June 30, 2020

The Honorable Harold Perrin
Mayor, City of Jonesboro
300 South Church St.
Jonesboro, AR 72401

RE: Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map and Flood Insurance Study Report, City of Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas, Community No. 050048

Dear Mayor Perrin:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is pleased to present your community with preliminary copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report dated June 30, 2020, for Craighead County, Arkansas, and incorporated areas. The enclosed FIS Report for Craighead County describes the flood hazard information updates made to the FIRM and FIS Report and the source information used in making the updates. We have revised only those FIRM panels with updated flood hazard information.

On June 30, 2020, FEMA posts digital copies of the preliminary FIRMs, FIS Report materials, and supporting database on the Flood Map Service Center. This data may be reviewed at https://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata. This webpage contains a number of frequently asked questions pertaining to Preliminary Flood Hazard Data. If you click on the question, “Where Can I Access Preliminary Data,” there is a link “Preliminary Data Search Tool” where you will be connected to the Preliminary FEMA Map Products page. On this page you may select your state and county from the drop-down menus to access the current Preliminary FIRM, FIS Report materials, and supporting database. We also request that your community make the hard copy Preliminary FIRM and FIS Report available for review at your community’s map repository located at City Hall, 314 West Washington, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72403.

Digital Flood Hazard Data is now available for viewing on the Flood Map Changes Viewer (FMCV) at https://msc.fema.gov/fmcv. The FMCV is a single interactive viewer that allows the user to access flood hazard data at several points along the study process. Flood risk data available on the viewer include: the preliminary National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL), preliminary Changes Since Last FIRM (CSLF), the Preliminary Map Comparison Tool, the pending NFHL, and the NFHL. To review the preliminary data accompanying this letter, the preliminary NFHL will provide a view of the updated flood hazard data resulting from the current study.

In approximately 30 days, we will contact you to schedule a formal Consultation Coordination Officer (CCO) Meeting for discussion regarding the revised flood hazard information, ordinance adoption, and other frequently asked questions and concerns. In the meantime, we encourage
you to circulate the enclosed copies as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other individuals or organizations in the community that would have an interest in the Preliminary FIRM and FIS Report so that they will have the opportunity to review them thoroughly before the CCO Meeting. The review period provides community officials and citizens in the affected communities with an opportunity to identify changes or corrections to non-technical information, such as corporate limits, road names, and stream names on the FIRM or in the FIS Report. Please submit comments (digital format such as shapefiles preferred) no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. All comments and changes received during this review period will be incorporated, as appropriate, before the FIRM and FIS Report become effective. Comments may be sent to:

Sandra Keefe
Mitigation Division Director
c/o Diane Howe, Appeals Coordinator
FEMA Region 6
Federal Regional Center
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698

To assist you in this effort, we have listed the contact information of representatives who can answer your questions and respond to your concerns:

- Mapping – John Bourdeau, Jr., john.bourdeaujr@fema.dhs.gov, (940) 383-7350
- Compliance – Pedro Perez, pedro.perez@fema.dhs.gov, (940) 383-7365
- Insurance – Gilbert Giron, Jr. gilbert.giron@fema.dhs.gov, (940) 383-7253

After the CCO Meeting, we will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for certain communities within Craighead County. A statutory 90-day appeal period is required when FEMA adds or modifies Base (one-percent-annual-chance) Flood Elevations, Base Flood Depths, Special Flood Hazard Areas, Flood Zone Designations, or Regulatory Floodways within a community, as shown on the Preliminary FIRM. If your community is identified as requiring an appeal period, we will send you a letter approximately two weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period to detail the appeal process. The letter will forward information regarding notifications to be published in the Federal Register and local newspaper(s) and will provide the first and second publication dates. The appeal period will start on the second publication date. Additional information concerning the 90-day appeal period will be provided during the CCO Meeting.

After the appeal period has ended and we have addressed all comments/appeals, we will initiate final preparation of the FIRM and FIS Report. The new FIRM and FIS Report for your community will become effective approximately seven to ten months later. Please note, your current effective mapping will continue to be used to rate insurance policies until the revised information is issued effective.

Prior to the effective date, you will be notified in writing of the official FIRM and FIS Report effective date and asked to adopt floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances, as necessary, that correspond with the new FIRM or FIS Report. If you or other community
officials have any questions regarding floodplain ordinances, you may address them with our FEMA Regional Office or you may discuss those issues with your National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) State Coordinator. Several months before the effective date, we will mail one set of printed, and one set of digital copies of the finalized FIRM and FIS Report.

To assist your community in maintaining the FIRMs, the enclosed preliminary Summary of Map Actions (SOMA) documents previous Letter of Map Change (LOMC) actions that will be affected when the FIRMs become effective. A fact sheet is included in this transmittal to assist your community in the review of this SOMA.

Your community should be aware that recently approved LOMCs, specifically Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs), may have been issued for your community. The LOMR process is dynamic and FEMA is reviewing LOMR applications regularly. To complete production of the preliminary FIRM, which includes incorporating the effects of mappable LOMRs issued since the last map effective date, a specific cutoff was established. FEMA will address any approved LOMRs issued after the cutoff date when the final SOMA is distributed. If your community has concerns regarding a specific case, please submit the LOMR case number, as well as any appropriate documentation, to our FEMA Regional Office before the end of the comment or appeal period.

Your community’s comments on the enclosed materials are an important part of our review process and will be carefully considered before we publish the FIRM in its final form. If you are interested in discussing the enclosed materials, the FEMA Regional Office in Denton, Texas is available to assist your community at (940) 898-5127.

Sincerely,

GARY J
ZIMMERER

Sandra Keefe
Mitigation Division Director

Preliminary FIS Report
CD containing the Preliminary FIRM and FIS Report
Preliminary SOMA
Floodplain Management Bulletin 1-98, Use of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Data as Available Data
Understanding FEMA’s Summary of Map Actions and Revalidation Letter
Adoption of Flood Insurance Rate Maps by Participating Communities
cc: Craig Light, Chief Engineer, City of Jonesboro
    Whit Montague, NFIP State Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Agriculture,
    Natural Resources Division
    Lee Bostoner, FTN Associates, Ltd.
    Reddy Mudumalagarthy, Compass Region 6 Regional Director, RSC 6 (electronic copy)