



FEMA

# Flood Risk Review & Consultation Coordination Officer Meeting

**Union County, NJ**

*March 19th, 2015*

**RiskMAP**

Increasing Resilience Together



# Agenda for Today

- **Risk MAP Program Overview**
- **Coastal Flood Risk Study and Mapping**
- **Overview of Non-Regulatory Flood Risk Products and Datasets**
- **Floodplain Management and Flood Insurance**
- **Local Ordinance Review and Update**
- **Flood Risk Communications**
- **Conclusion**

# FEMA's Risk MAP Program

- Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning 2010 - 2014
- Builds on Map Mod digitized Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) successes
- Will deliver quality data that **increase public awareness and lead to action that reduces risk to life and property**
- Regulatory Products: Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and FIRM (Coastal re-mapping)
- New Non-Regulatory Products and Datasets



Mapping



Assessment

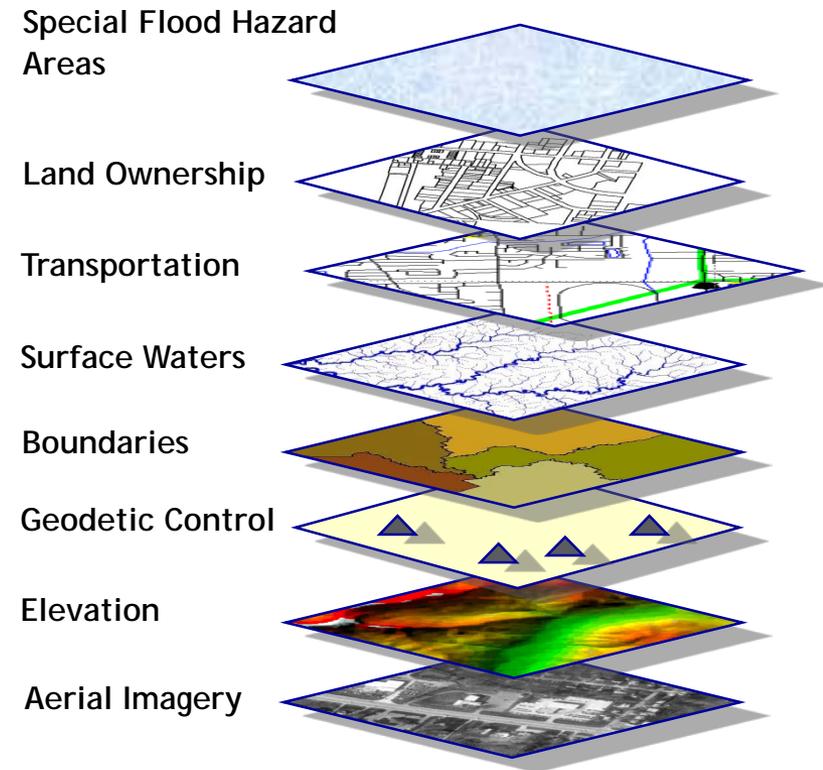


Planning



# Union County, NJ FIRM Product

- **Components of a FIRM**
  - **Base map**
  - **Topographic data**
  - **Flood hazard data**
  - **FIRM Database**
  - **Metadata**
  - **Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report**
  - **Back-up data (models, etc.)**





# Summary of Map Actions

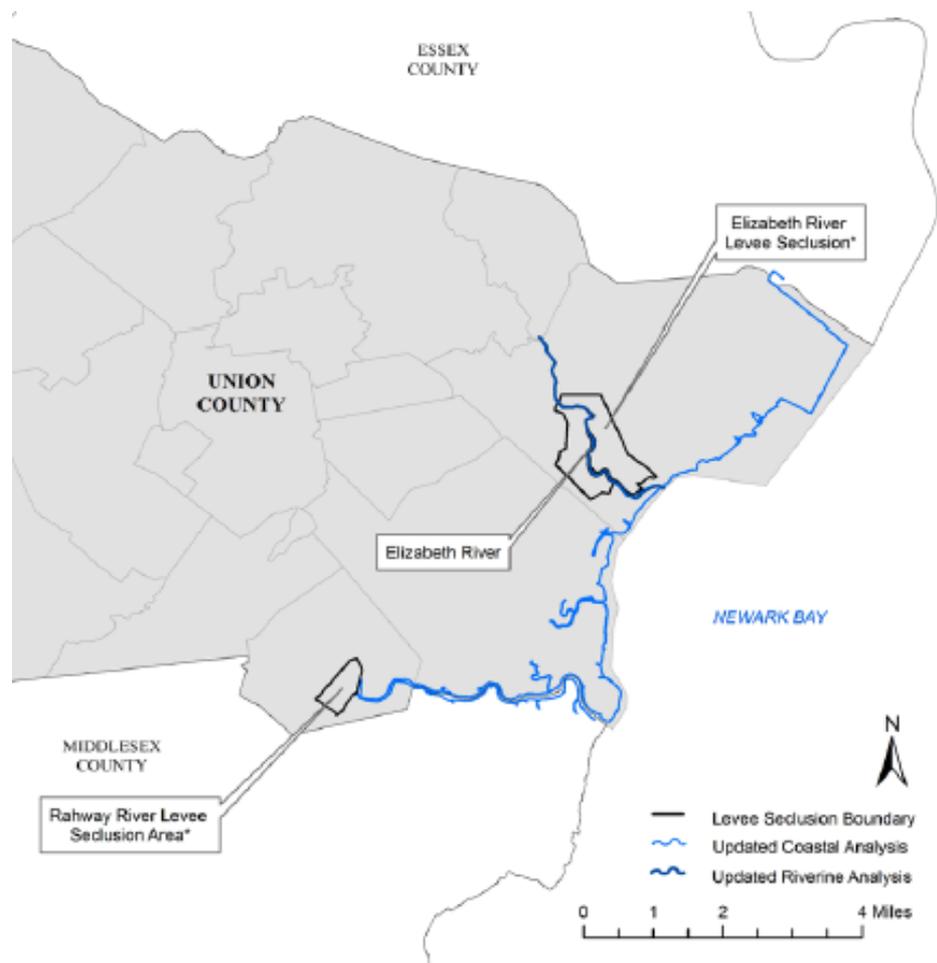
## FEMA periodically issues Letters of Map Change (LOMCs)

### 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- Category 3:** Superseded, and no longer valid, due to revised flood hazards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

Page 1 of 2		Date: November 17, 2011	Case No.: 12-L-00000	LOMA				
 <b>Federal Emergency Management Agency</b> Washington, D.C. 20472								
<b>LETTER OF MAP AMENDMENT</b> <b>DETERMINATION DOCUMENT (REMOVAL)</b>								
COMMUNITY AND MAP PANEL INFORMATION			LEGAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION					
COMMUNITY	CITY OF DALLAS, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS		Lot 18, Block B/8119, White Rock North, Seventh Installment, as shown on the Plat, recorded in Volume 48, Page 125, in the Office of the County Clerk, Dallas County, Texas					
	COMMUNITY NO.: 480171							
AFFECTED MAP PANEL	NUMBER: 48'							
	DATE: 8/23/2001							
FLOODING SOURCE: MCCREE BRANCH			APPROXIMATE LATITUDE & LONGITUDE OF PROPERTY: 32.878, -96.722 SOURCE OF LAT & LONG: ESRI: FEMA GEOCODE/GOOGLE MAPS DATUM: NAD 83					
DETERMINATION								
LOT	BLOCK/SECTION	SUBDIVISION	STREET	OUTCOME WHAT IS REMOVED FROM THE SFHA	FLOOD ZONE	1% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD ELEVATION (NGVD 29)	LOWEST ADJACENT GRADE ELEVATION (NGVD 29)	LOWEST LOT ELEVATION (NGVD 29)
18	B/8119	W No It	90'	Structure (Residence)	X (shaded)	491.3 feet	492.0 feet	--
Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) - The SFHA is an area that would be inundated by the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year (base flood).								
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS (Please refer to the appropriate section on Attachment 1 for the additional considerations listed below.)								
PORTIONS REMAIN IN THE SFHA STUDY UNDERWAY								
<p>This document provides the Federal Emergency Management Agency's determination regarding a request for a Letter of Map Amendment for the property described above. Using the information submitted and the effective National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) map, we have determined that the structure(s) on the property(ies) is/are not located in the SFHA, an area inundated by the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year (base flood). This document amends the effective NFIP map to remove the subject property from the SFHA located on the effective NFIP map; therefore, the Federal mandatory flood insurance requirement does not apply. However, the lender has the option to continue the flood insurance requirement to protect its financial risk on the loan. A Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) is available for buildings located outside the SFHA. Information about the PRP and how one can apply is enclosed.</p> <p>This determination is based on the flood data presently available. The enclosed documents provide additional information regarding this determination. If you have any questions about this document, please contact the FEMA Map Assistance Center toll free at (877) 336-2627 (877-FEMA MAP) or by letter addressed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, LOMC Clearinghouse, 6730 Santa Barbara Court, Elkridge, MD 21075.</p>								
 Luis Rodriguez, P.E., Chief Engineering Management Branch Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration								

# Union County, NJ — FIRM Overview



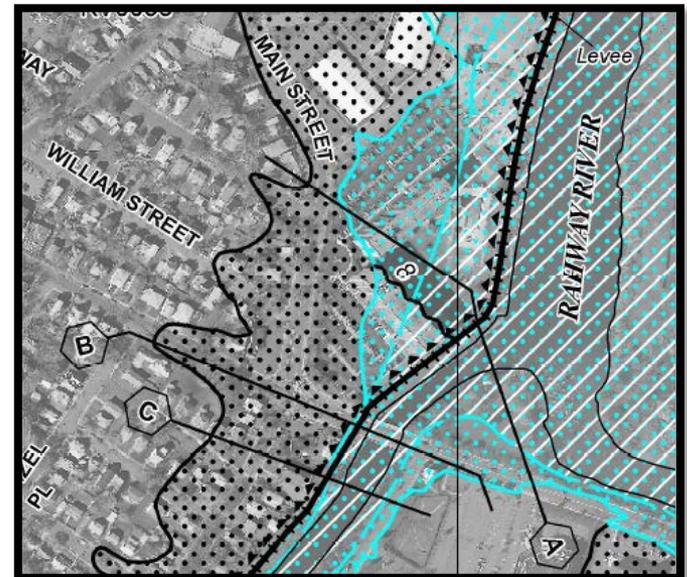
- 7.5 miles detailed study of coastal flood hazards
- 3.9 miles detailed hydraulic analysis along Elizabeth River
- Seclusion mapping methods along Elizabeth and Rahway River
- 2012 base orthoimagery from NJ Office of Information Technology
- Datum conversion (NGVD29 to NAVD88)

# Flood Control Projects

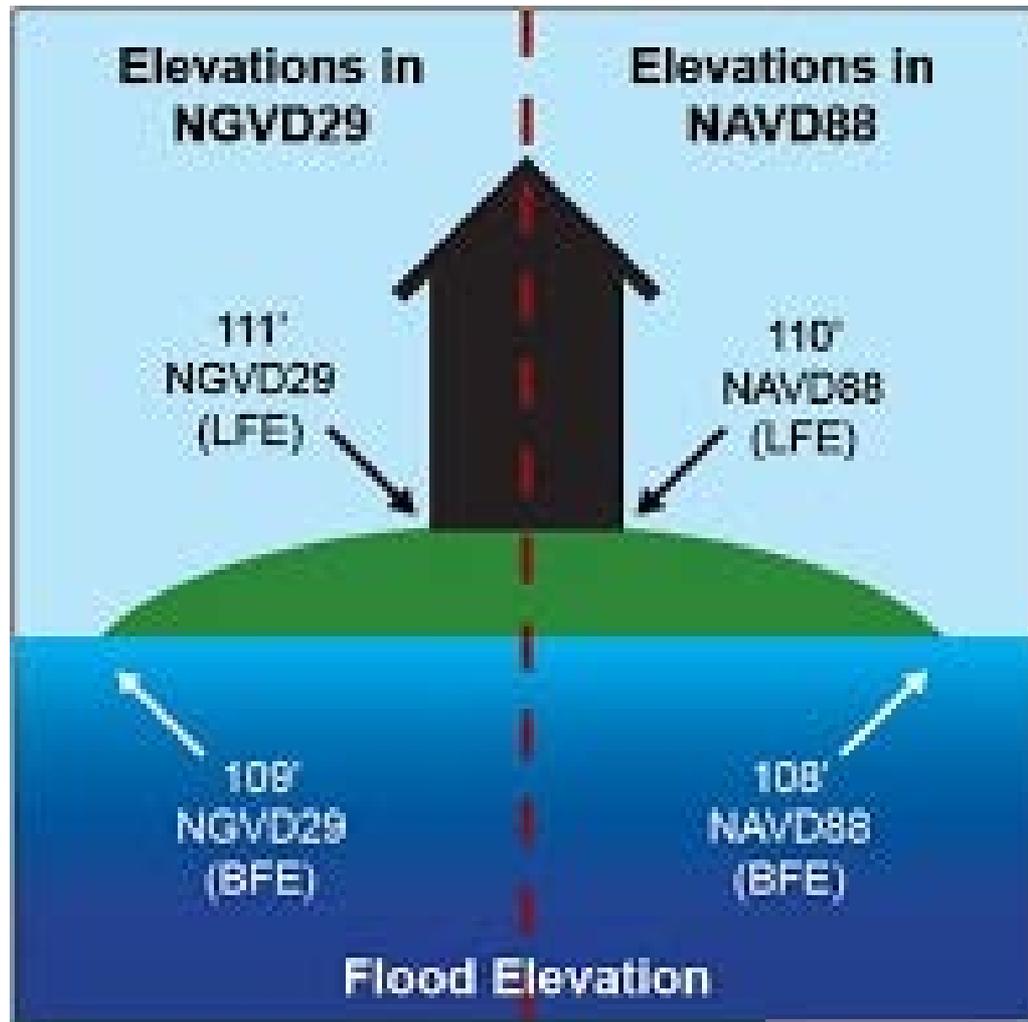
- **Rahway and Elizabeth Levees undergoing FEMA's Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedure (LAMP)**
- **Areas on landward side of levee secluded (effective flooding presented)**
- **Coastal backwater (Arthur Kill) dominates flooding**

**ATTENTION:** The levee, dike, or other structure that impacts flood hazards inside this boundary has not been shown to comply with Section 65.10 of the NFIP Regulations. As such, this FIRM panel will be revised at a later date to update the flood hazard information associated with this structure.

The flood hazard data inside this boundary on the FIRM panel has been republished from the previous effective (historic) FIRM for this area, after being converted from NGVD 29 to NAVD 88.



# Datum Conversion: -1.03 feet



# Using Effective and Preliminary FIRM Data

Use the standard that is the **higher** of the two

*What will happen in the future can cost you now*

Zone A

**Flood insurance is always based on the Effective FIRM**

*What will save you now can cost you in the future*

Zone V

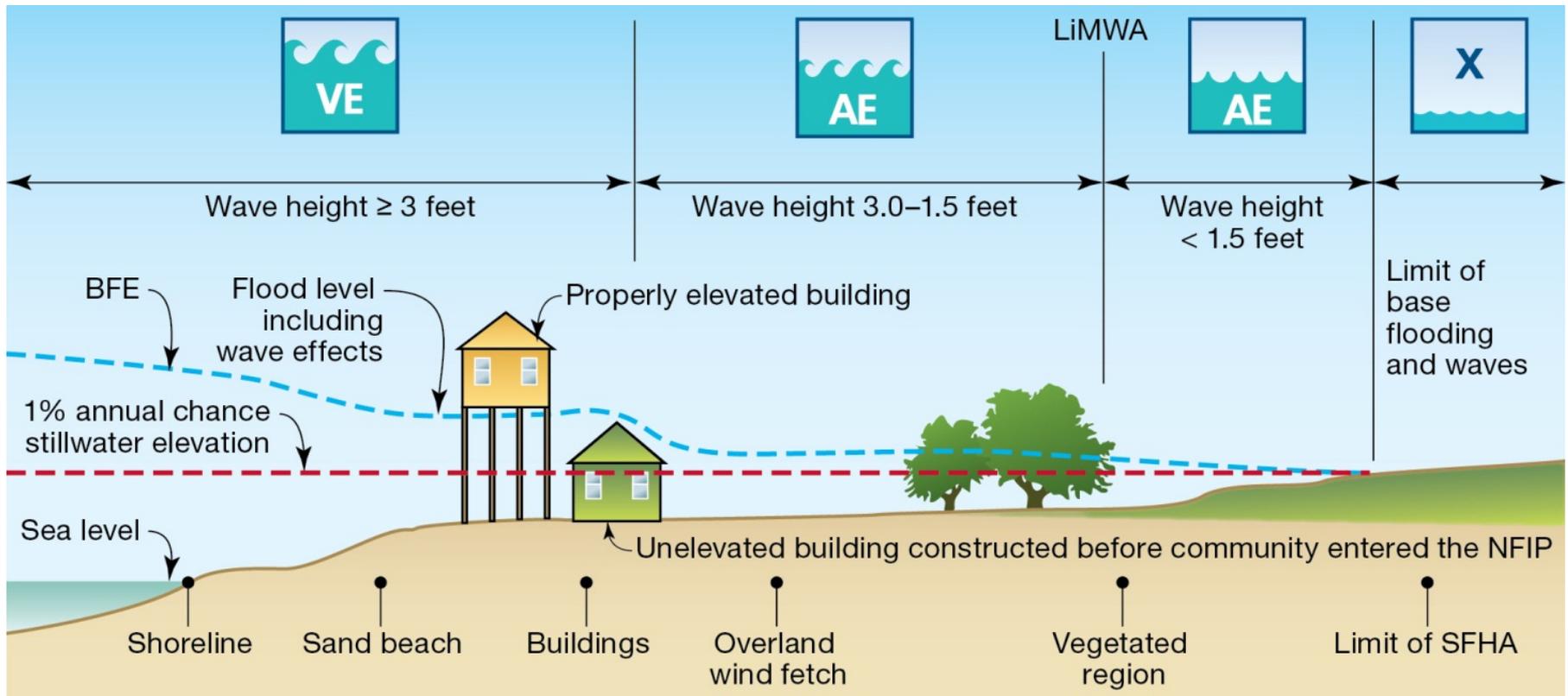
Current Effective FIRM BFE

*(used for insurance ratings UNTIL Preliminary FIRM is adopted)*

Preliminary FIRM BFE

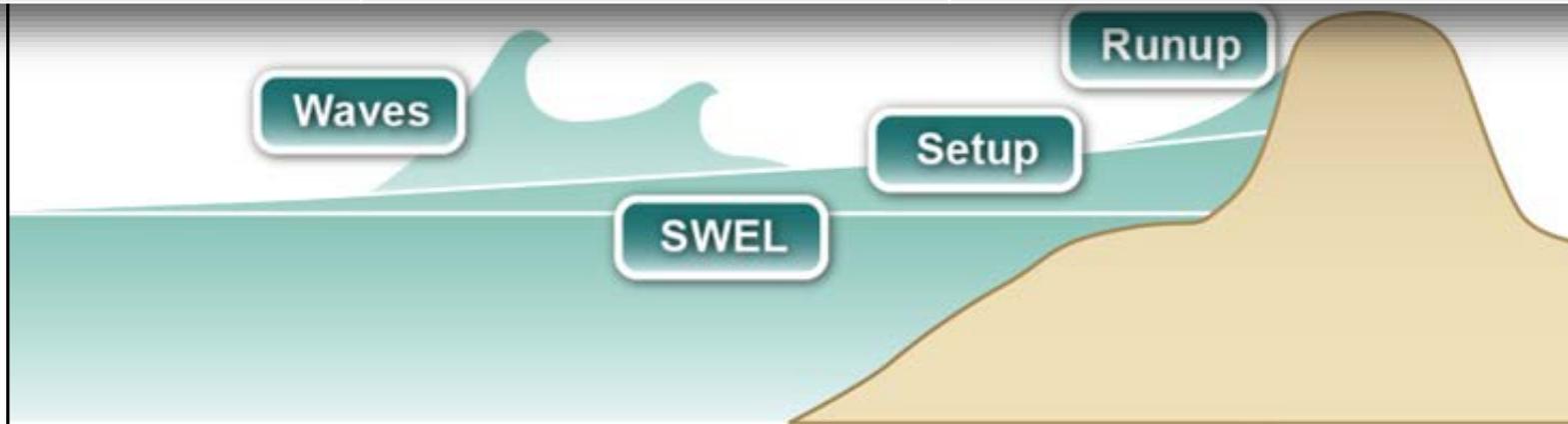
*(will replace CURRENT effective FIRM when adopted)*

# Detailed Coastal Mapping

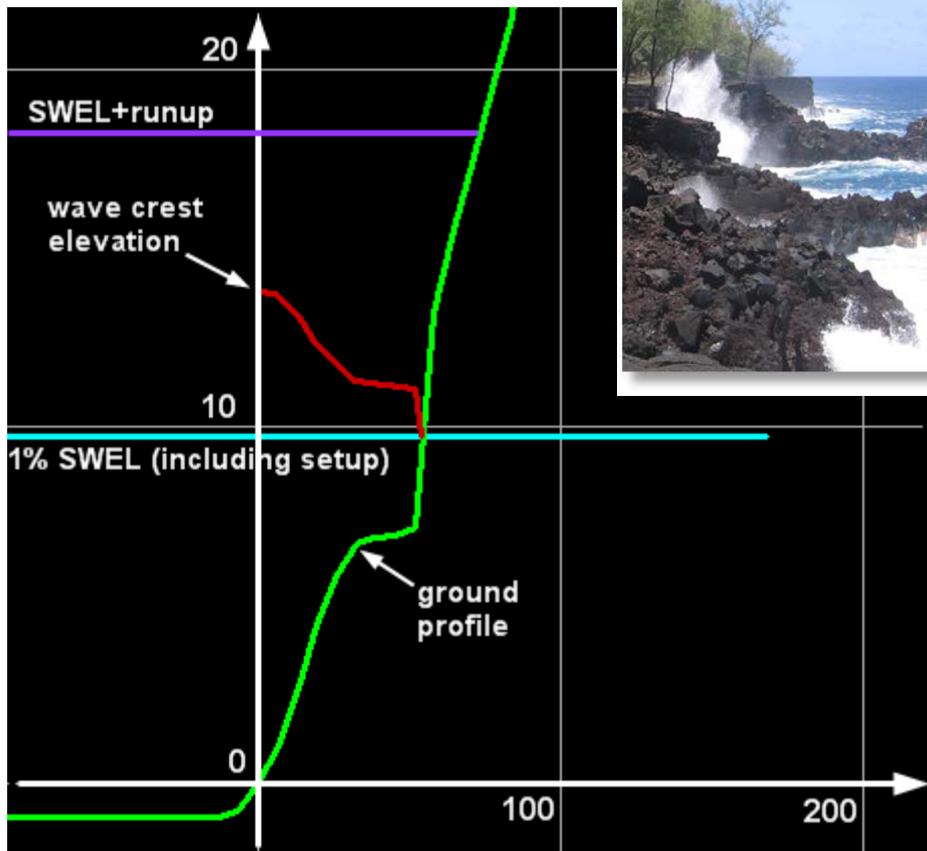


# Effective vs. New Coastal Study

Coastal Study Component	Effective Study (2006)	New Study (2015)
Topographic data	1962 – 1983 (by community)	2006/2007 LiDAR
SWELs	1992 New York City Study	2010 FEMA New York / New Jersey Regional Study
Modeled transects	0	40
Wave setup	No	Yes
Wave runup	No	Yes
LiMWA	No	Yes



# Wave Runup



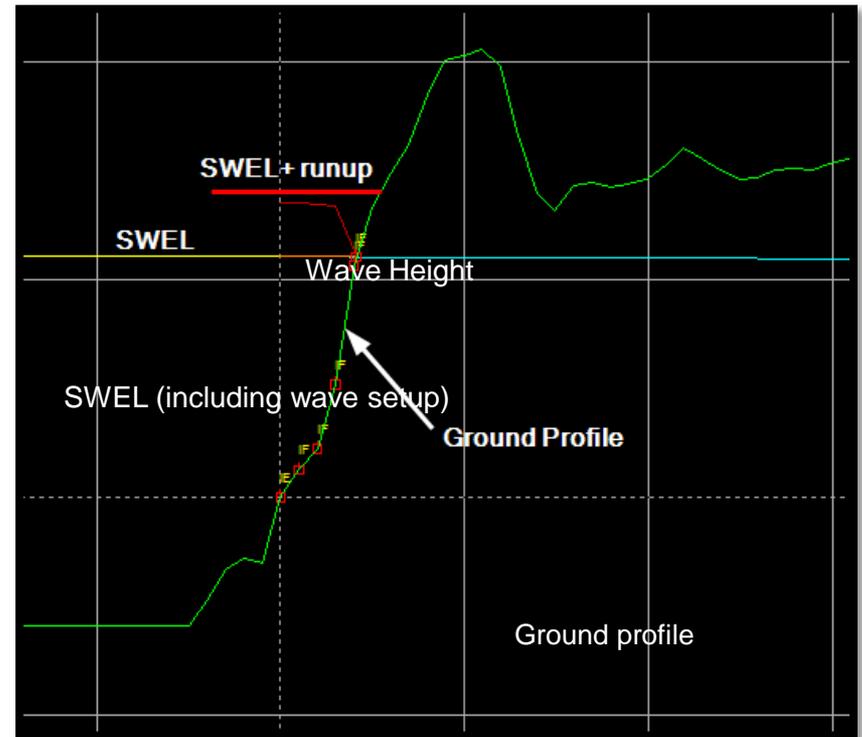
- Runup modeled for beaches, bluffs, cliffs and coastal structures
- Calculate top 2% of runup elevations (vs. previous studies using mean runup)
- Methods:
  - Runup 2.0 & CSHORE used for 6 transects in Union

# Wave Runup

How is runup mapped?

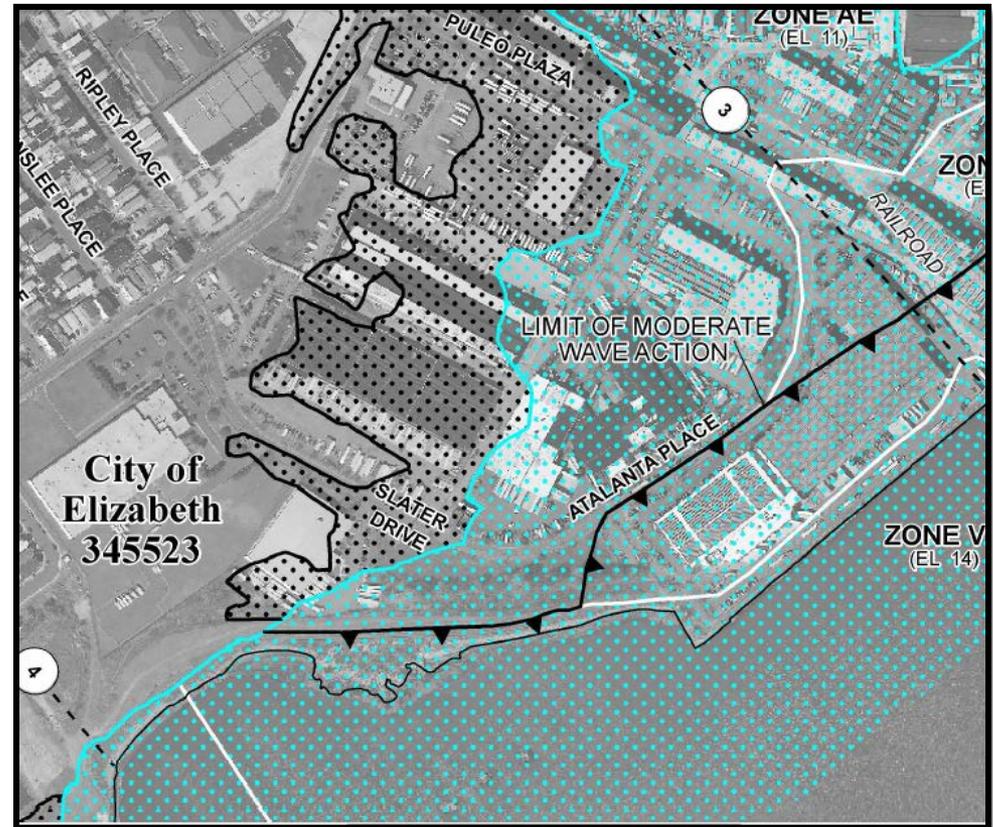


Profile view of Transect

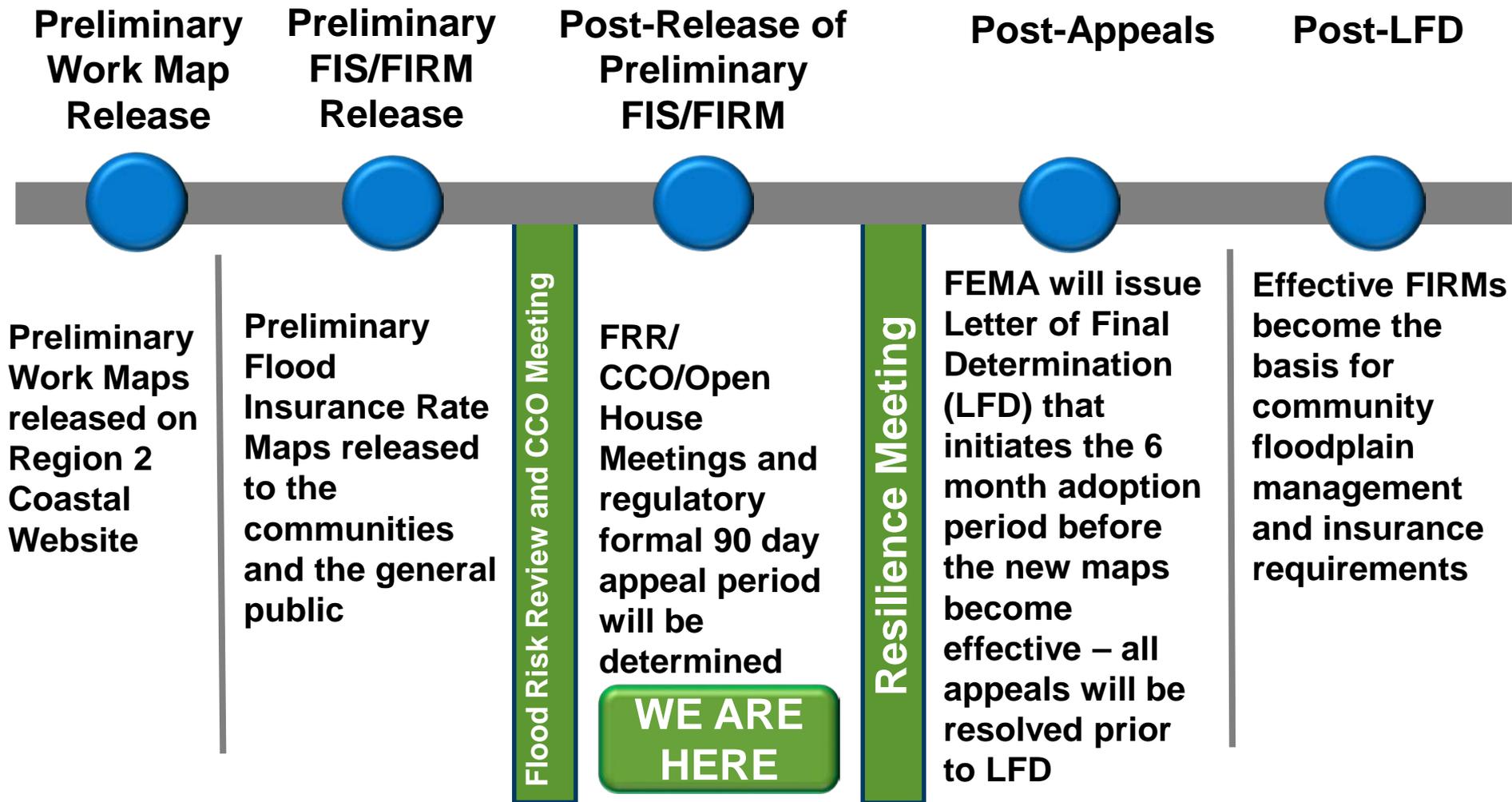


# LiMWA on the Map

- **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**



# Timeline for Union County – Future



# 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 [www.region2coastal.com](http://www.region2coastal.com)

# Regulatory Process: *Comments*

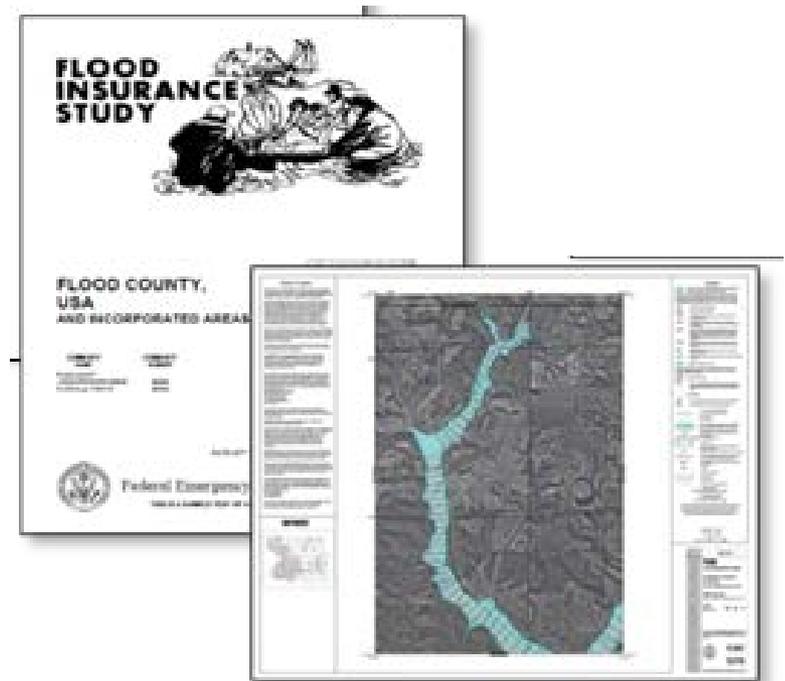
- **Comments are any input and/or feedback on the Preliminary FIRMs that *do not* relate to new or modified BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA boundaries or SFHA zone designations**
  - **Comments include, but are not limited to:**
    - **Changes in the floodplain that should have been submitted to FEMA**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

# Regulatory Process: *Appeals*

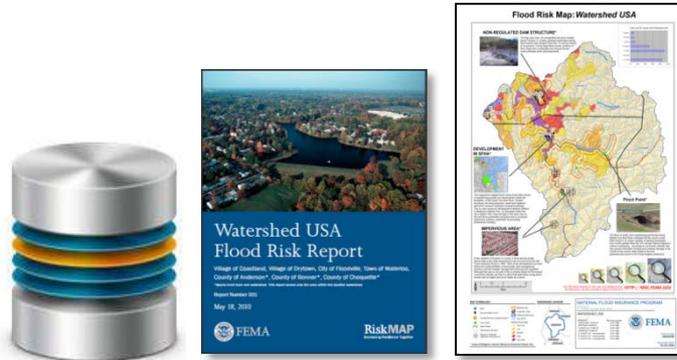
- Appeals are challenges to the Preliminary FIRMs that relate to new or modified BFEs, base flood depths, SFHA boundaries or SFHA zone designations and that are believed to be scientifically or technically incorrect
  - Appeals may result in revisions to the Preliminary FIRMs
- Appeals must be:
  - Submitted within the designated 90-day Appeals period
  - Accompanied by sufficient technical information (see *Criteria for Appeals of Flood Insurance Rate Maps*) at:  
[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)
  - 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 (LFD)
  - 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

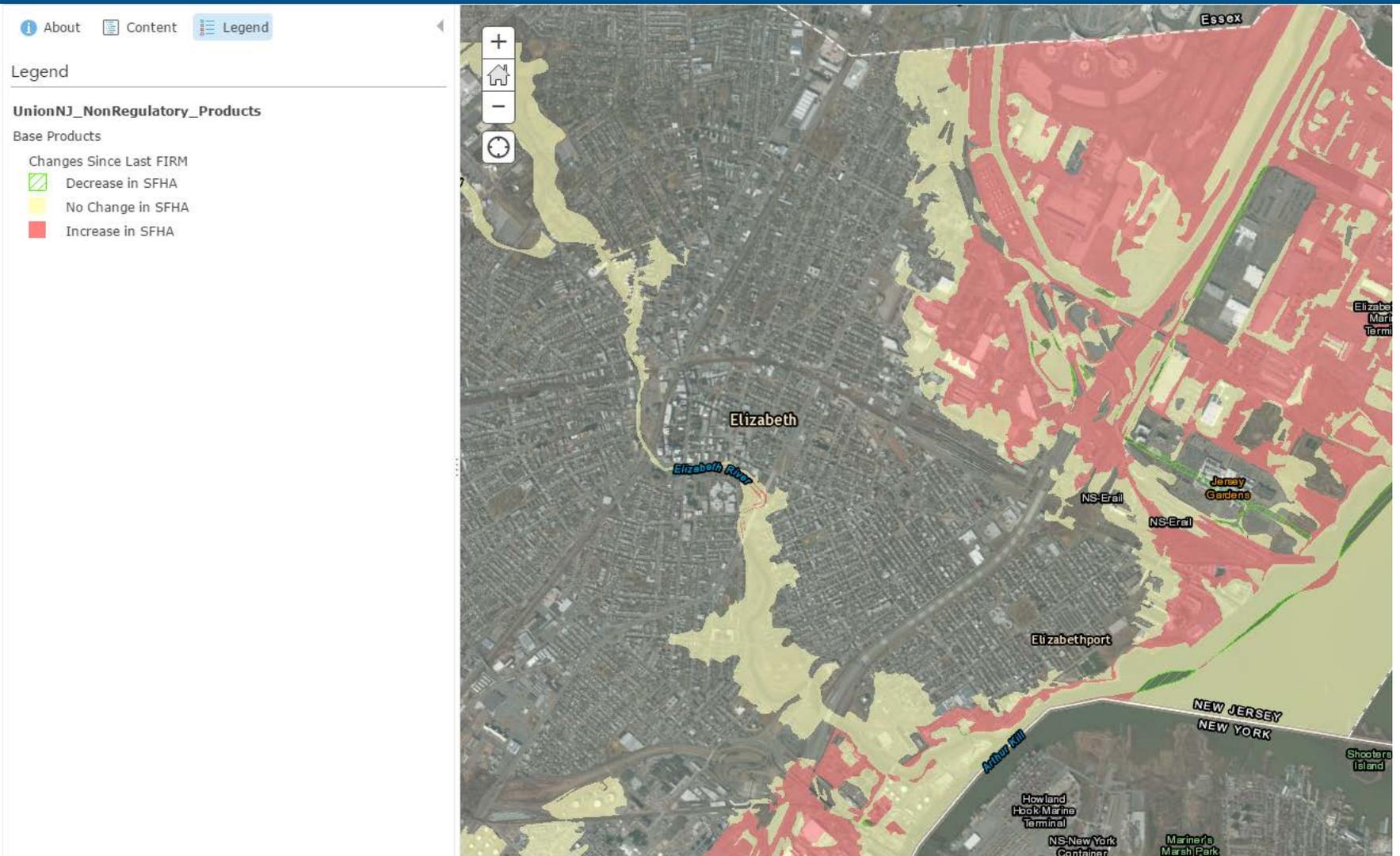


# Non-Regulatory Coastal Flood Risk Products and Datasets

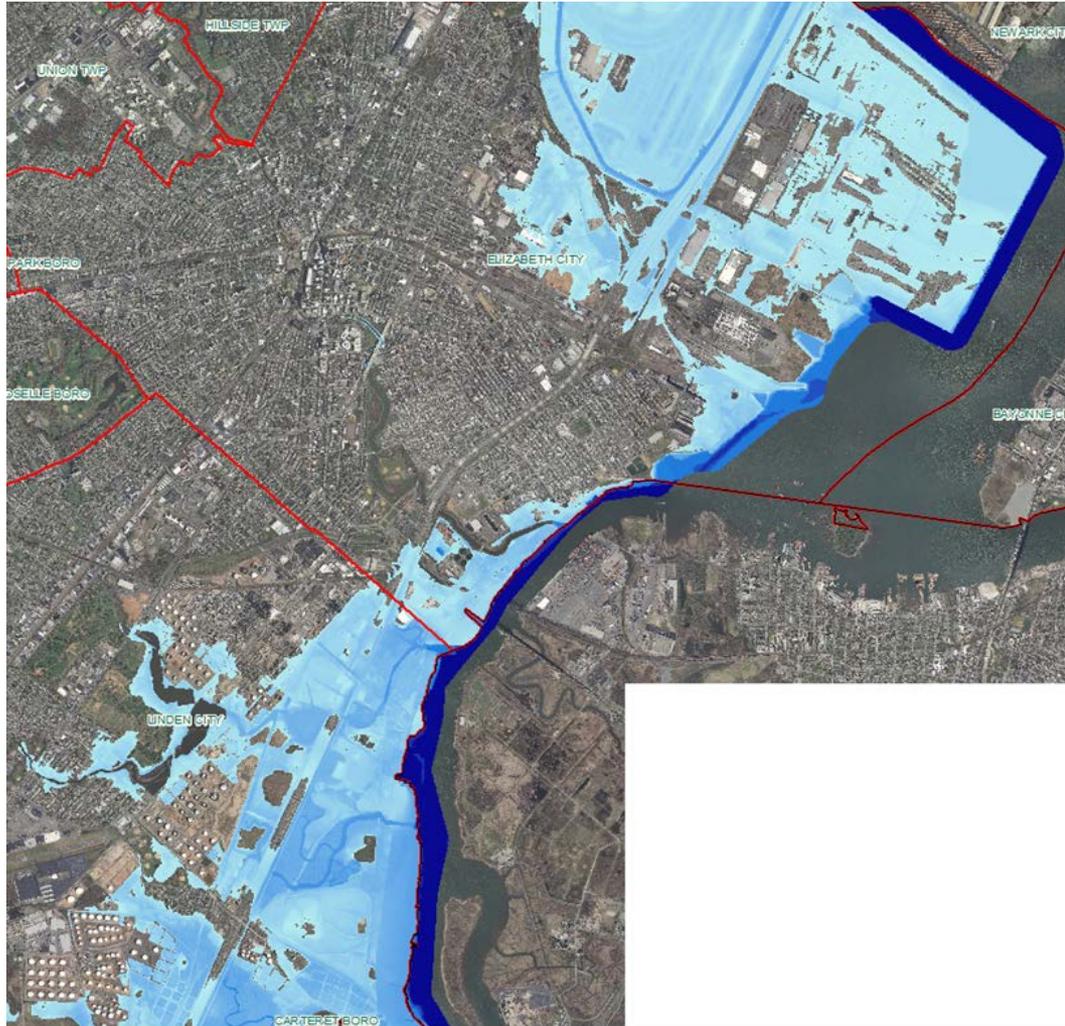


- **Flood Risk Products**
  - Flood Risk Report, Map, and Database
- **Flood Risk Datasets**
  - Changes Since Last FIRM (CSLF)
  - Coastal 1% Depth Grid
  - Areas of Mitigation Interest (AOMI)

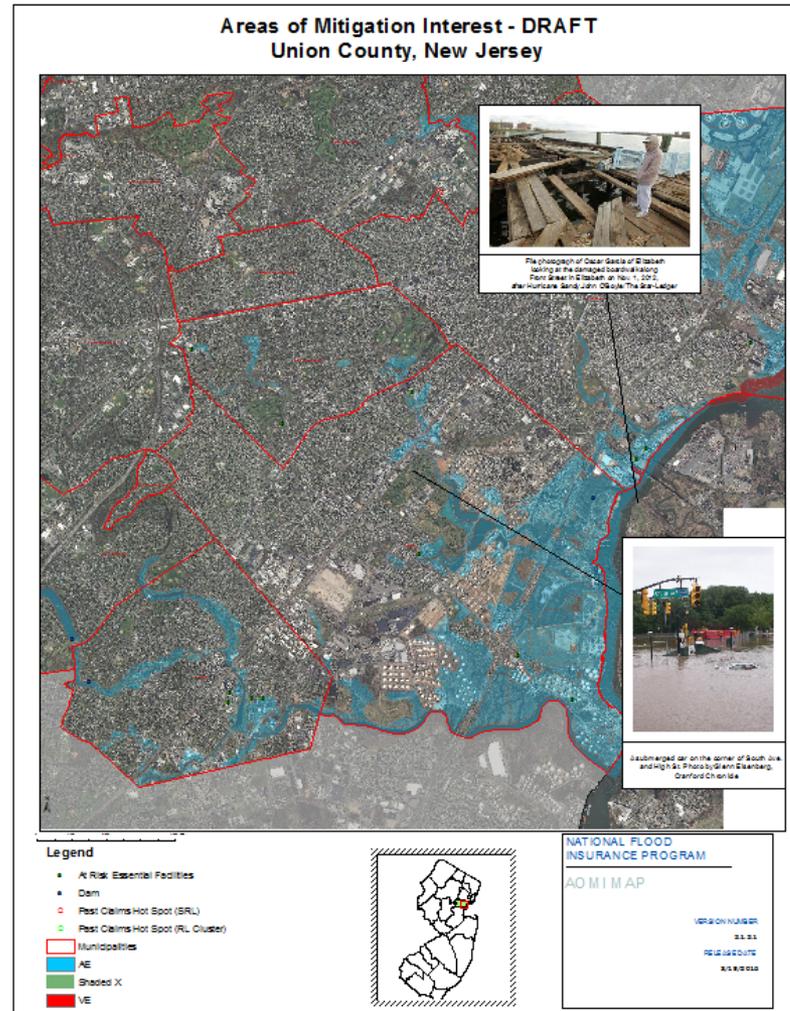
# Changes Since Last FIRM – Identifying Actions



# Depth Grids – Identifying Actions



# Areas of Mitigation Interest – Identifying Actions



# 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**

# 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

The screenshot shows the FloodSmart.gov website. At the top right, it says "Call toll free: 1-888-379-9531 or have us call you" and has a search bar. The main navigation menu includes: HOME, FLOODING & FLOOD RISKS, ABOUT THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM, RESIDENTIAL COVERAGE, COMMERCIAL COVERAGE, POLICYHOLDER RESOURCES, PREPARATION & RECOVERY, and RESOURCES. The RESOURCES menu is expanded, listing: Agent Site, Agent Locator, Community Rating System, Community Resources, File Your Claim, Frequently Asked Questions, Glossary, Flood Facts, Media Resources, Toolkits, and Email Updates. The main content area features a large article titled "How will the New Flood Maps Affect Your Flood Risk?" with a "SEARCH YOUR AREA" button. Below this are navigation tabs for "Protect What Matters", "Hurricane Season", "BW-12", "New Flood Maps", and "Flood After Fire". There are three featured boxes: "LATEST NEWS" with a link to "Nominate your community for the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies' Excellence in Communications Awards Program by August 8.", "GET COVERAGE FOR AS LOW AS \$129 PER YEAR" with a "LEARN MORE" button, and "WHAT COULD FLOODING COST ME?" with a "LEARN MORE" button. On the right, there is a "One-Step Flood Risk Profile" section with the heading "HOW CAN I GET COVERED?" and a form for address, city, state, zip code, and residential status.

# 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, including the basement, 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!!!**

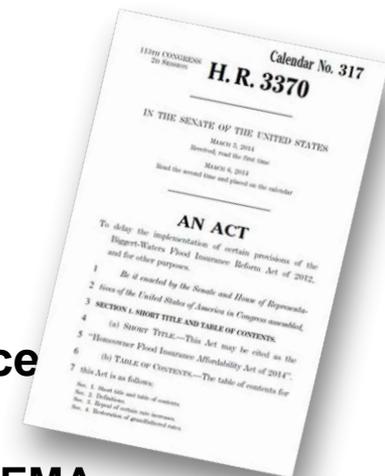
- **You Don't Live in a Flood Hazard Area?**

**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



# Refunds, Rates, and Surcharges

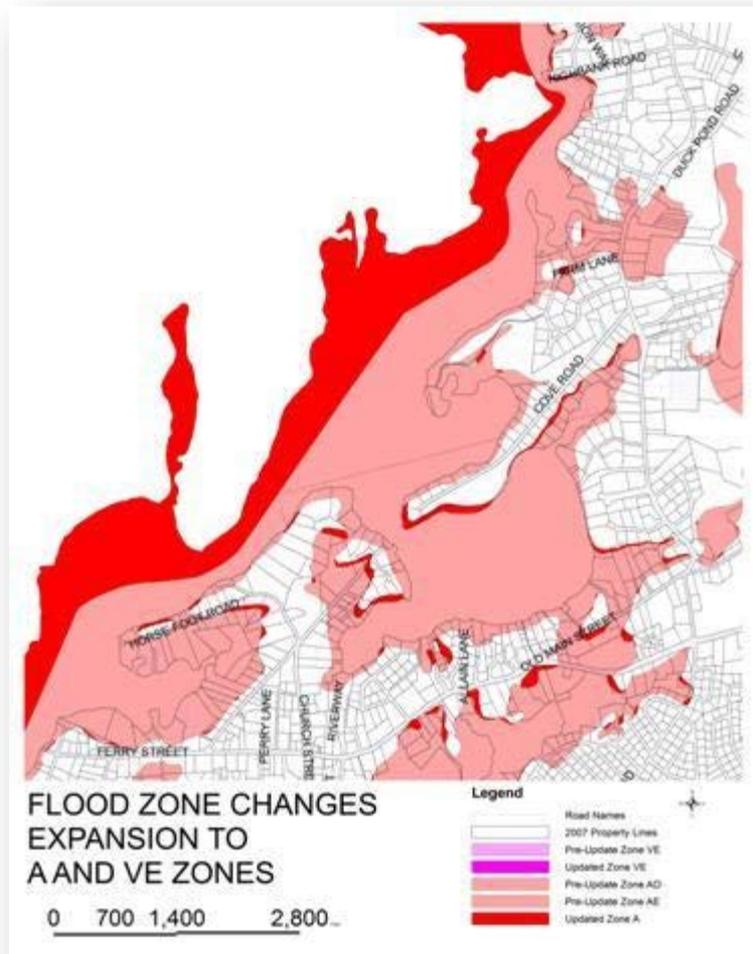
## Mandatory Surcharges (Sec. 8)

- **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**

# Refunds, Rates, and Surcharges

## 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



# Refunds, Rates, and Surcharges

## 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.

# Refunds, Rates, and Surcharges

## 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.

# Refunds, Rates, and Surcharges

## Other Policies

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

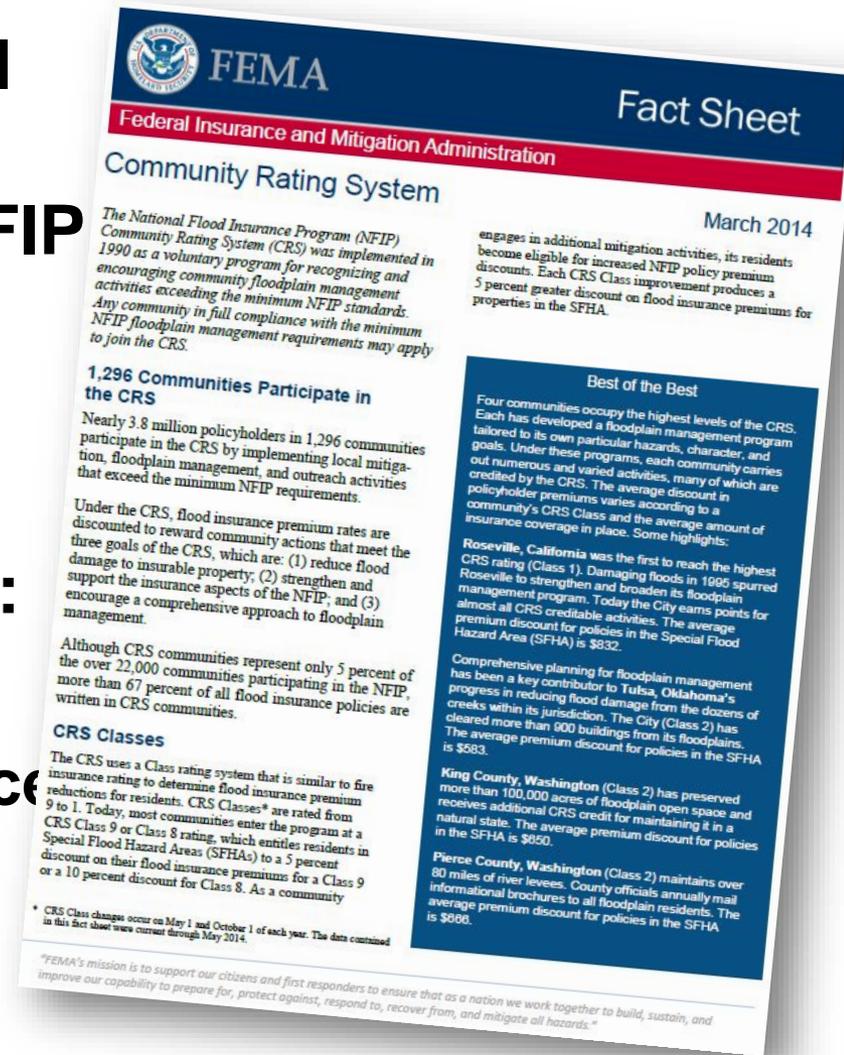
POLICY TYPE	IMPACT ON RATES
Policies for newer (“post-FIRM”) buildings in high-risk areas	Not affected by subsidies; already paying full-risk rates.
Policies for buildings in moderate-to low-risk areas	Not affected by subsidies; properties in these areas (shown as B, C, or X zones on flood maps) do not 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



# 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

# Higher Than Minimum Standards

- **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will provide some options; these will be noted as optional**
- **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**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
31						
31	30	30	31	30	30	30
31	30	30	31	30	30	30
31	30	30	31	30	30	30
31	30	30	31	30	30	30

# 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

# 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 all sections**
- **Failure to adopt State laws**

# Questions? Need Ordinance Assistance?

**Visit our website:**

**[www.nj.gov/dep/floodcontrol](http://www.nj.gov/dep/floodcontrol)**

**Contact our office:**

**NJDEP, NJ State NFIP Coordinator's Office**

**(609) 292-2296**

**Alan (Chris) Gould**

**[Alan.gould@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Alan.gould@dep.nj.gov)**



# Risk Communciations-Resources



- Visit our Website: [www.region2coastal.com](http://www.region2coastal.com)
- Outreach factsheets
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Coastal Risk Educational Videos
- Best Available Data (Preliminary FIRMs)
- For additional information: [www.rampp-team.com/nj/htm](http://www.rampp-team.com/nj/htm)

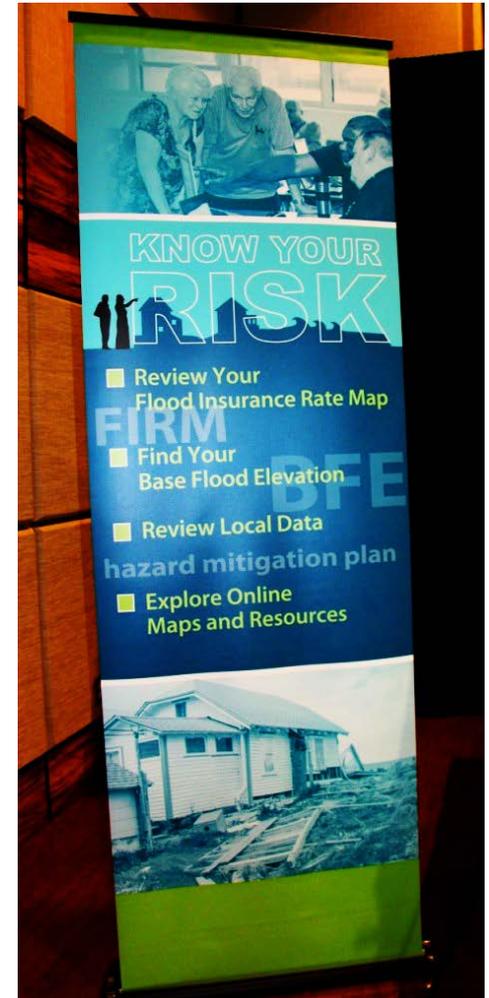
# Review and Summary

- **Map Overview**
- **Regulatory Process for Map Adoption**
- **Floodplain Management & Flood Insurance**
- **Ordinance Review & Update**
- **Risk Communication**

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

# Public Open House

- **Provide local residents, businesses, and property owners opportunity to visit with municipal, county, State, and Federal officials to:**
  - Understand what flood hazard zones on new FIRMs are and what they mean
  - Learn about how their flood risk will affect their floodplain management and flood insurance requirements
  - Become informed about options if affected by high-risk flood zone



# FEMA



# FEMA