



City of Foster City

ESTERO MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

610 FOSTER CITY BOULEVARD
FOSTER CITY, CA 94404-2222

April 28, 2015

Ms. Juliette Hayes
Risk Analysis Branch Chief
FEMA, Region IX, Mitigation Division
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94607

Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF SECLUSION FOR FOSTER CITY

Dear Ms. Hayes:

We are aware that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been working on updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for San Mateo County to reflect newly studied coastal flood hazards (i.e. San Francisco Bay). We understand that the Foster City levee system does not meet the requirements outlined in Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 65.10 (44CFR65.10), and therefore it is considered a non-accredited levee system at this time.

It is also our understanding that using the Seclusion Mapping Process, flood risk mapping in the vicinity of the non-accredited levee system will include the following:

- A boundary will be added to the FIRM that depicts the area secluded from the FIRM update.
- A depiction of flood risk based on the information shown on the current effective FIRM Panels 06081C0158E, 06081C0159E, 06081C0166E, 06081C0167E, 06081C0178E and 06081C0186E; all effective October 16, 2012.
- A note will be added inside the seclusion boundary stating that the levee system does not currently meet the requirements outlined in 44CFR65.10.

We understand that the areas in the vicinity of the non-accredited levee system will not be mapped differently from the current effective FIRM for our community.

Foster City is working diligently to improve the levee system so as to meet the requirements of 44CFR65.10 and regain levee accreditation. To this end, \$1 million has been budgeted for design and regulatory permit consultant services for Fiscal Year 2015-16. Preliminary levee improvement planning has been completed and the City is moving forward with the detailed surveying, geotechnical engineering, levee improvement design, environmental documentation and regulatory permitting necessary to begin construction of a levee system that meets FEMA accreditation requirements.

In addition, Foster City will be conducting a public awareness program. Residents will be notified of the status of the levee accreditation process and advised that the City is taking steps to obtain accreditation, and to further inform the public about the nature of the seclusion process. The City welcomes FEMA's advice about effectively conveying to the public the nature of the seclusion process.

By utilizing the Seclusion Mapping Process to move our FIRM update forward, we understand:

- This process will result in an updated set of FIRM panels for the community.
- The resultant FIRM will require community adoption prior to the effective date.
- FEMA will return to analyze the flood risk in the vicinity of the non-accredited levee system using the updated levee analysis and mapping procedures in the future, through another FIRM update.
- FEMA will engage with community leaders and levee owners to collect local input to inform a future FIRM update of the data in the vicinity of the seclusion boundary.

We ask that FEMA proceed with the FIRM update to allow our community the use of the best available flood risk information throughout Foster City and adjacent affected communities.

If you need additional information or assistance, please contact our Public Works Director/City Engineer, Jeff Moneda, at (650) 286-3288 or jmoneda@fostercity.org.

Sincerely,



Art Kiesel
Mayor

cc: City Council, Foster City
James C Hardy, City Manager
Jeff Moneda, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Foster City
Brad Underwood, Director of Public Works, San Mateo
Jeff Lusk, Jeff Lusk, Director, Mitigation Division, FEMA Region IX
Shilpa Mulik, Civil Engineer, DHS/FEMA Region IX
Chuck Anderson, President, Schaaf & Wheeler
Brian Perkins, District Director, Congresswoman Jackie Speier