



FEMA

June 12, 2009

Dear Floodplain Administrator:

As a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the provisions of your local floodplain management ordinance are very important, especially during a **period of disaster recovery**. The enforcement of the substantial improvement/damage requirements contained in the NFIP regulations frequently becomes a major concern when serious damages result from a flood. In particular, many community officials and property owners have questions about the issuance of floodplain permits for the repair of damaged structures.

As you know, participation in the NFIP is contingent upon the local adoption and enforcement of adequate floodplain management regulations that meet or exceed the NFIP minimum criteria. The local floodplain management ordinance and the NFIP regulations are intended to prevent the unwise development or redevelopment of structures within the floodplain. The requirements found in local floodplain management regulations are designed to mitigate future losses of life and property during times of flooding. Failure to enforce these measures will jeopardize the community's continued participation in the NFIP and will affect future Federal assistance.

In our continued outreach effort, Region VI, with the assistance of your State NFIP Coordinator, has created three new fact sheets on Substantial Improvements/Substantial Damage, along with a list of additional resources. This package contains a copy of the fact sheets, a resources list, a review flowchart, a flood insurance brochure, and a Flood Fact Sheet for your State.

The Local Elected Officials Mitigation Fact Sheet was created to assist you, as the floodplain administrator, in getting support from your administration with this important and often challenging issue. The Residents and Business Owners Mitigation Fact Sheet is designed to assist with citizen outreach on the need to be informed about the specific standards that apply to their structures located within the floodplain. We encourage you to share the enclosed fact sheets with your chief local elected officials and your citizens. You may use the enclosed fact sheet as it is, with colored paper or in a format of your choice.

Floodplain Administrator

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I hope this information is useful in explaining the substantial improvement/damage requirements of the NFIP to the leadership and residents of your community. If you have any questions regarding this information, contact your NFIP State Coordinator or FEMA Region VI Mitigation Division.

Copies of the enclosures are available online on the following State NFIP Coordinator's websites.

www.floodplain.ar.gov

<http://floods.dotd.la.gov>

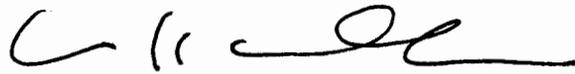
www.owrb.ok.gov

<http://www.nmdhsem.org>

<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/wrpi/flood/flood.htm>

If you unable to reach these documents online and you would like to have an electronic version of the enclosures, please contact Tamara Hansen at (940) 383-7322, Tamara.Hansen@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Ross Richardson, Chief
Floodplain Management and
Insurance Branch

Enclosures

cc: NFIP State Coordinators
State Floodplain Managers Associations
FEMA Region VI Specialists