

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE LETTER OF MAP REVISION AND ANTICIPATED FLOODPLAIN MAPPING CHANGES FOR THE UPPER PRAIRIE/SILVER/MOORES CREEK FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROJECT

Grand Island, Neb. (June 20, 2019) – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (floodplain maps) for northwest Grand Island and portions of Hall County are in the process of being revised to reflect the recent flood risk reduction efforts of the Central Platte NRD, City of Grand Island, and Hall County. Since construction on the flood risk reduction project is completed, many property owners are interested in the timeline of the updates to the floodplain maps as well as what to do once they are revised.

Q: The project is complete, why haven't the maps changed yet?

A: A significant milestone of the Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project occurred on August 15th, 2018 with approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR). In other words, FEMA indicated that the project, if completed as proposed, will meet the standards necessary to revise the floodplain maps for the area through a future Letter of Map Revision (LOMR). The CLOMR was essential to the floodplain map revision process as it provides assurance that FEMA will accept the technical information necessary to update the floodplain maps when the LOMR is approved. However, the LOMR could not be submitted until all construction on the project was completed. Therefore, after the project was fully constructed (just in time to avoid significant flooding in March 2019) the LOMR was submitted for FEMA review on April 24th, 2019.

Q: How long will it take?

The LOMR review process typically takes at least twelve months. While having an approved CLOMR could shorten this process overall, there are several mandatory steps that FEMA requires to happen according to floodplain map change regulatory requirements. One of these steps is a three-month appeals period which is required by law and occurs once the rest of the review process is completed and the LOMR is approved. For this reason, it is likely to be spring 2020 before the LOMR is approved and floodplain maps for the City of Grand Island are officially revised.

Q: Should I cancel my flood insurance?

The effective floodplain maps, which can be accessed through FEMA's Flood Map Service Center (www.msc.fema.gov), remain the effective floodplain maps until FEMA approves the LOMR and subsequently updates the maps. As such, those with property in the floodplain should maintain flood insurance coverage in accordance with applicable laws. Even after the LOMR is approved, the City encourages property owners no longer in the higher risk flood areas on the floodplain maps to maintain flood insurance. The insurance coverage will be available for a lower cost but will reduce the risk of paying for flood damages should a very large flood occur.

The Central Platte NRD (CPNRD), City of Grand Island, Hall County, and Merrick County have been working together in coordination with Nebraska DNR (NeDNR) since 2005 to implement the Upper Prairie/Silver/Moores Creek Flood Control Project. The purpose of this project is to provide flood risk reduction to properties in northwest Grand Island and portions of Hall County. The project consists of construction of four dry dams, an approximately 554-acre detention cell, and a levee. More information about individual improvement projects can be found at www.cpnrd.org/flood-control.

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