



Community Development

2025 NE Kresky Avenue
Chehalis WA 98532

Date: July 26, 2023

To: BOCC

From: Doyle Sanford, Building Official/Fire Marshall/CFM

RE: Read Ahead – FIS and FIRM revisions for the Nisqually River Basin

Action required: Meeting ___ Consent X Discussion ___ Decision ___

Staff recommendation: Acknowledge that the Flood Insurance Study for Lewis County and accompanying flood insurance rate maps for the Nisqually River Basin have been revised by FEMA effective August 15, 2023.

Background:

Lewis County Code (LCC) 15.35.060 establishes the special flood hazard as the area identified by the Federal Insurance Administration in a scientific and engineering report entitled “The Flood Insurance Study for Lewis County” (FIS) dated November 1981, and as revised, with accompanying flood insurance rate maps (FIRM).

The flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) were revised for sections of the Nisqually River Basin and nearby streams affecting portions of Unincorporated Lewis, Pierce and Thurston Counties.

The special flood hazard areas included in the map revisions were previously unstudied. The completed FIRM map revisions are a more accurate depiction of the floodplain and floodway for this area and will provide better protection for the citizens of Lewis County.

FEMA Process:

FEMA is required to provide the draft FIS and FIRM map revisions to the public for comment. Following comment period and any changes made to the FIS/FIRM based on the comments, there is a 90-day appeal period. Any member of the public, including Lewis County, may provide comments on the maps and may appeal.

The draft FIRM revision for the Nisqually River Basin was released for public comment on June 25, 2021. The final proposed revised FIS and FIRM was noticed in The Chronicle and published in the Federal Register on May 5, 2022 and the statutory 90-day appeal period was initiated. The appeal period closed on August 2, 2022 with no appeals. The Letter of Final Determination was published on February 15, 2023 with an effective date of August 15, 2023.

Next steps:

Because LCC 15.35.060 incorporates the FIS and FIRM by reference, the BOCC does not need to adopt the revised FIS and FIRM through the formal ordinance. Instead, the resolution being presented to the BOCC is to acknowledge that the FIS and FIRM has been revised for the Nisqually River Basin and that the revised FIRM goes into effect on August 15, 2023.