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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CITY ENGINEER**208-735-7256**

October 19, 2013

Dear City of Twin Falls Resident:

This letter is being sent to you for informational purposes only because our records show that your property is very likely located in the floodplain. The City is working on ways to improve and increase its circulation of and accessibility to information that pertains to the floodplain, in an effort to better educate and assist its citizens about developing and living in the floodplain. Please take the time to read the information below, and if you have further questions, or would like additional information, a variety of contact information has been supplied at the end of this document.

Topic ①
Know
Your
Flood
Hazard

Overview – The Local Flood Hazard ¹

The City of Twin Falls features rivers, coulees, smaller tributaries or streams, and Twin Falls Canal Company irrigation canals and ditches that are susceptible to annual flooding events that may pose threats to life and safety and may cause significant property damage. Major waterways include the Perrine Coulee, Rock Creek, East Perrine Coulee, the High Line Canal and Low Line Canal. The surface drainage generally flows to the north-northwest and ultimately discharges into the Snake River. Snow melt from the South Hills contributes substantially to flooding in the Rock Creek, and ongoing development within the County continues to displace natural areas that have historically functioned as flood storage. A map of the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) is attached. ⁶

Flooding occurs when climate (or weather patterns), geology, and hydrology combine to create conditions where river and stream waters flow outside of their usual course and “overspill” beyond their banks. In the City of Twin Falls, the combination of these factors, augmented by ongoing development, create seasonal flooding conditions at various times throughout the year. Some drainage areas are also subject to flooding from severe thunderstorm activity, usually in local areas and is very short in duration. A storm that produced widespread flooding occurred in January 1979, when a large snow accumulation was on the ground and warm rains began falling throughout the area. Runoff was augmented by snow melt and, with the blockage of several storm drains, flooding occurred in many areas. Water entered stores in the Blue Lakes Mall area, and many homes were flooded by overflow from the Perrine Coulee.

Flood Insurance ³

The City of Twin participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that makes available federally backed flood insurance for all structures, whether or not they are located within the floodplain. Following the purchase of flood insurance, NFIP imposes a 30-day

Topic ②
Flood
Insurance

waiting period, so residents should purchase insurance before the onset of the rainy season to ensure coverage during the flooding season.

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Federal financial assistance requires the purchase of flood insurance for buildings located within the SFHA — a requirement that affects nearly all mortgages financed through commercial lending institutions. It is the lender's responsibility to check the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) to determine whether a structure is within the SFHA.

The mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement does not apply to loans or financial assistance for items that are not eligible for flood insurance coverage, such as vehicles, business expenses, landscaping and vacant lots. The requirement also does not apply to loans for structures not located in a SFHA, even though a portion of the lot may be within a SFHA. Persons located within SFHAs who received disaster assistance after Sept. 23, 1994 for flood losses to real or personal property must purchase and maintain flood insurance coverage, otherwise future disaster assistance will be denied.

Floodplain Understanding and Regulation

Maintaining the flow capacity in streams requires cooperation and assistance to prevent flooding and bank erosion. Following are some suggestions and information for understanding the ways that floodplains function and how the City regulates the floodplain in order to protect property and lives, while affording City residents the ability to obtain floodplain insurance.

Topic (6)
protect
Natural
Floodplain
Function

Do not dump or throw anything into ditches or streams: A plugged channel cannot carry water, and when it rains, the excess water must go somewhere. Trash and vegetation dumped into a stream degrades water quality of both the stream itself and its receiving waters, and every piece of trash contributes to flooding. City Code 10—11—9(E) prohibits obstruction or reducing the capacity of the floodway by filling, constructing improvements or developing anything that will result in any increase of flood levels.¹⁰ Please report any observations of the dumping of debris or other objects into streams, drainage ways, or rivers to the City of Twin Falls Code Enforcement at (208)735-7278.

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Remove debris, trash, loose branches and vegetation: Keep banks clear of brush and debris to help maintain an unobstructed flow of water in stream channels. Do not, however, remove vegetation that is actively growing on a stream bank. Streamside vegetation is tightly regulated by local, state and federal regulations.

Obtain a floodplain development permit, and/or elevation certificate, if required⁸: To minimize damage to structures during flood events, the City requires all new construction in the floodplain to be anchored against movement by floodwaters, resistant to flood forces, constructed with flood-resistant materials and flood-proofed or elevated so that the first floor of living space is at least two (2) feet above the elevation of the 100-year flood, and all residential mechanical and services (HVAC, electrical, ductwork, etc.) must be above the base flood elevation. These standards apply to new structures and to substantial improvements of existing structures. The City defines a Substantial Improvement as any reconstruction, rehabilitation, or addition to an existing structure, the cost of which exceeds 25 percent of the structure's appraised or market value.⁹ Additionally, most other types of development within the floodplain also require a floodplain development permit, such as grading, cut and fill, installation of riprap and other bank stabilization techniques. City staff are available to undertake site visits, if requested, to review flood, drainage and sewer issues. The City Engineering Department maintains elevation

Topic (5)
Build
Responsib

360

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certificates for buildings constructed in the flood plain, and copies are posted on the City web site (www.tfid.org). Contact the City of Twin Falls Engineering Department at (208)735-7248 for further information and prior to undertaking any activity within the floodplain.

Recognize the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains to help reduce flooding⁵:

Floodplains are a natural component of the City of Twin Falls environment. Understanding and protecting the natural functions of floodplains helps reduce flood damage and protect resources. When flooding spreads out across the floodplain, its energy is dissipated, which results in lower flood flows downstream, reduced erosion of the streambank and channel, deposition of sediments higher in the watershed and improved groundwater recharge. Floodplains are scenic, valued wildlife habitat, and suitable for farming. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to streambank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding and degradation of water quality.

Reduce risk of damage to homes⁴: Practical and cost-effective methods for reducing or eliminating the risk of flooding are available to property owners whose homes have experienced damage from flooding in the past, or may experience damage in the future. Such techniques include elevation of the home, relocating the home to higher ground, constructing floodwalls or berms, flood-proofing and protecting utilities. For further information, contact the City of Twin Falls Engineering Department at (208)735-7256 and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region X at (425) 487-4600. During times of flooding, homes that have not been retrofitted can be protected during emergencies by the installation of sandbags. Information on the use and methods of sandbagging can be found at the following web sites:

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (www.bhs.idaho.gov)
County of Sacramento, California (www.floodready.org/sandbags.htm)

Topic 4
Protect
Property

The following businesses have the indicated flood protection materials available:

Sand and gravel:

Idaho Concrete	324-5100
Kloepfer.	734-3924
Northwest Sand and Gravel	733-1234
Triple C Concrete	733-7141

Sandbags:

Justus Bag Company	509-924-8353
IPAC Company	733-2182/420-1281
West Pack, Inc.	208-783-1166

330 **City Floodplain Information Services:** The City can determine the relationship of a particular property to the floodplain, including: 1) whether the property is located within the Special Flood Hazard Area; 2) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Zone for property; 3) Base Flood Elevation for property, if available; 4) whether the property is located within the Floodway, and (5) if there is an Elevation Certificate on the property. The elevation certificates are also on the City's web page at www.tfid.org. Contact the City of Twin Falls Engineering Department at (208)735-7248 for further information.

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Emergency Warning System⁷: In the case of an imminent flooding (or other disasters), the Twin Falls County Disaster Service will notify the Emergency Alert System, which will broadcast a warning on all local radio and television stations. Turn on your radio or TV to hear any

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Emergency Alert System messages that may be put out. If the electricity is out, begin using a battery powered radio tuned into 1270 AM.

Flood Safety Tips ²

Topic ③
protect
people

Following is a list of important considerations that should be followed during times of flooding:

Prepare an evacuation plan: Before the floodwaters hit, develop an evacuation plan among all members of a household that includes a meeting place outside of the house, as well as an escape route out of the floodplain and away from floodwaters.

Do not walk through flowing water: Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.

Do not drive through a flooded area: More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires: The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Idaho Power Company, the Fire Department or the County Disaster Services Office.

Shut off gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs: Be prepared in advance with a detailed checklist because warning of an impending flood may provide little time for preparation prior to evacuation.

Look out for animals, especially snakes: Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.

Look before you step: After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Be alert for gas leaks: Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know that the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Important Contact Information

- 1) City of Twin Falls Internet Home Page: <http://www.tfid.org>
- 2) City of Twin Falls Engineering
324 Hansen Street East, Twin Falls, ID
Phone (208)735-7256
- 3) City of Twin Falls Code Enforcement
Phone: (208)735-7278
- 4) Twin Falls County Disaster Services
Jackie Frey, Director
162 6th Avenue North
P.O. Box 126
Twin Falls, ID 83303-0126
208-736-4234
Email: jfrey@co.twin-falls.id.us

- 5) Twin Falls Public Library (Houses floodplain publications and other floodplain information)
201 4th Avenue East, Twin Falls, ID 83301-6313
Phone: (208) 733-2964 Fax: (208) 733-2965
Email: tfpl@lib.tfid.org
- 6) Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 East Front Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0098
www.idwr.idaho.gov
- 7) Idaho Department of Fish and Game
(208)324-4359
- 8) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Phone: (425) 487-4600
Web: <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/>
- 9) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Phone: (503) 808-4510
Web: <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/>
- 10) Idaho Power Company
Emergency phone: (800)488-6151
- 11) Intermountain Gas Company
Emergency phone: (877)777-7442
- 12) Flood smart at <http://www.floodsmart.gov/>

If you have other floodplain questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at (208)735-7256 or by e-mail at tvitek@tfid.org.

Sincerely,



Troy Vitek, P.E.
Assistant City Engineer

330 OUTREACH PROJECTS

Community: 160120

331 Credit Points:

Twin Falls, ID

a. - c.

Variable:

	OPC	OPF	OPA1	OPA2	OPA3
Points per topic:	6	13	2	2	2
Topics covered:					
1. Local Flood Hazard:		13			
2. Flood Safety:		13			
3. Flood Insurance:		5			
4. Property Protection:		13			
5. Natural & Beneficial Functions:		8			
6. Local Flood Hazard Map:					
7. Flood Warning System:		13			
8. Permit Requirements:		13			
9. Substantial Improvement/Damage:		7			
10. Drainage Maintenance:		13			
Total of above:	OPC = _____	OPF = <u>98</u>	OPA1 = _____	OPA2 = _____	OPA3 = _____

d. Outreach Project based on the public information program Strategy: OPS = _____

e. Promotion of Flood Insurance: PFI = _____

332 Credit Calculation:

c330 = EITHER

OPC _____ + OPF _____ + OPA1 _____ + OPA2 _____ + OPA3 _____ + PFI _____ = _____

OR: OPC _____ + OPF 98 + OPS _____ + PFI _____ = 98

This value appears on AW-720-1.

Table 330-1. CRS topics and example messages.	
Six Priority Topics	Example Messages
1. Know your flood hazard	Your property is subject to flooding You are in a repetitively flooded area Drive safely: five people died in the 2002 flood
2. Insure your property for your flood hazard <i>NOTE: At least one project must include a message on this topic</i>	You need flood insurance Renters should buy flood insurance for their contents Take advantage of a low-cost Preferred Risk Policy
3. Protect people from the hazard	Turn around, don't drown Know the flood warning signals: one long blast of the siren means a flash flood along Silver Creek Designate a place where your family can rendezvous after an evacuation order is issued
4. Protect your property from the hazard	Replace your flooded furnace with one elevated above the flood level Keep debris and trash out of the streams and ditches We can help you get a grant to elevate your home. Call us at _____
5. Build responsibly	Get a permit from . . . before you build Know the substantial damage rules (and the ICC benefits). You can see them at www..... All projects should be at least 10 feet from the property line so you don't alter the drainage between homes
6. Protect natural floodplain functions	Don't dump in the storm drains; they drain to the bay Protect our turtle nesting areas: stay off the beach after sunset Report broken silt fences: they help keep our streams clean
Examples of additional topics (developed by a community that has a Program for Public Information)	Example Messages
7. Hurricane preparedness *	Know your evacuation route
8. General preparedness *	Inventory and photograph your home's contents and put important papers and insurance policies in a safe place
9. Basement flooding *	Check your downspout—drain away from the house
10. Flood education *	Teach school children about flooding
<p>* Example topics 7 and 8 could also be listed under CRS topic 3—Protect people from the hazard. By listing them as separate topics in its PPI, the community can receive credit for covering three different topics in each project. Similarly, example topic 9 could be covered under CRS topic 4. All four additional topics (7 through 10) need to be explained in the Program for Public Information.</p>	

330 OUTREACH PROJECTS WORKSHEET

Community Name: Twin Falls
 State: Idaho
 CID: 160120

330 Outreach Project (OP) Worksheet

Outreach Projects	Points per Topic	Topics Covered										Times per Year	OP	Multipliers							
		1. Hazard	2. Insure	3. People	4. Property	5. Build	6. Natural	7. PPI Topic 7	8. PPI Topic 8	9. PPI Topic 9	10. PPI Topic 10			PPI ² (OP)	STK ² (OP)	STK (OP)	OP + PPI + STK				
OP#1	Twin Falls City Residents	6	6	6	6	6	6							1	36	40%	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.0	
OP#2															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#3															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#4															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#5															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#6															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#7															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#8															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#9															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#10															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#11															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#12															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#13															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#14															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#15															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#16															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#17															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#18															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#19															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#20															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#21															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#22															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#23															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#24															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#25															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#26															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#27															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#28															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#29															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
OP#30															0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
c330 =		cOP:	36.0	+	cFRP:	0.0	=	0							ΣOP:	36	ΣPPI:	0	ΣSTK:	0	36.0

Number of OP projects: 1

Notes: c330 ≤ 350

ΣOP ≤ 200 ΣPPI ≤ 80 ΣSTK ≤ 60

Outreach Projects

Note that extra points are available under the PPI and STK extra credit elements. These are discussed in more detail in Section 332.c and 332.d, respectively.

Table 330-2. Basic scoring of example outreach projects (without a PPI).				
Example Outreach Projects (OP)	A Points per topic	B # of Flood- related Topics	C # of Times Delivered	(A x B x C) OP = Points per Project
OP#1. A brochure on flood insurance produced by FEMA is set out in various public places (Informational material—1 point per topic).	1	1	1	1
OP#2. Local insurance agents have agreed to advise their clients that flood insurance is a good idea and give them the OP#1 brochure (general outreach—2 points per topic).	2	1	1	2
OP#3. Presentations are made to five neighborhood associations with messages under CRS topics 1, 2, 4, and 5. (general outreach—2 points per topic) The OP#1 brochure is handed out to everyone present.	2	4	5	40
OP#4. The neighborhood association presentation is taped and repeated twice a month on the public service cable TV channel. (general outreach—2 points per topic) This does not involve two-way communication, so it is counted as being delivered once a year.	2	4	1	8
OP#5. A mailing is sent each year to all residents of the SFHA. It has messages under the first five CRS topics. (targeted outreach—6 points per topic)	6	5	1	30
OP#6. "Do not dump" stencils are sprayed next to storm drain inlets. (general outreach—2 points per topic)	2	1	1	2
OP#7. The floodplain manager meets twice a year with the home builders association to discuss construction regulations and ways to incorporate flood mitigation into home improvement projects (general outreach—2 points per topic, CRS topics 4 and 5)	2	2	2	8
Total OP =				91

Documentation Provided by the Community

(1) At each verification and recertification,

- (a) A copy of the flyers, presentations, brochures, etc., that have been produced and disseminated as outreach projects, marked to show where the credited topics appear. At least one of the submittals must be a project that covers the topic of flood insurance. If an outreach project is a presentation to a group, it can be documented with a copy of the minutes or a memo to the file.