



Town of Yountville
"The Heart of the Napa Valley"

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: FEMA Issues New Flood Hazard Maps for Yountville

In September of this year, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) amended the flood plain maps for all communities in California. FEMA has converted to a digital mapping system that provides a valuable tool for all parties involved in the administration of properties within the designated flood plain. These maps allow local agencies, surveyors, engineers, insurance agents, mortgage lenders and the rest to obtain valuable information about flood status of existing and proposed homes on-line. While FEMA was preparing these new maps, they decided to convert the base elevation of all maps to a newer, more recent datum. Previous maps were developed using the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) 1929 datum and the new maps utilize the North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) 1988.

The new datum means that the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for approximately 50 homes within the Town is a larger number than the previous BFE. If you currently live in a home within the 100-year flood zone, the elevation of the water near your house will be the same as before the change in the elevation number. **Therefore, there is no additional risk of flooding to your home.**

To help local residents the Town is sending a letter outlining the FEMA changes and what to do if your mortgage or insurance company requests information from you. Some residents may receive a letter from their mortgage or insurance company requesting them to obtain flood insurance or provide proof that you are not in the flood plain within 45 days. **If you currently have flood insurance, you will need to maintain your policy.** If not and if you don't receive the letter from the Town, contact us to obtain the appropriate letter for distribution to these entities. Should you have any questions, please contact either Sandra Smith or Myke Praul at 944-8851 for additional assistance.

"We apologize for the confusion that this FEMA initiated action to remap flood hazards may have created. We want to assure concerned residents that the FEMA remapping is a FEMA change and that it had nothing to do with the 2005 completion of the floodwall" stated Myke Praul, Public Works Director/Town Engineer."

END