



CITY OF BEVERLY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND ENGINEERING

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Michael P. Collins, P.E.

Commissioner of Public Services and Engineering

James Turcotte
Project Coordinator

Greg St. Louis, P.E.,
City Engineer

March 17, 2015

Re: FEMA Flood Map Review and Public Meeting 4-2-2015

Dear Beverly Property Owner:

As I am sure you are aware, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revised the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Essex County on July 16, 2014. These new FIRM's were only revised along the coast and landward about three fourths of a mile. These new FIRM's increased the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) in the V-zones and AE-zones along the coast. Because of the increased BFE's the number of structures in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) increased.

Delineation of the new flood maps is due to estimates of wave setup in the new study. Wave setup is the phenomenon where breaking waves push water against the coastline and cause the mean water level at the shore to increase. The latest maps relies on a methodology (DIM method) that has been shown to produce values that are more than twice as large from other FEMA approved methods. Along the Beverly shoreline wave setup magnitudes used by FEMA average 4 feet.

This past summer the City engaged the services of Applied Coastal Research and Engineering to review the FEMA data and complete an analysis using a more thorough FEMA approved model. Their analysis concluded that there is an opportunity to reduce BFE's in certain areas to "more like" the 2012 FIRM's. The consultant has prepared a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) to be submitted to FEMA. FEMA has not yet accepted the City's LOMR request, but we are optimistic they will.

The City has scheduled a public meeting April 2, 2015 at City Hall, in the Council Chamber at 5 PM. We will have a representative from Applied Coastal Research there to present their findings and to help property owners understand what impact the changes might have. We are sending this letter to you because your property appears to be near or in a SFHA zone and thought you should be invited to this meeting. We are not suggesting you are in a SFHA, but thought you should be aware of this meeting.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Collins, P.E.,

Commissioner of Public Services and Engineering