

FEMA Mapping



TO: Robert L. Garza, P.E. – City Manager
FROM: Loretta M. Reyes, P.E. – Engineering Services Administrator
DATE: June 3, 2011
SUBJECT: June 13, 2011 City Council Work Session - Federal Emergency Management Agency Proposed Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps Update
FILE NO: PW 11-287

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has undertaken an initiative to modernize National Flood Insurance Program Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) nationwide. FEMA is converting to a system that will now provide FIRMs in a digital format in an effort to transition to digital processes for distributing and reading flood maps and to reduce costs with paper map production, handling, and storage.

FEMA commissioned a private engineering firm to prepare digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) and the associated Flood Insurance Study report (FIS) for Dona Ana County. FEMA issued the first set of proposed preliminary DFIRMs in April 2007 for review and comment by the City of Las Cruces (City), Dona Ana County, and the public. This process has been on-going since that time, during which the City appealed the Sandhill Arroyo flood zone located on the east mesa.

Staff from the Public Works Department, Engineering Services section has been asked to provide an update to the City Council regarding the status of the process and the proposed DFIRMs. Engineering Services staff will present a timeline showing what has transpired since April 2007; the proposed DFIRMs showing the Sandhill Arroyo flood zone before and after the City's appeal; and, the next steps in the process.

I am available to meet with you regarding this topic at your convenience. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at x3171 or email me at lreyes@las-cruces.org.

cc: City Council
Brian Denmark, Assistant City Manager
Michael D. Johnson, P.E. - Public Works Director