copies of
Preliminary letters/Preliminary SOMAs when mailed out)

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