

To Mayor and Ross Town Council
From: Bob Hemati, Public Works Director
Re: Stetson Engineers Presentation of FEMA's Revised Maps
Date: June 8, 2012

I. Project Summary

FEMA is in the process of revising its FIRMS (Flood Insurance Rate Maps) for Ross Valley. This process involves flood studies including new hydraulic and hydrologic models to determine water surface elevations for the 1-percent-annual-chance flood, also referred to as base flood elevations (BFE's) from riverine and coastal flooding sources. The FIRM for the Town of Ross was revised in 1981 and most recently in 2009. The revised FIRM for the Town of Ross is planned to become effective in 2013.

II. Discussion

FEMA is providing the communities the chance to review and comment on the flood studies and preliminary draft FIRMs before they are officially released for public review and comment later this summer. Stetson was retained by the Town of Ross to review the preliminary draft map for the Town. The preliminary draft map delineates the Special Flood Hazard Area; that is, the area contained within the 100-year flood boundary. Unlike previous FIRMs, this preliminary draft also delineates the Regulatory Floodway, which is the area within the SFHA that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot. Communities must regulate development in the Regulatory Floodway to ensure that there are no increases in the upstream flood elevations.

Attachment:
FEMA Flood Map Revisions