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News from Region X

BW-12 Update

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (Omnibus) was signed by President Obama in January. The Omnibus prohibits the NFIP from implementing Section 207 of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012.

Section 207 directed FEMA to ensure that certain property's flood insurance rates reflect its full risk after a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) change or update is released. However, Section 207 does not relate to changes to insurance rates that have already taken place. *The Omnibus does not roll back any rate increases that have already occurred.*

Although FEMA is required to cease any current planning and development activities for Section 207, it is not prohibited from continuing mapping activities or from exercising existing authorities to set insurance rates.

Additionally, changes to the NFIP such as phasing out subsidies for certain policyholders remain in effect as mandated by Section 205 of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012.

As mandated in the Omnibus, Section 207 will not be implemented for twelve to eighteen months after the start of Fiscal Year 2015.

Ask the Help Desk

If you have questions about Risk MAP, mitigation planning, flood study project status, LOMCs, ECs, or CECs, let us help! Email the Region X Service Center Help Desk, RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

NOAA's Community Planning Course

The Coastal Community Planning and Development training from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center helps participants grapple with development and redevelopment issues in ways that can maximize community benefits and limit negative consequences. After a recent redesign of the course, participants can receive the full benefit of this popular training in half the time.

The redesigned training incorporates both online and in-person components. The online portion can be done on the participant's own time (one to two hours) and offers easy step-by-step guidance. The in-person workshop component now takes just one day instead of two. The workshop features group exercises, a local speaker and community discussions, and information about tools that can support alternative development approaches.

Course trainees get the biggest benefit when a wide variety of community members attend. Participants often include local elected officials and related personnel, coastal resource managers, business leaders, developers and realtors, land use and hazard mitigation planners, floodplain and emergency managers, and concerned community residents and groups.

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NOAA (cont.)

Determining how and where growth and redevelopment occurs can have huge environmental, economic, and social consequences. This training engages participants in learning about planning processes, conventional patterns of development, impacts, and alternative development options. It also offers techniques for engaging stakeholders in a variety of settings.

To learn more or to set up this training for your community, contact NOAA Coastal Services at csc.info@noaa.gov

Upcoming Events & Training

(All times Pacific)

NFIP Basics

March 12, 9am
Online* – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates for A Zones

March 13, 10am
Online* – 2 CEC

CRS Webinar: Introduction to CRS

March 18, 10am
May 20, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

CRS Webinar: Higher Regulatory Standards (Activity 430)

March 19, 10am
May 21, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

CRS Webinar: Preparing for a Verification Visit

April 15, 10am
June 17, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

CRS Webinar: Developing Outreach Projects (Activity 330)

April 16, 10am
Online* – 1 CEC

Elevation Certificates

April 17, 10am
Online* – 2 CECs

*To register for online courses, visit STARR's training site online at j.mp/starrwebtraining, or email RXTraining@starr-team.com.

NORFMA News

ASFPM Conference Update from Hans Hunger, NORFMA Chair

The biggest thing on NORFMA's plate right now is planning for the ASFPM Conference on June 1-6. There will be a Welcome Fest that NORFMA hosts on Sunday night with entertainment and food. We hope to see you all there.

Scholarships are being made available through a CAP/SSSI grant by FEMA, which provided each Region X state with \$25,000 to distribute. Washington Department of Ecology is working with NORFMA on getting the details worked out and announcements will be made in the next month. Scholarships will cover up to 75% of expenses for conference registration, room, and travel.

Volunteers will be needed for the conference for a variety of activities including session and workshop monitors, tour chaperones, help with the silent auction, greeters for the Welcome Fest, etc. It's a great way to get involved! Contact our volunteer coordinator, Carla Bracken, cbracken@NHCWEB.com, for opportunities to help out. Volunteers will receive a free bright green NORFMA polo shirt while supplies last. This will help you stand out at the Conference as a NORFMA member (and a northwest sports enthusiast).

There will also be a Wednesday morning 5k Fun Run which started with last year's conference in Connecticut and continues in Seattle. We'll update you through this newsletter and by email with more information on how you can get involved in the ASFPM conference. See you there!

CRS Users Group Meeting

The next CRS Users Group meeting will be held March 13th at Tacoma Mall Plaza. For previous meeting notes and handouts please visit norfma.org.

For questions please contact Hans Hunger at hhunger@co.pierce.wa.us.

Suggested Reading

There are a couple of great posts to the FEMA Blog. The first is titled, **"Two Projects Showing Why we Think Portland is Cool"** by FEMA Region X Administrator Ken Murphy. Here is a portion of the post: *Portland is setting the example for what it means to have a whole community approach to preparedness and public safety. They are focusing on making neighborhoods, communities, their city and state more resilient, one innovative idea at a time.*

The second post is titled **"What Goes into a Flood Map: Infographic"** by Deputy Associate Administrator for Mitigation Roy Wright. Here is a portion of the post: *The infographic... gives you an overview of all that goes into a flood map from beginning to end. The more that communities and homeowners know about the process, the better we can work together to make sure that we build safely and resiliently and are prepared for flooding and other natural disasters.*

These posts can be found on the FEMA Blog, www.fema.gov/blog.



RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together