



Public Comment Period Information for Protests & Appeals

MAPPING THE RISK FLOOD MAP MODERNIZATION

Hernando County recently completed a remapping of the county's flood hazards and every effort has been made to have the flood hazard maps reflect the most current risk data. However, the county and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognize that drainage patterns change as they are continually modified by changes in stream courses, land use, and improved stormwater infrastructure, even after the completion of a study. To recognize this, FEMA provides an opportunity for property owners to show that additional information may change the risk level indicated by the maps.

What If I Have Additional Information That Shows That I Am Not in the High Risk Flood Area?

If you have updated information, such as an elevation certificate, topographic map, detailed hydraulic or hydrologic data, then you may be able to protest or appeal the flood risk indicated by the new maps.

How are Appeals and Protests Resolved?

All appeals and protests will be sent to the Hernando County government to initially review if the technical data submitted by the applicant will support the request. After that determination, they will be forwarded onto FEMA for final review and a decision. If necessary, additional supporting data will be requested. Following the review of all submitted data, FEMA will send a letter to the local government explaining the resolution of all of the appeals or protests. The decision to deny or approve the request will then be forwarded back to the applicant. Approved requests will become effective the day after the maps are formally adopted, which is anticipated to occur in the fall of 2006.

Where Can I Get Additional Information on Appeals and Protests?

Further information on this topic is available from the FEMA Map Assistance Center toll-free at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (877-336-2627) or via email FEMAMapSpecialist@mapmodteam.com.

Any individual property owner who wishes to protest or appeal the information shown on the preliminary flood map or in the Flood Insurance Study Report should **submit an application and all requested supporting data between _____ and _____.**

Applications are available at www.hernandocounty.us/FloodMap or by calling the Flood Information Line at 540-6300.

PROTEST OR APPEAL?

Protest - A formal objection to any new or revised information **that does not involve Base flood elevations (BFE)**. Protests generally involve comments regarding the boundaries of the updated floodplain, floodways or municipalities, and road names/locations.

Appeal - A formal objection to new or revised **proposed base flood elevation(s) (BFEs)**. Appeals are based on empirical data that show proposed base flood elevations to be scientifically or technically incorrect.