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To: Public Distribution

From: Steven Morgenstern, NMDOT Drainage Design Bureau Chief

PURPOSE: Guidance on restrictions on water surface elevation changes within FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). These restrictions as listed are per Heath Dobrovolny, CFM, State Hazard Mitigation Officer & State Floodplain Coordinator, New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Note: for NMDOT projects, the drainage engineer (either Consultant or DDB) is responsible for recognizing and accommodating these SFHA, and coordinating with the local Floodplain Administrators. Local Floodplain Administrators must be contacted, and project acceptance must be documented.

DEFINITIONS:

CLOMR – Conditional Letter of Map Revision - a letter from FEMA commenting on whether a proposed project if built as proposed, or proposed hydrology changes, would meet minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards

LOMR – Letter of Map Revision - a letter from FEMA officially revising the current NFIP map to show changes to floodplains, regulatory floodways, or flood elevations

Rise – Increase in water surface elevation due to proposed construction

No-Rise – proposed construction causes less than 0.00-foot (0.00') rise

SFHA – Special Flood Hazard Areas

Structure - A structure with 2 or more outside rigid walls and a fully secured roof, that is affixed to a permanent site; OR

A manufactured home (a “manufactured home,” also known as a mobile home, is a structure built on a permanent chassis, transported to its site in 1 or more sections, and affixed to a permanent foundation); OR

A travel trailer without wheels, built on a chassis and affixed to a permanent foundation, that is regulated under the community’s floodplain management and building ordinances or laws.

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)	Allowable increase in water surface elevation	
	No Structure Impacted	Structure Is Impacted
Floodway in AE	No Rise	No Rise
AE outside of Floodway	up to 1.00'	No Rise
AO or AH	up to 1.00'	No Rise
A1-A30 or A	up to 1.00'	No Rise
B or Shaded X	note (3)	note (3)
C or Unshaded X	No Limits	No Limits

- 1) Allowable increases shown are per FEMA regulations. Local ordinances may be more restrictive.
- 2) Always coordinate with the local Floodplain Administrator.
- 3) Local ordinances determine the limit on allowable rise. Check with the local Floodplain Administrator.

Where No-Rise is required, this is even more of an issue if there are structures affected. Any project that creates even a 0.01' rise against a structure would be in violation, and would require a remedy. Either the project would need to be redesigned to show no rise, or the property/structure could be purchased and demolished.