FIRM Updates – NCTCOG Areas

Flood Risk Task Force Meeting
January 18, 2018
Government Shut Down Impacts

- Federal Register printing is currently halted.
  - LFD for Dallas and Tarrant Counties issued 09/21/2018
  - Effective release scheduled 03/21/2019
  - Please work closely with Lauren Fulton (FMI) and report local adoption of FIRMs.

- Fiscal Year 19 budget has not been provided, Regional allocation is currently unknown.

- FEMA’s Grant Management staff is currently furloughed.

- Project and program planning continues
44 CFR 60.3
Communities have floodplain regulations

Part 65
Updates are being submitted by community as development occurs

FIRMs are up to date

DEVELOPMENT is occurring more rapidly than communities may be able to study.

PROJECTS are being completed, coordination is not always occurring.

COMMUNITY STAFF have more to do than floodplain management.

Expectation

BUT...

Reality

Majority of the Nation’s FIRMs are in need of update.

If the map is WRONG or OUT OF DATE it is still EFFECTIVE.
We are Listening, We are Committed

- **Transparency**
  - Local input and data availability will identify items included
  - Deadlines will be set, we intend to hold firm

- **Coordination, early and often**
  - Knowing what each other are doing is key to reducing the historic FIRM update issues

- **FIRM Maintenance “Counseling”**
  - Leverage all avenues for FIRM maintenance
  - LOMRs are underutilized and critical to periodic FIRM updates
  - Program updates reduce the need to hold studies.
Map Maintenance – The MINIMUM Rules

Code of Federal Regulations requires:

• Submittal of local updates when construction alters water surface elevation, floodplain or floodway
• Due process is required prior to modeling becoming effective
• Effective can only include current existing conditions

Also...

• Identifies local community as permitting authority, decision maker
• Local community can be more restrictive & have higher standards
• Local community can adopt prior to effective
The Next FIRM Update for DFW

- FEMA has studies (PTS/CTP/Local 316PMR) in 14 of the 16 counties that can be incorporated into a set of preliminary FIRMs
  - FEMA Production by Production Technical Services
  - (+) CTP Production (FEMA/Partner funded)
  - (+) FEMA funding for Large Local LOMRs (316PMR)

- We are interested in collecting the following from you:
  - Local Study available, would like it on FIRM
  - LOMR Submittal working/planned
  - Input requested prior to next Task Force meeting (03/29/2019)
Expectation Setting

1. Validate study location/reach
   - Completeness check for all available
   - Deadline 03/29/2019
   - If new mileage, not FEMA $ → LOMR

2. Create FIRM updates
   - Prepare Project Detail Forms
   - Share project breakouts with FRMTF in May 2019

3. Hold Kick Off Meetings for Preliminary FIRM preparation
   - Share Target Prelim dates at July Meeting

4. Best Available Data presentation
   - Updates each meeting
   - Best Practice Sharing
   - Sept & Nov 2019
   - New Study? → LOMR
   - Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept & Nov 2020
Why should I submit a LOMR?

- Communities can leverage permitting procedures and local engineering submittals to refine, revise and maintain FIRMs

- Concern – Managing multiple maps/models
  - LOMRs allow processing, review and incorporation

- Concern – Updates take so long
  - Local modeling submittal/receipt without review may cause delay
  - LOMR indicates community request to update map based on submittal

- Concern – Model pieces versus stream length
  - Communities can require updates and maintain local modeling

- Concern – Some other submittal is stalling all
  - Multiple updates, less area, reduced community count, better coordination
Why should I submit a LOMR?

- Reduced processing time through LOMR process
- Submitter responsible to provide proper data for FIRM updates

FEMA INITIATES FLOOD RISK PROJECT TO UPDATE FIRM

LOCAL LOMR SUBMITTAL TO UPDATE FIRM

TIME (months)

6 12 18 24 30 36 42 48

LOCAL MODEL REFINEMENT  LOMR REVIEW  PRELIMINARY ISSUANCE  EFFECTIVE ISSUANCE

DISCOVERY  RISK IDENTIFICATION  PRELIMINARY ISSUANCE  POST PRELIMINARY  LFD  EFFECTIVE ISSUANCE

CCO MEETING (+) APPEAL & COMMENT
Floodplain Management Goals

- protection of life, health, and property
- protection of public and private infrastructure
- improving public flood risk awareness
- reduction in rescue and relief efforts
- reduction of economic and social hardships
- compliance with minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Standards
- lower flood insurance premiums
Looking forward to your input!

Alan Johnson, PE  
Region 6 – DFW Risk Analysis Contact  
Alan.Johnson@fema.dhs.gov  
Office - 940.383.7338  
Direct (Mobile) – 225.620.7062

Lauren Fulton  
Region 6 – DFW Compliance Specialist  
Lauren.Fulton@fema.dhs.gov  
Office - 940.898.5474  
Direct (Mobile) – 202.702.7044