



FEMA

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Per _____

February 15, 2019

The Honorable Paul Roen
Chair, Sierra County Board of Supervisors
100 Courthouse Square, Room 11
P.O. Drawer D
Downieville, CA 95936

Dear Supervisor Roen:

This letter provides an update on flood hazard mapping activities by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and notifies your community of the engineering models being used. Providing accurate and useful data on flood hazards is one of FEMA's goals and is essential to helping communities make informed decisions on building safely.

FEMA's contractor, Compass, is developing flood hazard information for the Sierra Valley in Plumas and Sierra Counties using HEC-RAS 5 for two-dimensional hydraulic analyses. The hydrologic and hydraulic analyses will be based on Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data and surveyed channel data.

The engineering models may form the basis for proposed Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) on portions or all of preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels 200C, 220C, 225C, 236C, 237C, 238C, 239C, 250C, 425C, 430C, and 450C for Sierra County. An SFHA is the mapped area subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood. Since the likelihood of flooding in certain areas may have increased or decreased, and our ability to map flood hazards has improved over time, SFHA changes are expected in Sierra County.

Your community has 30 days from the date of this letter to consult with the FEMA Region IX staff, identified in the last paragraph of this letter, regarding the appropriateness of the models selected for the mapping project. Your community and citizens will have additional opportunities to comment on and provide feedback about the models and other draft flood hazard information throughout the project. A formal appeals process and period will be available to help resolve any remaining questions before updated flood hazard information becomes effective for flood insurance purposes.

FEMA wants to ensure that the most up-to-date and accurate technical data are used to develop flood hazard products. FEMA relies on community feedback. Partnerships and local knowledge are critical to reduce flood risk during this important project to determine flood hazards in Sierra County. We look forward to working with local officials and other stakeholders in Sierra County to increase flood awareness and reduce risks to life and property. Whether a community elects to submit feedback in response to this letter does not affect its ability to provide feedback at a later

The Honorable Paul Roen

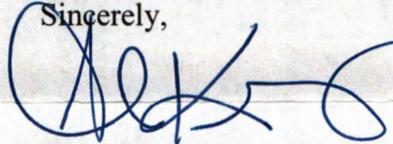
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stage of the flood study process, or to formally appeal preliminary flood hazard information during a future comment period.

Please provide any questions or comments related to the models selected for the Sierra Valley flood study project by March 17, 2019. To provide comments or ask a question about this project, please contact Ed Curtis, Regional Engineer, of our staff in Oakland, California, by telephone at (510) 627-7207 or by e-mail at edward.curtis@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison Kearns', written over a horizontal line.

Alison Kearns, Chief
Risk Analysis Branch

cc: Ed Curtis, Regional Engineer, FEMA Region IX
Tim Beals, Sierra County Director of Planning & Building Official
Brandon Pangman, Assistant Director, Sierra County Planning Department
Raul Barba, Acting State NFIP Coordinator, California Department of Water Resources