



FEMA

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon, III
Judge, Waller County
836 Austin Street
Suite 203
Hempstead, TX 77445

RE: Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report,
for the unincorporated areas of Waller County, Texas, Community No. 48640

Dear Judge Duhon:

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is pleased to present your community with preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS Report dated January 30, 2017, for Waller County, Texas and incorporated areas. This preliminary version of the FIRM and FIS Report incorporates updated flood hazard information for the Lower Brazos Watershed Study. We have revised only those FIRM panels with updated flood hazard information.

On January 30, 2017, FEMA posts digital copies of the preliminary FIRMs, FIS Report materials, and supporting database on the following page of the Map Service Center. This data may be reviewed at the following link: <http://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata>. This site contains a number of frequently asked questions. If you click on "preliminary flood data search tool" you may select your State and County to access the current preliminary FIRMs, FIS Report materials, and supporting database. We also request that your community make the hard copy preliminary FIRMs and FIS Report available for review at your community's map repository located at the Waller County Courthouse, 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445. Feel free to interact with both the current effective data and the preliminary flood hazard data through an interactive mapping tool available at: <http://maps.riskmap6.com/TX/Waller>. This interactive tool allows communities to review the flood risk at any known address. An instructional fact sheet for this interactive web tool is available at: <http://www.riskmap6.com/documents/resource/WhatisyourFloodRisk.pdf>.

In approximately 30 days, we will contact you to schedule a formal Consultation Coordination Officer (CCO) Meeting for discussion regarding 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 preliminary FIRMs and FIS Report so that they will have the opportunity to review them thoroughly before the CCO meeting. The review period provides community officials and citizens in the affected communities with an opportunity to identify changes or corrections to

non-technical information, such as corporate limits, road names, and stream names on the FIRMs or in the FIS Report. Please submit comments (digital format such as shapefiles preferred) no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. All comments and changes received during this review period will be incorporated, as appropriate, before the FIRMs and FIS Report become effective. Comments may be sent to:

Sandra Keefe
Mitigation Division Director
c/o Lisa Jennings, Appeals Coordinator
FEMA Region 6
Federal Regional Center
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 – Jennifer Knecht, jennifer.knecht@fema.dhs.gov, (940) 898-5553
- Compliance – Gilbert Giron, gilbert.giron@fema.dhs.gov, (940) 898-5594
- Insurance – Mark Lujan, mark.lujan@fema.dhs.gov, (940) 383-7327

After the CCO Meeting, we will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for certain communities within Waller County. A statutory 90-day appeal period is required when FEMA adds or modifies Base (one-percent-annual-chance) Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Areas, 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.

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. Please note, your current effective mapping will continue to be used to rate insurance policies until the revised information is issued effective.

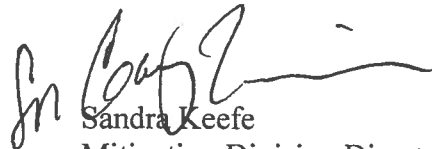
Prior to the effective date, you will be notified in writing of the official FIRM and FIS Report effective date and asked to adopt floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances, as necessary, that correspond with the new FIRM or FIS Report. If you or other community officials have any questions 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.

To assist your community in maintaining the FIRMs, the enclosed preliminary Summary of Map Actions (SOMA) documents previous Letter of Map Change (LOMC) actions that will be affected when the FIRMs become effective. A fact sheet is included in this transmittal to assist your community in the review of this SOMA.

Your community should be aware that recently approved LOMCs, specifically Letters of Map Revision (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 FIRMs, 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 period.

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 enclosed materials, the FEMA Regional Office in Denton, Texas is available to assist your community by telephone at (940) 898-5127.

Sincerely,



Sandra Keefe
Mitigation Division Director

Enclosures: Preliminary FIRM Panels (0130F, 0135F, 0150F, 0160F, 0165F, 0170F,
0400F, 0425F, and Index)

Preliminary FIS Report

CD containing the Preliminary FIRMs in digital format

Preliminary SOMA

Floodplain Management Bulletin 1-98, *Use of Flood Insurance (FIS) Data
as Available Data*

Understanding FEMA's Summary of Map Actions and Revalidation Letter
Adoption of Flood Insurance Rate Maps by Participating Communities

cc: Yancy Scott, County Engineer, Waller County
Michael Segner, NFIP State Coordinator, Texas Water Development Board
Jessica Baker, Regional Technical Coordinator, RSC 6 (CD/DVD only)

The Honorable Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon, III
January 30, 2017
Page 4

bcc: Lisa Jennings, Senior Natural Hazards Program Specialist, FEMA Region 6
Jennifer Knecht, FEMA Region 6 (*E-mail digital copies of Preliminary letters/Preliminary SOMAs when mailed out*)
Jennifer Moss, Compass Region 6 (*E-mail digital copies of Preliminary letters/Preliminary SOMAs when mailed out*) jennifer.moss@aecom.com
Samuel Amoako-Atta, Study Manager, Compass
FEDD File

RSC 6 address for CD/DVD mailing:

Jessica Baker, Regional Technical Coordinator, Compass PTS A&E, FEMA RSC 6
c/o Half Associates, Inc.
1001 Cross Timbers Road, Suite 2020
Flower Mound, TX 75028