

MAP IX-Mainland

A Joint Venture of URS, Dewberry, Schaaf & Wheeler, Airborne 1, and TerraPoint

February 25, 2010

Farhad Moghimi, P.E.
Public Works Director
Town of Sahuarita
375 W. Sahuarita Center Way
Sahuarita, Arizona 85629

RE: Response to community comments on Revised Preliminary DFIRM and FIS

Dear Mr. Moghimi:

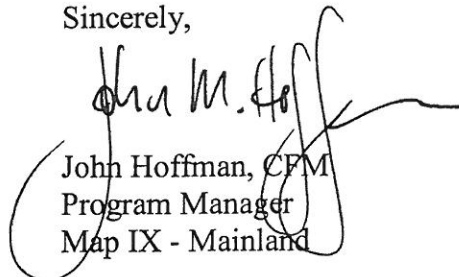
This letter is being sent to you in response to your letter dated June 26, 2009, to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding your review and comments of the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for the Town of Sahuarita.

As discussed during the June 29, 2009 final Consultation Coordination Officer (CCO) meeting held for the communities in Pima County, FEMA provided the communities a 30-day general comment period for all FIRM and FIS and a statutory 90-day appeal and protest period for the restudy that affected panels within the Town of Sahuarita and Pima County Unincorporated Areas. The Statutory Appeal and Protest period officially began October 16, 2009 and ended January 18, 2010.

We value your comments and contributions to the FIRM production process. Attached to this letter is a table showing a summary of comments your community provided during the 30-day general comment period and MAP IX - Mainland's responses. In cases where the comment was not incorporated as requested, we provided a reason for this decision within the response field of the table.

If you need additional information or assistance, please contact our MAP IX - Mainland Project Manager, Stephanie Routh, by telephone at (602) 943-1585 x110 or via email at srouth@dewberry.com

Sincerely,



John Hoffman, CFM
Program Manager
Map IX - Mainland

Enclosure

cc: Ed Curtis, FEMA Region IX
Suzanne Shields, Pima County Regional Flood Control
Brian Cosson, State NFIP Coordinator
Mike Skowronek, RSC 9

Table : Community Comments and Responses for Town of Sahuarita		
Panel	Comment	Response
3455, 3460, 3465, 3955	55 parcels had areas moved into a Zone AE from Zone X and 111 parcels had areas move down in floodplain status from Zone D to X or one Zone X to another. Town feels it is important that property owners are afforded the opportunity to review and comment	The parcels mentioned that have changed from Zone X to D and vice versa do not grant an appeal period because they are non-SFHAs. For the lots that have moved into AE from X. Property owners with proper documentation can file a LOMR or LOMA if they feel like the current flood information has mistakenly placed them in the floodplain.
3455, 3460, 3465, 3955	FIRM panels have been renumbered, thus having a negative impact on usability and is likely to confuse agency personnel, property owners, etc. Encourage FEMA to revert to original numbering sequence.	No change made - Current FEMA Guidelines are being used for panel scheme layout and numbering, however a table has been added to the FIS report to help cross-walk the old to new panel number
3455, 3460, 3465, 3955	RFCD Mapguide tool indicated a drop in WSEL at a point approximately 750 feet upstream of the Corto Road alignment, but the BFE at that location has been lowered not raised as would be expected with the datum conversion. Town says effective BFE shown is 2769, but new DFIRM BFE is less than 2768.	After further investigation the effective BFE 2769 that is being mentioned was updated to an elevation of 2771 which is consistent with the Vertical Datum Conversion value.
3955	Panel shows a levee along the west side of the Santa Cruz River between XSs JV and KF, but they are not aware of a levee and believe this to be a relief channel.	All levee line work was provided by Pima County. Additionally, this levee came from the most recent effective issued. May want to communicate with Pima County to clarify if this is a levee or not. At this time no change will be made.