

# Consultation Coordination Officer's Meeting Monmouth County, NJ

### September 10, 2014





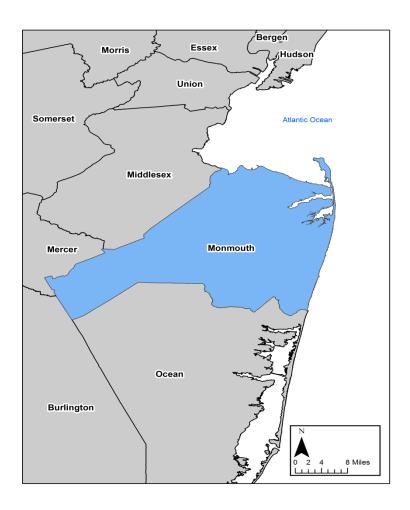
# **Agenda and Objectives**

- Map Overview
- Risk Communication
- Floodplain Management
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Next Steps: Local Ordinances, Open House, Appeals
- Review and Summary
- Breakout





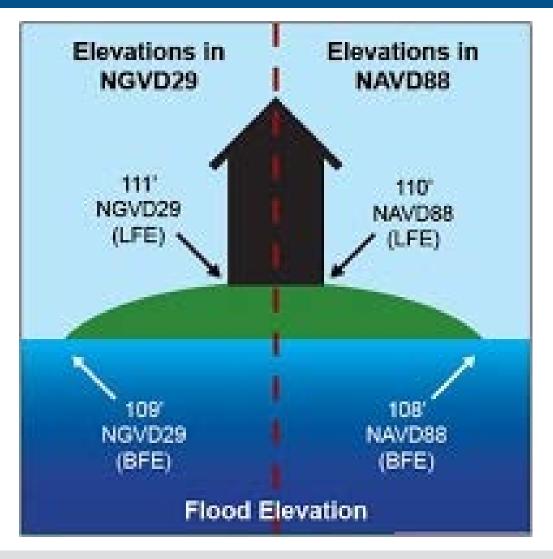
# Monmouth County, NJ — FIRM Overview



- Detailed restudy of coastal flood hazards
- GIS-based, countywide format
- Orthophoto base map combining floodway and floodplain data
- Datum conversion (NGVD29 to NAVD88)



### **Datum Conversion**





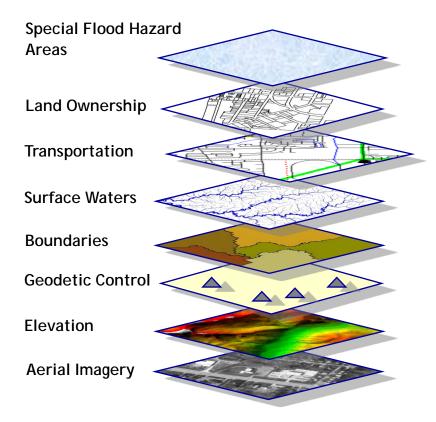


### Monmouth County, NJ FIRM Product

- Components of a FIRM
  - Base map
  - Topographic data
  - Flood hazard data
  - FIRM Database
  - Metadata

FEMA

- Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report
- Back-up data (models, etc.)





### Monmouth County, NJ FIRM

### NOTES TO USERS

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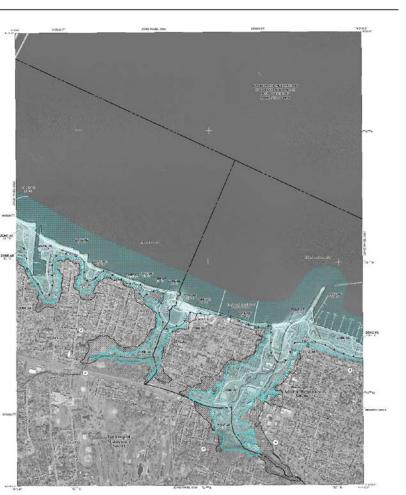
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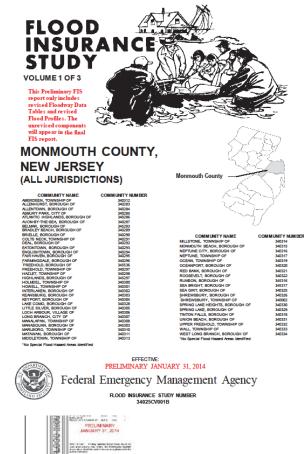
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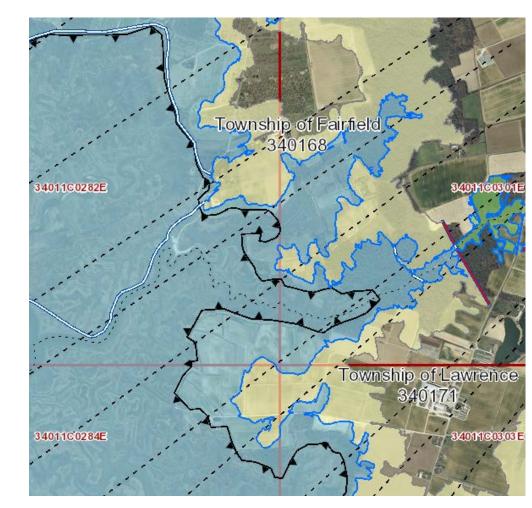
RiskMAP

Increasing Resilience Together



# LiMWA on the Map

- LiMWA sits inside of Zone AE
- LiMWA can cross Zone AE lines
- Triangles point to higher waves
  - Indicates where wave height exceeds 1.5 feet
- Also referred to as Coastal A Zone





## Summary of Map Actions

- FEMA periodically issues Letters of Map Change (LOMCs)
- LOMCs are legally binding changes to the map
- Many LOMCs are not typically reflected in the new FEMA maps due to scale constraints
- Summary of Map Actions contains assessment of all existing LOMCs with respect to the new FEMA maps

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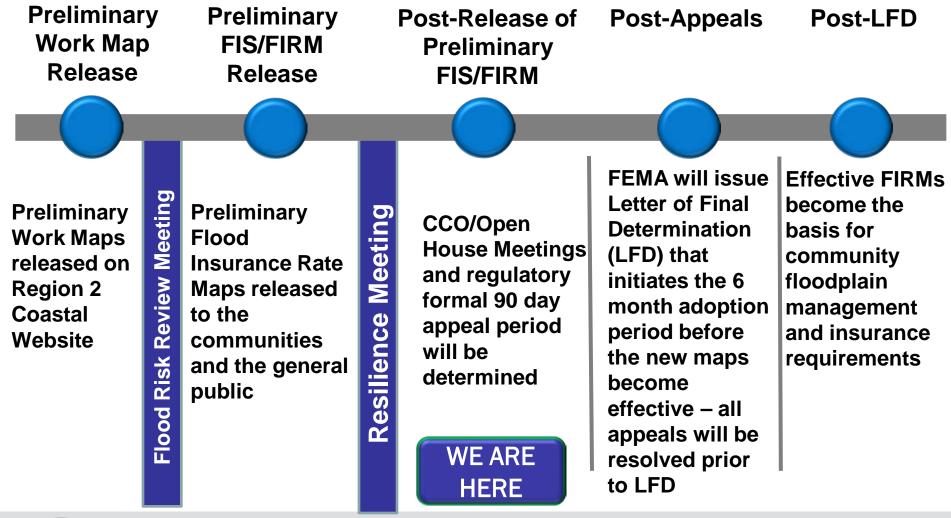
## Summary of Map Actions (continued)

- Summary of Map Actions Categories:
  - Category 1: Shown on the new FIRM panel
  - Category 2: NOT shown on the new FIRM panel due to scale limitations (revalidated after the new FIRMs become effective)
  - Category 3: Superseded, and no longer valid, due to revised flood hazards
  - Category 4: Must be re-determined



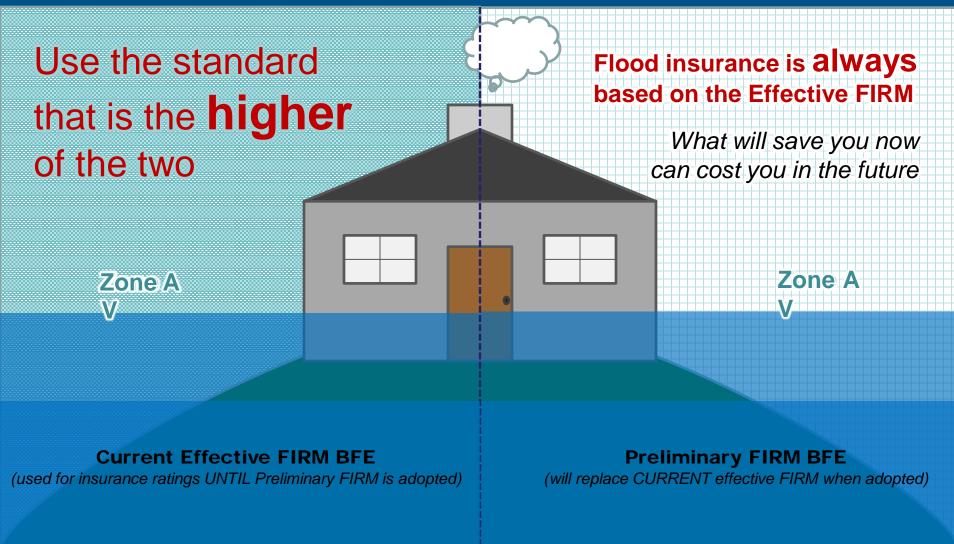


## **Timeline for Monmouth County**





# Using Effective and Preliminary FIRM Data







# Regulatory Process: Comments & Appeals Periods

- Local constituents must submit their concerns through the local community
- Local official will review the concerns prior to submittal to FEMA by the community Chief Executive Officer
  - Duplicate concerns should be combined, and all concerns should be divided into one of two categories: appeals or comments
- An online appeals tracker will be set up on <u>www.region2coastal.com</u>





### Regulatory Process: Comments

- Comments are any input and/or feedback on the Preliminary FIRMs that *do not* relate to new or modified BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA boundaries or SFHA zone designations
  - Comments include, but are not limited to:
    - Changes in the floodplain that should have been submitted to FEMA
    - Corporate limit revisions
    - Road name errors and revisions
    - Changes affected by a Letter of Map Change





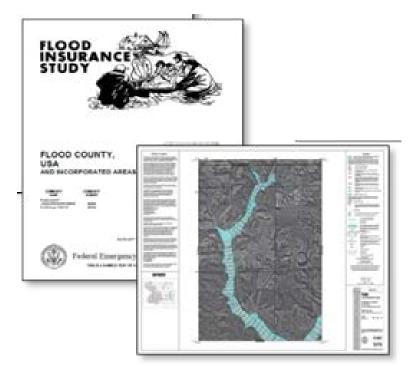
### Regulatory Process: Appeals

- Appeals are challenges to the Preliminary FIRMs that relate to new or modified BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA boundaries or SFHA zone designations and that are believed to be scientifically or technically incorrect
  - Appeals may result in revisions to the Preliminary FIRMs
- Appeals must be:
  - Submitted within the designated 90-day Appeals period
  - Accompanied by sufficient technical information (see *Criteria for Appeals of Flood Insurance Rate Maps*) at: <a href="http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/5270aa93d5b892c8420248bc8f40a1ee/FIRM+Appeals+(EAP)+Criteria.pdf">http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/5270aa93d5b892c8420248bc8f40a1ee/FIRM+Appeals+(EAP)+Criteria.pdf</a>
    - Technical information must comply with FEMA's *Guidelines* & Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners
      https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-flood-hazard-mapping/ guidelines-specifications-flood-hazard-mapping



# Map Adoption

- After appeals are resolved, communities will receive a letter of final determination
  - Maps effective after six months
- Before FIRM effective date, communities must adopt FIRM(s) and FIS into their local laws
- This is a good time to update existing local laws





## **Risk Communications**

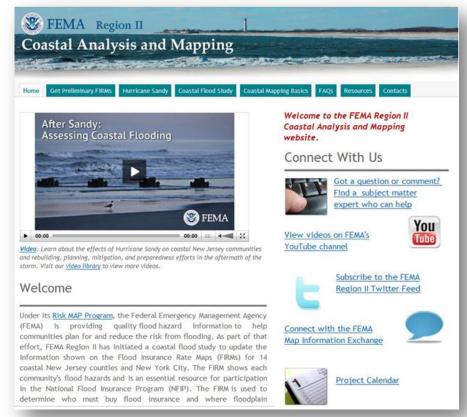
- Federal/State/Local goals:
  - Creating safer communities reducing risk to lives and property
  - Effectively communicate risk and increase public awareness, leading citizens to make informed decisions
- Key factors:
  - Community engagement and exchange of flood risk information
  - Effective collaboration through partnerships
  - Strategic communications plan development





### **Risk Communciations-Resources**

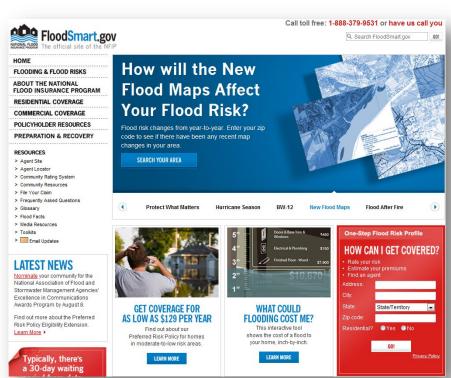
- Visit our Website: <u>www.region2coastal.com</u>
- Outreach factsheets
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Coastal Risk Educational Videos
- Best Available Data (Preliminary FIRMs)





### The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

- Voluntary program based on a mutual agreement between the Federal government and the local community
- In exchange for adopting and enforcing FPM ordinance, Federally-backed flood insurance is made available





## **Governmental Roles**

### Federal

- Risk Identification and Mapping
- Building / Development Standards
- Flood Insurance

### State

- Building Code
- Technical Assistance

### Local

 Adoption and Enforcement of Development and Building Standards





### Minimum Standards for NFIP Building Requirements

### Zone A Building Requirements

 Developments over 5 acres or over 50 lots must provide a BFE

### • AE Zone Building Requirements

- The lowest enclosed area, <u>including the basement</u>, must be at or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE)
- Non-residential buildings may be flood proofed
- No development in the regulatory floodway that would raise BFE
- FEMA encourages States and Local Communities to adopt higher standards, such as Freeboard





### Minimum Standards for NFIP Building Requirements

- Zone VE Building Requirements
  - Lowest horizontal structural member must be at or above the BFE
  - Structure must not be built on fill
    - Must be free of obstructions below BFE
    - Breakaway walls are permissible





### Floodplain Management Considerations

- Repetitive Loss
- Cumulative standards to address non-compliant structures
- Local Communities need to take ownership of ordinance and map adoptions
- Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (HFIAA)





### Can You Buy NFIP Flood Insurance If...

You live in a Flood Hazard Area?

### YES!!!

You Don't Live in a Flood Hazard Area?

### YES!!!

- As long as your community participates in the NFIP, you can purchase flood insurance
  - Except when structure has been placed in Section 1316
  - No structures insurable over water





### More Changes are Coming to the NFIP

- On March 21, 2014, President Obama signed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 into law
  - **Repeals and modifies certain provisions of Biggert-Waters**
  - Makes additional program changes
  - Leaves some parts of Biggert-Waters intact.
- Policyholders SHOULD NOT cancel policies!
- FEMA is working with our Write Your Own (WYO) insurance company partners, Congress, others to implement
  - Prior to restoring and refunding premiums, the law requires FEMA to consult with its WYO insurance companies to develop and finalize guidance and rate tables within eight months; FEMA and the WYOs have up to eight months to implement
  - To date, NFIP has held at least seven conference calls and met in person with senior company representatives





In Constances H. R. 3370

AN ACT

Calendar No. 317

### Mandatory Surcharges (Sec. 8)

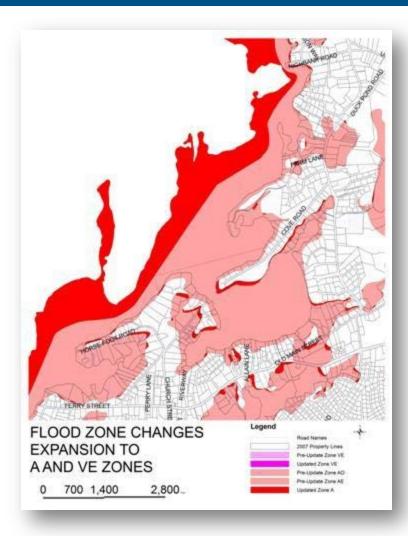
- Applies to all policies
- A policy for a primary residence will include a \$25 surcharge
- All other policies will include a \$250 surcharge
- The fee will be included on all policies, including full-risk rated policies, until all Pre-FIRM subsidies are eliminated
- Surcharges are not considered premium and therefore are not subject to premium increase caps required under Section 5 under the new Act





### Grandfathering (Sec. 4)

- HFIAA restores FEMA's ability to grandfather properties into lower risk classes
- For newly identified properties, the law sets first year premiums at the same rate offered to properties located outside the SFHA (Preferred Risk Policy rates)
- With limited exceptions, flood insurance premiums cannot increase more than 18 percent annually
- Grandfathered policy holders are not entitled to refunds





### Pre-FIRM Primary Residence Policies in High-Risk Areas

 For most pre-FIRM primary residences in high-risk areas, subsidized rates remain in effect, but with newly required minimum increases—and an 18 percent limit for any individual policy—until premiums reach their full-risk rates<sup>1</sup>

POLICY TYPE	IMPACT ON RATE			
Existing policies	Policies can be renewed at subsidized rates. <sup>2</sup>			
Newly written policies	Policies can be issued and renewed at subsidized rates.			
Policies on newly purchased buildings	Policies can be issued and renewed at subsidized rates.			
Policies re-issued after a lapse <sup>3</sup>	Policies for pre-FIRM buildings in high-risk areas that lapsed due to a late renewal payment (received after the 30-day grace period but less than 90 days after expiration) can be re-issued and renewed at subsidized rates.			

<sup>1</sup>Full-risk rates are determined using data from an Elevation Certificate.

<sup>2</sup>Full–risk rates could be lower than subsidized rates.

<sup>3</sup>Buildings with lapsed policies are not eligible for the subsidy unless the lapse was the result of the policy no longer being required to retain flood insurance coverage.





### Pre-FIRM Building Policies in High-Risk Areas

• For other pre-FIRM buildings in high-risk areas, subsidized rates continue, but will increase more quickly to reach full-risk rates

POLICY TYPE	IMPACT ON RATE
Policies for non-primary residences (secondary or vacation homes or rental properties)	25% annual increases at policy renewal until premiums reach their full-risk rates.
Policies for business buildings	Future 25% annual increases at policy renewal.
Policies for Severe Repetitive Loss properties	25% annual increases at policy renewal for severely or repetitively flooded properties that include 1 to 4 residences.





### **Other Policies**

 For most other policy types, rates will increase by no more than 18 percent for any individual policy

POLICY TYPE	IMPACT ON RATES		
Policies for newer ("post-FIRM") buildings in high-risk areas	Not affected by subsidies; already paying full-risk rates.		
Policies for buildings in moderate- to low-risk areas	Not affected by subsidies; properties in these areas (shown as B, C, or X zones on flood maps) do not pay subsidized rates.		
Policies for buildings "grandfathered in" when map changes show higher flood risk	Grandfathering remains in effect at this time. Buildings constructed in compliance with earlier maps or continuously covered by flood insurance stay in their original rate class when maps change or properties are sold.		
Policies for buildings covered by Preferred Risk Policy Eligibility Extension (PRP EE)	Properties continue to be eligible for lower, preferred-risk rates for the first year after a map change. Starting the following year, rates will increase by no more than 18% for any individual policy until premiums reach their full-risk rate.		





# Increased Cost of Compliance (I.C.C.)

- Upon a letter of Substantial Damage determination from community, an NFIP insured may qualify for up to \$30,000 to relocate, elevate, or demolish their structure
- Local community should track damages for all structures in flood hazard area through Substantial Damage Estimating
- Cumulative standards are optional but effective higher regulatory standards used to address RL properties
- I.C.C. remains available for substantial damage even if community does not adopt cumulative damage definition





# Community Rating System (CRS)

- Provides incentive for local officials to implement requirements exceeding NFIP minimum criteria
- Grants flood insurance program credits calculated for activities undertaken to:
  - Reduce flood losses
  - Facilitate accurate insurance rating
  - Promote awareness of the benefits of flood insurance



### Fact Sheet

### Community Rating System

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) was implemented in 1990 as a voluntary program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities exceeding the minimum NFIP standards. Any community in full compliance with the minimum NFIP floodplain management requirements may apply

### 1,296 Communities Participate in

Nearly 3.8 million policyholders in 1,296 communities participate in the CRS by implementing local mitigation, floodplain management, and outreach activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements.

Under the CRS, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reward community actions that meet the three goals of the CRS, which are: (1) reduce flood damage to insurable property; (2) strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and (3) encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain

Although CRS communities represent only 5 percent of the over 22,000 communities participating in the NFIP, more than 67 percent of all flood insurance policies are written in CRS communities.

### CRS Classes

The CRS uses a Class rating system that is similar to fire insurance rating to determine flood insurance premium reductions for residents. CRS Classes\* are rated from 9 to I. Today, most communities enter the program at a CRS Class 9 or Class 8 rating, which entitles residents in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) to a 5 percent discount on their flood insurance premiums for a Class 9 or a 10 percent discount for Class 8. As a community

CRS Class changes occur on May 1 and October 1 of each year. The data contained in this fact sheet were current through May 2014.

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"TEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and



Increasing Resilience Together



March 2014 engages in additional mitigation activities, its residents become eligible for increased NFIP policy premium discounts. Each CRS Class improvement produces a 5 percent greater discount on flood insurance premiums for

### Best of the Best

Four communities occupy the highest levels of the CRS Each has developed a floodplain management program tailored to its own particular hazards, character, and goals. Under these programs, each community carries out numerous and varied activities, many of which are credited by the CRS. The average discount in policyholder premiums varies according to a community's CRS Class and the average amount of insurance coverage in place. Some highlights:

Roseville, California was the first to reach the highest CRS rating (Class 1). Damaging floods in 1996 spurred Roseville to strengthen and broaden its floodplain management program. Today the City earns points for almost all CRS creditable activities. The average premium discount for policies in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is \$832.

Comprehensive planning for floodplain manageme has been a key contributor to Tutsa, Oklahoma's progress in reducing flood damage from the dozens of progress in recording noted usingle norm are doubled of creeks within its jurisdiction. The City (Class 2) has cleared more than 900 buildings from its floodplains. The average premium discount for policies in the SFHA

King County, Washington (Class 2) has preserved more than 100,000 acres of floodplain open space and receives additional CRS credit for maintaining it in a natural state. The average premium discount for policies in the SFHA is \$850.

Pierce County, Washington (Class 2) maintains over 80 miles of river levees. County officials annually mail informational brochures to all floodplain residents. The average premium discount for policies in the SFHA is \$888

### Insurance FAQs

Will new maps increase flood insurance rates?

- Possibly "yes" for some structures effected by a flood hazard zone change, flood elevation increase, or both
- Will flood insurance become unavailable?
  - No, as long as community maintains NFIP participation, flood insurance remains available
- Mandatory Flood Insurance Purchase Requirements
  - Applies to structures within SFHA where the owner has a Federally - backed mortgage





## Common Local Law Mistakes

- Failure to provide map repository location
- Failure to name a floodplain administrator office (must be an office; not a name)
- Incorrect FIRM or Flood Insurance Study reference
- Failure to name Town/Village/City Board or Council as appeals board
- Inconsistent section numbering
- Failure to include <u>all</u> sections
- Failure to adopt State laws





# Higher Than Minimum Standards

- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will provide some options; these will be noted as <u>optional</u>
- Higher than minimum standards can increase safety, decrease flood insurance rates, and provide the community with points in the CRS







# Compliance and Map Adoption Period

- Begins at date Letter of Final Determination is sent and ends at FIRM effective date
- Community officials review and revise the community's flood damage prevention ordinance to ensure compliance with NFIP regulations
- To avoid suspension from the NFIP, the community must adopt a compliant flood damage prevention ordinance, and submit its ordinance to the NJDEP for approval prior to the end of this period





## The Road to Ordinance Re-Adoption

- 6 month: FEMA 6-month LFD Letter
- 5 month: NJDEP Assistance Letter
- 3 ½ month: Draft Ordinance
- 3 month: NJDEP review of draft ordinance
- 3 month: FEMA 90-day Reminder Letter
- 1 month: FEMA 30-day Reminder Letter

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# What is the responsibility of the community during this period?

Local Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance to include:

- Updated FIS and FIRM Panel numbers
- Local Floodplain Administrator Designation
- Updated Map Effective Date
- Appeal Board Designation
- Penalties for Noncompliance





### **Questions? Need Ordinance Assistance?**

Visit our website:

www.nj.gov/dep/floodcontrol

Contact our office: NJDEP, NJ State NFIP Coordinator's Office (609) 292-2296 Alan.gould@dep.nj.gov







### **Break-Out Session Guidance**

### Initial Comments on Maps

- Take the time to thumb through your map panels
- There is still time to provide further comments

<u>Group A</u>

### <u>Group B</u>





# **Review and Summary**

- Map Overview
- Risk Communication
- Floodplain Management
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Next Steps: Local Ordinances, Open House, Appeals
- Review and Summary
- Breakout





### **Conclusion: Community Resilience**



# *Together, we all can create stronger and safer communities.*





### Questions

