October 21, 2009

To whom it may concern:

Subject: Flood Insurance Rate Map for the City of West Sacramento

The City of West Sacramento (City) is aggressively implementing a program to reduce the risk of flooding for its community. The City’s actions focus on structural elements to provide 200-year flood protection, coupled with strong floodplain management elements. The City plans to implement structural elements by funding and constructing levee improvements in the short-term, with reliance upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete the improvements once the project is federally authorized.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is implementing its Map Modernization Program (MMP) nationally. The MMP includes the digitization of older paper flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) for each county in California. The FIRMs are used to set insurance rates, and to determine when certain floodplain management measures must occur under the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA has issued preliminary digital FIRMs to all communities of Yolo County except for the City of West Sacramento. FEMA and the City are coordinating closely to determine the most appropriate flood zone designation for the City. At this time it is not known when a preliminary FIRM will be issued to the City. Typically, once a preliminary FIRM is issued to a community, the map will become final in nine to twelve months.

Until the revised FIRMs become final, the current flood zone designation for the majority of properties in the City is Flood Zone X (areas protected by levees from 100-year floods). Properties in Flood Zone X are not required to carry flood insurance, however, should they choose to do so as recommended by the City, they are eligible for Preferred Risk Policies.

When new information becomes available the City will communicate to the public. If you have any questions regarding the information contained herein, please contact the City’s Flood Protection Manager, Michael Bessette, at (916) 617-4645. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Toby Ross
City Manager
City of West Sacramento

Cc: Bill Panos, Director of Public Works
Michael Bessette, Flood Protection Manager