



FEMA

April 1, 2013

The Honorable Sean Guard
Mayor, City of Washougal
1701 C Street
Washougal, Washington 98671

The Honorable David Madore
Commissioner, Clark County
1300 Franklin, 6th Floor
Vancouver, Washington 98666

RE: Levee Certification Acceptance

Dear Mayor Guard and Commissioner Madore:

On March 26, 2007, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent a letter to the city of Washougal requesting data and supporting documentation from the owner of the Camas-Washougal levee, demonstrating that the levee complies with accreditation requirements and continues to provide flood protection from the base flood as shown on the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). FEMA Region 10 received final documentation and data requested in the letter on January 18, 2013.

This documentation and data have been reviewed by FEMA Region 10, and based on this information it appears that the minimum certification requirements outlined in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 65.10, have been met. Therefore, this levee certification has been accepted and the levee system will be shown on the new FIRM as providing protection from the base flood. The area provided protection from the base flood by the levee will be mapped as a shaded Zone X with the exception of any applicable areas identified as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), based on the interior drainage analysis, and a note will be placed in these areas warning of the flood risk that still exists.

This certification is recognized for this map update only. Map updates in the future will require the levee to be re-certified by the levee owner. In addition, the levee owner may be requested at any time to provide design, construction, operation, and maintenance documents to support any activity on the levee after the date of this certification. Any deviation from the documentation and data submitted to FEMA could result in the levee system no longer being shown on future maps as providing protection from the base flood. If at any point additional information is provided to FEMA that shows the levee no longer meets certification requirements, FEMA will contact the levee owner and community about possibly de-accrediting the levee.

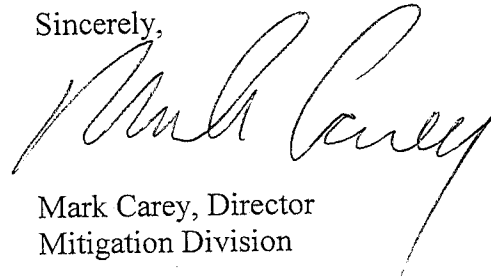
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While FEMA may map the referenced levees as providing protection from the 1-percent-annual-chance flood, it is important to note that levees are only designed to provide a specific level of protection. They can be overtopped or fail in larger flood events. They require regular maintenance and periodic upgrades to retain their level of protection. When levees do fail, they fail catastrophically, and the damage may be more significant than if the levee was not there.

Everyone should understand the risk to life and property that resides behind levees – risk that even the best flood-control system cannot completely eliminate. For these reasons, FEMA encourages people to understand their risk. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created to reduce flood damages by identifying flood risks, encouraging sound community floodplain management practices, and providing flood insurance to lessen the financial impact of flooding. Through the NFIP, property owners in participating communities are able to insure against flood losses.

The FEMA lead for this project is David Ratté. Mr. Ratté may be contacted at (425) 487-4657. Please do not hesitate to contact the regional office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Carey, Director
Mitigation Division

cc: David Ripp, Executive Director, Port of Camas-Washougal
Mitch Kneipp, Director, Community Development, City of Washougal
Tom Grange, Public Works Engineering and Design Supervisor, Clark County
Donovan Gray, Washington State NFIP Coordinator
Jerry Franklin, Washington State RiskMAP Coordinator
Guy Fielding, Levee Safety Program Manager, USACE, Portland District
The Office of Senator Maria Cantwell
The Office of Senator Patty Murray
The Office of Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler
The Office of State Senator Ann Rivers
The Office of State Representative Brandon Vick
The Office of State Representative Liz Pike

DR:bb