



Leon County

Board of County Commissioners

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NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 23, 2008

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FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area Boundary Revisions

WHO: Leon County Growth and Environmental Management Department
WHAT: FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area Boundary Revisions
WHEN: Deadline for Objections - October 31, 2008
WHERE: Review Draft On-line at www.tlccgis.org

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maintains a set of floodplain maps for the purpose of underwriting its flood insurance program. These maps are called Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). FIRMs depict Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), which are floodplain areas that are subject to flooding during the one percent annual chance flood. SFHAs are often referred to as "the 100-year floodplain."

Over time, as mapping technology improvements are made, the floodplain maps need to be revised or updated. The Northwest Florida Water Management District has been working with FEMA as a Cooperating Technical Partner on the latest updates to the FIRMs through FEMA's Map Modernization project. The revised FIRMs have been released for public review, and FEMA is currently accepting inquiries and objections to the revised floodplain boundaries.

As part of the FIRMs update process, Leon County Growth and Environmental Management has reviewed the newly delineated floodplain boundaries for impacts to County residents. Letters were mailed to 280 residents that had some portion of a structure on their property that will soon be zoned inside the 100-year floodplain. If you are interested in viewing the new floodplain boundaries "draft" on-line, visit: www.tlccgis.org.

If you have a structure within the new floodplain boundaries and disagree with the new SFHA designation, you should contact Leon County's Growth and Environmental Management division to make certain your concerns are forwarded to FEMA. The deadline for filing for FEMA review of any objection is October 31, 2008. Please be advised that once the new 100-year floodplain becomes official, mortgage holders will likely require residents living in a floodplain to purchase flood insurance.

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We want to ensure that County residents benefit from the most current flood-risk information and that they are aware that FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps are being updated. The maps will become official in July 2009. We realize much of the above information is technical and that you may have questions regarding the SFHA modifications.

For more information, please contact the Leon County Growth Management Office at 850-606-1300.

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