



DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY – Number: 18
February 20, 2013

Dear Stakeholder-

The City of Chesapeake is considering the inclusion of enhancements to the Floodplain Management Ordinance that could result in reduced flood insurance rates for Chesapeake citizens through participation in FEMA's Community Rating System. Attached is a handout describing these enhancements. We are seeking community feedback on the proposed enhancements through a web based survey from February 25-March 15, 2013 by visiting www.cityofchesapeake.net/floodplain. We are also holding a community feedback meeting on March 4, 2013, for those who do not have access to the internet or have questions. Attached is a flyer that describes how citizens can provide input.

If you have any questions, please contact Senior Planner Brian Swets at (757) 382-6176 or bswets@cityofchesapeake.net.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE ENHANCEMENTS

The following is a list of possible enhancements to the Chesapeake Floodplain Management Ordinance that are being considered by the Natural Event Mitigation Advisory Committee (NEMAC) and the Chesapeake Planning Commission for public comment. Adoption of any or all of these amendments would improve flood safety for citizens and businesses undergoing new development or substantial redevelopment and may reduce flood insurance rates through the City's participation in the federal Community Rating System (CRS) program.

1. 2 foot freeboard for flood-proofed commercial structures – This would provide substantial flood insurance savings for any new commercial flood-proofed structure in the 100-year (AE) zone. The potential benefit is significant even though only a few commercial projects have attempted flood-proofing in the past. (CRS – 20-30 points depending on enforcement)
2. A 1.5 foot freeboard for new residential construction – Building new development or significant improvements to 1.5 foot freeboard would be only a six inch difference from current City requirements and would provide significant insurance savings to citizens, easily paying for the increase in construction costs over time. (CRS – 75 points per foot above freeboard)
3. No new critical infrastructure in the AE zone (100-year flood zone)– Critical infrastructure includes categories like governmental facilities, essential facilities (hospitals, retirement homes, emergency operations centers, etc.), transportation systems, lifeline utility systems, high potential loss facilities (power plants, military installations, etc.), and hazardous material facilities. Preventing new such facilities from being built in flood prone areas is sound future planning. (No points in CRS)
4. An acknowledgement of sea level rise and subsidence with the Purpose and Intent section of the ordinance – Tide data over the last 100 years clearly shows that Chesapeake has been facing an escalating danger from both sea level rise and subsidence. Acknowledgment of this fact in the Purpose and Intent section may improve the City's rating under Community Rating System (CRS) program if tied with public outreach which would affect flood insurance rates in Chesapeake. (No direct points in CRS for mentioning it but about 30 points are tied to discussion of Sea Level Rise issues with the public outreach).

A public comment period will take place during the month of March to seek citizen and stakeholder feedback. If it is determined that amendments to the Flood Plain Management Ordinance are appropriate, public hearings before the Planning Commission and then the City Council will take place in May and June of 2013.

February 5, 2013

Floodplain Ordinance Citizen Input Meeting

**Monday, March 4th
6:00-7:30 PM in the *Multi-Purpose Room*,
School Administration Building,
312 Cedar Road**

Please visit our website
www.cityofchesapeake.net/floodplain
for details on the proposed floodplain ordinance
enhancements that may lead to lower flood insurance
rates and to fill out a brief survey.

Citizen input on the
proposed changes will
be accepted from
February 25th-March 15th
through the survey link
on our website.



*For more information, contact Brian Swets,
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at (757) 382-6176 or
bswets@cityofchesapeake.net*