

**FEMA**

JUL 03 2012
CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

The Honorable Stephen H. Buxbaum
Mayor, City of Olympia
601 Fourth Avenue East
Post Office Box 1967
Olympia, Washington 98507-1967

RECEIVED
JUL 06 2012

Dear Mayor Buxbaum:

I commend you for the efforts that have been put forth in implementing the floodplain management measures for the City of Olympia, Washington, to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As you implement these measures, I want to emphasize the following:

- a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) have been completed for your community;
- the FIS and FIRM will become effective on October 16, 2012; and
- by the FIS and FIRM effective date, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Office is required to approve the legally enforceable floodplain management measures your community adopts in accordance with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Section 60.3(d).

As noted in FEMA's letter dated April 16, 2012, no significant changes have been made to the flood hazard data on the Preliminary and/or revised Preliminary copies of the FIRM for Thurston County. Therefore, the City of Olympia should use the Preliminary and/or revised Preliminary copies of the FIRM as the basis for adopting the required floodplain management measures. Final printed copies of the FIRM for the City of Olympia will be sent to you within the next few months.

If you encounter difficulties in enacting the measures, I recommend you contact the Washington Department of Ecology. You may contact Scott McKinney, the NFIP State Coordinator, by telephone at (360) 407-6389, in writing at Post Office Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600, or by electronic mail at smck461@ecy.wa.gov.

The FEMA Regional staff in Bothell, Washington, is also available to provide technical assistance and guidance in the development of floodplain management measures. The adoption of compliant floodplain management measures will provide protection for the City of Olympia and will ensure its participation in the NFIP. The Regional Office may be contacted by telephone at (425) 487-4600 or in writing. Please send your written inquiries to the Director, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division, FEMA Region X, at 130 228th Street, Southwest, Bothell, Washington 98021-8627.

The Honorable Stephen H. Buxbaum

JUL 03 2012

Page 2

The NFIP State Coordinating Office for your State has verified that Washington communities may include language in their floodplain management measures that automatically adopt the most recently available flood elevation data provided by FEMA. Your community's floodplain management measures may already be sufficient if the measures include suitable automatic adoption language and are otherwise in accordance with the minimum requirements of the NFIP. The NFIP State Coordinator can assist you further in clarifying questions you may have about automatic adoption.

You may have already contacted the NFIP State Coordinator and/or the FEMA Regional Office, and may be in the final adoption process or recently adopted the appropriate measures. However, in the event your community has not adopted the appropriate measures, this letter is FEMA's official notification that you only have until October 16, 2012, to adopt and/or submit a floodplain management ordinance that meets or exceeds the minimum NFIP requirements, and request approval from the FEMA Regional Office by the effective date. Your community's adopted measures will be reviewed upon receipt and the FEMA Regional Office will notify you when the measures are approved.

I appreciate your cooperation to ensure that your community's floodplain management measures are approved by the FEMA Regional Office by October 16, 2012. Your compliance with these mandatory program requirements will enable your community to avoid suspension from the NFIP.

Sincerely,



Sandra K. Knight, PhD, PE
Deputy Associate Administrator for Mitigation

cc: Kenneth Murphy, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region X
Scott McKinney, NFIP State Coordinator, Washington Department of Ecology
Keith Stahley, Director of Community Planning and Development, City of Olympia